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TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (TISS)



- It is a **multi-campus, public-funded research university** in Mumbai, India.
 - TISS is Asia's **oldest institute for professional social work education**.
 - It was founded in 1936 in the then-Bombay Presidency of British India as the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work by the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust.
 - In 1944, it was renamed the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.
 - **In 1964, TISS was declared Deemed to be a University under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act (UGC), 1956.**
 - TISS's **academic programs focus on the Social Sciences** and offer doctoral degrees in Management and Labour Studies, Disaster Studies, Development Studies, Education, Gender Studies, Health Studies, Law, Media and Cultural Studies, Public Policy, Rural Development and Social Work.
 - Since its inception, TISS has **had a focus on field activities**, including responding to disasters such as the Partition of India, the Bhopal disaster and Uttarakhand floods.
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INDIA'S NPA CRISIS

- **Definition:** A NPA is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remained overdue **for a period of 90 days**.
 - For banks, **a loan is an asset** because the interest paid on these loans is one of the most significant sources of income for the bank.
 - When customers, retail or corporates, are not able to pay the interest, the asset becomes 'non-performing' for the bank because it is **not earning anything for the bank**.

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- Therefore, the RBI has defined NPAs as assets **that stop generating income for banks.**
- Banks are required to make their NPAs numbers public and to the RBI as well from time to time.
- **Classification of assets:** As per the RBI guideline, banks are required to classify NPAs further into -
 - **Substandard assets:** Assets which have remained NPA for a period less than or equal to 12 months.
 - **Doubtful assets:** An asset that has remained in the substandard category for a period of 12 months.
 - **Loss assets:** It is considered uncollectible and of such little value that its continuance as a bankable asset is not warranted, although there may be some recovery value.
- **NPA Provisioning:** Provision for a loan refers to a certain percentage of loan amount set aside by the banks.
 - The standard rate of provisioning for loans in Indian banks varies from **5-20%** depending on the business sector and the repayment capacity of the borrower.
 - **In the cases of NPA**, 100% provisioning is required in accordance with the Basel-III norms.
- **GNPA and NNPA:** There are primarily two metrics that help us to understand the NPA situation of any bank.
 - **GNPA:** It is an absolute amount that talks about the total value of gross NPAs for the bank in a particular quarter or financial year as the case may be.
 - **NNPA:** Net NPAs subtracts the provisions made by the bank from the gross NPA. Therefore, net NPA gives the exact value of NPAs after the bank has made specific provisions for it.

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- **NPA Ratios:** NPAs can also be expressed as a **percentage of total advances**. It gives us an idea of **how much of the total advances is not recoverable**. For example,
 - GNPA ratio is the ratio of the total GNPA of the total advances.
 - NNPA ratio uses net NPA to find out the ratio to the total advances.

Key Highlights of the NPA Crisis in India:

- **Timeline of NPAs:**
 - **Peak in 2018:** NPAs reached a historic high of ₹10.36 lakh crore.
 - **Decline:** NPAs reduced to ₹5.71 lakh crore by March 2023, aided by write-offs by banks.
 - **RTI revelation:** The list of top defaulters was accessed under the Right to Information Act after a four-year legal battle, highlighting **reluctance from RBI to disclose such information**.
- **Extent of NPAs:**
 - **Gross NPAs:** Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) recorded gross NPAs of ₹9.33 lakh crore as of March 31, 2019, the 2nd-highest in Indian banking history.
 - **Top defaulters:** The top 100 defaulters alone accounted for ₹8.44 lakh crore in total debt, of which nearly 50% was declared as NPAs.
 - **Sectoral analysis:** Three sectors - **manufacturing, energy, and construction** - dominated, contributing over 50% (₹4.58 lakh crore) of the total debt of the top 100 defaulters.
- **Sector-wise breakdown of defaulters:**
 - Energy sector: 34 companies
 - Manufacturing sector: 32 companies
 - Construction and real estate: 20 companies
 - Telecom: 5 companies
 - Other sectors: 9 companies
- **Quantum of debt (Top defaulters):**

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- Bhushan Power & Steel Limited: ₹41,400 crore.
- Essar Steel India Limited: ₹69,360 crore (later acquired by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Limited in 2019).
- Other major defaulters: Reliance Communications (₹46,659 crore), Videocon Industries (₹58,052 crore), and Jaiprakash Associates (₹36,591 crore).

Impact on the Banking Sector:

- **Ongoing debt concerns (2023):**
 - **Outstanding debt:** By March 2023, 51 of these 100 companies still carried debts of ₹3.58 lakh crore, indicating persistent financial stress.
 - **These defaulters span crucial sectors:** Like oil & gas, thermal and hydro power, mining, shipbuilding, and infrastructure development.
- **Limited recoveries:**
 - 82 of the top 100 entities are under bankruptcy, with one-third undergoing liquidation, significantly reducing recovery prospects.
 - High-profile companies like Jet Airways, Gitanjali Gems, and IL&FS subsidiaries feature prominently in the defaulter list, indicating minimal returns for lenders.
- **Curb investment:**
 - Banks lack enough funds to lend for other productive activities in the economy.
 - To maintain their profits, banks may need to raise interest rates.
 - Reduced investments could lead to higher unemployment rates.

Conclusion:

- The concentration of bad loans among a few corporate giants raises **concerns about governance and accountability in India's banking system.**
- While recovery efforts are ongoing, the NPA crisis underscores the need for stronger regulatory oversight and improved lending practices to prevent similar episodes in the future.

[SAMARTH UDYOG BHARAT 4.0 INITIATIVE](#)



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Recently, the Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Steel provided information about the SAMARTH Udyog Bharat 4.0 initiative in the Rajya Sabha.

- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Heavy Industry & Public Enterprises**, Government of India under its scheme on **Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector**.
- SAMARTH Udyog encompasses manufacturers, vendors and customers as the main stakeholders.
- The experiential and demonstration centres for Industry 4.0 have been proposed to spread awareness about I4.0 amongst the Indian manufacturing industries.
- Under this 4 Smart Advanced Manufacturing and Rapid Transformation Hub (SAMARTH) Centres have been set up namely:
 - Centre for Industry 4.0 (C4i4) Lab, Pune;
 - IITD-AIA Foundation for Smart Manufacturing, IIT Delhi;
 - I-4.0 India @ IISc, Bengaluru; and
 - Smart Manufacturing Demo & Development Cell, CMTI, Bengaluru.
- SAMARTH Centres **have been providing assistance** to industries including MSMEs to train the workforce and make them aware of Industry 4.0 technologies in the following ways:
 - **Organizing Awareness Seminars/ Workshops** and knowledge-sharing events on Industry 4.0;
 - **Training industries** to create awareness about Industry 4.0;
 - Providing consultancy (in areas such as IOT Hardware, Software development, and data analytics) and incubation support to start-ups including MSMEs.
- No financial assistance is given to any industry including MSME for adopting Industry 4.0-enabled technologies under the SAMARTH centre initiative of the Scheme.



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CE20 CRYOGENIC ENGINE



Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully carried out the sea level hot test of its CE20 cryogenic engine.

- It is the indigenous engine developed by the **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre of ISRO**.
- It is **powering the upper stage of the LVM3 launch vehicle** and has been qualified to operate at a thrust level of 19 tonnes.
- This engine has successfully powered the upper stage of six LVM3 missions so far.
- Recently, the engine was qualified for the **Gaganyaan mission** with a **thrust level of 20 tonnes** and also to an uprated thrust level of 22 tonnes for the future C32 stage, towards enhancing the payload capability of the LVM3 launch vehicle.
- It features an **innovative Nozzle Protection System** that overcomes previous complexities in engine testing.
- **Key achievements of the test include** the successful testing of an engine with a nozzle area ratio of 100, the evaluation of a multi-element igniter by activating only the first element, and the confirmation of normal engine and facility performance.
- **Significance:** This test marks a significant step in ISRO's indigenous engine development, showcasing its ability to overcome complex rocket propulsion challenges.

DAE- HOMI BHABHA CHAIR SCHEME



Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology informed the Rajya Sabha about the DAE- Homi Bhabha Chair Scheme.

- It is administered by the **Department of Atomic Energy**.

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- It is for **Distinguished Scientists/Professors**, in order to give recognition and an opportunity to outstanding Scientists and Engineers including those retired /superannuated scientists/engineers who were involved in the development of sensitive and/ or critical technologies to carry out research and development work in the fields of their choice and of interest to the Department of Atomic Energy.
 - The tenure under DAE- Homi Bhabha Chair Scheme is for the **period of one to five years** at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
 - Under the scheme each awardee shall be entitled to an **honorarium of Rs. 200000/-m.** (In case honorarium plus pension sanctioned is more than pay last drawn, honorarium would be restricted to pay last drawn before retirement).
 - A contingency grant of Rs.76000/- per annum to cover expenditures like secretarial assistance, telephone bills and stationery.
 - A lump sum equipment allowance (inclusive of Book Allowance) not exceeding Rs.125000/- would also be made available during the entire tenure of the awardee subject to actual utilization. The equipment allowance also includes a sum of Rs.10000/- towards Book Allowance.
 - A fixed monthly transport allowance is also provided in case the awardee of the scheme is not provided with an official vehicle.
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MALWA CANAL PROJECT



Nearly 1.30 lakh trees and plants are likely to be felled for the construction of the proposed 150-km-long Malwa Canal, a flagship project of Punjab Chief Minister said recently.

It is a **planned irrigation** and water management project in **Punjab, India**.

- It is the first of its kind to be constructed in Punjab since independence.
- Estimated to cost Rs 2,300 crore, the canal will originate from the **Harike headworks on the Sutlej in Ferozepur district**.



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- It will tail off at Warring Khera village in Muktsar district, close to the border with Haryana, and will **flow parallel to the Sirhind Feeder and Rajasthan Feeder canals**, to the latter's east.
- The canal will be 150 km long, 50 feet wide, and 12.6 feet deep.
- It will carry 2,000 cusecs of water (A cusec is flow equivalent to 1 cubic foot per second.)
- It is designed to cater to **the irrigation needs of nearly 2 lakh acres in southern Punjab, running parallel to the left bank of the Rajasthan Feeder Canal.**

SULTANPUR NATIONAL PARK



The Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) of Forest and Wildlife recently asked the district administration to submit a report on illegal construction around the Sultanpur National Park and their status to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India

(MoEF & CC).

- It is located in the **Gurgaon district of Haryana**, 46 km from Delhi.
- Formerly known as Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary, it spans 1.42 sq.km., consisting primarily of **marshy lakes and floodplains**.
- It includes a core area of 1.21 sq. km containing the main **Sultanpur Lake/Jheel**.
 - The Sultanpur Jheel is a **seasonal freshwater wetland** with fluctuating water levels throughout the year.
 - This shallow lake is mostly fed by waters from **River Yamuna's Gurgaon canal** and the overflowing waters of the neighboring agricultural lands.
- It was recognised as a **Ramsar site**, a wetland of international importance, in 2021. It has been identified as an **Important Bird Area** by Bird Life International.



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Flora: The vegetation is characterized by **tropical and dry deciduous types** such as grasses, dhok, khair, tendu, jamun, neem, berberis, and species of Acacia.

Fauna:

- Over 320 bird species have been recorded at Sultanpur, making it a vital wintering ground.
 - It forms a **part of the ‘Central Asian Migratory Flyway’** and thousands of **migratory birds from** the countries of **Russia, Turkey, Afghanistan and Europe** visit the park during the winter months.
 - Some iconic species found here are the Common Hoopoe, Purple Sunbird, Black Francolin, Little Cormorant, Indian Cormorant, Siberian Crane, and Greater Flamingo.
 - Other migratory birds that flock seasonally include the Common Teal, Common Greenshank and Ruff.
 - In addition to the avian species, some other faunal species, such as **Nilgai, Sambar, Golden jackals**, wild dogs, striped hyenas, Indian porcupine, mongoose, etc., are also found here.
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