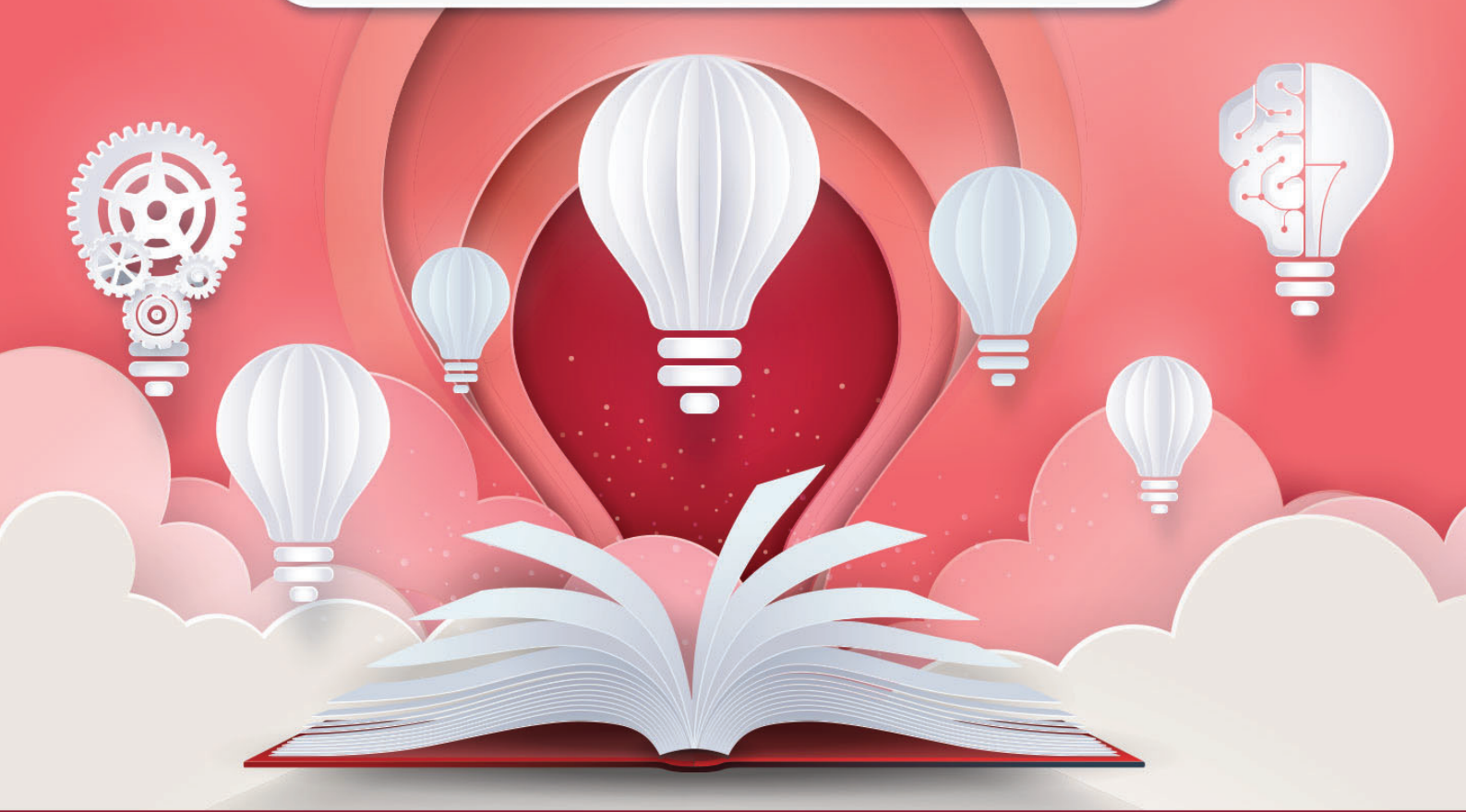


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**A Must Have General Awareness Guide for Schools,
Olympiads, College Students, Competitive Exams
and Government Job Aspirants.**

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1st EDITION

YEAR 2023-24



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COVERED**

Handbook



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Agra - 282002, (UP) India



1010, Cambourne Business Centre
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
CB 236DP, United kingdom



0562-2857671



contact@oswaalbooks.com



www.OswaalBooks.com

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PREFACE

"Knowledge is power and knowledge shared is knowledge multiplied."

In a world that constantly evolves, being aware of what's happening around us is not just an advantage; it's a necessity. General Knowledge isn't merely a segment of information; it's the lifeblood of informed decisions, a passport to competitive exams, and the key to coming across as a knowledgeable individual in any setting.

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1) Updated to the Minute:

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We owe immense gratitude to our dedicated team of teachers who have worked tirelessly to compile this treasure trove of knowledge.

As you embark on this enriching journey with Oswaal GK Handbook, remember that knowledge is power, and it's yours for the taking. So, without further ado, grab your copy today and simplify your learning.

Knowledge is waiting; let's dive in!

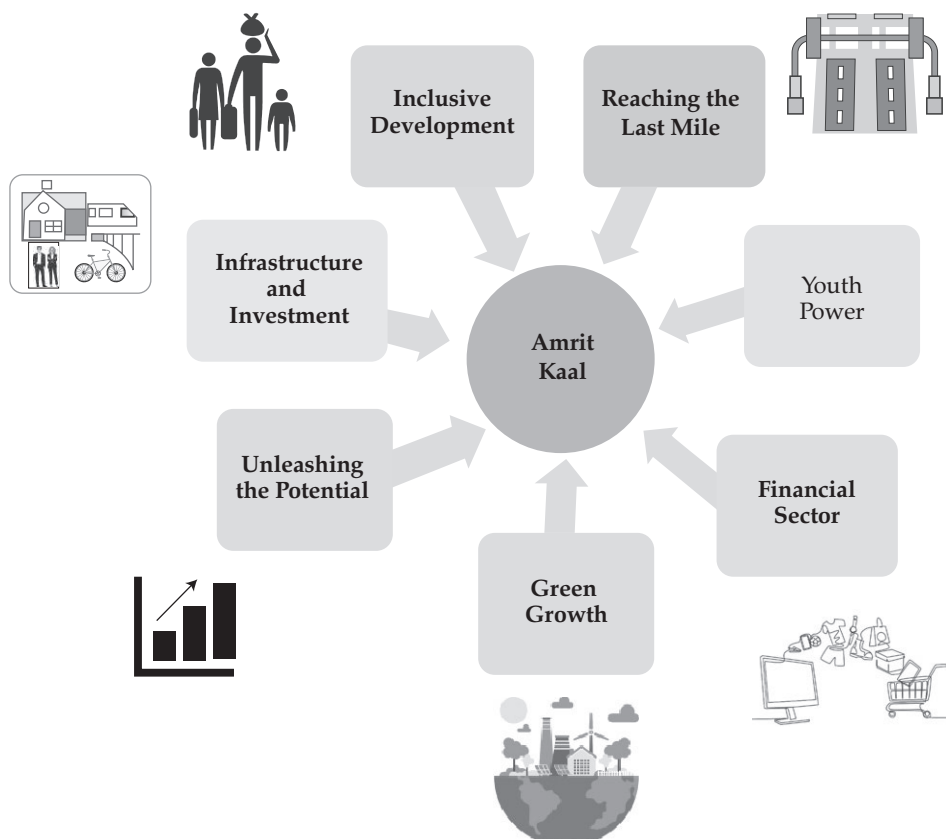
Warm regards,

Team Oswaal Books

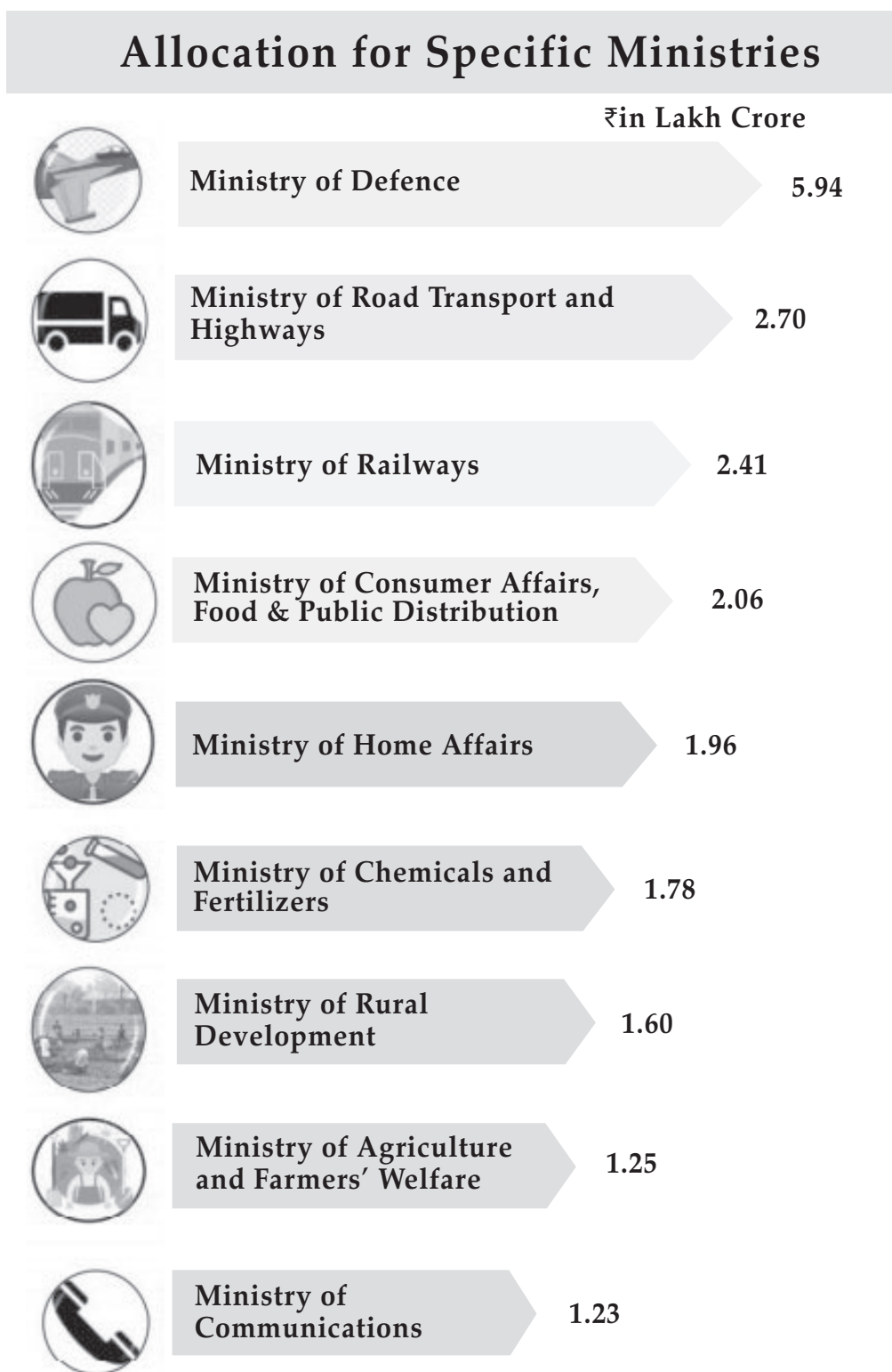
Union Budget 2023-24

Key Highlights:

- ◆ The Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, presented the Union Budget 2023-24 on 01 February 2023. The Union Budget is the annual financial report of India, which deals with the expected income and expenditure of the economy in the upcoming fiscal year.
- ◆ The Budget adopts the following seven priorities. They complement each other and act as the 'Saptarishi', guiding us through the Amrit Kaal.
 1. Inclusive Development
 2. Reaching the Last Mile
 3. Infrastructure and Investment
 4. Unleashing the Potential
 5. Green Growth
 6. Youth Power
 7. Financial Sector



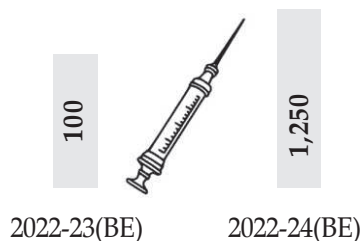
- ◆ Here's how this year's Budget proposes to allocate money to various ministries when compared to the last one:



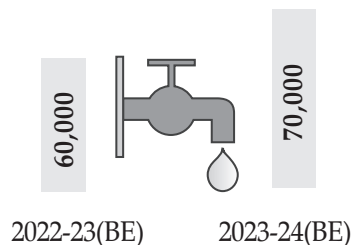
- ◆ Here's how the Budget proposes to allocate money for major government schemes when compared to the last one:

Allocation to Major Schemes (in ₹ crore)

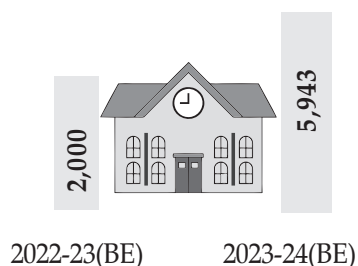
Development of Pharmaceutical Industry



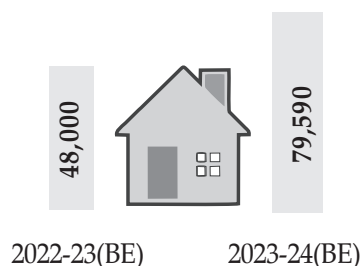
Jal Jeevan Mission



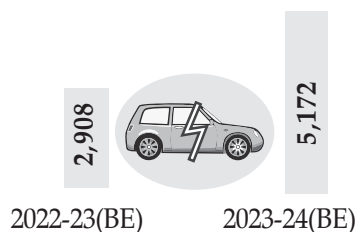
Eklavya Model Residential Schools



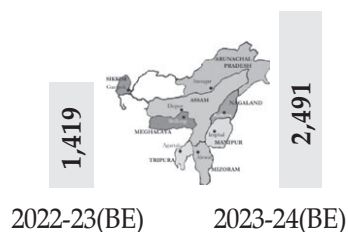
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana



Scheme for faster Adoption and Manufacturing of EV's (FAME)



North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme



Government Schemes	Previous year Budget allocations (In Crores)	Current year Budget allocations (In Crores)
Pharmaceuticals Industry	₹ 100	₹ 1,250
Jal Jeevan Mission	₹ 60,000	₹ 70,000
Eklavya Model Residential Schools	₹ 2,000	₹ 5,943
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana	₹ 48,000	₹ 79,590
Scheme for faster Adoption and Manufacturing of EVs (FAME)	₹ 2,908	₹ 5,172
North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme	₹ 1,419	₹ 2,491

National

- ◆ India's tiger population is estimated to be 3,925 with an annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum holding 75% of the global wild tiger population.
- ◆ 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign launch by PM Modi to honour martyrs and foster national unity.
- ◆ Eco-Friendly 'Bahu Balli' Bamboo Barriers to replace steel barriers on highways.
- ◆ Byculla Railway Station of Maharashtra receives UNESCO Award for Heritage Restoration and Modernization.
- ◆ Semicon India 2023 is held from 28 to 30 July 2023, in Gandhinagar.
- ◆ Redeveloped Pragati Maidan Complex is set to host G20 Leaders Meetings 2023.
- ◆ Union Home Minister inaugurated Aviation Security Control Centre (ASCC) of CISF at Mahipalpur campus in New Delhi.
- ◆ Sixth India-Arab Partnership Conference 2023 took place on 12 July 2023 in New Delhi.
- ◆ Seventh edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC) exhibition to be held from 27th October at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- ◆ Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX 23) was held in Visakhapatnam from 05-10 July 2023.
- ◆ PM Narendra Modi conferred the Prestigious Lokmanya Tilak Award 2023.
- ◆ Parth Salunkhe becomes the first Indian to win the Youth World Championship in the recurve category.
- ◆ India will be Open Defecation Free in the next five years. Sikkim will be the first ODF state.
- ◆ RAPIDX, India's first regional train service, will commence operations in July.
- ◆ Ajit Pawar took over as Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra and joined the BJP led government.
- ◆ India's First Indigenously Developed 700 MW Nuclear Power Reactor was installed at Kakrapar nuclear power plant, Gujarat.
- ◆ 23rd Summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State chaired by PM Modi on 4 July 2023.
- ◆ India launches first booster vaccine, "GEMCOVAC-OM" for Omicron Variant of COVID-19.
- ◆ Deepest metro station in India: Howrah metro station.
- ◆ The G20 tourism working group and tourism ministerial meetings concluded in Goa.
- ◆ Senior IPS officer Ravi Sinha was appointed as the new chief of India's external spy agency RAW.
- ◆ Amit Agarwal took over as the CEO of UIDAI.
- ◆ Ethnic clash in Manipur between Meitei and Kuki Tribes.
- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the International Day of Yoga celebrations at the UN Headquarters in New York.
- ◆ Geeta Press, Gorakhpur, conferred Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021.
- ◆ Fourth National Water Awards, 2022: MP Best State, Ganjam Best District and Jagannadhapuram Best Village Panchayat.

- ◆ Raja Mahotsav celebrated in Odisha from 14 to 16 June, 2023.
- ◆ India-Maldives joint military exercise “Ekuverein” began in Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.
- ◆ Cyclone ‘Biparjoy’ originated in Arabian Sea, Coastal Gujarat on high alert.
- ◆ Air India Express creates history with all-women Haj flight.
- ◆ Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde launched Asia’s biggest cluster development scheme in Thane.
- ◆ India’s first carbon-neutral village is being developed in Bhiwandi taluka of Thane district, Maharashtra.
- ◆ Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off India’s first international cruise ship from Chennai to Sri Lanka.
- ◆ 233 killed and over 900 were injured in the Coromandel Express train accident in Odisha’s Balasore district.
- ◆ Praveen Kumar Srivastava sworn in as Central Vigilance Commissioner.
- ◆ India’s public sector Sutej Jal Vidyut Nigam will develop Arun-4, the second hydroelectric project in Nepal.
- ◆ CAG of India Girish Chandra Murmu was re-elected as External Auditor of WHO for a second term.
- ◆ The first Mining Startup Summit will be held in Mumbai.
- ◆ IPS officer Praveen Sood took charge as CBI director.
- ◆ PM flagged off the first Vande Bharat Express train between Dehradun-Delhi on 25 May, 2023.
- ◆ Supreme Court gets two new judges: Justice Prashant Mishra, KV Viswanathan.
- ◆ Madhya Pradesh is becoming the first state in the country to send older people on air travel.
- ◆ Karnataka’s Siddaramaiah will take oath as Chief Minister and DK Shivakumar as Deputy CM.
- ◆ Dr Manoj Soni sworn in as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- ◆ International Museum Expo 2023 was held on 18th May at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- ◆ Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav launched the mobile application Meri LiFE.
- ◆ Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit took charge as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.
- ◆ India’s largest tunnel aquarium ‘Aqua Marine Park’ will be built in Hyderabad.
- ◆ IPS officer Praveen Sood has been appointed as the next director of CBI.
- ◆ The 4th edition of the Indo-Indonesia bilateral Exercise Samudra Shakti-23 concluded on 19 May 23.
- ◆ 3rd G20 Development Working Group meeting under the chairmanship of India was held in Goa.
- ◆ Foreign ministers of SCO member states will continue their discussions on the 2nd day of their meeting in Goa.
- ◆ Wing Commander Deepika Misra has become the first woman Air Force officer to receive a gallantry medal.
- ◆ India Overtakes China as World’s Most Populous Nation as per UN Data.
- ◆ Apple CEO Tim Cook meets with Indian Prime Minister Modi to discuss technology’s positive impact on India’s future.

- ◆ G-20 Conference on Research and Innovation for Egalitarian Society begins in Dharamshala.
- ◆ First Global Buddhist Summit concluded in New Delhi on 18 & 19 April 2023.
- ◆ Nandini Gupta from Rajasthan crowned Femina Miss India World 2023.
- ◆ Kolkata Metro conducts a successful test run of India's first-ever underwater metro.
- ◆ PM Narendra Modi flagged off Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express between Jaipur and Delhi Cantt.

Books and Authors

Book Title	Author(s)
Forks in The Road: My Days at RBI And Beyond	C. Rangarajan
India's Knowledge Supremacy: The New Dawn	Dr. Ashwin Fernandes
Revolutionaries – The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom	Amit Shah
Braving a Viral Storm: India's Covid-19 Vaccine Story	Aashish Chandorkar
Prince Harry	Spare
Autobiography of Prof. K.K. Abdul Gaffar	M. S. Dhoni
Roller Coaster: An Affair With Banking	Tamal Bandyopadhyay

Chief Minister's Diary No.1	Ranjan Gogoi
Revolutionaries	Sanjeev Sanyal
Ambedkar: A Life	Shashi Tharoor
The World: A Family History	Simon Sebag Montefiore
Breaking Barriers	Kaki Madhava Rao (Retd. IAS)

Military Exercises

Exercise	Participating Countries
Sampriti	India and Bangladesh
Mitra Shakti	India and Sri Lanka
Maitree Exercise	India and Thailand
Vajra Prahar	India and the United States
Yudh Abhyas	India and the United States
Nomadic Elephant	India and Mongolia
Garuda Shakti	India and Indonesia
Shakti Exercise	India and France
Dharma Guardian	India and Japan
Surya Kiran	India and Nepal
Hand-in-Hand Exercise	India and China
SIMBEX	India and Singapore
CORPAT	India and Indonesia

Heads of Organizations and Important Position Holders in India

Office	Name
National Security Advisor	Ajit Doval

Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA)	Pankaj Kumar Singh
Cabinet Secretary	Rajiv Gauba
Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister	Pramod Kumar Mishra
Secretary General of the Lok Sabha	Utpal Kumar Singh
Secretary General of the Rajya Sabha	P. C. Mody
Secretary General of Supreme Court of India	Sanjeev S. Kalgaonkar
Chairperson of the Railway Board	Jaya Varma Sinha
Attorney General	R. Venkataramani
Solicitor General	Tushar Mehta
Principal Scientific Advisor	Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood
Chief Economic Advisor	V. Anantha Nageswaran

Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes	Harsh Chouhan
Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes	Hansraj Gangaram Ahir
Chairperson of the National Commission for Women	Rekha Sharma
Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights	Priyank Kanoongo
Chairperson of the Central Administrative Tribunal	Justice Ranjit Vasantryao
Chairperson of the Central Vigilance Commission	Praven Kumar Srivastava
Chairperson of the Atomic Energy Commission	Ajit Kumar Mohanty
Chairperson of the Indian Space Research Organisation	S. Somanath
Chairperson of the University Grants Commission	Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar
Chairperson of the Central Information Commission	Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha
Chairperson of the Competition Commission	Ravneet Kaur

Heads of Statutory Commissions

Office	Name
Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission	Arun Kumar Mishra
Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities	Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura
Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes	Vijay Sampla

Heads of Financial Bodies

Office	Name
Chairperson of the 15 th Finance Commission of India	N. K. Singh
Governor of the Reserve Bank of India	Shaktikanta Das
Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India	Madhabi Puri Buch
Chairperson of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority	Debasish Panda
Chairperson of the 7 th Pay Commission	Ashok Kumar Mathur
Chairperson of the Small Industries Development Bank	Sivasubramanian Ramann
Chairperson of the Company Law Board	Mahesh Kumar Mittal
Chairperson and Managing Director of the Export-Import Bank	Harsha Bhupendra Bangari
Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the National Housing Bank	Sarada Kumar Hota
Chairperson of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development	Shaji K V
Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the Industrial Finance Corporation	Emandi Sankara Rao
Chairperson of the National Stock Exchange	Girish Chandra Chaturvedi
Chairperson of the Bombay Stock Exchange	S. S. Mundra
Chairperson of the Industrial Development Bank	T. N. Manoharan

Heads of Organizations and Important Position Holders in the World

Department/Position	Person
Commonwealth, Head	Charles III
Commonwealth, Secretary-General	Patricia Scotland (F)
FIFA, President	Giovanni Vincenzo Infantino (Swiss)
International Court of Justice, President	Joan Donoghue
International Cricket Council, Chairman	Greg Barclay
International Cricket Council, CEO (Acting)	Geoff Allardice

International Labour Organization (ILO), Director-General	Guy Ryder
International Monetary Fund (IMF), Managing Director	Kristalina Georgieva (F)
International Olympic Committee, President	Thomas Bach
INTERPOL, President	Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi
NASA, Administrator	Bill Nelson
UNESCO, Director-General	Audrey Azoulay (F)
United Nations (UN), Secretary-General	António Guterres
World Bank, Chief Economist	Indermit Gill
World Bank, President	David R. Malpass
World Health Organization (WHO), Director-General	Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
World Trade Organization (WTO), Director-General	Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (F)

Note: (F) indicates a female holder of the position.

Important National Officials

Designation	Dignitary
Chief Justice of India	D. Y. Chandrachud
Chairperson, NHRC	A. K. Mishra
Chairperson, University Grants Commission	M. Jagadesh Kumar
Chairman, ISRO	S. Somanath
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission	Ajit Kumar Mohanty
Chairperson, 15 th Finance Commission	N. K. Singh
Chairperson, CBFC	Prasoon Joshi
Chairperson, CBSE	Nidhi Chhibber
Chief Election Commissioner	Rajiv Kumar
Chief Information Commissioner	Yashvardhan Sinha
Attorney General	R. Venkataramani
Solicitor General	Tushar Mehta
Chairman, UPSC	Manoj Soni
Governor, RBI	Shaktikanta Das
President, BCCI	Roger Binny
President, Indian Olympic Association	P. T. Usha

Forest Survey 2021

- ◆ **Forest Survey Report 2021:** Key Findings and New Features
- ◆ **Introduction:** The Forest Survey Report 2021 (ISFR 2021) is the 17th biennial assessment of India's forests conducted by the Forest Survey of India, an organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). It provides an overview of the forest cover, tree cover, growing stock, trees outside forests, mangrove cover, bamboo resources, and forest carbon stock in the country.

Key Findings of the ISFR 2021

1. Forest Types

- The report classifies forests into three categories based on canopy density: Very Dense Forests (canopy density > 70%), Moderately Dense Forests (canopy density between 40% and 70%), and Open Forests (canopy density between 10% and 40%).

2. Forest Cover

- The total forest cover in India is 7,13,789 square kilometres, which accounts for 21.71% of the country's geographical area.
- The tree cover is estimated to be 2.91% of the geographical area.

3. Changes in Forest Cover

- As per ISFR-2021, the top three states showing an increase in forest cover are- Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha respectively.
- Five states in the Northeast (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland) have experienced a loss in forest cover.

4. Mangroves

- India's mangrove cover has increased by 17 square kilometres, reaching a total of 4,992 square kilometers.

5. Tiger Population

- According to tiger census 2022, India is home to 70% of the world's tiger population, with a total of 3167 tigers. This is followed by Russia and Indonesia.

G20

- ◆ The 18th G20 Summit was held in New Delhi, India on September 9th and 10th, 2023. India hosted the G20 leaders' summit for the first time.



Theme of India's G20 presidency

- ◆ "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth - One Family - One Future".

Major Outcomes of G20 Summit 2023

- ◆ **New Delhi Declaration:** G20 Leaders' New Delhi Declaration achieved unanimous consensus.
- ◆ **African Union:** The G20 leaders agreed to admit the African Union as a permanent member of the G20.
- ◆ **Tripling the Global Renewable Energy Capacity By 2030:** G20 countries promised to work towards tripling the global renewable energy capacity by 2030.
- ◆ **Commitment to Global Food Security and Nutrition:** The G20 leaders recognize the importance of addressing ris-

ing commodity prices, including food and energy prices, which contribute to cost-of-living pressures.

- ◆ **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA):** The alliance was launched with nine initiating members: India, the US, Brazil, Argentina, Bangladesh, Italy, Mauritius, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates.
- ◆ **India – Middle East – Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC):** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Governments of India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, the UAE, France, Germany and Italy to establish the IMEC.

India's Cultural Showcase

- ◆ Bharat Mandapam (inspired from Anubhav Mandapam).



- ◆ Bronze statue of Lord Nataraja (Chola style).



- ◆ Konark Chakra of Odisha's Sun Temple and Image of Nalanda University (used as iconic backdrops).

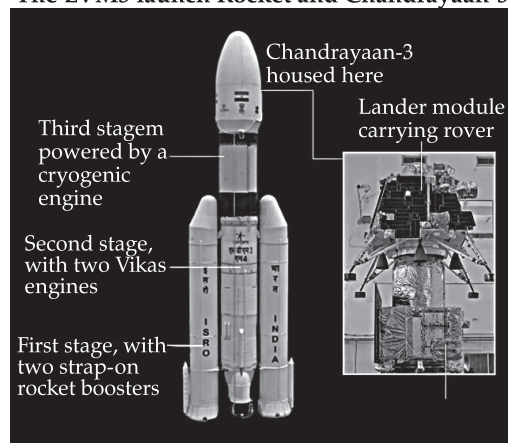


- ◆ Thanjavur Paintings and Dhokra art.
- ◆ Brass statue of Lord Buddha sitting under Bodhi tree.
- ◆ Diverse musical heritage (Hindustani, Folk, Carnatic, Devotional).

Chandrayaan-3

- ◆ Chandrayaan-3 has made history by becoming the first mission to soft-land on the lunar south pole, a region that has never been explored before. The mission aimed to demonstrate safe and soft lunar landing, rover mobility, and in-situ scientific experiments.

The LVM3 launch Rocket and Chandrayaan-3



- ◆ Chandrayaan-3 Mission is the second attempt of the Indian Space Research Organisation after the Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate the capability of India in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.
- ◆ Indian Space Research Organisation launched the Chandrayaan-3 Mission by using the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (LVM3) on 14th July 2023 from Sriharikota.
- ◆ The Lander Module of Chandrayaan-3 carrying the Lander, Vikram and Rover, Pragyan, made the historic soft landing on the surface of the Lunar South Pole on August 23, 2023. Thus, India became the first nation to soft-land on the surface of the Lunar south pole. India now joins the United States, Russia, and China as one of the few countries to successfully land on the Moon.
 - On August 24, the rover Pragyan started its exploration.

ADITYA- L1

- ◆ Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has accomplished the launch of Aditya-L1, its inaugural Solar Mission.
- ◆ The launch was conducted using the PSLV-C57 rocket
- ◆ **About**
 - Aditya-L1 is the first space based observatory class Indian solar mission to study the Sun from a substantial distance of 1.5 million kilometers. It will take approximately 125 days to reach the L1 point.
 - The spacecraft is planned to be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system.

World Athletics Championships

- ◆ Neeraj Chopra made history by winning the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the World Athletics Championships held in Budapest, Hungary.
- ◆ He became the first-ever Indian athlete to achieve this feat, marking a significant milestone for Indian athletics.
- ◆ Neeraj's exceptional performance was highlighted by a remarkable throw of 88.17 meters.
- ◆ Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem took the silver.



INS Kirpan

- ◆ Recently, India gifted the Corvette INS Kirpan to Vietnam to enhance that country's naval capabilities.

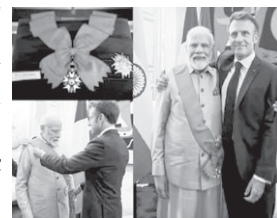


About INS Kirpan:

- It is an indigenously-built in-service missile corvette.
- It is a Khukri class missile corvette commissioned into the Navy on January 12, 1991.
- It has a displacement displacing capacity of close to 1,450 tonnes.
- It is capable of a speed of more than 25 knots.

Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, France's highest award by, the President of the Republic of France.



About Legion of Honour

- ◆ The Legion of Honour is the highest French decoration given to the most deserving citizens in all fields of activity.
- ◆ Established by former French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802.

Indian-origin Ajay Banga Chosen as World Bank President

- ◆ Indian-origin Ajay Banga has been selected as the new World Bank President.
- ◆ He will serve in this position for five years starting from June 2, 2023.
- ◆ He is succeeding David Malpass.
- ◆ He spent ten years as the President and CEO of Mastercard.



2

INDIAN HISTORY

Prehistory

- Prehistory is the time during the development of human culture before the appearance of the written word.
- Information about prehistoric times is collected by archaeologists by excavating and studying the remains.
- For instance, the Stone Age.

Protohistory

- Protohistory is the time just before the earliest recorded history.
- Written records about protohistoric times are few, and the scripts are yet to be decoded.
- For instance, the Indus Valley Civilisation.

History

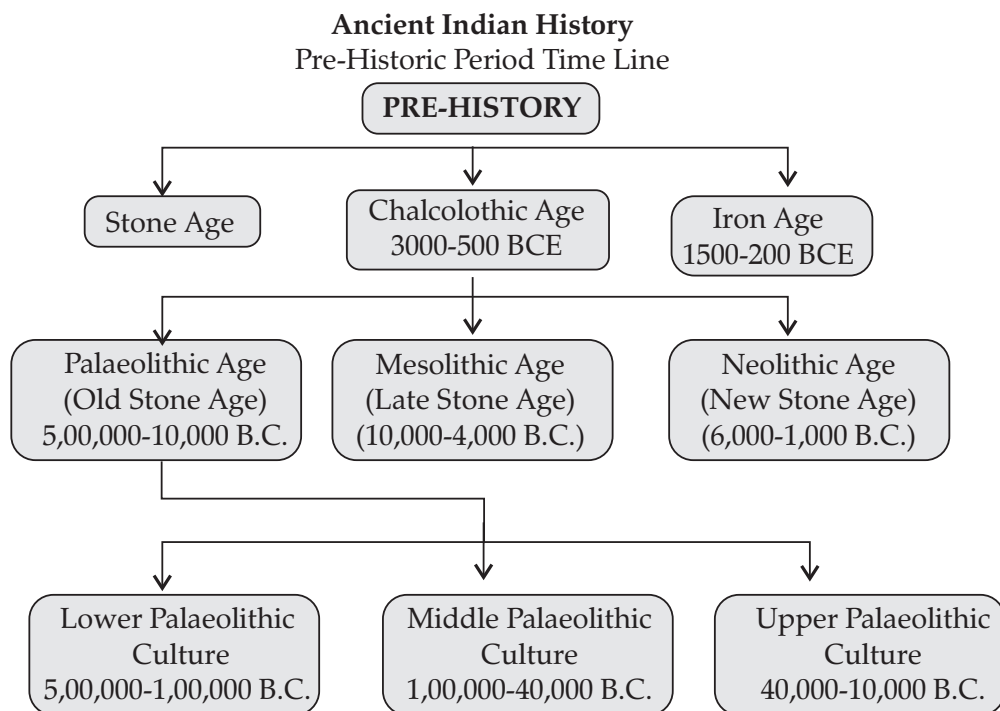
- History is a continuous, typically chronological, record of events.
- Information about historic time can be collected through various sources- written as well as archaeological surveys. For instance, the Vedic age.

ANCIENT HISTORY

Sources:

- ◆ **Sources:** There are many sources of ancient history.
 - Pliocene deposits, Inscriptions, The study of coins, Monuments, The Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas, Arthashastra, Mudrarakshasa.
- ◆ **Foreign travelers** documented information about India, such as:
 - **Megasthenes:** His book "INDICA" provides insights into the Mauryan dynasty.
 - **Fahien:** He recorded details about the Gupta Emperor.
 - **Hieun-Tsang:** His writings cover Buddhist records of the western world during the reign of Harshavardhana.
 - **Albiruni:** He authored "Tarikh-ul-Hind," a historical work on India.
 - **Ibna-Batuta:** His accounts describe India during the rule of Muhammad Tughlaq.

Pre-historic Period



Paleolithic Age

- ◆ **Homo sapiens** first appeared towards the end of this phase.
- ◆ **Stone Tools:** Use of crude stone tools like hand axes, cleavers, and choppers.
- ◆ **Hunter-Gatherers:** Human populations relied on hunting, fishing, and gathering for survival.
- ◆ **Cave Paintings:** Prehistoric rock art found in places like Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh.

Mesolithic Age

- ◆ **Transition Period:** Shift from a purely hunting-gathering lifestyle to early agriculture and domestication.
- ◆ **Microlithic Tools:** Emergence of smaller and more refined stone tools called microliths.
- ◆ **Semi-permanent Settlements:** People began to settle in semi-permanent locations and engage in limited farming.

Neolithic Age

- ◆ **Agriculture:** Introduction of agriculture, leading to the domestication of animals and cultivation of crops.
- ◆ **Pottery:** Development of pottery for storage, cooking, and other purposes.
- ◆ **Permanent Settlements:** The establishment of permanent villages and communities.
- ◆ **Megalithic Burials:** Construction of large stone structures to serve as burial sites.

Chalcolithic Age

- ◆ **Copper Age:** Emergence of copper tools and weapons alongside stone tools.
- ◆ **Advanced Agriculture:** Further advancements in agricultural practices, including the use of irrigation techniques.
- ◆ **Craftsmanship:** Skilled artisans produced pottery, metal artifacts, and intricate jewellery.

- ◆ **Beginning of Urbanization:** Some regions witnessed the growth of towns and cities.

Indus Valley Civilization

An Ancient Bronze Age civilization in the Indian subcontinent, was discovered by archaeologists in the 1920s. The first city to be discovered was "Harappa". Consequently it is also known as "**Harappan Civilization**".

- ◆ The Indus Valley Civilization (2550-1750 BC) represents the Bronze Age culture (Chalcolithic Age).
- ◆ John Marshall was the first scholar to use the term "Indus valley civilization".

Characteristics features of Indus valley civilization :

- ◆ Highly efficient Town planning.
- ◆ The streets were laid at right angles with an elaborate system of covered drains.
- ◆ Iron was not known to the people of Indus valley civilization.
- ◆ There was a presence of buildings made of bricks.
- ◆ Slaves were present in Indus valley Civilization.
- ◆ The society in the Indus valley civilization is patriarchal.

- ◆ The Indus valley people were the earliest to produce cotton.
- ◆ Lothal was an ancient port of Indus Valley Civilization.
- ◆ The seals found were mostly square in shape and made up of steatite. The most common animal on the seal was the unicorn.
- ◆ Mohenjo-Daro means the mound of death.
- ◆ The Indus people worshipped nature. They worshipped the peepal tree.
- ◆ Figures of Mother Goddess have been discovered in large numbers which indicate the worship of female deity. The chief male deity was the "Pasupathi mahadeva".

▶ WHEN		
EARLY HARAPPA	3500 - 2600 BCE	REGIONALIZATION ERA With Village Settlements
MATURE HARAPPA	2600 - 1900 BCE	INTEGRATION ERA With Large Urban Settlements
LATE HARAPPA	1900 - 1300 BCE	LOCALIZATION ERA Beginning of Decline

▶ WHERE
NORTHWEST INDIAN SUBCONTINENT
Present day Pakistan, Northwest India & some regions of Northwest Afghanistan along the banks of the rivers Indus and Saraswati

Important Indus Valley Sites

Site	Location	Excavation year	Excavator	Major findings
Harappa	Sahiwal District, Punjab, Pakistan	1921	Daya Ram Sahni	Granary, Pillared Hall, Indus script
Mohenjo-daro	Larkana District, Sindh, Pakistan	1922	R. D. Banerjee	Great Bath, Citadel, Dancing Girl, Indus script