

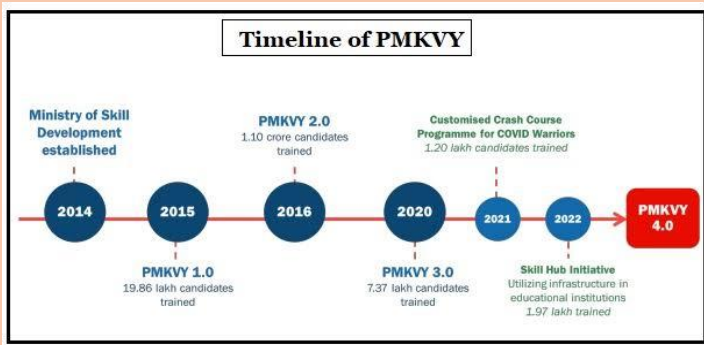
PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

Topic : PM VIKAS Scheme: Uplifting Minority Communities

Relevance : GS Paper 2 Polity and Governance

Source : PIB

Context :



The **Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)** is a flagship scheme launched by the **Ministry of Minority Affairs** under the leadership of **Union Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju**. The scheme aligns with the vision of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** and aims to uplift minority communities through comprehensive support programs. It consolidates five previous schemes into one unified approach, focusing on skill development, entrepreneurship, leadership of minority women, and educational support for school dropouts.

Convergence of Five Schemes

The PM VIKAS Scheme brings together the following **five erstwhile schemes**:

1. **Seekho Aur Kamao**: A skill development initiative that provides vocational training to youth from minority communities to enhance employability.

2. **Nai Manzil**: Aims at educational and skill development for school dropouts among minorities, facilitating their integration into the mainstream workforce.
3. **Nai Roshni**: A leadership development program specifically designed to empower minority women by building their confidence and skills.
4. **Hamari Dharohar**: Focuses on preserving the rich cultural heritage of minority communities, promoting their unique traditions and practices.
5. **USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development)**: Aims at capacity building and upgrading skills of traditional artisans from minority communities, promoting their craftsmanship and heritage.

Objectives of PM VIKAS Scheme



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1. Skill Development and Employment:

- Provide training to minority youth to enhance their job prospects.
- Promote self-employment and entrepreneurship.

2. Women Empowerment:




- Train minority women to take on leadership roles.
- Support them through educational and skill-based programs.

3. Credit Linkage and Financial Inclusion:

- Facilitate easy access to credit through linkages with loan programs by the **National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC)**.
- Empower artisans and craftsmen to scale up their businesses.

4. Cultural Preservation:

- Preserve and promote the heritage and traditional crafts of minority communities.

 <p>PMKVY 4.0</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides NSQF-aligned skill training through Short-Term Training & Recognition of Prior Learning. ▶ Focus on international mobility and upskilling workers. ▶ Focus on emerging technologies and future skills by introducing 400+ new courses in AI, 5G, Cybersecurity, Green Hydrogen, Drones, etc. ▶ Target beneficiary: 15-59 years of age.
 <p>Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Helps seamless transition from education to work ensuring apprentices gain industry-specific skills through real-world exposure ▶ Funds 25% of stipend (up to ₹1,500/month per apprentice) to support both apprentices and establishments ▶ Target beneficiary: 14-35 years of age
 <p>Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Community-based, Flexible, low-cost, doorstep vocational training for women, rural youth, etc. ▶ Promotes health, hygiene, financial literacy, gender equality & education. ▶ Linked with PM JANMAN, ULLAS, and other govt initiatives. ▶ Target beneficiary: 15-45 years of age.

• Hunar Haat:

- Aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among traditional artisans.
- Provides a platform to exhibit and sell indigenous crafts and products.
- Since 2015, **43 such events** have been organized across India.

• Lok Samvardhan Parv:

- Encourages the preservation and promotion of traditional arts and crafts.
- Focuses on community involvement and participation in cultural celebrations.

Entrepreneurship and Artisan Support

The Ministry of Minority Affairs has undertaken special initiatives like **Hunar Haat** and **Lok Samvardhan Parv**, which serve as platforms to showcase and market products crafted by traditional artisans. These events aim to provide a wider market reach to minority craftsmen and artisans, thereby promoting their economic upliftment.

Significance and Impact

The PM VIKAS scheme is not just a convergence of five earlier schemes but a holistic approach to community upliftment. It ensures that the benefits reach the **six notified minority communities**, namely:

1. Muslims

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2. Christians
3. Sikhs
4. Buddhists
5. Jains
6. Parsis

By integrating skills development, credit facilitation, cultural preservation, and women's leadership, the scheme addresses the socio-economic challenges faced by these communities.

Other Relevant Schemes for Minority Welfare

Apart from PM VIKAS, several other schemes and policies focus on minority welfare:

- **Nai Udaan Scheme:** Provides financial support to minority candidates preparing for competitive examinations conducted by UPSC, SSC, and State Public Service Commissions.
- **Padho Pardesh Scheme:** Interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies for students belonging to minority communities.
- **Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship:** Aimed at meritorious minority girls from economically weaker sections for higher secondary education.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK):** Focuses on infrastructure development in minority-concentrated areas to improve living conditions.
- **National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC):** Provides concessional loans for self-employment and business ventures among minority communities.

Prelims Practice Question:

Q. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. PM VIKAS Scheme converges five erstwhile schemes aimed at the upliftment of minority communities.
2. It specifically targets the preservation of traditional arts and crafts and provides skill development and financial support to artisans.
3. The scheme exclusively benefits women from minority communities.
4. Hunar Haat and Lok Samvardhan Parv are initiatives under the PM VIKAS Scheme to

Ministry of Minority Affairs
Government of India
Helpline No.: 1800-11-2001
Website: www.minorityaffairs.gov.in

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)

During last about 6 years, Modi Government has developed socio-economic-educational and employment oriented infrastructure across the country in Minority concentrated areas. These projects include:

1512 New School Buildings;
22514 Additional Class Rooms;
630 Hostels; 152 Residential Schools, 8820 Smart Class Rooms (including those in Kendriya Vidyalayas); 32 Colleges; 94 ITIs;
13 Polytechnics; 2 Navodaya Vidyalayas; 403 Multi-purpose community centre "Sadbhav Mandap"; 598 Market Sheds;
2842 toilet and water facilities;
135 Common Service Centres;
22 Working Women Hostels; 1717 Health Projects; 5 Hospitals;
8 Hunar Hub; 10 various sports facilities, 5956 Anganwadi Centres.

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promote entrepreneurship among traditional artisans.

traditional artisans by providing them platforms to showcase and sell their crafts.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2, 3, and 4 only
- c) 1, 2, and 4 only
- d) 1, 3, and 4 only

Answer:

Correct Option: (c) 1, 2, and 4 only

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The PM VIKAS Scheme converges five earlier schemes, namely **Seekho Aur Kamao, Nai Manzil, Nai Roshni, Hamari Dharohar,** and **USTTAD**, focusing on the upliftment of minority communities.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** One of the objectives of PM VIKAS is to preserve traditional arts and crafts while providing **skill development and financial support** to artisans.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The scheme does not **exclusively benefit women**. While there are components aimed at empowering minority women (like leadership training), the scheme broadly targets **all minority community members** for skill development and economic support.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** **Hunar Haat** and **Lok Samvardhan Parv** are initiatives to promote **entrepreneurship among**

Mains Model Question:

Q. Discuss the significance of the Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme in promoting socio-economic upliftment among minority communities in India. How does the convergence of multiple schemes under PM VIKAS enhance its effectiveness?

The Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme is a flagship initiative aimed at the socio-economic empowerment of minority communities in India. Launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, it merges five earlier schemes: Seekho Aur Kamao, Nai Manzil, Nai Roshni, Hamari Dharohar, and USTTAD. This convergence is designed to ensure a holistic and integrated approach to addressing the challenges faced by minorities.

The scheme's primary objective is to enhance skill development, entrepreneurship, and leadership among minorities, while also preserving traditional arts and crafts. By bringing together diverse initiatives under one umbrella, PM VIKAS ensures greater efficiency and better resource utilization. This integrated approach reduces duplication and helps streamline the implementation process, making it more impactful. Through skill training and vocational education, it addresses the challenge of unemployment among minority youth, enhancing their employability and promoting self-reliance.

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Furthermore, PM VIKAS emphasizes the empowerment of women through leadership programs, fostering social inclusion and community participation. The credit linkage component, in collaboration with the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), provides financial assistance to aspiring entrepreneurs, facilitating their economic upliftment. Additionally, initiatives like Hunar Haat and Lok Samvardhan Parv offer platforms to artisans to showcase their traditional crafts, boosting their market reach and income.



The scheme also plays a vital role in preserving the cultural heritage of minority communities through the Hamari Dharohar initiative, fostering a sense of identity and pride. By addressing social, economic, and cultural dimensions simultaneously, PM VIKAS emerges as a comprehensive strategy for minority empowerment. Its convergence model not only

maximizes outreach but also ensures sustainable development, fostering an inclusive growth trajectory for minority communities across the country.

Topic : National Quantum Mission: India's Quantum Leap

Relevance : GS Paper 3 Science and Technology

Source : PIB

Context :

What is Quantum Computing?

Quantum computers use special units called qubits to store and process information. Unlike regular computers, where bits can only be 0 or 1, qubits can be both 0 and 1 at the same time. This ability to be in multiple states at once makes quantum computers different and potentially much more powerful than traditional ones.

The world is rapidly advancing towards a new era of technology, and India is determined to take a giant leap into the future with the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)**. Approved by the Union Cabinet on **19th April 2023**, this ambitious initiative aims to position India as a global leader in **quantum technology research and development**. Spanning from **2023–24 to 2030–31**, the mission has been allocated a budget of **₹6,003.65 crore**.

The NQM is not just an initiative; it's a transformative vision to leverage **quantum technology** to enhance national security, foster innovation, and strengthen industries. It focuses on creating an **ecosystem for research, innovation,**

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and job creation in the quantum technology domain.

Objectives of the National Quantum Mission

The mission is structured around several objectives aimed at realizing the full potential of quantum technology. The core objectives are as follows:



Quantum Computing Evolution

- Develop **intermediate-scale quantum computers** with the following capabilities:
 - **20-50 physical qubits (3 years)**
 - **50-100 physical qubits (5 years)**
 - **50-1000 physical qubits (8 years)**
- These quantum computers will be developed across various platforms like **superconducting and photonic**

technologies. This will significantly enhance **computational capabilities**, enabling problem-solving that is beyond the reach of classical computers.

Satellite-Based Quantum Communication

- Establish **satellite-enabled quantum-secured communication** between two ground stations over **2000 km within India**.
- Extend this technology for **long-distance secure quantum communication** with other countries.
- This innovation will help in **secure data transmission** and fortifying **national security**.

Inter-City Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)

- Implement **quantum-secured communication spanning 2000 km** using **trusted nodes** and **wavelength division multiplexing (WDM)** over existing optical fiber networks.
- This will protect sensitive data by leveraging **quantum cryptographic techniques** to ensure **unbreakable security**.

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Multi-Node Quantum Networks

- Develop **multi-node quantum networks** with features such as:
 - **Quantum memories**
 - **Entanglement swapping**
 - **Synchronized quantum repeaters**
- This will enable **scalable and robust quantum communication** across multiple nodes.

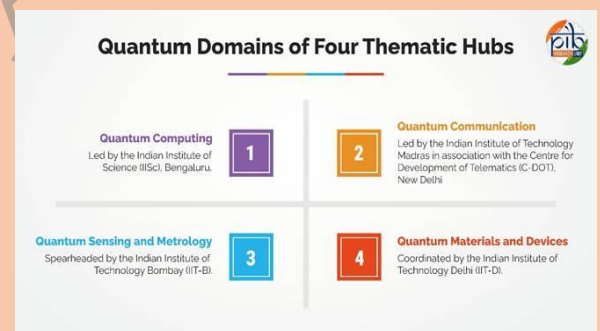
Advanced Quantum Sensing & Clocks

- Develop highly sensitive quantum devices such as:
 - **Magnetometers** with sensitivity of **1 femto-Tesla/sqrt(Hz)** in atomic systems and **1 pico-Tesla/sqrt(Hz)** in Nitrogen Vacancy centers.
 - **Gravity sensors** with sensitivity better than **100 nano-meter/second²**.
 - **Atomic clocks** with **10⁻¹⁹ fractional instability** for **precision timing and navigation**.

- These technologies will significantly improve **secure communication, navigation accuracy, and metrological precision**.

Quantum Materials & Devices

- Develop and synthesize **next-generation quantum materials**, including:
 - **Superconductors**
 - **Novel semiconductor structures**
 - **Topological materials**
- These materials will be used to fabricate **qubits, single-photon sources/detectors, entangled photon sources, and quantum sensing/metrological devices**.



- The applications range from **computing and communication to advanced sensing technologies**.

Implementation Strategy: Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs)

The NQM has established **four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs)** at premier institutions to drive research and development:

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1. **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** - Focuses on **Quantum Computing**.
2. **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras** - In collaboration with the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT)**, it works on **Quantum Communication**.
3. **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay** - Specializes in **Quantum Sensing & Metrology**.
4. **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi** - Concentrates on **Quantum Materials & Devices**.

- **Hub:** Central research facility driving the primary agenda.
 - **Spoke:** Smaller projects or research groups connected to the hub.
 - **Spike:** Individual research teams focusing on niche areas.
- This model encourages **collaboration and synergy** among research institutions, thereby **sharing expertise and resources** effectively.

Key Initiatives and Strategic Impact

The **National Quantum Mission** aims to address both **scientific advancements** and **national security concerns** by undertaking several key initiatives:

Quantum-Safe Ecosystem Framework

- Develop a **strategic roadmap** to secure India's **digital infrastructure** against potential quantum threats.
- Focus on **Quantum-Resilient Encryption Techniques** and **Post-Quantum Cryptographic (PQC)** frameworks.

Defense and Security Applications

- The **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** is working on designing **quantum-resilient security schemes**.
- Focus on both **symmetric and asymmetric key cryptographic algorithms**.

Hub-Spoke-Spike Model

The mission follows a **Hub-Spoke-Spike model**, fostering a cluster-based network where:



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Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) Innovations

- The **Society for Electronic Transactions and Security (SETS)** is advancing **PQC algorithms** for applications such as:
 - **FIDO authentication tokens**
 - **Internet of Things (IoT) security**

C-DoT Innovations

- Development of **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)** and **Quantum Secure Video IP Phones**.
- These advancements will ensure **secure and encrypted communication** in the digital age.

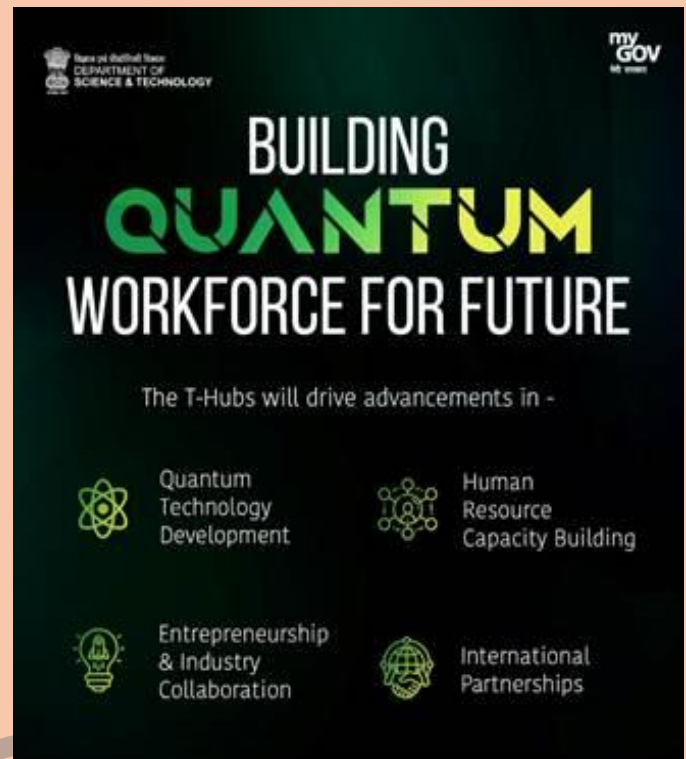
Global Competitiveness and Societal Impact

The NQM aims to position India among the global leaders in **quantum technology**. Its outcomes are expected to have far-reaching impacts on sectors such as:

- **Telecommunication:** Enhanced **secure communication** channels.
- **Defense:** Quantum encryption to safeguard national security.
- **Finance:** Secure **financial transactions** using quantum cryptography.
- **Healthcare:** Potential breakthroughs in **drug discovery** and **medical data encryption**.
- **Energy and Climate:** Optimizing **energy grids** and **weather forecasting** using quantum simulations.

Economic and Social Benefits

The NQM is not just about technological advancements but also about **job creation and economic growth**. It aligns with major national initiatives like:



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- **Digital India**
- **Make in India**
- **Skill India**
- **Startup India**
- **Self-Reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat)**
Through strategic investments and collaborative research, the mission is poised to generate numerous **employment opportunities** and **strengthen India's technological ecosystem**.

Answer:

C) 1, 2, and 3 only

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The National Quantum Mission aims to develop **quantum computers with up to 1000 physical qubits** over the next 8 years.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The mission includes establishing **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)** spanning **2000 km** for secure communication.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** The mission also aims to develop **gravity sensors with sensitivity better than 100 nano-meter/second²**.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The National Quantum Mission is under the **Ministry of Science and Technology**, not the Ministry of Defence.

Prelims Practice Question:

Q. Which of the following statements regarding the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)** of India is/are correct?

1. The National Quantum Mission aims to develop intermediate-scale quantum computers with up to 1000 physical qubits in the next 8 years.
2. The mission focuses on enhancing secure communication through **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)** over a distance of 2000 km.
3. One of the key objectives of the mission is to develop highly sensitive gravity sensors with better than **100 nano-meter/second²** sensitivity.
4. The **National Quantum Mission** is an initiative under the **Ministry of Defence**.

Mains Model Question:

Q. The National Quantum Mission (NQM) is a significant step towards positioning India as a global leader in quantum technology. Discuss the key objectives and potential impact of the mission on various sectors in India.

The National Quantum Mission (NQM) is a landmark initiative launched by the Government of India to advance the country's capabilities in the field of quantum technology. Approved in April 2023, the mission spans from 2023–24 to 2030–31 with a budget allocation of ₹6,003.65 crore. It aims

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1, 2, and 3 only
- D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

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to harness quantum technology for secure communication, advanced computing, precision sensing, and the development of cutting-edge quantum materials. By focusing on quantum computing, satellite-based quantum communication, quantum key distribution, and multi-node quantum networks, the mission intends to revolutionize how data is processed, transmitted, and secured.

One of the major objectives of NQM is to develop quantum computers with up to 1000 physical qubits over the next eight years, enhancing computational power for complex problem-solving. Another crucial goal is the establishment of secure quantum communication through Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) over 2000 km and the development of advanced quantum sensors with remarkable precision. The mission also envisions creating next-generation quantum materials to fabricate qubits and sensing devices, thereby driving innovations in communication, defense, healthcare, and finance.

The mission's implementation strategy includes the establishment of four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) across premier institutions such as IISc Bengaluru and IITs in Madras, Bombay, and Delhi. These hubs foster innovation and collaboration through a Hub-Spoke-Spike model, bringing together multiple research institutions and technical groups.

The potential impact of NQM is profound, spanning sectors like cybersecurity, healthcare, finance, and space exploration. With quantum-safe encryption and secure communication channels, India can protect its critical data infrastructure from emerging cyber threats. Additionally, applications in drug discovery and climate modeling could lead to transformative societal benefits. By aligning with national initiatives like Digital India and Make in India, NQM is poised to secure India's technological future while strengthening its global leadership in quantum research and innovation.



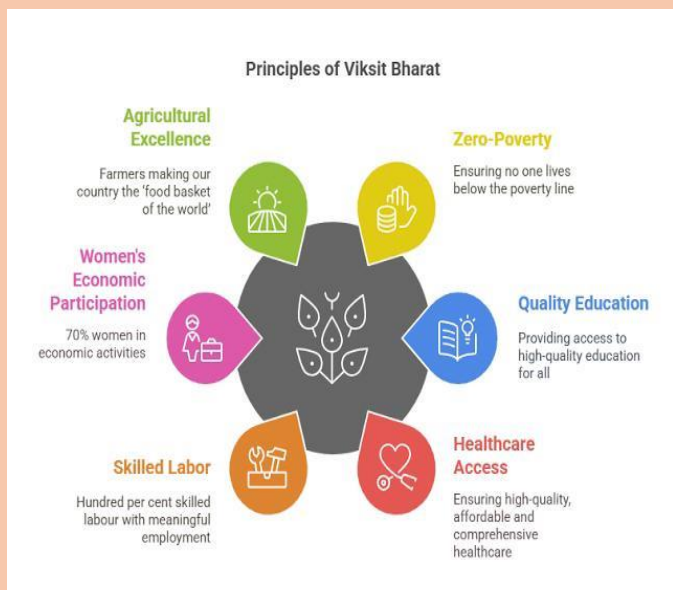
Topic : Viksit Bharat 2047: Vision and Initiatives

Relevance : GS Paper 2 Polity and Governance

Source : Indian Express

Context :

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The Government of India envisions transforming the nation into a fully developed and self-reliant country by 2047, marking the centenary of India's independence. The vision of "**Viksit Bharat 2047**" aims at creating a robust socio-economic framework driven by technological advancements, inclusive growth, and sustainable development. The journey toward a developed India necessitates multifaceted efforts in economic, social, and technological domains, ensuring that every citizen has access to better opportunities and improved quality of life.

One of the crucial aspects of achieving this vision is the availability of **reliable and timely data**, which forms the backbone of evidence-based policy formulation and decision-making. In this context, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** plays a pivotal role. The Ministry has been actively engaged in strengthening the **National Statistical System** to ensure high-quality data availability and enhance statistical capacities at the state and national levels.

DEL – HYD – B'LORE – PUNE – TPT

KEY FOCUS AREAS

- Education:** Enhancing educational infrastructure, increasing school enrollments, and improving the quality of education.
- Healthcare:** Ensuring accessible and quality healthcare services for all citizens.
- Technology:** Embracing and innovating technology for the nation's progress.
- Infrastructure:** Developing robust infrastructure including transportation, communication, and urban facilities.
- Agriculture:** Modernizing farming techniques and supporting farmers for increased productivity.
- Environment:** Implementing sustainable practices and preserving natural resources for a cleaner and healthier environment.

Efforts and Initiatives by MoSPI

To support evidence-based interventions, MoSPI has undertaken comprehensive **sample surveys on various socio-economic indicators**, including health, education, labor, and employment, at both national and state/UT levels. This data-driven approach helps in assessing development trends and formulating targeted policies.

To minimize data collection time and enhance accuracy, MoSPI has integrated **digital platforms** equipped with **in-built validation mechanisms**. This digital transformation has significantly reduced time lags and ensured precise data gathering. The Ministry also follows an **Advance Release Calendar (ARC)** to disseminate key macroeconomic indicators such as **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, and **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** with minimal delay, maintaining transparency and accessibility.

One of the landmark initiatives by MoSPI is the launch of the **eSankhyiki portal**, which acts as a centralized data hub, providing **time series data of**

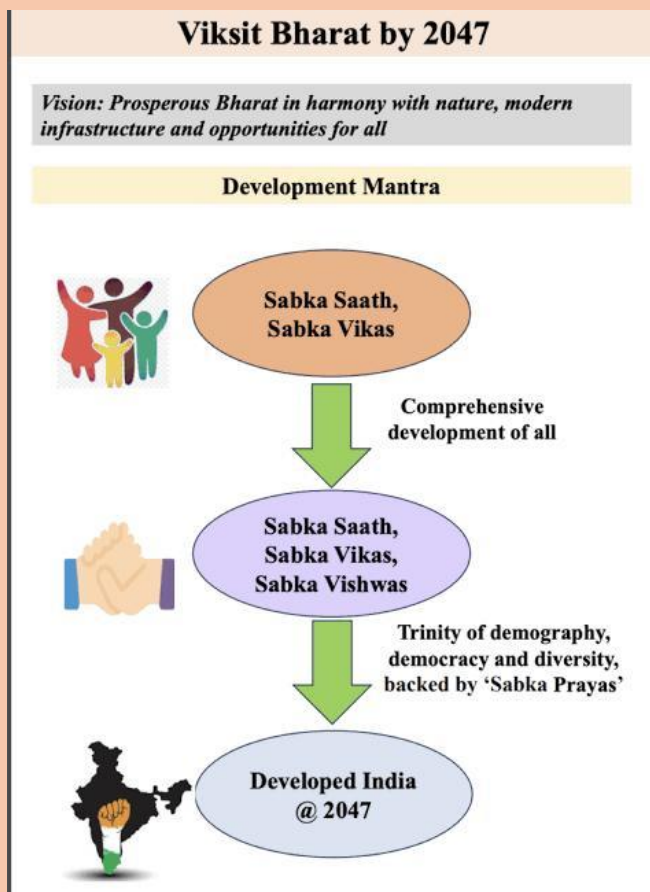
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+91 98804 86671

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vital macroeconomic indicators and a comprehensive catalog of major data assets. This portal enhances the ease of data management and accessibility for stakeholders, researchers, and policymakers.

Additionally, MoSPI has implemented the **Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS)** scheme, offering **Grants-in-Aid to States/UTs** to enhance statistical capacity and operations at the local level. This initiative fosters a decentralized approach to data collection and management, thereby improving the accuracy and comprehensiveness of data at the grassroots level.

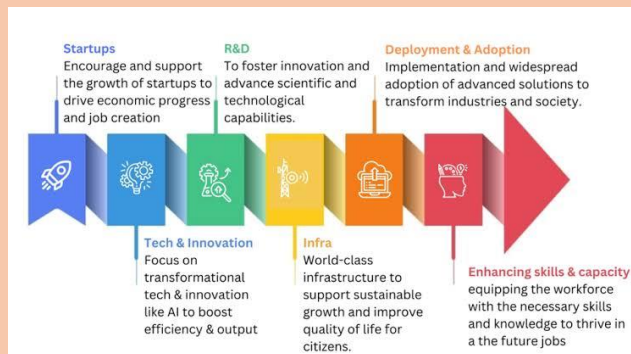


Major Schemes and Initiatives under Viksit Bharat 2047

Apart from MoSPI's contributions, numerous other initiatives are aligned with the **Viksit Bharat 2047 vision**. Some of the key schemes include:

- **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan:** Launched to boost self-reliance through local manufacturing, innovation, and economic resilience.
- **Digital India Mission:** Aims to bridge the digital divide and enhance public access to government services through digital platforms.
- **Skill India Mission:** Focuses on upskilling the youth to meet the demands of a growing economy and global competitiveness.
- **Make in India:** Promotes domestic manufacturing and encourages investments in the industrial sector.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission:** Targets the complete eradication of open defecation and the promotion of sanitation and cleanliness.
- **Smart Cities Mission:** Envisions transforming urban areas into sustainable and technologically advanced living spaces.
- **Ayushman Bharat:** A flagship healthcare initiative providing affordable healthcare and insurance to millions.
- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:** A comprehensive framework to modernize and democratize education.

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The **Viksit Bharat 2047 vision** is not just a strategic blueprint but a collective aspiration to elevate India to the status of a developed nation by the time it celebrates its 100th year of independence. Through robust statistical frameworks, data-driven policies, and transformative initiatives, the Government of India is fostering socio-economic empowerment and sustainable growth. MoSPI's contributions to streamlining data collection and dissemination are crucial in enabling informed decision-making, thereby accelerating progress toward the ultimate goal of a prosperous, inclusive, and developed India by 2047.

Prelims Practice Question:

Q. With reference to the "Viksit Bharat 2047" initiative, consider the following statements:

1. The vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 aims to transform India into a developed and self-reliant nation by the year 2047.
2. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) plays a crucial role in the initiative by strengthening the National Statistical System.
3. The eSankhyiki portal, launched by MoSPI, provides real-time weather data to the public.

4. The Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) scheme provides Grants-in-Aid to States/UTs to enhance their statistical capacities.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2, and 4 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2, 3, and 4 only

Answer:

- b) 1, 2, and 4 only

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Viksit Bharat 2047 envisions transforming India into a developed and self-reliant nation by 2047.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** MoSPI is actively involved in strengthening the National Statistical System to support evidence-based policy-making.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The eSankhyiki portal provides time series data on macroeconomic indicators and data assets of MoSPI, not real-time weather data.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** The Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) scheme provides Grants-in-Aid to States/UTs to enhance statistical capacity and operations.

Mains Model Question:

Q. Discuss the significance of the "Viksit Bharat 2047" vision and the role of the Ministry of

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Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in achieving this objective.

The vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047" aims to transform India into a developed and self-reliant nation by the time it celebrates 100 years of independence. This ambitious goal seeks to create a prosperous, inclusive, and technologically advanced society where every citizen enjoys a high quality of life. The realization of this vision requires data-driven governance, robust policy-making, and effective implementation of developmental programs. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) plays a crucial role in this transformation by strengthening the National Statistical System. Through its initiatives, MoSPI ensures the availability of high-quality, timely, and reliable data essential for informed decision-making.



One of the key efforts by MoSPI includes conducting comprehensive sample surveys on various socio-economic parameters such as health,

education, labor, and employment at both national and state levels. These surveys enable policymakers to assess development trends and devise targeted interventions. To minimize the time lag in data collection and processing, MoSPI has embraced digital platforms with in-built validation mechanisms, ensuring accuracy and efficiency. Moreover, the ministry follows an Advance Release Calendar (ARC) for the timely dissemination of macroeconomic indicators like GDP, CPI, and IIP.

The launch of the eSankhyiki portal has further streamlined data management by providing time series data and a catalog of major data assets. Additionally, the Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) scheme empowers states and union territories with financial assistance to build statistical capacities. These efforts enhance the precision and credibility of data, which is vital for achieving the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

By fostering a data-centric governance model and modernizing statistical practices, MoSPI significantly contributes to realizing a developed and self-reliant India. Its initiatives form the backbone of evidence-based policy formulation, enabling the government to address socio-economic challenges efficiently and effectively.

Topic : Impact of Climate Change on Wheat Production in India

Relevance : GS Paper 3 Agriculture, Climate

Source : The Hindu

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Context :

How climate change is affecting India's wheat production cycle

The Indian Ocean is warming at an accelerated rate, which in turn is affecting India's monsoon, on which most of the country's agriculture depends. The kharif or summer crop season is starting and ending late, which delays the beginning of the rabi season. And what is a rabi crop?

Prithvi Prakash

India recorded its warmest February in 124 years this year. The India Meteorological Department has already raised an alarm for March, saying that the month will experience above normal temperatures and more than the usual number of days with heat waves. The period coincides with the beginning of India's wheat harvest season, and extreme heat poses a grave threat for the country's second most consumed crop, after rice.



In India, wheat is primarily grown in the Indo-Gangetic plains. Producer states include Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh, as

Optimal temperature required for growing wheat	Stages	Optimum temperature	Minimum temperature	Maximum temperature
Seed germination	20-25 ± 1.2	3.5 - 5.5 ± 0.44	35 ± 1.02	
Root growth	17.2 ± 0.87	3.5 ± 0.73	24.0 ± 1.21	
Shoot growth	18.5 ± 1.00	4.5 ± 0.76	20.1 ± 0.64	
Leaf initiation	20.5 ± 1.25	1.5 ± 0.52	23.5 ± 0.95	
Terminal spikelet	16.0 ± 2.30	2.5 ± 0.49	20.0 ± 1.60	
Anthesis	23.0 ± 1.75	10.0 ± 1.12	26.0 ± 1.01	
Grain filling duration	26.0 ± 1.53	13.0 ± 1.45	30.0 ± 2.13	

Wheat in India is primarily grown in the northwestern parts of the Indo-Gangetic plains. Primary producers include states of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh. Wheat needs cooler season to grow, and the crop is usually sown between October and December. It is harvested between February and April in the rabi crop season.

The Indian government set a wheat procurement target of 30 million tonnes for the 2025-2026 rabi marketing season, news agency PTI reported in January. The lower procurement target comes despite the agriculture ministry aiming for a record wheat production of 83 million tonnes in the 2024-2025 crop year (July-June), the report added.

In 2024-25, government wheat procurement was recorded at 26.6 million tonnes. While this exceeded the 26.2 million tonnes procured in 2023-2024, it fell short of the 34.5 million tonne target for the year.

In May 2022, India had prohibited wheat exports. This was shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine, a major wheat-producing country, which disrupted international availability of the food grains and triggered a global price hike.

Heat and wheat
Climate variability itself is not a new phenomenon, but it catches our attention when the crop growth season overlaps with heat wave conditions. Sandeep Mahapatra of the U.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSRF), Chennai, told The Hindu.

A 2022 study in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences noted that increasing global warming is causing heat stress that "triggers significant changes in the biological and developmental process of wheat, leading to a reduction in grain production and grain quality."

According to the paper, wheat heat stress is known to affect the growth and development of wheat by altering "physio-bio-chemical processes such as photosynthesis, respiration, oxidative damage, activity of stress-induced hormones, proteins and anti-oxidative enzymes, water and nutrient relations, and yield-forming attributes (biomass, tiller count, grain number, and grain weight) exposure to temperatures above the optimum range."

Stages of wheat growth
According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, stages of wheat growth are defined based on how different organs of the plant develop. This can be broadly grouped into four stages.

(i) Germination to emergence: This includes the growth of the seed until the seedling breaks through the soil surface and the first leaf emerges.

(ii) Growth stage 1: Steps from emergence to double ridge. Shoots appear, and the plant growth shifts focus from producing primordial leaves to flowering structures called spikelets.

(iii) Growth stage 2: This stage lasts from double ridge to anthesis. This is where the focus of the plant shifts from the vegetative to the reproductive stage. This is also one of the stages where the plant is comparatively more susceptible to heat stress.

(iv) Growth stage 3: This stage includes the grain filling period, from anthesis to maturity.

According to experts, the real problem starts with the ocean. The Indian Ocean is warming at an accelerated rate. A 2024 study conducted by scientists at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, noted that the water body will likely be in a "near permanent heat wave state" mainly as a result of global warming by the end of the century.

The frequency of marine heat waves is expected to increase tenfold, from the current average of 20 days per year to 200-250 days per year, the study added. A warming Indian Ocean will in turn affect India's monsoon, on which most of the country's agriculture depends. For example, the kharif or summer crop season is starting and ending late, which inevitably delays the beginning of the rabi season.

What is a rabi crop. If its sowing starts late, the later stages of plant growth will coincide with early heat waves in India. February 2025 was warmer than usual,

and similar trends have been predicted for March. This is also the peak season for wheat harvest, and the ideal temperature in the later stages of the plant's growth should not cross 30° C.

"High temperatures cause early flowering and faster ripening, shortening the grain-filling period. This results in lighter grains with lower starch accumulation, reducing the total wheat output," Prakash Jha, assistant professor of agricultural climatology at Mississippi State University, told The Hindu.

"Extreme heat causes wheat to develop higher protein content but lower starch, making the grain harder and affecting milling quality. Farmers may face lower market prices due to reduced grain weight and quality issues," he added.

Low crop yields also tend to make farmers desperate and result in overuse of fertilizers, pesticides, etc. Nibhid Goveas, lead climate advisor with the Environmental Defense Fund, told The Hindu. "Higher but inefficient use of resources is another cascading effect of heat stress challenges in crops."

Adaptation and mitigation
Food security is central to the adaptation and mitigation strategies officials use to lower the heat stress on wheat crops.

"What is ... important for farmers because it can be consumed immediately, so part of the produce is always saved for household consumption," Goveas said. Farmers rely on older varieties of the crop because of accessibility. "Climate-resilient varieties are important, but they are not a silver bullet solution to the challenge," Goveas added. "The problem is a deeper

challenge of the climate crisis on our food systems. The earth is getting warmer. We need to think about not just one crop but all crops, get things right, have our information and weather systems updated with the knowledge of what to expect, and undertake mitigation efforts against the challenges."

The large question here is to be able to guarantee food security," Mahato of MSRF Chennai said. "We have to focus on addressing yield gaps. This ties into the issue of management of resources like fertilizers, pest control, etc."

According to Mahato, immediate policy support to farmers to deal with heat stress effects on wheat can be in the form of compensation, but there are more long-term solutions that need to be incorporated into our agricultural IP policies.

"Changes in agricultural management strategies to support early sowing of crops in areas that are likely to see early heat waves, or introducing improved yield varieties with shorter growth duration, are some policy changes that can alleviate heat stress on wheat," he added. "There is no compromise that can do away with improving production, and that should be the central goal to the adaptation operation."

"Policymakers must take a multi-pronged approach, combining scientific research, financial support, technological solutions, and farmer education to protect wheat crops from rising heat waves," according to Jha. "This includes promoting heat-resistant wheat varieties, adjusting sowing dates, financial support and crop insurance, and weather monitoring and advisories."

prithvi.prakash@imrindia.co.in

However, climate change has emerged as a formidable challenge to wheat production in India, significantly affecting both **yield and quality**. The **warming of the Indian Ocean** at an accelerated rate is one of the key contributors to changing weather patterns, particularly impacting the **monsoon season**. This, in turn, disrupts the **kharif crop cycle**, which delays the commencement of the **rabi sowing season**. The cascading effect of these climatic disruptions threatens the very foundation of India's wheat production, demanding urgent interventions and robust adaptation strategies.

Rising Temperatures and Wheat Growth Cycles

The **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** reported that **February 2025** was the warmest in **124 years**, and similar temperature trends were projected for **March**. This unusual rise in temperatures coincides with the **wheat harvest period**, placing crops under intense **heat stress**. The most vulnerable stage of wheat growth is the **grain-filling period**, where temperatures exceeding **30° C** lead to **premature flowering and rapid grain ripening**. This significantly **reduces the grain-filling duration**, resulting in **lighter grains with lower starch accumulation**.

Optimal temperature required for growing wheat	Stages	Optimum temperature	Minimum temperature	Maximum temperature
Seed germination	20-25 ± 1.2	3.5 - 5.5 ± 0.44	35 ± 1.02	
Root growth	17.2 ± 0.87	3.5 ± 0.73	24.0 ± 1.21	
Shoot growth	18.5 ± 1.90	4.5 ± 0.76	20.1 ± 0.64	
Leaf initiation	20.5 ± 1.25	1.5 ± 0.52	23.5 ± 0.95	
Terminal spikelet	16.0 ± 2.30	2.5 ± 0.49	20.0 ± 1.60	
Anthesis	23.0 ± 1.75	10.0 ± 1.12	26.0 ± 1.01	
Grain filling duration	26.0 ± 1.53	13.0 ± 1.45	30.0 ± 2.13	

High temperatures also trigger a series of adverse **physio-biochemical changes** within the wheat plants. According to a study published in the

Wheat is the second-most consumed staple crop in India after rice and plays a critical role in ensuring the nation's food security. Predominantly grown in the **northwestern parts of the Indo-Gangetic plains**, wheat production is concentrated in states like **Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh**. India's wheat cultivation is heavily dependent on the **rabi crop season**, which typically begins with sowing between **October and December** and concludes with harvesting between **February and April**.

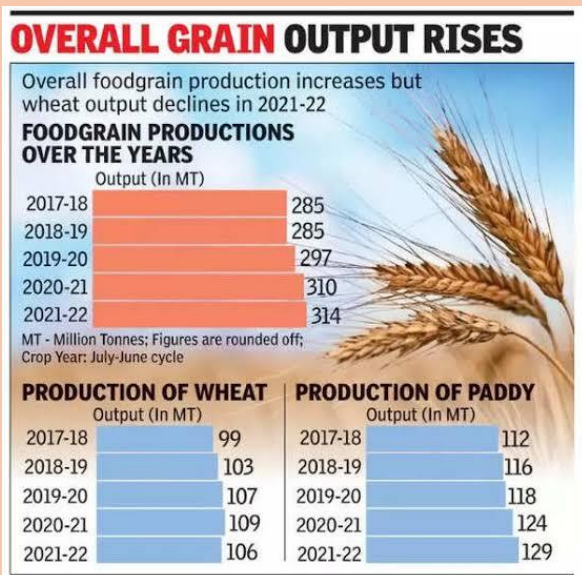
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International Journal of Molecular Sciences (2022), heat stress alters crucial processes such as **photosynthesis, respiration, and oxidative damage control**. This disturbs the **water and nutrient balance**, causing a decline in **biomass production, grain size, and number of tillers**.

season and consequently **pushing back the rabi season**. The **kharif crops**, which depend on monsoon rains, are now experiencing **shifts in both onset and withdrawal**, leading to **erratic sowing patterns** for wheat. The **delayed rabi sowing** results in **wheat crops maturing during early summer months**, coinciding with heat waves, thereby **compromising both yield and quality**.

Adverse Economic Implications

The economic impact of climate change on wheat production is profound. The government's **wheat procurement target** for the **2025-2026 rabi marketing season** was set at **30 million tonnes**, but actual procurement in **2024-2025** fell short at **26.6 million tonnes** against the targeted **34.15 million tonnes**. This disparity highlights the **production challenges** exacerbated by climatic factors.

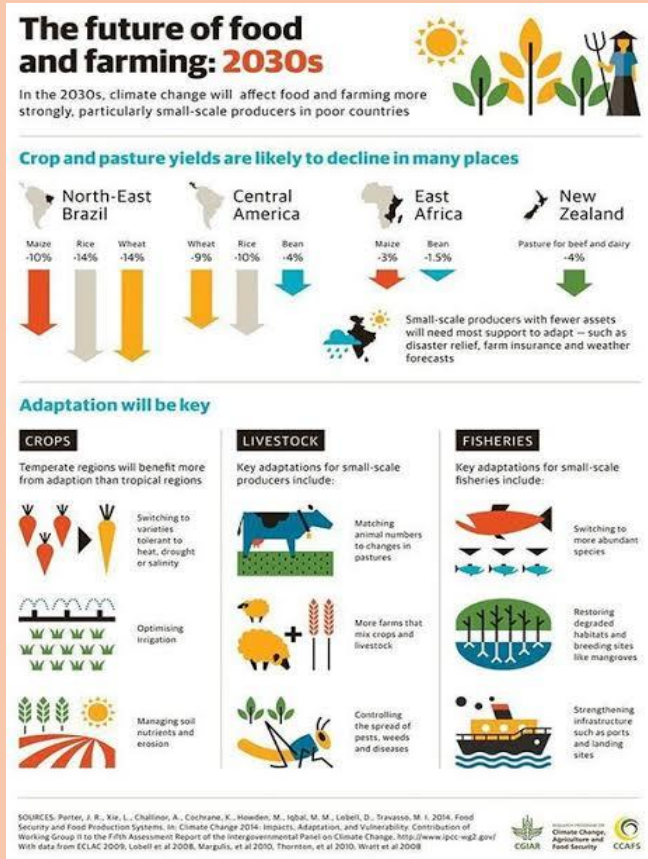


The Indian Ocean's Warming and Monsoon Disruptions

The **Indian Ocean**, which plays a vital role in shaping India's monsoon patterns, is warming at an unprecedented pace. A 2024 study by the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune**, predicted that the Indian Ocean could be in a "**near-permanent heat wave state**" by the end of the century, with **marine heat waves** increasing tenfold from **20 days per year to around 220-250 days per year**.

The warming ocean has far-reaching impacts on the **monsoon cycle**, causing **delays in the kharif crop**

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reliance on **fertilizers and pesticides** to offset yield losses.

Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies

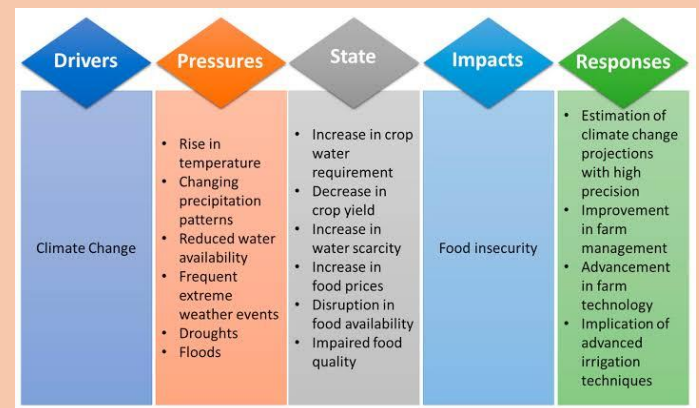
Addressing the multifaceted challenge posed by climate change to wheat production requires an **integrated approach** encompassing **scientific innovation, policy support, and farmer empowerment**.

1. Developing Climate-Resilient Varieties

Breeding and promoting **heat-tolerant wheat varieties** is essential to reduce vulnerability to rising temperatures. **Genetic modification and hybrid seed development** should focus on enhancing **thermotolerance** without compromising **yield or nutritional quality**. Varieties with **shorter growth durations** can help the crop escape **peak summer temperatures**, thereby ensuring **better grain quality and yield stability**.

Reduced production also leads to a rise in **domestic wheat prices**, affecting affordability and access. In **May 2022**, India even banned **wheat exports** following the **Russia-Ukraine conflict**, which disrupted global wheat supplies. The export prohibition was aimed at stabilizing **domestic availability** amid fears of a **food security crisis**.

Furthermore, **heat-stressed wheat** tends to develop a **higher protein content but lower starch composition**, making the grain **harder and unsuitable for milling**. This reduced quality results in **lower market prices**, putting additional **economic strain on farmers** who are already grappling with rising **input costs** due to over-



2. Revising Agronomic Practices

Adapting **agronomic practices** to the changing climate is crucial. Strategies like **early sowing**,

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precision agriculture, and **optimal irrigation scheduling** can significantly mitigate heat stress. **Mulching** to retain soil moisture and practicing **crop diversification** are also effective. In addition, adopting **zero tillage** can help conserve **soil moisture** and maintain **soil structure**.

3. Technological Interventions

Modern agricultural practices must leverage **technology and data-driven solutions**. Real-time **weather forecasting systems** and **early warning mechanisms** can inform farmers about impending **heat waves**, allowing timely intervention. Advanced **sensor-based irrigation systems** can optimize water usage, reducing **moisture stress** during critical growth phases.

4. Financial Support and Insurance

Climate change inevitably increases the **financial burden on farmers**. Governments must expand **crop insurance schemes** and offer **direct financial assistance** during **climate-induced crop failures**. Compensation schemes and **income support measures** can help farmers recover from **losses and sustain their livelihoods**.

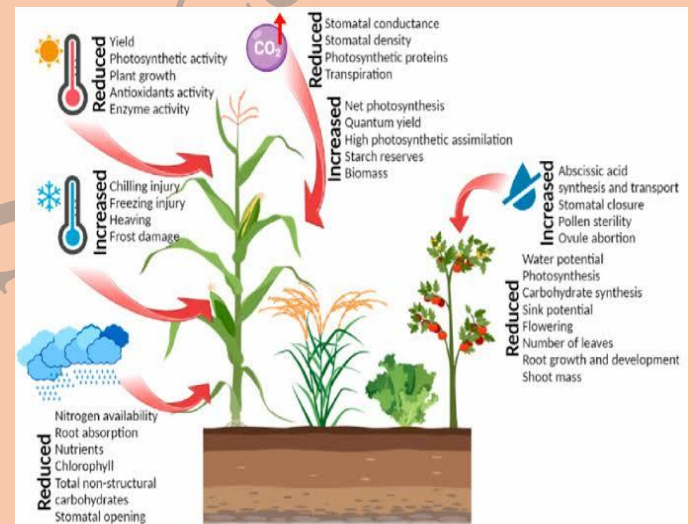
5. Enhancing Policy Frameworks

Government policies must prioritize **agricultural adaptation** to climate change by encouraging **public-private partnerships** in **agricultural research and development (R&D)**. Policies should also support **capacity building for farmers**, equipping them with knowledge about **climate-**

resilient practices and modern farming techniques.

A Holistic Approach to Food Security

The overarching challenge is to ensure **food security** amid the growing threat of climate change. This requires a **holistic approach** that addresses not just wheat but the entire **agricultural spectrum**. Policymakers must integrate **climate resilience into agricultural planning** while fostering **innovation and farmer awareness**.



In the long term, **improving climate literacy**, enhancing **rural infrastructure**, and promoting **sustainable agricultural practices** will be pivotal in building a **climate-resilient agriculture sector**. As experts emphasize, the central focus should be on **bridging yield gaps, minimizing resource wastage, and promoting sustainable resource management**.

India's agricultural future hinges on its ability to adapt to the evolving climate scenario. Without

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decisive action, the **cascading impacts of climate change on wheat production** could disrupt food security, destabilize rural economies, and increase the vulnerability of millions of farmers. Therefore, a **multi-pronged strategy** combining **scientific innovation, farmer education, policy reform, and financial assistance** is crucial to safeguarding India's wheat production and ensuring **food security for future generations**.

Prelims Practice Question:

Q. With reference to wheat production in India, consider the following statements:

1. Wheat is primarily a Kharif crop grown during the monsoon season.
2. The Indian Ocean warming significantly affects the Rabi crop cycle, including wheat.
3. Heat stress during the grain-filling stage reduces starch accumulation in wheat, affecting its quality.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Wheat is primarily a **Rabi crop**, sown during the **winter months (October to December)** and

harvested between **February and April**. It requires a **cool climate** for growth.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The **warming of the Indian Ocean** impacts the **monsoon cycle**, causing delays in the **Kharif crop season**, which subsequently **delays the Rabi season**, including wheat sowing.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** **Heat stress during the grain-filling stage** leads to **early flowering and rapid ripening**, reducing **starch accumulation** and making the grains **lighter and harder**, thereby affecting **grain quality**.

Thus, the correct answer is **b) 2 and 3 only**.

Mains Model Question:

Q. Discuss the impact of climate change on wheat production in India and suggest adaptive measures to mitigate its adverse effects.

Climate change has emerged as a significant challenge for wheat production in India, primarily due to rising temperatures and unpredictable weather patterns. Wheat, being a Rabi crop, requires cool weather during its growth period. However, recent climate trends, such as warming of the Indian Ocean and increased frequency of heatwaves, have disrupted the wheat production cycle. The Indian Ocean's accelerated warming is altering monsoon patterns, causing a delay in the Kharif crop cycle, which, in turn, affects the timely sowing of Rabi crops, including wheat.

The most critical impact of climate change on wheat arises from heat stress during the grain-filling stage.

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Elevated temperatures cause early flowering and faster ripening, reducing the grain-filling period and resulting in lighter grains with lower starch content. This not only diminishes yield but also compromises grain quality, making it harder and less marketable. Furthermore, high temperatures lead to an increase in protein content but a decrease in starch, affecting the milling quality of wheat. The unpredictable climate also forces farmers to overuse fertilizers and pesticides in a desperate attempt to salvage crops, resulting in resource wastage and environmental degradation.

Adaptation strategies are essential to mitigate these impacts. Developing climate-resilient and heat-tolerant wheat varieties can significantly enhance productivity. Early sowing and adjusting cropping patterns can help synchronize the growth stages with favorable weather conditions. Moreover, promoting efficient irrigation practices and providing timely weather advisories to farmers can reduce crop losses. Policy interventions must focus on financial support, crop insurance, and research to develop adaptive agricultural techniques.

Ensuring food security amid climate change requires a multi-pronged approach involving scientific innovation, farmer awareness, and proactive government policies. Addressing the yield gap and promoting sustainable agricultural practices are imperative to safeguarding wheat production in India against the challenges posed by a warming climate.

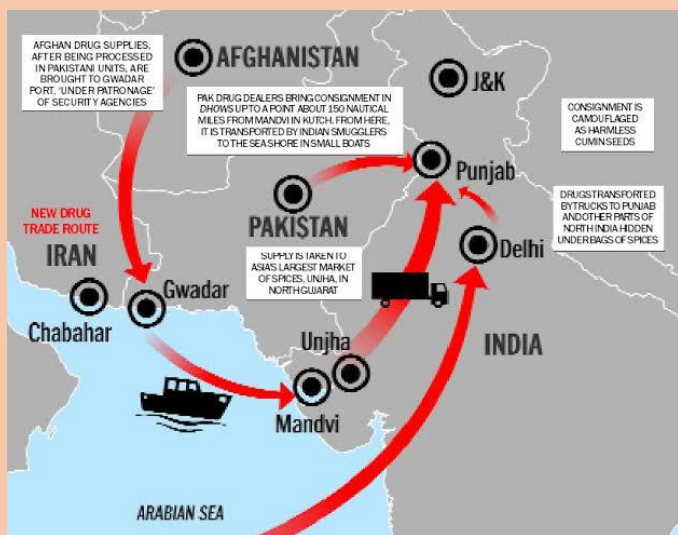
Topic : Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle**Relevance :** GS Paper 3 Drugs, Trade**Source :** Hindustan Times**Context :**

The menace of drug abuse and trafficking is a grave issue that plagues India's socio-economic and security fabric. The country's strategic location between two major drug-producing regions—the **Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle**—exacerbates this challenge. These regions are infamous for the cultivation and trafficking of opium and heroin, which significantly impact India's youth, social stability, and internal security. This essay comprehensively examines the Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle, the reasons behind their notoriety, the implications of drug trafficking on India, and the initiatives taken by the central and state governments to combat this crisis.

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Golden Crescent: The Epicenter of Opium Production

The **Golden Crescent** is one of the most significant global opium-producing regions, encompassing **Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan**. Afghanistan alone accounts for approximately **85% of the world's opium production**. The geopolitical dynamics and long-standing instability in Afghanistan, coupled with weak governance in border areas, have made the region a thriving ground for opium cultivation and heroin production. The opium produced here often makes its way to Iran and Pakistan, from where it is trafficked to India and beyond.



India shares a porous border with Pakistan, stretching across **3,323 kilometers**, making it particularly vulnerable to cross-border smuggling. The **states of Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and Rajasthan** are the most affected. According to the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**, over **70% of drugs entering India via the Golden Crescent**

pass through **Punjab**, making it a hotspot for drug addiction.

Golden Triangle: The Southeastern Drug Hub

The **Golden Triangle** comprises **Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos** and is considered the second-largest opium-producing area globally. Myanmar, in particular, has seen a surge in poppy cultivation, driven by socio-political unrest and the economic hardships faced by rural communities. The **Northeastern states of India—Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh**—share borders with Myanmar, making them vulnerable to drug inflows. The drugs entering India from this region often include **heroin and synthetic drugs such as methamphetamine (Yaba tablets)**.

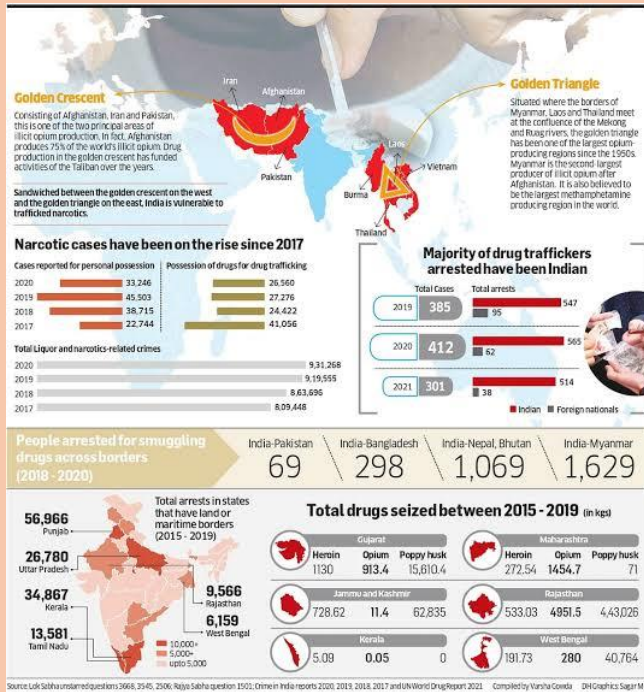
Strategic Geographical Position

Both the Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle are positioned adjacent to India's sensitive and conflict-prone regions, making them ideal routes for drug trafficking. The **lack of stringent border management and the challenging terrain** make surveillance and policing difficult.

Social and Economic Factors

In the border states, poverty, unemployment, and lack of economic opportunities make locals susceptible to drug peddling and abuse. Drug trafficking offers lucrative returns, drawing in local populations as intermediaries and distributors.

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between the ages of 15 and 35. The **Punjab Opioid Dependence Survey (2015)** revealed that **over 2.3 lakh people in the state are opioid-dependent**.

3. **Health Crises:** Substance abuse is directly linked to **HIV/AIDS**, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases, especially among those who use injectable drugs.

Economic Consequences

Drug addiction drains the economic potential of the country. Loss of productivity, increased healthcare expenses, and the financial burden on families contribute to **economic degradation**. Additionally, the cultivation and smuggling of narcotics discourage legitimate agricultural activities.

Funding for Terrorism and Insurgency

Drug money often funds **terrorist and insurgent activities**. In Punjab, the proceeds from drug trafficking are linked to **pro-Khalistani activities**. Similarly, in the Northeast, various insurgent groups utilize drug money to procure arms and sustain their operations. This narco-terrorism nexus poses a dual threat to **national security and public health**.

Social and Health Impact

Drug addiction leads to devastating social consequences, including:

1. **Breakdown of Families:** The financial and emotional strain caused by addiction often leads to the disintegration of family units.
2. **Youth Vulnerability:** A significant percentage of addicts in India are youth

Security Threats

Drug trafficking directly finances terrorism and insurgency. The **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** and the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** have identified several cases where drug money has funded terrorist outfits like **Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)** and **Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)**. Similarly, in the Northeast, insurgent groups such as the **NSCN-IM** and **ULFA** benefit from the illicit drug trade.



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National Level Initiatives

- **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB):** Established in 1986 under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS), 1985**, the NCB is the primary agency to combat drug trafficking and coordinate with international agencies.
- **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR):** Launched in 2018, this plan focuses on **prevention, rehabilitation, and community involvement** to reduce drug demand.
- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Compliance:** India has tightened its anti-money laundering frameworks to track drug-related financial transactions.
- **International Cooperation:** Collaborating with **UNODC** and **Interpol** to share intelligence and coordinate anti-drug operations.

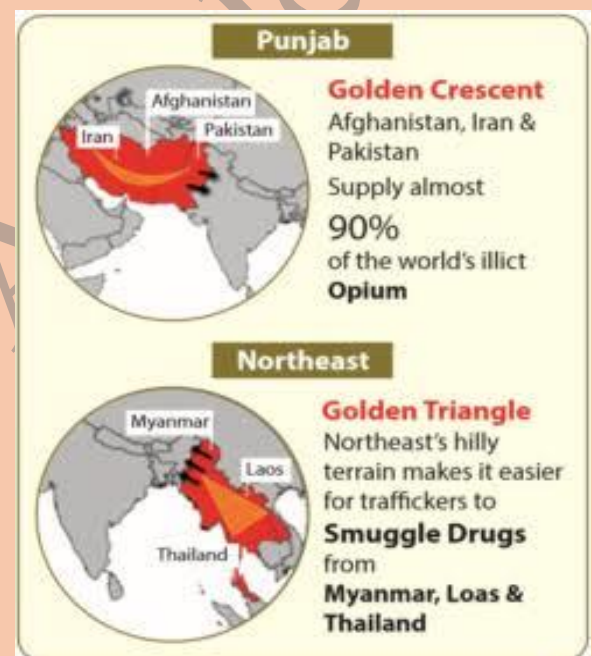
State-Level Initiatives

Punjab:

1. **Drug Abuse Prevention Officer (DAPO) Program:** Mobilizes community volunteers to educate and counsel drug addicts.
2. **Buddy Project:** Encourages peer support to prevent youth from falling into addiction.
3. **Outpatient Opioid Assisted Treatment (OOAT) Clinics:** Over **200 clinics** provide treatment and rehabilitation to addicts.

Northeastern States:

1. **Anti-Drug Abuse Campaigns:** Manipur and Mizoram have intensified their **community awareness and rehabilitation programs**.
2. **Poppy Eradication Drives:** Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh conduct regular operations to destroy poppy fields.



Maharashtra:

1. **Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC):** Mumbai Police's ANC conducts regular raids to curb the growing drug menace in metropolitan areas.

Porous Borders and Geographical Barriers

The rugged terrain in the Northeast and the open borders with Pakistan make surveillance and control

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difficult. Smugglers exploit **natural barriers and informal crossings** to transport drugs.

Corruption and Political Patronage

Political and bureaucratic complicity sometimes hinders anti-drug operations. Drug cartels often have **local-level political backing**, which creates legal and administrative obstacles.



Community Apathy and Social Acceptance

In some areas, drug abuse has become socially normalized. This complicates rehabilitation efforts as **social acceptance of addiction** makes intervention more challenging.

Lack of Rehabilitation Facilities

Despite several initiatives, there is a **dearth of adequate rehabilitation and counseling centers** in rural and border areas. This gap leaves many addicts without access to proper treatment.

Strengthening Law Enforcement

The **NCB and state anti-narcotic cells** should be better equipped with **technology and training**. Coordinated efforts between **Border Security Force (BSF), Assam Rifles, and local police** are essential.

Rehabilitation and De-Addiction Programs

Expansion of **de-addiction centers** with adequate funding and trained professionals is critical. Encouraging public-private partnerships can improve the quality of rehabilitation.

Awareness and Community Participation

Involvement of **civil society organizations (CSOs)** and **non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** can help in community-based rehabilitation. Educational institutions should focus on **drug prevention education** to reduce youth involvement.

International Cooperation

Since drug trafficking is a transnational crime, India must strengthen ties with **neighboring countries and global organizations**. Enhanced **intelligence sharing and joint operations** can significantly reduce cross-border drug flow.

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Prelims Practice Question

Q. With reference to the drug trafficking regions affecting India, consider the following statements:

1. The **Golden Crescent** comprises Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran and is one of the largest opium-producing regions in the world.
2. The **Golden Triangle** comprises Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos and is known for producing synthetic drugs like methamphetamine along with opium.
3. Punjab and the Northeastern states of India are primarily affected by the influx of drugs from the Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle, respectively.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Answer: D. 1, 2, and 3

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Golden Crescent** indeed comprises Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran. Afghanistan is the largest opium producer globally, and drugs from this region enter India through Pakistan, primarily affecting states like Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The **Golden Triangle** (Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos) is infamous for both opium and synthetic drugs

like methamphetamine (Yaba tablets). Drugs from this region infiltrate India through the Northeastern states.

3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Drugs from the **Golden Crescent** majorly impact **Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir**, while the **Golden Triangle** affects **Northeastern states** such as Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland.

Hence, the correct answer is **D. 1, 2, and 3.**

Mains Model Question

Q. Drug trafficking from the Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle poses a significant threat to India's internal security and social fabric. Discuss the reasons behind the vulnerability of India to drug trafficking from these regions and the measures taken by the government to combat the menace.

India's geographical proximity to two major drug-producing regions, the Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle, makes it highly vulnerable to drug trafficking. The Golden Crescent, comprising Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran, is notorious for opium and heroin production, with Afghanistan being the world's largest producer of opium. The Golden Triangle, consisting of Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos, is infamous for both opium and synthetic drugs like methamphetamine. These regions act as the primary sources of illicit drugs flowing into India, creating a massive challenge for internal security and public health.

Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir are heavily affected by drugs from the Golden Crescent, while the

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Northeastern states, including Manipur and Mizoram, are impacted by substances from the Golden Triangle. Several socio-economic and geopolitical factors contribute to India's vulnerability, including porous borders, political instability in neighboring countries, and strong cross-border criminal networks. Additionally, socio-economic distress and lack of awareness in border areas make local communities susceptible to drug trafficking and abuse.

The Indian government has undertaken multiple initiatives to address this issue. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) plays a pivotal role in coordinating anti-drug efforts, while state agencies work to curb local drug networks. International cooperation with countries like Myanmar, Iran, and Afghanistan is being strengthened to tackle cross-border drug trafficking. Legislative measures such as the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act of 1985 are being enforced stringently. Moreover, awareness campaigns and rehabilitation centers have been established to address addiction and reduce demand.

Despite these efforts, drug trafficking continues to thrive due to evolving trafficking routes and sophisticated networks. A comprehensive approach involving intelligence sharing, community participation, and enhanced border management is essential to combat this persistent threat effectively.