



TATHASTU
Institute of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



12th February, 2024



S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	BHARAT RATNA: WHY CHARAN SINGH WAS A MESSIAH FOR FARMERS?
2.	PRELIMS POINTERS

BHARAT RATNA: WHY CHARAN SINGH WAS A MESSIAH FOR FARMERS?

SOURCE: [Indian Express](#)

TAG: GS Paper II- **Government Policies & Interventions, Human Resource**

GS Paper III- **Growth & Development, E-Technology in the Aid of Farmers, Agricultural Marketing**

Mains Practice Question:

Q. Discuss the socio-economic impact of Charan Singh's land reform laws and the Green Revolution on rural India. Evaluate the contemporary relevance of reservations in government jobs for farmers' children in light of these developments." (250 Words)

WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Recently, **Chaudhary Charan Singh (1902-1987)**, the former **Prime Minister**, has been **honoured with the Bharat Ratna**, the highest civilian award in India.
- **Regarded as one of India's foremost Jat leaders**, Chaudhary Charan Singh's policies and work hold significant relevance in modern Indian politics.
- However, **Charan Singh's impact extends far beyond the confines of the Jat community**. Renowned as a staunch **advocate for peasants**, he is credited with establishing a **new political order that embraces farming communities across North India**.
- His **legacy continues to resonate in contemporary politics**, shaping the dynamics of agricultural policies and rural representation.

EARLY LIFE AND ENTRY INTO POLITICS:

- Born on December 23, 1903, in Noorpur village near Hapur.
- Joined politics during the national movement.
- Elected to the United Provinces Assembly from Chhaprauli in 1937 on a Congress ticket.
- ❖ **Advocacy for Peasants and Ministerial Roles:**
 - Championed issues concerning the village economy and fought against the exploitation of peasants.
 - Served as a minister in the UP government under Dr. Sampurnanand and Chandra Bhanu Gupta.
- ❖ **First Non-Congress Chief Minister of UP:**
 - Led the first non-Congress coalition government in UP in 1967.
 - Formed the Samyukt Vidhayak Dal (SVD) government with support from various parties.
- ❖ **Turbulent Tenure as CM:**
 - Faced challenges in maintaining coalition unity, leading to his resignation in 1968.
 - Returned briefly as CM in 1970 with Congress (R) support but resigned again due to coalition issues.
- ❖ **National Political Career:**
 - Contested and lost the 1971 Lok Sabha polls but later won in 1977 from Baghpat on a Janata Party ticket.
 - Became Deputy PM in the Morarji Desai-led government.
- ❖ **Prime Ministership and Political Maneuvers:**
 - Briefly served as PM from July 28 to August 20, 1979, with Indira Gandhi's support.
 - Continued as PM until January 14, 1980, when Indira Gandhi returned to power after fresh elections.



❖ **Legacy and Influence:**

- Remains one of the notable Chief Ministers of UP, alongside V P Singh, who later became PM.
- Won successive Lok Sabha elections from Baghpat, representing different parties.
- Passed away on May 29, 1987, leaving a lasting impact on Indian politics, particularly in Uttar Pradesh.

VIEWS ON VARIOUS ISSUES:

❖ **Reservation and Caste Abolition:**

- **Charan Singh supported the establishment of the Mandal Commission** but emphasized that **reservations for farmers should not be based on caste**. He believed that the **caste system had outlived its relevance and needed to be abolished**.
- He advocated that, **except for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, caste should not be a consideration for admission to educational institutions or public service**.

❖ **Division in Indian Society:**

- **According to Charan Singh, the primary division in Indian society was between cultivators and urban dwellers**. He criticized city-dwellers for their lack of empathy towards the agricultural community, whom they often demeaned.
- Despite agriculture's significant contribution to India's economy, **Singh noted a prevalent disdain towards villagers by urbanites, reflected in derogatory terms like 'dehati' or 'ganwar'**.

❖ **Reservations as Corrective Measures:**

- **Singh viewed reservations as a means to rectify the imbalance in government employment opportunities favouring urbanites over villagers and peasants**.
- **He proposed significant reservations for children of farmers in government jobs**, aiming to provide opportunities to those who had historically been deprived of them.

❖ **Efficiency and Character Building:**

- Charan Singh argued that reservations for farmers' children would enhance the efficiency of government departments. He believed that the upbringing and experiences of agriculturalists instilled qualities like resilience, perseverance, and administrative capability.
- Singh contended that the hardships faced in agriculture cultivated a robust character, contrasting with the perceived softness of urbanites. He believed that individuals with agricultural backgrounds would handle crises better than those from urban areas, who may lack such resilience and endurance.

GAME-CHANGING LAWS INTRODUCED BY CHARAN SINGH

❖ **Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950 (ZALR):**

- ZALR aimed to abolish the zamindari system in Uttar Pradesh, where zamindars acted as intermediaries between the government and cultivators.
- Under ZALR, tenant-cultivators were granted permanent and heritable interests in their holdings, transforming them into peasant-proprietors.
- This legislation fundamentally changed the agrarian structure, replacing the old zamindari system with a new order based on small family-owned farms, benefiting mainly Muslim, Yadav, Gujjar, Kurmi, and other OBC castes.

❖ **Uttar Pradesh Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1953:**

- Charan Singh envisioned independent and efficient cultivators, leading to the enactment of this law.
- The Act facilitated the consolidation of scattered landholdings by allowing landowners to exchange parcels with other farmers in the same village.
- Its goal was to provide each owner-cultivator with a consolidated, productive tract of land, thereby enhancing agricultural productivity.

❖ **Uttar Pradesh Imposition of Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, 1960:**

- This law imposed a ceiling of 40 acres of "fair quality land" per family of five members.
- Charan Singh advocated for a balanced landholding size, ranging from 2.5 to 27.5 acres, which families could cultivate efficiently with minimal outside labour.
- The legislation aimed to ensure equitable distribution of land and promote mechanization by



consolidating holdings of a certain minimum size.

❖ **Impact and Implementation:**

- By 1976-77, significant progress had been made in implementing these laws, with millions of hectares brought under consolidation operation.
- Singh's personal interest in the success of these initiatives, particularly as revenue minister during the 1950s, contributed to their relatively corruption-free implementation.

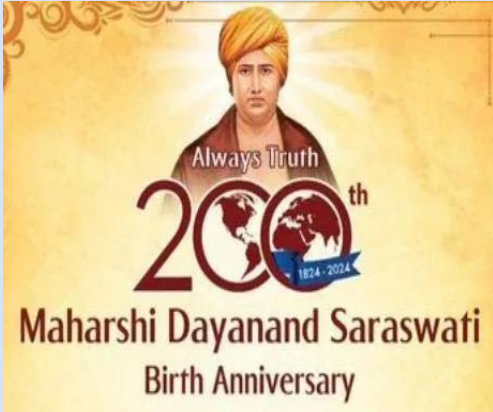

PRESENT-DAY RELEVANCE:

1. **Non-Caste Based Representation:** Charan Singh's emphasis on representation for tillers of the soil, regardless of their caste, holds relevance in contemporary discussions surrounding reservations. This approach contrasts with traditional caste-based reservations and may resonate with various landowning peasant communities demanding OBC status and reservation benefits.
2. **Advocacy for Middle Peasantry:** Singh's advocacy for the middle peasantry, comprising diverse communities such as Muslims, Ahirs (Yadavs), Jats, Gujjars, and Rajputs, highlights his inclusive approach towards agricultural issues. This approach, aimed at addressing the concerns of a broad spectrum of cultivators, remains pertinent in contemporary agricultural policy-making.
3. **Leadership Beyond Caste Identity:** Despite being a Jat himself, Charan Singh positioned himself as a leader representing the entire cultivator class, transcending narrow caste affiliations. In an era marked by caste-based politics, Singh's approach of advocating for a broader agricultural community resonates as a model of inclusive leadership.

CONCLUSION

- ❖ In summary, Charan Singh's land reform laws, coupled with the advancements brought about by the Green Revolution, played a pivotal role in creating a socially and politically empowered middle peasantry in rural India. This new rural middle class experienced significant economic growth and prosperity for roughly four decades, benefiting from increased agricultural productivity and modernization.
- ❖ However, the agricultural landscape has undergone significant changes since then, marked by plateauing yields, stagnant crop prices, land re-fragmentation, and climate change-induced weather aberrations. These challenges have led to a decline in the economic viability of agriculture and have eroded the socio-economic status of the once-proud peasant-proprietor class.
- ❖ Given the current challenges faced by the agricultural sector, there is a growing demand for reservations in government jobs for farmers' children. Such reservations could provide crucial support and opportunities for rural communities grappling with the changing dynamics of agriculture, helping to address the socio-economic disparities and empower the agricultural workforce in contemporary.



TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
<p>200TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF MAHARSHI DAYANANDA SARASWATI</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address at the 200th birth anniversary program of Swami Dayananda Saraswati highlights the sage's enduring legacy and teachings. <p>ABOUT SWAMI DAYANANDA SARASWATI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Birth and Early Life: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Born on February 12, 1824, in Tankara, Gujarat, as Moola Shankar. ☛ He embraced sannyas and adopted the name Dayanand, seeking spiritual enlightenment. ☛ Early education focused on Vedas and Sanskrit scriptures. ❖ Spiritual Quest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Influenced by witnessing idol worship contradictions. ☛ Pursued spiritual enlightenment under Swami Virajananda. ❖ Vedic Scholar and Reformer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Completed Vedic studies under Swami Virjanand. ☛ Founded Arya Samaj in 1875, promoting Vedic principles. ☛ Advocated for social reform, rejecting casteism and idol worship. ❖ Major Contributions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Authored significant texts like Satyartha Prakash. ☛ Established Paropkarini Sabha for Vedic propagation. ☛ Promoted Vedic education and societal regeneration. ❖ Philosophy and Principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Advocated "Back to Vedas" to purify Hinduism. ☛ Opposed rituals, caste system, and advocated for women's rights. ☛ Established ten principles of Arya Samaj, emphasizing truth, knowledge, and social welfare. 
<p>SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI TO SET UP DAKSHIN BHARAT SANSKRITIK KENDRA IN HYDERABAD</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The establishment of the Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in Hyderabad marks a significant move towards preserving and promoting South India's rich cultural heritage, encompassing music, folk arts, theater, and puppetry. <p>SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI'S EXPANSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Introduction of Regional Centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) to establish Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra in Hyderabad. ☛ Inauguration by former Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu and Shri G Kishan Reddy. ❖ Enhanced Cultural Preservation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Aims to preserve and promote South India's diverse cultural heritage. 



- ☛ Focus on **music, folk arts, theater, and puppetry.**
- ❖ **Significance of the Centre:**
 - ☛ First SNA presence in **South India.**
 - ☛ Dedicated space for **research, documentation, and cultural growth.**
- ❖ **Tribute to Ghantasala Venkateswara Rao:**
 - ☛ Commemoration of the legendary **musician's 100th birth anniversary.**
 - ☛ Proposed construction of **Bharat Kala Mandapam auditorium at the centre.**

ABOUT SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI:

- ❖ **Establishment:**
 - ☛ **Founded in 1953**, it's India's premier body for preserving and promoting performing arts heritage.
- ❖ **Management:**
 - ☛ Governed by a **General Council**, with the Chairman **appointed by the President for five years.**
- ❖ **Functions:**
 - ☛ Defined by its **Memorandum of Association**, focusing on cultural preservation and promotion.
- ❖ **Location:**
 - ☛ **Headquartered at Rabindra Bhavan**, New Delhi, under the **Ministry of Culture, Government of India.**
- ❖ **Centres:**
 - ☛ Houses centers like **Kutiyattam Kendra, Sattriya Kendra, North-East Centre, North-East Documentation Centre, and Chhau Kendra.**
- ❖ **Awards:**
 - ☛ Recognizes artists with **Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards** and grants Fellowships to eminent practitioners.

IREDA AND IIT BHUBANESWAR MOU FOR CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ **IREDA partners with IIT Bhubaneswar for renewable energy innovation, research, and startup support, fostering sustainable development.**

ABOUT THE MOU

- ❖ **IREDA Initiative:**
 - ☛ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar for **fostering innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.**
- ❖ **Objective:**
 - ☛ The MoU, **signed at the 100 Cube Start-up Conclave**,
 - ☛ It aim to support **collaborative efforts in innovation, research initiatives, technology transfer, and nurturing the start-up ecosystem.**
- ❖ **Capacity Building:**
 - ☛ Additionally, the **partnership will involve capacity-building** initiatives such as **training programs, seminars, and workshops** to enhance the skills of IREDA officials.
- ❖ **Signatories:**





HALDWANI VIOLENCE: WHAT IS NAZOOL LAND

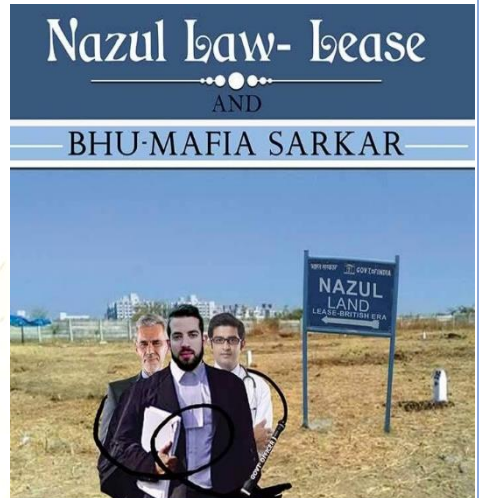
- ☛ The MoU was signed by the **Chairman & Managing Director of IREDA**, Shri Pradip Kumar Das, and an **Independent Director of IIT Bhubaneswar**, Dr. Debi Prasad Dogra, in the presence of dignitaries including **Union Minister for Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship**, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, and **Director of IIT Bhubaneswar**, Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar.
- ❖ **IREDA's Perspective:**
 - ☛ The CMD of IREDA highlighted the significance of the **partnership in fostering innovation and sustainable development** in the renewable energy domain, aiming to drive **impactful research initiatives and propel sectoral growth**.

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *Recent violence in Haldwani, Uttarakhand, stemmed from a demolition drive on a mosque and madrasa allegedly built on Nazool land.*

ABOUT NAZOOZ LAND

- ❖ **Definition**
 - ☛ Nazool land refers to *government-owned land* that is typically **leased out to entities for a fixed period**.
 - ☛ The government can either **renew the lease or take back the land**.
- ❖ **Origin**
 - ☛ After India's Independence, land **previously owned by kings and kingdoms**, often without proper documentation, was **categorized as Nazool land and transferred to state governments**.
- ❖ **Usage:**
 - ☛ Nazool land is **utilized by the government for public purposes** such as constructing **schools, hospitals, and Gram Panchayat buildings**, or leased out for housing societies.
- ❖ **Governance:**
 - ☛ The **Nazool Lands (Transfer) Rules, 1956**, mostly governs **Nazool land adjudication**.



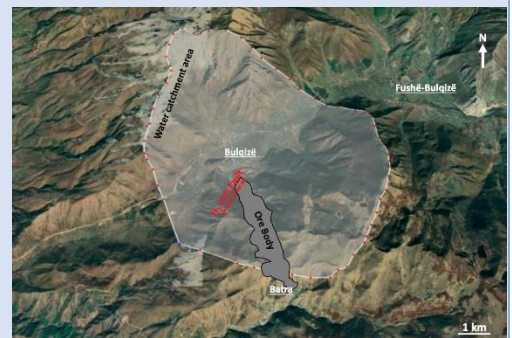
BULQIZË CHROMITE MINE IN ALBANIA

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The recent discovery of a deep reservoir for hydrogen gas in the Bulqizë chromite mine in Albania has attracted attention due to its potential implications for clean energy production.*

ABOUT BULQIZË CHROMITE MINE IN ALBANIA

- **Importance:** *Key chromium mine in Albania, significant for mining activities.*
- **Depth:** *Deepest mine in the Balkans, possibly in Europe, with the inner shaft reaching 1000 meters depth from the surface or -180 meters below sea level.*
- **High Outgassing Rate:**





**PLACES IN NEWS-
ALBANIA**

The mine exhibits an elevated outgassing rate of 84% hydrogen by volume, with approximately 200 tons of hydrogen vented annually.

SIGNIFICANCE OF HYDROGEN:

- Hydrogen is a promising source of primary energy due to its potential for clean energy production.
- Hydrogen can be used to power vehicles, generate electricity, power industry and heat our homes and businesses.
- It could make a huge difference on our carbon emissions and will be critical to achieving net zero.

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ The recent *discovery of a deep reservoir for hydrogen gas in the Bulqizë chromite mine in Albania* has attracted attention due to its *potential implications for clean energy production*.

ABOUT ALBANIA COUNTRY

- ❖ **Location:**
 - ☞ Albania is situated in southern Europe on the western part of the Balkan Peninsula.
- ❖ **Borders:**
 - ☞ It shares borders with Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Greece, while the Adriatic and Ionian seas lie to its west and southwest.
- ❖ **Size:**
 - ☞ Albania is about 210 miles (340 km) long and 95 miles (150 km) wide.
- ❖ **Relief:**
 - ☞ The country is predominantly mountainous, with about three-fourths of its territory consisting of mountains and hills.
- ❖ **North Albanian Alps:**
 - ☞ Cover the northern part, heavily forested and sparsely populated, with peaks reaching nearly 8,900 feet (2,700 meters).



**PM-SVANidhi
SCHEME**

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *PM SVANidhi scheme's impact study shows significant income boost for street vendors, but challenges remain, including high NPAs and limited credit access.*

PM STREET VENDOR'S ATMANIRBHAR NIDHI (PM SVANIDHI) SCHEME OVERVIEW:

- ❖ **Launch:**
 - ☞ Initiated by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on June 01, 2020.
- ❖ **Purpose:**
 - ☞ Offer affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors affected by Covid-19 lockdown.
- ❖ **Loan Facility:**
 - ☞ Collateral-free loans of Rs 10,000 with interest rates below 12% for one year.
- ❖ **Scheme Extension:**



- ☛ Originally until March 2022, **extended till December 2024** for enhanced digital transactions and socio-economic development.
- ❖ **Eligibility:**
 - ☛ Vendors active on or **before March 24, 2020**, with a certificate of **vending from Town Vending Committees.**
- ❖ **Benefits:**
 - ☛ Street vendors can **access loans repayable in monthly instalments**, qualify for interest subsidy, **no penalty on early repayment**, incentives for digital transactions, and credit limit escalation.
- ❖ **Implementation Agency:**
 - ☛ **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).**

Empowering Street Vendors with PM SVANidhi Scheme

Salient Features

- Loan tenure of 1 year** on working capital
- Interest Subsidy at 7% p.a.** on timely repayment, paid quarterly
- Monthly cash-back incentive up to ₹100** on digital transactions
- Higher loan eligibility** on timely/early repayment of the first loan
- Covers urban local bodies** across the country

LAUNCH OF UPI AND RUPAY SERVICES IN SRI LANKA AND MAURITIUS

- WHY IN NEWS?**
- ❖ **Launch of UPI services in Sri Lanka and Mauritius, with RuPay card in Mauritius, strengthens digital connectivity and fosters financial integration.**
- ABOUT THE NEWS**
- ❖ **Leaders:**
 - ☛ **PM Modi, President Wickremesinghe, PM Jugnauth** to witness UPI launch in Sri Lanka, Mauritius & RuPay extension in Mauritius.
 - ❖ **Benefits:**
 - ☛ The launch aims to **strengthen people-to-people relations** and **facilitate tourism** between India, Sri Lanka, and Mauritius.
 - ☛ It will **provide faster and seamless digital transaction experiences**, enhancing digital connectivity between the countries.
 - ❖ **RuPay Card Extension:**
 - ☛ **Mauritian banks to issue RuPay cards**, easing **settlements in India and Mauritius**, fostering financial integration.
 - ❖ **Indian UPI Services in other countries:**
 - ☛ **Singapore, UAE, Nepal, Bhutan and France**

UPI
UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE

Sri Lanka, Mauritius to get UPI services
PM Modi to be virtually present