

## PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

## Topic : India–Chile Joint Statement (April 2025)

Relevance : GS paper 2 International relations

Source : Indian Express

## Context :

At the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chilean President Gabriel Boric Font visited India from April 1–5, 2025. The visit commemorated 76 years of diplomatic relations between the two nations and aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation across various sectors. President Boric was accompanied by high-level ministers, parliament members, senior officials, and a large business delegation. Apart from New Delhi, he also visited Agra, Mumbai, and Bengaluru.



During the visit, President Boric received a ceremonial welcome at Air Force Station Palam and held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Modi at Hyderabad House. He also met with President Droupadi Murmu, who hosted a banquet in his honor, and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar.

## Key Highlights of the Joint Statement

## 1. Strengthening Bilateral Ties:

- Both leaders reviewed the broad spectrum of relations, including trade, investment, health, defense, infrastructure, energy, and cultural exchange.

- They committed to deepening cooperation and fostering people-to-people ties.

## 2. Economic and Trade Relations:

- Trade is a strong pillar of bilateral relations, enhanced by the expansion of the India–Chile Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) in 2017.
- Both sides agreed to launch negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to deepen economic integration.
- Chile announced a Multiple Entry Permit for Indian businesspersons to ease visa processes.
- India welcomed Chilean companies for investment in infrastructure and railway projects.

## 3. Critical Minerals &amp; Energy Cooperation:

- Recognizing the importance of critical minerals for clean energy, both nations committed to collaboration in mining, processing, and research.
- They stressed the need for resilient supply chains and long-term partnerships.

## MAJOR TRADE AGREEMENTS OF INDIA

## Free Trade Agreement (FTA) With Neighbouring Countries

- India-Sri Lanka FTA
- India-Nepal Treaty of Trade
- India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce, and Transit

A free trade agreement is a comprehensive deal between countries, offering preferential trade terms and tariff concessions, with a negative list excluding specific products and services.

## Others:

- India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)
- India-Thailand Early Harvest Scheme (EHS)
- India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)

An EHS precedes an FTA/CECA/CEPA, where negotiating countries select products for tariff liberalisation, paving way for broader trade agreements and fostering confidence.

## Regional FTAs of India

- India ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ITG): 10 ASEAN countries + India
- South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA): India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and the Maldives
- Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP): (41 countries + India)

## India's CECA and CEPAs

CECA/CEPA is broader than FTAs, addressing regulatory, trade, and economic aspects comprehensively, with CEPA having the widest scope including services, investment, etc while CECA mainly focuses on tariff and TQR rates negotiation.

- CEPA with UAE, South Korea, Japan
- CECA with Singapore, Malaysia

## Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs)

Partners in a PTA grant preferential access to specific products by lowering duties on agreed tariff lines, maintaining a positive list of products eligible for reduced or zero tariffs.

- Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA): Bangladesh, China, India, S. Korea, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, and Mongolia
- SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA): Same as SAFTA
- India-MERCOSUR PTA: Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and India
- India's PTA with Chile, Afghanistan



**PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)****4. Health and Pharmaceuticals:**

- Chile acknowledged India's pharmaceutical industry as a crucial partner for affordable healthcare solutions.
- Both countries aimed to enhance trade in pharmaceuticals, vaccines, and medical devices.
- An MoU on Traditional Medicine and Yoga was planned for early conclusion.

**5. Défense & Security:**

- They explored avenues for defense cooperation, capacity building, and military training.
- India expressed interest in training Chilean military personnel in specialized warfare and peacekeeping.

**6. Science, Technology & Space Collaboration:**

- India launched Chile's SUCHAI-1 satellite in 2017, and future space collaboration was discussed.
- A Chilean Space Executive Committee was formed to work with ISRO and Indian startups.

**7. Global South and Multilateral Cooperation:**

- Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to reformed multilateralism and India's bid for permanent UN Security Council membership.
- They agreed to cooperate in fighting terrorism through platforms like FATF and NMFT.
- India supported Chile's increased participation in G20 discussions.

**8. Climate Change & Renewable Energy:**

- Both leaders emphasized joint efforts in renewable energy, green hydrogen, and climate-resilient economies.
- Chile reaffirmed its commitment to the International Solar

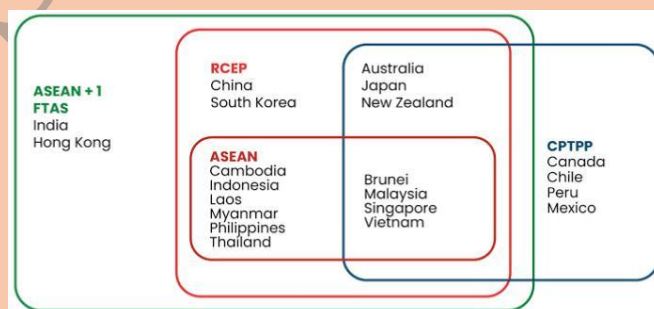
Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

**9. Cultural and Educational Exchange:**

- Both sides agreed to strengthen ties in education, digital learning, vocational training, and research.
- India proposed an ICCR Chair on Indian Studies at a Chilean university.
- A new Cultural Exchange Program was signed to promote collaboration in arts, literature, and heritage conservation.

**10. Diplomatic & Institutional Cooperation:**

- Agreements on customs cooperation, disability sector collaboration, and Antarctic research were discussed.
- Both countries committed to enhanced diplomatic training and bilateral dialogues.



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### Early Diplomatic Engagements

- India and Chile established diplomatic relations in 1949.
- Chile was among the first Latin American nations to establish formal ties with India.
- The relationship has been traditionally friendly, based on mutual respect and shared interests.

### Economic & Trade Relations

- Bilateral trade saw a significant boost after the India-Chile Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) was expanded in 2017, covering 2,800 products.
- Key traded goods include:
  - Indian exports: Automobiles, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, textiles.
  - Chilean exports: Copper, lithium, wood pulp, and fresh fruits.
- Chile is a major supplier of lithium, a key component for India's electric vehicle industry.

### Strategic & Defense Cooperation

- The India-Chile Defense Cooperation Agreement fosters military exchanges and training programs.
- Chilean officers have participated in Indian training programs, including mountain warfare and peacekeeping courses.

### Science, Technology, & Space Collaboration

- India has helped Chile develop space capabilities, launching its first nano-satellite in 2017.
- Chile hosts international observatories, making it an ideal partner for space research collaborations.



### Cultural & Educational Ties

- Chile has a growing interest in Indian culture, yoga, and traditional medicine.
- Spanish is a widely studied foreign language in India, boosting educational cooperation.
- The ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) promotes academic and cultural exchanges between the two nations.

### Global & Multilateral Cooperation

- Both countries support each other in international forums like the UN, WTO, and climate summits.
- Chile has backed India's permanent seat in the UN Security Council.
- Both nations collaborate in renewable energy initiatives under the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

### Prelims Practice Question

With reference to India-Chile relations, consider the following statements:

1. India and Chile established diplomatic relations in the 1990s.

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2. The India–Chile Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) was expanded in 2017, leading to an increase in bilateral trade.
3. Chile is a founding member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
4. India and Chile have an existing formal defence cooperation agreement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:

Correct Option: (b) 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** India and Chile established diplomatic relations in 1949, not in the 1990s.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The India–Chile Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) was expanded in May 2017, resulting in increased bilateral trade.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Chile joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in November 2023, so it is not a founding member.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** India and Chile have an existing formal defence cooperation agreement, under which both nations collaborate in military training and capacity building.

Mains Model Question:

Q. Discuss the evolution of India–Chile relations and analyze the recent developments that have strengthened bilateral ties. How do these developments align with India’s broader foreign policy objectives?

India and Chile established diplomatic relations in 1949, marking a long-standing partnership rooted in mutual respect and economic cooperation. Over the decades, bilateral ties have expanded across multiple sectors, including trade, defence, energy, and science and technology. The Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) of 2006, expanded in 2017, has significantly boosted economic engagement, making Chile one of India’s key trade partners in Latin America. India’s imports of copper, lithium, and other critical minerals from Chile have been crucial in supporting its industrial and clean energy ambitions.



The recent state visit of Chilean President Gabriel Boric to India in April 2025 has further consolidated this relationship. Both nations have agreed to initiate negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), enhancing economic integration. Chile’s decision to grant a Multiple Entry Permit to Indian businesspersons and India’s flexible visa regime for Chileans reflect the growing people-to-people ties. Additionally, collaborations in health,

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pharmaceuticals, green energy, and space technology signify a widening of bilateral cooperation beyond traditional sectors.

Defence cooperation has also been emphasized, with Chilean military personnel receiving training in India. The Antarctic cooperation agreement, digital transformation initiatives, and Chile's membership in the International Solar Alliance showcase their alignment in global governance. India's support for Chile's inclusion in G20 discussions reflects its commitment to strengthening South-South cooperation.

These developments align with India's broader foreign policy objectives of expanding its footprint in Latin America, securing critical mineral supply chains, and fostering global partnerships for sustainable development. By deepening economic and strategic ties with Chile, India is reinforcing its presence in the Global South while advancing its technological, trade, and diplomatic interests on the world stage.

**Topic : Transformation of the Textiles and Apparel Industry**

**Relevance :** GS Paper 3 Economy

**Source :** PIB

**Context :**

The Make in India initiative, launched in 2014 by the Indian government, has significantly impacted the country's manufacturing sectors, particularly the textiles and apparel industry. The textile sector, one of the largest contributors to India's economy, plays a crucial role in employment generation and foreign exchange earnings. The initiative has effectively positioned India as a global manufacturing and export hub. With strong policy interventions, infrastructure support, and a skilled workforce, the textile industry

has flourished, contributing to India's economic growth.

**Overview of India's Textile Industry**

The **textile and apparel industry** contributes 2.3% to our GDP, 13% to **industrial production**, and 12% to **exports**. India exported textile items worth **US\$ 34.4 billion** in 2023-24, with **apparel** constituting 42% of the export basket, followed by **raw materials/semi-finished materials** at 34% and **finished non-apparel goods** at 30%. It is also the **second largest employment generators**, after agriculture, with **over 45 million people** employed directly, including many **women** and the **rural** population. As further evidence of the **inclusive nature** of this industry, nearly **80%** of its capacity is spread across Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) **clusters** in the country.

The sector also has perfect alignment with the Government's overall objectives of **Make in India, Skill India, Women's Empowerment, Rural Youth Employment and inclusive growth**. The industry produces about **22,000 million** pieces of garments per year, with the market size projected to reach **US\$ 350 billion** by 2030, from the current **\$174 billion**.

**Overview of India's Textile Industry**

India's textile and apparel industry is a key pillar of the country's economy, contributing approximately 2.3% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 13% to industrial production, and 12% to the total exports. The sector employs over 45 million people, many of whom are women and come from rural areas, making it a significant source of livelihood. The industry's capacity includes Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that represent nearly 80% of its capacity, emphasizing its inclusive nature. The sector is also known for producing 22,000 million pieces of garments annually, and the Indian textile market is projected to grow to \$350 billion by 2030 from its current value of \$174 billion.

In 2023-24, India's textile exports reached \$34.4 billion, with apparel accounting for 42% of the export basket. The industry has witnessed growth in recent years, with a 7% increase in textile and apparel exports between April and December 2024. The government's focus on growth has propelled India to become the world's fifth-largest textile market, with an ambitious plan to

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increase growth by 15–20% over the next five years.



### Impact of 'Make in India' on the Textile Industry

The Make in India initiative has provided a major thrust to the growth of the textile industry. Key policy interventions, infrastructural improvements, and financial incentives have encouraged manufacturers to scale operations and boost exports. The Union Budget of 2024–25 announced the inclusion of two types of shuttle-less looms under the government's machinery exemption list to promote domestic textile production.

#### Impact of 'Make in India' on the Textile Industry

The Make in India initiative has catalyzed textile manufacturing and exports through key policy interventions, enhanced infrastructure, and incentives. In the Union Budget 2024-25, to promote domestic textile production, two more types of shuttle-less looms are added to fully exempted textile machinery by the government. The government has introduced multiple schemes to enhance textile production, boost investments, and promote exports, including:

Several government schemes have been introduced to drive growth in the textile sector:

1. **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles:** Aimed at increasing manufacturing in man-made fiber (MMF) and technical textiles, the PLI scheme has a budget of ₹10,683 crore and offers financial incentives for large-scale manufacturers.

Value in USD Million	2022-23	2023-24
India's Export of Textile & Apparel	34,997	34,072
Export of Handicrafts	1,689	1,802
Total Export of T&A including Handicrafts	36,686	35,874
India's overall exports	4,51,070	4,37,072
% Share of T&A Exports (incl. Handicrafts) of overall exports	8.13%	8.21%

2. **PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) Parks:**

This scheme aims to develop world-class industrial infrastructure for the textile manufacturing sector. A total budget of ₹4,445 crore has been allocated for the period 2021–2027. The scheme focuses on creating integrated facilities for all stages of the textile production process, including spinning, weaving, processing, and garmenting. So far, seven parks have been established across states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.

3. **Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS):** This scheme encourages MSMEs to upgrade their technology by offering capital subsidies, with a budget allocation of ₹17,822 crore.
4. **Samarth Scheme for Capacity Building in the Textile Sector:** Designed to provide skill training for workers in the textile industry, this scheme has trained over 3.82 lakh

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beneficiaries as of March 2025, with a high placement rate of 77.74%.

#### 5. Textile Cluster Development Scheme (TCDS):

The TCDS creates integrated workspaces for textile units, promoting economies of scale, competitiveness, and better access to technology and information. The scheme has generated 1.22 lakh job opportunities as of March 2025.

#### 6. National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM):

With a focus on research, innovation, market development, and export promotion, the NTTM aims to position India as a global leader in technical textiles. It has an allocated budget of ₹1,480 crore for 2020–2026.

### Union Budget Allocations for the Ministry of Textiles

For 2025–26, the Indian government has allocated ₹5,272 crore to the Ministry of Textiles, a 19% increase from the previous fiscal year. Key initiatives in the Union Budget include:

- **Cotton Mission:** A five-year plan to improve cotton productivity.
- **Tax Exemptions on Looms:** Removal of duties on select shuttle-less looms to reduce production costs.
- **Increased Customs Duty on Knitted Fabrics:** To curb cheap imports and promote domestic manufacturing.
- **MSME Support:** Enhanced credit facilities and policies to support MSMEs, focusing on exports and employment generation.

### Export Growth and Market Expansion

- India is the world's sixth-largest exporter of textiles and apparel, accounting for 8.21% of total exports in

2023–24. Major destinations for Indian textile exports include the United States and the European Union. Government initiatives have contributed to significant growth in exports, and India's share of global textile and apparel trade stands at 3.91%.

Production and Consumption of Cotton (in lakh bales)

Cotton Year	Production	Consumption
2021-22	311.17	322.41
2022-23	336.60	313.63
2023-24 (P)	325.22	323.00

Import and Export of Cotton (in lakh bales)

Cotton Season	Import (in lakh bales)	Export (in lakh bales)
2021-22	21.13	42.25
2022-23	14.60	15.89
2023-24*	6.73	26.24

Steps taken by the government to support exports include:

- **Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL):** This scheme provides a rebate on taxes levied on the export of apparel, garments, and made-ups, enhancing global competitiveness.
- **Free Trade Agreements (FTAs):** India has signed multiple FTAs with countries like the UAE, Australia, and the European Free Trade Association. Ongoing negotiations for FTAs with the UK, EU, and Oman promise further export opportunities.
- **Exports Promotion Councils (EPCs):** These councils, representing various sectors of the textile value chain, work in close cooperation with the government to promote global exports.

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## Foreign Direct Investment in the Textile and Apparel Sector

The Indian textile sector has attracted substantial Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Between January 2000 and March 2024, FDI inflows amounted to \$4,472.79 million (₹28,304.10 crore). This foreign investment has bolstered technological advancements and improved global competitiveness.



## Innovation and Sustainability in the Textile Sector

Innovation is a key driver for the growth of India's textile industry. The Ministry of Textiles has collaborated with Start-up India and DPIIT to conduct innovation challenges that support sustainability in textile production. These challenges focus on textile waste recycling, biobased fibers, and sustainable garment production. In total, 17 award-winning startups are now engaging in these crucial areas.

## Cotton, Silk, and Jute Industries: Key Segments

- **Cotton Industry:** India is the world's largest producer of cotton acreage and the second-largest producer of cotton. Cotton cultivation supports millions of farmers and workers across India. The government's initiatives such as the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme

and the "Cott-Ally" mobile app ensure fair prices and improved productivity.

- **Silk Industry:** India is the second-largest producer of silk, with its sericulture industry providing livelihoods for millions of people. The government has been focusing on improving productivity, quality, and market expansion through research and development, as well as supporting farmers with various schemes.
- **Jute Industry:** The jute sector remains vital to India's economy, particularly in West Bengal. The industry supports over 4 lakh workers and 40 lakh farm families. Government schemes such as the Jute ICARE program focus on improving fiber quality and increasing the income of jute farmers.

The Make in India initiative has revolutionized India's textile and apparel industry, making it a global leader in manufacturing and exports. Through strategic government schemes, infrastructure development, and innovations in sustainability, the sector is poised for continued growth. By focusing on enhancing productivity, expanding exports, and promoting domestic manufacturing, India is set to maintain its competitive edge in the global textile market. The success of Make in India is a testament to the country's potential to drive economic growth and employment generation across diverse sectors.

## Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the "Make in India" initiative and its impact on the textile and apparel industry:

1. The "Make in India" initiative was launched in 2014 with a focus on promoting the manufacturing sector, including textiles and apparel.
2. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles is primarily



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designed to enhance the export of cotton-based products.

3. The PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) Parks scheme aims to create integrated facilities for all stages of textile production, including spinning, weaving, processing, and garmenting.
4. India's textile exports grew by 7% between April and December 2024, contributing to its position as the world's sixth-largest exporter of textiles and apparel.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: b) 1, 3, and 4 only

Explanation:

1. **Correct:** The "Make in India" initiative was launched in 2014 to promote the manufacturing sector, including textiles and apparel, by enhancing infrastructure, skill development, and policy support.
2. **Incorrect:** The PLI scheme for textiles is primarily designed to boost the manufacturing of man-made fibers (MMF) and technical textiles, not just cotton-based products.
3. **Correct:** The PM MITRA scheme aims to create world-class infrastructure for the entire textile production chain, including spinning, weaving, processing, and garmenting, to promote domestic manufacturing and exports.
4. **Correct:** India's textile exports grew by 7% between April and December 2024, positioning the country as the world's sixth-largest exporter of textiles and apparel.

## Mains Model Question

**Q. Discuss the impact of the "Make in India" initiative on the Indian textile and apparel industry, highlighting the role of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and the PM MITRA parks.**

The "Make in India" initiative, launched in 2014, has played a significant role in transforming India's manufacturing sector, including the textile and apparel industry. The initiative aimed to boost domestic manufacturing, promote job creation, and enhance India's global competitiveness. The textile industry, being one of India's largest contributors to employment and export, has benefited significantly from this policy framework.

Years	Mulberry	Tasar	Eri	Muga	Total
2004-05	14,620	322	1,448	110	16,500
2014-15	21,390	2,434	4,726	158	28,708
2020-21	23,896	2,689	6,946	239	33,770
2021-22	25,818	1,466	7,364	255	34,903
2022-23	27,654	1,318	7,349	261	36,582
2023-24	29,892	1,586	7,183	252	38,913
2024-25 (April-September)	14,233	106	3,924	92	18,355

Source: Central Silk Board, Bengaluru

One of the key components of the "Make in India" initiative is the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, which was introduced to boost the manufacturing of man-made fibers (MMF) and technical textiles in India. The PLI scheme offers financial incentives to attract domestic and foreign investments into high-tech textile manufacturing. By providing subsidies and incentives, the scheme has encouraged companies to invest in advanced machinery and technology, improving the overall productivity and quality of Indian

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textiles. This has helped India improve its position as one of the largest textile exporters in the world.

Additionally, the government introduced the PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) Parks scheme as part of its broader vision to strengthen the textile ecosystem. The PM MITRA parks aim to create world-class infrastructure for all stages of textile production, including spinning, weaving, processing, and garmenting. These parks provide integrated facilities, modern infrastructure, and access to global markets, helping businesses scale up operations and achieve cost efficiencies. The parks are expected to boost textile exports, promote rural employment, and create a sustainable textile ecosystem in India.

In conclusion, the "Make in India" initiative, along with the PLI scheme and PM MITRA parks, has contributed to the growth and modernization of India's textile industry. These efforts are likely to position India as a global leader in textile manufacturing, fostering job creation, innovation, and export growth.

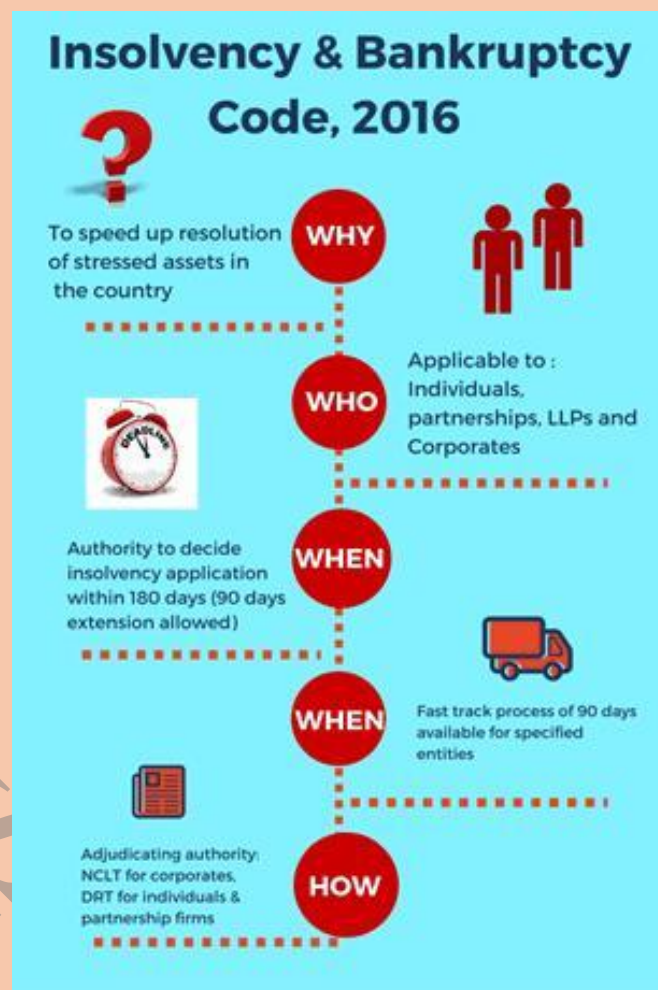
**Topic :** The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)

**Relevance :** GS Paper 3 Economy

**Source :** The Hindu

**Context :**

The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)** was enacted with the aim of creating a unified legal framework for the resolution of insolvency, the reorganization of corporate entities, and the liquidation of firms in India. The primary goal of the IBC is to maximize the value of assets and provide an orderly mechanism for the resolution of insolvency cases, thus enabling businesses to continue operations or ensure fair liquidation if necessary.

**Key Features of IBC**

- Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP):**
  - Under the IBC, when a company faces financial distress and defaults on its obligations, creditors or the company itself can initiate a CIRP.
  - The process involves appointing an Insolvency Professional (IP) to oversee the resolution, which may involve restructuring the business, selling assets, or attempting to revive the company's operations.
- Timely Resolution and Outcomes:**
  - The IBC aims to complete the resolution process within 180 days (with an optional 90-day extension).

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extension) to avoid prolonged uncertainty for creditors, employees, and other stakeholders.

### 3. Priority of Claims:



- The process sets a clear hierarchy for repayment, with operational creditors and employees' dues given top priority, followed by financial creditors.

### 4. Debtor-Creditor Relationship:

- One of the significant impacts of IBC is that it redefined the relationship between debtors and creditors, moving away from the traditional scenario where creditors had limited recourse to recover dues. Now, under the IBC, creditors have more power to initiate proceedings and recover outstanding dues.

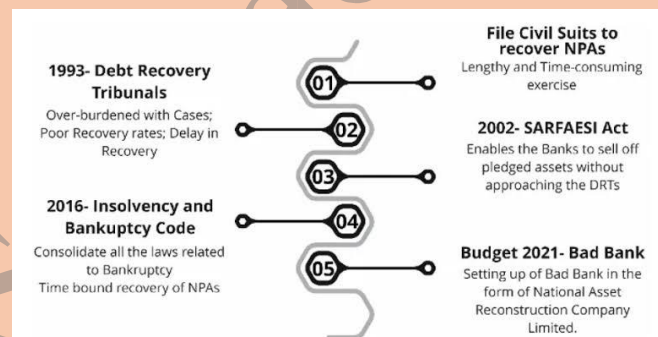
### 5. Six Amendments and Regulatory Reforms:

- Since its inception, the IBC has undergone continuous improvements to make it more effective. Six significant amendments and 122 regulatory reforms have been introduced, which have streamlined the process and made it more efficient. These reforms have focused on improving the quality of resolution plans, reducing the

time for resolution, and ensuring transparency in the proceedings.

### 6. Capacity Building:

- The government has focused on regular training and capacity-building programs for insolvency professionals, adjudicating authorities, and other stakeholders to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the IBC ecosystem



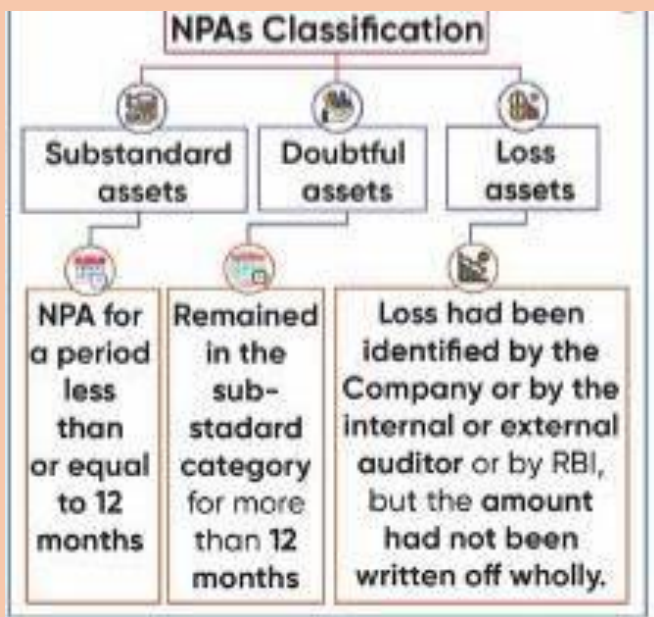
### 7. Technology Integration:

- Digital platforms have been introduced to automate and streamline the processes, making the system faster, more accurate, and efficient, ultimately leading to better outcomes for all parties involved.

### Impact of IBC on Banking Sector and Recovery of NPAs

**Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** refer to loans or advances where the borrower has stopped making interest or principal repayments for a prolonged period, typically 90 days or more. The growing volume of NPAs in Indian banks had long been a cause for concern, affecting the financial health of the banking system and the economy.

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- According to the **RBI Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India (December 2024)**, the IBC has emerged as the dominant recovery route for banks, accounting for 48% of all recoveries made in FY 2023-24. This has significantly helped banks recover bad loans and reduce the growing NPA burden.
- Other recovery methods, such as the **SARFAESI Act (32%)**, **Debt Recovery Tribunals (17%)**, and **Lok Adalats (3%)**, account for the remaining recoveries.

### Data and Statistics

- **CIRPs Initiated:** As of 31st December 2024, a total of **8,175 CIRPs** have been initiated under the IBC.
- **Rescue of Corporate Debtors (CDs):** Out of the total CIRPs, **3,485 corporate debtors (CDs)** have been rescued, of which:
  - **1,119 CDs** were rescued through resolution plans.
  - **1,236 CDs** were rescued through appeal, review, or settlement.

- **1,130 CDs** were rescued through withdrawal under section 12A of the IBC.
- **Liquidation:** **2,707 CDs** have been referred for liquidation.
- **Value Recovery:** In the **1,119 cases** where resolution plans were successfully implemented, the total **realizable value for creditors** amounted to **₹3.58 lakh crore**. This figure represents:
  - **162.79% of liquidation value.**
  - **87.58% of fair value**, showcasing the efficacy of resolution under the IBC as compared to liquidation.

The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code** has had a transformative impact on the Indian financial system, particularly in dealing with the rising issue of **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)**. It has provided an efficient mechanism for resolving insolvency cases, offering businesses the opportunity for revival or a fair liquidation process. The impressive recovery figures and the increasing adoption of IBC as a recovery route by Indian banks demonstrate its success in reducing the NPA burden and improving financial stability. With ongoing regulatory reforms and technology integration, the IBC is expected to continue driving positive changes in India's corporate insolvency landscape.

### Prelims Practice Question

Which of the following statements are true regarding the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** and **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** in India?

1. The IBC was introduced in 2016 with the aim of providing a comprehensive framework for insolvency resolution, reorganization, and liquidation of corporate entities and individuals.

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2. The IBC process includes the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP), which must be completed within 365 days, including possible extensions.
3. The IBC has been the dominant recovery route for banks, accounting for more than 50% of all recoveries made by banks in FY 2023-24.
4. Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) refer to loans or advances where the borrower has failed to repay the loan for 180 days or more.

4. **Statement 4** is incorrect: **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** refer to loans or advances where the borrower has defaulted for **90 days or more**, not 180 days. Hence, this statement is false.

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

## Mains Model Question:

"The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) has significantly impacted the resolution of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in India. Discuss the effectiveness of IBC in resolving NPAs, its impact on the banking sector, and the recent amendments that have enhanced its efficacy."

The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**, introduced in 2016, has played a pivotal role in addressing the growing issue of **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** in India. The core objective of IBC is to provide a structured and time-bound process for the resolution of insolvency cases, focusing on maximizing asset value and ensuring fair treatment for all stakeholders, including creditors and debtors. Before the IBC, the process for recovering bad loans was prolonged and inefficient, often resulting in considerable losses for banks and a slow resolution of distressed businesses.

Year	Number of cases	Amount involved	Amount recovered	Recovery (%)
2018-19	1,152	1,45,457	66,440	46
2019-20	1,953	2,32,478	1,05,773	45
2020-21	536	1,35,319	27,311	20
2021-22	891	1,97,959	47,409	24
2022-23	1,261	1,33,930	53,968	40
2023-24	1,004	1,63,943	46,340	28

Source: RBI Tend and Progress of Banking for respective years

The IBC introduced the **Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)**, which empowers creditors to initiate insolvency proceedings and take control of distressed firms. By reducing the resolution time to **180 days (with a 90-day extension)**, the IBC offers a swift

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:

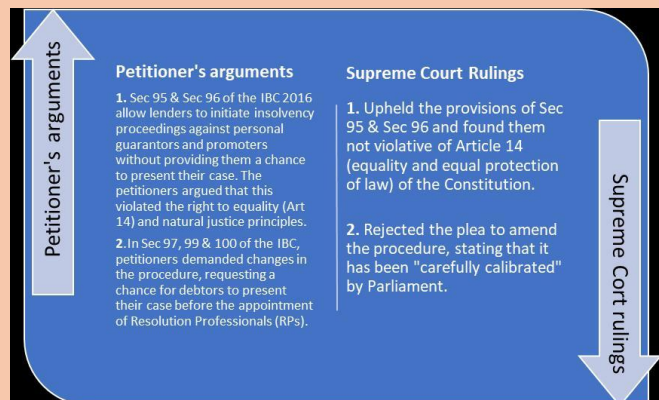
- A) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1** is correct: The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** was introduced in 2016 with the goal of providing a unified legal framework for the reorganization, insolvency resolution, and liquidation of corporate entities and individuals.
2. **Statement 2** is incorrect: The **Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)** must be completed within **180 days**, with a possible extension of 90 days. It is not 365 days, so this statement is false.
3. **Statement 3** is correct: According to the **RBI Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India (December 2024)**, the IBC has been the dominant recovery route, accounting for **48%** of all recoveries made by banks in FY 2023-24, which is higher than other methods like the **SARFAESI Act** and **Debt Recovery Tribunals**.

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mechanism for addressing NPAs, unlike the previous system, which could drag on for years. The IBC also prioritizes the protection of creditors' rights, ensuring that operational creditors, such as employees and suppliers, are paid before others.



Since its implementation, the IBC has become the dominant recovery route for NPAs. According to the **RBI Report on Banking Trends (2024)**, the IBC accounted for **48%** of total recoveries by banks in FY 2023-24, outpacing other recovery methods like the **SARFAESI Act** and **Debt Recovery Tribunals**. It has been instrumental in the successful resolution of over **8,000 CIRPs**, rescuing **3,485 debtors** and realizing **₹3.58 lakh crore** in recoverable value, amounting to **87.58%** of fair value.

Recent amendments to the IBC, including **six major amendments and 122 regulatory changes**, have further strengthened its framework. These amendments have focused on enhancing the resolution process's efficiency, improving the quality of resolution plans, and ensuring faster recovery. Additionally, the use of digital platforms and regular capacity-building initiatives has further streamlined the entire process.

IBC has effectively addressed the issue of NPAs, improving the health of the banking sector by enabling quicker resolution of bad loans and fostering greater financial stability in the country.

**Topic :** Mangroves as Guardians of Life and Livelihoods

**Relevance :** GS Paper 1 Geography

**Source :** PIB

**Context**

Mangroves are an indispensable part of coastal ecosystems, providing both environmental and economic benefits. In India, the restoration and conservation of mangroves have had profound impacts on both the environment and local livelihoods, particularly in coastal communities. The article highlights the successful initiatives in Naughar, Maharashtra, where mangrove restoration has not only enhanced environmental resilience but also revitalized local economies.

A **mangrove** is a salt-tolerant plant community found in tropical and subtropical intertidal regions. These ecosystems thrive in high-rainfall areas (1,000–3,000 mm) with temperatures ranging from 26°C to 35°C. Mangrove species are adapted to survive in waterlogged soils, high salinity, and frequent tidal surges. They serve as crucial biodiversity refuges and act as bio-shields against extreme climatic events. Additionally, rural populations depend on mangroves for biomass-based livelihoods.

**What are Mangroves?**

Mangroves are salt-tolerant plant communities found in tropical and subtropical intertidal regions. They thrive in areas with high rainfall (1,000–3,000 mm) and temperatures ranging from **26°C to 35°C**. Their distinctive root structures, which extend above the soil, create a natural barrier against coastal erosion and tidal surges, protecting the land from storms and sea-level rise.

**Key Features of Mangroves:**

- **Salt tolerance:** Mangroves are uniquely adapted to survive in waterlogged soils with high salinity.
- **Biodiversity refuges:** They provide shelter and breeding grounds for a

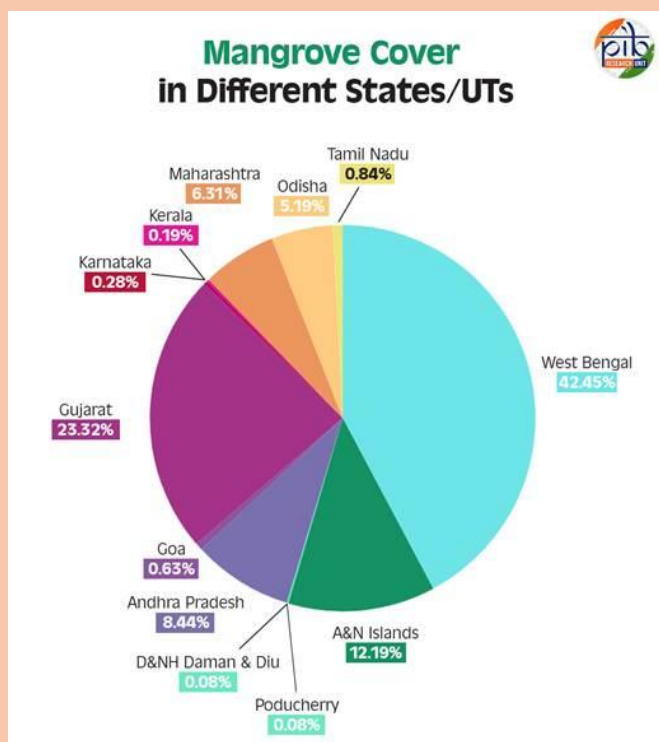
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variety of marine species, contributing to biodiversity.

- **Bio-shields:** Mangrove forests act as natural barriers against coastal erosion, storm surges, and tidal flooding.
- **Carbon sequestration:** They store significant amounts of carbon, playing a crucial role in mitigating climate change.

crab farming and other livelihood activities that are climate-resilient.

- **Women Empowerment:** Women were placed at the forefront of restoration efforts, enabling them to earn stable incomes throughout the year.
- **Community Participation:** The formation of the Mangrove Co-Management Committee ensured that local people were actively involved in mangrove protection.



## India's Progress in Mangrove Conservation

India has made significant strides in mangrove conservation, which is vital for its coastal ecosystems and the people who depend on them. The total mangrove cover in India, as per the **India State of Forest Report (ISFR 2023)**, stands at **4,991.68 square kilometers**, representing **0.15%** of India's geographical area.

## Key Stats:

- **Net increase in mangrove cover (2023):** 363.68 sq. km (7.86% increase from 2013).
- **Net increase from 2001 to 2023:** 509.68 sq. km (11.4% increase).

## The Role of Mangroves in Livelihoods

Mangroves are deeply connected to the livelihoods of coastal communities. As seen in Naugar, the destruction of mangrove forests led to the depletion of marine life, affecting the income of local communities who depend on fishing and crab farming. However, with restoration efforts, these communities have regained their livelihoods while protecting the mangroves.

## Impact of Mangrove Restoration:

- **Livelihood Diversification:** Communities engaged in sustainable

## Key Regulatory Measures

India has implemented a series of stringent legal frameworks to ensure mangrove protection:

- **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2019** under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, categorises mangroves as **Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs)**, restricting activities within a **50-metre buffer zone** where mangrove cover exceeds 1,000 sq. m.
- Mandates **compensatory replantation** at a 3:1 ratio if mangroves are affected by development.
- Additional protection under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, **Indian Forest Act, 1927**, and **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, among others.

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## Mangrove Distribution in India:

- West Bengal holds the largest share, accounting for **42.45%** of India's mangrove cover.
- Gujarat follows with **23.32%** of the total cover.
- The **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** have **12.19%** of the country's mangrove area.

## Notable Success:

- Gujarat has seen a significant increase in its mangrove cover, with an addition of **253.06 sq. km** between 2001 and 2023, largely due to large-scale plantation efforts, community participation, and public-private partnerships.

## Key Regulatory Measures for Mangrove Protection

India has implemented a range of policies and regulations to protect mangrove forests:

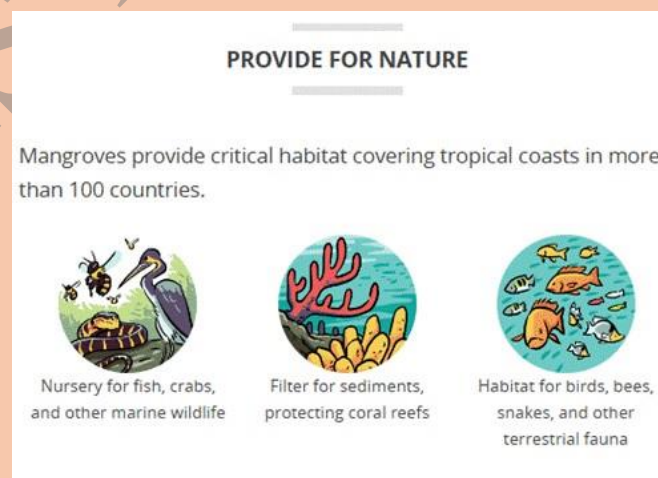
- **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2019:** Categorizes mangroves as **Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs)**, with strict regulations on development activities within **50 meters** of mangrove cover.
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** and **Indian Forest Act, 1927** also provide legal protection to mangrove ecosystems.
- **Compensatory Replantation:** If mangroves are affected by development, replantation must occur at a **3:1 ratio**.

## Key Conservation Initiatives in India

India has introduced several initiatives aimed at restoring and conserving mangroves. These initiatives emphasize both environmental sustainability and community involvement.

## Prominent Initiatives:

1. **Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)**
  - Launched in **June 2023** to restore and afforest **540 sq. km** across **9 coastal states** and **4 Union Territories**.
  - The initiative focuses on restoring degraded mangrove ecosystems and promoting community-based livelihoods.
2. **National Coastal Mission**
  - A financial assistance program for the conservation of **38 mangrove sites** and **4 coral reef sites**.
  - A **60:40 cost-sharing model** between the central government and state governments for mangrove conservation efforts.



3. **GCF-ECRICC Project (Green Climate Fund – Enhancing Coastal Resilience of Indian Coastal Communities)**
  - Active since **2019** in **Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Odisha**, this project aims to restore **10,575 hectares** of mangroves.
  - As of **2024**, **3,114.29 hectares** have been successfully restored.



## PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

## Mangroves as Carbon Vaults

Mangroves are known as “nature’s carbon vaults” due to their ability to store large amounts of carbon. According to the **World Wildlife Fund**, mangrove forests store **7.5 to 10 times more carbon per acre** than tropical forests. They contribute significantly to mitigating climate change by sequestering carbon in the soil beneath their roots.

## Global Carbon Impact:

- Mangroves store **21 gigatons** of carbon, with **87%** of this carbon stored in the soil.
- Restoring **1.6 million acres** of mangrove forests could capture an additional **1 gigaton of carbon**, aiding in global climate change mitigation efforts.

## Prelims Practice Question

Which of the following statements regarding mangroves and their conservation in India are correct?

1. Mangroves are salt-tolerant plant communities found in tropical and subtropical intertidal regions.
2. India’s total mangrove cover stands at over 10,000 sq. km, making it one of the world’s largest mangrove ecosystems.
3. The Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) aims to restore and afforest 540 sq. km across 9 coastal states and 4 Union Territories.
4. Gujarat and West Bengal have the highest shares of mangrove cover in India, with Gujarat seeing significant improvements through large-scale plantation efforts.

Select the correct answer from the options given below:

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

Answer: (b) 1, 3, and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1** is correct. Mangroves are indeed salt-tolerant plant communities found in tropical and subtropical intertidal regions. They thrive in high-salinity conditions, often in estuarine and coastal areas.
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. India’s total mangrove cover, according to the **India State of Forest Report 2023**, stands at **4,991.68 sq. km**, not over 10,000 sq. km. Although this is significant, India does not have the largest mangrove ecosystem globally.
- **Statement 3** is correct. The **Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)** aims to restore and afforest **540 sq. km** of mangrove area across **9 coastal states** and **4 Union Territories** in India.
- **Statement 4** is correct. **Gujarat** and **West Bengal** are the leading states in mangrove coverage in India. Gujarat has seen impressive improvements in mangrove cover through large-scale plantation efforts, especially between 2001 and 2023.

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

## Mains Model Question:

Q. Discuss the significance of mangroves in India’s coastal ecosystems and the efforts taken for their conservation. How have initiatives like MISHTI and the Green Climate Fund-ECRICC project contributed to the restoration of mangrove ecosystems and improved livelihoods?

**PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)**

Mangroves play a crucial role in India's coastal ecosystems, providing a range of ecological and economic benefits. These salt-tolerant plants thrive in tropical and subtropical intertidal zones, offering protection against soil erosion, storm surges, and coastal flooding. Their dense root systems act as natural bio-shields, mitigating the effects of extreme climatic events, such as cyclones. Additionally, mangroves serve as biodiversity hotspots, supporting a wide array of marine life, including fish, crabs, and other organisms that are essential to local livelihoods, particularly for coastal communities engaged in fishing and aquaculture.

India has made notable progress in mangrove conservation through a series of legal frameworks and promotional initiatives. The **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2019**, mandates the protection of mangroves by categorizing them as Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) and restricting activities within a 50-meter buffer zone. Furthermore, the **Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)**, launched in 2023, focuses on restoring 540 sq. km of mangroves across nine coastal states and four Union Territories. This initiative aims not only to restore mangrove cover but also to enhance the livelihoods of coastal communities by promoting sustainable practices like mangrove-based aquaculture.

In addition, the **Green Climate Fund-ECRICC Project** in states like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Odisha has focused on restoring over 3,100 hectares of mangroves since 2019. This project, which seeks to restore 10,575 hectares of mangrove forest, emphasizes climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods. By integrating community participation and scientific approaches, these initiatives have successfully revived degraded coastal areas, improved local economies, and reduced the vulnerability of communities to climate change.

Conservation of mangroves in India is vital for both environmental protection and socio-economic stability. The collaborative efforts between the government, local communities, and international organizations underscore the importance of integrating ecological restoration with community resilience.

**Topic :** Powering Infrastructure Through Make in India

**Relevance :** GS Paper 3 Economy

**Source :** PIB

**Context :**



India's infrastructure is undergoing a massive transformation under the Make in India initiative, which is a driving force for economic growth and development. Recognizing infrastructure as the foundation of economic progress, the government has launched a series of ambitious projects to strengthen transportation, logistics, and urban facilities.

#### National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP)

The National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) is a transformative initiative launched to develop world-class industrial infrastructure and promote planned urbanisation across India. By integrating smart technologies and multi-modal connectivity, the programme aims to create globally competitive manufacturing hubs while fostering economic growth and employment opportunities. These industrial corridors are being developed in collaboration with State Governments to ensure efficient planning and execution.

The Bharatmala Pariyojana is improving road connectivity with expressways and economic

**PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)**

corridors, while the Sagarmala Programme is revolutionizing port-led development. The Smart Cities Mission is reimagining urban centers with modern amenities, and PM Gati Shakti is streamlining multimodal connectivity for efficient movement of goods and people. These initiatives are creating a more interconnected and sustainable India.

Iconic projects such as the Atal Tunnel (the world's longest highway tunnel), Chenab Bridge (the highest railway bridge), Statue of Unity (the tallest statue), and Zojila Tunnel (Asia's longest) highlight India's engineering capabilities. The expansion of dedicated freight corridors, modern airports, and renewable energy grids further reflects the nation's commitment to building a resilient economy. Infrastructure growth, aligned with industrial expansion, is unlocking new opportunities for investment, employment, and innovation, solidifying India's position as a global economic powerhouse.

**CABINET DECISION**  
28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2024

**Grand necklace of Industrial Smart Cities**

- Cabinet approves 12 Industrial cities under National Industrial Corridor Development Programme
- Estimated investment of Rs. 28,602 crore
- Projects to span across 10 states and strategically planned along 6 major corridors

• Khurpla in Uttarakhand	• Gaya in Bihar
• Rajpura-Patiala in Punjab	• Zaheerabad in Telangana
• Dighi in, Maharashtra	• Orvakal and Kopparthi in AP
• Palakkad in Kerala	• Jodhpur-Pali in Rajasthan
• Agra and Prayagraj in UP	

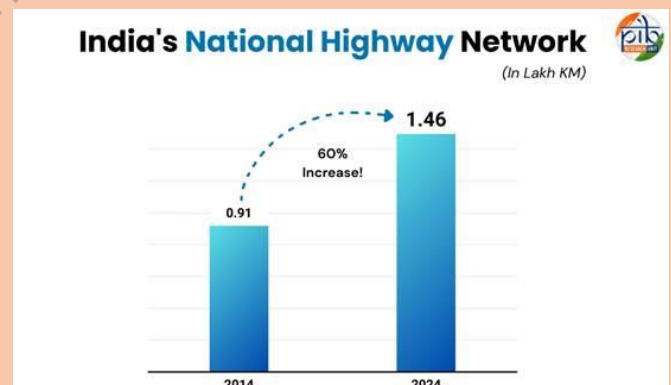
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**Economic Acceleration Through Infrastructure**

Strategic infrastructure initiatives are driving India's economic acceleration, with Make in India at the center of domestic manufacturing and industrial growth. The National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) is creating world-class manufacturing hubs, while PM Gati Shakti integrates data-driven planning for enhanced multimodal connectivity, optimizing logistics and attracting investments.

**National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP)**

The NICDP is a transformative initiative focused on developing industrial infrastructure and promoting planned urbanization across India. By integrating smart technologies and multimodal connectivity, the program fosters economic growth and employment opportunities.

**Key Developments:**

- In August 2024, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved 12 new industrial areas across 10 states under NICDP, with an investment of ₹28,602 crore.
- These industrial nodes, planned along six major corridors, will strengthen India's manufacturing ecosystem and boost its global competitiveness.

**PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)****PM Gati Shakti**

Launched in 2021, PM Gati Shakti – National Master Plan for Multimodal Connectivity ensures world-class infrastructure for manufacturing and economic growth. This digital platform integrates geospatial mapping and data-driven decision-making across 16 ministries, streamlining connectivity and reducing project delays.

**Progress as of March 2025:**

- 115 National Highway and road projects covering approximately 13,500 km evaluated under the initiative, with an investment of ₹6.38 lakh crore.

**Road and Maritime Connectivity**

Strengthening road and maritime infrastructure is central to the Make in India vision, ensuring seamless connectivity for industries and economic growth. Key programs like Bharatmala and Sagarmala enhance freight movement, improve logistics efficiency, and modernize transport networks.

**Bharatmala Pariyojana**

Bharatmala is advancing India's infrastructure by developing economic corridors, expressways, and connectivity roads. The program improves logistics efficiency, fosters industrial growth, and ensures safer, more reliable transportation networks.

**Progress as of February 2025:**

- 26,425 km of projects awarded under the planned 34,800 km, with 19,826 km already constructed.
- Total expenditure under Bharatmala: ₹4,92,562 crore.

- 6,669 km of high-speed greenfield corridors awarded, with 4,610 km completed.

As on February 28, 2025, 26,425 km of projects awarded under the planned 34,800 km, with 19,826 km already constructed. The total Expenditure incurred under Bharatmala Pariyojana amounts to Rs. 4,92,562 crore.

Till February 2025, 6,669 km of high-speed greenfield corridors awarded, of which 4,610 km have been completed.

**National Highway Network Expansion**

India's National Highway network has expanded from 91,287 km in 2014 to 1,46,145 km in 2024, a 60% increase. This expansion enhances connectivity, reduces travel time, and boosts economic activity.

**Sagarmala Programme**

Launched in 2015, the Sagarmala Programme aligns with Make in India by focusing on port-led development. It enhances India's manufacturing and export capabilities by reducing logistics costs and improving port infrastructure.

**Key Achievements as of March 2025:**

- 839 projects worth ₹5.79 lakh crore identified under Sagarmala.
- 272 projects completed, investing ₹1.41 lakh crore.
- Enhanced port connectivity strengthens maritime trade efficiency.

**Rail Infrastructure Modernization**

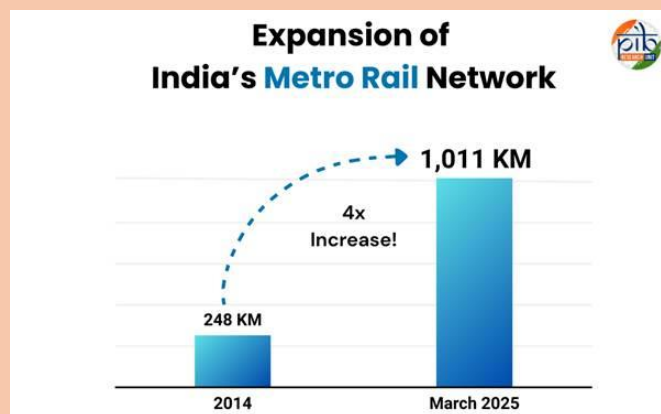
The Indian Railways has seen remarkable advancements in connectivity, security, and urban mobility under Make in India. Flagship initiatives such as Vande Bharat trains and metro rail expansion are modernizing transit hubs and improving passenger experiences.

**PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)****Vande Bharat Trains**

Launched in 2019, Vande Bharat trains are India's first indigenously designed semi-high-speed trains. Equipped with modern coaches and safety features, they significantly reduce travel time and enhance connectivity.

**Progress as of March 2025:**

- 136 Vande Bharat trains operational across India.
- Introduction of Vande Bharat Sleeper Train, tested successfully at 180 km/h.

**Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**

A long-term initiative to modernize railway stations, enhancing passenger amenities and multimodal connectivity. As of March 2025,

1,337 stations have been identified for upgradation.

**Metro Rail Expansion**

India's metro network has expanded from 248 km in 2014 to 1,011 km by March 2025, covering over 20 cities.

**Key Achievements:**

- BEML Limited, a Schedule A company under the Ministry of Defence, has supplied over 2,000 metro coaches.
- The first Namo Bharat train, operating on the Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor, enhances regional connectivity.

• In August 2024, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved 12 new industrial areas across 10 states under NICDP with an investment of ₹28,602 crore.

• These industrial nodes, planned along six major corridors, will strengthen India's manufacturing ecosystem and boost its global competitiveness.

**Civil Aviation Growth**

India's aviation sector has expanded significantly, positioning the country as the third-largest domestic aviation market globally. The government's focus on regional connectivity and infrastructure has fueled economic mobility.

**Key Achievements as of March 2025:**

- Operational airports increased from 74 in 2014 to 159.
- On November 17, 2024, domestic air passenger traffic surpassed 5 lakh in a single day.
- Number of Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) grew from 29 in 2016 to 38 with 57 bases by December 2024.

## PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

## Prelims Practice Question:

With reference to the "Make in India" initiative and its impact on infrastructure, consider the following statements:

1. The **Bharatmala Pariyojana** aims to develop only expressways and does not include economic corridors.
2. The **Sagarmala Programme** focuses on port-led development to improve logistics efficiency and enhance India's manufacturing and trade capabilities.
3. The **PM Gati Shakti initiative** integrates geospatial mapping and data-driven decision-making to optimise logistics and infrastructure planning.

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: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Bharatmala Pariyojana includes not just expressways but also **economic corridors, feeder routes, and border roads** to enhance connectivity.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **Sagarmala Programme** focuses on **port-led development**, reducing logistics costs, and enhancing trade and industrial growth.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** **PM Gati Shakti** integrates **geospatial mapping and data analytics** to improve logistics efficiency and ensure seamless infrastructure execution.

## Mains Model Question:

Q. The "Make in India" initiative has played a pivotal role in transforming India's infrastructure landscape. Discuss how key infrastructure programs under this initiative, such as Bharatmala, Sagarmala, and PM Gati Shakti, have contributed to economic growth, connectivity, and industrial expansion.

The "Make in India" initiative has been instrumental in reshaping India's infrastructure to drive economic growth, industrial expansion, and connectivity. Infrastructure serves as the backbone of development, and through key programs such as **Bharatmala Pariyojana, Sagarmala Programme, and PM Gati Shakti**, the government has significantly improved logistics, transportation, and manufacturing competitiveness.



**Bharatmala Pariyojana** has revolutionized road connectivity by developing expressways, economic corridors, and feeder routes. It has reduced travel time, improved supply chain efficiency, and fostered industrial growth by linking manufacturing hubs with major markets. The expansion of **National Highways** from 91,287 km in 2014 to 1,46,145 km in 2024 exemplifies this progress. The **Sagarmala Programme**, launched in 2015, has focused on **port-led development** by enhancing maritime infrastructure, improving connectivity, and reducing logistics costs for industries. It has facilitated global trade by developing **coastal economic zones, modernized ports, and Ro-Pax ferry**

**PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)**

**services**, ensuring seamless domestic and international freight movement.

The **PM Gati Shakti initiative**, launched in 2021, has integrated infrastructure planning using **geospatial mapping and digital technology** to optimize logistics and avoid project delays. It has enhanced **multimodal connectivity**, ensuring efficient transportation across roadways, railways, waterways, and airways. By streamlining industrial corridors and supporting large-scale manufacturing, it has positioned India as a global economic hub.

These initiatives collectively support **self-reliant manufacturing, job creation, and urban transformation**. By aligning infrastructure growth with industrial expansion, the **Make in India** initiative has strengthened India's position in the global economy, ensuring **sustainable and inclusive development** while driving long-term economic progress.