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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

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FACE RECOGNITION SYSTEM
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

Centre to introduce DNA, face matching systems at police stations across country

It will be implemented under the Criminal Procedure Identification Act which was passed last year; the law enables police and Central investigating agencies to collect, store, and analyse physical and biological samples, including retina and iris scan of arrested persons; NCRB to prepare the SOPs

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

More than a year after the Criminal Procedure Identification Act was passed by Parliament, the Centre is all set to roll out "DNA and face-matching" systems at 1,300 police stations across the country.

The provisions of the Act are yet to be implemented entirely on the ground. There are logistic and connectivity issues too, officials said.

The law enables the police and the Central investigating agencies to collect, store, and analyse physical and biological samples, including retina and iris scans of arrested persons.

The law was passed by Parliament in April 2022 and the rules were notified in September last year.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a Central organisation tasked with rolling out the Act, was assigned the task of finalising the standard operating procedures (SOP) to be followed by police officials.

Though the Act and rules do not explicitly mention the collection of DNA samples and face-matching procedure, the NCRB, in meetings with State police officials, informed them that the said measures would be rolled out in around 1,300 locations spread across police districts, commissionerates, and special investigation units at State headquarters.

The Union Home Ministry has constituted a Domain Committee for the successful implementation of the Act with representatives from the State Police, Central law enforcement agencies, and other key stakeholders. A technical sub-committee for preparing the SOPs for capturing DNA as a measurement has also been constituted.



Keeping track: The Act replaced the 100-year-old Identification of Prisoners Act, whose scope was limited. ISTOCKPHOTO

The States have been asked to identify the locations and prepare the sites where the measurement collection unit (MCU) may be established as suggested by the NCRB. The Central body under the Home Ministry will be the repository of the database at the national level.

A Delhi Police official said they were recording measurements such as thumb and finger impressions and photographs of accused persons according to the old format and were also using the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS).

Under the NAFIS, another project maintained and managed by NCRB, workstations and scanners have been put up at around 1,300 police stations. It has fingerprint details, a unique 10-digit number of more than one crore people, accused and convicts, across the country. This database is also being integrated with the Criminal Procedure Identification Act.

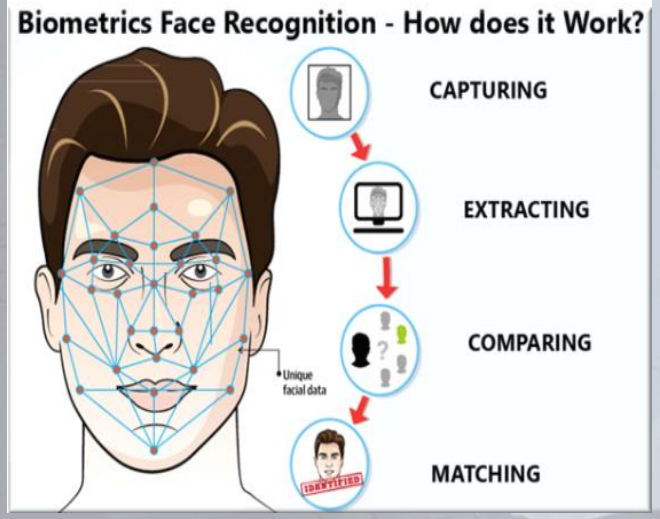
The Act replaced the 100-year-old Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920 whose scope was limited to capturing finger impressions, footprints, and photographs of convicted prisoners and a specific category of arrested and non-convicted persons under the orders of a Magistrate.

An official said the NCRB has cautioned against the misuse of databases by ensuring identification and deployment of appropriate safeguards, adding that only designated officials must have access in real time.

A police official from a northeastern State said training and resources were the teething problems. "The police are often short on funds, though the Home Ministry will bear the cost of hardware and others and the cost of a secure Internet line and other operating costs will have to be borne by the State," the official said.

The NCRB has said the tools and systems used by the police should be technologically, legally, and forensically sound and accredited.

When the Act was introduced in Parliament in March 2022, the Opposition opposed the Bill, terming it "unconstitutional" and an attack on privacy.



Context: The **Centre's decision to deploy 'DNA and Face Matching' systems** at 1,300 police stations across the country comes as a recently welcomed development, considering the delayed i**mplementation of the Criminal Procedure Identification Act (CrPI)**.

Facial Recognition System

- **About:** Facial recognition is a technology **driven by algorithms that generate a digital** representation of a person's face by detecting and mapping their facial characteristics.
- **Purpose**: This system serves the purpose of identifying individuals from images.
- Process: The system starts by receiving a face image or an image sequence as its input.
- It can acquire images in real-time through the use of cameras and sensors.
- **Matching and Extraction**: The Face Recognition System (FRS) then performs feature extraction and matches it with images stored in a database.

Two Critical Processes

- **Verification**: This is a 1-to-1 matching system where the individual's biometric data is compared to a reference biometric already on file for authentication.
- **Identification**: This process involves a 1-to-many matching system, allowing the system to identify unknown individuals or biometrics.

Utilized by Various Countries

- **China:** The Chinese government has employed this technology to monitor and track Uighurs, a Muslim minority within the country.
- **United Kingdom (UK)**: In 2020, the UK used facial recognition technology to monitor football fans arriving for a match.
- **India:** Concerns have arisen in India regarding the use of facial recognition technology by the police, particularly during protests.

PIB Oct 24

PM SVANIDHI
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Government Schemes)

PM acknowledges transformative impact of PM SVANidhi

Context: The **Prime Minister of India** recently shared an in-depth research report by the State Bank of India that provides a clear picture of the **transformative impact of PM SVANidhi.**

PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)

- **Launched:** June 01, 2020
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- **Objective**: Offering cost-effective **working capital loans to street vendors**, enabling them to revive their livelihoods impacted **by the Covid-19 lockdown**.
  - It is a **special micro-credit facility** plan to provide affordable loans of up to 10,000 to **more than 50 lakh street vendors**, who had their businesses operational on or before 24 March.
- **Lending Agencies**: Microfinance Institutions, Non-Banking Financial Companies, Self Help Groups
- **Eligible for the Loan**
- Vendors with vending experience dating back to or **before March 24, 2020**, and possessing a vending certificate are eligible for the loan.
- The **Street Vendors Act 2014 mandates** Town Vending Committees, consisting of local authorities and area vendors, to issue vending certificates following a comprehensive survey of all vendors.

Benefits of Scheme

- Vendors can **access a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000**, with repayment in monthly installments over one year.
- Timely or **early loan repayments will result in a 7% annual interest** subsidy deposited into beneficiaries' bank accounts quarterly via Direct Benefit Transfer.
- Early repayment of the loan will **not incur any penalties**.

INDIA'S GDP GROWTH

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)



'India to outpace Japan to become second-largest economy by 2030'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 24

INDIA'S GROSS domestic product (GDP) is expected to rise to $7.3 trillion by 2030 and it will surpass Japan to become the second largest economy in the Asia-Pacific region, S&P Global Market Intelligence said in a recent article.

By 2030, India's GDP is also forecast to surpass Germany. At the end of 2022, the size of Indian GDP had already become larger than the GDP of the UK and also France, it said. India is now the third-largest economy in the Asia-Pacific region and the fifth-largest in the world.

"India's nominal GDP measured in USD terms is forecast to rise from $3.5 trillion in 2022 to $7.3 trillion by 2030. This rapid pace of economic expansion would result in the size of the Indian GDP exceeding Japanese GDP by 2030, making India the second largest economy in the Asia-Pacific region," S&P Global Market Intelligence said in an article published on October 20.

India is expected to continue to be one of the world's fastest growing economies over the next decade, which will make it one of the most important long-term growth markets for multinationals in a wide range of industries, including manufacturing industries such as autos, electronics and chemicals to services industries such as banking, insurance, asset management, health care and information technology, it said.

The article said that after two years of rapid economic growth in 2021 and 2022, the Indian economy has continued to show sustained strong growth during the 2023 calendar year. The country's GDP growth rate rose to a pace of 7.8 per cent year-on-year in April-June of 2023, compared with growth of 6.1 per cent in the January-March quarter of 2023. The strong growth rate was despite high base year effects after GDP growth of 13.1 per cent y/y in the April-June quarter of 2022.

"The near-term economic outlook is for continued rapid expansion during the remainder of

by strong growth in domestic demand," the article said. The acceleration of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into India over the past decade reflects the favourable long-term growth outlook for the Indian economy, helped by a youthful demographic profile and rapidly rising urban household incomes, it said.

The long-term outlook for the Indian economy is supported by a number of key growth drivers, with its large and fast-growing middle class being an important factor which is helping to drive consumer spending, the article said.

It said that the rapidly growing Indian domestic consumer market as well as its large industrial sector have made the country an increasingly important investment destination for a wide range of multinationals in many sectors, including manufacturing, infrastructure and services.

The digital transformation of India that is currently underway is expected to accelerate the growth of e-commerce, changing the retail consumer market landscape over the next decade. This is attracting leading global multinationals in technology and e-commerce to the domestic market.

By 2030, 1.1 billion Indians will have internet access, more than doubling from the estimated 500 million internet users in 2020. The rapid growth of e-commerce and the shift to 4G and 5G smartphone technology will boost home-grown unicorns like online e-commerce platform Mensa Brands, logistics startup Delhivery and the fast-growing online grocer BigBasket, whose e-sales have surged during the pandemic, it said. The large increase in FDI inflows to India that has been evident over the past five years is also continuing with strong momentum evident even during the pandemic years of 2020-2022.

India's strong FDI inflows have been boosted by large inflows of investments from global technology MNCs such as Google and Facebook that are attracted to India's large, fast-growing domestic consumer market, as well as a strong upturn in foreign direct investment inflows from

Context: The recently published **issue of PMI by S&P Global Market Intelligence** predicts that India, the world's fifth largest economy, is poised to **surpass Japan and become the third-largest economy** with a GDP of USD 7.3 trillion by 2030.

Key Points

- India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow 6.2-6.3 per cent in the fiscal year ending in March 2024, being **the fastest-growing major economy** this fiscal year.
- **Asia's third-largest economy grew** by a stellar 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter.
- India's nominal **GDP measured in USD terms** is forecast to rise from USD 3.5 trillion in 2022 to USD 7.3 trillion by 2030.
- This rapid pace of economic expansion would result in the size of the Indian GDP exceeding Japanese GDP by 2030, making **India the second largest economy in the Asia-Pacific region.**

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

- The GDP is the **total market value of all final goods and services** in an economy.
- Country performance can be evaluated by comparing GDP figures from one year to another and by comparing them to other nations.
- **GDP growth can stem from** increased production, rising prices of goods and services, or a combination of both.
- **Growth of GDP**: It can be either due to increase in actual production or due to increase in prices of goods and services or combination of both the above two factors.
- **Nominal GDP**: It is the value of GDP at the current prevailing prices.
- **Real GDP**: It is the value of GDP at some constant set of prices.

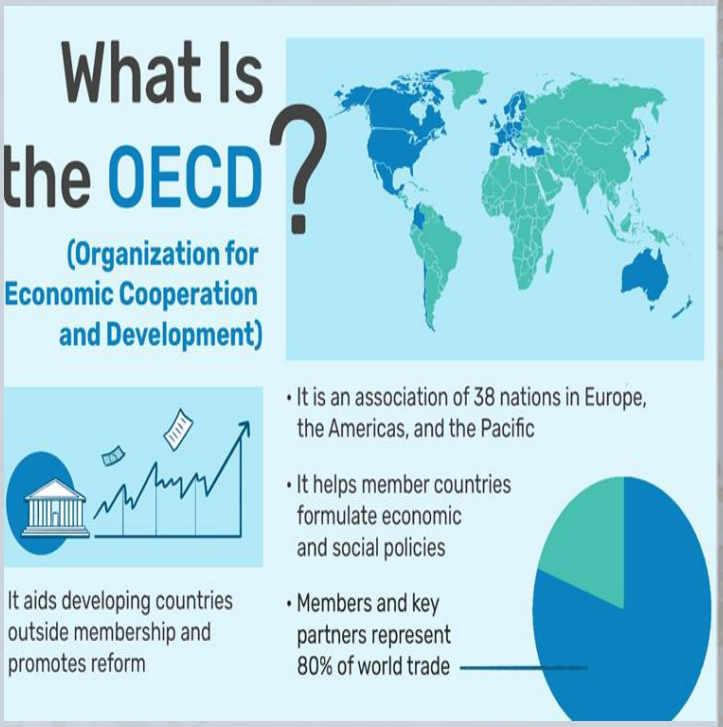
DTE Oct 24

OECD
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – International Organization)

Nearly half a million Indians migrated to OECD countries in 2021: Report

Context: India saw the **highest migration flows to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** countries in 2021 and 2022, according to the 'International Migration Outlook 2023' recently released.

- India replaces China as the main country of origin of new migrants to OECD countries in 2020.
- **In terms of workers**, migration flows from India (+172 per cent), Uzbekistan (+122 per cent) and Turkey (+240 per cent) rose sharply, making them primary countries of origin after Ukraine.



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

- **About**: OECD is an association of 38 member countries, most being rich developed nations that attract migrant workers and students.
  - India is not a member of OECD.
- **Founded**: 1961, by 18 European nations, plus the United States and Canada.
- **Headquarters**: Paris, France.
- **Members**: The majority of OECD members are high-income economies with a very high Human Development Index (HDI) and are regarded as developed countries.
- **Aim**: Fostering economic development and cooperation and fighting poverty through the promotion of economic stability.

LIVEMINT

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EXERCISE HARIMAU SHAKTI

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)



India, Malaysia hold military exercise

A joint bilateral training exercise of Indian and Malaysian armies has commenced in Meghalaya's Umroi Cantonment to enhance military capability for conduct of multi-domain operations in a sub-conventional scenario.

The previous edition of the exercise was conducted in Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia in November 2022.

The exercise will engage approximately 120 personnel from both sides with both contingents establishing a joint command post and an integrated surveillance grid along with a Joint Surveillance Centre. PTI

Context: Recently, **Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi** Cantonment, India.

Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023

- **About:** It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- **Contingents**: Malaysian Contingent (5th Royal Battalion of the Malaysian Army).
  - Indian Contingent (Rajput Regiment).
- **Aim**: Enhance military capability for conducting Multi Domain Operations in a sub-conventional scenario.
- **Activity**: Establishing a Joint Command Post.
- **Task**: Setting up an integrated surveillance grid with a Joint Surveillance Centre.
- Operational Environment:
- **Focus**: Intelligence collection, collation, and dissemination drills.
- **2022 Edition**: Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia.

PIB Oct 24

PM - AJAY
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Government Scheme)

PRADHAN MANTRI ANUSUCHIT JAATI ABHUYDAY YOJANA

Context: The **Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana** (PM- AJAY) has been implemented since 2021-22.

Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana (PM- AJAY)

- **About:** It is a merged scheme of 03 Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) and Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana(BJRCY)
- **Implemented**: Since 2021-22
- **Aim**: To reduce **poverty of the SC communities by generation** of additional employment opportunities through Skill development, income generating schemes and other initiatives.
  - **To improve socio-economic developmental** indicators by ensuring adequate infrastructure and requisite services in the SC dominated villages.
- **3 Components of Scheme**
  - Development of **SC dominated villages** into an “Adarsh Gram”.
  - "**Grants-in-aid support District/State projects** for SC socio-economic betterment, covering infrastructure, schools, livelihood programs, and financial aid for asset creation."
  - **Construction of hostels in top-ranked** higher educational institutions and government-funded schools, **as per NIRF rankings** and Ministry of Education recommendations, is a priority.

DTE Oct 24

CYCLONE HAMOON

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Disaster Management)

Cyclone Hamoon: Deep depression in Bay of Bengal may intensify into cyclonic storm on October 23, says IMD

Context: Recently, **Cyclone 'Hamoon' intensified** into a 'severe cyclonic storm' just a day after forming over the Bay of Bengal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

- According to The Weather Channel, Cyclone Hamoon is **currently in a deep depression over the west-central Bay of Bengal**. It is expected to intensify during the next 12 hours and move northwards.
- A **cyclonic disturbance is called a depression** if the associated sustained maximum wind speed at surface level is 17-27 knots, wherein a knot is equal to 1.86 kilometres per hour.

Cyclone Hamoon

- **About**: It is a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal region.
- The system will move nearly north-eastward and cross the Bangladesh coast between Khepupara and Chattogram.
- **Areas Affected**: Paradip (Odisha), Digha (West Bengal), Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, south Assam, Meghalaya and Khepupara (Bangladesh).

Favourable Conditions for Tropical Cyclone Formation

- Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27°C.
- Presence of the Coriolis force is enough to create a cyclonic vortex.
- Small variations in the vertical wind speed.
- A pre-existing weak low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation.
- Upper divergence above the sea level system.

HINDUSTAN TIMES

OCT 24

NCEL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

Centre unveils co-op for Indian organic exports

Context: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation recently addressed the '**National Symposium on Cooperative Exports**' organised by the **National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL)** in New Delhi.

- **India's first multi-state cooperative society** for exports, the National Cooperative Export Limited (NCEL), will promote the country's organic products and share half its returns with farmers.

National Cooperative Export Limited (NCEL)

- Established as **an overarching body for cooperative sector exports**, the NCEL has achieved remarkable success by securing orders worth Rs 7,000 crore.
- Emphasising the **importance of the cooperative sector** in boosting exports, the Union Minister of Cooperation highlighted that around 50% of export earnings would directly benefit farmers through NCEL.
- **Objectives of NCEL**: NCEL was established with several objectives, including boosting exports, especially in the agricultural sector, fostering prosperity among farmers, promoting changes in crop patterns, and enabling 2 crore farmers **to practice natural farming by 2027.**
  - **One of NCEL's objectives is to strengthen** the **cooperative sector**, which plays a crucial role in India's economy, contributing to 15% of GDP and employing 60% of the population.

- **Natural Farming:** Natural Farming is a **chemical-free farming system** rooted in Indian tradition enriched with modern understanding of ecology, resource recycling and on-farm resource optimization.
  - It is largely based on on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on **biomass-mulching, use of on-farm cow dung-urine formulations; maintaining soil aeration and exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs.**
  - Natural farming is expected to reduce dependency on purchased inputs. It is considered as a cost- effective farming practice with scope for increasing employment and rural development.
- **Natural Farming Initiatives**: Prime Minister of India initiated several projects to promote natural farming in India, **such as a multistate cooperative society** for selling organic products globally, aiming to provide higher prices to farmers and enhance their prosperity.

THE WIRE

Oct 24

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

Parliament's Public Accounts Committee to be Briefed on CAG Reports on Wednesday

Context: The **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** is expected to meet on October 25, where they will use **recently presented Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** reports to assess government financial performance during the monsoon session.

Public Accounts Committee (PAC)

- **About**: The PAC holds the distinction of being the oldest parliamentary committee in Indian legislative affairs and plays a pivotal role in upholding accountability by overseeing public expenditure.
- **Established**: In 1921 in the aftermath of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms.
- **Members**: 22 members, elected through a proportional representation system utilizing the single transferable vote method.
  - Annually, **fifteen members are elected from the Lok Sabha** among its members.
  - Additionally, the **Rajya Sabha elects seven members following a similar process** to join the Committee.
- **Representation within the Committee**: This method of election ensures that every political party or group is fairly represented on the Committee in accordance with their respective strengths in the two Houses.

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)

- **About:** The Constitution of India establishes the independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- The CAG serves as the **head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department** and holds the responsibility of safeguarding the public funds and overseeing the entire financial system of both the Central and State governments.
- **Appointment**: The **President appoints the CAG through a formal warrant** bearing his hand and seal.
- It is the duty of the **CAG to uphold the Constitution of India and adhere to the laws** enacted by Parliament in the realm of financial administration.
- **Evolution**: The concept of the CAG originated during British India. In May 1858, a distinct department was established, featuring an Accountant General who was accountable for auditing and managing financial transactions conducted under the East India Company (EIC).
- **Conditions of Service**: The salary and other terms of service for the CAGl are subject to determination by Parliament through legislation. Until such determination, these conditions remain as specified in the Second Schedule.

ECONOMIC TIMES Oct 24

CCPA
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Governance)

CCPA probing 20 IAS coaching centres for misleading ads, unfair trade practices

Context: **Consumer protection regulator CCPA** said it is recently probing 20 IAS coaching centres for alleged misleading advertisements and unfair trade practices of using toppers and **successful candidates' names and pictures** to influence prospective aspirants.

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)

- **About**: CCPA is a regulatory body established in 2020 based on the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- **Establishment**: In 2020
- **Control by;** Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
- **Composition**: Chief Commissioner as head, and only two other commissioners as members.
- **Objective**: To promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.

Functions of CCPA

- When examining **consumer rights violations,** it investigates and takes **appropriate measures,** including issuing recall orders for unsafe products or service withdrawals with refunds.
- It can **instruct traders, manufacturers, endorsers**, advertisers, or publishers to cease false or misleading advertising.
- **Penalties of up to Rs 10 lakh and a two-year imprisonment** can be imposed on manufacturers or endorsers for false or misleading advertisements, with higher fines and longer imprisonment for subsequent offenses.
- **It issues safety alerts to warn consumers** about unsafe goods and services.

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