

NATIONAL NAD INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Terror-Funding

- ❖ **CONTEXT:** Recently concluded 'No Money for Terror (NMFT)' Conference has brought the issue of terror financing to light.
- **What is terror-funding?**
 - It is a sponsored money for initiating terrorist activities which are required for the following purpose:
 - ✓ To recruit and support members
 - ✓ To maintain logistics hubs
 - ✓ To conduct operations
 - Terrorist financing involves the solicitation, collection or provision of funds with the intention that they may be used to support terrorist acts or organisations. Funds may stem from both legal and illicit sources.
 - According to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, a person commits the crime of financing of terrorism "if that person by any means, directly or indirectly, unlawfully and willfully, provides or collects funds with the intention that they should be used or in the knowledge that they are to be used, in full or in part, in order to carry out" an offense within the scope of the Convention.
 - The primary goal of individuals or entities involved in the financing of terrorism is therefore not necessarily to conceal the sources of the money but to conceal both, the financing and the nature of the financed activity.
- **What are the sources of terror funding?**
 - According to Interpol sources of terrorist funding include, but are not limited to, low-level fraud, kidnapping for ransom, the misuse of non-profit organisations, the illicit trade in commodities (such as oil, charcoal, diamonds, gold and the narcotic "captagon"), and digital currencies.
 - Use of virtual assets and crowdfunding platforms by terrorist entities, their use of the dark web, the links between terror financing and legitimate economic activities, and payment intermediaries.
- ❖ **What have been important aspects of previous 'No Money for Terror' conference and India's takeaways?**
 - **The 2018 conference was hosted by France**
 - The conference agreed on "fully criminalising terrorism financing even in the absence of a link to a specific terrorist act", and "enhancing the traceability and transparency of financial flows" by developing frameworks to tackle the risks associated with the use of cash, informal remittance systems (including hawalas), prepaid cards, anonymous means of payments, and by promoting digital transactions.
 - It also raised a red flag on new financial instruments being misused and made a commitment to "implement the FATF standards as they apply to crypto-assets", urging the FATF "to advance global implementation".
 - Importantly, the conference discussed "traceability and transparency of non-profit organisations (NPOs) and charitable funds", calling for urgent and effective "implementation of FATF standards relating to non-profit organisations" without disrupting civil society activities.
 - It also reiterated the importance of effectively implementing UN sanctions, cooperation on intelligence sharing, and capacity building of countries that did not fully adhere to FATF.
 - **The 2019 conference was hosted by Australia**
 - The conference identified "kidnapping for ransom" and "emerging technologies" such as digital and cryptocurrencies, stored value cards, online payment systems and crowd funding platforms as new channels through which terrorism may be financed.
 - It recognised "the critical role played by the private sector to detect and prevent misuse of financial systems by terrorists" and flagged the need for monitoring of NPOs.
 - **India's takeaways from previous conferences**
 - India has articulated its "zero tolerance approach" towards terrorism in these conferences and tried to attract the attention to the cross-border terrorism from Pakistan.
 - In the 2019 conference, India called for a "united global effort against all those who support terror or help generate finances for terror". India pointed out how terror groups are active on social media and that undermines any ban the United Nations (UN) might place.
 - It called on nations to expedite the finalisation of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism under the UN and asked for FATF Standards to be effectively enforced. Given its experience of China blocking its push for sanctions against Pakistan-based terror groups and terrorists, it called for UN listings and FATF to not be politicised.
 - It also asked the international community to initiate discussion on 'Countering Financing of Radicalisation (CFR)', which would prevent radicalisation, an essential prerequisite of terrorism.
- ❖ **What have been India's priority issues and strategies against financing terrorism?**

➤ **Priority issues**

- Preventing diversion from legal financial instruments by fighting anonymity in financial networks.
- Restricting the use of proceeds of other crimes for terrorist activities.
- Preventing use of new financial technologies, virtual assets like crypto-currencies, wallets etc., for terror activities.
- Eliminate the use of Illegal Channels, Cash Couriers, Hawala by Terror Networks.
- Prevent the use of Non-Profit Organisation, NPOs Sector to Spread Terror Ideology.
- Continuous capacity building of counter-terror and financial intelligence agencies of all countries.

➤ **India's 5 pillared strategy against the financing of terrorism**

- To establish a comprehensive monitoring framework involving cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among all intelligence and investigative agencies.
- The strategy of "Trace, Target, and Terminate", to be adopted from low-level economic offenses to more organized economic crimes,
- Strengthening and harmonizing the legal structures related to terror finance,
- Developing a robust mechanism against the misuse of Next Generation Technology,
- Strengthening the legal and regulatory framework for asset recovery.

❖ **What have been various International and National Efforts to tackle financing of terrorism and related issues?**

➤ **INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS**

- To trace the history briefly, the international efforts to tackle the menace of terror financing began way back in 1989 when the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was formed as a means of bringing order and implementing standards to the monetary system in the world with regard to terror finance and money laundering.
- However, it was the 2001 terrorist attacks that changed the way security agencies looked at terror financing.
- **The UNSCR resolution 1267 in 1999 and UNSCR resolution 1373 in 2001** formed the bedrock of the financial sanctions regime for terrorist organisations and individuals.
- **The Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** works on the legal aspects of countering the financing of terrorism, including promoting the ratification of the relevant universal legal instruments, in particular the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999), and the implementation of these international standards.
- **Delhi Declaration of Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC)** of UN Security council was unanimously adopted on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. Among the listed items in the Declaration include the decision to continue to work on recommendations on the three themes of the Special meeting and the intention to develop a set of non-binding guiding principles to assist Member States to counter the threat posed by the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. The declaration aims to cover the main concerns surrounding the abuse of drones, social media platforms, and crowd-funding, and create guidelines that will help to tackle the growing issue.
- **The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)** leads and coordinates an all-of-UN approach to prevent and counter-terrorism and violent extremism. UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) under UNOCT, promotes international cooperation in the fight against terrorism and supports the Member States in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

❖ **Financial Action Task Force**

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog. The inter-governmental body sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society. As a policy-making body, the FATF works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas. It was established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris.

➤ **Various lists under FATF:**

- **Grey List:** Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. Inclusion in this list means a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.
- **Black List:** Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF revises the blacklist regularly. Iran and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) are under High-risk Jurisdiction or black list.

➤ **NATIONAL EFFORTS**

- **National Investigation Agency (NIA):** Federal agency established by the Indian Government to combat terror in India.

- **Unlawful Activities Prevention Act:** Anti-terror legislation that seeks to designate an individual as a “terrorist”.
- **National Intelligence Grid or NATGRID:** It has been conceived to develop cutting edge technology to enhance India’s counter terror capabilities. NATGRID is seamless and secure database which provides information on terrorists, economic crimes etc.
- **Multi Agency Centre (MAC) and Subsidiary Multi Agency Centres (SMAC):** Mandate is to share terrorism related intelligence inputs on a daily basis.
- **NSG Hubs** to ensure to ensure a rapid response to terrorist attacks and **Coastal Security Scheme** for maritime security.
- **India has proposed permanent secretariat to coordinate bid to fight terror funding:** Overall approach of ‘Beyond-Border Cooperation’ is the basis for countering terror funding in global level. India has sensed the need for permanency of this unique initiative of NMFT, in order to sustain the continued global focus on countering the financing of terrorism – proposal for permanent Secretariat made for focussing more on this contagious issue.

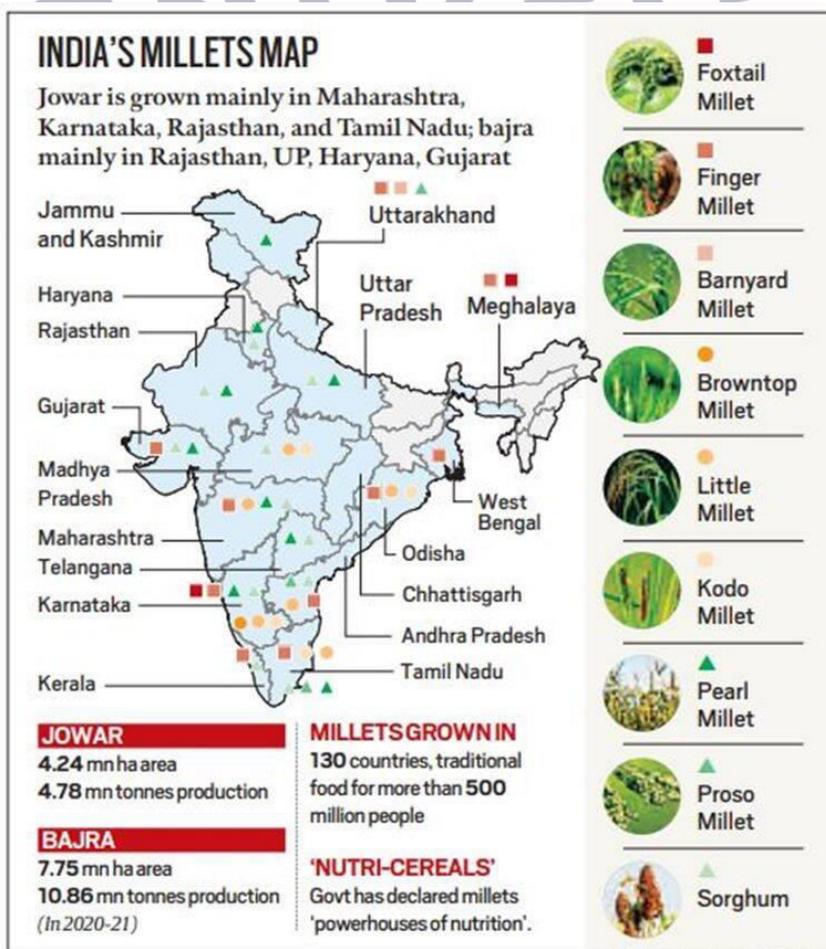
AGRICULTURE

Why India’s push for millets is yet to gain widespread traction

❖ **CONTEXT:** At a pre-launch celebration of the International Year of Millets 2023 organised by the Ministries of Agriculture and External Affairs recently, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar named “Covid, conflict, and climate” as the world’s main food security challenges, and placed the cultivation and popularisation of millets in the context of the wider imperative of “de-risking the global economy”.

➤ **Millets, the crop**

- The word millets is used to describe small-grained cereals like sorghum (jowar), pearl millet (bajra), foxtail millet (kangni/ Italian millet), little millet (kutki), kodo millet, finger millet (ragi/ mandua), proso millet (cheena/ common millet), barnyard millet (sawa/ sanwa/ jhangora), and brown top millet (korale).
- Millets were among the first crops to be domesticated. There is evidence for consumption of millets by the Indus valley people (3,000 BC), and several varieties that are now grown around the world were first cultivated in India. West Africa, China, and Japan are home to indigenous varieties of the crop.
- Millets are now grown in more than 130 countries, and are the traditional food for more than half a billion people in Asia and Africa. They require much less water than rice and wheat, and are mainly grown in rainfed areas.
- Globally, sorghum (jowar) is the biggest millet crop. The major producers of jowar are the United States, China, Australia, India, Argentina, Nigeria, and Sudan. Bajra is another major millet crop; India and some African countries are major producers.
- In India, millets are mainly a kharif crop. During 2018-19, three millet crops — bajra (3.67%), jowar (2.13%), and ragi (0.48%)



— accounted for about 7 per cent of the gross cropped area in the country, Agriculture Ministry data show.

➤ **'High nutritive value'**

- Millets are considered to be “powerhouses of nutrition”. On April 10, 2018, the Agriculture Ministry declared millets as “Nutri Cereals”.
- Jowar, bajra, ragi/ mandua, the minor millets — kangani/ kakun, cheena, kodo, sawa/ sanwa/ jhangora, and kutki — and the two pseudo millets, buckwheat (kuttu) and amaranth (chaulai), which have “high nutritive value” are now regarded as “Nutri Cereals” for the purposes of production, consumption, and trade.
- Millets contain 7-12% protein, 2-5% fat, 65-75% carbohydrates and 15-20% dietary fibre. Small millets are more nutritious compared to fine cereals. They contain higher protein, fat and fibre content.

➤ **Year of Millets**

- On March 3, 2021, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution to declare 2023 as the International Year of Millets. The proposal was moved by India, and was supported by 72 countries.
- Several events and activities, including conferences and field activities, and the issuing of stamps and coins, are expected as part of the celebrations aimed at spreading awareness about millets, inspiring stakeholders to improve production and quality, and attracting investments.

➤ **Millets under PDS**

- Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, eligible households are entitled to get rice, wheat, and coarse grain at Rs 3, Rs 2, and Re 1 per kg respectively. While the Act does not mention millets, coarse grains are included in the definition of “foodgrains” under Section 2(5) of the NFSA.
- However, the quantity of coarse grains procured for the Central Pool and distributed under the NFSA has been negligible.
- The latest data on stocks with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) show only 2.64 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of coarse grain was available in the Central Pool on November 1, 2022. In comparison, the stocks of rice, wheat, and unmilled paddy were 265.97 LMT, 210.46 LMT, and 263.70 LMT respectively.
- The push to distribute coarse grains under the PDS has not gained momentum. The Centre has accepted the recommendation of a committee set up by it, that millets be included in the PDS in order to improve nutritional support.
- The government has set a target to procure 13.72 LMT coarse grains during the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2022-23, more than double the 6.30 LMT procured during KMS 2021-22. The target includes 4.12 LMT of bajra, of which 0.95 LMT had been procured until November 21.

➤ **MSP for millets**

- The government declares a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for jowar, bajra, and ragi only.
- For KMS 2022-23, the MSP for jowar hybrid was declared at Rs 2,970 per quintal, and that for jowar maldandi at Rs 2,990 per quintal. The MSP for bajra and ragi were Rs 2,350 per quintal and Rs 3,578 per quintal respectively.

➤ **Main millets states**

- Jowar is mainly grown in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, and Madhya Pradesh. In 2020-21, the area under jowar stood at 4.24 million hectares, while production was 4.78 million tonnes. Maharashtra accounted for the largest area (1.94 mn ha) and production (1.76 million tonnes) of jowar during 2020-21.
- Bajra is mainly grown in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Of the total 7.75 mn ha under bajra in 2020-21, the highest (4.32 mn ha) was in Rajasthan. The state also produced the most bajra in the country (4.53 million tonnes of the total 10.86 million tonnes) in 2020-21.

➤ **Consumption patterns**

- In the latest available NSSO household consumption expenditure survey (which is more than a decade old), less than 10 per cent of rural and urban households reported consumption of millets.
- In rural areas, of the 11.231 kg of cereals consumed by a person in a month in 2011-12, 6.125 kg was rice, and 4.439 kg was wheat.
- Very little millets were consumed: 201 grams jowar, 246 g bajra, 75 g ragi, and 4 g of small millets.
- More than 95% of rural households reported consumption of rice and more than 59% wheat; only 8.5%, 6.6%, and 5.3% reported consumption of jowar, bajra, and ragi respectively.
- In urban areas, monthly per capita consumption of cereals (9.322 kg) was lower than in rural areas.
- The monthly per capita consumption of jowar, bajra, ragi, and small millets were recorded at just 139 g, 91 g, 60 g, and 1 g.
- The consumption of millets was reported mainly from Gujarat (jowar and bajra), Karnataka (jowar and ragi), Maharashtra (jowar and bajra), Rajasthan (bajra), and Uttarakhand (ragi).

➤ **Political significance**

- Millet is grown mainly in low-income and developing countries in Asia and Africa, and are part of the food basket of about 60 crore people across the globe. By proposing the resolution to celebrate 2023 as the International Year of Millets, India pitched itself as a leader of this group. This is similar to the Indian initiative on the 121-nation International Solar Alliance.

PRELIMS

1. International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

❖ **CONTEXT: India wins the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Vice Presidency and Strategic Management Board (SMB) Chair for the 2023-25 term.**

- By securing over 90% of the votes cast by full members of International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) during its General Meeting held recently in San Francisco, USA, India's representative, a member of the Indian National Committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and various technical committees of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS-India), was elected.
- Shri Vimal Mahendru will be the IEC Vice President representing India.

❖ **IEC**

- International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is an international standard setting body that publishes international Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.
- Standardization Management Board (SMB) is an apex governance body of IEC responsible for technical policy matters.
- IEC was established in 1906, and it is a not-for-profit organization.
- It develops and produces international consensus-based requirements and handles assessment methods for those electronics, electrical & related technologies, collectively referred to as "electrotechnology."
- IEC publications act as a framework for national standardization and as references when drafting international contracts, tender documents, and so on.

➤ **Principles**

- To represent the global markets including all electronics, electrical & related technologies via standardization and compliance operations.
- Promoting global economic growth and promoting the growth of safe, efficient and environmentally-friendly systems, products & services.

➤ **Rules and Procedures**

- IEC's governing document contains the IEC Laws and Procedures.
- It covers the privileges and duties of the national member commissions, the officers of the IEC as well as the board of directors.
- The processes for its technical work, the guidelines for the design and the drafting of global standards are defined by the IEC Guidelines.

2. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

❖ **CONTEXT: The Central government has constituted a committee to review the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme, especially to assess the programme's efficacy as a poverty alleviation tool.**

- The committee, headed by former Rural Development secretary Amarjeet Sinha
- The Sinha committee has now been tasked to study the various factors behind demand for MGNREGA work, expenditure trends and inter-State variations, and the composition of work. It will suggest what changes in focus and governance structures are required to make MGNREGA more effective.
- **About:** MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world launched in 2005 by the Ministry of Rural development.
- The primary objective of the scheme is to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work.
- As of 2022-23, there are 15.4 crore active workers under the MGNREGA.
- **Legal Right to Work:** Unlike earlier employment guarantee schemes, the act aims at addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework. At least one-third of beneficiaries have to be women.
- Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
- **Demand-Driven Scheme:** The most important part of MGNREGA's design is its legally-backed guarantee for any rural adult to get work within 15 days of demanding it, failing which an 'unemployment allowance' must be given. This demand-driven scheme enables the self-selection of workers.
- **Decentralised planning:** There is an emphasis on strengthening the process of decentralisation by giving a significant role in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in planning and implementing these works.

- The act mandates Gram sabhas to recommend the works that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them.
- **What are the Issues Associated with Implementation of Scheme?**
- **Delay and Insufficiency in Funds Dispersal:** Most states have failed to disburse wages within 15 days as mandated by MGNREGA. In addition, workers are not compensated for a delay in payment of wages.
- ✓ This has turned the scheme into a supply-based programme and subsequently, workers had begun to lose interest in working under it.
- ✓ There is ample evidence by now, including an admission by the Ministry of Finance, that delays in wage payments are a consequence of insufficient funds.
- **Caste Based Segregation:** There were significant variations in delays by caste. While 46% of payments to SC (Scheduled Caste) workers and 37% for ST (Scheduled Tribes) workers were completed in the mandated seven-day period, it was a dismal 26% for non-SC/ST workers.
- ✓ The negative impact of caste-based segregation was felt acutely in poorer States such as Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.
- **Ineffective Role of PRI:** With very little autonomy, gram panchayats are not able to implement this act in an effective and efficient manner.
- **Large Number of Incomplete works:** There has been a delay in the completion of works under MGNREGA and inspection of projects has been irregular. Also, there is an issue of quality of work and asset creation under MGNREGA.
- **Fabrication of Job cards:** There are several issues related to the existence of fake job cards, the inclusion of fictitious names, missing entries and delays in making entries in job cards.
- 3. **Unemployment Rate Dips Marginally To 7.2% In July--September 2022**
- ❖ **CONTEXT: According to the 16th Periodic Labour Force Survey Quarterly Bulletin released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the unemployment rate in urban areas for persons aged above 15 eased to 7.2% in July--September 2022 from 9.8% a year ago and 7.6% in the previous quarter.**
- The unemployment rate was 6.6% for men and 9.4% for women. It was 9.3% and 11.6%, respectively, in July-September 2021.
- The worker-Population Ratio (WPR) also witnessed a marginal increase compared with last year's.
- In urban areas, the WPR for those aged 15 and over was 44.5% in July-September 2022, up from 42.3% during the same time period in 2021. In April through June 2022, it was 43.9%. The WPR was 68.6% for men and 19.7% for women. In 2021, they were 66.6% and 17.6%, respectively.
- In urban areas, the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for people aged 15 and over grew from 46.9% in July to September 2021 to 47.9% in July to September 2022. From April to June 2022, it was 47.5%.
- The LFPR was 73.4% for men and 21.7% for women. It was 73.5% and 19.9%, respectively, in 2021.
- On November 24, Ashoka University's Centre for Economic Data and Analysis (CEDA) unveiled a plan to address the nation's declining women's LFPR.
- Despite an increase in women's educational attainment, the LFPR of women has been continuously dropping over the past 20 years, according to a release from the CEDA.
- **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**
- The National Statistical Office (NSO) established the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in April 2017 after realising the value of having access to labour force data at more frequent intervals.
- The primary two goals of PLFS are
 - ✓ To estimate key employment and unemployment indicators (such as the Worker Population Ratio, Labor Force Participation Rate, and Unemployment Rate) in the brief period of three months for urban regions solely in the "Current Weekly Status" (CWS).
 - ✓ To annually calculate the indicators of employment and unemployment in both urban and rural areas using "Usual Status" (ps+ss) and CWS.
- Four PLFS Annual Reports covering the years July 2017 through June 2018, July 2018 through June 2019, July 2019 through June 2020, and July 2020 through June 2021 have been published based on the data gathered in PLFS.
- These reports cover rural and urban areas and provide estimates of all significant employment and unemployment parameters in both usual status (ps+ss) and current weekly status (CWS) for the aforementioned time periods.
- Estimates of labour force indicators, including the Worker Population Ratio (WPR), the Unemployment Rate (UR), and the distribution of employees by broad status in employment and industry of work in the Current Weekly Status (CWS) for metropolitan regions, have been published in these quarterly bulletins.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. "In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal." Critically examine this statement.

Non-state actors refer to a wide range of development actors - other than government. In practice, it means that participation is open to all kind of actors, such as the private sector, community-based organisations, women's groups, human rights associations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), religious organisations, farmers' cooperatives, trade unions, universities and research institutes, the media, etc. Also included are informal groups such as grassroots organisations, informal private sector associations, etc.

Non-state actors have come to play an important role in the process of governance in India. Today, non-state actors are actively engaged in community mobilisation, economic development and societal transformation. They play different roles like capacity building, asset creation, representation, lobbying, advocacy, service delivery etc. Essentially, they are instruments of people's action and the means of protecting and promoting vital rights of citizens. They aid the process of good governance in several ways such as:

- Policy Formulation and Advocacy: Influencing the decisions of legislators, other elected representatives, and public administrators.
- Watchdog role: Play a crucial role in evaluating the policies and actions of the Government
- Welfare Service Delivery: Can provide the necessary institutional basis for service delivery
- Reform and Social Change: Serve as an instrument for reform and social change.

They have played an instrumental role in the enactment of crucial legislations like the Right to Information Act, the National Food Security Act, Right to Education, MNREGA etc.

At the same time, their contribution to the governance domain is limited by lack of funds, inadequate trained personnel, lack of culture of volunteering etc. Multiplicity of laws and regulations add to their problems. This prevents the non-state actors from reaching their full potential in enforcing good governance. Considering that India has over 2 million registered NGOs, the scope and extent of their contribution has been below par.

MCQs

1. With reference to Multi Agency Centre (MAC) consider the following
 1. The Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) was formed in December 2001 following the Kargil intrusion
 2. It is a nodal establishment for sharing intelligence inputs among various international counter terrorism agencies.
 3. It functions under Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Which of the above statement/s is /are not correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 only
- c) **2 and 3 only**
- d) 3 only

2. With reference to National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) consider the following
 1. It is an online database for collating scattered pieces of information and putting them together on one platform information on terrorists, economic crimes and similar incidents.
 2. NATGRID came into existence after the 2008 Mumbai attacks

Choose the correct statement/s using the codes given below

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) **Both 1 and 2**
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. The terms like "UNSCR resolution 1237, UNSCR resolution 1373" often mentioned in news can be related to which of the following?

- a) **Terror financing**
- b) Coral restoration
- c) Endangered species
- d) Space debris

4. With reference to National Statistical Office (NSO), consider the following statements:

1. It acts as the nodal agency for planned development of the statistical system in the country.
2. It administer under NITI Ayog.
3. It performs the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) and the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) monthly.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) **1 and 3 only**
- d) 2 only

5. Consider the following statements with regards to Millet
1. In 2021 for the first time, India proposed to the United Nation to declare 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
 2. Jowar, bajra, ragi, buckwheat, and amaranthus are some examples of millets
 3. Millets are gluten-free and non-allergic in nature.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 2 and 3 only**
6. With reference to section 29A of Representation of Peoples Act 1951 which was in news recently consider the following.
1. The section put a statutory restriction on bodies with religious names to register as political party
 2. The prohibition of religious connection organisations register as political party was incorporated through an amendment to the RP Act 1951 in 2005

Which of the above statement/s is/are not correct?

- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2**
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
7. Recently SEBI includes buying, selling of Mutual funds under insider trading rule, which of the following is the reason for considering insider trading as harmful to the domestic economy and illegal?
- a) It hurts the economic growth of a nation, increases inflation and Current Account Deficit (CAD).
 - b) It results in crash of the security markets which are so vital for channeling savings in the domestic economy.
 - c) Speculation by individual investors is illegal and hurts the retail investors.
 - d) It distorts the level-playing field between investors in the stock market and makes the markets susceptible to heavy speculation.**
8. With reference to economy, the term follow-on offering (FPO) often mentioned in news, with regards to this consider the following statements
1. A follow-on offering (FPO) is an issuance of stock shares following a company's initial public offering (IPO)
 2. Companies usually announce FPOs to raise debt or reduce equity.

Which of the above statement/s is/are not correct?

- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only**
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
9. Recently Government of India constituted a committee heads by Amarjeet Sinha, is related to which of the following?
- a) MGNREGA**
 - b) Portfolio Investment
 - c) Disinvestment PSUs
 - d) Bank recapitalisation
10. Consider the following statements regarding Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme.
1. MGNREGA guarantees 100 days of unskilled manual work to all households in India.
 2. The Act stipulates a minimum wage-material ratio of 60:40.
 3. MGNREGA is to be implemented mainly by gram panchayats (GPs) with the help of contractors.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only**
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1 and 3 only