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Institute of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



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S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	STATE OF PUBLIC DEBT IN INDIA
2.	STATEHOOD DEMAND
3.	PRELIMS POINTERS

STATE OF PUBLIC DEBT IN INDIA

SOURCE: [THE INDIAN EXPRESS](#)

TAG: GS Paper III- **Government Policies and Initiatives, Monetary Policy, Fiscal Policy, Budget, Growth and Development.**

Practice Question:

Mains

Q Examine the implications of India's escalating public debt, especially in the aftermath of the pandemic, and its potential impact on fiscal stability, private investment, and credit ratings. (150 words)

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The aftermath of the pandemic has left the Indian government, both at the Centre and in the states, with a substantial amount of debt, posing a significant challenge for the incoming government post the 2024 national elections.*
- ❖ *The overall public debt is expected to exceed **80% of India's GDP at current market prices**, reflecting a substantial increase in government liabilities over the years.*

KEY OBSERVATIONS OF THE IMF REPORT:

The IMF report on India highlights several key observations:

- ❖ It highlighted concerns over the long-term sustainability of India's debts, which could reach **100% of GDP by 2028 under adverse circumstances**.
- ❖ The IMF also reclassified India's exchange rate regime, labelling it a "**stabilised arrangement**" instead of "floating," indicating a shift in the perception of how India manages its currency. In a **stabilised arrangement**, the government fixes the exchange rate, whereas in a **floating exchange rate system**, it is determined by the demand and supply forces in the foreign exchange market.
- ❖ The report also notes that long-term risks in debt management are high because **considerable investment is required to reach India's climate change mitigation targets**.

WHAT IS PUBLIC DEBT?

- ❖ **Public debt** refers to the **borrowings of the central and state governments**.
- ❖ **Components:**
 - ☛ It includes **internal debt, external debt, and other liabilities**.
- ❖ **Calculation:**
 - ☛ It involves **summing up the outstanding liabilities of the government, usually as a proportion of the GDP**.
- ❖ **Objectives:**
 - ☛ It include minimizing the cost of borrowing over the long run, taking into account the associated risks, and ensuring that debt management policy is consistent with monetary policy.
 - ☛ To understand economic growth, regional inequality, and interest payments.



PUBLIC DEBT ESTIMATES AS PER THE INTERIM BUDGET 2024-25:

❖ As per the estimates provided by the Government of India,

Description	Amount (crore)	Percentage Increase/Decrease
Total Debt (2024-2025 vs 2023-2024)	₹15,94,578.29	9.46% Increase
Internal Debt and Other Liabilities	₹14,57,134.89	8.95% Increase
External Debt	₹37,443.41	6.97% Increase
Central Government Debt/Liabilities (2025)	₹14,97,778.82	8.13% Increase

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INTERNAL DEBT & EXTERNAL DEBT:

Category	Internal Debt	External Debt
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Money borrowed within the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Money borrowed from foreign lenders.
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Loans raised in the open market. ☛ Compensation and other bonds. ☛ Borrowings through treasury bills. ☛ Non-negotiable, non-interest-bearing rupee securities issued to international financial institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Loans from foreign governments and bodies.
Purpose of Borrowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Market loans. ☛ Other long- and medium-term borrowing. ☛ Short-term borrowing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Foreign aid and loans for development projects. ☛ Foreign currency denominated debt.
Currency Denomination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Local currency (Indian Rupee). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Local currency or foreign currency, with a majority linked to the U.S. dollar.
Complexity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Less complex due to domestic nature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ More complex due to foreign involvement and foreign exchange rates.

Other Liabilities:

- ☛ *Post office savings deposits.*
- ☛ *Deposits under small savings schemes.*
- ☛ *Loans raised through post office cash certificates.*
- ☛ *Provident funds.*
- ☛ *Deposits of local funds and civil deposits.*

IMPACT OF HIGH PUBLIC DEBT:

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❖ High debt-to-GDP ratio:

- India's debt-to-GDP ratio is currently at nearly 90 percent, which is a cause for concern. This high ratio indicates that the government's debt is substantial in relation to the country's overall economic output.

❖ Risk of fiscal instability:

- High debt levels can increase the risk of fiscal instability, as the government may struggle to meet its financial obligations, including repaying debt and funding public services.
- It can **limit the government's fiscal flexibility**, as a larger share of government revenue is allocated to debt servicing.

❖ Crowding out private investment:

- High government debt can lead to higher interest rates, which can discourage private investment. This can slow down economic growth and hinder the development of new businesses and industries.

❖ Impact on credit ratings:

- India's elevated debt levels and the heavy cost of servicing that debt have led to disagreements regarding the country's credit ratings. A lower credit rating can make it more expensive for India to borrow money, which can further exacerbate the debt problem.

❖ Potential for faster growth with fiscal consolidation:

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has offered an optimistic outlook for India's economy, projecting faster growth if key structural reforms are implemented. The IMF has stressed the necessity for "ambitious" fiscal consolidation to curb public debt.

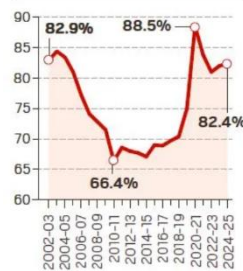
❖ Vulnerability to global economic shocks:

- India's high debt levels make it more vulnerable to global economic shocks, such as commodity price volatility and domestic weather shocks.
- A **substantial portion of India's external debt is denominated in foreign currencies**, particularly the U.S. dollar. This makes the country vulnerable to exchange rate fluctuations, as a depreciation of the domestic currency can significantly increase the cost of servicing and repaying the debt.

❖ Potential for debt crisis:

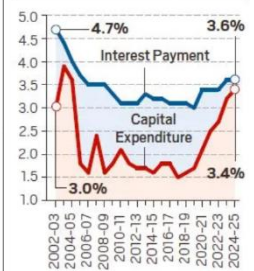
- The IMF has warned that India's general government debt could surpass 100 percent of GDP under adverse circumstances by fiscal 2028. The Indian government has dismissed this warning as a worst-case scenario and not a fait accompli.

CHART 1
GENERAL GOVERNMENT DEBT (% of GDP)



Note: Figures for 2022-23 are estimates and those for 2023-24 and 2024-25 are projections. Source: International Monetary Fund

CHART 2
CENTRE'S INTEREST AND CAPITAL SPENDING (% of GDP)



Note: Figures for 2023-24 are Revised Estimates and those for 2024-25 Budget Estimates. Source: Union Budget documents, various years.

MEASURES TO REDUCE PUBLIC DEBT IN INDIA:

To reduce government debt in India, several strategic measures can be considered:

❖ Rationalizing Tax Structures:

- Broadening the tax base and enhancing compliance could bolster government revenues

❖ Optimizing Government Spending:

- This can be achieved through subsidy reforms and better targeting of social programs

❖ Strengthening Economic Growth Engines:

- Policy reforms, encouraging foreign investment, and bolstering the manufacturing sector could enhance GDP and tax revenues

❖ Accelerating Disinvestment and Asset Monetization:

- This could provide immediate fiscal relief and reduce the debt burden



❖ **Fiscal Consolidation:**

- ☛ The government can aim to attain a fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio of "below 4.5%" by 2025-26 through measures such as cutting spending and raising taxes

❖ **High Nominal GDP Growth:**

- ☛ Achieving high nominal GDP growth, where the denominator (GDP) rises faster than the numerator (government debt), can help reduce the debt-to-GDP ratio

❖ **Debt "Growth" or "Inflation":**

- ☛ A combination of fiscal consolidation and growth (from output more than inflation) is likely to be the most effective approach to reducing India's government debt.

CONCLUSION:

- ❖ *The IMF has warned against the **government debt crossing the 100% mark**, emphasizing the need for a balanced approach to debt reduction. A combination of fiscal consolidation and growth-oriented strategies is essential to address the high government debt and ensure sustainable economic recovery.*
- ❖ *In conclusion, the Indian government must adopt a **multi-faceted approach to address the high government debt, encompassing fiscal consolidation, promoting high nominal GDP growth, and managing the debt-to-GDP ratio through a balanced strategy of "growing" or "inflating" the debt.***





STATEHOOD DEMAND

SOURCE: THE INDIAN EXPRESS

TAG: GS Paper II- *State Legislature, Regionalism, Diversity of India, Federalism*

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *In Ladakh observed a complete shutdown on Saturday as thousands gathered in Leh to demand constitutional safeguards, protection of cultural identity and environment, and Statehood for the Union Territory.*

WHY DEMAND FOR STATEHOOD?

- ❖ **The Diverse Composition of Indian States:** India comprises states with diverse linguistic, religious, and cultural groups, leading to a heterogeneous social fabric.
- ❖ **Regional Disparities in Development:** Unequal levels of regional development exist within states, contributing to economic and social disparities among different regions.
- ❖ **Regional Consciousness Emergence:** The existing diversities become the basis for the emergence of regional consciousness within states.
- ❖ **Perceived Unfair Treatment:** Those with regional consciousness argue that their region receives unfair treatment from the state government, central government, or other regions within the state.
- ❖ **Proposed Solution through Statehood:** Advocates of regional consciousness propose that the solution to their grievances lies in the creation of a separate state for their region. This new state would enjoy autonomy in decision-making and administration.
- ❖ **Collective Action and Movements:** Supporters of new states often engage in collective actions or movements to advocate for their cause and press for the establishment of a separate state.



BACKGROUND:

Statehood demands in India have been prevalent since the 1950s, with the creation of new states occurring in different periods – the 1950s, 1960s-1970s, 1980s, 2000, and 2014.

- ❖ **1950s Demand for State Reorganization:** During the 1950s, there was a significant demand, particularly from the Telugu-speaking population, for the reorganization of states based on linguistic lines.
- ❖ **Potti Sreeramulu's Indefinite Fast:** Potti Sreeramulu, in support of the cause of state reorganization, initiated an indefinite fast. Unfortunately, his death on the 56th day of the fast led to widespread violence.
- ❖ **Formation of State Reorganisation Commission:** The intense public pressure following Potti Sreeramulu's death compelled the government to establish a State Reorganisation Commission to address the demands for state reorganization.
- ❖ The **chronology of states' bifurcation** in India after 1956:
 - 👉 **1960** - Bombay state split into Maharashtra and Gujarat



- **1963** - Nagaland carved out of Assam
- **1966** - Haryana and Himachal Pradesh carved out of Punjab state
- **1972** - Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura were formed
- **1975** - Sikkim became part of Indian union
- **1987** - Goa and Arunachal Pradesh became states (earlier these were UTs)
- **2000** - Uttaranchal (out of UP), Jharkhand (out of Bihar) and Chhattisgarh (out of Madhya Pradesh) were formed
- **Telangana** (out of Andhra Pradesh), when it was eventually created in 2014, became India's 29 state.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

- ❖ **Article 3 of the Indian Constitution:** Article 3 provides constitutional provisions for the creation of new states from one or more existing states.
- ❖ **Presidential Power:** Constitutionally, the President holds the authority to initiate the process of creating new states. This can be done independently or in consultation with the state from which the new state is to be carved out.
- ❖ **Initiation Process:** A state or states can express their willingness to create a new state by passing a resolution in the state legislature. The concerned state or states may request the President to consider their proposal.
- ❖ **Union Government's Role:** Following the state's resolution, the President may instruct the Union government to present a bill in both houses of Parliament. If the bill is passed by both houses, it is sent to the President for consent.
- ❖ **Consent and Notification:** Once the President gives consent, the decision is notified, and the process of creating the new state officially commences.
- ❖ **Political Expediency:** The interpretation of Article 3 is influenced by political expediency. Although the President has the power to initiate the process, consultation with the state government through a resolution is often preferred.
- ❖ **Political Bargaining and Assessment:** The passage of the resolution depends on political bargaining and the assessment of political implications by both ruling and opposition parties. Political expediency may lead to varying stances on statehood demands.
- ❖ **Party Positions on Statehood:** Parties, while in opposition, often support the creation of new states but may oppose it when in government, indicating the influence of political dynamics on the interpretation and implementation of Article 3.

REASONS FOR THE RISE OF SEPARATE STATEHOOD MOVEMENTS

- ❖ **Regional Grievances:** The rise of separate statehood movements is rooted in the grievances of specific regions within one or more states. These grievances stem from various factors, contributing to the demand for the creation of new states.
- ❖ **Multiple Factors of Grievances:** The factors leading to grievances are diverse and include language, culture, customs, religion, historical background, and the level of development. Advocates of new states argue that their regions face discrimination or neglect based on these factors.
- ❖ **Discrimination Allegations:** Advocates allege that their regions are discriminated against or neglected due to linguistic, cultural, historical, and developmental disparities, forming the basis for their demand for separate states.
- ❖ **Formation of Regional Identities:** The cumulative effect of these factors is the formation of distinct regional identities. These identities, rooted in language, culture, and other elements, give rise to movements advocating for the creation of separate states.
- ❖ **Other factors being:**



- ☞ Competition for local resources.
- ☞ Government negligence towards certain regions.
- ☞ Improper allocation of the resources.
- ☞ Difference in culture, language, religion, etc.
- ☞ The economy's failure to create enough employment opportunities
- ☞ Popular mobilization and the democratic political process is also one of the reasons.
- ☞ 'The sons of the soil' sentiments.

ISSUES ARISING DUE TO CREATION OF NEW STATES

- ❖ **Potential Hegemony of Dominant Groups:** The creation of different states may lead to the hegemony of dominant communities, castes, or tribes over the power structures, potentially marginalizing other groups within the newly formed states.
- ❖ **Intra-Regional Rivalries:** The establishment of new states could give rise to intra-regional rivalries among sub-regions, as different regions may compete for resources, representation, and influence.
- ❖ **Negative Political Consequences:** The division of states may result in negative political consequences, such as a small group of legislators gaining disproportionate influence and having the ability to either make or break a government at will.
- ❖ **Inter-State Disputes:** The creation of new states may escalate inter-state disputes, especially in terms of water resources, power distribution, and boundary delineations, leading to increased conflicts between the newly formed states.
- ❖ **Financial Implications:** The division of states requires significant funds for constructing new capitals and maintaining a large administrative structure, including Governors, Chief Ministers, Ministers, and administrators. This was evident in the division of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, with establishment of a new capital at Amravati.
- ❖ **Limited Empowerment of Local Institutions:** The creation of smaller states may not necessarily empower existing grassroots institutions like Gram Panchayats and District Collectors.

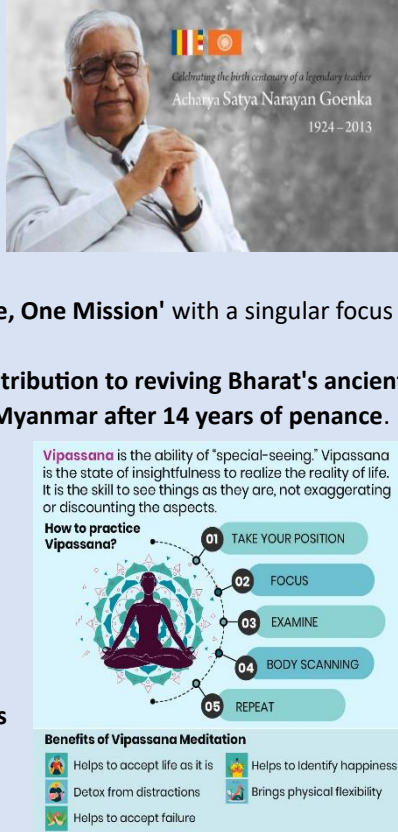
WAY FORWARD

- ❖ **Economic and Social Viability as Primary Consideration:** Prioritizing economic and social viability over political considerations is essential when determining the feasibility of creating new states. The focus should be on ensuring that the proposed states are economically and socially sustainable.
- ❖ **Compensation for Parent States:** States that lose out in terms of physical and human capital due to the creation of new states should be adequately compensated. This compensation aims to mitigate any adverse effects on the parent states.
- ❖ **Establishment of Clear Parameters and Safeguards:** To prevent unfettered demands for new states, there should be well-defined parameters and safeguards in place. This ensures that the process is regulated and takes into account various factors before approving the creation of new states.
- ❖ **Democratic Concerns as Valid Bases:** Rather than basing decisions on factors like religion, caste, language, or dialect, it is advisable to prioritize democratic concerns such as development, decentralization, and effective governance when considering demands for a new state.
- ❖ **Addressing Fundamental Development and Governance Problems:** In addition to considering statehood demands, fundamental issues related to development and governance must be addressed. These include challenges like the concentration of power, corruption, administrative inefficiency, and other deficits that hinder overall progress.



PRELIMS POINTERS:

4th & 5th February, 2024

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
<p>Acharya Shri S N Goenka's 100th Birth Anniversary</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The news revolves around Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the concluding ceremony of the year-long celebrations marking the 100th birth anniversary of Acharya Shri S N Goenka, a prominent teacher of Vipassanā meditation. <p>ABOUT ACHARYA SHRI S N GOENKA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Born: January 30, 1924, in Burma. ❖ Raised in a conservative Hindu Marwari family. ❖ Vipassanā Journey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Successful businessman until migraines led to Vipassanā. ☞ Trained under Sayagyi U Ba Khin for 14 years. ☞ Described as a perfect example of 'One Life, One Mission' with a singular focus on Vipassana. ☞ Acknowledgment of Acharya Goenka's contribution to reviving Bharat's ancient glory of Vipassana, bringing it back from Myanmar after 14 years of penance. ❖ Teaching Authorization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Authorized to teach Vipassanā in 1969. ☞ Established first centre in Hyderabad, then Dhamma Giri in 1976. <p>ABOUT VIPASSANA MEDITATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Origin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Rediscovered by Gotama Buddha over 2500 years ago, Vipassana is one of India's ancient meditation techniques. ❖ Goal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Aims for the complete elimination of mental impurities, leading to the highest happiness of full liberation. ❖ Self-Transformation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Vipassana is a non-sectarian method focused on self-transformation through disciplined self-observation. ☞ Emphasizes the deep interconnection between the mind and body, explored through attention to physical sensations. ❖ Scientific Understanding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Reveals the scientific laws governing thoughts, feelings, judgments, and sensations through direct experiential understanding. ❖ Personal Growth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Provides insights into personal growth, suffering, and liberation, fostering increased awareness, non-delusion, self-control, and peace. 
<p>SMALL DOGS WITH LONG NOSES LIVE LONGER THAN BIGGER, FLAT-FACED CANINES:</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The study revealing the lifespan disparities among dog breeds, with small, long-nosed breeds showing longer lifespans compared to flat-faced ones, has garnered attention. <p>KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Research indicates small, long-nosed dog breeds live longer. ☞ Flat-faced breeds have a 40% increased risk of shorter lives.



STUDY

- ❖ **Study Details:**
 - ☛ Analyzed data from **584,734 dogs**, including **284,734 deceased**.
 - ☛ Explored the interaction between **size, face shape, and sex in canine longevity**.
- ❖ **Longest Lifespan:**
 - ☛ Small, long-nosed female dogs **among pure breeds** had a **median lifespan of 13.3 years**.
 - ☛ **Flat-faced breeds** had a **median lifespan of 11.2 years**.
- ❖ **Factors Affecting Lifespan:**
 - ☛ Larger dogs tend to have **shorter lives than smaller dogs**.
 - ☛ Brachycephalic breeds **prone to health problems, impacting lifespan**.
- ❖ **Crossbreeds vs. Pure Breeds:**
 - ☛ **Median lifespan: 12.7 years** for pure breeds, **12 years** for crossbreeds.
 - ☛ Challenges in comparing crossbreeds due to varied genetic backgrounds.
- ❖ **Complex Factors:**
 - ☛ Lifespan variations attributed to **biological factors (body shape, genetics) and environmental factors (diet, exercise, training)**.
- ❖ **Implications:**
 - ☛ Insights aid potential **dog owners, breeders, policymakers, and welfare organizations**.
 - ☛ Calls for attention to specific **dog populations needing improvement in welfare**.



DUSTED APOLLO- A RARE HIGH- ALTITUDE BUTTERFLY

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The discovery and **first-time sighting of the Dusted Apollo butterfly** in Himachal Pradesh, particularly in the **Chamba region** during a trek to **Manimahesh Lake**, have captured attention.*

ABOUT DUSTED APOLLO

- ❖ Rare Dusted Apollo butterfly sighted in Himachal Pradesh for the first time.
- ❖ **Discovered in 1890**; found during a trek in Chamba by forest guards.
- ❖ Unique features **confirmed by butterfly expert Lovish Garlani**.
- ❖ **Extremely rare species** with a distribution **range from Ladakh to West Nepal**.
- ❖ **Resembles Ladakh Banded Apollo** but with distinct wing bands.
- ❖ Confirmation through scientific examinations after being photographed in Chamba.
- ❖ Regal Apollo, another protected species, also **spotted at Manimahesh**.
- ❖ Highlights the **need for urgent conservation efforts** in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ **11 Apollo species recorded**, with **five declared as Scheduled species**.
- ❖ Urgent measures suggested include **community awareness and protection against poaching**.

In a First Time Ever, Dusted Apollo has been seen in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba

WHAT IS DUSTED APOLLO?

COMPLETE DETAILS ABOUT DUSTED APOLLO - DUSTED APOLLO UPSC



- DUSTED APOLLO -



WOMAN ROBOT ASTRONAUT "VYOMMITRA"

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ Recently, **Department of Space** announced that **woman Robot Astronaut "Vyommitra"** will fly into **Space ahead of ISRO's ambitious "Gaganyaan" mission**, which will be **India's first human manned Space Flight carrying Indian Astronauts into Space.**

ABOUT VYOMMITRA

- ❖ "**Vyommitra**" is a name derived from two Sanskrit words namely, "**Vyoma**" (meaning **Space**) and "**Mitra**" (meaning **Friend**).
- ❖ This Female Robot Astronaut is **equipped with the capability to monitor Module Parameters, issue Alerts and execute Life Support operations.**
- ❖ It can perform tasks such as operating six panels and responding to the queries.
- ❖ The **Gaganyaan project envisages demonstration of human space capabilities by launching a crew of astronauts into an orbit of 400 Kilometres and then bringing back these human astronauts safely to earth by landing them in India's sea waters.**



PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTION (PRI)

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ **Panchayats earn only 1% of their revenue through taxes, Most of their revenue comes from the Centre and the States as grants.**

ABOUT PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTION (PRI)

- ❖ PRI in India is a form of rural **local self-government.**
- ❖ The **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**, also known as **the Panchayati Raj Act**, The main provisions of the Act are outlined in **Part IX** of the Indian Constitution, which consists of **Articles 243 to 243-O.**
- ❖ The PRI system was **constitutionalized in 1992** through the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act.**
- ❖ The primary goal of PRI is to establish **democracy at the grassroots level** and facilitate rural development.
- ❖ **Three-tier system.**
- ❖ **Reservation** - Reservation of seats for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and women in panchayats at all levels.
- ❖ **State Finance Commission:** Devolution of funds, grants-in-aid, and taxes to panchayats.



COMMITTEES RELATED TO PRIS

Balwant rai mehta, LM singhvi, GVK rai committee, Gadgill committee, Ashok Mehta committee, Thungon committee.

3 TOOLS OF FISCAL POLICY

- ✓ **Government Spending**
- ✓ **Transfer Payments**
- ✓ **Taxes**

FRBM ACT, 2003

- ❖ Act of the Parliament that **set targets for the Government of India to establish financial discipline**, improve the management of **public funds, strengthen fiscal prudence and reduce its fiscal deficits.**



FISCAL CONSOLIDATION

- ❖ The **FRBM Act** made it mandatory for the government to place the following along with the Union Budget documents in Parliament annually-
 - ✓ **Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement**
 - ✓ **Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement**
 - ✓ **Macroeconomic Framework Statement**

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced during her **Budget speech** that the Centre would reduce its fiscal deficit to **5.1% of gross domestic product (GDP)** in 2024-25.

ABOUT FISCAL CONSOLIDATION

- ❖ Fiscal consolidation is a **reduction in the underlying fiscal deficit**.
- ❖ Fiscal Consolidation refers to the **policies undertaken by Governments** (national and sub-national levels) to reduce their deficits and **accumulation of debt stock**.
- ❖ It is **not aimed at eliminating fiscal debt**.

The government aims to achieve fiscal consolidation through various revenue and expenditure measures, including:

- ❖ **Refinement of Subsidy Allocation:**
 - ☛ Focusing on better targeting of government subsidies.
- ❖ **Enhanced Tax Administration:**
 - ☛ Improving, Combating and Addressing issues related to tax avoidance.
- ❖ **Optimizing Tax GDP Ratio:**
 - ☛ Broadening the tax base, **Minimizing tax concessions** and **exemptions to boost overall tax revenues**.
- ❖ **Stimulating Economic Growth:**
 - ☛ Aiming for a **higher economic growth rate** as a strategy to generate increased tax revenues.
- ❖ **Augmentation of Tax Revenue:**
 - ☛ Emphasizing the necessity of **augmenting tax revenue to achieve fiscal consolidation**.
 - ☛ Acknowledging the **limitations associated with reducing government expenditure** in the Indian context.



ROTATING BLACK HOLES

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ Recently, scientists have discovered prevalence of **gravitational waves near a rotating black hole's ergosphere**, which offers insights into extreme gravitational conditions, validating **Einstein's general theory of relativity**.

ABOUT ROTATING BLACK HOLES:

- **Rotating black holes**, also known as **Kerr black holes**, possess a unique feature called the **ergosphere**, which is a region outside the outer event horizon.
- **Rotating black holes** are formed in the gravitational collapse of a massive spinning star or from stars or gas with a total non-zero angular momentum.
- **Formation of a black hole:** It occurs when a massive star runs out of fuel to fuse, leading to a core implosion under its weight, creating a black hole.

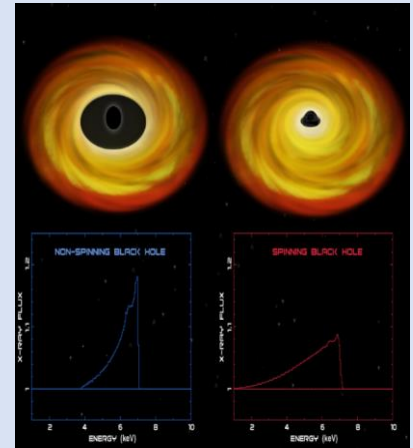
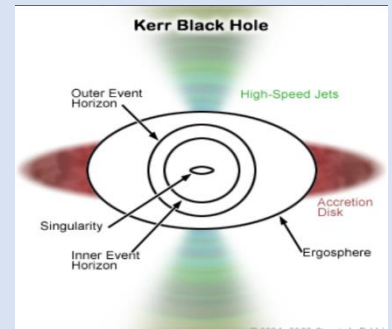


ERGOSPHERE:

- The **ergosphere** is a region outside a rotating black hole's event horizon where space is dragged at the speed of light or faster, making it theoretically possible to extract energy from it.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KERR BLACK HOLE AND A REGULAR (NON-ROTATING) BLACK HOLE

Characteristic	Schwarzschild Black Hole	Kerr Black Hole
Angular Momentum	Zero (non-rotating)	Non-zero (rotating)
Ergosphere	Absent	Present
Extraction of Matter/Energy	Not applicable	Possible in the ergosphere, but not beyond the event horizon
Astrophysical Relevance	Limited relevance	Relevant, especially for rotating black holes in astrophysical scenarios



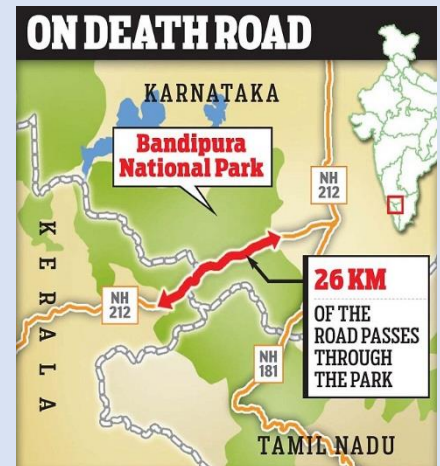
BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The tragic death of a 25-year-old tusker, known as "Thanner Komban," during a relocation operation from Kerala to Bandipur in Karnataka, has stirred controversy and raised concerns.*

ABOUT BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE

- ❖ Bandipur Tiger Reserve is situated in the **Western Ghats Mountains Biogeography Zone**.
- ❖ Established in **1973 under Project Tiger**; expanded in 1985 and named **Bandipur National Park**.
- ❖ It is **surrounded by Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in the South and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in the Southwest**.
- ❖ Located at the **tri-junction of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala**.
- ❖ Recognized as **one of the Mega Biodiversity Areas** in India.
- ❖ Part of the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve** and Mysore Elephant Reserve.
- ❖ Home to rich floral and faunal diversity, including **the highest number of tigers (about 724)** and the **largest Asian Elephant population**.
- ❖ **Rivers:** Crisscrossed by **Kabini, Moyar, and Nugu rivers**.
- ❖ **Highest Point:** **Himavad Gopalaswamy Betta** is the highest point in the park.



OTHER RESERVES IN KARNATAKA:

Bhadra, Nagarahole, Dandeli-Anshi, and proposed reserves like Biligiriranganatha Swamy Temple (BRT) and Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary contribute to Karnataka's conservation efforts.