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THE ROAD TO 2047 FOR INDIAN AGRICULTURE

Context

- India's centennial year of independence in 2047 marks an ambitious milestone, **with the goal of becoming a developed nation and a crucial aspect of achieving this status involves a significant transformation of the agricultural sector.**
- **This transformation is not just about enhancing productivity, but also about adopting sustainable practices** to ensure long-term environmental health and economic stability.
- **As India strives to increase its per capita Gross National Income (GNI) to six times the current level, the agricultural sector, which employs nearly 46% of the workforce, plays a pivotal role in this journey.**

Government Initiatives to Boost Agricultural Growth

- **The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**
 - The PM-KISAN, launched in 2019, disburses ₹6,000 annually to farmers in **three instalments.**
 - This scheme has already benefited over 11.8 crore farmers, offering much-needed financial support.
- **Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme**
 - Another critical initiative, the SHC scheme, **aims to optimise soil nutrient use, thereby enhancing agricultural productivity.**
 - **Over 23 crore SHCs have been distributed,** providing farmers with crucial insights into soil health and nutrient management.
- **Promotion of Nutritious Coarse Grains and Agricultural Infrastructure Fund**
 - The government **also championed the International Year of Millets in 2023,** promoting nutritious coarse grains, both domestically and internationally.

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- Within three years, over **38,326** projects have been sanctioned, mobilising **₹30,030 crore** in the agricultural infrastructure sector.
- These projects have created employment for more than **5.8 lakh individuals** and improved farmer incomes by 20%-25% through better price realisation.
- **Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA)**
 - Moreover, the SVAMITVA initiative aims to ensure transparent property ownership in rural areas.
 - As of September 2023, over **1.6 crore property cards** have been generated, enhancing land security, and facilitating credit access for farmers.
- **Strategic Planning**
 - The government's strategic planning for agriculture, leading up to 2047, focuses on several key areas: anticipated future demand for agricultural products, insights from past growth catalysts, existing challenges, and potential opportunities in the agricultural landscape.
- **The Balanced Path Forward**
 - However, to meet this demand sustainably, **significant investments in agricultural research, infrastructure, and policy support** are required.

Conclusion

- **By embracing sustainable practices**, leveraging technological innovations, and implementing strategic initiatives, **India can enhance farmer incomes, meet the food demands of its growing population, and achieve inclusive, sustainable development.**
 - The road to 2047 will require a concerted effort to address the existing challenges, correct the imbalances in the economy, and ensure that the agricultural sector receives the support it needs to thrive in the coming decades.
 - With careful planning and robust policy interventions, **India can transform its agricultural landscape**, paving the way for a prosperous and developed nation by 2047.
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BHISHM CUBES



During his recent visit to Kyiv, the Prime Minister of India gifted four BHISHM cubes to the President of Ukraine.

- **BHISM** (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita, and Maitri) provides compact, mobile medical units for emergency care, designed to deliver medical facilities swiftly and effectively.

Key features of BHISHM cubes:

- **Compact and organised:** Medical supplies and equipment are packed into 15-inch cubical boxes. These boxes are organized based on injury types and medical needs, making them efficient for quick deployment in emergencies.
- **Transport flexibility:** The cubes are mounted on an adjustable framework, allowing them to be **transported via multiple modes**, including air, sea, land, and drone. Each cube weighs up to 20 kg and is designed to be carried by an individual.
- **Mother and BHISHM cubes:**
 - **36 mini cubes** combine to form one mother cube.
 - Two mother cubes combine to form one BHISHM Cube.
 - **Functionality of mother cubes:**
 - One Mother Cube offers first-line care, shelter, and food for up to **five people for 48 hours**.
 - The second mother cube is equipped for surgical care, handling **10-15** basic surgeries per day.
 - **Ease of use and management:** Medicines and equipment are classified, with **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) inventory management** and real-time stock updates. Additionally, a dedicated app and a tablet with support for **180 languages** are provided for operational instructions.
 - **Capacity and Features:**

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- Each BHISHM Cube can handle around **200 emergency cases**, including trauma, burns, fractures, and shock.
- The cubes are capable of supporting basic surgeries and can generate their power and oxygen for limited durations.
- **Technological Integration:** BHISHM cubes incorporate **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics** for effective coordination, real-time monitoring and efficient management of medical services.

Project Aarogya Maitri:

- **Objective:** Part of India's initiative to **provide essential medical supplies** to developing countries affected by disasters or humanitarian crises.

Importance: Highlights India's commitment to international humanitarian assistance

RAMSAR SITES IN INDIA



- **Total Ramsar Sites in India:** 85.
- New Sites Added:**
 - **Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu):**
 - **Location:** Northeastern Uthukuli Taluk, Tiruppur District.
 - **Ecological Significance:** Originally a reservoir for irrigation, now a vital ecosystem supporting various bird species, including migratory birds from the **Central Asian Flyway**.
 - **Avifauna:** Home to species like the **Eurasian coot, spot-billed duck, and various herons**.
 - **Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu):**
 - **Location:** Villupuram District, North of Pondicherry on the Coromandel Coast.
 - **Ecology:** A brackish water wetland with salt marshes, mudflats, and shallow waters.
 - **Flora and Fauna:** Hosts endangered species like the **black-headed ibis and greater flamingo**. Mangrove patches and reed beds dominate the area.

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- **Significance:** Important stopover for migratory birds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, contributing to flood control and groundwater recharge.
- **Tawa Reservoir (Madhya Pradesh):**
 - **Location:** Constructed at the confluence of the **Tawa and Denwa rivers**, inside the Satpura Tiger Reserve.
 - **Ecological role:** Provides irrigation, and drinking water, and supports local fisheries. It's a major wintering ground for migratory birds.
 - **Key features:** Largest protected area in Madhya Pradesh, forming the western boundary of **Satpura National Park** and **Bori Wildlife Sanctuary**.
 - **Tawa River:** The longest tributary of the **Narmada River (172 km)**, originating in the **Mahadeo hills**, and flowing through the Betul district.
- **Wetlands:** Wetlands include areas like marshes, swamps, peatlands, rivers, lakes, and other water bodies.
 - They can be natural or artificial, and the water may be fresh, brackish, or salt, and can vary in its state (static or flowing).
 - Wetlands also cover shallow marine waters with a depth not exceeding six meters at low tide.

Ramsar Convention:

- **Background:** An intergovernmental treaty signed in **1971** in **Ramsar, Iran**, aimed at the conservation of wetlands worldwide.
 - **Criteria for selection:** Sites are designated based on their importance to the life cycles of species, support for biodiversity, and ability to sustain waterbirds and fish.
 - **India's involvement:** India joined the Ramsar Convention in **1982**, initially designating **Chilika Lake (Odisha)** and **Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan)** as Ramsar sites.
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RIGHT TO EDUCATION (RTE) ACT, 2009



Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009

Recently, the Delhi High Court addressed the issue of separate identification numbers (IDs) for different wings of the same school, impacting the admission of students under the Economically Weaker Section/Disadvantaged Group (EWS/DG) category.

About the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009:

- RTE Act Originates from the **1993** Supreme Court ruling in the **Unnikrishnan vs. State of Andhra Pradesh case**, establishing education as a fundamental right under **Article 21**.
- The **Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002** introduced **Article 21A**, guaranteeing free and compulsory education for children aged 6-14 years.
- **Key Constitutional Amendments:**
 - **Article 21A:** State's responsibility to provide free and compulsory education to children aged 6-14.
 - **Article 45:** State to provide early childhood care and education until the age of six.
 - **Article 51A:** Parents' duty to provide educational opportunities for children aged 6-14.

Significant provisions of the RTE Act:

- **Free and compulsory education:**
 - Right to education for all children aged **6-14** in a neighbourhood school.
 - Provision for age-appropriate class placement for older children who missed schooling.
 - No detention, expulsion, or mandatory board exams until the completion of elementary education.

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- **Curriculum and Recognition:**
 - Government to establish curriculum and evaluation procedures.
 - Compliance with pupil-teacher ratios and infrastructure norms is mandatory.
 - Teachers must qualify through the **Teacher Eligibility Test (TET)**.
- **Responsibilities of schools:**
 - Government and aided schools must provide free and compulsory education.
 - Schools must establish **School Management Committees (SMCs)** to monitor grant utilization and school development.
- **Government responsibilities:**
 - Central Government: National Advisory Council, curriculum framework, and teacher training standards.
 - State Government: Ensure compulsory admission, attendance, and elementary education completion; establish neighbourhood schools.
- **Grievance redressal:**
 - National and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights to safeguard rights under the RTE Act.

Status and impact of the RTE Act:

- **Achievements:**
 - Increased enrolment rates, especially at the upper primary level (Class 6-8), with a **4% rise** from 2009 to 2016.
 - Improved infrastructure, with **13% of schools** achieving full RTE compliance.
 - Significant impact of the **25% EWS/DG quota**, facilitating access to education for millions of students.

Amendments to the RTE Act, 2009:

- **2012 Amendment:** The 2012 Amendment included children with disabilities within the Act's purview and exempted religious and minority institutions.
 - **2019 Amendment:** Abolished the no-detention policy up to class VIII, allowing states the discretion to implement it.
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WHAT IS ANGKOR WAT?



Angkor Wat is the **largest religious monument** in the world.

- It covers an area of 200 acres.
- It was **built by the Khmer King Suryavarman II** in the **first half of the 12th century**, around the year 1110-1150, making Angkor Wat almost **900 years old**.
- It was **originally dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu before becoming a Buddhist temple** by the end of the **12th century**.
- In 1992, the temple complex was named a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Features:

- The temple is at the top of the **high classical style of Khmer architecture**.
- **Sandstone blocks** were used to build the structure.
- The precision in **carving and the fitting together of stones without the use of mortar** is a testament to the engineering skills of the Khmer builders, and the technique used is yet to be ascertained correctly, though a section claims it to be wooden paste or a lime plaster mix.
- It is **protected by a 15-foot-high wall and a wide moat**.
- The temple can be **accessed only via small bridges** spanning across the moat from the eastern and western sides.
- The temple has **five major towers** symbolising the **peaks of Mount Meru**, believed to be the abode of the gods in Hindu and Buddhist mythology.
- **Thousands of bas-reliefs depicting important deities and figures in Hindu and Buddhist religions**, as well as key events in their narrative traditions, adorn the temple walls.
- **Where is Angkor Wat?**
 - It is located in the northwestern province of Siem Reap in **Cambodia**.



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COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA (CAG)



CAG is an **independent authority** established under **Article 148** of the Indian Constitution.

- CAG is the **apex authority** responsible for inspecting and **auditing** all the **expenditures and receipts** of both the **Central and State Governments** as well as of those organizations or **bodies** which are **significantly funded by the government**.

Appointment and Terms of Service:

- As per Article 148 of the Constitution, there shall be a CAG who shall be **appointed by the President** and can be **removed from office only in the manner** and on the grounds **that a Judge of the Supreme Court is removed**.
- He **holds office** for a period of **six years or upto the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier.
- **After the retirement or resignation** from his office, he is **no longer eligible for any jobs or offices under the Central or State Governments**.

Functions of CAG:

- CAG **audits the accounts** related to all **expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India**, the **Consolidated Fund of each state**, and **UT's having a legislative assembly**.
- He **audits all expenditure from the Contingency Fund of India** and the **Public Account of India**, as well as the **Contingency Fund and Public Account of each state**.
- He **audits all trading, manufacturing, profit and loss accounts, balance sheets and other subsidiary accounts kept by any department** of the **Central Government and the state governments**.