

# All-Inclusive Current Affairs for Prelims 2023

## Miscellaneous class-2

### Some initiatives in news



**Balvatika** : (Ministry of Education)

One year **preparatory** class for children, before class-1 (before 5 years age)



**Vidyanjali** (Vidyadaan) (Ministry of Education)

- school **volunteer** program
- Schools will take help of volunteers from govt/private companies
- e.g. special classes, sponsoring infra, etc.
- It is for government & government-aided schools



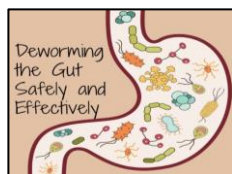
**PRASHAST**

- **Disability** Screening Checklist for Schools (Ministry of Education)
- developed by Central Institute of Educational Technology (under NCERT)
- It will help teachers in identifying children with disabilities



**Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)**

- Started in 1997, central sector scheme by Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- Schools for ST children (Class 6th to 12th) in remote areas
- Land is given by State govt free of cost
- No fees is charged from students
- Govt has decided to establish one EMRS in every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal population
- About 400 EMRS are functional. Target is 740



**National Deworming day** (Ministry of Health)

- Every year on 10 February and 10 August
- To eradicate intestinal worms (Soil-Transmitted Helminths) in children aged 1-19 years **Albendazole** tablet is given



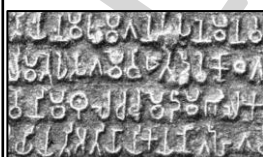
**PM Shri**

- PM Schools for Rising India (Ministry of Education)
- About 14,500 PM SHRI Schools will be set up throughout India
- They will be managed by Centre, State, local govt, KVS, NVS



**PM Pranam**

- Promotion of Alternate Nutrients for Agriculture Management Yojana
- To reduce use of chemical fertilizers.
- Encourage use of bio-fertilizers and **organic fertilizers**



**Bharat SHRI** (by Ministry of Culture)

- Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions
- Digital **epigraphy** museum
- 1 lakh ancient inscriptions will be digitized
- It will be set up by Archaeological Survey of India at Hyderabad.

I read I forget, I see I remember | See explanation of this PDF on  [www.youtube.com/c/allinclusiveias](https://www.youtube.com/c/allinclusiveias)

## SANKALP

- Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion
- by World Bank and Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
- To strengthen skill development institutes

## Economic Survey

- Prepared by Economic Division of Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance
- It is prepared under guidance of Chief Economic Advisor
- It is presented in Parliament a day before budget

## Some budget reforms in last few years

- No separate Railway budget
- Date of budget - earlier 28 Feb, now 1 Feb
- Plan and Non-Plan expenditure classification has been discontinued

## Which of these steady increased in last 5 years?

- Direct tax collection? No
- GST collection? No
- Revenue expenditure? Yes
- Foodgrain production? Yes
- Wheat production? No

## Flipping

- Economic survey describes 'Flipping' as Indian companies transferring their full ownership to a foreign entity
- It describes 'Reverse-flipping' as companies shifting their domicile back to India

## Effective capital expenditure

(Capex by Centre) + (grants given by Centre to States for Capex)

## Property Tax

- It is in List-2 (State list) of 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule, hence there are wide variations between states.
- Municipalities are dependent on property tax (they get about 60% of their taxes from property tax)
- Property tax collection in India is just 0.2% of GDP (In OECD, its 1% of GDP)

## Sovereign Green Bonds

- Green Bond, issued by Government
- Just like other G-Sec, they will be sold by RBI

## National Frequency Allocation Plan 2022

It provides framework for which frequency bands are available for cellular mobile services, Wi-fi, sound and television broadcasting, radio navigation for aircraft and ships, and other wireless communications.

## Agriculture Accelerator Fund

- It is part of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
- by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- Technical and financial assistance are provided to startups in agriculture sector

## LeadIT (Leadership for Industry Transition)

- It was launched by India and Sweden at UN Climate Action Summit in 2019
- To reduce carbon emissions from industries

|                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| World Economic Outlook Report | IMF                                  |
| Trade and Development Report  | UN Conference on Trade & Development |
| Baltic Dry Index              | London-based Baltic Exchange         |
| Goods Trade Barometer         | World Trade Organization             |
| World Tourism Barometer       | World Tourism Organization           |

## Baltic Dry Index

It is an index of cost of transporting raw materials, such as coal and steel.

## World Tourism Organization

- 1975, Madrid (Spain)
- Specialized agency of UN
- India member? Yes

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### Cluster Development Programme:

- Develop **common physical infrastructure** to address common challenges
- By MoA&FW (National Horticulture Board) for **horticulture** sector
- By Ministry of **MSME** for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs)

### PM MITRA park

- PM Mega Integrated **Textile** Region and Apparel Park
- Ministry of Textiles will give Rs 500 crore for each park
- Centre and States to form SPVs in JV mode for setting up PM MITRA Parks
- SPV owned by Centre and State will be created
- SPV will develop the park in PPP mode

### Samarth Udyog Bharat

- initiative of Department of Heavy Industry
- To raise awareness about **Industry 4.0** among Indian industry

### National Financial Information Registry

- FM announced in Budget that India will bring a law to create NFIR
- Banks will get lot of info about **loan applicants** (credit history, etc)
- It is another name of Public Credit Registry
- It will be created by RBI

### Digital Document Execution

- by National e-Governance Services Limited
- It has started **digitalizing loan process**: payment of stamp duty, e-stamping, e-sign, etc
- NeSL is an Information Utility regulated by IBBI under IBC 2016

### Insurance Repository

- It is a database of insurance policies
- It de-materializes existing insurance policies
- It makes the process of amending insurance policy easier
- Both new and existing insurance policies can be stored in electronic Insurance Account
- It was launched in 2013. Till now IRDAI has issued licence to five companies to set up Insurance repository.
- Policy holder can store his policies in any IR of his choice



### Terms in news

#### Global headwinds

Negative factors that slow down economic growth  
(headwind means wind blowing in opposite direction)

**Financial contagion**: spread of financial crisis from one sector/country to another

**Pent-up demand**: increase in demand after a period of low demand

**Capex**: Capital expenditure

**External Commercial Borrowings**: loans taken by Indian companies from foreign banks

**Fiscal glide path**: path govt takes to achieve its fiscal deficit targets

**Insurance penetration**: percentage of insurance premium to country's **GDP** (currently about 4%)

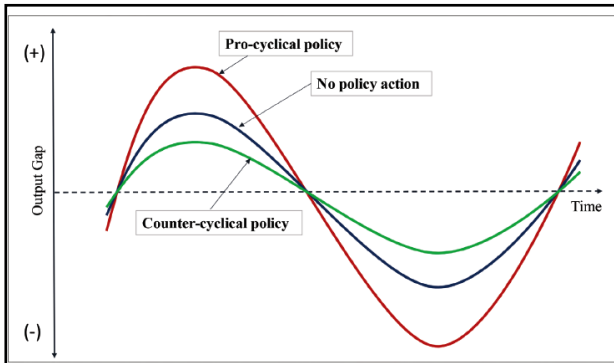
**Insurance density**: insurance premium (in U.S. dollars) to total **population**

**Crowding out**: increase in govt spending decreases investment by private sector

**Crowding in**: increase in govt spending increases investment by private sector

**Employment Elasticity**: It measures percentage change in jobs associated with 1 percentage increase in GDP

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## Pro & counter cyclic

| Fiscal Policy    | Recession   | Expansion   | Outcome  |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| Pro-cyclical     | Contractionary FP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Decrease govt expenditure</li> <li>▪ Increase Taxes</li> </ul> | Expansionary FP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase govt expenditure</li> <li>▪ Decrease Taxes</li> </ul>   | Deepens recession and amplifies expansion. Hence, fluctuations in business cycle increases |
| Counter-cyclical | Expansionary FP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase govt expenditure</li> <li>▪ Decrease Taxes</li> </ul>   | Contractionary FP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Decrease govt expenditure</li> <li>▪ Increase Taxes</li> </ul> | Softens recession and moderates expansion. Hence, fluctuations in business cycle decreases |

### Universal Bank

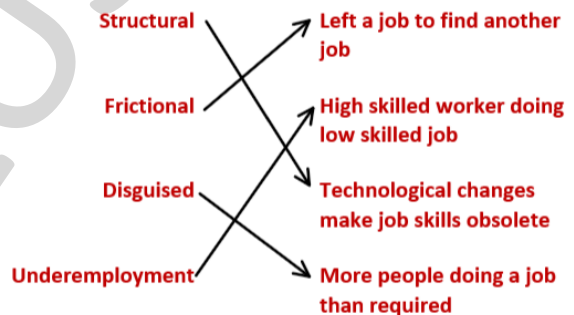
A bank that offers retail, wholesale, and investment banking services under one roof.



### Unemployment

#### Unemployment type

#### Explanation



### Inter-Creditor agreement

Under 'Sashakt plan', Sunil Mehta Committee 2018 had recommended banks to sign ICA, to resolve NPAs of more than Rs 50 crore, which are under consortium lending

#### **Consortium lending**

Single borrower is jointly financed by different lending institutions

### Indian Bank Association

1946, Mumbai. Members:

- Public sector banks
- Private sector banks
- Foreign banks having office in India
- Cooperative banks
- Regional Rural Banks
- Payment banks
- Small Finance banks



#### IBAPI portal

- ❑ It is an initiative of Indian Banks Association (IBA) under policy of DFS (Fin Min).
- ❑ Platform for e-auction of properties mortgaged to banks

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See explanation of this PDF on [www.youtube.com/c/allinclusiveias](https://www.youtube.com/c/allinclusiveias)

## Internationalization of Rupee

Compared to US dollar, Indian Rupee has become weaker in the last 10 years? Yes



**NEWS SERVICES DIVISION**  
**ALL INDIA RADIO**

ALL INDIA RADIO NEWS

Dec 12, 2022, 8:23PM

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserts that Indian rupee has been strong against every other currency

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today asserted that the Indian rupee has been strong against every currency. She said the Reserve Bank has used foreign exchange reserves to intervene in the market to make sure that the dollar-rupee fluctuation does not affect the economy.

**In last 10 years**

Dollar has become **weaker** against Rupee? No

Rupee has become **stronger** against Dollar? No



### Practice question

If crude **oil becomes cheaper**, how will it impact rupee-dollar exchange rate?

- (a) Rupee will become stronger
- (b) Rupee will become weaker



I want less Dollars

If India has to pay less for oil, India will **demand less dollars**.

Low demand for dollar  
→ weak dollar → strong rupee

### Practice question

If India's **exports become more** competitive, how will it impact rupee-dollar exchange rate?

- (a) Rupee will become stronger
- (b) Rupee will become weaker

I want more Rupees



If India exports more, foreigners will **demand more rupee**.

More demand for rupee  
→ strong rupee → weak dollar

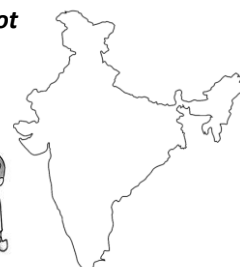
**Trick to remember: jiski demand zyada, vo jyada majboot**



I want more Rupees



I want less Dollars



### Internationalization of Rupee

Increasing role of Rupee in international market  
(Please refer Dollarization on pg-74 class-13)

### Challenges

Rupee is not fully convertible  
Trade imbalance with other countries  
More volatility in exchange rate  
And much more....

### US dollar

- It accounts for 88% of global forex turnover
- INR accounted for 1.6%

### Greenback

- It is another term for US Dollar

### Petrodollars

- Money (in US Dollars) earned by a country by exporting oil
- It is not a distinct currency

### Petrodollar recycling

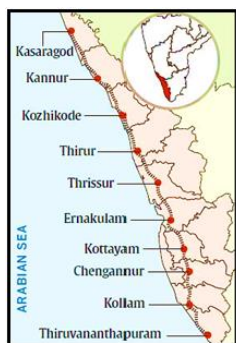
- international spending or investment of a country's revenues from petroleum exports (petrodollars)

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## National Credit Framework

- ❑ Created by UGC
- ❑ It will allow students to earn educational credits at all levels (class-5 to PhD), irrespective of the mode of learning i.e. home-schooling, offline, online, or blended
- ❑ Credits earned by learner will be stored in digital repository (**Academic Bank of Credits**)
- ❑ It is a meta-framework that consists of three verticals:
  - National **School Education** Qualification Framework (NSEQF)
  - National **Higher Education** Qualification Framework (NHEQF), and
  - National **Skills Qualification** Framework (NSQF)



## Silver line project

- ❑ It is a proposed semi-high speed (200 km/hr) rail corridor in **Kerala**.
- ❑ It is 532 km long.
- ❑ It passes through 11 of Kerala's 14 districts.
- ❑ It will cover 12 hour journey in 4 hours.
- ❑ Kerala Rail Development Corporation (K-Rail), a joint venture between the **Ministry of Railways** and the **Kerala government**

## CEIR



### IMEI - International Mobile Equipment Identity

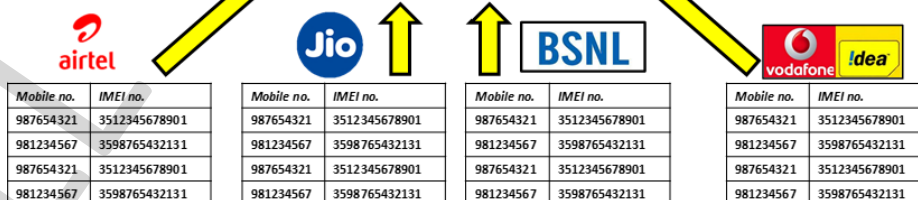
- **15 digit** unique number
- It gives unique identity to each mobile phone
- It is mentioned on box of mobile phone
- It can be known by dialling **\*#06#**

### Central Equipment Identity Register

- Web portal by **Department of Telecommunications** to trace lost/stolen mobile phones
- Lost/stolen mobile devices will be blocked on network of all telecom operators
- If anyone tries to use the blocked mobile phone, its traceability will be generated.
- Once mobile phone is found it may be unblocked for its normal use by the citizens.

#### Central Equipment Identity Register

| Mobile no. | IMEI no.      |
|------------|---------------|
| 987654321  | 3512345678901 |
| 981234567  | 3598765432131 |
| 987654321  | 3512345678901 |
| 981234567  | 3598765432131 |
| 987654321  | 3512345678901 |
| 981234567  | 3598765432131 |



# Diamonds



## Kimberley Process Certification Scheme

- established in 2003 by UNGA on recommendation of Fowler Report
- to prevent conflict diamonds from entering diamond market
- India is a founding member, and was chair in 2008 and 2019

## Conflict diamond/ Blood diamond

- Uncut diamonds mined in area of armed conflict
- They are traded illegally to finance the conflict



Rough diamond      Cut & Polished diamond

## Diamond

- Diamond is an allotrope of carbon.
- It has highest hardness & thermal conductivity of any natural material.
- Surat is world's largest diamond cutting and polishing center.
- Most common source of diamonds is Kimberlite (an igneous rock)



## Carat (in Gemstones)

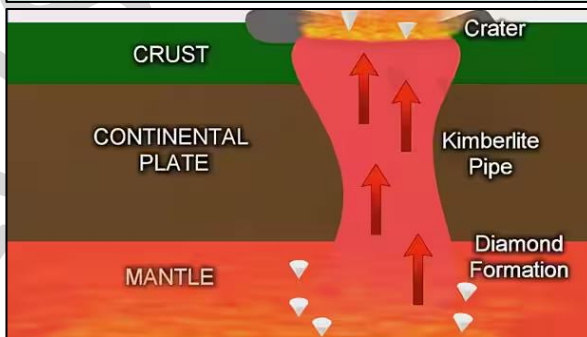
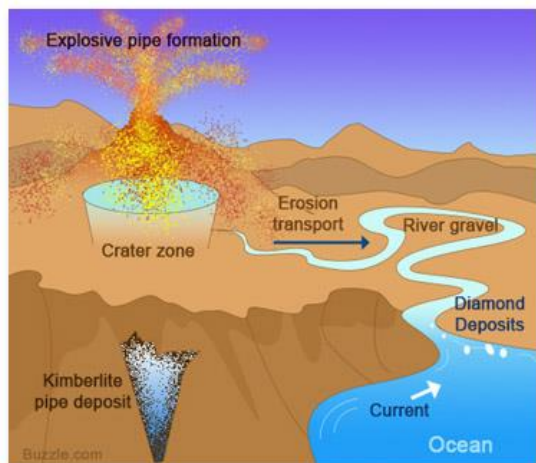
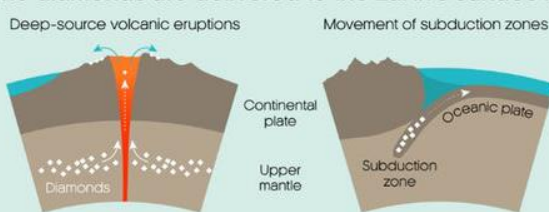
It is a unit of weight.  
1 carat = 0.2 grams



## Carat / Karat (in gold)

It refers to proportion of gold  
in an alloy out of 24 parts

## The diamonds are delivered to the Earth's surface by



## Some facts

- World's biggest diamond producer? Russia
- Indian Diamond Institute is in Surat, Gujarat
- Until the discovery of diamonds in South Africa in 1886, India was the only place where diamonds were mined.

## Diamond mining in India

- It is done in Panna by NMDC
- Proposed mining at Buxwaha forest (Chhatarpur, MP) has been paused by HC

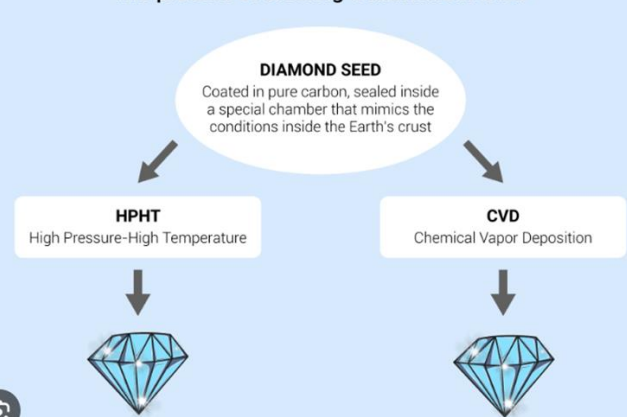
## National Mineral Development Corporation

It is a PSU under Ministry of Steel

## Lab Grown Diamonds

In latest Budget, govt announced that Basic Customs Duty on seeds used to grow LGD will be reduced from 5% to zero

## The process of creating a diamond in a lab





## Gold

### Hallmark Unique Identification Number

- ❑ Each hallmarked gold jewellery has unique 6-digit alphanumeric HUID number which is traceable.
- ❑ Bureau of India Standards (BIS) has prohibited sale of gold jewellery without HUID after 31st March 2023
- ❑ Consumer can check and authenticate hallmarked gold jewellery items with HUID number using 'verify HUID' in BIS CARE app

## Silk

- ❑ It is a natural fibre produced by certain insects
- ❑ Sericulture is cultivation of silkworms to produce silk
- ❑ Kausheya was a wild variety of ancient silk in India.
- ❑ Bombyx mori is the most common silkworm
- ❑ Biggest silk producer : #1 China, #2 India
- ❑ Biggest silk producing state : Karnataka

### Central Silk Board

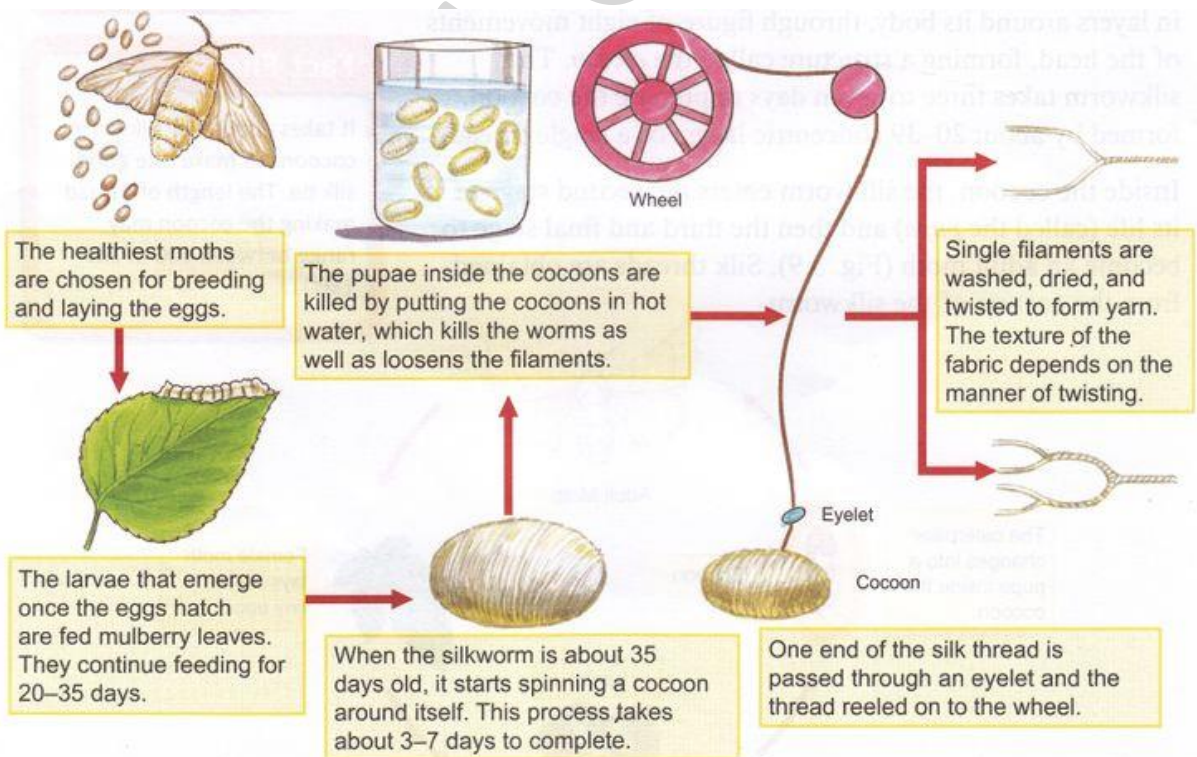
Ministry : Ministry of Textiles

Established in 1948, HQ : Bengaluru

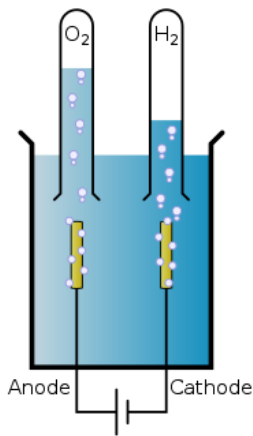
Formed by Central Silk Board Act 1948

### Mulberry, Oak Tasar, Tropical Tasar, Muga, Eri

- These are commercial varieties of silk
- India is the only country to make all five commercial varieties of silk.







## Electrolysis

- Electrolysis (**breakdown** by electricity)
- Direct Current (**DC**) is used to do chemical reaction
- This reaction takes place in a unit called an **electrolyzer**.
- Electrolyzer are important for production of **Hydrogen** (for fuel cell)

## Chemical Weapons

### Chemical Weapons Convention

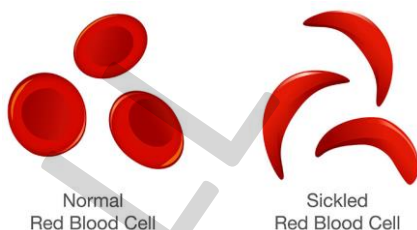
- Signed in 1993, in force in 1997
- It is an arms control treaty administered by OPCW
- It prohibits production, use, etc of chemical weapons
- **India was first country** under this convention to destroy all its chemical weapons to become a chemical weapons free state

- ❖ Chlorine gas - Toxic, but not listed as chemical weapon
- ❖ Phosgene gas - Toxic, strictly regulated
- ❖ Sarin and Mustard gas are some examples of chemical weapons

### Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

- 1997, HQ The Hague, **Netherland**
- It is an intergovernmental organization
- It is not a UN body, but it cooperates closely with UN
- Only four UN Member States are non-members: Egypt, Israel, North Korea, South Sudan
- **It got 2013 Nobel Peace Prize**

## Sickle Cell Anemia



### Sickle cell disease (SCD)

- It is a chronic single gene disorder
- Govt will launch mission to eliminate it by **2047**
- Universal screening will be done of all 0-40 age people in affected tribal areas

### Hemoglobinopathies

- Genetic diseases of haemoglobin (abnormal production or structure of haemoglobin molecule)
- Sickle cell disease is one such blood disorder caused by abnormal haemoglobin that damages and deforms red blood cells (which carry oxygen to all parts of the body)

## Indian Schools of Philosophy

### Astika / Orthodox School

They believe in Vedas

Samkhya, Yoga, Nyaya,  
Veisheshika, Mimamsa, Vedanta

### Nastika / Heterodox School /Shraman

They don't believe in Vedas.

Buddhism, Jainism, Ajivikas, Ajnanas,  
Charvakas

|                                 |                  |   |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Samkhya                         | Kapil Muni       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God (divine entity) is not necessary to create universe</li> <li>Reality is made of <b>PURUSHA</b> (soul) and <b>PRAKRITI</b> (nature)</li> <li><b>JIVA</b> (living being) is formed when purusha bonds to prakriti.</li> <li><b>MOKSHA</b> (liberation from rebirths) will come by their separation.</li> <li><b>KNOWLEDGE</b> (of difference between Purusha &amp; Prakriti) will give Moksha</li> </ul> |
| Yoga                            | Patanjali        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God (divine entity) exists</li> <li><b>YOGA</b> will give Moksha (by separating Purusha from Prakriti)</li> <li>Ashtanga Yoga: described by Patanjali in Yog Sutras<br/>Yama Niyama Asana Pranayama Pratyahara Dharana Dhyana Samadhi</li> <li>Patanjali was contemporary of Pushyamitra Shunga (184-148 BC)</li> </ul>  |
| Nyaya                           | Akshpada Gautama | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is based on <b>LOGIC</b>. Logic can solve mysteries of life, death, salvation.</li> <li>4 sources of knowledge : perception, inference, comparison, testimony.</li> <li><b>KNOWLEDGE</b> will give Moksha</li> </ul>  |
| Vaisheshika                     | Kanada           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God exists</li> <li>All objects are made of <b>ATOMS</b></li> <li>Universe is made of <b>5 elements</b>: fire, air, water, earth, ether (sky).</li> <li>Karma is not independent. It is part of the 5 elements</li> <li>2 sources of knowledge : perception, inference</li> <li><b>KNOWLEDGE</b> will give Moksha</li> <li>It later <b>merged with Nyay</b></li> </ul>                                     |
| Mimamsa<br>aka purva<br>mimamsa | Jaimini          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is based on teachings of <b>VEDAS</b></li> <li><b>VEDAS</b> contain the eternal truth and are source of all knowledge</li> <li><b>KARMA</b> will influence rebirths</li> <li><b>VEDIC RITUALS</b> will give Moksha</li> <li>To understand rituals, take help of <b>BRAHMANS</b></li> </ul>  |
| Vedanta<br>aka uttar<br>mimamsa | Badarayana       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is based on teachings of Prasthantrayi (<b>UPANISHADS</b>, Bhagavad Gita, Brahmasutras) (Brahmasutra was written by Badrayana)</li> <li><b>Understanding of Brahma</b> will give Moksha</li> <li><b>SOUL</b> is similar to Brahma. To understand Brahma, understand one-self.</li> <li>Brahma is reality and everything else is unreal (Maya)</li> </ul>  |

|                                    |  |   |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Advaita<br>Vedanta                 | Adi Shankara<br>788-820 AD<br>Born in Kalady, Kerala | Monism / Non-dualism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soul and God are same</li> <li>God is Nirguna</li> </ul>  |
| Vishishtadvaita<br>Vedanta         | Ramanuja<br>1040-1137 AD                             | Qualified monism / Qualified non-dualism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soul and God (Vishnu) are same</li> <li>Because soul is totally dependent on God</li> <li>hence called 'qualified' (vishisht) non-dualism (monism)</li> </ul> |
| Dvaita<br>Vedanta                  | Madhava<br>1199-1278 AD                              | Dualism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soul and God (Vishnu) are different</li> </ul>   |
| Acintya<br>bheda-abheda<br>Vedanta | Chaitanya<br>1486-1534 AD                            | Synthesis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soul is distinct (bheda) and non-distinct (Abheda) to God (Krishna)</li> <li>This is unthinkable (Acintya) but experienceable in devotion.</li> </ul>  |

I read I forget, I see I remember | See explanation of this PDF on **YouTube** [www.youtube.com/c/allinclusiveias](http://www.youtube.com/c/allinclusiveias)

## Charvaka / Lokayata

Founder : Charvaka or Brihaspati

- It promoted materialistic view of life
  - People should eat, drink, enjoy pleasures as there is no other world (lok) after this one
- World is made of 4 elements:
  - fire, air, water, earth
- Only that is real which can be experienced through perception (Anubhav)
  - There is no ether because it cannot be touched
- It argued against Gods and their representatives on the earth (Priests)

## Ajivikas

- Founder : Makkhali Gosala
- There is no free will. Everything is pre-decided by destiny.
- Hence they don't believe in Karma
- Like Buddhism and Jainism, they rejected Vedas
- They believe soul exists in material form (Jainism believes in formless soul)
- Savathi (Sravasti) in Uttar Pradesh is believed to be the centre of Ajivikas.
- Bindusara (4th century BC) was one of its followers.
- Ashoka's seventh pillar edicts mention about Ajivikas
- Barabar Caves were constructed by Ashoka for Ajivikas

## Ajnanas

- It is impossible to attain knowledge about nature
- Even if knowledge is attained, it will not give salvation.
- Hence, Ignorance is Best

| Yuga cycle           | Calendar                                  |
|----------------------|---|
| ▪ Krita (Satya) Yuga | 3102 BC      Kali era                     |
| ▪ Treta Yuga         | 57 BC      Vikram Samvat (Vikramaditya)   |
| ▪ Dvapara Yuga       | 78 AD      Saka Samvat (Kanishka)         |
| ▪ Kali Yuga          | 319 AD      Gupta Samvat (Chandragupta-1) |

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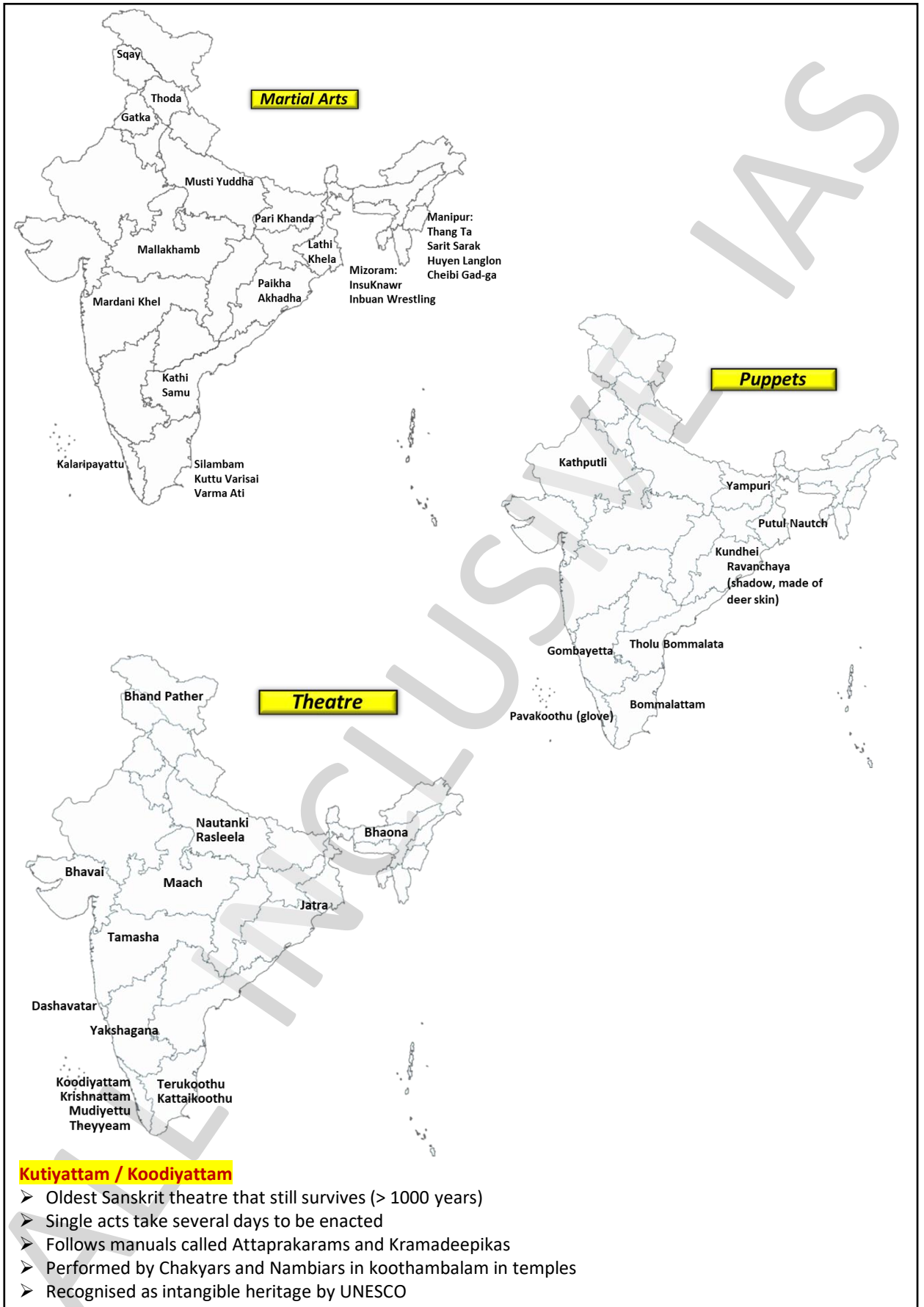
India's national calendar, adopted on 22 March 1957 (1 Chaitra 1879), is based on **Saka Era** (Kanishka, 78AD). Along with Gregorian calendar, it is used in Gazette, AIR news, govt communications to public, etc. It has permanent correspondence with Gregorian calendar, i.e. its first day (1<sup>st</sup> Chaitra) falls on **22<sup>nd</sup> March** every year (21<sup>st</sup> March in leap year)

## CORRECTION Static class-14 page-100

Battle of Hydaspes was on banks of Jhelum (Hydaspes) and not Indus

|                      | Hindustani music                     | Carnatic music              |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Region               | North India                          | South India                 |
| Influenced by        | Arab, Persian, Afghan                | Indigenous                  |
| Freedom to improvise | Much more                            | Less                        |
| Sub styles           | Many Gharanas                        | none                        |
| Instruments          | Tabla, Sitar, Sarangi, Santoor       | Veena, Mandolin, Mrindamgum |
| Vocal vs instrument  | Vocal & instrument equally important | More emphasis on vocal      |
| Emphasis on          | Raaga                                | Taal                        |

I read I forget, I see I remember | See explanation of this PDF on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/c/allinclusiveias) [www.youtube.com/c/allinclusiveias](https://www.youtube.com/c/allinclusiveias)



**Kutiyattam / Koodiyattam**

- Oldest Sanskrit theatre that still survives (> 1000 years)
- Single acts take several days to be enacted
- Follows manuals called Attaprakarams and Kramadeepikas
- Performed by Chakyars and Nambiar in koothambalam in temples
- Recognised as intangible heritage by UNESCO