

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

7th December, 2023

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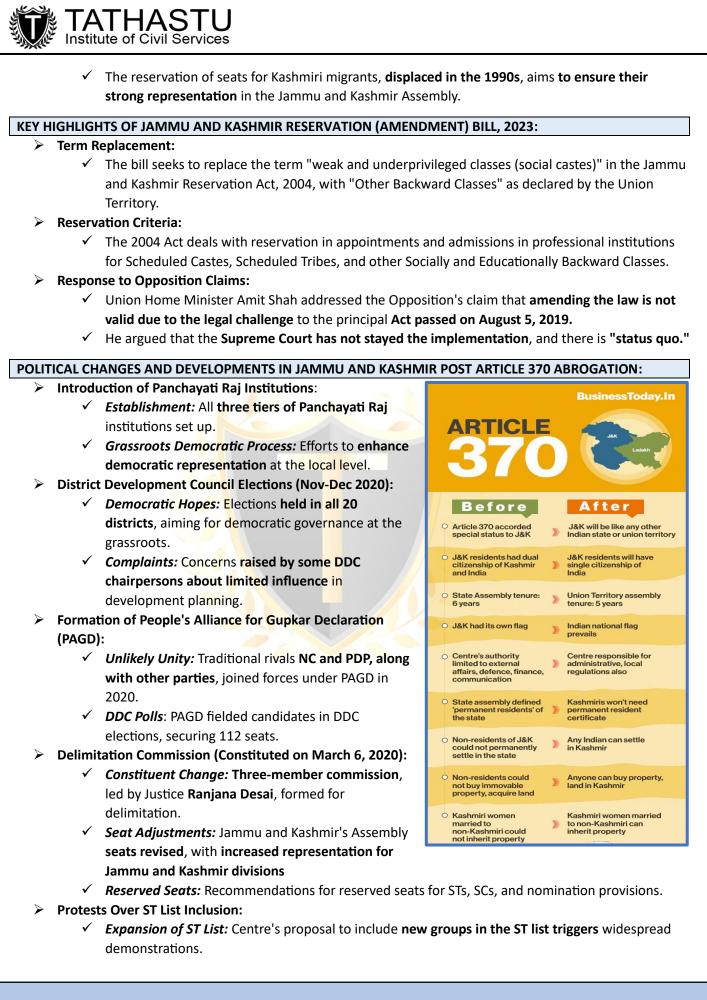


- Alexandre							
S.NO.							
1.	JAMMU AND KASHMIR REORGANISAT						
2.		NATIONAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI): A PROGRESS REVIEW 2023					
3.	PRELIMS POINTERS						
JAMMU AND KASHMIR REORGANISATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023							
	E: THE HINDU						
	IN NEWS?			(
	The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Ame	-	ana the Jammu ana F	Kasnmir Markanski se			
	Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, ho	I The same time	Carlos and a company				
	become noteworthy due to their recent pass Lok Sabha.	sage in the		N. TITUTUL AND			
D							
	Legislative Changes in Jammu and Kashmin ✓ The bills pertain to amendments in						
	framework of Jammu and Kashmir	ALC: NOT OF THE OWNER OF THE OWNE					
	on reservation policies and the	ALC: NO PERSONNEL	MMU & KASHMIR				
	reorganization of the legislative as	- 11					
\triangleright	Enhancements in Reservation Policies:		ALL MART	- 16 200			
	✓ The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation	n					
	(Amendment) Bill, 2023, introduces						
	in the reservation criteria for jobs	-	ofessional institutions				
	✓ This addresses social and education						
	Tribes , and other specified classes.			-			
	IIGHLIGHTS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR REOF Seat Reservations:	GANISATION (AME	NDIVIENT) BILL, 2023:				
	✓ The bill aims to reserve seats in the	wat to be constitut	od 114 cost lammu a	nd Kachmir			
	Assembly for "Kashmiri migrants, p						
	Scheduled Tribes."		•				
	Increase in Assembly Seats:	Making change	S				
	✓ The total number of seats in the						
	Jammu and Kashmir Assembly	A look at the J&K Reorganisatio	n (Amendment) Bill and the J&K Res	ervation (Amendment) Bill			
	will increase from 107 to 114,	The Reorganisation Bill		community, with one nominee			
	with the addition of nine seats	increases the total number of	and the second s	being a woman, and one			
	reserved for Scheduled Tribes.	seats in the J&K Assembly to 114 from 107		member from among the people from PoK who took			
\triangleright	Nomination Powers of Lieutenant-		TUNE W MIL	refuge in India following the			
	Governor:	Nine seats are reserved for		wars with Pakistan in 1947,			
	✓ The Lieutenant-Governor is	the Scheduled Tribes for the first time		1965 and 1971			
	empowered to nominate three		100404000	The Reservation Bill seeks			
	members in the Assembly,	It also empowers the Lieutenant-Governor to		to replace the term "weak			
	including two from the Kashmiri	nominate three members to	Point of view: Home Minister	and underprivileged classes (social castes)" in the J&K			
	migrant community (one being	the Assembly - two members	Amit Shah speaks in the Lok	Reservation Act, 2004 to			
	a woman) and a representative	from the Kashmiri migrant	Sabha on Wednesday. PTI	"other backward classes"			
	of people from PoK who sought		1				
	refuge in India after the wars with F	Pakistan.					
\triangleright	Voice for Kashmiri Migrants:						

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- Gujjar-Bakerwal Concerns: Gujjars and Bakerwals protest, fearing dilution of their political empowerment.
- ✓ **Counter Demonstrations: Paharis, intended beneficiaries**, plan supportive marches.
- **Reduction in Stone Pelting and Militancy:**

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- ✓ Decreased Stone-Pelting Incidents: Significant drop from 618 (2019) to 76 (Jan-Jul 2021).
- ✓ **Decline in Injuries to Security Forces:** Reduced from 64 (2019) to 10 (2021).
- ✓ *Civilian Injuries from Pellet Guns:* Decreased from 339 (2019) to 25 (2021).
- ✓ *Law and Order Improvement:* Only 20 law and order incidents reported in 2022.
- Arrests of Militants and OGWs (Over-Ground Workers):
 - ✓ Increased Arrests of OGWs: Rose from 82 (2019) to 178 (2021).
 - ✓ Decline in Terrorism Acts: 32% decrease in terrorism acts (Aug 2019-June 2022).
- > Development Projects:
 - ✓ Launch of various projects for road and rail connectivity, healthcare, education, tourism, and sports.
 - ✓ 54 projects sanctioned under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP).
 - Implementation of flagship schemes like Ayushman Bharat, Ujjwala Yojana, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, and PM Awas Yojana.

ARTICLE 370: A BRIEF OVERVIEW

Introduction (1949):

- ✓ Temporary Provision: Added to the Indian constitution on October 17, 1949, as a temporary measure.
- ✓ Special Status: Granted Jammu & Kashmir the authority to draft its own Constitution, limiting the legislative powers of the Indian Parliament.

Origins and Inclusion:

- Drafting by N Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Included as Article 306 A in the draft constitution.
- Empowered J&K Constituent Assembly: Granted authority to recommend the



"autonomous state" power

Article 35A (1954):

provisions.

Scope and Powers:

✓ Introduction: Stemmed from Article 370

Constitution articles would be applicable.

Presidential Order: Introduced through a Presidential Order in 1954, based on the J&K Constituent Assembly's recommendation.

Presidential Power: Article 370, Clause 3, gave the President the authority to amend its

application of specific articles from the Indian Constitution to the state.

✓ Special Provisions: Empowered the J&K legislature to define permanent residents and grant special rights and privileges.

Constituent Assembly's Role: Empowered the J&K Constituent Assembly to decide which Indian

- Modification in 2019:
 - Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019: Issued by the President of India on August 5, 2019.

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- ✓ *Focused Changes*: Modified Article 370 itself, not a revocation.
- ✓ Government Action: Empowered the Government of India to make specific adjustments in the application of Article 370.

CHALLENGES OF THE RECENT AMENDMENTS:

J&K Reservation (Amendment) Bill:

- > Controversy Over Constitutional Validity:
 - ✓ The amendment faces opposition, raising questions about its constitutional validity.
- Potential Polarization:
 - ✓ Reservation based on specific criteria may lead to political and social polarization.
- > Implementation Challenges:
 - Ensuring effective implementation and addressing concerns of diverse communities may pose challenges.

J&K Reorganization (Amendment) Bill:

- > Opposition Contention:
 - ✓ Some opposition members challenge the amendment, citing potential legal issues and questioning the timing.
- Historical and Political Controversies:
 - References to historical decisions and political figures, such as Jawaharlal Nehru, create controversies and may impact bipartisan cooperation.
- Security and Terrorism Concerns:
 - Despite the commitment to a "zero-terror" plan, challenges remain in fully curbing terrorism, as highlighted by opposition members.

WAY FORWARD FOR JAMMU AND KASHMIR AMENDMENT BILLS (2023):

- Engage in Constructive Dialogue:
 - Inclusive Consultation: Foster open and inclusive dialogue with stakeholders, including political parties, community leaders, and legal experts, to address concerns and build consensus.
 - ✓ Public Awareness Campaigns: Implement public awareness campaigns to inform citizens about the amendments, dispel misinformation, and ensure a well-informed public discourse.
- Legal Scrutiny and Compliance:
 - Constitutional Review: Subject the amendment bills to thorough constitutional review, ensuring compliance with legal principles and addressing any potential discrepancies.
 - ✓ Collaboration with Legal Experts: Seek collaboration with constitutional law experts and scholars to strengthen the legal foundation of the amendments.
- Enhanced Security Measures:
 - ✓ Comprehensive Security Strategy: Develop and implement a comprehensive security strategy aligned with the "zero-terror" plan, focusing on intelligence gathering, border control, and counter-terrorism efforts.
 - ✓ Community Engagement: Involve local communities in security initiatives, fostering cooperation and trust to create a shared responsibility for maintaining peace.
- Address Historical Concerns:
 - Historical Reconciliation: Initiate a platform for historical reconciliation, acknowledging past decisions and addressing grievances, especially those related to historical figures like Jawaharlal Nehru.
 - ✓ National Unity Narratives: Promote narratives that emphasize national unity and shared history, fostering a sense of common identity and purpose.
- Empowerment Initiatives:

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Community Empowerment Programs: Implement programs that empower marginalized communities, including Kashmiri migrants and PoK refugees, providing them with educational, economic, and political opportunities.

 \checkmark Skill Development: Focus on skill development and job creation initiatives to enhance the socioeconomic well-being of displaced communities.

\triangleright **Transparent Implementation:**

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- Transparent Governance: Prioritize transparency in the implementation of the amendments, ensuring that processes are clear, accessible, and accountable.
- Regular Reporting: Provide regular updates and reports on the progress of the amendments, addressing concerns and demonstrating commitment to democratic principles.



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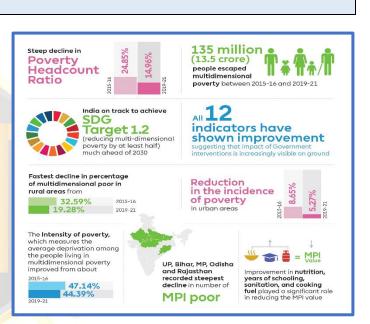
WHY IN NEWS?

- The National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report for 2023 released by NITI AAYOG offers comprehensive estimates of multidimensional poverty in India, covering 36 States & Union Territories and 707 administrative districts.
- The data is derived from the 5th round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) conducted between 2019-21.
- > The report evaluates changes in multidimensional poverty from the previous survey (NFHS-4, 2015-16).
- Beyond just identifying the number of poor (headcount ratio), it delves into the intensity of poverty, providing insights into the severity of deprivations.
- > This holistic approach enhances the understanding of poverty dynamics in the country.

Key Highlights of MPI Progress Report 2023:

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- Significant Reduction in Multidimensional Poverty:
 - ✓ 135 million individuals escaped multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.
 - India's national MPI value nearly halved, decreasing from 24.85% to 14.96%.
- Positive Impact of Government Interventions:
 - Improved indicators suggest the increasing visibility of government interventions.
 - Progress in nutrition, years of schooling, sanitation, and cooking fuel contributed to reducing the MPI value.



- > Intensity of Poverty Improvement:
 - ✓ The Intensity of Poverty, measuring average deprivation, **improved from 47.14% to 44.39%.**
 - ✓ Nutrition, schooling, sanitation, and cooking fuel improvements played a significant role.

Early Achievement of SDG Target 1.2:

- India is on track to achieve SDG Target 1.2 (reducing multidimensional poverty by at least half) well ahead of 2030.
- > Disparities Across Rural and Urban Areas:
 - Rural areas experienced a faster reduction in MPI value compared to urban areas.
 - ✓ Proportion of multidimensional poor in rural areas: 19.28%, urban areas: 5.27%.
- State-wise Progress:
 - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan recorded the steepest decline in the number of MPI poor.
- > Fastest Absolute Reduction in MPI:
 - ✓ Bihar showed the fastest reduction in MPI value in absolute terms.
 - ✓ Uttar Pradesh had the most significant number of people escaping multidimensional poverty (3.43 crore).

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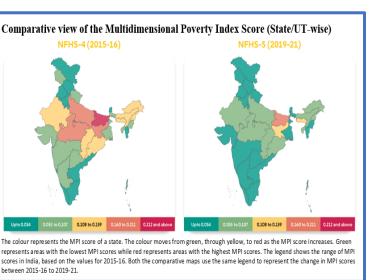


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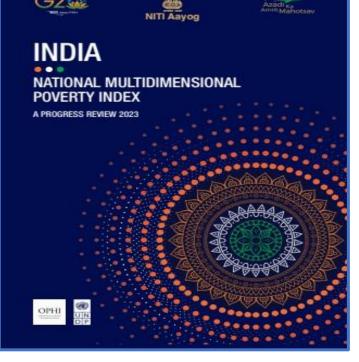
- State and UT Performance:
 - ✓ States and UTs displayed notable improvements in MPI scores from 2015-16 to 2019-21.
- **District-level Analysis:**
 - ✓ Disaggregated estimates at the district level showed the most rapid reduction in MPI in districts of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan.
- \geq Indicator-wise Comparison of **Deprivations:**
 - \checkmark Statistically significant reduction in deprivations across all 12 indicators.
 - Sanitation and cooking fuel saw the most substantial reductions.

NATIONAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (NATIONAL MPI):

- Initiative by NITI Aayog:
 - ✓ NITI Aayog, serving as the nodal agency, takes responsibility for constructing an indigenized index to monitor States and Union Territories (UTs) in addressing multidimensional poverty.
- MPI Coordination Committee (MPICC):
 - NITI Aayog establishes the MPICC, an inter-ministerial committee, including relevant ministries and departments.
 - ✓ The committee spans areas such as health, education, nutrition, rural development, drinking water, sanitation, electricity, and urban development.
 - ✓ MPICC's composition draws from the multidimensional nature of the index indicators, ensuring crosssectoral perspectives.



scores in India, based on the values for 2015-16. Both the comparative maps use the same legend to represent the change in MPI scores between 2015-16 to 2019-21.



- **Technical Rigor and Robustness:**
 - MPICC collaborates with survey implementers, including the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
 - ✓ Technical partners, such as OPHI and UNDP, contribute expertise, ensuring the technical rigor and robustness of the national MPI.
- **Cross-Sectoral Perspectives:**
 - ✓ The composition of MPICC, enriched by experts from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), brings cross-sectoral perspectives.

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This holistic approach informs policies and interventions necessary to enhance achievements at the household level.

DIMENSIONS OF THE NATIONAL MPI:

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Health Dimension: \geq

✓ Includes specific healthrelated indicators.

Education Dimension:

✓ Comprises indicators related to educational well-being.

Standard of Living Dimension:

✓ Encompasses indicators reflecting the living conditions of households.

Sub-indices of the National MPI:

- Headcount Ratio (H):
 - ✓ Objective: Measures how many individuals in the population are considered multidimensionally poor.
 - \checkmark Calculation: Proportion of multidimensionally poor individuals divided by the total population.
- \triangleright Intensity of Poverty (A):
 - Objective: Assesses the



average proportion of deprivations experienced by multidimensionally poor individuals. Calculation: Sum of the weighted deprivation scores of all poor individuals divided by the total

- number of poor individuals. **Purpose of the Sub-indices**
 - Headcount Ratio (H): Provides information on the percentage of the population living in multidimensional poverty.
 - **Intensity of Poverty (A):** Offers insights into the depth or severity of poverty experienced by individuals.

CHALLENGES IN INDIA:

Data Reliability and Source Concerns:

- Reliance on National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 4 and 5 data for MPI estimation raises questions about reliability, especially considering the controversies surrounding NFHS 5, which was blocked for alleged unreliability.
- Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic:
 - The MPI estimates do not fully account for the severe economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21, including loss of livelihoods, reverse migration, and disruptions in health and education services.
- **GDP Decline and Economic Shock:**
 - \checkmark The MPI reduction contrasts with a significant decline in GDP growth from 8% in 2015-16 to 3.78% in 2019-20, and a slump of -6.60% in 2020-21.

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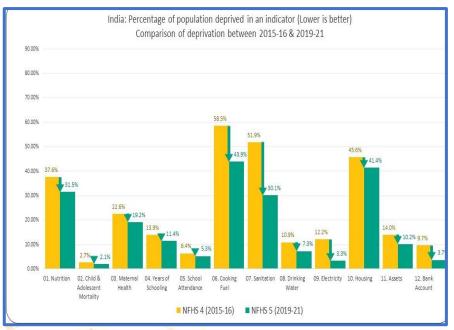
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- \checkmark The economic shock may have intensified poverty challenges.
- Limited Coverage of Variables:

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- Aggregation with uniform weighting in MPI overlooks nuances.
- Factors like criminality among
 State MPs, which correlates with
 higher MPI, point to
 the need for a more
 comprehensive set
 of variables.



- Rural-Urban Dynamics:
 - ✓ While urbanization is associated with

higher MPI, the impact is **less than proportionate**, potentially due to reverse migration during the pandemic.

Understanding rural-urban dynamics is crucial for accurate poverty assessments.

Education and Health Expenditure Decline:

- State-level decline in educational expenditure raises concerns as education spending correlates with lower MPI.
- Health expenditure, while rising, may not have met the demands of the pandemic.
- Criminal Involvement in Governance:
 - The rising share of Members of Parliament with criminal backgrounds, associated with higher MPI, indicates governance challenges.
 - ✓ Corrupt practices diverting funds from social safety nets may hinder poverty alleviation efforts.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE TO REDUCE MPI:

Initiative	Objectives	
Poshan Abhiyan	 Reduce deprivations in health, particularly addressing issues related to nutrition. 	
Anaemia Mukt Bharat	 Combat and reduce instances of anemia, contributing to improved health outcomes. 	
Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)	 Enhance sanitation facilities nationwide, resulting in a swift 21.8 percentage points improvement in sanitation deprivations. 	
Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)	 Improve access to clean drinking water, contributing to the overall reduction in multidimensional poverty. 	
Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)	 Provide subsidized cooking fuel to households, leading to a significant 14.6 percentage points improvement in cooking fuel deprivations. 	

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Saubhagya	✓	Ensure electrification of households, contributing to low deprivation rates in electricity access.
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)	✓	Address housing needs, aiming to improve living conditions and reduce housing-related deprivations.
Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)	~	Promote financial inclusion by increasing access to bank accounts , aligning with the broader goal of poverty reduction and the SDG target.
Samagra Shiksha	✓	Enhance educational outcomes by addressing issues related to schooling, contributing to the reduction of educational deprivations.

WAY FORWARD: NITI AAYOG'S COMMITMENT

Significant Decline:

- ✓ India witnessed a substantial 9.89 percentage points reduction in multidimensional poverty from 2015-16 to 2019-21.
- > Rural Impact:
 - Rural areas experienced the fastest decline, from 32.59% to 19.28%, contributing significantly to overall poverty reduction.
- State-wise Progress:
 - Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest decline, with 3.43 crore people escaping poverty, followed by Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

Sectoral Contributors:

 Improvements in nutrition, schooling, sanitation, and cooking fuel played pivotal roles in driving down poverty levels.

SDG Target Achievement:

 India is on track to achieve SDG Target 1.2, aiming to reduce multidimensional poverty by at least half, well before the 2030 deadline.

Government Initiatives:

✓ Flagship programs like Poshan Abhiyan, Swachh Bharat Mission, and others were instrumental in achieving positive outcomes.

Continued Support:

✓ NITI Aayog reaffirms its commitment to sustained collaboration, technical support, and policy guidance for further poverty reduction efforts.

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PRELIMS POINTERS:

ΤΟΡΙϹ	DISCRIPTION			
	WHY IN NEWS?			
Garba dance	 Gujarat's traditional dance, Garba, has been inscribed in UNESCO's 			
of Gujarat	Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, marking its 15th cultural			
makes it to	element from India.			
UNESCO list				
	SINGNIFICANCE OF GARBA			
	Description of Garba:			
	UNESCO			
	describes Garba			
	as a ritualistic			
	and devotional			
	dance			
	performed			
	during the Hindu festival of Navaratri , dedicated to the worship of			
	feminine energy.			
	Historic Achievement:			
	 This makes Garba the 15th cultural element from India to be inscribed 			
	on UNESCO's list, with the last addition being Kolkata's Durga Puja two			
	years ago.			
	✤ Under 2003 Convention:			
	 The inclusion follows the provisions of the 2003 Convention for the 			
	Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.			
	 Committee's Evaluation: 			
	 The approval was granted at the 18th session of UNESCO's 			
	Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural			
	Heritage in the Republic of Botswana.			
	 Cultural Significance: 			
	 Garba is recognized for its inclusive nature, transcending socio- 			
	economic, gender, and religious structures, fostering equality and			
	strengthening social bonds.			
	Boost for Tourism:			
	 The inclusion is expected to boost tourism activities in Gujarat, 			
	enhancing the state's cultural heritage and attracting both domestic			
	and international tourists.			
Supplementary	WHY IN NEWS?			
	✤ Government's Request:			
Demands for	The government has sought Parliament's approval for an additional			
Grants	net spending of Rs 58,378 crore in the current fiscal, primarily			
	allocating funds for MGNREGA and fertiliser subsidies.			
	Spending Areas:			
	 The supplementary demands include allocations for fertiliser subsidy 			
	(Rs 13,351 crore), Department of Food and Public Distribution (Rs			
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	7,000 crore), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (Rs 9,200 crore), and Ministry of Rural Development for MGNREGA (Rs 14,524 crore).		
	 ABOUT SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS Supplementary Demand for Grants: Needed when the authorized amount for a service in the current fiscal year is insufficient. Presented and passed by Parliament before the financial year ends. 		
	 OTHER TYPES OF GRANTS: Additional Grant: Granted for new services not in the budget. Excess Grant: Granted when spending exceeds the budgeted amount. Voted by Lok Sabha after the financial year. Vote of Credit: Granted for unforeseen and indefinite demands. Acts like a blank cheque for the Executive. Exceptional Grant: Granted for special purposes outside the annual service. Token Grant: Granted for new service by reappropriation. Involves a nominal sum (Re 1) and requires Lok Sabha approval. 		
MONUMENT MITRA SCHEME	 WHY IN NEWS? The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has developed a framework for engaging with the private and public sector companies to develop and provide 		
	 amenities at protected monuments through CSR funds. Revamped version of the "Adopt A Heritage program 2.0" was launched on 4th September, 2023 by Union Minister of Culture to enhance visitor's experience with a view to make them visitor friendly. AIM OF THE SCHEME Ensuring quality amenities and facilities at heritage, natural, and tourist sites. 		
	 Active participation of private and public sector organizations. MONUMENT MITRAS Ground Floor, Bada Bazar Road, Old Raiinder Nagar, New Delhi -110060 		

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- Corporate entities involved in the scheme as part of Corporate Social Responsibility.
- Collaborate to provide amenities.

ABOUT THE SCHEME:

 Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Culture, for monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India.



- Applicability: All centrally protected heritage properties.
- * *Key Focus:* Quality and inclusive provision of amenities and facilities.
- Process: Private and public sector organizations collaborate as "Monument Mitras."



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