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## Prelims Exam Topics

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### BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA (BCI)

#### Context

The Bar Council of India (BCI) recently faced controversy after directing State Bar Councils to defer enrolment of the **2026 graduating batch of NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad**, before subsequently withdrawing the directive.

#### About Bar Council of India (BCI)

- **Establishment:** Constituted in **1961** under **Section 4 of the Advocates Act, 1961**, following recommendations of the **All India Bar Committee (1953)** chaired by Justice S.R. Das and the **14th Law Commission Report (1958)**.
- **Mandate:** Regulates **professional conduct and discipline of advocates**, prescribes standards for **legal education**, supervises State Bar Councils and protects the interests and welfare of the legal profession.
- **Legal Education:** Recognises universities and law institutions whose law degrees qualify candidates for enrolment as advocates; inspects institutions and prescribes standards and curricula for legal education.
- **Supervision of State Bar Councils:** Exercises **general supervision and control** over State Bar Councils and may issue directions to them under **Section 48B** of the Advocates Act.
- **Foreign Legal Qualifications:** Recognises foreign law degrees or qualifications for admission to the Indian Bar on the basis of **reciprocity**, subject to statutory requirements.
- **Advocate Welfare & Legal Aid:** Administers welfare measures and supports legal-aid initiatives for advocates and economically disadvantaged litigants.

### INDIA'S SAPTADHARA

#### Context

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his **Independence Day address on 15 August 2026**, outlined “**Shakti Ki Saptadhara**”—seven strategic streams intended to strengthen India’s capabilities and support the goal of **Viksit Bharat**.

### About India's Saptadhara

- **Concept:** "Saptadhara" refers to **seven streams of national strength** covering productive capacity, agriculture, technology, connectivity, defence, ecological resources and cultural influence.
- **Development Approach:** It adopts an **integrated growth framework**, linking economic competitiveness with technological capability, strategic autonomy, infrastructure and global influence.
- **Core Objective:** Emphasises **Aatmanirbharta, export orientation, innovation and global competitiveness** as foundations for India's long-term development.

### Key Features: Seven Streams

- **Manufacturing:** Build India into a **global manufacturing and supply-chain hub** through scale, quality, cost competitiveness, precision manufacturing and stronger domestic component ecosystems.
- **Farming & Food Processing:** Integrate **agriculture with global markets** by improving value addition and promoting products such as millets, spices, fruits, vegetables and traditional foods internationally.
- **Technology & Innovation:** Develop capabilities in **data centres, robotics, emerging technologies and next-generation communications**, while expanding digital public infrastructure and indigenous **6G** capabilities.
- **Gati Shakti & Connectivity:** Strengthen **multimodal transport and logistics infrastructure** through roads, expressways, high-speed rail and ports to improve the movement of goods and people.
- **Raksha Shakti:** Advance **self-reliant defence production** with focus on drones, counter-drone systems, hypersonic and other advanced technologies, alongside expansion of defence exports.
- **Green & Blue Economy:** Expand leadership in **renewable energy, green hydrogen and energy storage**, while exploiting opportunities in fisheries, coastal tourism and ocean-based technologies.
- **Soft Power:** Increase India's international cultural and economic influence through **Yoga, tourism, handicrafts, cinema, animation, gaming and digital creative industries**.

## **PRADHAN MANTRI JAN DHAN YOJANA (PMJDY)**

### **Context**

**Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** completed **12 years** since its announcement from the **Red Fort** in 2014.

### **About Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**

- **Nature:** PMJDY is the **National Mission for Financial Inclusion** aimed at providing affordable access to formal financial services.
- **Core Services:** Covers **banking, remittance, credit, insurance and pension** services, particularly for unbanked and underserved sections.

### **Key Features**

- **Basic Bank Account:** Provides **Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) Accounts** without the requirement of maintaining a minimum balance.
- **Overdraft Facility:** Eligible account holders can avail an **overdraft facility of up to ₹10,000**, subject to prescribed conditions.
- **RuPay Debit Card:** PMJDY account holders are provided a **RuPay debit card** with an associated accident insurance cover.
- **Accident Insurance:** The accident insurance cover was enhanced to **₹2 lakh** for eligible accounts opened after **28 August 2018**.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** Enables direct credit of **government subsidies and welfare benefits** into beneficiaries' accounts.
- **Financial Scheme Linkages:** PMJDY accounts can be linked with **PMJJBY, PMSBY, Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** and **MUDRA**.
- **Business Correspondents:** **Bank Mitras** provide banking services in areas with limited access to conventional bank branches.
- **Financial Literacy:** Promotes **financial awareness** to facilitate effective use of formal financial services.

## **GREEN INDIA MISSION (GIM)**

### **Context**

The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** has flagged shortcomings in the implementation of the **Green India Mission (GIM)**.

### **About Green India Mission (GIM)**

- **Nature:** GIM is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)** launched in **2014** to enhance India's forest and tree cover as part of its climate-change response.
- **NAPCC Linkage:** It is one of the **eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.
- **Mandate:** Focuses on **protecting, restoring and enhancing forest and tree cover** through climate-change adaptation and mitigation measures.
- **Forest & Tree Cover:** Targets an additional **5 million hectares** of forest/tree cover and improvement in the quality of forest/tree cover over another **5 million hectares**.
- **Carbon Sequestration:** Originally targeted an increase in annual **CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration by 50–60 million tonnes** and contributes to India's commitment of creating an additional **2.5–3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent carbon sink by 2030** through additional forest and tree cover.

## **VISHNUGAD PIPALKOTI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT (VPHEP)**

### **Context**

A **landslide-induced surge of water and debris** in an under-construction tunnel of the **444 MW Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydroelectric Project (VPHEP)** recently killed seven workers.

### **About Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydro Electric Project (VPHEP)**

- **Nature:** VPHEP is a **run-of-the-river hydroelectric project** being developed on the **Alaknanda River** in Chamoli district, Uttarakhand.
- **Developer:** The project is being developed by **THDC India Limited**, a joint venture of the **Government of India and Government of Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Financing:** It is supported by a **World Bank loan**.

- **River Basin:** The **Alaknanda** is a major tributary of the **Ganga** and forms the principal headstream of the Ganga system after its confluence with the **Bhagirathi at Devprayag**.

## SUBANSIRI RIVER

### Context

The **Subansiri River** in Arunachal Pradesh's **Upper Subansiri district** recently rose to an unusually high level despite **no reported rainfall**, raising concerns among local residents.

### About Subansiri River

- **River System:** It is the **largest (right-bank) tributary of the Brahmaputra River**, originating in **Tibet** and flowing through **Arunachal Pradesh and Assam**.
- **River Type:** It is a **trans-Himalayan and antecedent river**, having maintained its course through the Himalayas despite their geological uplift.
- **Origin:** Formed in the **Tibetan Plateau** by the confluence of **Lokong Chu, Chayal Chu and Tsari Chu**.
- **Course:** It flows through Tibet before entering India near **Taksing in Arunachal Pradesh**, traverses the Eastern Himalayas, enters the Assam plains at **Dulangmukh**, and joins the Brahmaputra at **Jamurighat**.
- **Major Tributaries:** Include **Laro, Nye, Yume, Tsari, Kamla, Jiyadhol, Ranganadi and Dikrong**.

## RSVC-AMRIT PLATFORM

### Context

**Principal Scientific Adviser** launched the **RSVC-AMRIT platform** to strengthen rural innovation and technology transfer.

### About RSVC-AMRIT

- **Developer:** Developed by **NABARD** in collaboration with the **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (OPSA)** to support the RuTAGe Smart Village Centre (RSVC) ecosystem.
- **Purpose:** Serves as the **digital backbone of the RSVC ecosystem**, connecting rural needs with appropriate technologies, innovators and implementation mechanisms.

- **Digital Ecosystem:** Covers the RSVC lifecycle from **technology discovery and validation to deployment, monitoring, collaboration and knowledge management.**
- **Stakeholder Network:** Brings together **innovators, technology providers, startups, validators, accelerators, implementation partners, funding agencies, academic institutions and rural communities.**
- **RSVC Ecosystem:** Complements village-level **RuTAGe Smart Village Centres**, which function as technology hubs facilitating transfer of innovations from **research institutions, innovators and startups to rural communities.**

## **SRAVAANI**

### **Context**

Researchers at IISc's **Speech and Language Technology (SPIRE) Lab**, in collaboration with **ARTPARK and Google**, have released **SraVaani**, a multilingual speech-recognition model for Indian languages.

### **About SraVaani**

- **Nature:** SraVaani is a **multilingual automatic speech recognition (ASR) model** designed to support Indian languages underserved by existing speech technologies.
- **Language Coverage:** Covers **20 scheduled languages and 45 regional languages and dialects**, including **Garo, Angika, Chakma, Kokborok, Tulu, Bundeli and Bajjika.**
- **Multilingual Capability:** Converts speech into text across **10 scripts** and can **automatically identify the spoken language** without requiring the user to select it manually.
- **Technological Architecture:** Built using the **FastConformer-based automatic speech recognition architecture** for speech-to-text processing.
- **Project Vaani Linkage:** Builds on **Project Vaani**, an IISc initiative documenting India's linguistic diversity through large-scale speech-data collection.
- **Applications:** Can support **education, digital services, banking, healthcare, e-governance and customer support**, particularly for users interacting in regional languages.

## **VIHAAN: INDIGENOUS BROADBAND NETWORKING CHIP**

### **Context**

Chennai-based Aheesa Digital Innovations, supported under the **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme**, has achieved **first-pass silicon success** for its indigenous broadband networking **System-on-Chip (SoC)**, **VIHAAN**.

### **About VIHAAN**

- **Nature:** VIHAAN is a **broadband networking SoC** based on the open-standard **RISC-V architecture** and powered by the indigenous **64-bit VEGA processor** developed by **C-DAC**.
- **Developer:** Designed by **Aheesa Digital Innovations**, a **fabless semiconductor startup** based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- **Purpose:** Designed for **Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH)** applications and broadband networking equipment, including **routers and Optical Network Terminals (ONTs)**.
- **Government Support:** Supported under the **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme** of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- **First-Pass Silicon Success:** The chip functioned successfully in its **first fabrication attempt**, reducing the need for redesign and associated development costs.
- **Processing & Security:** The 64-bit VEGA core enables **routing, traffic inspection, Quality of Service (QoS) and firewall functions**, while hardware security features include **secure boot, cryptographic engines and a hardware root of trust**.

## **MAHADAYI (MANDOVI) RIVER**

### **Context**

The **Environment Ministry** informed the Lok Sabha that **no proposal for environmental clearance of Karnataka's Mahadayi diversion project** is under consideration, while the **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** has not approved forest diversion for the **Kalasa Nala scheme**.

### **About Mahadayi (Mandovi) River**

- **River System:** The **Mahadayi**, known as **Mandovi in Goa**, is a **west-flowing inter-State river** of the Western Ghats, flowing through **Karnataka, Maharashtra and Goa** before entering the **Arabian Sea**.

- **Origin:** Originates from a group of around **30 springs near Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary** in Karnataka's Western Ghats.
- **Major Tributaries:** Important tributaries/streams include **Kalasa Nala and Banduri Nala** in Karnataka, and **Khandepar, Ragada and Mapusa** rivers in Goa.
- **Waterfalls:** The basin has **steep gradients and high monsoon rainfall**, giving rise to major waterfalls such as **Dudhsagar and Vajra-Poha Falls**.
- **Ecological Corridor:** The river basin forms part of an important wildlife corridor linking the **Kali Tiger Reserve, Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary and Sahyadri Tiger Reserve**.
- **Kalasa-Banduri Project:** **Kalasa and Banduri nalas** are central to Karnataka's proposed diversion project intended primarily to augment **drinking-water supply** to parts of the State, making the river a longstanding **inter-State water-sharing issue**.



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## Mains Exam Topics

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### COASTAL EROSION IN INDIA

#### Context

According to data cited by the **Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways in the Rajya Sabha**, nearly **28% of Odisha's 564-km coastline is affected by coastal erosion**. The assessment is based on studies by the **National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)**, which tracks long-term changes in India's shoreline.

#### Why is coastal erosion highly uneven across different stretches of the Indian coastline?

- **Geomorphic baseline:** Differences in geology, coastal relief, shoreline orientation and deltaic formation create different inherent levels of erosion susceptibility.
  - **Example:** The low-lying **Ganga–Brahmaputra delta** is far more mobile than the relatively rocky **Konkan coast**.
- **Sediment imbalance:** When the amount of sediment removed from the coast is more than the amount brought by rivers and other sources, the coast gradually loses sediment.
  - **Example:** Dams and other upstream projects have reduced sediment reaching parts of the **Krishna delta**, weakening natural coastal replenishment.
- **Longshore redistribution:** Waves and coastal currents move sediment from one part of the coast to another, causing **erosion in some areas and sediment build-up (accretion) in others**.
  - **Example:** At **Ennore, Tamil Nadu**, port breakwaters trap sediment on one side, while the nearby northern coast has experienced erosion.
- **Extreme-event exposure:** Cyclones and storm surges can suddenly increase coastal erosion in areas already affected by sediment loss, causing rapid shoreline retreat.
  - **Example:** **Cyclone Fani (2019)** affected Odisha's coast, showing how extreme events can quickly intensify coastal erosion.
- **Relative sea-level change:** Coastal flooding and erosion become worse when **sea levels rise while the land itself sinks or moves downward**, making the effective rise in water level greater.
  - **Example:** The low-lying **Godavari delta** is vulnerable because sea-level rise combines with local land subsidence and deformation.

- **Human modification:** Ports, breakwaters and seawalls can change the natural movement of coastal sediment, causing **more erosion in some areas and more sediment build-up in others**.
  - **Example:** At Ennore, NCCR studies found **erosion north of the port and accretion south of it**, showing how coastal structures can alter sediment movement.
- **Natural-buffer capacity:** Mangroves, sand dunes and wetlands can **reduce wave energy and protect the coast from erosion**. Areas where these natural barriers are damaged or removed become more vulnerable.
  - **Example:** The **Coringa mangroves in Andhra Pradesh** act as a natural coastal buffer, but their protective role can weaken with surrounding development.

### What are the major economic, ecological and social consequences of coastal erosion for India?

#### Economic Consequences

- **Loss of coastal land and assets:** Permanent shoreline retreat reduces the land available for settlements, industries, tourism and other productive uses.
  - **Example:** Ghoramara Island, West Bengal, has lost substantial land through erosion and submergence.
- **Loss of economic infrastructure:** Erosion undermines roads, ports, jetties, embankments and other physical assets, disrupting transport and economic activity.
  - **Example:** Coastal erosion along parts of Odisha has damaged roads, embankments and other coastal infrastructure, resulting in recurring repair and reconstruction costs.
- **Decline in fisheries and aquaculture productivity:** Changes in beaches, estuaries and near-shore environments can damage fish-landing sites and productive aquaculture zones.
- **Tourism revenue losses:** Retreating beaches and degradation of coastal landscapes reduce the attractiveness and carrying capacity of beach-based tourism.
  - **Example:** Erosion has affected the long-term stability of tourism beaches around Puducherry.
- **Rising public expenditure:** Governments devote increasing resources to coastal protection, reconstruction and rehabilitation that could otherwise support developmental priorities.

#### Ecological Consequences

- **Habitat loss:** Shoreline retreat removes beaches, mudflats, dunes and intertidal habitats used by coastal organisms.

- **Example:** Erosion threatens the nesting habitat of **Olive Ridley turtles at Rushikulya, Odisha.**
- **Loss of coastal biodiversity:** Destruction and fragmentation of habitats reduce the ecological niches available to specialised coastal species.
- **Degradation of mangroves and wetlands:** Persistent erosion can destabilise or eliminate coastal vegetation and wetland systems that regulate ecological processes.
  - **Example:** Parts of the **Sundarbans** face simultaneous erosion and pressure on mangrove ecosystems.
- **Loss of natural coastal protection:** Degradation of dunes, mangroves and wetlands reduces their capacity to dissipate waves and storm energy, making surrounding ecosystems and settlements more exposed.
  - **Example:** Loss of mangrove cover can reduce natural protection in vulnerable **deltaic coasts.**
- **Disruption of biogeochemical functions:** Erosion and habitat loss can alter nutrient cycling, sediment trapping, carbon storage and other ecosystem processes.
  - **Example:** Degradation of **mangrove ecosystems** reduces their role as long-term carbon sinks and sediment stabilisers.

### Social Consequences

- **Displacement of population:** Persistent land loss can make homes and settlements physically unviable, forcing households to relocate.
  - **Example:** Progressive erosion of **Ghoramara and other Sundarbans islands** has contributed to population displacement.
- **Cultural-place loss:** Erosion can destroy temples, cemeteries, heritage sites and other places that embody community identity and collective memory.
  - **Example:** Erosion along the **Tamil Nadu coast** has threatened coastal cultural and religious sites in vulnerable stretches.
- **Breakdown of community networks:** Relocation separates households from established neighbourhoods, kinship networks and locally embedded support systems.
  - **Example:** Resettlement of erosion-affected island communities in the **Sundarbans** can fragment traditional social networks.

- **Educational and health-service disruption:** Repeated erosion can damage or isolate schools, healthcare facilities and access routes, reducing continuity of essential services.
  - **Example:** Vulnerable settlements along the **Odisha coast** can face disruption of road access and public facilities during repeated coastal hazards.
- **Unequal social vulnerability:** The consequences are disproportionately severe for households with limited savings, insecure land tenure and few alternative livelihood options.

### Why has climate change made coastal erosion a more complex policy challenge for India?

- **Higher sea-level baseline:** Climate change raises mean sea level, increasing the baseline exposure from which tides, waves and storm surges act on the shoreline.
- **Compound coastal hazards:** This higher baseline then interacts with cyclones, storm surges, extreme waves and heavy rainfall, making erosion both chronic and episodic.
  - **Example: Cyclone Amphan (2020)** produced extensive inundation, erosion and embankment damage in West Bengal.
- **Interaction with existing human pressures:** Climate risks are superimposed on altered sediment regimes, river regulation, coastal construction and land-use change, making coastal erosion a multi-causal problem.
  - **Example:** The **Mahanadi delta** faces the combined challenge of changing sediment dynamics, dense human use and increasing exposure to climate-related coastal hazards.
- **Greater planning uncertainty:** Coastal changes are harder to predict because **sea-level rise, sediment supply, waves, cyclones and land movement can act together and change over time.**
- **Protection–ecology trade-off:** Coastal structures may **reduce erosion in one area but damage beaches, wetlands and other natural ecosystems** that help protect the coast in the long run.
  - **Example:** Goa’s coast shows the need to balance **shoreline protection and development with the conservation of beaches and coastal ecosystems.**
- **Institutional fragmentation:** Coastal management involves many sectors such as **climate adaptation, disaster management, fisheries, infrastructure and land use**, making coordination difficult when each works separately.

### Way Forward

- **Integrated coastal planning:** Adopt **Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)** by bringing climate adaptation, disaster management, fisheries, infrastructure and land-use planning under a common framework.

- **Sediment-based management:** Plan erosion control at the **coastal-cell or sediment-budget level**, rather than treating each erosion hotspot as an isolated site.
- **Nature-based solutions:** Prioritise **mangroves, dunes, wetlands and beach nourishment** as first-line measures, using hard structures only where necessary.
- **Site-specific engineering:** Design seawalls, groynes and breakwaters based on **local geomorphology, wave conditions and sediment movement** to avoid transferring erosion to neighbouring stretches.
- **Climate-resilient planning:** Incorporate **sea-level rise, land subsidence, cyclones and storm surges** into coastal infrastructure standards and long-term land-use planning.
- **Continuous monitoring:** Strengthen **shoreline mapping, sediment monitoring and remote-sensing systems** to detect erosion trends early and regularly update coastal management plans.
- **Regulate development:** Enforce **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)** norms more effectively and restrict construction in highly vulnerable coastal stretches.
- **Community participation:** Involve **coastal communities, fishers and local governments** in planning and monitoring because they possess location-specific knowledge and face the direct livelihood impacts of erosion.