

**INDIAN ECONOMY AND ISSUES RELATED TO PLANNING [GS-III]****Universal Basic Income**

The article discusses the feasibility of implementing UBI in India. This comes in the backdrop of heated exchange between the ruling party and main opposition party over redistributing wealth from the rich to the poor.

**Universal Basic Income (UBI)**

It involves direct cash transfers from the government to all citizens without any conditions. This was first proposed by American revolutionary Thomas Paine and later refined by English writer Thomas Spence in 1797. The central government's PM-Kisan scheme of cash transfers to farmers draws inspiration from this concept.

**Potential Benefits Of Universal Basic Income**

- It can address issues like farm distress, stagnant rural wages, rising household debt, and weak consumer demand among the poor.
- It can address issues like farm distress, stagnant rural wages, rising household debt, and weak consumer demand among the poor.
- Providing UBI to the poorest 40 million households would cost around ₹4 trillion (1.2% of GDP), which is financially viable.
- The fact that the government considers COVID food handouts necessary shows the importance of direct support.

**Limitations Of Universal Basic Income**

UBI alone will not be able to end poverty if there is a lack of access to essentials like law and order, clean water, healthcare, and education in rural areas.

**way forward**

- Enabling ordinary people to engage in politics and fostering a sense of citizenship with rights and dignity is crucial. This generates a demand for better education, healthcare, and skill development, which increases income and helps lift people out of poverty. For ex-land reforms in certain parts of India decades ago demonstrate this effect.
- There should be focus on empowering individuals by drawing inspiration from India's freedom movement.

UBI has been tested in various places globally, but it hasn't been a complete success anywhere. In India, giving regular cash payments could provide immediate help to the poor. However, to truly overcome poverty, it's important to remove the barriers that restrict individuals from realizing their true potential. While UBI may seem appealing as a policy, it's not a quick fix to end poverty forever.

**GEOGRAPHY [GS-I]****Kiru Hydro Electric Project**

REC Limited, a leading NBFC under the Ministry of Power, has entered into an agreement with Chenab Valley Power Project Private Limited (CVPPPL).

- This agreement involves REC providing financial assistance of ₹1,869.265 crores to CVPPPL as a Term Loan.
- The loan amount will be used for the development, construction, and operation of the Kiru Hydro Electric Project.

**About Kiru Hydro Electric Project:**

- This project is a run-of-river scheme.
- It is proposed on river Chenab in district Kishtwar of Union Territory of J&K and is about 42 kms from Kishtwar.
- It has a total capacity of 624 MW
- Objective: To increase power generation capacity by using the energy potential of Chenab River.
- Type of Dam: Concrete gravity.
- It includes the construction
- A dam with a height of 135 meters
- An underground Power House equipped with 4 units, each generating 156 MW.

**Chenab River**

- The Chenab River is a key river in both India and Pakistan.
- It is one of the five main rivers in the Punjab region
- Origin: Lahaul valley, Himachal Pradesh

- Formation: Chandra and Bhaga streams merge
- Length: 504 km in India
- Main Tributaries: Marusudar, Thirot, Sohal, Bhut nallah, Liddrari, Kalnai, Neeru, Raghi, Bichleri, Ans
- Catchment Area: 29,050 Sq. Km. up to the international border; 21,808 Sq. Km. up to Akhnoor
- Economic Potential: Estimated at 3600 MW (firm) & installed capacity of 11,400 MW

**About Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Limited**

- Objective: To use the hydro potential of the Chenab River.
- It is a joint venture between NHPC (51%) and JKSPDC (49%), created by the Indian and J&K governments.
- CVPPPPL is responsible for several hydroelectric projects:
- Kiru Hydro Electric Project (624 MW)
- Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project (1000 MW)
- Kwar HydroElectric Project (540 MW)
- Kirthai-II Hydro Electric Project (930 MW)
- These projects operate on a Build, Own, Operate, and Maintain (BOOM) basis.
- Combined, these projects have a capacity of 3094 MW.

**Impact on the Indian economy**

The agreement between REC Limited and Chenab Valley Power Project Private Limited (CVPPPPL) is likely to have a positive impact on the Indian economy in a few ways:

- Increased Power Generation Capacity: The project will add 624 MW of hydro power generation capacity to the Indian grid.
- This will help to meet the growing demand for electricity in the country and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- Infrastructure Development: The construction of the Kiru Hydro Electric Project will involve the creation of new infrastructure such as dams, power houses, and transmission lines.
- This will create jobs in the construction sector and boost the overall infrastructure development of Jammu & Kashmir.
- Economic Growth: The project is expected to generate employment opportunities during construction and operation phases.
- This will increase disposable income and stimulate economic activity in the region.
- Clean Energy Source: Hydropower is a clean and renewable source of energy.
- This project will help to reduce India's carbon footprint and contribute to its clean energy goals.

**About REC Limited:**

- It is recognized as a 'Maharatna' under the Ministry of Power.
- **Strategic Role:**
  - It plays a crucial role in government schemes like SAUBHAGYA and DDUGJY.
  - It aims to enhance electricity accessibility and distribution systems across the nation.
- **Nodal Agency Responsibilities:**
  - REC is tasked with managing certain schemes in various States and Union Territories, such as the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

**INDIAN POLITY**

**The Question of Redistribution of Privately Owned Property**

A 9-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court is hearing the question whether 'material resources of the community' includes privately owned resources in its ambit under Article 39(b) of the Constitution.

- The case: The SC is hearing a case challenging the insertion of Chapter VIII-A in the 1986 amendment to the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Act, 1976 (MHADA) by The Property Owners' Association in Mumbai claiming that the provisions violate the property owners' Right to Equality under Article 14 of the Constitution.
- Article 31C of the Constitution: laws enacted in furtherance of DPSP could not be challenged on the grounds that they violated the right to equality (Article 14) or Right to Freedom (Article 19)
- Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Act, 1976 (MHADA) was enacted to address the problem of old, dilapidated buildings housing (poor) tenants despite becoming increasingly unsafe.
- Cessed properties: MHADA imposed a cess on the buildings occupants, which would be paid to the Mumbai Building Repair and Reconstruction Board (MBRRB) to oversee repair and restoration projects.

- The 1986 Amendment: By invoking Article 39(b),
- Added Section 1A to MHADA: It aims to execute plans for acquiring lands and buildings, in order to transfer them to “needy persons” and the “occupiers of such lands or buildings”.
- Added Chapter VIII-A: It contains provisions allowing the state government to acquire cessed buildings (and the land they are built on) if 70% of the occupants make such a request.

Legal Interpretations of Article 39(b): State of Karnataka v Shri Ranganatha Reddy 1977: A seven-judge Bench of the SC by a 4:3 majority, held that privately owned resources did not fall within the ambit of “material resources of the community”.

- Minority opinion of Justice Krishna Iyer: He was of the opinion that privately owned resources must also be considered material resources of the community as excluding ownership of private resources from the provisions of Article 39(b) is to hide its very purpose of redistribution the socialist way.
- Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing Company v Bharat Coking Coal (1983): A 5 judge bench upheld central legislation nationalising coal mines concurring with the minority opinion of Justice Iyer.
- It held that the provision considers the transformation of wealth from private-ownership into public ownership and is not confined to that which is already public-owned
- Mafatlal Industries Ltd v Union of India (1996): Justice Paripoornan concurred with Justice Iyer opinion held that ‘material resources’ will include natural or physical resources which is movable or immovable property and includes all private and public sources of meeting material needs, not merely confined to public possessions.

**Right to Property:**

- **A former Fundamental right:** The right to property was recognized initially as a **fundamental right under Article 19(1)(f) and Article 31 of the Constitution.**
- **Legal right:** In 1978, through the **44th Amendment Act** significantly altered the right to property by removing it as a fundamental right and **placing it under Article 300A as a legal right.**

**Article 39 in Constitution of India: Part IV titled “Directive Principles of State Policy” (DPSP)**

- (a) that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means to livelihood;
- **(b) that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to sub serve the common good;**
- (c) that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment;
- (d) that there is equal pay for equal work for both men and women;
- (e) that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength

**PRELIM FACT**

**1.ASEAN Future Forum**

- India’s External Affairs Minister, delivered remarks at the 1st ASEAN Future Forum.
- India supports ASEAN unity and centrality, emphasizing the importance of a strong and unified ASEAN in the Indo-Pacific region.

**About ASEAN Future Forum:**

- It was proposed by Vietnam at the 43rd ASEAN Summit in 2023.
- It is a common platform for ASEAN member states as well as partner countries to share new ideas and policy recommendations.
- It aims to contribute to promoting and shaping ASEAN’s development path.

**2.Compulsory convertible debentures**

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the International Finance Corporation’s (IFC) subscription to Compulsory Convertible Debentures (CCDs) of Napino Auto and Electronics Limited (Napino).
- IFC, established in 1956, aims to promote economic growth in developing countries by fostering private sector development.

- Compulsory convertible debentures (CCDs) are debt instruments that are automatically and mandatorily converted into equity after a specific time period or when certain events occur.
- CCDs are hybrid instruments that are debt when issued but are guaranteed to be converted into equity at a later date.
- CCDs help companies repay debt without spending cash and benefit investors by offering fixed interest and later ownership of company shares.

### **3. Satellite Technology Day**

The U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) celebrated Satellite Technology Day (STD) – 2024, marking the 50th anniversary of the successful launch of India's first satellite, Aryabhata, on April 19, 1975.

About Aryabhata:

- Aryabhata was India's first satellite, launched on April 19, 1975 from Kapustin Yar, a Soviet rocket launch and development site.
- The satellite was built by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and launched by the Soviet Union as part of the Soviet Interkosmos program.
- It was named after the 5th-century Indian astronomer and mathematician Aryabhata.
- The satellite was instrumented to explore conditions in Earth's ionosphere, measure neutrons and gamma rays from the Sun, and perform investigations in X-ray astronomy.
- It carried out three experiments, one each in X-ray astronomy, Solar Physics and Aeronomy.

### **4. WHO global sodium benchmarks**

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued the second edition of its global sodium benchmarks, providing updated reference values for sodium content to combat chronic conditions linked to high blood pressure and obesity.
- The first edition of the WHO global sodium benchmarks, published in May 2021, contained 10 pre-determined benchmarks for different food categories.
- Developed collaboratively with governments, organizations, and private sector partners, these benchmarks aim to inform policy-making and support efforts to reduce sodium consumption globally.
- Part of a broader initiative, they emphasize improving nutrition systems, enhancing food accessibility, and raising public awareness about the risks of chronic conditions and the importance of healthy lifestyles.

### **5. Pulicat bird sanctuary**

The Tamil Nadu government is considering denotifying a significant portion of the Pulicat bird sanctuary, potentially excluding Patta land in 13 revenue villages from the sanctuary area.

- This move follows a process under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972, where people were invited to submit written claims for the land within a two-month period.
- The denotification process involves settling claims of affected individuals before issuing a final notification under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.

About Pulicat Bird Sanctuary:

- Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary is a wildlife refuge in the Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh and the Thiruvallur District of Tamil Nadu, India.
- It's a popular birding spot in South India and is known for its greater flamingos, White Ibis, Grey Pelicans, Grey Herons, Open Billed Storks, Egrets, Spot Billed Ducks, Reef Herons, Painted Storks, Spoon Bills, and Cormorants.

### **6. Article 244(A) of the Constitution**

- In the tribal-majority Diphu Lok Sabha constituency in Assam, candidates representing various political parties have committed to implementing Article 244(A) of the Constitution.
- This article seeks to establish an autonomous region, similar to a separate government within the state.

**About Article 244(A) of the Constitution**

1. Introduction in the constitution- Article 244(A) was introduced by Twenty-second Amendment Act of 1969.
2. About 244A- It grants Parliament the authority to establish an autonomous region within Assam, potentially encompassing tribal areas such as Karbi Anglong. In this autonomous region, there could be a separate governing body- like a Legislature or Council of Ministers, or both.
3. More power as compared to sixth schedule areas- This arrangement represents a significant advancement compared to the existing governance structure outlined in the Sixth Schedule. Unlike

the councils established under the Sixth Schedule, which have limited authority over law enforcement and financial matters, Article 244(A) provides for greater autonomy, particularly in terms of law and order control, to tribal areas.

**About Diphu**

1. Diphu is the least densely populated among Assam’s 14 Lok Sabha constituencies.
2. It is designated as a reserved constituency for Scheduled Tribes (STs).
3. It encompasses six legislative Assembly segments across three tribal-majority hill districts of Assam: Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong, and Dima Hasao.
4. It is governed under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.
5. These districts are under the jurisdiction of two autonomous councils: the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) and the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council.
6. The electorate in this constituency comprises diverse communities including the Karbi (the third largest tribe in the state), Dimasa, Hmar, Kuki, Rengma Naga, Zeme Naga, Bodo, Garo, Assamese, Gorkha, and others.

**ANSWER WRITING**

**Q. What is Zero Budget Natural Farming? Analyze the impact of its adoption on Indian agriculture?**

Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), an innovative approach in agriculture, aims to reduce farmers’ reliance on loans and expensive agricultural inputs. Developed by Padma Shri recipient Subhash Palekar in the mid-1990s, ZBNF draws from traditional Indian farming practices and offers an alternative to the Green Revolution’s chemical-intensive methods. This approach has garnered attention for its potential to transform Indian agriculture, particularly for smallholder farmers.

**Concept and Principles of ZBNF:**

- ZBNF operates on four key pillars: Bijamrutha (seed treatment), Jeevamrutha (natural fertilizers), Mulching (soil moisture conservation), and Whapasa (soil aeration).
- It emphasizes the use of natural and locally available materials, reducing the need for chemical inputs.
- The goal is to lower production costs and break the cycle of debt among farmers, a significant issue in Indian agriculture.

**Impact on Indian Agriculture:**

- **Economic Impact:** By minimizing input costs, ZBNF has the potential to alleviate the financial burden on farmers. Reports indicate that farmers practicing ZBNF have experienced a reduction in production costs, leading to increased profitability.
- **Environmental Impact:** ZBNF practices promote soil health and reduce environmental degradation. The avoidance of chemical fertilizers and pesticides diminishes soil and water pollution, fostering long-term agricultural sustainability.
- **Social Impact:** Women’s self-help groups and Farmer Producer Organizations are instrumental in promoting ZBNF. These groups aid in knowledge dissemination and adoption of ZBNF practices, enhancing community involvement and empowerment.

**Challenges and Limitations:**

- Despite its benefits, ZBNF faces certain challenges. Limited studies have shown mixed results in terms of productivity and long-term economic viability.
- The dependence on Indian breed cattle for certain practices, whose numbers are declining, presents a logistical challenge.
- A complete transition from conventional farming to ZBNF requires widescale adaptation and acceptance, which may be hindered by lack of awareness and resistance to change.

Zero Budget Natural Farming presents a promising alternative to traditional agricultural practices in India, particularly in the context of economic sustainability and environmental preservation. Its potential to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers is significant. However, the success of ZBNF depends on overcoming its limitations through research, government support, and community engagement. As such, ZBNF should be viewed as a complementary approach rather than a complete substitute for conventional farming methods, with a focus on gradual integration and adaptability to local conditions. This balanced approach can pave the way for a more sustainable and prosperous agricultural future in India.

**MCQs**

1. With reference to Kiru Hydel Power Project, consider the following statements:
  1. The project will be developed over the river Sutlej.
  2. It is a pumped storage hydropower scheme being developed in Jammu and Kashmir.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
**d) Neither 1 nor 2**
2. With reference to ownership of property, consider the following statements:  
1. According to Article 39(b), privately owned resources fall within the ambit of material resources of the community.  
2. The right to property can be altered through parliamentary legislation without requiring a constitutional amendment under article 368.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
a) 1 only  
**b) 2 only**  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. The Yangli festival is observed by which one of the following tribal communities?  
a) Bhil  
b) Gond  
**c) Tiwa**  
d) Mizo
4. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is often referred to as the 'Bharatpur of the East' due to its:  
a) Large elephant population  
**b) Extensive bird species diversity**  
c) Dense tiger habitat  
d) Rich aquatic plant life
5. Which one of the following processes is primarily responsible for lowering the wet-bulb temperature?  
a) Convection  
b) Radiation  
**c) Evaporation**  
d) Condensation
6. Consider the following statements regarding the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):  
1. The primary objective of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is to combat climate change.  
2. NCAP also focuses on reducing ambient air concentration of PM2.5 and PM10 particulate matter.  
3. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) implement the NCAP strategy across India.  
4. PRANA is the name of the national portal launched for the NCAP.  
How many of the statements given above are correct?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
**c) Only three**  
d) All four
7. Consider the following statements:  
1. Article 329(b) of the Constitution and the Representation of the People Act (RP Act) states that no election shall be called into question except through an election petition before the concerned High Court.  
2. As per the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act), an elector above 25 years of age can contest Lok Sabha election from any constituency in India.  
3. As per the election rules, a party cannot field a substitute candidate if the original nominee's papers are rejected.  
Which of the statements given above are correct?  
**a) 1 and 2 only**  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2 and 3
8. Consider the following pairs:  
Water Bodies-----Specifications  
1. Red Sea-----connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean through the Suez Canal.  
2. Strait of Hormuz-----connects the Atlantic Ocean with West African countries.  
3. Gulf of Guinea-----connects the Persian Gulf countries to the Indian Ocean.  
How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?  
**a) Only one pair**  
b) Only two pairs  
c) All three pairs  
d) None of the pairs
9. Consider the following statements:  
1. The Swachh Bharat Mission was launched with the aim of making India open defecation-free (ODF) and ensuring proper sanitation and waste management.  
2. The Environment Performance Index (EPI) uses cultural diversity, human rights, and political stability to rank countries.  
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?  
**a) 1 only**  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
10. Exercise DUSTLIK is a joint military exercise between India and which of the following?  
a) Kazakhstan  
b) Singapore  
**c) Uzbekistan**  
d) Iran