

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

Topic : India's Nuclear Energy Roadmap

Relevance : GS Paper 3 Science and Technology

Source : Indian Express

Context :



India is taking a bold step in its clean energy transition by expanding its nuclear energy capacity, with an ambitious target of **100 GW by 2047**. This move aligns with India's **Net Zero emissions goal by 2070** and highlights nuclear power as a crucial part of the country's energy strategy. **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh**, in a post-budget webinar organized by NITI Aayog, emphasized nuclear energy's role in meeting India's rising electricity demand and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

Nuclear Energy as a Pillar of Clean Energy Transition

DEL – HYD – B'LORE – PUNE – TPT

- India's energy demand is expected to **increase four to five times by 2047**.
- Renewable energy (solar and wind) is expanding, but it cannot provide **stable base-load power**.
- Nuclear power offers a **reliable and continuous source of clean energy**.
- Achieving 100 GW of nuclear power will require adding **4 GW annually from now onwards**.

Private Sector Participation and Legislative Changes

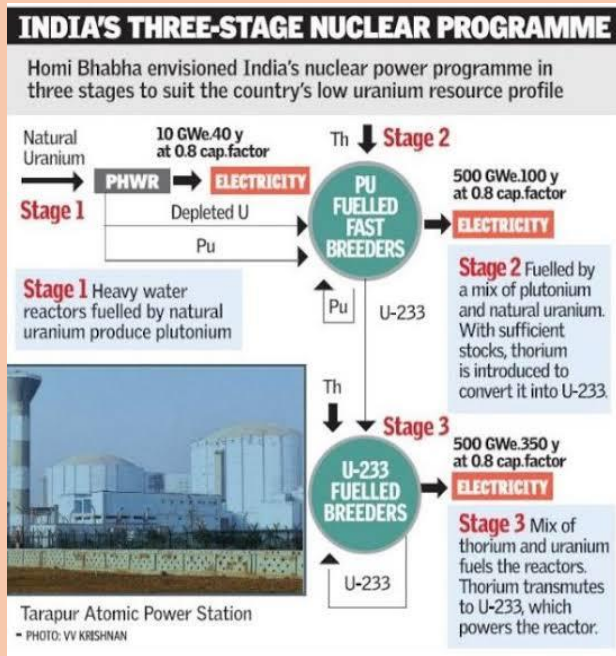
- India plans to open up the nuclear sector to **private players**, which will require amendments to laws like:
 - **Atomic Energy Act**
 - **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act**
 - **Electricity Act**
- Private investments can boost nuclear power infrastructure and accelerate development.
- **NPCIL and NTPC's joint venture 'Ashwini'** are already working on new nuclear power projects.

Small Modular Reactors (SMRs): The Future of Nuclear Power

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- The government is launching an **SMR R&D Mission** to develop **five SMRs** by 2033.
- SMRs are smaller, more flexible, and can be deployed in **remote areas and industrial hubs**.
- These reactors can help in **decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors** like cement and steel industries.

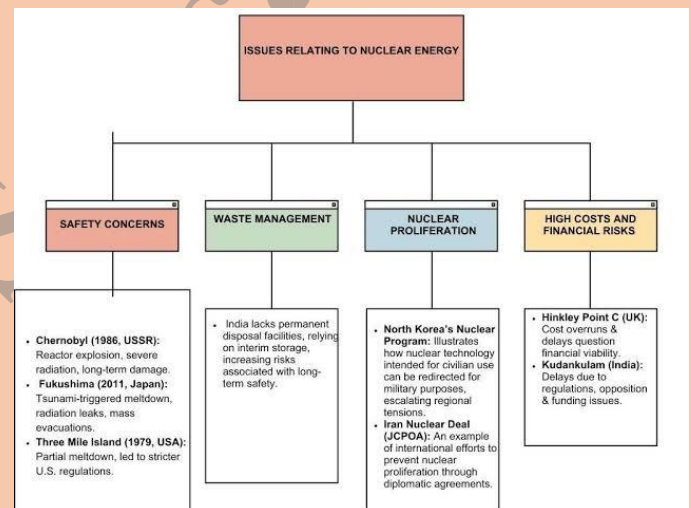
Public Awareness and Acceptance of Nuclear Energy

- Historically, India's nuclear program faced **skepticism due to restrictive global policies**.
- However, under **PM Modi's leadership**, nuclear energy is now seen as a **credible and transparent** power source.

- A **public outreach program** will be launched to educate citizens about the **safety and benefits of nuclear energy**.

Net Zero by 2070: India's Climate Commitment

India has set a goal to reach **Net Zero emissions by 2070**, meaning the country will balance greenhouse gas emissions with removal or offset mechanisms. This is part of India's broader climate strategy, which includes:



- Expanding **renewable energy sources** (solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear).
- Reducing reliance on **coal and fossil fuels**.
- Promoting **green hydrogen and energy efficiency initiatives**.
- Enhancing **carbon capture technologies**.

Achieving **100 GW of nuclear power by 2047** will significantly reduce carbon emissions and support India's **long-term climate goals**.

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Nuclear Power in India:

India has been developing its nuclear energy program since the 1950s, spearheaded by **Dr. Homi Bhabha**. Currently, India has:

- **23 operational nuclear reactors** with a total capacity of **7.5 GW**.
- Several new projects under construction, including **PHWRs (Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors) and Fast Breeder Reactors**.
- Plans to collaborate with international partners, including **Russia, France, and the USA**, for advanced nuclear technologies.

Benefits of Nuclear Energy

1. **Reliable Base-Load Power** – Unlike solar and wind, nuclear plants provide **continuous electricity supply**.
2. **Low Carbon Emissions** – Nuclear energy is **one of the cleanest sources** of power generation.
3. **Energy Security** – Reduces dependence on **imported fossil fuels**, making India more self-reliant.
4. **Efficient Land Use** – Requires **less land** compared to large solar and wind farms.
5. **High Energy Density** – A small amount of nuclear fuel generates **massive amounts of energy**.



Challenges and Concerns

1. **High Initial Costs** – Nuclear plants require **large investments and long construction timelines**.
2. **Radioactive Waste Management** – Safe disposal of nuclear waste is a major challenge.
3. **Public Perception and Safety Fears** – Incidents like **Chernobyl and Fukushima** have created skepticism.
4. **Complex Regulatory and Legal Framework** – Expanding nuclear power requires **policy changes** and international cooperation.

India's plan to **increase nuclear capacity to 100 GW by 2047** is a game-changer for its energy sector. The inclusion of **private players**,

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regulatory reforms, and investment in SMRs will accelerate nuclear expansion. Alongside renewables, nuclear power will help **India achieve Net Zero by 2070**, ensuring energy security and environmental sustainability.

However, **public acceptance, safety measures, and waste management strategies** will be crucial for successful implementation. If executed effectively, this roadmap will position India as a **global leader in clean energy innovation**.

Prelims Practice Question

Consider the following statements regarding India's nuclear energy policy:

1. India aims to achieve 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047 as part of its clean energy transition.
2. Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are being developed in India to provide decentralized nuclear energy solutions.
3. The participation of private players in nuclear power generation is already allowed under the Atomic Energy Act.
4. Nuclear energy is a renewable energy source like solar and wind power.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer:

Correct Option: (A) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 is correct** – India has set a target of achieving **100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047** as part of its clean energy strategy.
2. **Statement 2 is correct** – India is launching a **Small Modular Reactor (SMR) R&D Mission**, aiming to develop **five SMRs by 2033** for decentralized energy solutions.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect** – As of now, the **Atomic Energy Act does not allow private sector participation in nuclear power generation**. The government is proposing legislative amendments to enable private investments.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect** – Nuclear energy is **not considered a renewable energy source** because it relies on uranium and thorium, which are finite resources. However, it is a **low-carbon** energy source.

Thus, the correct answer is **(A) 1 and 2 only**.

Mains Model Question

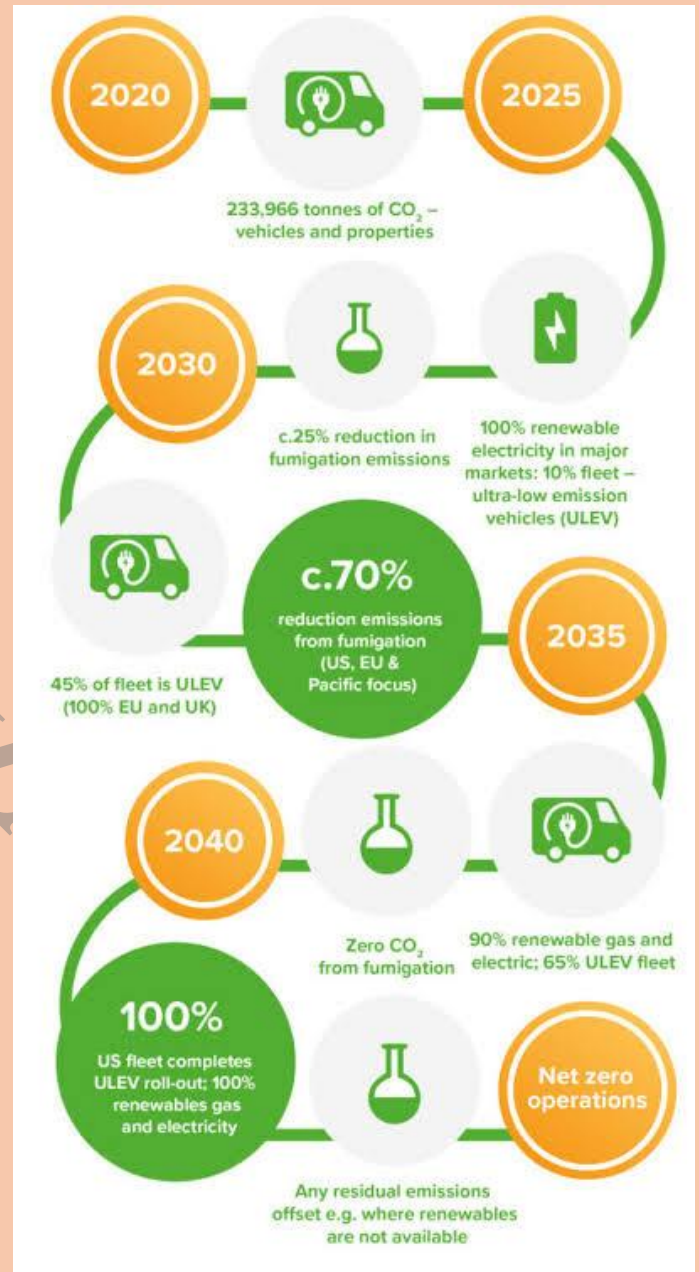
Discuss the role of nuclear energy in India's clean energy transition and its significance in achieving the Net Zero target by 2070. What are the key challenges associated with nuclear power expansion in India?

Nuclear energy plays a crucial role in India's clean energy transition, particularly in achieving the Net

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Zero target by 2070. With growing electricity demand, expected to increase four to five times by 2047, nuclear power provides a stable and low-carbon alternative to fossil fuels. Unlike solar and wind energy, which are intermittent and dependent on weather conditions, nuclear energy offers a continuous base-load power supply, making it an essential part of India's energy mix. The government's vision to expand nuclear capacity to 100 GW by 2047 highlights its commitment to reducing carbon emissions while ensuring energy security.

A key development in this expansion is the proposed inclusion of the private sector, which requires amendments to the Atomic Energy Act and other regulations. Allowing private investment would enhance technological innovation and accelerate infrastructure development. Additionally, the launch of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) is expected to provide decentralized nuclear power solutions, benefiting remote areas and industrial sectors.



However, several challenges hinder the large-scale adoption of nuclear energy. High capital investment and long gestation periods make nuclear projects financially demanding. Public concerns over safety, influenced by past nuclear disasters such as Chernobyl and Fukushima, necessitate strong

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regulatory frameworks and public awareness campaigns. Managing radioactive waste is another significant issue, requiring advanced disposal technologies and stringent safeguards. Furthermore, geopolitical constraints and dependence on imported uranium pose risks to fuel supply security.

Despite these challenges, nuclear energy remains a vital component of India's clean energy strategy. With the right policies, investment in advanced reactor technologies, and increased public acceptance, India can effectively leverage nuclear power to achieve sustainable and long-term energy goals while progressing towards its Net Zero commitment by 2070.

Topic : Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana

Relevance : GS Paper 2 Polity and Governance

Source : PIB

Context :

Ministry of Labour & Employment

**Jinki mehnat desh ka aadhaar,
Unki pension ka sapna saakaar**

**Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan
(PM-SYM)**
A pension scheme for unorganised workers

Minimum guaranteed pension
₹3,000 per month starting from age 60 onwards.

To benefit from this scheme reach out to the nearest common service centres with your Aadhaar Card and Savings/Jan-Dhan account documents.
Or Visit : <https://maandhan.in>

ELIGIBILITY:

- Unorganised workers such as rickshaw pullers, hawkers, labourers, maids, tailors, paan vendors, small shop owners or workers with similar job profiles
- Joining age: 18-40 years
- Monthly income ₹15000 or less

The central government will contribute equally with you in this scheme

For more information on the scheme contact central government or state government's Labour offices or LIC centres.

Visit website: <https://maandhan.in>
To find the nearest common service centre (CSC) please visit: www.locator.csccloud.in

CSC & **LIC**

The **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM)** is a government-backed **voluntary and contributory pension scheme** aimed at providing **financial security to workers in the unorganised sector**. Launched in **2019**, it ensures a **minimum pension of ₹3,000 per month** after the age of **60 years**, helping millions of informal workers lead a **dignified post-retirement life**.

PM-SYM is a **landmark initiative** in India's **social security landscape**, ensuring **financial stability for millions of unorganised workers**. It not only provides **post-retirement income** but also **encourages financial inclusion and savings** among informal workers. While **challenges remain**, the scheme is a **significant step towards universal pension coverage**, helping create a **stronger and more inclusive social security framework** for India's workforce.

Key Features of PM-SYM

- Beneficiaries receive **₹3,000 per month** after **turning 60 years old**.
- Ensures **financial stability in old age** for workers in the **informal sector**.
- The government **matches the worker's contribution** on a **1:1 basis**.
- If a worker contributes **₹100 per month**, the government adds **₹100**, effectively doubling the pension fund.
- If the **primary beneficiary dies**, the **spouse receives 50% of the pension amount** as a **family pension**.
- This pension is available **only for the spouse** and not for other dependents.

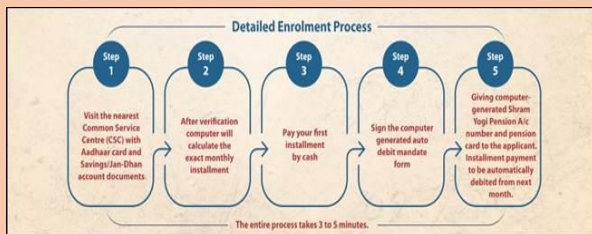
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- Workers **choose to participate** and contribute according to their financial capacity.
- The contribution amount is **based on age at the time of enrolment**, ensuring affordability.
- Before 10 years:** Worker gets back their **contributed amount with bank interest**.



- After 10 years but before 60 years:** Refund includes **worker's contribution + fund interest**.
- Death before 60 years:** Spouse can **continue the scheme or withdraw** the contributed amount.
- Death after 60 years:** Spouse receives **50% pension** as per family pension rules.
- Workers can enrol through **Common Service Centres (CSCs)** or the **Maandhan portal**.
- Requires **Aadhaar Card, bank details, and mobile number** for verification.
- Contributions are **auto-debited** from the worker's bank account.

Age at Entry	Monthly Contribution (by Worker)	Equal Contribution by Government
18 years	₹55	₹55
20 years	₹65	₹65
25 years	₹80	₹80
30 years	₹105	₹105
35 years	₹150	₹150
40 years	₹200	₹200

Implementation and Government Initiatives

Digital and Offline Registration

- Enrolment is facilitated through **CSC centres** and an **online portal** for easy access.
- Workers get a **PM-SYM card** after successful registration.

Integration with e-Shram Portal

- PM-SYM is linked with **e-Shram**, the national database for unorganised workers.
- Helps identify **eligible workers** and promote **mass enrolment**.

Awareness Campaigns

- The government is running **SMS campaigns, employer awareness programs, and state-level meetings** to increase enrolment.
- The **Donate-a-Pension initiative** allows employers to pay for their workers' contributions.

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Significance of PM-SYM

Financial Security for Unorganised Workers

- Unorganised sector workers **lack access to formal pension schemes** like EPF or NPS.
- PM-SYM provides them **guaranteed post-retirement income**.

Supports India's Social Security Goals

- Aligns with the government's **vision of universal pension coverage**.
- Helps achieve **financial inclusion** for informal sector workers.

Encourages Long-Term Savings

- The scheme **promotes a culture of savings** among workers.
- Ensures **workers have a reliable source of income in old age**.

Strengthens Economic Stability

- Reduces the economic **burden on families** after a worker retires.
- Encourages **self-sufficiency** among elderly workers in the unorganised sector.

Challenges in Implementation

Women's quota, panchayats to Parliament

The landmark Women's Reservation Bill – now the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act – that reserves one-third of the total seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for women received presidential assent recently. As the first law passed in the new Parliament building during a special session, it portends a new chapter in India's democratic journey.

It comes on the 30th anniversary of the constitutional reforms that reserved one-third of seats in panchayats and municipalities for women. Since then, there have been multiple unsuccessful attempts to extend women's reservation to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. While its final enactment is momentous, it is contingent on the conduct of delimitation and census.

Nevertheless, it is the right time to take stock of the 30-year experience of women's reservation in local government and the lessons it offers Indian democracy.

Parliament, 30 years ago, enacted the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments that sought to make panchayats and municipalities "institutions of self-government". It mandated a minimum of one-third of seats and office of chairpersons in panchayats and municipalities to be reserved for women. It also mandated reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) based on their percentage population and enabled States to reserve seats for Backward Classes. This has created a system with over 3 million elected panchayat representatives, out of which almost half are women.

The expansion and diversification of the representative base of Indian democracy is the most successful element of these constitutional reforms. While the Union government's 2009 constitutional amendment to increase women's reservation in local governments



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from 33% to 50% failed, many States have enacted laws that reserve 50% seats for women and also instituted reservations of seats for Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Hence, presently in panchayats and municipalities, there is, at one level, vertical reservation of seats for SCs, STs, and OBCs and a horizontal category of reservation for women that applies across all categories – general, SC, ST, and OBC.

Such a mix of vertical and horizontal reservations recognises the aggravated disadvantage people face due to their location in the intersection of their caste and gender identities. The present woman's reservation law, as well as its previous avatar passed by the Rajya Sabha in 2008, adopts a similar model of intersectional reservation for women. However, unlike the case of the 73rd and 74th amendments, the present law does not enable reservation for OBC women.

Impact of reservations

Beyond representation, has women's reservation in local governments yielded substantive benefits? A 2004 paper by Esther Duflo and Raghavendra Chattopadhyay on panchayats in West Bengal and Rajasthan found that women leaders invest more in public goods and ensure increased women's participation in panchayat meetings.

A more expansive study in 2011 across 11 States by Ms. Duflo and others reaffirmed the finding that women-led panchayats made higher investments in public services like drinking water, education, and roads. However, a 2010 paper by Pranab Bardhan and others found that women's reservations worsened the targeting of welfare programmes for SC/ST households and provided no improvement for female-headed households.

Meanwhile, a 2008 paper by Vijayendra Rao and Radu Ban found that women leaders perform no differently than their male counterparts in south India

and instead institutional factors such as the maturity of the State's panchayat system were more relevant. Worryingly, a 2020 paper by Alexander Lee and Varun Karekurve-Ramachandra examining reservations in Delhi found that constituencies reserved for women are less likely to elect OBC women and more likely to elect upper-caste women.

Uncertain future

Evidently, the impact of women's reservation is not straightforward. The design of women's reservations in Parliament and State Assemblies should have ideally been informed by its 30-year experience in panchayats and municipalities. Since the role that women play in local governments is different from their role in Parliament, the impact of reservation may play out differently. However, something as vital as a constitutional amendment for women's reservation should have been introduced after widespread discussion and analysis of its experience, instead of being introduced surreptitiously through a "supplementary list" in a hastily organised Parliament session.

Unlike the 2008 version, the present women's reservation law has tied its implementation with the conduct of delimitation and census, neither of which have a definite date. The constitutional freeze for delimitation, that has been in place since 1976, will end in 2026. If the reallocation of seats between States is purely based on population, the southern States' share in the Parliament will drastically reduce. So, the next delimitation exercise is likely to open up the fault lines of India's delicate federal relations. Hence, coupling women's reservations with a politically fraught delimitation exercise makes its implementation contentious. Hopefully, the near unanimity in the passing of the Bill signals that there will be some consensus on implementing women's reservation in the near future.

The design of women's reservation should have ideally been informed by its 30-year experience in local governments

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- Workers covered under **EPF, ESIC, or NPS** are **not eligible**.
- This leaves out **many informal sector workers** who may need additional pension support.

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** PM-SYM is **only for unorganised sector workers**, not for those in the organised sector.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The scheme provides a **minimum pension of ₹3,000 per month** after **60 years of age**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **Government of India contributes an equal amount (1:1 ratio)** to match the worker's contribution.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Workers enrolled in **EPF, ESIC, or NPS are not eligible** for PM-SYM.

Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) scheme:

1. It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for workers in both the organised and unorganised sectors.
2. The scheme provides a minimum monthly pension of ₹3,000 after the beneficiary attains 60 years of age.
3. The Government of India contributes an equal amount to the worker's contribution on a 1:1 basis.
4. Workers enrolled under the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and the National Pension System (NPS) are eligible for this scheme.

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

Mains Model Question

Q. Discuss the significance of the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) scheme in ensuring social security for unorganised sector workers in India. Highlight the challenges associated with its implementation.

The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) is a landmark pension scheme aimed at providing financial security to unorganised sector workers. With nearly 90% of India's workforce engaged in the informal sector, this scheme ensures that these workers receive a minimum monthly pension of ₹3,000 after the age of 60. It follows a contributory model where the government matches the worker's contribution in a 1:1 ratio. Administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in collaboration with LIC, PM-SYM

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

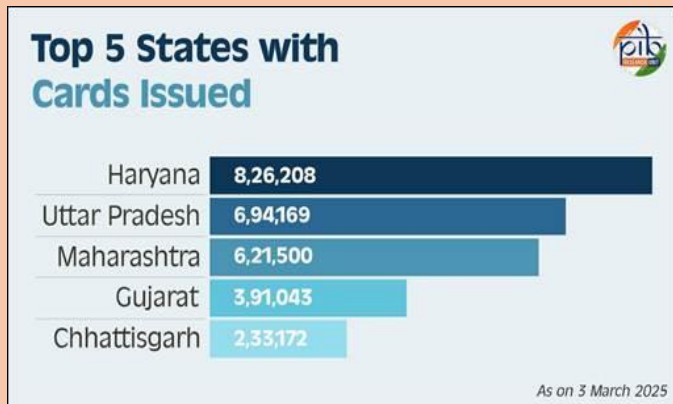
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 3, and 4 only
- (d) 2, 3, and 4 only

Answer:

- (b) 2 and 3 only

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reflects the government's commitment to inclusive social welfare.



The significance of PM-SYM lies in its potential to alleviate financial insecurity among unorganised workers such as street vendors, construction workers, domestic helpers, and agricultural labourers. These workers, despite contributing significantly to the economy, often lack structured savings or retirement benefits. By offering them a voluntary, simple, and affordable pension mechanism, the scheme aims to reduce old-age poverty and enhance economic stability. The family pension provision further ensures that the spouse continues to receive financial support after the subscriber's demise.

However, the implementation of PM-SYM faces several challenges. Many unorganised workers have irregular incomes, making consistent contributions difficult. Lack of awareness and digital literacy also hinder enrolment, especially in rural areas. Additionally, workers often switch occupations frequently, leading to inconsistencies in participation. Administrative challenges, such as verifying eligibility and integrating the scheme with existing social security programs, also pose hurdles.

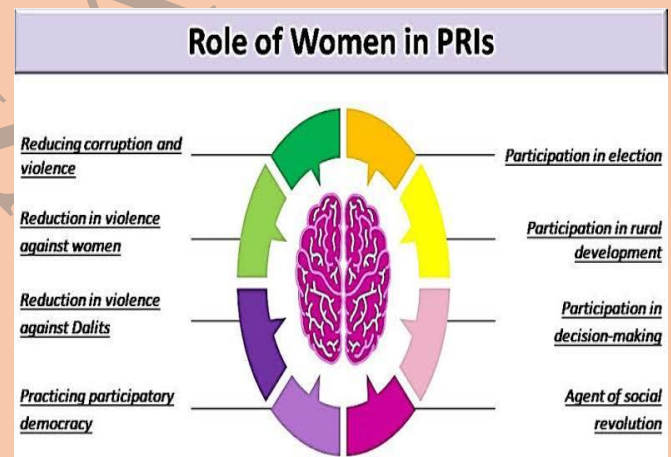
To improve its effectiveness, better outreach programs, simplified registration processes, and financial incentives can be introduced. Addressing these challenges will ensure that PM-SYM fulfills its objective of providing a dignified retirement to India's unorganised workforce, strengthening the country's social security framework.

Topic : Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan

Relevance : GS Paper 2 Polity and Governance

Source : Indian Express

Context :



The **Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan** is a capacity-building initiative launched by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** to strengthen the leadership skills of **Women Elected Representatives (WERs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**. The initiative aims to enhance women's decision-making abilities, encourage their **active participation in governance**, and reinforce their role in **rural development**. This program was inaugurated at a **national workshop** attended by

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over **1,200 women Panchayat leaders** ahead of **International Women's Day 2025**, highlighting the government's commitment to **inclusive development** and **women-led democracy**.

Significance of Women's Participation in PRIs

Women play a crucial role in **rural governance**, and their active leadership ensures **better investment in health, education, sanitation, and economic development**. The **73rd Constitutional Amendment** paved the way for women's representation in PRIs by mandating **one-third reservation** of seats for women. Today, over **1.4 million women** hold elected positions in Panchayats, and in many states, their representation exceeds the **reserved quota**. This increased participation fosters **women-led development**, ensuring that issues directly affecting women and children receive due attention.

Union Minister **Rajiv Ranjan Singh** emphasized that **empowered women strengthen democracy** from the grassroots level to the national stage. He highlighted that the government is committed to building **confidence and capacity** among women leaders, allowing them to **actively shape policies** rather than function as mere figureheads.

Challenges Faced by Women Representatives in PRIs

Despite constitutional and policy support, **women representatives** in PRIs face significant challenges, including:

73RS AND 74TH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACTS, 1992:

- i. The panchayats constitutional status (previously panchayat matters were considered as state subjects);
- ii. An institutionalised three tier system at village, block and district levels;
- iii. The amendment stipulated that all panchayat members be elected for five year term in the elections supervised by the state election commission.
- IV. Reservation for Women, SCs and STs (not less than 33%)
- V. Compulsory elections every five years
- VI. To levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees.
- VI. Preparation of plan for economic development and social justice.

1. **Proxy Leadership (Sarpanch Pati Culture)** – Many elected women leaders function under the influence of their **male relatives**, who make decisions on their behalf. This practice weakens the true essence of **women's political empowerment**.
2. **Limited Decision-Making Power** – Due to **deep-rooted patriarchy**, many women find themselves excluded from **key policy discussions** and **financial matters** in Gram Panchayats.
3. **Lack of Training and Awareness** – Many elected women representatives lack formal **training in governance, law, and administration**, making it difficult for them to perform their duties effectively.

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4. **Social and Cultural Barriers** – Issues like **gender discrimination, domestic responsibilities, and societal norms** often prevent women from fully participating in **Panchayati Raj governance**.
5. **Financial Dependence** – Many women representatives lack independent financial means, making them vulnerable to **male-dominated decision-making structures**.

Union Minister **S. P. Singh Baghel** addressed the issue of **proxy leadership**, urging women leaders to exercise **financial prudence** and **independent decision-making**. He emphasized that **achieving gender equality** in governance is essential for India's vision of **Viksit Bharat (Developed India)**.

Objectives of Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan

The **Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan** is designed to address these challenges by:

- **Providing leadership training** to women elected representatives to **enhance their decision-making capabilities**.
- **Encouraging independent governance** by ensuring that women leaders exercise their authority without male interference.
- **Raising awareness** about gender-based violence and discriminatory practices.
- **Promoting economic and social empowerment** through initiatives like **Self-Help Groups (SHGs), digital literacy programs, and financial management training**.

- **Recognizing outstanding women leaders** who have brought positive change in **rural governance**.

Key Developments at the National Workshop

The call for women's reservation in politics has its roots in the Indian national movement. In 1931, leaders like Begum Shah Nawaz and Sarojini Naidu, representing three women's organizations, wrote to the British Prime Minister, presenting an official memorandum regarding the status of women in the new Constitution.

In 1988, the National Perspective Plan for Women proposed that women should be granted reservations in political representation, extending from the local panchayat level to the national Parliament.

In May 1989, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi initiated the idea of women's reservation in elected bodies by introducing the Constitution Amendment Bill, which aimed to provide one-third reservation for women in rural and urban local bodies. While the bill passed in the Lok Sabha, it faced opposition in the Rajya Sabha in September 1989.

Subsequently, in 1992 and 1993, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao reintroduced Constitution Amendment Bills 72 and 73. These bills reserved one-third (33%) of seats and chairperson positions for women in rural and urban local bodies. Both bills successfully passed in both houses of Parliament and became law. This move resulted in the election of nearly 15 lakh women representatives in panchayats and nagarpalikas across the country.

On September 12, 1996, the United Front government, led by Deve Gowda, introduced the 81st Constitution Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha, seeking reservation for women in the Parliament. Unfortunately, the bill didn't receive approval in the Lok Sabha and was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee chaired by Geeta Mukherjee. The Mukherjee Committee presented its report in December 1996, but the bill lapsed with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

In 1998, during the tenure of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Women's Reservation Bill was introduced in the 12th Lok Sabha. However, like previous attempts, it failed to garner support and lapsed once more. Repeated attempts to reintroduce the bill were made in 1999, 2002, and 2003 under the Vajpayee government, but none succeeded.

The Women's Reservation Bill gained momentum during the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government-1 in 2004 when it was included in the Common Minimum Programme. In May 2008, the bill was tabled in the Rajya Sabha to prevent it from lapsing again. After going through various stages, the bill was eventually passed in the Rajya Sabha with 186-1 votes on March 9, 2010. However, the bill was never taken up for consideration in the Lok Sabha and ultimately lapsed in 2014 with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

1. **Launch of Training Modules** – The Ministry introduced **specialized training modules** to strengthen governance and leadership skills among women Panchayat representatives.
2. **Primer on Gender-Based Violence** – A guidebook on **laws addressing gender-based violence and harmful practices** was launched to educate women leaders on **legal protections and intervention mechanisms**.

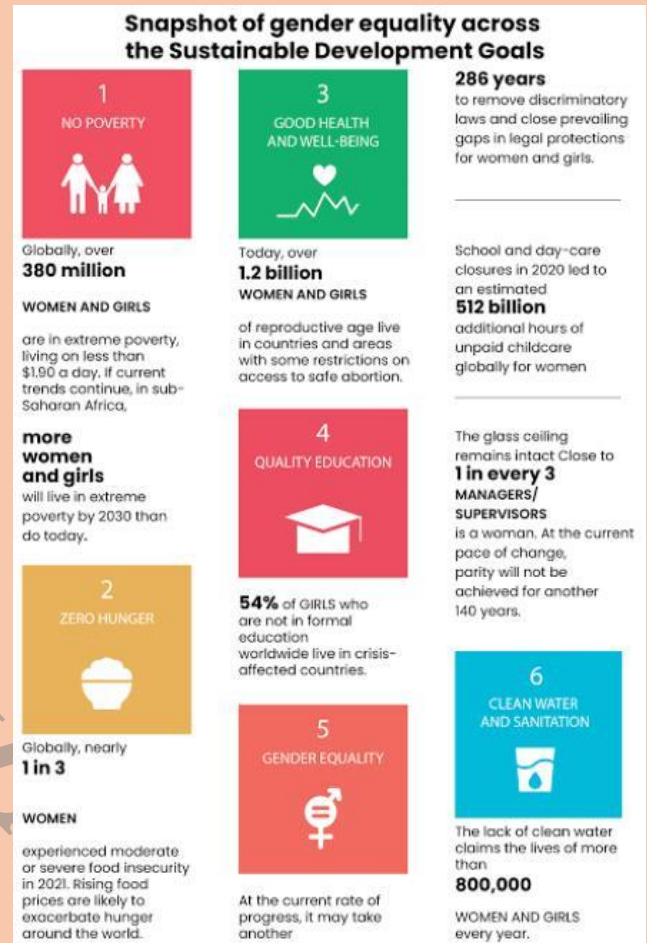
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3. **Recognition of Women Leaders** – Women leaders who demonstrated **exceptional governance practices** were **felicited** for their contributions to local governance.
4. **Panel Discussions on Women in PRIs** – Experts discussed topics such as **women's participation in PRIs, challenges in governance, and sectoral interventions in health, education, and economic empowerment.**

For the **Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan** to be effective, it must be backed by:

- **Regular training programs** to equip women leaders with necessary **administrative and governance skills.**
- **Legal and institutional support** to **eliminate proxy leadership** and promote independent decision-making.
- **Incentives for women-led Panchayats** to encourage active participation.
- **Community awareness campaigns** to challenge **gender biases** and ensure social acceptance of **women's leadership** in rural governance.

Union Minister **Raksha Nikhil Khadse**, who herself began her political journey as a **Sarpanch**, stated that **women's journey from Panchayat to Parliament** is both possible and necessary for **inclusive governance**. The program seeks to **redefine rural leadership**, ensuring that elected women representatives are **not just symbolic figures** but **drivers of transformative change** at the grassroots level.



By **strengthening women's leadership in PRIs**, India moves closer to achieving **gender equality, inclusive development, and true grassroots democracy.**

Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the "Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan":

1. It is a capacity-building initiative launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

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2. The program aims to enhance leadership skills and decision-making capabilities of Women Elected Representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions.
3. It was launched in 2025 ahead of International Women's Day.
4. The initiative also addresses the issue of proxy leadership in Panchayati Raj Institutions.

and encourages women to **exercise independent authority**.

Thus, the correct answer is **(b) 2, 3, and 4 only**.

Mains Model Question

Q. The “Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan” is a crucial initiative to strengthen grassroots democracy by empowering Women Elected Representatives (WERs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Discuss the significance of this initiative and the challenges that women leaders face in rural governance.

The **Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan** is a transformative initiative launched by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** to enhance the **leadership skills, decision-making capabilities, and participation of Women Elected Representatives (WERs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**. Launched ahead of **International Women's Day 2025**, it recognizes the critical role women play in grassroots governance and seeks to **address systemic challenges** that hinder their active participation.

One of the major **significances** of this initiative is its emphasis on **capacity building**, ensuring that women representatives are **not merely symbolic leaders** but active decision-makers. With over **1.4 million elected women in PRIs**, the initiative aims to **bridge the knowledge and confidence gap**, enabling them to lead effectively. Additionally, it tackles the issue of **proxy leadership**, where male relatives often act on behalf of elected women, undermining their authority. By **providing leadership training and legal awareness**, the

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2, 3, and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3, and 4 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: (b) 2, 3, and 4 only

Explanation:

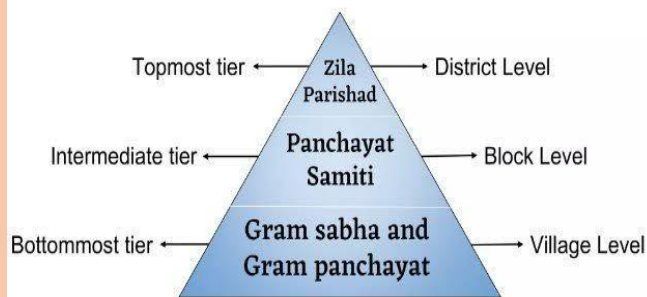
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The **Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan** was launched by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, not the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The initiative aims to **enhance the leadership skills and decision-making capabilities of Women Elected Representatives (WERs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The program was launched in **2025**, ahead of **International Women's Day**.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The initiative explicitly addresses the issue of **proxy leadership** (where male relatives act on behalf of elected women representatives)

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program strengthens women's **autonomy in governance**.

However, women in rural governance face **numerous challenges**. Social and cultural barriers continue to limit their authority, with **deep-rooted patriarchal mindsets** resisting female leadership. The practice of “**Sarpanch Pati**” or “**Pradhan Pati**” **culture**, where husbands or male relatives control the official work of elected women, remains a major concern. Additionally, many women lack **adequate political training, financial independence, and legal awareness**, making them susceptible to **coercion or token representation**.

Three Tier System of Panchayati Raj



For the **Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan** to succeed, continuous **mentorship, policy support, and strict enforcement of laws** against proxy leadership are essential. A truly **inclusive and participatory** Panchayati Raj system requires women to not just be elected but to lead with **confidence and authority**.

Topic : Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats Initiative & Mahila Gram Sabhas

Relevance : GS Paper 2 Polity and Governance

Source : PIB

Context :

The **Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats (MWFGP) Initiative**, launched by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, is a significant step towards making rural governance **gender-sensitive, inclusive, and socially just**. This initiative aims to develop at least **one Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat per district**, setting an example for **women-centric governance, safety, and empowerment**. The launch at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on March 5, 2025**, marks a milestone in grassroots governance, aligning with **Viksit Bharat** through **Viksit Panchayats**.

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Impact of Integrated and Inclusive Development

- More than 200 awareness camps organized for mobilizing the community against social evils and creating awareness on rights and entitlements of women and girls.
- The panchayat has been organizing street plays and exhibitions to create awareness and empower the community to eliminate harmful practices.
- Reduction in School Dropout rates - The Maha Singha and Nari Adalat impose a penalty of Rs. 5000 to 15,000 on families whose children drop out from school. This has reduced school dropouts substantially in the GP.
- For economic empowerment of women, the panchayat has set up herbal medicinal gardens, mushroom cultivation, fruit processing training cum production centres.

Key Learnings for Panchayats

- Badahapur experience is a classic example of how empowerment of women, including those in vulnerable situations like the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) women can be achieved through formation of strong collectives and mentorship.
- Mobilizing women and girls and creating awareness on their rights, entitlements and laws is a great enabler in preventing harmful practices against women and girls.
- Ensuring women's right to dignity should be a key prerequisite to empower them to participate in development on an equal footing.
- Setting up of Nari Adalats for checking all forms of violence against women and ensuring their access to equal rights (right to health, education, economic empowerment and participation in the development process) is a unique innovation that can help ensure timely justice to women and girls.

Mobilizing women and girls and creating awareness on their rights, entitlements and laws is a great enabler in preventing harmful practices against women and girls

A crucial component of this initiative is the organization of **Mahila Gram Sabhas** across India on **March 8, 2025**, to coincide with **International Women's Day**. These special Gram Sabhas aim to **amplify women's voices in governance, address their concerns, and formulate policies that cater to their needs.**

Role & Importance of Mahila Gram Sabhas

Mahila Gram Sabhas provide a **dedicated platform for rural women** to participate in local decision-making. Their primary roles include:

- **Identifying & Addressing Women's Issues:** Discussions on **health, education, sanitation, safety, economic opportunities, and social issues** like domestic violence and discrimination.
- **Encouraging Women's Leadership:** Enabling **Women Elected Representatives (WERs)** to take charge and shape governance policies.
- **Enhancing Policy Implementation:** Ensuring better execution of **women-centric schemes** such as **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**,

Ujjwala Yojana, and PM Awas Yojana at the Panchayat level.

- **Financial & Legal Awareness:** Spreading knowledge about **government schemes, financial inclusion programs, and laws related to gender rights and protection.**

Why Are Mahila Gram Sabhas Required?

- **Low Female Representation in Governance:** Although **1.4 million women** hold positions in PRIs, many **lack decision-making power** due to proxy leadership (Sarpanch Pati culture).
- **Gender-Based Challenges:** Women in rural India face **restricted mobility, safety concerns, economic dependence, and social barriers**, limiting their participation in governance.
- **Inclusive Development:** Policies designed without **women's direct input** often fail to address their **unique challenges and needs.**

Potential Benefits

Strategy for Development

- The Phulgar Panchayat has focused on tapping the leadership potential of tribal women to lead both economic self-reliance and cleanliness as a way of life in the panchayat.
- Under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) - State Chapter (Vibhag), 26 women SHGs have been mobilized in this GP, with 325 women members from poor families, pursuing diverse livelihood options and promoting cleanliness/ODF as a way of life in the village.
- The income generating activities being pursued by the women SHGs in the GP include horticulture, organic farming, goatery and poultry, vermicompost manure making, fencing poles and wire supply, barbed-wire fencing, garbage disposal bins etc.
- Skill training is ensured to all SHGs, along with bank linkages by the panchayat.
- Women SHGs have also been motivated to work as Swachhagrahis and spread awareness in the community for a clean, ODF GP and for safe garbage disposal.
- Village infrastructure is upgraded by using funds under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for constructing anganwadis, school infrastructure, village roads and rain-water harvesting structures. Goatery and poultry sheds for SHGs have also been built under MGNREGA.

Skill training is ensured to all SHGs, along with bank linkages by the panchayat.

Panchayat Phulgar is spreading its unique model of a clean and prosperous panchayat with the GP undertaking activities for behaviour change in collaboration with SHG-Swachhagrahis or sanitation pioneers.

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- **Stronger Grassroots Democracy:** Women-led governance ensures policies cater to community needs more holistically.
- **Improved Social Indicators:** Increased investment in health, education, and nutrition.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Encouraging self-help groups (SHGs), entrepreneurship, and financial independence among rural women.
- **Enhanced Safety & Rights Awareness:** Creating safer, harassment-free villages through better law enforcement and legal literacy.
- 6. **Political Resistance:** Women leaders face opposition from entrenched political and social structures that resist change.

The **Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats initiative**, coupled with **Mahila Gram Sabhas**, represents a paradigm shift in **women-led rural governance**. Despite challenges, ensuring **consistent policy support, community engagement, and capacity building** will enable rural women to take charge of their destinies, making governance **truly inclusive and transformative**.

Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats (MWFGP) Initiative:

Challenges in Running Mahila Gram Sabhas

1. **Social & Cultural Barriers:** Many women lack confidence, face social resistance, and are discouraged from speaking in public forums.
2. **Male Dominance in Decision-Making:** The **Sarpanch Pati system** and other forms of **proxy leadership** hinder women's autonomy.
3. **Limited Awareness & Education:** Rural women may lack knowledge of **legal rights, government schemes, and governance processes**.
4. **Financial Constraints:** Women often lack **financial independence**, making them reliant on male family members for participation.
5. **Logistical Issues:** Lack of **safe meeting spaces, transport, and time constraints** due to domestic responsibilities.

1. It aims to establish at least one Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat in every district of India.
2. The initiative is launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
3. Mahila Gram Sabhas, under this initiative, will be organized nationwide on International Women's Day.

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

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Answer:

Correct Option: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The MWFGP initiative aims to create at least **one Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat per district** to promote **gender-sensitive governance and inclusivity** at the grassroots level.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The initiative is **launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, not the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** As part of the initiative, **Mahila Gram Sabhas** will be organized **nationwide on International Women's Day (March 8, 2025)** to discuss women's issues and promote their leadership in governance.

Thus, the correct answer is **(c) 1 and 3 only**.

Mains Model Question

Q. The Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats (MWFGP) initiative aims to promote gender-sensitive governance at the grassroots level. Discuss the significance of this initiative, the role of Mahila Gram Sabhas, potential benefits, and challenges faced by women in rural governance.

The Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats (MWFGP) initiative is a crucial step toward strengthening gender-inclusive governance in rural

India. Launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, it aims to establish at least one Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat per district, ensuring safer and more inclusive governance structures for women. This initiative aligns with the broader goal of empowering women at the grassroots level and enhancing their role in decision-making.



An important feature of this initiative is the Mahila Gram Sabhas, which serve as platforms for women to voice their concerns and actively participate in governance. Organized nationwide on International Women's Day, these sabhas enable women to discuss issues related to health, education, sanitation, domestic violence, and economic opportunities. They provide a direct link between women and local governance, ensuring their representation in policy discussions and decision-making processes. The initiative is expected to bring several benefits, including greater participation of women in leadership roles, improved implementation of social welfare schemes, and better decision-making on issues affecting women and children. By integrating gender perspectives into governance, it can lead to

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enhanced economic opportunities for women, improved social indicators, and more inclusive rural development.

However, the initiative faces significant challenges. A deep-rooted patriarchal mindset often discourages women from participating in governance, limiting their ability to assert independent leadership. The prevalence of proxy representation, where male relatives exert influence over elected women representatives, undermines the initiative's objective. Additionally, the lack of legal awareness, administrative training, and financial independence poses barriers to effective participation. Addressing these challenges requires sustained efforts in capacity building, awareness campaigns, and institutional support to create an enabling environment for women in rural governance.

Topic : India's Commitment to Circular Economy

Relevance : GS Paper 3
Economy

Source : The Hindu

Context :



India has been at the forefront of global sustainability initiatives, particularly in promoting

circular economy principles. The 12th **Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific**, held in Jaipur, marks another significant milestone in India's leadership on sustainable urban development, waste management, and climate resilience.

It's leadership in circular economy is **not just an environmental responsibility but an economic necessity**. The **12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum** reaffirmed India's commitment to **resource efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable urban development**.

By launching **C-3, adopting the Jaipur Declaration, and expanding CITIIS 2.0**, India has set a strong foundation for **regional and global partnerships in achieving a circular, low-carbon economy**.



What is the 3R and Circular Economy Forum?

The **Regional 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and Circular Economy Forum** was launched in **2009** to promote sustainable waste management, resource efficiency, and circular economy principles across

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Asia and the Pacific. It serves as a key platform for policy dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and capacity building to address environmental challenges such as **rapid urbanization, resource depletion, and waste generation**.

A major milestone in the forum's history was the **Hanoi 3R Declaration (2013-2023)**, which outlined **33 voluntary goals** for shifting towards a resource-efficient and circular economy. India's commitment to sustainability has been evident since hosting the **8th edition in Indore (2018)** and now leading the **12th edition in Jaipur (2025)**.

India's Key Initiatives in Circular Economy and 3R Principles

India's commitment to circular economy is rooted in various policies and programs. Some of the major initiatives highlighted during the forum include:

India's Leadership in Circular Economy and 3R Policies

India has been at the forefront of promoting sustainable development and circular economy principles. The country has implemented **several landmark policies and initiatives** aimed at addressing waste management challenges. Some of the key initiatives include:

- **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-U)** – Strengthening urban waste management with 3R principles. Under SBM-U, India has achieved **108.62%** success in household toilet construction, where the mission target was **58,99,637** and the constructed number stands at **63,74,355** as of 27 February 2025. Further **80.29%** of solid waste in India is being processed successfully.
- **GOBAR-Dhan Scheme** – Promoting waste-to-wealth initiatives through biogas and organic waste processing. This scheme currently covers **67.8%** of total number of districts in India, with **1008** biogas plants being fully operational as of 27 February 2025.
- **E-Waste Management Rules (2022)** – Strengthening circular economy practices in electronic waste disposal. As of **December 2024**, for FY 2024-25, the quantity of **e-waste** collected and **recycled** stood at **5,82,769 MT** and **5,18,240 MT** respectively. The quantity of e-waste collected and recycled in the FY 2023-24 were **7,98,493 MT** and **7,68,406 MT** respectively.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Plastic** – Encouraging industries to take accountability for plastic waste. India **banned single use plastic** on 1st July 2022.

(a) Pro-Planet People (P-3) Approach & Mission LiFE

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, in his written address, emphasized India's **P-3 (Pro-Planet People) approach**, which encourages global citizens to adopt sustainable practices.
- **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)** was highlighted as a critical initiative to promote sustainable consumption and production.

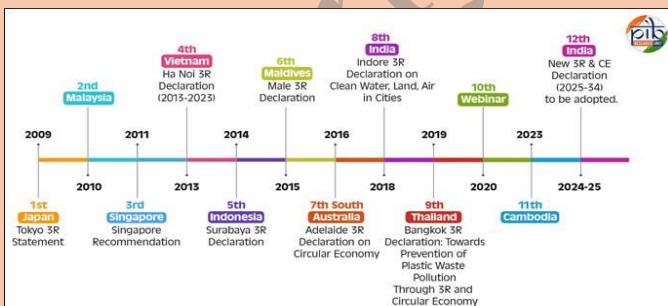
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(b) Circular Economy and Sustainable Urban Development

1. **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) & AMRUT 2.0:** These programs focus on solid waste management, water conservation, and sustainable urban infrastructure.
2. **Panchamrit Goals (COP26, Glasgow 2021):** India pledged to achieve **net-zero emissions by 2070** and cut carbon intensity by **45% by 2030**.
3. **Smart Cities Mission & CITIIS 2.0:** Smart city initiatives integrating circular economy principles to create sustainable urban spaces.
4. **Bio-CNG and E-Waste Recycling:** Policies promoting waste-to-energy projects, including **plastic waste management, e-waste recycling, and sustainable packaging solutions**.

Launch of the Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3)

A major highlight of the 12th **3R and Circular Economy Forum** was the launch of the **Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3)**.



Objectives of C-3:

- **Multi-nation alliance** for city-to-city collaboration.
- **Knowledge-sharing** and exchange of best practices.
- **Partnerships between policymakers, researchers, and private sector** to promote waste management and resource efficiency.

Union Minister **Manohar Lal** emphasized that C-3 will play a transformative role in **scaling up circular economy strategies** across cities in the Asia-Pacific region.

Building on the momentum of past initiatives, the **new 3R and Circular Economy Declaration (2025-2034)** aims to catalyze transformational changes in resource and waste management. The Forum continues to support multi-stakeholder collaboration, particularly in tackling plastic pollution through initiatives such as the negotiations for a **Global Plastics Treaty**. With Asia-Pacific accounting for the **largest share of global material use**, the Forum emphasizes the region's pivotal role in achieving carbon neutrality, environmental sustainability, and economic resilience.

Jaipur Declaration (2025-2034)

A significant outcome of the forum was the **adoption of the Jaipur Declaration**, a **non-binding policy framework** guiding circular economy efforts for the next decade.

Key Provisions of the Jaipur Declaration:

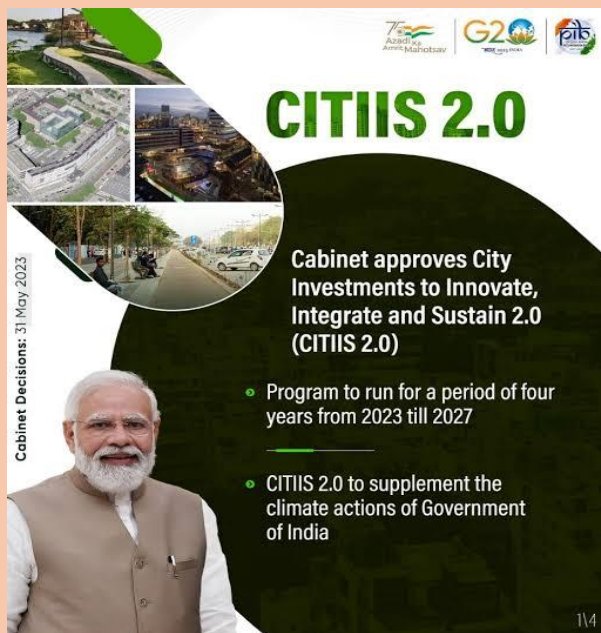
- Strengthen **waste-to-wealth initiatives** and waste management infrastructure.
- Promote **digital collaboration platforms** for cities to share best practices.
- Develop **financial models** for circular economy implementation.

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- Align strategies with **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and **Paris Agreement** commitments.

CITIIS 2.0: Investment in Circular Economy Projects

During the forum, a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for **CITIIS 2.0** was signed.



Key Features of CITIIS 2.0:

- ₹1,800 crores investment** to support **18 cities across 14 states**.
- Focus on **integrated waste management, climate action, and urban sustainability**.
- Serve as **lighthouse projects** for other urban areas in India and Asia-Pacific.

This initiative aligns with India's broader **Smart Cities Mission**, ensuring that urban centers adopt **circular economy principles**.

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3R India Pavilion: Showcasing Innovation

A special exhibition, the **3R India Pavilion**, was inaugurated by Union Minister **Manohar Lal** and Rajasthan Chief Minister **Bhajanlal Sharma**.

Features of the 3R India Pavilion:

- Over 40 Indian and Japanese businesses & start-ups** showcased innovative solutions for waste management and resource efficiency.
- 3R Trade & Technology Exhibition** presented advancements in waste-to-energy, sustainable packaging, and recycling technologies.
- Knowledge-sharing sessions** with industry leaders and policymakers.

India's Global Leadership in Circular Economy

India has been playing an active role in shaping global policies on circular economy. The forum reinforced India's leadership through:

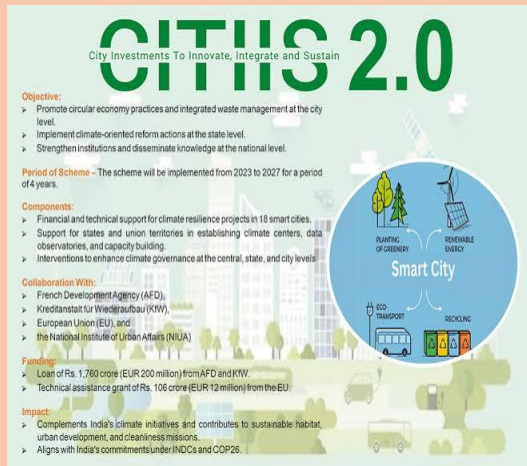
(a) Global Collaboration & Policy Influence

- Supporting the UN Global Plastics Treaty negotiations.**
- Advocating for a **low-carbon, resource-efficient economy** at **G20, BRICS, and UN forums**.
- Aligning India's policies with the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)**.

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(b) Technological Advancements & Innovations

- Development of **smart waste management systems**.
- Promotion of **Bio-CNG production and alternative fuels**.
- Scaling up e-waste and plastic waste recycling projects**.

Future Roadmap: Circular Economy in India (2025-2034)

India aims to achieve **zero-waste cities and carbon neutrality** by strengthening circular economy strategies.

Key Focus Areas for the Next Decade:

- Policy & Governance**
 - Strengthening legal frameworks for **waste management, resource efficiency, and industrial circularity**.
- Technological Innovations**
 - Expanding **AI-driven waste segregation, blockchain-based**

recycling incentives, and IoT-enabled waste tracking systems.

3. Finance & Investments

- Creating **green bonds and sustainability-linked financial instruments**.

4. Climate Resilience & Sustainability

- Integrating **circular economy principles into climate policies**.

Prelims Practice Question:

With reference to the "Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3)" initiative, consider the following statements:

- It is a multi-nation alliance launched by India for city-to-city collaboration on sustainable urban development.
- The initiative aims to promote waste management, resource efficiency, and private-sector partnerships.
- It was launched under the Swachh Bharat Mission and is exclusively for Indian cities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2, and 3

Answer:

Correct Option: a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

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- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3) is a **multi-nation alliance** launched by India to foster **city-to-city collaboration** for sustainable urban development.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The initiative promotes **waste management, resource efficiency, and private-sector partnerships** to support circular economy principles.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** C-3 is **not limited to Indian cities**; it is a global initiative. Additionally, it was not launched under the **Swachh Bharat Mission** but as part of India's larger commitment to a circular economy and sustainable urbanization.

policy-level interventions to enhance waste management and resource efficiency.

Theme: Realizing Circular Societies Towards Achieving SDGs and Carbon Neutrality in Asia-Pacific.

Dates: March 3-5, 2025

Venue: Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Organized by: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (India), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).

Supported by: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Japan's Ministry of Environment, and various other international and regional organizations.

Thus, the correct answer is **(a) 1 and 2 only**.

Mains Model Question:

Discuss the significance of the Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3) initiative launched by India in the context of sustainable urban development. How can such initiatives contribute to resource efficiency and climate resilience?

The Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3) is a multi-nation initiative launched by India to foster collaboration among cities for sustainable urban development. As rapid urbanization leads to increasing waste generation and resource depletion, initiatives like C-3 are crucial in promoting circular economy principles such as reduce, reuse, and recycle (3R). This platform aims to facilitate knowledge-sharing, private sector participation, and

C-3 holds significant importance in addressing environmental challenges posed by growing urban centers. By enabling cities to exchange best practices, innovative technologies, and sustainable urban policies, it encourages a shift from a linear consumption model to a circular economy. This transition is essential for reducing dependency on raw materials, minimizing waste, and lowering the carbon footprint of cities. Moreover, India's leadership in this initiative aligns with its broader commitments under global frameworks like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, and its Panchamrit goals for carbon neutrality.

In the context of climate resilience, C-3 can help cities build adaptive capacities by promoting sustainable infrastructure, energy-efficient urban planning, and decentralized waste management

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systems. The integration of bio-CNG plants, e-waste recycling, and plastic waste management under this initiative can significantly reduce urban pollution while generating economic opportunities. Additionally, the involvement of multiple stakeholders—including policymakers, researchers, and industry leaders—ensures a holistic approach to sustainability.

By fostering city-to-city partnerships and encouraging sustainable practices at a local level, C-3 has the potential to transform urban spaces into hubs of resource efficiency and climate resilience. Its success can serve as a model for other nations looking to transition towards a more sustainable and low-carbon urban future.