

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

Topic : Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2025

outlets called **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs)**.

Relevance : GS Paper 2 Polity and Governance

Source : PIB

Context :

- **Raising Awareness:** One of the primary goals is to educate the public about the benefits of generic medicines, emphasizing that affordability does not compromise quality. The initiative aims to dispel the misconception that higher prices indicate better quality.
- **Encouraging Prescriptions of Generic Drugs:** PMBJP aims to inspire healthcare professionals, particularly those in government hospitals, to prescribe generic alternatives, thereby promoting cost-effective treatment options.
- **Enhancing Accessibility:** The initiative seeks to provide a wide range of commonly used generic medicines across various therapeutic categories, ensuring that essential healthcare products are available to everyone, especially the marginalized.

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

Objectives & Key Activities of PMBJP

PMBJP's core mission is to make **quality generic medicines available at affordable prices** across India. Key activities under this initiative include:

Raising Public Awareness:

- Educating people on the benefits of generic medicines and dispelling myths that **higher-priced medicines** are always superior.
- Ensuring that people understand **generic medicines** are **equally effective** as branded medicines.

Encouraging Prescription of Generic Medicines:

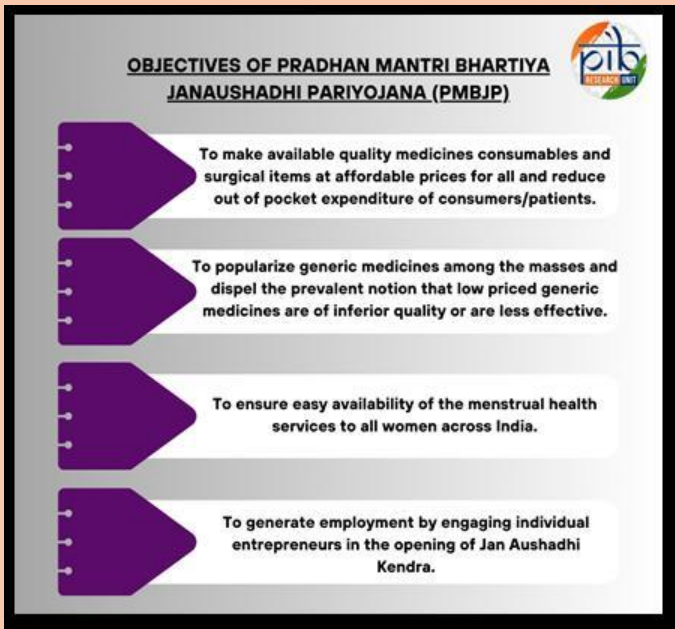
- Motivating **healthcare professionals**, particularly in **government hospitals**, to prescribe **generic alternatives** for cost-effective treatment.
- Creating awareness among doctors and pharmacists to promote the **prescription and sale** of generic medicines.

Every year, **March 7th** is observed as '**Jan Aushadhi Diwas**' to promote awareness about the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)** and encourage the use of generic medicines. The celebration extends over a **week-long period** from **March 1st to 7th**, featuring various events nationwide.

For 2025, the celebrations commenced on **March 1st**, focusing on spreading awareness about PMBJP, particularly in the **National Capital Region (NCR)**. The **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)** was originally launched in **November 2008** by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**, in collaboration with **Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)**. The scheme primarily aims to ensure **affordable and quality medicines** for the public through designated retail

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Enhancing Accessibility:



- Providing an extensive range of **essential generic medicines** across **multiple therapeutic categories** to benefit the **general public, especially economically weaker sections**.
- Expanding the **network of PMBJP Kendras** across rural and urban areas to ensure **wider access to medicines**.

Why is PMBJP Important?

India is one of the world's **leading exporters of generic medicines**, yet a large portion of its population **struggles to afford basic healthcare**. Branded medicines are often **sold at significantly higher prices** than their **unbranded generic equivalents**, despite **identical therapeutic effects**.

- Prices of the Jan Aushadhi medicines are **50%-80% less** than that of branded medicine's prices available in the open market.
- Medicines are **procured only from World Health Organization – Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP) certified manufacturers** for ensuring the quality of the products.
- **Each batch of drug is tested** at laboratories accredited by 'National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories' (NABL) for ensuring best quality.
- The **incentive up to Rs. 20,000/- per month** is given @ **20%** of monthly purchases made and subject to the stocking mandate.
- A **one-time incentive of Rs. 2.00 lakh** is provided to PMBJP Kendras opened in North-Eastern States, Himalayan areas, Island territories and backward areas mentioned as aspirational district by NITI Aayog or opened by women entrepreneur, Ex-serviceman Divyang, SC & ST.

Major Initiatives Under PMBJP

Suvidha Sanitary Napkins

- To ensure **menstrual hygiene and health security for Indian women**, the **Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkins** were launched on **August 27, 2019**.
- Priced at **just ₹1 per pad**, these sanitary napkins are available at **more than 15,000 PMBJP Kendras** nationwide.
- As of **January 31, 2025**, the **cumulative sales of Suvidha Napkins** have reached **72 crore units**.

Jan Aushadhi SUGAM Mobile App

- Launched in **August 2019**, the **Jan Aushadhi SUGAM mobile application** enables users to:

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- **Locate** the nearest Jan Aushadhi Kendra using **Google Maps**.
- **Search for generic medicines** available at PMBJP Kendras.
- **Compare prices** of generic medicines vs. branded medicines to estimate savings.

Features of PMBJP

PMBJP is a **unique initiative** that involves **both government agencies and private entrepreneurs**. Its key features include:

1. **Affordable Medicines:**
 - Prices of **Jan Aushadhi medicines** are **50%–80% lower** than **branded medicines** in the open market.
2. **Quality Assurance:**
 - Medicines are procured **only from WHO-GMP (World Health Organization – Good Manufacturing Practices) certified manufacturers**.
 - Every batch undergoes testing at **National Accreditation Board for**

Testing and Calibration

Laboratories (NABL)-accredited labs.

3. Financial Incentives for Entrepreneurs:

- **Up to ₹20,000 per month** is provided as an incentive, calculated at **20% of monthly purchases**, subject to a **stocking mandate**.
- **One-time incentive of ₹2 lakh** is available for setting up PMBJP Kendras in:
 - **Northeastern States**
 - **Himalayan regions**
 - **Island territories**
 - **Aspirational districts (as identified by NITI Aayog)**
 - **Women entrepreneurs, ex-servicemen, Divyang (persons with disabilities), SC & ST entrepreneurs**

Growth of PMBJP: Transforming Healthcare Expansion of PMBJP Kendras

- As of **2025**, there are **over 15,000 operational PMBJP Kendras** across **all districts of India**.

Availability of Medicines & Surgical Equipment

- PMBJP Kendras offer a **wide range of generic medicines** across **various therapeutic segments**.
- Essential **surgical products** are also available to improve **affordable healthcare access**.

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Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2025: 7 Days of Awareness & Celebration

The week-long celebration for Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2025 included a variety of events:



Jan Aushadhi Jan Chetna Abhiyan

Jan Arogya Mela (Heritage Walks & Health Camps) for Senior Citizens

Jan Aushadhi Bal Mitra-Children Participation

Jan Aushadhi Ek Kadam Matri Shakti Ki Ore-Women Participation

Jan Aushadhi Seminar-Pharmacist Awareness

Jan Aushadhi Mitra Volunteer Registration Campaign

Day 1: Nationwide Flag-off Ceremony

- **Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda** flagged off a **promotional Rath and vehicles** to spread awareness about PMBJP.

Day 2: Jan Arogya Mela & Health Camps

- **500+ health camps** were organized, focusing on **senior citizens' healthcare**.
- Heritage walks were conducted to integrate **health awareness with cultural appreciation**.

Day 3: Children's Health & Nutritional Awareness

- Special sessions for **children's participation** and **distribution of nutraceutical products** were held.

Day 4: Women's Health Initiative

- **Free distribution of Suvidha Sanitary Napkins** emphasized **affordability and accessibility** of PMBJP products for women.

Day 5: Pharmacist Awareness Seminars

- **Pharmacist seminars** were held across **30 cities** to educate professionals about **generic medicine prescription**.

Day 6: Jan Aushadhi Mitra Volunteer Registration

- **Public volunteer registration drive** was launched to encourage participation in spreading PMBJP awareness.

Day 7: Jan Aushadhi Diwas Grand Celebration

- The event concluded with a **nationwide celebration**, highlighting the success of

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PMBJP and its role in **affordable healthcare transformation**.

The **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)** has been a **game-changer** in India's **healthcare sector**. With over **15,000 operational Jan Aushadhi Kendras**, the initiative has made **quality medicines affordable and accessible to millions**.



Key Achievements:

Affordable generic medicines saving 50%–80% costs for patients

Ensuring top-quality WHO-GMP certified medicines

Boosting self-employment with financial incentives

Wider access through digital solutions (Jan Aushadhi SUGAM App)

Empowering women through Suvidha Sanitary Napkins initiative

As **PMBJP continues to expand**, it will play an even greater role in ensuring **universal healthcare access** and strengthening **India's pharmaceutical self-sufficiency**.

Prelims Practice Question:

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP):

1. PMBJP was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to promote the use of branded medicines at subsidized rates.
2. Medicines under PMBJP are procured only from WHO-GMP certified manufacturers.
3. The Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Sanitary Napkins are available at ₹1 per pad across all PMBJP Kendras.
4. The Jan Aushadhi SUGAM mobile app helps users locate PMBJP Kendras and compare prices of generic and branded medicines.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer:

Correct Option: (b) 2, 3, and 4 only

Explanation:

1. **Incorrect:** PMBJP was launched by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**, not the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Also, it promotes **generic medicines**, not branded ones.
2. **Correct:** Medicines under PMBJP are procured only from **WHO-GMP certified manufacturers** to ensure quality.
3. **Correct:** The **Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Sanitary Napkins** are available at **₹1 per pad** across **15,000+ PMBJP Kendras**.

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4. **Correct:** The Jan Aushadhi SUGAM mobile app helps users locate Kendras, search for generic medicines, and compare prices with branded medicines.

Mains Model Question :

Q. The Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) aims to provide affordable and quality medicines to the masses. Discuss the significance of this initiative in improving public healthcare and the challenges in its implementation.

The Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), launched in 2008 by the Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, seeks to make quality generic medicines available at affordable prices through a network of dedicated outlets known as Jan Aushadhi Kendras. This initiative plays a crucial role in ensuring that essential healthcare remains accessible to all, particularly the economically weaker sections.

Financial Year	Number of Medicines	Number of Surgical	Total
2020-21	1450	204	1654
2021-22	1616	250	1866
2022-23	1759	280	2039
2023-24	2047	300	2347

The high cost of branded medicines often prevents people from seeking timely treatment, making affordable alternatives a necessity. Under PMBJP, medicines are priced 50-80% lower than their branded counterparts, significantly reducing healthcare expenses for individuals and families.

Another major advantage of the scheme is its focus on quality assurance. Medicines under PMBJP are sourced only from WHO-GMP-certified manufacturers and undergo stringent testing in NABL-accredited laboratories, ensuring their efficacy and safety. The scheme has expanded across all districts of the country, with over 15,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras providing not just medicines but also essential surgical and healthcare products. Additionally, the availability of Suvidha sanitary napkins at ₹1 per pad under this scheme is a significant step toward improving menstrual hygiene for women. The integration of digital tools like the Jan Aushadhi SUGAM mobile app further enhances accessibility by helping users locate nearby kendras, search for medicines, and compare prices.

Despite its numerous benefits, the implementation of PMBJP faces several challenges. One of the key issues is the lack of awareness among people regarding the availability and effectiveness of generic medicines. Many individuals continue to believe that lower-cost medicines are inferior in quality, which affects their acceptance. Furthermore, doctors often hesitate to prescribe generic alternatives, partly due to the influence of pharmaceutical companies. Ensuring a steady supply of medicines at all kendras is another logistical challenge, as shortages can hinder the program's effectiveness. Expanding the network to remote and rural areas also requires better infrastructure and financial support.

PMBJP is a crucial step toward affordable and inclusive healthcare in India. While it has made significant progress in reducing medical costs and improving accessibility, addressing awareness gaps,

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ensuring consistent supply chains, and promoting the prescription of generic medicines will be essential for its long-term success. The scheme has the potential to transform healthcare in India, making quality treatment a reality for all sections of society.

Topic : IndiaAI Mission

Relevance : GS Paper 3 Science and technology

Source : The Hindu

Context :

IndiaAI Mission
Cabinet approves comprehensive national-level IndiaAI mission

❖ Budget outlay of Rs.10,371.92 crore.

❖ Mission aims to establish a comprehensive ecosystem catalyzing AI innovation through strategic programs and partnerships across public and private sectors

❖ To be implemented by 'IndiaAI' Independent Business Division (IBD) under Digital India Corporation

Mission components

01. IndiaAI Compute Capacity - to build a high-end scalable AI computing ecosystem

02. IndiaAI Innovation Centre - to undertake development and deployment of indigenous Large Multimodal Models

CABINET DECISION
07th March, 2024

The **Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY)** has launched multiple AI-driven initiatives under the **IndiaAI Mission**, marking a significant step in

India's AI development and innovation ecosystem. The event, led by **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**, introduced key programs aimed at boosting AI research, accessibility, and skill development.

AIKosha: IndiaAI Datasets Platform

AIKosha is a **secured platform** that provides a **repository of datasets, models, and AI use cases** to foster innovation. It includes **AI sandbox capabilities**, offering an integrated development environment with tools and tutorials. This platform ensures:

- **Content discoverability**
- **AI readiness scoring for datasets**
- **Secure data storage & access control mechanisms**
- **Advanced security features** such as encryption, secure APIs, and real-time threat filtering

IndiaAI Compute Portal

This portal is designed to offer **affordable AI computing power** to researchers, startups, and enterprises. It provides access to **10,000 GPUs**, with **8,693 more** to be added soon. The platform offers:

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EXPLAINED AI

India's Rs 10,000-cr AI mission

Govt will subsidise private firms looking to set up AI computing capacity in India. This is among the most important elements of building a large AI system — as also one of the most difficult, given the high costs

SOUMYARENDRA BARKI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 8

INDIA has made the first move to address a key shortcoming it currently has in unlocking opportunities around generative artificial intelligence (AI) — that of computing hardware.

On Thursday, the Union Cabinet approved the India AI Mission with an outlay of Rs 10,372 crore for the next five years, under which the government will allocate funds towards subsidising private companies looking to set up AI computing capacity in the country among other things.

While still a blueprint, the approval could spur investments in this sector — with private companies setting up data centres in the country and allowing startups access so they can test and build their generative AI models.

This is a benefit that startups such as Perplexity AI in the United States have enjoyed for some time now, since they can tap into the computing capacity offered by companies like Nvidia.

Computing capacity, or compute, is among the most important elements of building a large AI system, apart from algorithmic innovation and datasets. It is also one of the most difficult elements to procure for smaller businesses looking to train and build such AI systems, given the high costs.

For example, Nvidia's A100 chip — considered to be the most cutting edge for AI applications — costs around \$10,000, which means that a data centre of 10,000 such graphics processing units (GPUs) could cost at least \$100 million (more than Rs 8,000 crore).

In an interview with The Indian Express earlier, Perplexity's Aravind Sriniwas had highlighted the hardware-related challenges that startups from India may face, compared with their counterparts in the west.

What is India's plan for setting up AI computing capacity?

Under the India AI Mission, the government will look to establish a computing capacity of more than 10,000 GPUs and also help develop foundational models with a capacity of more than 100 billion parameters



Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the Mission last year, and said that its aim would be to establish the computing powers of AI within the country.

Representative image created using Dall-E

4,000 Tech, 400 AI Tech, and 600 PhD candidates who will focus on AI in premier educational institutions.

How does this announcement fit in with the overall policy in this sector?

The India AI Mission announcement came a week after the Cabinet cleared chip projects worth Rs 1,26 lakh crore, including what could be the country's first commercial fabrication plant. India has identified electronics manufacturing as a key economic driver, and the government is willing to spend money in the initial phase to get production rolling.

This is a strategy that the European Union is following as well. To allay concerns over overregulation of AI, which could stifle innovation, the European Commission earlier this year released a set of rules to enable startups and other businesses to access hardware — such as supercomputers and computing capacity — to build large-scale AI models.

But what about AI regulations and aspects of safety?

Even as the private industry innovates rapidly, lawmakers around the world are grappling with setting up legislative guardrails around AI to contain some of its downsides.

■ In India, the IT Ministry recently issued an advisory to generative AI companies deploying "untested" systems to seek the government's permission before doing so. However, the government's move was criticised by stakeholders around the world, forcing it to clarify that the advisory was not applicable to startups. Questions have also been raised over the legal basis of the advisory.

■ Last year, the European Union reached a deal with member states on its AI Act, which includes safeguards on the use of AI within the EU, including clear guardrails on its adoption by law enforcement agencies. Consumers have been empowered to file complaints against any perceived violations.

■ In the United States, a White House Executive Order on AI is being offered as an elaborate template that could become a blueprint for other countries looking to regulate AI. A blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights released last October is seen as a building block for the subsequent executive order.

trained on datasets covering major Indian languages for priority sectors like healthcare, agriculture, and governance.

While the infrastructure is being set up, priority will be given to selecting the most advanced GPUs.

The implementation of this AI compute infrastructure will be done through a public-private partnership model with 50 per cent viability gap funding. If the compute prices come down, the private entity will have to add more compute capacity within the same budgeted amount to meet increased demand. Of the total outlay, Rs 564 crore has been earmarked for building computing infrastructure.

"Basically, there will be a tender inviting companies to set up data centres. When a company applies for it, I say a centre which may cost Rs 10,000 crore, they can seek a viability gap funding from the government for a certain amount of that," a senior official said.

Are there proposals beyond hardware?

■ The Cabinet has approved the financing by the government of deeptech startups at various levels of growth. Of the total outlay, roughly Rs 2,000 crore has been earmarked towards this.

■ As part of the programme, an India AI Datasets Platform will be set up, which will look at leveraging the quality, access, and use of non-personal datasets for AI innovation. The platform will be tasked with hosting identified "high-quality" AI-ready datasets.

Together, these proposals cover two of the most crucial elements of building large language models: the hardware and access to high-quality datasets.

■ The government will also set up the India AI Innovation Research Centre, which will undertake the development and deployment of large foundational models, with focus on indigenous Large Multimodal Models and domain-specific foundational models. Close to Rs 2,000 crore has been earmarked for this centre.

■ There is a plan to financially support

iGOT-AI: AI-Powered Learning for Government Officials

An AI-driven personalized content recommendation system on the iGOT Karmayogi platform to enhance government employees' learning experiences.

India AI Startups Global Acceleration Program

A collaboration with Station F and HEC Paris, offering a four-month acceleration program in Paris for 10 selected Indian AI startups. It includes mentorship, networking, and market expansion opportunities in Europe.

- Subsidized AI compute services
- GPUs, cloud storage, and network services
- Up to 40% subsidy for eligible AI users
- Access to high-end GPUs like NVIDIA H100, AMD MI300X, AWS Tranium, etc.

AI Competency Framework for Public Sector Officials

This framework is designed to equip government officials with AI-related skills, focusing on:

- AI competency mapping
- Upskilling programs aligned with global standards
- AI policy-making and implementation strategies



India AI Innovation Challenge

- Over 900 AI solutions were submitted to address challenges in:
 - Healthcare

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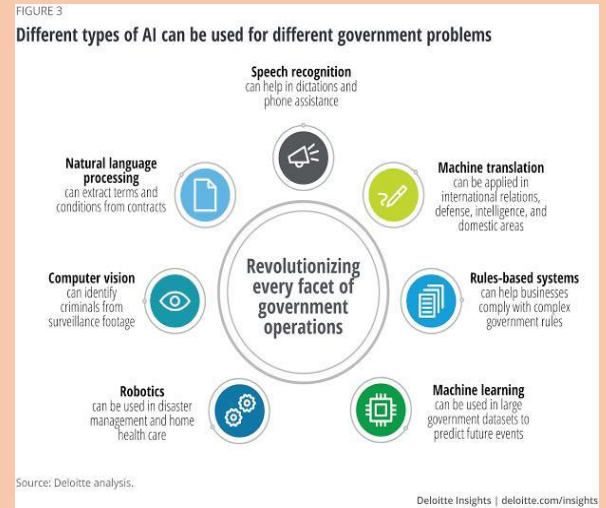
- **Climate Change & Disaster Management**
- **Governance**
- **Agriculture**
- **Learning Disabilities**
- **30 AI solutions** shortlisted for the next stage across different levels (Idea, Prototype, Existing Solutions).

IndiaAI FutureSkills Initiative & Fellowship

- Aims to **bridge AI skill gaps** at UG, PG, and PhD levels.
- **IndiaAI Fellowship** launched for students excelling in AI research.
- **IndiaAI Data Labs** established in **Tier 2 & Tier 3 cities**, focusing on sectors like **healthcare, education, manufacturing, and agriculture**.

Significance of These Initiatives

- **Democratization of AI access:** Providing affordable AI resources for startups, MSMEs, and researchers.
- **Boost to AI innovation:** Supporting indigenous AI solutions to tackle real-world problems.
- **Enhanced skill development:** Training public officials and students in AI applications.
- **Global AI positioning:** Strengthening India's presence in AI innovation and research.



IndiaAI Vision: Transforming India into a Global AI Hub

The **IndiaAI Vision** is a comprehensive strategy by the **Government of India**, aimed at positioning the country as a **global leader in artificial intelligence (AI)**. Spearheaded by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, this vision focuses on **democratizing AI access, fostering innovation, and ensuring responsible AI deployment** across various sectors.

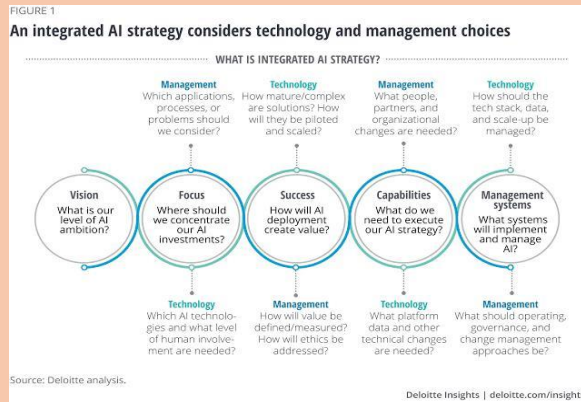
Key Objectives of the IndiaAI Vision Democratization of AI Access

- **Affordable AI resources** for startups, MSMEs, researchers, and academia.
- **Subsidized AI computing power** through the **IndiaAI Compute Portal**, reducing dependence on foreign AI infrastructure.
- **Development of indigenous AI models and datasets** to reduce reliance on global AI monopolies.

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AI-Driven Economic Growth

- AI is expected to contribute **\$500 billion to India's GDP by 2025** and drive **multi-sectoral productivity**.
- AI adoption in **healthcare, agriculture, governance, education, and industry** will enhance efficiency and innovation.
- **AI-led automation** will improve productivity while creating new job opportunities.



Ethical and Responsible AI Development

- **Safe & Trusted AI Initiative:** Ensuring ethical AI practices, fairness, and reduced biases in AI models.
- **AI Safety Institute:** Establishing a regulatory framework for AI security and governance.
- **Data Sovereignty:** Emphasizing **ethically sourced, consent-based datasets** to avoid dependence on synthetic or foreign data.

AI Skilling and Workforce Development

- **IndiaAI FutureSkills Initiative** to train professionals, students, and public officials in AI.

- **AI Competency Framework** for government employees to integrate AI in policymaking and governance.
- **IndiaAI Fellowship Program** to support AI research at UG, PG, and PhD levels.
- Establishing **IndiaAI Data Labs in Tier 2 & 3 cities** to create an inclusive AI workforce.

Boosting AI Innovation and Startups

- **IndiaAI Startups Global Acceleration Program:** Providing Indian AI startups access to mentorship and international markets in collaboration with **Station F, Paris**.
- **IndiaAI Innovation Challenge:** Encouraging AI solutions in **healthcare, governance, climate change, and agriculture**.
- **IndiaAI Startup Financing:** Providing funding and incentives for AI-based startups.

Strengthening AI Infrastructure

- **IndiaAI Compute Portal** to provide **10,000+ GPUs for AI computing** at a **subsidized rate**.
- AI cloud services to reduce dependency on **foreign AI computing resources**.
- **AIKosha: IndiaAI Datasets Platform**, a **secure and structured AI data repository** for AI model training.

India's Global AI Leadership

- India ranks **#1 in AI skill penetration** globally.

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- Recognized among the **Top 10 AI nations** worldwide.
- Collaboration with **global AI leaders** like **France, the US, and the EU** for AI research and ethical AI development.
- India is investing **₹10,372 crore** under the **IndiaAI Mission** to drive AI-led transformation.

Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the IndiaAI Mission:

1. The IndiaAI Compute Portal aims to provide AI computing resources at subsidized rates to startups, researchers, and government agencies.
2. AIKosha is a secured platform under the IndiaAI Mission that provides datasets, models, and AI tools to enable AI innovation.
3. The IndiaAI Mission does not focus on ethical AI development and governance.

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:

Correct Option: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **IndiaAI Compute Portal** is designed to provide **AI computing, network, storage, and cloud services** at subsidized rates to startups, MSMEs, researchers, and government agencies.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **AIKosha** is a **secure platform** that hosts **datasets, AI models, and tools** to enable AI research and innovation in India.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The **IndiaAI Mission strongly emphasizes ethical AI development**, ensuring **safe, trusted, and bias-free AI solutions** through initiatives like the **AI Safety Institute** and the **Safe & Trusted AI Pillar**.

Mains Model Question

Q. Discuss the objectives and significance of the IndiaAI Mission in fostering artificial intelligence development in India. How does it contribute to innovation, governance, and economic growth?

The IndiaAI Mission is a strategic initiative launched by the Government of India to strengthen the country's AI ecosystem by enhancing computing infrastructure, democratizing AI access, and promoting ethical AI practices. Its primary objectives include making AI computing resources affordable, improving dataset availability, fostering indigenous AI capabilities, and ensuring responsible AI deployment. By establishing the IndiaAI Compute Portal, the mission provides startups, researchers, and government agencies with subsidized access to high-performance AI computing resources, thereby accelerating AI-driven research and development.

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AIKosha, the IndiaAI Datasets Platform, plays a crucial role in providing a secure repository of datasets and AI models, ensuring that AI solutions developed in India are based on ethically sourced and unbiased data. The mission also supports capacity building through initiatives like the AI Competency Framework for public sector officials and the iGOT-AI platform, which personalizes AI-driven learning for government employees. This enhances AI adoption in governance, making public service delivery more efficient and data-driven.

Economically, the IndiaAI Mission fosters AI startups through programs like the IndiaAI Startups Global Acceleration Program in collaboration with global institutions, providing market exposure and mentorship. The innovation challenge under the mission has identified AI solutions in critical sectors like healthcare, agriculture, and climate change, showcasing AI's potential in solving real-world problems. The establishment of AI Safety Institutes

ensures that AI development aligns with global best practices, prioritizing security and trustworthiness.

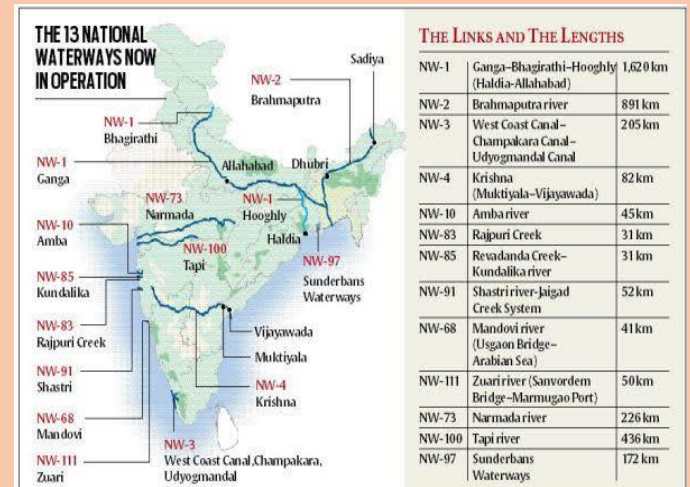
By investing in AI infrastructure, research, and ethical frameworks, the IndiaAI Mission aims to position India among the top AI nations. It supports the vision of "Viksit Bharat by 2047," where AI-driven innovation plays a central role in economic growth, technological advancement, and governance transformation.

Topic : Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)

Relevance : GS Paper 1 Geography

Source : Indian Express

Context :



The **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** is the statutory body under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways** responsible for the

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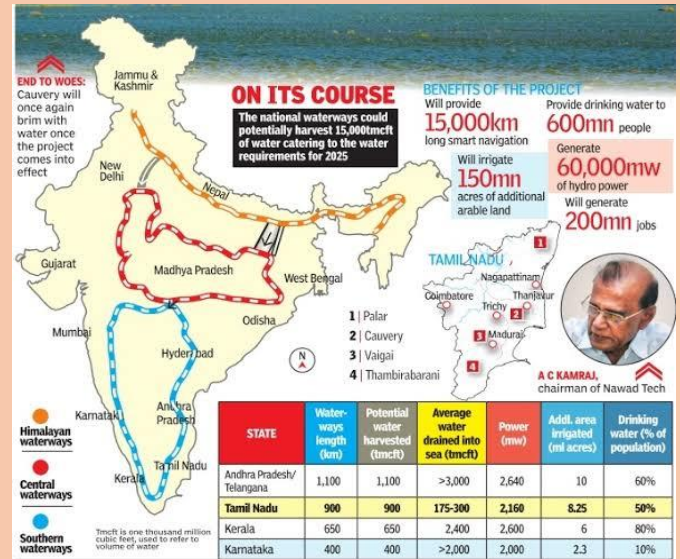
development, regulation, and maintenance of **national waterways** in India. Established in **1986** under the **Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985**, IWAI plays a crucial role in enhancing inland water transport by improving navigability, infrastructure, and connectivity of rivers, canals, backwaters, and creeks.

Inland Waterways in India

India has **111** officially declared **National Waterways (NWs)** spread across **24 states and two Union Territories**. These waterways include major rivers, canals, backwaters, and estuaries, with vast potential for cargo movement, passenger transport, and tourism. **Five major National Waterways** are:

1. **NW-1 (Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System)** – From Allahabad (Prayagraj) to Haldia (1620 km)
2. **NW-2 (Brahmaputra River)** – From Dhubri to Sadiya (891 km)
3. **NW-3 (West Coast Canal, Kerala)** – From Kollam to Kottapuram (205 km)
4. **NW-4 (Kakinada-Puducherry Stretch along Godavari and Krishna Rivers)** – 1078 km
5. **NW-5 (East Coast Canal and Brahmani River)** – 588 km

The **Jammu and Kashmir** region has **three national waterways**:



- **NW-26 – Chenab River**
- **NW-49 – Jhelum River**
- **NW-84 – Ravi River**

Key Projects by IWAI

Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)

Benefits of Jal Marg Vikas Project, River Ganga (NW-1)

- Providing access to better markets to traders, farmers, entrepreneurs and businessmen
- Facilitating employment avenues through infrastructure development and construction of Multi-Modal terminals
- Ro-Ro facilities and ferry services to benefit the people by easing local travel
- Transforming the lives of people with better connectivity

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- Aims to improve navigation on **NW-1 (Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly)** from **Varanasi to Haldia** (1620 km).
- **Funded by the World Bank** and the Government of India.
- Includes construction of multimodal terminals at **Varanasi, Sahibganj, and Haldia**.
- Development of navigational aids, river information systems, and mechanized cargo movement.

Arth Ganga Initiative

- Focuses on **economic development** along **Ganga River** through cargo movement and tourism.
- Promotes **river cruise tourism** and small-scale industries along the banks.

MV Ganga Vilas

- **World's longest river cruise**, covering **3,200 km** across India and Bangladesh.
- Connects **Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)** to **Dibrugarh (Assam)** via NW-1, NW-2, and Bangladesh waterways.
- Enhances **luxury tourism** and promotes local economies along rivers.

National Waterways Development Plan

- Infrastructure development across **60+ National Waterways** to boost cargo and passenger transport.
- Dredging, night navigation, floating terminals, and river ports under development.

IWAI's MoU with Jammu & Kashmir

- IWAI signed an **MoU with the J&K Government** to boost **river cruise tourism** in the Union Territory.
- **Investment of ₹100 crore** for developing **floating jetties, waiting halls, and navigation aids**.
- River cruise infrastructure to be developed on **Chenab, Jhelum, and Ravi rivers**.

Significance of Inland Water Transport (IWT) in India

Faster and Hassle-Free Development

Unlike roads and railways, waterways do not require land acquisition, avoiding delays and cost overruns

Cost-Effective Transportation

Waterways are cheaper than other transport modes, reducing logistics costs. A RITES study found that 1 litre of fuel moves:

 24 tons/km by road	 95 tons/km by rail	 215 tons/km by inland water transport
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Rapid Growth in Cargo Traffic

- Traffic grew at **22.1% CAGR** over the last decade.
- Cargo movement rose from **18.07 MMT (2013-14)** to **133 MMT (2023-24)**.
- Aim to raise **freight share from 2% to 5%**, targeting:
 - **200+ MMT by 2030** (Maritime India Vision)
 - **500+ MMT by 2047** (Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision)

- **Cost-effective** – Cheaper than road and rail transport.
- **Eco-friendly** – Reduces carbon footprint.
- **Decongests Roads & Railways** – Reduces logistics costs and transportation burden.
- **Tourism Boost** – River cruises enhance domestic and international tourism.

The IWAI's initiatives, including the **Jal Marg Vikas Project, Arth Ganga, and river cruise tourism**, aim to make inland waterways a **sustainable and efficient mode of transport**, benefiting both **commerce and tourism** in India.

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Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI):

1. It was established under the **Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1986**.
2. **National Waterway 1 (NW-1)** connects **Varanasi and Kolkata** along the Ganga River.
3. The **Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)** aims to develop NW-2 on the Brahmaputra River.
4. The IWAI recently signed an MoU with the **Jammu & Kashmir Government** to boost river cruise tourism.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer:

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

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** was established in **1986** under the **Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **National Waterway 1 (NW-1)** runs along the **Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System** and connects **Varanasi to Haldia (Kolkata)**.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The **Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)** aims to develop **NW-1 (Ganga River)**, not NW-2 (Brahmaputra River).
- **Statement 4 is correct:** IWAI has signed an **MoU with the Jammu & Kashmir Government** to develop **river cruise tourism** on **Chenab, Jhelum, and Ravi rivers**.

Mains Model Question

Q. Discuss the role of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in the development of inland waterways in India. Highlight the significance of recent initiatives, including the MoU with the Jammu & Kashmir Government, in promoting river tourism and economic growth.

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), established in 1986, plays a crucial role in developing, regulating, and maintaining India's inland waterways for commercial navigation. With over 111 declared National Waterways, the IWAI is responsible for enhancing inland water transport, which is a cost-effective, fuel-efficient, and environmentally friendly mode of transportation. Major waterways like NW-1 (Ganga), NW-2 (Brahmaputra), and NW-3 (West Coast Canal) are being developed to improve connectivity and trade. Projects like the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) focus on developing NW-1 to facilitate cargo movement, while the Arth Ganga initiative aims to integrate economic activities along the Ganga river system.

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BIG SAVINGS

Using inland waterways wherever feasible could help lower transportation cost and time, which will have a spillover effect on manufacturing and export competitiveness.

Inland waterways is cheaper than rail and road transport

Freight (in ₹/tonne-kilometre)



Cargo movement on national waterways has grown steadily in the last seven years

(in million tonnes)



*Cargo volumes prior to declaration of 106 new national waterways through National Waterways Act, 2016.

Source: Rail India Technical and Economic Service

Recently, IWAI signed an MoU with the Jammu & Kashmir Government to promote river cruise tourism on the Chenab, Jhelum, and Ravi rivers. Under this agreement, IWAI will develop infrastructure, including floating jetties and passenger amenities, ensuring safe navigation through dredging and hydrographic surveys. This initiative is expected to boost tourism, generate employment, and support local businesses, fostering economic development in the region. Additionally, it aligns with the government's broader vision of leveraging inland waterways for tourism and trade.

Apart from J&K, IWAI has taken steps to promote cruise tourism on the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers, with the successful launch of MV Ganga Vilas, the world's longest river cruise. The expansion of inland waterways is also supported by international collaborations and technological advancements. As the government focuses on sustainable transport solutions, the IWAI's efforts in developing inland waterways will significantly contribute to economic growth, environmental conservation, and regional

connectivity, reinforcing India's vision of a robust and multi-modal transport network.

Topic : India-U.S. Relations Under Trump's Administration

Relevance : GS Paper 2 Polity and Governance

Source : The Hindu

Context :

Many of Trump's priorities work for India: Jaishankar

The U.S. administration's interest in multi-polarity, technology and connectivity is promising, says External Affairs Minister; he also welcomes initiatives that will keep energy prices affordable

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

iting the shifting geopolitical order, energy, technology and connectivity initiatives, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that several priorities of U.S. President Donald Trump and his administration were promising for India.

"I think we see a President and an administration which, in our parlance, is moving towards multi-polarity. And that is something which suits India," he said, clarifying that by practising multi-polarity, the Trump administration was in fact promoting it.

Mr. Jaishankar was speaking at Chatham House, a London-based think tank on Wednesday,



Union Minister S. Jaishankar speaking with Chatham House Director and CEO Browne Maddox in London on Wednesday. [AP](#)

during an official visit to the U.S.

The U.S. had been thought of as a bloc with the West since 1945, rather than as a nation, but now the U.S.'s own self-perception is more as a nation, the Minister said.

"I think, from President Trump's perspective, the

one big shared enterprise that we have is the Quad [Quadrilateral Security Dialogue]," Mr. Jaishankar said, referring to the grouping of India, the U.S., Australia and Japan.

Each Quad member was paying its "fair share", he said, and so there were no spats about burden-shar-

ing. Financial burden-sharing has become a central issue between the U.S. and several European countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military alliance.

Mr. Trump "appears open to connectivity initiatives of a certain collaborative nature" Mr. Jaishankar said. "We have a deep interest in that," he added.

The Minister was presumably referring to the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), which finds mention in the India-U.S. joint statement that emerged from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent discussions with Mr. Trump at the White House.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8
» 'BREACH AT EVENT'
» PAGE 9

Shift Toward Multi-Polarity

- Jaishankar noted that the U.S. under Trump is moving toward a **multi-polar world order**, which benefits India's strategic vision.
- The U.S. is now acting more as an independent nation rather than as part of a Western bloc.

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Strengthening of the Quad

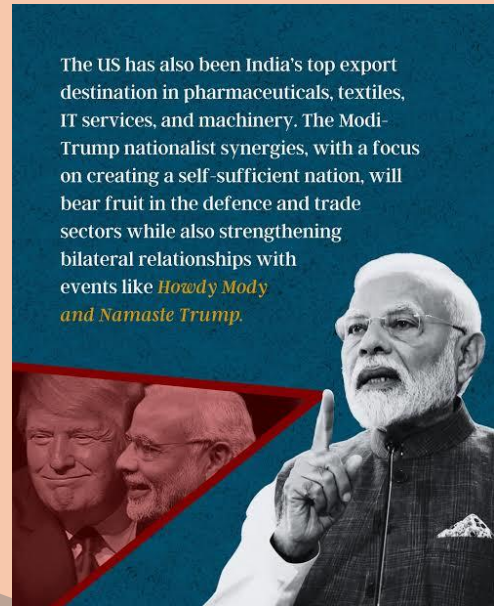
- The **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)**—comprising India, the U.S., Japan, and Australia—has gained momentum.
- Unlike NATO, where financial burden-sharing is a contentious issue, Quad members contribute equally, preventing disputes.
- The Quad plays a key role in **countering China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region**.

Focus on Connectivity Initiatives

- Trump's administration has shown interest in projects like the **India–Middle East–Europe Corridor (IMEC)**, which strengthens trade and infrastructure linkages.
- IMEC was highlighted in the India-U.S. joint statement after Modi's visit to the White House.
- The **Indian Ocean Strategic Venture** was also discussed as a possible area of cooperation.

Energy Cooperation

- Jaishankar welcomed Trump's policies favoring **fossil fuel production** as they help **stabilize global energy prices**.
- India, a major energy importer, benefits from stable and affordable energy prices.



Technology as a Strategic Driver

- Trump's focus on technology aligns with India's interests in **AI, semiconductors, and digital trade**.
- Ongoing discussions between **Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and U.S. officials** highlight growing India-U.S. cooperation in emerging technologies.

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Financial Stability and the Role of the Dollar

'Many of Trump's priorities work for India'

The statement also refers to other current and future connectivity initiatives, such as the newly announced Indian Ocean Strategic Venture.

On energy, Mr. Jaishankar said India welcomed Mr. Trump's actions that would keep energy prices stable and affordable. Mr. Trump is a strong proponent of fossil fuels and is changing U.S. policy to drill for more petroleum and natural gas.

The Trump administration's emphasis on the development of technology and its use "as a game changer in global politics" offered a lot of possibilities, according to Mr. Jaishankar.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is currently in Washington DC, to discuss a trade deal with the Trump administration, a fact that Mr. Jaishankar brought up. India-U.S. relations are at probably their best, Mr. Jaishankar said.

"So we have absolutely no interest in undermining the dollar at all," he said, adding that the problem in India's region was the lack of availability of the dollar. Mr. Jaishankar was asked about the internationalisation of the rupee and whether India supported the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency. He said that the government was promoting the internationalisation of the rupee as part of the effort to promote the globalisation of India. He cited a growth in India's trade, external investments and Indian tourists abroad. Sometimes there was a lack of hard currency, especially the dollar, necessitating the use of trade settlements, or a need for cashless payments between India and other countries, the Minister said.

Later in the discussion, Mr. Jaishankar said the dollar was the source of international economic stability and, right now, there is a need for stability.

In February, Mr. Trump had threatened at least 100% tariffs on BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) countries if they wanted "to play games with the dollar". The BRICS countries have a diversity of views on the dollar, Mr. Jaishankar said. "The assumption that somewhere there's a united BRICS position against the dollar, I think, is not borne out by facts," he said.

- India supports the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency while also promoting the internationalization of the rupee.
- Trump recently threatened 100% tariffs on BRICS nations if they challenged dollar supremacy.

- Jaishankar dismissed the idea of a united BRICS stance against the dollar, stating that BRICS nations have divergent views on the matter.

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)

- Established in 1949, NATO is a military alliance of 32 countries aimed at collective defense.
- Trump has criticized NATO allies for not contributing enough financially, creating tensions within the alliance.
- Unlike NATO, the Quad does not face financial burden-sharing disputes.

IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe Corridor)

- IMEC is a major connectivity project announced in 2023 to improve trade, energy, and digital linkages between India, the Middle East, and Europe.
- It serves as an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and includes key partners like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and European nations.

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa)

- BRICS is an economic bloc representing a significant portion of global GDP.
- It focuses on financial cooperation, trade, and alternative financial mechanisms like the New Development Bank (NDB).

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- BRICS nations have **diverse views on the dollar**, contradicting claims of a united anti-dollar stance.

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

Answer:

Correct Option: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Trump administration's inclination toward a multi-polar world benefits India's strategic interests.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Quad consists of **India, the U.S., Japan, and Australia**, not South Korea.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)** was designed as an alternative to China's **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** BRICS members have **diverse views on the U.S. dollar** and do not have a unified stance against its dominance.

India-U.S. relations under Trump are marked by **convergence on security (Quad), connectivity (IMEC), energy, and technology.**

India's **multi-polar approach aligns with the U.S.'s shifting global role.**

The partnership is **poised to grow stronger** as both nations seek to expand their influence in an evolving geopolitical landscape.

Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following statements regarding India-U.S. relations under the Trump administration:

1. The Trump administration's focus on multi-polarity aligns with India's strategic interests.
2. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) consists of India, the U.S., Japan, and South Korea.
3. The India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) was launched as a counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
4. BRICS has a unified stance against the dominance of the U.S. dollar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only

Mains Model Question

Q. Discuss the key aspects of India-U.S. relations under the Trump administration, focusing on strategic, economic, and geopolitical dimensions. How do initiatives like Quad and IMEC shape India's global positioning?

India-U.S. relations under the Trump administration witnessed significant shifts, driven by shared interests in multi-polarity, economic cooperation, and strategic partnerships. The Trump administration's emphasis on a multi-polar world aligned with India's

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

foreign policy, allowing New Delhi to strengthen its global outreach without being confined to traditional alliances.

TRUMP WIN AND LIKELY INDIA IMPACT

Donald Trump's return as US President impacts varied on India-US trade ties, workforce demand, and energy sectors:

TRADE

- After China, if Trump decides to act against imports from India, it will hurt exports. During campaign, he referred to India as a "very big abuser" of trade ties.
- In his earlier term, Washington took certain measures negatively impacting India's exports. More protectionism could be negative for India.
- India's exports to the US in 2023-24 were \$77.5 billion, with trade in New Delhi's favour.

OIL

- Trump policies can exert downward pressure on oil prices. Higher tariffs on China could impact global oil demand. Trump's push for raising US oil output and exports could add to global supply.
- US is India's 5th largest oil supplier. Lower prices will be good for India, it being the world's third-largest consumer of crude.
- Heavy reliance on oil imports makes the Indian economy vulnerable to price volatility.

IT

- It is likely US will toughen its stance on H-1B visas. Indian IT sector is the biggest beneficiary of H-1B visas in recent years.
- In Trump's first term, denial rates for H-1B visas jumped to an average of 18 per cent from 2016 to 2020, compared to just 3.2 per cent under the Joe Biden administration.
- In 2023, Indians accounted for 72.3% (2.79 lakh) of the total (3.86 lakh) H-1B approvals.

US President-elect Donald Trump addresses supporters in Florida, US.

The Indian EXPRESS Thu, 07 November 2024
<https://epaper.indianexpress.com/c/76183544>

West Asia and Europe while reducing reliance on Chinese-led projects.

Economically, energy security remained a crucial focus. India welcomed Trump's policies that ensured stable and affordable energy prices. Additionally, trade negotiations saw challenges but also opportunities for growth in technology and defense cooperation.

On the financial front, India's approach to the **internationalization of the rupee** was shaped by global currency dynamics. While BRICS members have diverse opinions on the U.S. dollar's dominance, India prioritized stability in the global economic order.

A key pillar of this relationship was the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)**, which includes India, the U.S., Japan, and Australia. Quad gained prominence as a mechanism to counter China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific. Unlike NATO, where burden-sharing has been a contentious issue, Quad members equally contribute to security and economic initiatives, making it a balanced partnership.

The **India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)** emerged as a transformative connectivity project aimed at enhancing trade and infrastructure links between India, the Middle East, and Europe. It provides an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by offering a transparent and sustainable model for infrastructure development. This initiative is critical for India's global positioning, as it strengthens economic ties with

Overall, the Trump era saw India leveraging strategic partnerships while maintaining an independent foreign policy. The expansion of Quad and IMEC underscores India's emergence as a key player in global geopolitics, balancing economic and security concerns effectively.

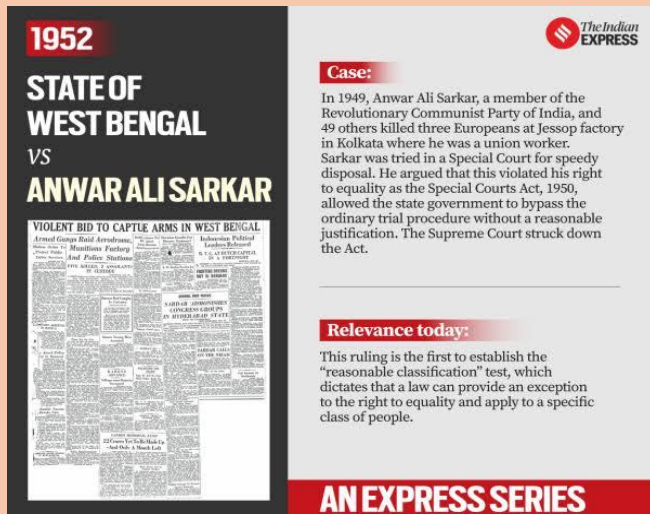
Topic : Anwar Ali Sarkar Case (1952) and Its Constitutional Significance

Relevance : GS Paper 2 Polity and Governance

Source : The Hindu

Context :

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)



The case of **State of West Bengal v. Anwar Ali Sarkar (1952)** is a landmark judgment in Indian constitutional law that laid the foundation for the **right to equality under Article 14** of the Indian Constitution. The Supreme Court's ruling in this case introduced the **"reasonable classification" test**, which remains crucial in interpreting laws related to equality.

Background of the Case

- On **February 26, 1949**, a mob of around 50 people, allegedly led by the **Revolutionary Communist Party of India (RCPI)**, attacked the **Jessop & Co. engineering factory** in Dum Dum, West Bengal.
- The mob killed three European supervisory staff, throwing their bodies into **blazing furnaces**.
- Other coordinated attacks targeted **Dum Dum airport**, an **ammunition factory**, and a **police station in Basirhat**, resulting in multiple deaths and looting of weapons.

- This incident led to an international outcry and was even discussed in the **House of Lords in London**.

Special Courts Ordinance & Trial

- To address the situation, the **West Bengal government passed the Special Courts Ordinance, 1949**, which allowed:
 - **Trials in special courts** instead of regular criminal courts.
 - **Absence of accused during trials**.
 - **Limited rights to summon witnesses**.
- Anwar Ali Sarkar was arrested on **October 11, 1949**, and sentenced to **transportation for life (exile)** by the **Sessions Judge of Alipore on March 31, 1950**.

Article 14 in Constitution of India

14. Equality before law

The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.

Editorial Comment -Article 14 rejects any type of discrimination based on caste, race, and religion, place of birth or sex. This Article is having a wide ambit and applicability to safeguard the rights of people residing in India.

This article is divided into two parts:

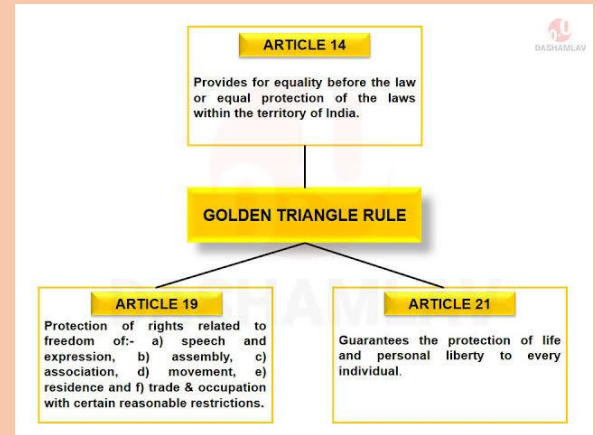
Equality before the Law: This part of the article indicates that all are to be treated equally in the eyes of the law. This is a negative concept as it implies the absence of any privilege in favor of any person. This is a substantive part of the article.

Equal protection of the Laws: This part means that the same law will be applied to all the people equally across the society. This is a positive concept as it expects a positive action from the state. This is a procedural part of article 14.

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Legal Challenge & Article 14 Calcutta High Court Verdict

- Anwar Ali Sarkar appealed to the **Calcutta High Court**, arguing that the Special Courts Act violated **Article 14** of the Constitution, which guarantees "**equality before the law**" and "**equal protection of the laws.**"
- Chief Justice Sir Arthur Trevor Harries** ruled in favor of Sarkar, stating that while special courts can try "**classes of offences**" (e.g., sexual assault cases), **picking and choosing individual cases violates Article 14.**
- The "**reasonable classification**" principle was introduced, stating that for a law to be valid under Article 14:
 - It must be based on **intelligible differentia** (a clear distinction for treating a class of people differently).
 - The classification must have a **rational relation** to the objective of the law.



- Justice Vivian Bose's remarks:**
 - "Men accused of heinous crimes must receive equal protection under law. The law cannot deny some individuals the privileges available to others accused of similar crimes."
 - This established that **equal treatment must extend to everyone, regardless of the severity of their alleged crimes.**
- Chief Justice M. Patanjali Sastri was the lone dissenter**, arguing that state security concerns justified the special courts.

Supreme Court Judgment (1952)

- The **State of West Bengal appealed to the Supreme Court**, arguing that fast-tracking trials in special courts was necessary for public safety.
- The **Supreme Court, in a 6:1 ruling (January 11, 1952), struck down the Special Courts Act**, upholding the High Court's decision.

Constitutional Significance

Establishment of the "Reasonable Classification" Test under Article 14

- Article 14 does not prohibit classification**, but such classification must be **reasonable and justified.**
- The **two-pronged test** evolved from this judgment is now fundamental in Article 14 cases:

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1. **Intelligible Differentia** – There must be a clear basis for treating a class of people differently.
2. **Rational Nexus** – The classification must serve the purpose intended by the law.

2. Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)

1	2	3	4	5
The court while delivering this judgment changed the Constitution's landscape by contending that though the language used in Article 21 is "procedure established by law", such procedure must not be arbitrary and irrational.	The Constitution framers never intended that the procedure need not necessarily be fair, just and reasonable.	The court overruled the Gopalan case by saying that there exists a special relationship between the provisions of Articles 19, 14 and 21 and each law must pass the tests of the said provisions.	The court stated that the interpretation of "personal liberty" should not be construed in a narrow and strict sense but should be done in a liberal and broad sense.	The right to travel abroad (as contended in the Sawant Singh case) is guaranteed under Article 21. The court said that Section 10(1)(c) and 10(1)(d) is an administrative order, and as a result, can be challenged on grounds of unreasonable, mala fide, denial of natural justice & ultra vires.

Evolution of Special Courts in India

- Special courts have been created for various purposes (e.g., POCSO courts, Anti-Terrorism laws), but they must satisfy the **reasonable classification principle**.
- If a law **randomly picks individual cases** instead of applying to a class of offenses, it **violates Article 14**.

Related Cases :

1. E.P. Royappa v. State of Tamil Nadu (1974)

- **Expanded Article 14:** Shifted focus from just "classification" to a **broader principle of arbitrariness**.
- Justice Bhagwati stated that **equality is opposed to arbitrariness**, reinforcing that laws must be **fair and non-discriminatory**.

LANDMARK JUDGEMENT

E.P. Royappa v. State of Tamil Nadu (1974): In this case, the Supreme Court of India broadened the interpretation of Article 14 by introducing the concept of "arbitrariness" as a violation of equality. The Court held that any action of the State that is arbitrary or unjust can be struck down as violating Article 14. The case established that equality is not just about treating everyone equally but also ensuring that State actions are fair.



3. Shayara Bano v. Union of India (2017) – Triple Talaq Case

- This case further **strengthened the scope of Article 14** and linked it to **Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty)**.
- **Any law violating equality must also pass the "reasonableness" test under Article 21.**
- **Triple Talaq was struck down** as unconstitutional, as it failed the **reasonable classification test** under Article 14.
- The Supreme Court held that **laws must not be arbitrary or discriminatory**.

HOW THE JUDGES RULED

MAJORITY JUDGMENT

Justices RF Nariman & UU Lalit
 ➤ Say practice is arbitrary as "marital tie can be broken capriciously and whimsically... without any attempt at reconciliation"
 ➤ Triple talaq is only one of three permissible forms of divorce in Islam; stated to be sinful by the very Hanafi school that tolerates it
 ➤ Rule that it is arbitrary and violative of Article 14 of Constitution

Justice Kurian Joseph
 ➤ Says practice not dictated by Quran, hence not integral to Islam
 ➤ Cites Shamim Ara vs State of UP (2002) judgment of SC to say triple talaq lacks legal sanctity

66 **Merely because a practice has continued for long, that by itself cannot make it valid.**

The 5 judges belong to 5 different faiths – Khohar (Sikh), Nazeer (Muslim), Nariman (Parsi), Lalit (Hindu) & Kurian (Christian)

DISSENTING REMARKS

Chief Justice Khehar, Justice S A Nazeer
 ➤ Recognise triple talaq as part of Islamic personal practices; followed by Sunni Muslims of Hanafi school for 1,400 years
 ➤ Part of right to religion guaranteed under Article 25; doesn't violate Art 14, 15 & 21
 ➤ As part of 'personal law', has stature equal to fundamental right, courts can't set it aside

➤ Govt should enact law banning triple talaq as it had done for sati & devadasi system among Hindus
 ➤ Till such a law is enacted, no Muslim man can use triple talaq route to get instant divorce

66 **Unfortunately, the Union seeks at our hands what truly falls in its own**

THE FIVE WOMEN WHO LED THE FIGHT

1 **Shayara Bano**, mother of two, filed SC petition in 2016. A year earlier, she had been divorced via speed post

2 **Gulshan Parveen**, 31, received talaqnama on a ₹10 stamp paper. Her petition was clubbed with Shayara's plea

3 **Atiya Sabri**, a PG in Sociology, got a scribbled divorce note from

4 **Jahan** had four children before her husband divorced her over a telephone call from Dubai in 2014. He then remarried

5 **Afreen Behman**, an MBA in finance, married an Indore-based lawyer in 2014. Two years later, he sent her talaq through speed post

66 **Judgment is historic. It grants equality to Muslim women and is a powerful measure for women empowerment** – **PI Hareendia Modi**

My daughter will now not have to face such regressive practices when she grows up – **Shayara Bano, Petitioner**

husband Wazid Ali

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Celebrating in Lucknow

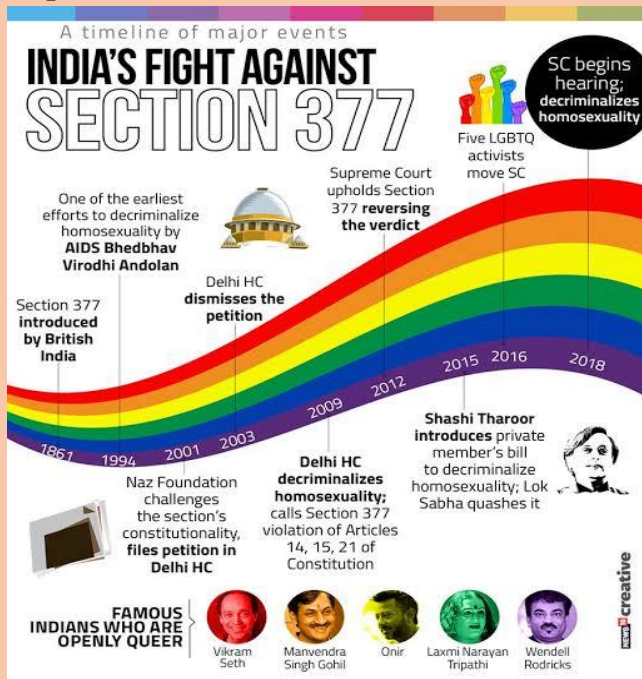
4. Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018) – Decriminalization of Section 377

- Section 377 (criminalizing homosexuality) was declared unconstitutional.

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- The Supreme Court ruled that **laws discriminating against individuals based on sexual orientation violate Article 14.**

Impact of the Anwar Ali Sarkar Case



- It remains a **cornerstone case** in Indian constitutional law and is frequently cited in challenges against laws that **discriminate unfairly.**
- The **reasonable classification principle** is now a **standard test** for evaluating **special laws, reservations, and fast-track courts.**
- Reinforced that **Constitutional rights apply to all citizens**, regardless of their alleged crimes.

The **Anwar Ali Sarkar case (1952)** was not just about a single individual's right to equality but a **landmark ruling that shaped Article 14's interpretation in Indian law.** It set a **precedent for**

future judgments, ensuring that **even the most serious offenders deserve equal legal protection.** Today, the **reasonable classification test** remains one of the most important tools in Indian constitutional jurisprudence, ensuring that laws are applied **fairly and without arbitrariness.**

Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the case of State of West Bengal v. Anwar Ali Sarkar (1952):

- The case established the "reasonable classification" test under Article 14 of the Indian Constitution.
- The Supreme Court upheld the validity of the Special Courts Act, 1950, allowing selective trials in special courts.
- The ruling emphasized that all individuals, regardless of the nature of their crimes, must receive equal legal protection.
- Chief Justice Patanjali Sastri was the sole dissenter in the Supreme Court's verdict.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 3, and 4 only
- 2 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3, and 4

Answer:

- 1, 3, and 4 only

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Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The case established the **reasonable classification test** under Article 14, which determines when a law can create exceptions to the right to equality.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Supreme Court **struck down** the Special Courts Act, ruling it unconstitutional under Article 14.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The judgment emphasized that **all individuals, regardless of their crimes, must be treated equally before the law.**
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Chief Justice **M. Patanjali Sastri** was the **sole dissenter** in the 6:1 ruling of the Supreme Court.

Thus, the correct answer is **(b) 1, 3, and 4 only.**

Mains Model Question

Q. The case of State of West Bengal v. Anwar Ali Sarkar (1952) was a landmark judgment in interpreting Article 14 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss the significance of the ruling in shaping the doctrine of reasonable classification and its impact on Indian jurisprudence.

The Supreme Court's ruling in State of West Bengal v. Anwar Ali Sarkar (1952) played a crucial role in defining the scope of Article 14, which guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws. The case arose when Anwar Ali Sarkar, accused in a violent attack, was tried under the Special Courts Act, 1950, which allowed selective and expedited trials. Challenging the law, he argued that it violated Article 14 by denying him the same

legal protections available to others charged with similar crimes.

The Supreme Court, in a 6:1 verdict, struck down the Special Courts Act, holding that it failed the test of equality. This ruling established the **reasonable classification** doctrine, which allows the state to create special laws for specific classes of people only if two conditions are met: there must be an **intelligible differentia** distinguishing that class, and there must be a **rational nexus** between the classification and the objective of the law. This doctrine remains fundamental in determining whether a law violates Article 14.

The judgment set a precedent that laws cannot arbitrarily single out individuals for special treatment, even in the name of expediency. Over time, this principle has been used to assess the validity of various laws, including reservation policies, fast-track courts, and anti-discrimination measures. It laid the foundation for later rulings such as E.P. Royappa v. State of Tamil Nadu (1974) and Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978), which expanded the scope of equality and procedural fairness. The case remains a cornerstone in constitutional jurisprudence, ensuring that laws uphold fairness and do not introduce arbitrary discrimination.

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