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THE HINDU Page 1

PRINCIPLE OF COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

No need for extra curbs on free speech of Ministers: SC

A statement by a Minister cannot be attributed vicariously to government by invoking principle of collective responsibility... PM or CM doesn't have disciplinary control over all members, says Bench

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court held on Tuesday that there is no reason to impose "additional restrictions" on the right to free speech of Ministers, and the government is not vicariously liable for disparaging remarks made by them, even if the comments are traceable to state affairs or meant to protect the government.

"A statement by a Minister, even if traceable to any affairs of the state or for protecting the government, cannot be attributed vicariously to the government by invoking the principle of collective responsibility," Justice V. Ramasubramanian held in the main judgment of the Constitution Bench. The judgment was endorsed by Justices S. Abdul Nazeer, B.R. Gavai and A.S. Bopanna on the Bench.



The state is under a duty to affirmatively protect the rights of a person under Article 21, whenever there is a threat to personal liberty, even by a non-state actor

JUSTICE V. RAMASUBRAMANIAN



State has an obligation to intervene when acts of a private actor may threaten the life or liberty of another individual

JUSTICE B.V. NAGARATHNA

"It is not possible to extend this concept of collective responsibility to any and every statement orally made by a Minister outside the House of the People/ Legislative Assembly... The Prime Minister or the Chief Minister does not have disciplinary control over the members of the Council of Ministers... in a country like ours, where there is a multi-party system and where coalition governments are often formed, it is not possible at all times for a Prime Minister/Chief Minister to take the whip whenever a statement is made by someone in the Council of Ministers," Justice Ramasubramanian observed.

In a separate opinion, Justice B.V. Nagarathna differed with the leading judgment on the point, saying a Minister's statement, if traceable to any affairs of the state or for protecting the government, can be attributed vicariously to the government by invoking the principle of collective responsibility, "so long as such statement represented the view of the government too". "If such a statement is not consistent with the view of the government, then it is attributable to the Minister personally," Justice Nagarathna drew the distinction.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Context: The Supreme Court held that no additional restrictions can be put on Ministers, MPs and MLAs as they too enjoy equal freedom of speech like all under **Article 19(2) of the Constitution.**

- Statements made by a Minister even if traceable to any affairs of State or protecting the Government cannot be attributed vicariously to the Government even applying the **principle of collective responsibility.**
- Fundamental rights under **Article 19(1)(a)** can be exercised even against other instrumentalities other than the State.

Collective responsibility

- **About:** Individual members of the government are held **accountable for the acts and decisions of the government** as a whole under the concept of collective responsibility.
- **Constitutional Provisions**: **Article 75(3)** deals with Collective Responsibility at the Centre, while **Article 164(3)** deals with state governments.
  - **Article 75(3) in the Constitution of India** implies the Council of Ministers shall be **collectively responsible to the House of the People.**
- **Two basic components to collective responsibility:**
  - The first is the notion that **ministers should be able to conduct open and honest conversations** before reaching a consensus, and that these deliberations should be kept private.
  - Second, once a cabinet position has been agreed upon, **all ministers are required to follow** it and vote with the government, or resign from their positions.
- **Benefits**:
  - The concept provides for persons affiliated with the government or the organisation to be held **responsible for the choices** or acts done by that government or organisation as a whole.
  - It will **avoid contradictions** between the Cabinet and the Council of Ministers.
  - It **benefits the party and political loyalty** of the Prime Minister.
  - **Help in making policy decisions** and passing legislation quicker.
  - It is a **consensus-building mechanism** among the ministers.
  - Every Minister can be held accountable both for his individual decisions as well as the government decisions.
- **Drawbacks**:
  - It **curbs inner part democracy** as the cabinet ministers have to openly agree with the Prime Minister's decision.
  - Individual ministers' initiatives are curbed **giving way to party initiatives.**
  - **Matters needing urgent attention may be delayed** due to the issue of collective responsibility.

THE HINDU Page 11

PRAVASI BHARATIYA SAMMAN AWARD

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Awards & Sports)

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman for Darshan Singh Dhaliwal

U.S.-based billionaire Darshan Singh Dhaliwal who was denied entry into India because of his support to the 2020-21 farmers' protest has been honoured with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA), the highest government award for overseas Indians. Mr. Dhaliwal's name features in a list of 27 awardees that includes Israel-based restaurateur Reena Pushkarna and CEO of Fedex Raj Subramaniam. He landed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport on October 23, 2021, but was denied entry by the immigration officials. The issue snowballed with Mr. Dhaliwal hinting that he was denied permission because of his support to the farmers' protest.

Context: US-based billionaire Darshan Singh Dhaliwal who was denied entry into India because of his support to the 2020-'21 farmers protest has been honoured with the **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA),** the highest government award for overseas Indians.

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA)

- **About**: The **highest honor conferred on overseas Indians** during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, which will be held from January 8 to 10 in Indore this year.
  - The award is **presented by the President of India** as **part of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention** to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), or organizations established and run by NRIs or PIOs in recognition of their outstanding achievements both in India and abroad.
- **Award committee**: A jury-cum-awards committee, with the **Vice President as the chairman** and the External Affairs Minister as the vice-chair, considered the nominations and unanimously selected the awardees.
- **Significance**: The PBSA **recognizes the contributions and achievements of NRIs and PIOs** to their respective fields, as well as their efforts in maintaining a strong connection with their homeland.
  - The **chief guest at this year's convention, President of Guyana Mohamed Irfaan Ali,** is a testament to the importance of the PBSA and the role of the Indian diaspora in the development of their home country.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

- **About**: A **biennial event** held in January, to **commemorate the return of Mahatma Gandhi** from South Africa on 9th January 1915.
  - This day **marks the contribution of the overseas Indian community** towards the country's development.
- **Origin**: The first time it was observed in **2003** and it was made a biennial event from 2015.
- **Sponsors**: **Ministry of External Affairs**, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 10

CEMENT INDUSTRY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Cautious outlook for cement sector

Given margin pressure and gradual demand revival, companies with strong balance sheets may gain in the long run

DEVANGSHU DATTA

The cement industry continues to present a puzzle to investors.

Five large cement majors with combined market share of about 49 per cent have large capex plans.

This is despite surplus industry capacity over demand and low current utilisation.

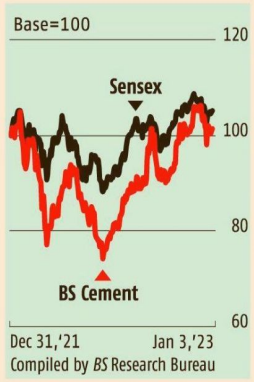
Demand is expected to grow at around 9 per cent per annum between FY22-23 and FY24-25. Volume growth during April-December 2022 could be around 10-11 per cent, year-on-year (YoY).

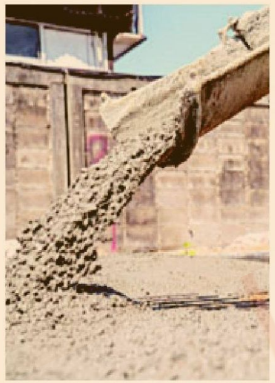
This fiscal (FY22-23) has seen a small increase in demand, with further revival likely over Q4, and through FY23-24.

This is due to pre-election construction and likely infra-push in the Union Budget.

Good monsoon, higher crop prices coupled with the government's focus on infrastructure development, in areas like power, telecom, roads, metros and dedicated rail corridors should generate strong demand.

Despite a small drop in month-on-month (MoM) prices in December, all-India average cement prices have risen 3 per cent YoY and 2 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) in Q3, FY22-23.





Most cement firms are expected to hike prices in mid/late January. Costs are still elevated which means lower margins. However fuel costs have stabilised and coal/petcoke prices have also flattened out. Costs may have peaked, or may be close to a peak.

However, rising interest costs and high travel costs may continue to impact margins adversely. Most analysts expect gradual return of profit margins. Capacity growth may be around 5-6 per cent per annum through FY22-23 to FY24-25.

This is in line with historical capacity growth of around 5 per cent CAGR between FY11-12 and FY21-22. It is from 335 MT in FY11-12 to over 555 MT in FY21-22.

Further consolidation may occur in the cement industry, especially because mid-sized and small-sized companies with high-cost structures and bloated balance sheets are vulnerable. This may lead to a churn and near-term challenges and merger rumours could have unpredictable effects on share prices of listed stocks.

The sector has generally underperformed the broader market in terms of share price returns. While the Nifty is up about 6 per cent in the last 12 months and down 3 per cent in the last 30 days, cement majors have lower returns.

The two big gainers in the sector are ACC and Ambuja Cements on the basis of takeover by the Adani group. Shree Cement, UltraTech and Ramco have negative returns while Dalmia Bharat is barely positive.

Given the situation of continued margin pressure and gradual revival of demand, it's definitely an industry for cautious investment.

The long-term prospects are good, but only cement companies with strong deleveraged balance sheets and comparative advantages in terms of logistics will do well.There could be a surge on speculative investment if the Budget holds promise on the demand side. An end to the Ukraine war would be another positive trigger since it would lead to reduction in fuel costs.

Context: Despite a small drop in month on month (MoM) prices in December, all India average **cement prices have risen** 3 per cent YoY and 2 per cent quarter on quarter (QoQ) in Q3, FY 22-23.

Cement Industry in India

- **About**: Cement Industry is mainly **based on non-metallic mineral.**
  - Its major raw materials are **limestone and coal.**
  - At present, the raw-materials that have emerged as an alternative are **oceanic shells, slug and stage.**
  - The cement industries which use oceanic shells as a raw material has been set up at **Dwarka (Gujarat), Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), and Chennai (Tamil Nadu).**
- **Cement**: It is manufactured through a closely controlled chemical combination of **calcium, silicon, aluminum, iron and other ingredients.**
  - Common materials used to manufacture cement include **limestone, shells, and chalk or marl combined with shale, clay, slate, blast furnace slag, silica sand, and iron ore.**
- **Distribution**: First cement plant was set up in **Porbandar, Gujarat in 1904** whereas the production of cement was started in 1904 in Madras (Now Chennai).
  - Nearly **33% of India's cement production capacity is based in South India**, 22% in North India, 13% in Central and West India, and the remaining 19% is based in East India.
  - Of the total 210 large cement plants in India, 77 are located in the states of **Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu.**
- **Production**: India is the **second largest producer** of cement in the world.
  - **China is the largest producer** of cement in the world.
  - Of the total capacity, **98 percent lies with the private sector** and the rest with the public sector.
  - Cement production in India increased from 230.49 million tonnes in 2011-12 to 297.56 million tonnes in 2017-18.
- **FDI**: The cement sector was liberalized and **100 percent foreign direct investment (FDI)** is permitted in the cement industry through automatic route.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 13

UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO)

Shell of the kind found near CM Mann's residence could be a from a field firing exercise or part of military scrap



Army bomb squad members inspect the shell on Tuesday. *Kamleshwar Singh*

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 3

AN UNEXPLODED artillery shell was found near the official residence of Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann in Chandigarh on Monday.

UXO: A piece of military ammunition or explosive device that remains unexploded even after it has been primed and fired is known as an Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) in military parlance. UXOs may be leftovers from a war, military battle inoculation exercise, field firing exercise, or may even be part of military scrap that is brought from other countries to extract metal.

Preliminary examination by ammunition experts and the Army's bomb disposal squad has established the UXO found in Chandigarh to be a vintage shell. Details of their findings, including the kind of explosive, will be shared with the Chandigarh Administration on Wednesday, sources said.

DANGEROUS? All unexploded munitions are treated as potentially dangerous and capable of getting detonated until proven otherwise in a professional assessment by military ammunition experts. Civilians are always advised to maintain a safe distance, and to inform police or the district administration whenever such an unexploded munition or device is found.

The civilian administration is expected to get in touch with the nearest Army station who will then despatch Army Ordnance Corps personnel who are ammunition experts, and who can identify the UXO and decide the safest way of handling it.

The experts may decide to take the UXO to a distant place or to explode it *in situ* after considering its volatility and whether it can be transported safely.

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Context: An **unexploded artillery** shell was found near the official residence of Punjab Chief Minister in Chandigarh.

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

- **About:** A **military ammunition or explosive device** that remains unexploded even after it has been primed and fired is known as Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) in military parlance.
  - Such UXO can be **left-overs from a war**, a military battle inoculation exercise, field firing exercises or even be part of military scrap that is often exported from one country to another to extract metal.
- **Threat from UXO**: All unexploded munitions are treated as **potentially dangerous and capable of detonating** till proven otherwise by professional assessment by military ammunition experts.
- **Disposing off process**: The Army ammunition experts **examine the ammunition and make a decision** as to whether it will be safe to take the unexploded ordnance to a distant place like a firing range and explode it, or whether it will be better is exploded in situ, with all safety measures in place.
  - This decision is taken **considering the volatility of the ammunition** and if it can be transported safely.
- **Illegal sale**: In most cases in India, unexploded ordnance from military field firing ranges across the country are **picked up by locals who wish to make a quick buck by selling them to scrap dealers.**
  - The dealers extract metal like **copper from them, which is dangerous.**
  - There have been instances of **scrap pickers and scrap dealers** dying when such ammunition explodes.

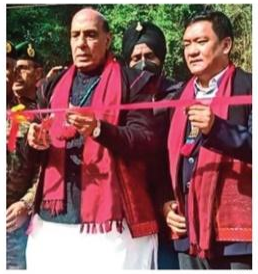


ECONOMIC TIMES 4

BORDER ROADS ORGANISATION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

Seek Peace, Ready to Face Any Challenge: Rajnath in Arunachal





Rajnath Singh inaugurating the Siyom Bridge. The bridge will facilitate speedy induction of troops and equipment to forward areas of Upper Siang district

PTI

Bikash.Singh
@timesgroupm.com

Guwahati: India does not believe in war but is prepared to face any challenge that arises before it, defence minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday, during his first visit to Arunachal Pradesh since the December 9 India-China faceoff in the Tawang sector.

In the state to inaugurate projects of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Singh pointed to a statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Russian President Vladimir Putin that the present era was not one of war. "Through this statement, the Prime Minister brought this resolve of the country to the attention of the world," he said.

Throughout its history, India never began a war and never captured even an inch of another country's territory, the minister said, adding: "But if anyone mistakes our peace-loving nature as our weakness, I would like to assert that we worship not only peace, but also strength."

He added: "Conflicts of some or the other kind are being seen frequently around the world. India has always been against war, and this has always been its policy."

On Tuesday, Singh inaugurated 28 infrastructure projects, built at a cost ₹724 cr, in Arunachal Pradesh. These comprised 22 bridges, three roads and three other projects, built under challenging weather conditions at inhospitable terrains.

On Tuesday, Singh inaugurated 28 infra projects, including 22 bridges, in Arunachal

According to the defence ministry, the highlight of the event was the inauguration of a 100-meter-long bridge over the Siyom River.

This bridge will facilitate speedy induction of troops, heavy equipment and mechanised vehicles to forward areas of the Upper Siang district, and the Tuting and Yinkiong regions and will also boost socioeconomic development of the regions.

Context: Defence minister said India does not believe in war but is prepared to face any challenge that arises before it at the inauguration of the **Siyom Bridge in Arunachal.**

- The bridge on the Siyom River was among 28 projects of the **Border Roads Organisation**.

Key Points

- The Siyom Bridge is a state-of-the-art 100-meter long, Class 70 Steel Arch **Superstructure Siyom Bridge over Siyom River** in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The **Siyom rises on the south of the main ridge of the Assam Himalaya** not far from the border with Tibet.
- The Siyom initially **flows in a southerly direction**, later in an easterly and southerly direction through the West Siang District.
- The **Saje River** is the most prominent of its several tributaries.

Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

- **About:** A **modern and transnational construction organization** that is committed to meeting the strategic requirements of the Indian armed forces.
  - This organization plays an equally important part in the **infrastructure development of the border areas of the country.**
- **Origin**: The Organisation was **formed on May 7, 1960,** to maintain and develop the Indian remote areas of north and northeast situated near the borders.
  - The **BRO Raising Day** is celebrated on May 7, every year.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Initially, BRO was functional under the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**.
  - But since 2015, it is being managed and is functional under the **Ministry of Defence.**
- **Composition**: The composition of this organization **comprises Officers and troops who are selected from the Indian Army's Corps** of Engineers, Army Service Corps, Military Police, and other personnel
- **Operations**: BRO is operational in **21 Indian states and 1 union territory.**
  - But also, functional in India's friendly countries like neighboring countries such as **Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.**
  - BRO works under set **guidelines or as instructed by the Government of the country.**
- **Key Achievements**: One of the biggest infrastructural achievements of BRO is the construction of the l**ongest highway tunnel constructed in Himachal Pradesh, and named The Atal Tunnel,** in the fond memory of the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 1

FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - International Organisations)

Report: FATF may 'greylist' Nepal for laundering, terror financing

Kathmandu: Nepal is at real risk of being put on the grey-list by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as there are deficiencies in both its legislation and enforcement of laws related to money laundering and terror financing, writes Prithvi Man Shrestha in The Kathmandu Post.

Nepal is struggling to address deficiencies to comply with the standards of the FATF related to anti-money laundering and terror financing. The grey-listing could be damaging to Nepal's economy which is heavily reliant on foreign aid, remittances and imports.

A delegation of the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), a FATF-style regional anti-money laundering body recently visited Nepal to assess the country's response to money laundering and terror financing, reported Shrestha.

Officials said the APG would only include the progress made till December 16 in its mutual evaluation report, which makes Nepal liable to being greylisted if not blacklisted.

Nepal was on the greylist from 2008-2014. After a series of progress made on the anti-laundering regime, the FATF removed Nepal from the list in 2014. Nepal has identified 15 laws that need to be amended. "We initiated the process but before the amendments could happen the tenure of the erstwhile House of Representatives expired," said Dhan Raj Gyawali, secretary at the PM's office. ANI

Context: Nepal is at real risk of being put on the **greylist by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** as there are deficiencies in both its legislation and enforcement of laws related to money laundering and terror financing.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- **About**: It is an **inter-governmental body** that sets international standards seeking to prevent international financial crimes that aid terrorism.
- **Origin**: The FATF was **established in July 1989 by a G-7 Summit in Paris,** initially to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.
- **Objective:** The FATF has developed the FATF Recommendations, or FATF Standards, which ensure a coordinated global response to prevent organised crime, corruption and terrorism.
- **Composition**: The FATF **currently comprises 37 member jurisdictions and two regional organizations** (European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council), representing most major financial centers in all parts of the globe.
  - **India has been a member of the FATF since 2010.**
  - India is also a member of its regional partners, the Asia Pacific Group (APG) and the Eurasian Group (EAG).
- **Headquarters**: Its Secretariat is located at the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD**) headquarters in **Paris.**
- **Lists under FATF:**
  - **Grey List (also known as the "increased monitoring list")**: Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list.
    - Grey listing means FATF has placed a country **under increased monitoring** to check its progress on measures against money laundering and terrorism financing.
    - **Countries in Grey List:** Syria, Turkey, Myanmar, Philippines, South Sudan, Uganda, and Yemen.
  - **Black List**: Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities.
    - The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.
    - Currently, **Iran and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) are under High-risk Jurisdiction or black list.**
- **Sessions**: The FATF Plenary is the decision-making body of the FATF.
  - It **meets three times per year.**

PIB

Jan 4

GREEN HYDROGEN BLENDING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)

NTPC starts India's first green hydrogen blending operation in PNG network

Context: National Thermal Power Corporation Private Ltd. started **India's first green hydrogen blending operation** in piped natural gas (PNG) network

Key Points

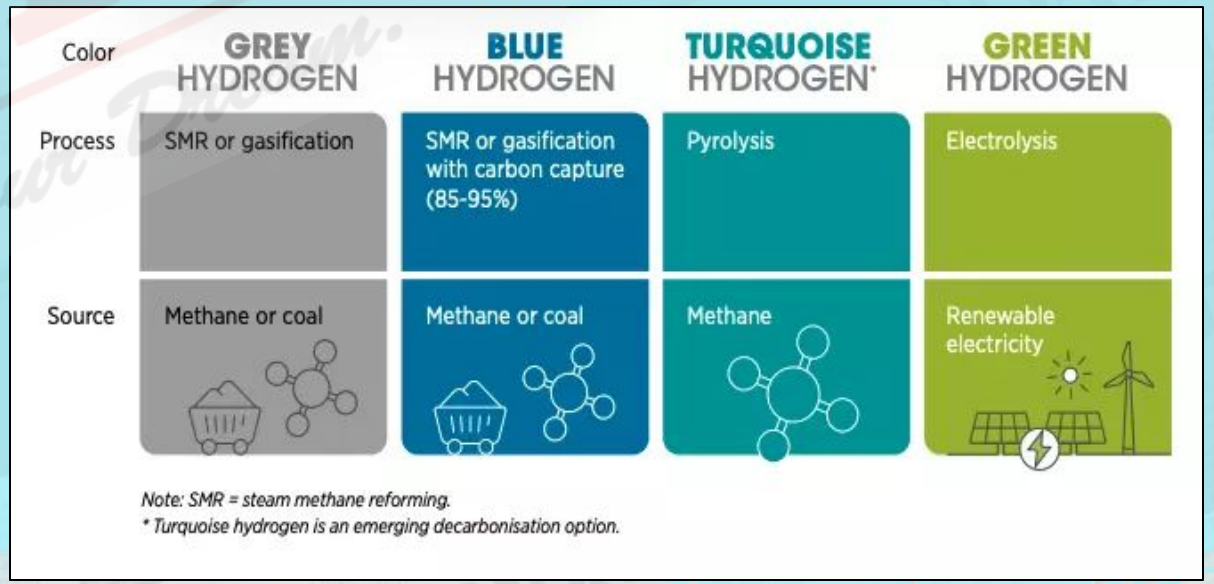
- The **green hydrogen blending** has been started in the piped natural gas (PNG) network of NTPC **Kawas township, Surat.** The project is a **joint effort of NTPC and Gujarat Gas Limited (GGL).**
- The set-up is geared up to supply H2-NG (natural gas) to households of **Kawas township at Adityanagar, Surat.**
- Green hydrogen in Kawas is **made by electrolysis of water** using power from already installed 1 MW floating solar project.
- **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB**), the regulatory body has given approval for 5% vol./vol. blending of green hydrogen with PNG to start with and the blending level would be scaled phase wise to reach 20%.
- Green hydrogen when blended with natural gas **reduces CO2 emissions** keeping net heating content same.
- The project would bring India at the centre stage of the **global hydrogen economy.**
- India would not only reduce its hydrocarbon import bill significantly but can also **bring forex ashore** by being a green hydrogen and green chemicals exporter to the world.

Green Hydrogen

- Green hydrogen is defined as **hydrogen produced by splitting water** into hydrogen and oxygen using renewable electricity.
- It is a **colourless, odourless, tasteless, non-toxic and highly combustible gaseous substance.**
- Hydrogen is the **lightest, simplest** and most abundant member of the family of chemical elements in the universe.
- The colour - green - prefixed to it makes hydrogen the **"fuel of the future".**
- The 'green' depends on how the electricity is generated to obtain the hydrogen, which does **not emit greenhouse gas when burned.**

Government Missions towards hydrogen fuel

- The Finance Minister in the **Union budget for 2020-21** formally announced the **National Hydrogen Mission** which aims for generation of hydrogen from green power resources.
- Recently, India's first 99.99% pure **green hydrogen pilot plant** was set up in eastern Assam's Duliajan, at the petroleum exploration major's Jorhat pump station.



PIB

Jan 4

ASIAN PACIFIC POSTAL UNION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Organisations)

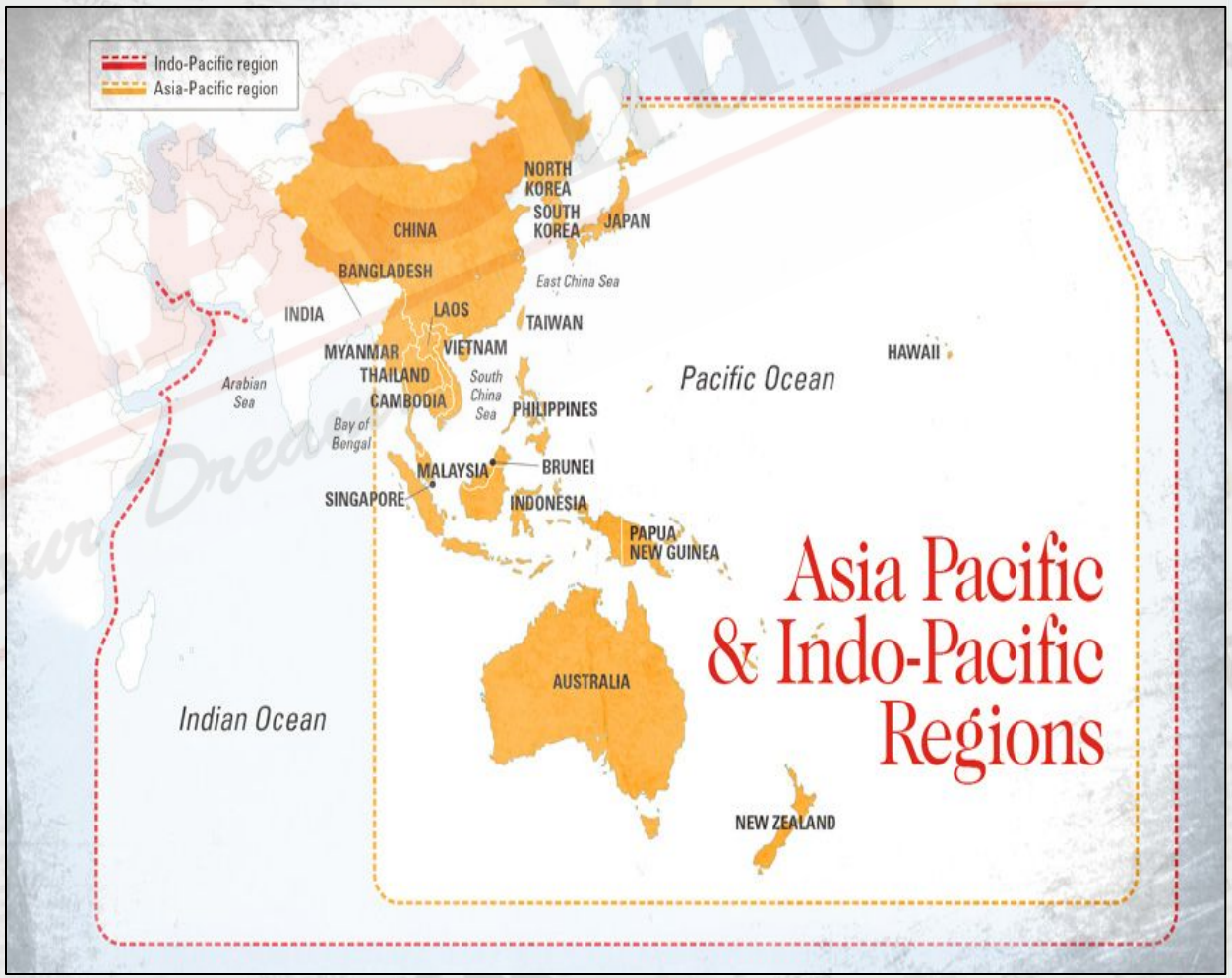
India takes over leadership of the Asian Pacific Postal Union

Context: India will take over the leadership of the **Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU)** having its Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand from this month.

- Following the successful elections held during the **13th APPU Congress** held in Bangkok during August- September 2022, erstwhile Member (Personnel) of Postal Services Board will take over the charge of Secretary General of the Union for a tenure of 4 years.

Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU)

- **About**: It is an **intergovernmental organization** of 32-member countries of the Asian-Pacific region.
  - **India is also a member of the APPU.**
- **Specialized agency**: APPU is the **only Restricted Union of the Universal Postal Union (UPU)** in the region, which is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- **Objectives**: The goal of APPU is to **extend, facilitate and improve postal relations** between member countries and to promote cooperation in the field of postal services.
  - As the regional center for various UPU projects, APPU also takes the lead in ensuring that all technical and operational projects of the UPU are fulfilled in the region so that the region is **integrated into the global postal network in the best possible way.**
- **Administration and Governance**: Secretary General leads the activities of the Union and is also the Director of the **Asian Pacific Postal College (APPC)** which is the largest intergovernmental postal training institute in the region.



DTE

Jan 4

HORN OF AFRICA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)





Context: The number of children suffering terrible drought conditions across **Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia** has more than doubled in five months, according to UNICEF.

- In the **Horn of Africa**, nearly 70 per cent of the **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region** comprise arid and semi-arid lands prone to recurrent droughts.
- The **east African region** stretches from Eritrea in the north, through Ethiopia and Djibouti to the southern tips of Kenya and Somalia.

Horn of Africa

- **About**: The North-Eastern region of the African continent including the countries of **Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia (to remember, use initials - SEEDS)** is known as the Horn of Africa since the group of countries form a horn-like landmass over the peninsula.
  - It is a **peninsula** in Northeast Africa.
- **Locations**: Located on the **easternmost part of the African mainland,** it is the fourth largest peninsula in the world.
  - It lies along the s**outhern boundary of the Red Sea** and extends hundreds of kilometres into the **Guardafui Channel, Gulf of Aden, and Indian Ocean.**
  - It is **equidistant from the equator** and the Tropic of Cancer.
- **Physical Features:** It consists chiefly of mountains uplifted through the formation of the **Great Rift Valley,** a fissure in the Earth's crust extending from Turkey to Mozambique and marking the separation of the African and Arabian tectonic plates.
  - The Horn contains such diverse areas as the highlands of the **Ethiopian Plateau, the Ogaden desert, and the Eritrean and Somali coasts.**
  - Its coasts are washed by the **Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the Indian Ocean.**

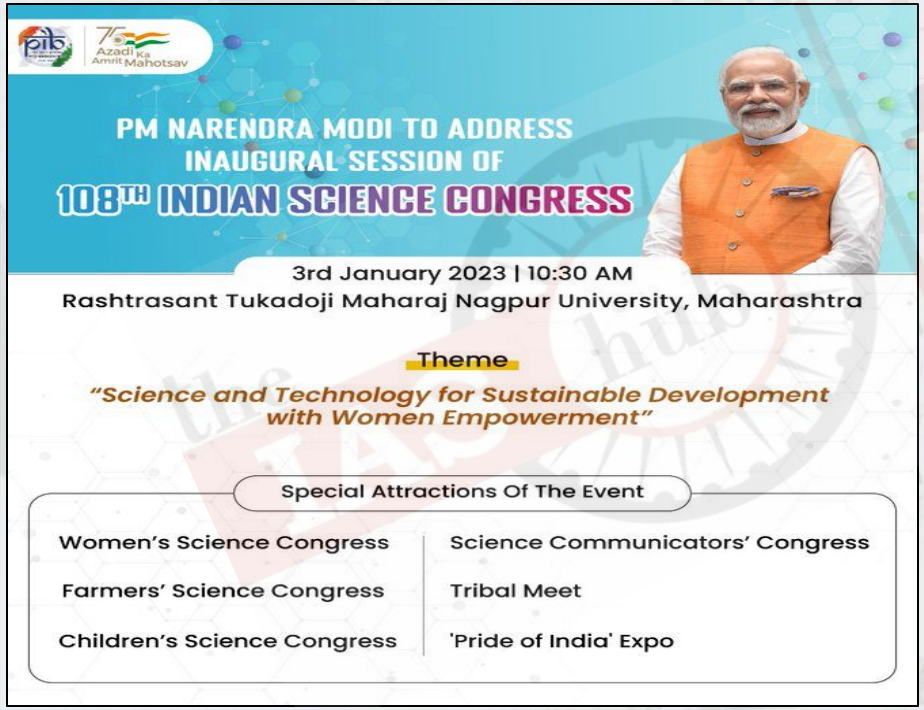
DTE

Jan 4

INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Govt Policies & Interventions)





Context: The **108th session of the India Science Congress (ISC)** was inaugurated on January 3, 2023 after a two-year break.

- The event's t**heme is 'Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women's Empowerment'.**
- It is being held in **Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RTMNU), Nagpur.**

Indian Science Congress

- **About**: It is the **annual gathering** of researchers in India.
  - It is organized by **ISCA (Indian Science Congress Association),** headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal.
  - This professional body established in 1914 falls under the **Science and Technology Department of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.**
- **Origin**: The first gathering of the **Indian Science Congress was held in 1914** at the premises of the Asiatic Society in Calcutta.
  - Since then, the conference has been held in the **first week of January every year**.
  - The Indian Science Congress Association is the brainchild and initiative of two British Chemists, **Professor J. L. Simonsen and Professor P.S. McMahon.**
- **Key developments:**
  - **Foreign Scientists Participation:** India began seeing the **participation of foreign scientists** and academics since the 34th annual session of the Indian Science Congress.
  - **Introduction of Focal Theme:** The General President of ISCA in 1976 introduced the **focal theme of national relevance in the Association.**
    - The theme is now discussed in every section, committee, and forum during the annual session.
  - **Young Scientist Award Program**: The Association introduced the **program for young scientists** from the 68th session held in 1981.
    - Young scientists present their **research work and exchange ideas** through the program.
    - The candidates making the best presentation are **awarded prize money and a certificate of merit.**

THANK YOU!

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