

12 Dec 2022: UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis



TABLE OF CONTENTS
A. GS 1 Related
B. GS 2 Related GOVERNANCE 1. Cooperative Societies Act
C. GS 3 Related SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 1. End-to-End Encryption
D. GS 4 Related
E. Editorials INTERNATIONAL RELATION 1. The role of the 'China Test' in India's grand strategy 2. The narrative of a post-truth world
F. Prelims Facts 1. 'Clean Ganga'
G. Tidbits 1. Lisu wren babbler 2. Lunar Mission by Japan
H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions
I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

A. GS 1 Related

Nothing here for today!!!

B. GS 2 Related

Category: GOVERNANCE

1. Cooperative Societies Act

Syllabus: *Government Policies & Interventions for Development*

Mains: *Characteristics, merits and limitations of cooperative form of organisation.*

Context: The Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022, was introduced in the Lok Sabha.

Introduction:

- The Bill to amend the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 7, 2022.
- Multi-State cooperatives are societies that have operations in more than one State.
- The amendments have been introduced to improve governance, reform the electoral process, strengthen monitoring mechanisms and enhance transparency and accountability.
- The Bill also seeks to improve the composition of the board and ensure financial discipline, besides enabling the raising of funds in multi-State cooperative societies.
- Opposition parliamentarians alleged that the Bill's provisions encroached upon the rights of State governments, demanding that it be referred to a Standing Committee.

Key provisions of the Bill:

Under the Act, elections to the board of a multi-state co-operative society are conducted by its existing board. The Bill amends this to specify that the central government will establish the Co-operative Election Authority to conduct and supervise such elections. Further, only active members will be eligible to be elected as a board member or office bearer of the co-operative society.

- Active members are those who are availing a minimum level of products or services of the society, or attending at least three consecutive general meetings.

The Union government will appoint one or more Co-operative Ombudsman with territorial jurisdiction to inquire into complaints made by members of co-operative societies.

- Appeals against the directions of the Ombudsman may be filed with the Central Registrar (appointed by the central government) within a month.

The Bill allows co-operative societies (registered under state laws) to merge into an existing multi-state co-operative society.

- At least two-thirds of the members of the co-operative society present and voting at a general meeting must pass a resolution to allow such a merger.

The Bill establishes the Co-operative Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Development Fund for revival of sick multi-state co-operative societies.

- This fund shall be financed by existing profitable multi-State co-operative societies which will have to deposit either ₹1 crore or 1% of the net profit into the Fund.

The Bill amends the composition of the board of directors to mandate the inclusion of: (i) one Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe member, and (ii) two women members.

- This will promote equity and facilitate inclusiveness.
- Further, the co-opted members should have experience in the field of banking, financing, co-operative management or specialisation fields related to the functioning of multi-state co-operative society.

Issues with the amendment bill:

- Provisions enabling central Co-operative Election Authority appointed by the Centre may lead to the concentration of power of the Centre, which could impact the “autonomy” of MSCSs and create potential for “misuse”.
- The constitutional domain of States in regulating cooperative societies was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2021 when it struck down a part of the 97th Constitution Amendment.
 - In 2021, the Supreme Court in Union of India vs Rajendra Shah and others case had upheld a judgement of the Gujarat High Court which struck down Part IXB on the ground that the amendment was passed without the requisite ratification by the States.
- Creation of a Co-operative Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Development Fund financed by existing profitable multi-State co-operative societies would put an additional burden on MSCSs.

What are multi-State cooperatives?

- According to the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), cooperatives are people-centred enterprises jointly owned and democratically controlled by and for their members to realise common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations.
- Multi-State cooperatives are societies that have operations in more than one State — for instance, a farmer-producers organisation which procures grains from farmers from multiple States.

- The board of directors, which represents all the States where these collectives do business, is in charge of all administrative and financial decisions.
 - In India, there are around 1,500 MSCSs registered, with Maharashtra having the most.

Issues with the cooperative sector:

- The inclusion of cooperatives in the planning process as development instruments made it an avenue for giving patronage to the supporters of ruling political parties.
- Cooperative societies have to follow certain rules and regulations as imposed on them by the cooperative departments of the state government concerned. These rules include submission and auditing of accounts which results in excessive state control.
- The management of a cooperative society generally comprises part-time or inexperienced people who are not well equipped with the skills required to handle the managerial functions effectively.
- MSCSs are also facing issues regarding trust, which is the very basis of cooperation. This has brought MSCSs under multiple controls from the Centre.
- Central government monitoring takes a top-down approach as opposed to a grassroots one.

Nut Graf: *The independent and autonomous character of cooperative societies was to be crucial in their functioning. To plug the “loopholes” in the MSCS Act, the Union government recently introduced a Bill seeking to amend the 2002 law for more “transparency” and “ease of doing business”.*

C. GS 3 Related

Category: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. End-to-End Encryption

Syllabus: *IT & Computers*

Mains: *Issues due to use of End to End Encryption technology*

Context: Apple, on December 07, 2022 announced the introduction of end-to-end encryption for most of the data on iCloud by early 2023.

Introduction:

- Apple announced that it will be increasing the number of data points protected by end-to-end encryption on iCloud from 14 to 23 categories.

- The company claimed that with end-to-end encryption, user data will be protected even in case data is breached in the cloud.
- Similarly, Elon Musk, CEO of Twitter recently pushed for Twitter directing messaging's (DMs) to be encrypted.
- Many popular messaging service providers use end-to-end encryption, including Facebook, WhatsApp and Zoom.
- Several government agencies are not happy with the recent development.
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the lead federal agency for investigating cyber attacks and intrusions in the U.S expressed concerns with the threat that end-to-end encryption and user-only access pose.
 - The agency insisted they hinder its ability to protect Americans from cyber-attacks, violence against children, and terrorism

What is end-to-end encryption?

- End-to-end encryption (E2EE) is a method of secure communication that prevents third parties from accessing data while it's transferred from one end system or device to another.
- It prevents third parties like cloud service providers, internet service providers (ISPs) and cybercriminals from accessing data while it is being transferred.
- End-to-end encryption uses an algorithm to convert plain text into an unintelligible format. Exclusively individuals having the decryption keys, which are only kept on endpoints and not with any other parties like service providers, can decode and read this format.
- When sending corporate documents, financial information, legal documents, and private discussions, end-to-end encryption has long been employed. Additionally, it may be used to manage user authorization for access to stored data.
- End-to-end encryption is used to secure communications in instant messaging and also used to secure passwords, protect stored data and safeguard data on cloud storage.

Significance of End to End Encryption:

- The total number of data breaches more than tripled between 2013 and 2021.
- According to Apple, data of 1.1 billion personal records were exposed in 2021 alone and that it is trying to address this rising threat by implementing end-to-end encryption.
- Extra layer of protection would be valuable to targets of hacking attacks launched by well-funded groups.
- End-to-end encryption promotes data protection and prevents unauthorised access to personal data.

- End-to-end encryption is also viewed as a technology that protects user data from government snooping, making it a desired feature by political opponents, journalists, and activists.

Government agencies standpoint:

- Attempts by government agencies across the globe, in the past, to access encrypted data hosted and stored by tech companies have met with strong resistance.
- Encrypted messages can be used by terrorists and other non state elements that can threaten sovereignty and integrity of nation.
- In 2019, the U. S., the U. K., and Australia planned to pressure Facebook to create a backdoor into its encrypted messaging apps to allow governments to access the contents of private communications.
- In 2018, Australia passed legislation that would force tech companies and service providers to build capabilities allowing law enforcement secret access to messages on platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook.
- It becomes more challenging to censor social media trolls, hate speech, and child pornography.
- End-to-end encryption does not protect metadata, which includes information like when a file was created, the date when a message is sent and the endpoints between which data was shared.

***Nut Graf:** Several tech companies are pushing for end to end encryption to secure communications and to protect data amidst rising data breaches. Law enforcement agencies of various countries are against strong end-to-end encryption which could compromise the sovereignty and integrity of a nation.*

D. GS 4 Related

Nothing here for today!!!

E. Editorials

Category: INTERNATIONAL RELATION

1. The role of the 'China Test' in India's grand strategy

Syllabus: India and its neighborhood relations.

Mains: India-China relations.

Concept of Principal Contradiction:

- The concept of a principal contradiction is defined as a useful method of optimizing and prioritizing strategic decision-making.
- It poses an extreme challenge to an individual/organization and has the potential to shape future choices and associated consequences.
- In the present scenario, India's principal strategic contradiction is China. Whereas challenges like Pakistan, internal insurgencies, and difficulties in relations with neighboring countries are secondary contradictions.
- It should be noted that secondary contradictions are also important and can add to the primary contradiction.

China Test:

- India's major strategic decisions should pass the China test by asking and answering a direct question: "Does a particular development/decision/relationship help tackle the China challenge?"
- This test would help prioritize strategic decision-making in the long run with potential policy utility.
- The test involves 3 distinct elements from an operational point of view:
 - An assessment of certain Indian decisions or regional developments and their association with Chinese regional strategy/interests.
 - An assessment of the need for modifications at the secondary contradiction level in case of India's certain decisions or developments.
 - An assessment of requirements of any major policy changes internally.

Examples highlighting utility of the China Test:

1. INDIA-U.S. RELATIONS:

- India had a complicated relationship with the U.S. which is getting normalized and interest-driven gradually. For instance, the U.S. is looking forward to re-engaging southern Asia - Pakistan, South Asia, the Indo-Pacific, and even the [Taliban](#), despite its withdrawal from the region.
- It was observed that the standoff with China along the Line of Actual Control in 2020 was the outcome of India's growing proximity to Washington.
- As per the 'China test' of [India-U.S. relations](#), it is clearly not in China's interest to see an American re-engagement of the region or growing India-U.S. proximity. The test further suggests that India should not give in to the short-term temptation of not being on the wrong side of China given its consequences in the long term.

2. INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATION:

- According to the China test, making peace with Pakistan would help deal with China in a better way.
- It is strategically sensible for India to have a course correction with Pakistan because if India is vigorously preoccupied with Pakistan then Beijing would get the opportunity to displace Indian primacy in South Asia.
- Similarly, India should not oppose the American engagement of Pakistan as it would help in preventing Pakistan from going into the China camp completely. It should be noted that Pakistan's engagement with the U.S. and the West is much better for India.

1. INDIA-RUSSIA RELATION:

- Applying the China test to the India-Russia relation does not provide a simple and straightforward answer as the U.S. and its allies want India to stop engaging with Moscow and condemn [Russia's aggression against Ukraine](#). This in turn would help in greater accommodation of Indian diplomatic and political interests against China's aggression.
- Moreover, the proximity between China and Russia is expanding which reduces the robustness of India-Russia relations.
- The China test suggests that even though the relation between New Delhi and Moscow is on the wane, India should expand its relations with Russia because:
 1. In the absence of an India-Russia relationship, Sino-Russian relations would further strengthen, and India will be cut out of the continental space to its north and west.
 2. India gets several benefits like discounted energy, cheaper defence equipment, support at the [United Nations Security Council](#), etc. Furthermore, Russia better understands India's 'political sensitivities' in comparison to the western partners.
 3. The discontinuation of the relationship might also push Russia towards Pakistan.
 4. It should also be noted that Moscow does not want China to dominate the strategic space around it and has been keen to balance the growing influence of China in Central Asia with partners like New Delhi. India's turn away from Russia will ensure that China gets a free hand in Central Asia too.

Nut Graf: *There is great importance of the 'China test' in India's strategic planning and decision-making as that would help in smart balancing China in Southern Asia and eventually the geopolitics of the world.*

2. The narrative of a post-truth world

Syllabus: *Policies and politics of developed and developing countries.*

Mains: *Some modern terms of world affairs.*

Context: Merriam-Webster dictionary word of the year 2022- Gaslighting.

Some recent terms used in World Affairs:

- POST-TRUTH:
 - The term was perceived to be a narrative of the modern world.
 - It was declared as Oxford Dictionary's "Word of the Year" in 2016.
 - It implies relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.
 - The term remained somewhat shadowy and a bit incomplete. It was supplemented by another term "gaslighting".
- GASLIGHTING:
 - It means manipulating (someone) using psychological methods into questioning their own sanity or powers of reasoning.
 - It was named a "buzzword" by *The Guardian* in 2018 and was shortlisted for the "word of the year" by Oxford Dictionary.
 - It ultimately became Merriam-Webster dictionary's word of the year in 2022 as online searches spiked by nearly 1,740%.
 - According to Merriam-Webster "In this age of misinformation — of 'fake news,' conspiracy theories, Twitter trolls, and deepfakes — gaslighting has emerged as a word for our time."
 - Gaslighting is described by *Psychology Today* as "a form of manipulation where targets are urged to doubt their memories, beliefs, feelings, or sanity".
 - Gaslighting is not just an incident but an entire process involving confusion, lying, deception, isolation, denial, accusation, and manipulation.

Nut Graf: *Gaslighting has emerged as a new buzzword in both political and societal matters. It has the potential to shape the outlook of society in various ways and directions.*

F. Prelims Facts

1. 'Clean Ganga'

Syllabus: *GS02- Government Policies & Interventions for Development*

Prelims: *National Mission for Clean Ganga*

Context: The Union Tourism Ministry is preparing a comprehensive plan for developing tourism circuits along the Ganga in line with Arth Ganga, organic farming and cultural activities.

Key Details:

- The Union government's Namami Gange programme was conceived to improve the sanitation levels in the Ganga.
- It is now focused towards conservation, tourism and providing livelihoods.
- Arth Ganga, or harnessing economic potential from the Ganga, follows from a directive by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2019.
- Along with developing "tourism circuits", the tourism ministry is planning exhibitions and fairs in 75 towns along the main stem of the river.
 - The Agriculture Ministry is taking steps to build organic farming and natural farming corridors.
 - The Urban Affairs Ministry is focused on mapping drains and solid waste management, and
 - The Environment Ministry is scaling up afforestation and conservation efforts to protect the Gangetic river dolphin.
- Government has organised several workshops to nudge and sensitise farmers to take up natural farming.
- 408 projects are sanctioned under the [National Mission for Clean Ganga \(NMCG\)](#) programme out of which 228 have been completed.

G. Tidbits

1. Lisu wren babbler

- New species of songbird called 'Lisu Wren babbler' was discovered in Mugafi peak, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Birdwatchers in search of the rare and elusive grey-bellied wren babbler recorded this new species of songbird which they named it as Lisu, after the local community.
- Their findings were published by Indian BIRDS, a peer-reviewed journal of South Asian ornithology.
- The grey-bellied wren babbler is mostly found in Myanmar with some birds occurring in adjoining China and Thailand.
- There has been only one previous report of this bird from India when two specimens were collected from Mugafi close to the Myanmar border in 1988.



Image Source: The Hindu

2. Lunar Mission by Japan

- Spacecraft from a Japanese startup called 'ispace' was launched to the Moon on December 11, 2022.
- It is Japan's first-ever lunar mission and the first of its kind by a private company.
- The spacecraft is carrying a 10 kg UAE-built rover called 'Rashid' as a payload.
- The Rashid Rover was built by Dubai's Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and is being delivered by the HAKUTO-R lander, engineered by ispace.
- If the landing is successful, HAKUTO-R will also become the first commercial spacecraft ever to make a controlled landing on the moon.
- The launch was carried out by SpaceX aboard a Falcon 9 rocket in the U.S..
- Only the US, Russia and China have succeeded in successfully putting a robot on the moon so far.
- The mission is the first edition of the Hakuto-R programme meaning "white rabbit" in Japanese.
 - The mission is called white rabbit because the spacecraft is expected to reach the Moon's surface in 2023, which is the year of the rabbit in Japanese.
- Ispace has stated that it wants to expand the spectrum of human existence into space and build a sustainable planet by offering high-frequency, economical space transportation services.

H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

Q1. Which of the following statements best describes 'Tele-MANAS'? (Level-Medium)

- A. It is a program by the government where people can seek legal advice from lawyers through video conferencing available at the Common Service Centers.
- B. It is an initiative launched amid the Covid-19 pandemic to enable patient-to-doctor tele-consultations.
- C. It is an initiative launched to provide psychosocial support to students and teachers for their mental health and well-being during the times of Covid-19.
- D. It is an initiative launched to provide free tele-mental health services all over the country round the clock, particularly catering to people in remote or under-served areas.

Answer: D

Explanation:

- The Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) initiative of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Affairs was launched in October 2022.
- Tele-MANAS aims to provide free tele-mental health services all over the country round the clock, particularly catering to people in remote or under-served areas.
- The programme includes a network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence, with NIMHANS being the nodal centre and International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIITB) providing technology support.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bengaluru and National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHRSC) will provide the technical support.

Q2. 'Sudesa Geethangal' was written by (Level-Difficult)

- A. Tolappiyar
- B. Munrurai Araiya
- C. Mahakavi Subramania Bharati
- D. Thiruvalluvar

Answer: C

Explanation:

- [Mahakavi Subramania Bharati](#), a poet, freedom fighter and social reformer from Tamil Nadu also known as Mahakavi Bharathiyar published "Sudesa Geethangal" in 1908.
- He is widely regarded as the pioneer of modern Tamil literature. He used simple but effective words and rhythm.
- As a poet, his theme ranged from patriotism to nature, from romance to philosophy, from devotion to self-respect.
- He also wrote of the need for scientific advancements if the country was to move ahead.

Q3. Consider the following pairs: (Level-Difficult)

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. INS Karmuk | Indigenously built Missile Corvette |
| 2. INS Hansa | India's biggest Naval air base |
| 3. INS Jalashwa | Indigenously built amphibious transport dock |

How many of these are correctly matched?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Pair 01 is correctly matched**, INS Karmuk is a indigenously built Kora-class missile corvette, currently in active service with the Indian Navy.
- **Pair 02 is correctly matched**, INS Hansa is an Indian naval air station located in Goa, India. It is India's biggest naval air base. The military air base has a civil enclave that operates as Dabolim Airport.
- **Pair 03 is incorrectly matched**, [INS Jalashwa](#) is an amphibious transport dock currently in service with the Indian Navy. It was formerly known as USS Trenton before its acquisition by the Indian Navy in 2005.

Q4. 'Lisu Wren-Babbler' a songbird seen in news was spotted in: (Level-Medium)

- A. Kerala
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Karnataka

Answer: C

Explanation: New species of songbird called 'Lisu Wren babbler' was discovered in Mugafi peak, Arunachal Pradesh.

Q5. Consider the following pairs: (PYQ-CSE-2017) (Level-Difficult)

- 1. Radhakanta Deb: First President of the British Indian Association
- 2. Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty: Founder of the Madras Mahajana Sabha
- 3. Surendranath Banerjee: Founder of the Indian Association

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Pair 01 is correctly matched,** The British Indian Association was formed on 31 October 1851. The President of the first committee of this organisation was Raja Radhakanta Deb, while Debendranath Tagore was its secretary.
- **Pair 02 is incorrectly matched,** Gazulu Lakshmi Narasu Chetty (1806–1868) was an Indian merchant and political activist who founded the Madras Native Association.
 - M. Veeraraghavachariar, G. Subramania Iyer, and P. Ananda Charlu founded the Madras Mahajana Sabha in May 1884.
- **Pair 03 is correctly matched,** The Indian Association was the first avowed nationalist organisation founded in British India by Surendranath Banerjee and Ananda Mohan Bose in 1876.

I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

1. [What are the various changes in the Multi-State Cooperative Societies \(Amendment\) Bill, 2022? Will it undermine the authority of the States? Critically Examine.](#) (10 Marks; 150 Words) (GS-2; Governance)
2. What do you understand by End-to-end encryption? Why are governments against End-to-end encryption? (10 Marks; 150 Words) (GS-3; Science and Technology)