Mains Marathon

Compilation

13th to 18th March, 2023

1. Highlight the significance and challenges of Saudi Arabia-Iran reconciliation, with a special focus on India.
2. What is Silicon Valley Bank Crisis? How would it impact the Indian Economy?

3. Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA) has the potential to improve data protection and privacy for citizens, however, there are also risks associated with it. Examine
4. India has started building a holistic naval base on Great Nicobar Island. Discuss its strategic significance.

5. India's policy push for self-reliant manufacturing and green growth can deliver big benefits once logistical efficiency goes up. Elaborate.
6. AUKUS will trigger multiple strategic consequences for Asia, including India. Substantiate.

7. A multi-pronged approach across enhancing employability, sport for leadership, and bodily autonomy is the key to strengthening leadership abilities among adolescent girls. Elaborate.
8. Vibrant Village Programme will bring remote and border villages into the national mainstream, and make them more developed and self-sufficient. Examine.

9. Highlight the significance and challenges associated with allowing e-postal ballots for overseas Indian voters.
10. Critically examine the "national champions" model for infrastructure development.

11. Discuss the need to overhaul the mechanisms to tackle rising disinformation in India.
12. Highlight the government initiatives to protect the fast-growing digital economy.

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Q.1) Highlight the significance and challenges of Saudi Arabia-Iran reconciliation, with a special focus on India.
The Hindu

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Explain significance of Saudi Arabia-Iran reconciliation. Also write some challenges.
> **Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

The enmity between Iran, a Shia-majority theocracy, and Saudi Arabia, a Sunni-majority absolute monarchy, has been one of the dominant drivers of conflicts in the West Asia. Recently, Saudi and Iranian officials held bilateral talks that concluded with **an agreement to restore diplomatic ties** which have been severed since 2016. This major diplomatic breakthrough is negotiated by China in Beijing.

Significance of Saudi Arabia-Iran reconciliation:

- Normalizing ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia could help **stabilize global oil prices** and ensure a consistent supply of oil to India as they are two major oil producers in the world.
- This could open up new avenues for trade and investment, leading to **increased economic opportunities for India.**
- The newly struck diplomatic deal can be a good starting point for **more negotiations and agreements.**
- India has strong economic and strategic interests in the Middle East including International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). Iran is part of India's extended neighbourhood. Any instability in the region can have far-reaching consequences for India.
- **Vision 2030" plan** of Saudi Arabia calls for diversifying the oil-dependent economy by attracting tourism and foreign investment and turning it into a global hub for business and culture.

Challenges:

- Chinese mediation between Iran and Saudi will create challenges for India as it will contribute to **increasing Chinese influence** in the region.
- Saudi Arabia is vary of the large network of armed militias across West Asia that Iran funds and backs, seeing them as a threat to its own sovereignty as well as the regional balance of power.
- India has also been strengthening its relations with US. Now with **US weakening in the region, it won't be able to help India.**
- **I2U2** (Israel-India-UAE-US) or "**quad of the middle east"** may render dysfunctional with the isolation of UAE and Israel.

Saudi Arabia, Iran and China should be mindful of the pitfalls ahead and continue to build on the momentum created now to achieve a cold peace between the two regional powers.

Q.2) What is Silicon Valley Bank Crisis? How would it impact the Indian Economy?
Live mint

> **Introduction:** Explain Silicon Valley Bank Crisis.
> **Body:** Explain how it would impact the Indian Economy.
> **Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Silicon Valley Bank is a financial institution that provides banking services to the technology industry and venture capital firms. Founded in 1983, it has since become the go-to bank for startups and entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley and beyond. SVB's crash may be the **Lehman**

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moment for the start-up and venture capital ecosystem. It was known to be one of the most 'founder-friendly bank'.

After the pandemic in 2021, SVB deposits increased. SVB invested heavily in US government bonds. A spike in interest rates has led to a sell-off in bonds, leaving banks exposed to potential losses on the securities they hold. The bank failed after depositors- mostly technology workers and venture capital-backed companies began withdrawing their money in panic. Hence, it ended up **being shut down by regulators.**

Impact on the Indian Economy:
- **Boom for emerging markets:** A fall in US bond yields typically improves the appeal of higher-yielding fixed-income assets in emerging markets.
- **Bring corporates back to India:** Falling US dollar rates coupled with SVB Crisis might bring back big corporates in India, who had shifted to overseas lending due to depreciation in Indian National Rupee (INR) against the US dollar.
- Many Indian start-ups especially in the SaaS (Software as a Service) sector not only have accounts, but the bank had also been an important lender. For example, an investment of a total of $1.7 million in One97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm.
- The failure of SVB is likely to have a **ripple effect on Indian startups**, many of which have significant amounts of funds deposited with the bank. This could lead to a **cash crunch for many companies**, which may be forced to cut costs, delay projects, or lay off employees.
- SVB has been a major player in the Indian startup ecosystem, providing banking services and funding to many of the country's most successful startups, including Flipkart, Ola, and Zomato.
- SVB has also been instrumental in helping Indian startups expand into the US market, by providing them with the necessary infrastructure and support to set up operations in Silicon Valley.

Indian startups that have funds deposited with SVB may consider diversifying their banking relationships. This may involve opening accounts with multiple banks, or exploring alternative banking services such as digital banks or fintech start-ups.

Q.3) Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA) has the potential to improve data protection and privacy for citizens, however, there are also risks associated with it. Examine
The Hindu

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Explain significance of Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture. Also write some risks associated with it.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

The objective of Data Empowerment & Protection Architecture (DEPA) is to provide the tools and utilities to build systems that can provide the user with mechanisms for protecting and sharing their data. It was launched by the **NITI Aayog** on the premise that individuals themselves are the best judges of the 'right' uses of their personal data.

Significance of DEPA in ensuring data protection:
- It is designed as an evolvable framework for good data governance that empowers people to seamlessly and securely access their data and share it with third-party institutions.

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- DEPA will be **empowering individuals with control over their personal data**, by operationalising a regulatory, institutional, and technology design for secure data sharing.
- It has been designed as a mechanism that goes beyond data protection through a **Privacy Enhancement Technology (PET) to** ensure data empowerment by facilitating smooth and secure data flow.
- The **user can determine the terms of data flow** such as the scope and duration of data sharing and can revoke the same.
- It **separates consent collection from data flow**. The "consent to collect" by a data user does not include "consent to share".
- The **Consent Managers are data-blind** themselves, as they do not store the data of users and merely act as a conduit
- This users' control over data not only results in **increased competition but also fosters innovation.**

There are also following risks associated with it:

- India still does not have a **data protection regulation**. In the absence of a legal framework this technological solution could undermine the right to privacy under Article 21 of the constitution.
- If the consent management tool is not properly implemented or managed, there is a risk that personal information could be **misused or misappropriated**. E.g., in health sector, sensitive medical information could be misused or exploited for commercial purposes.
- An implementation may be inconsistent across different sectors and jurisdictions which may undermine effectiveness and create confusion among citizens.

The crafting of the country's data governance must enable a secure, more egalitarian, and trustworthy digital future for all.

Q.4) India has started building a holistic naval base on Great Nicobar Island. Discuss its strategic significance.
 Indian Express

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Explain strategic significance of a naval base on Great Nicobar Island.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

Great Nicobar is the **southernmost of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**. Recently, the Government of India has begun to build a holistic naval base on Great Nicobar Island, which stands squarely overlooking the entrance to the Malacca Straits, and is barely 90 miles from the tip of Indonesia.

Strategic significance:

- A naval base in Great Nicobar would be the **central piece to an oceanic strategy**, to offer a counter attack to **Chinese aggression** in the Himalayas. It helps to control on China's extended neck stretching far out into the Indian Ocean, far westward to Djibouti and Gwadar.
- India can take the advantages by its maritime geography as **China's Indian Ocean lines of communications imports over 65 per cent of its oil dependency.**
- The tactical scenario in the Malacca Straits and South China Sea is already dominated by the intelligence sharing and communications agreements of the Quad. In times of crisis, these agreements would be activated, and India would be the beneficiary of the entire tactical picture in the **Indian Ocean and South China Sea.**
- An aggressive Chinese move on the northern LAC would be countered by a threat to China-bound tankers in the Malacca Straits.

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- Operating from the new base in Great Nicobar, Indian fighter aircraft directed by own air early warning aircraft would clamp down **information dominance over the Malacca Straits**.
- A full-fledged Pearl Harbour that will be the Indian outpost of the to-be-set-up eastern theatre command, which is strong enough to deter the Chinese risking escalation with India.
- With a base in Great Nicobar, the **entry to the Malacca Straits** would be a hundred miles away while the nearest Chinese base in Sanya would be 1,500 miles away.
- With access to the Malacca Straits in Indian hands, plans of China to operate an aircraft carrier in support of Djibouti and base it in Gwadar would be better handled.

The strategic importance of Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is ever increasing to the world order in general and Indian sub-continent in particular. A secure IOR is key to ensuring security of India's national interests. Given its physical location, the A&N Islands are the natural platform for collaboration between India and Southeast Asia.

Q.5) India's policy push for self-reliant manufacturing and green growth can deliver big benefits once logistical efficiency goes up. Elaborate.
Live mint

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Explain significance of logistics for manufacturing and green growth. Also write some challenges.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

The **World Bank Logistics Performance Index** 2018 had ranked India 44th out of 160 nations. China and Vietnam did better than India with 26th and 39th ranks respectively. Initiatives like PM Gati Shakti and the National Logistics Policy lay a foundation for India to seize its opportunity to become an integral part of global supply chains.

Significance of logistics for manufacturing and green growth:

- **Lower logistics costs** will make Indian businesses more competitive and help push up exports, which can become an important driver of growth and employment generation over the medium term. For instance, a 10% reduction in logistics costs is estimated to push up exports by 5-8%.
- The implementation of **digital solutions like FastTag for road traffic** has brought about an estimated reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of nearly 1 million tonnes. Projects like these will help India reach its stated climate ambitions even faster.
- Cloud-based IT systems, integration and coordination among Indian logistical service suppliers and the signing up of small service providers also increase efficiency.
- **Inland waterways** provide a **cost-efficient and environment-friendly** way to move goods. Inland port development must become a priority for the Government.
- A **technology-driven documentation approach** would highly impact the logistic sector by avoiding transit delays and untimely deliveries caused due to improper documentation.

Challenges:

- **Port Sector Issues**: The turnaround times for ships are high (~62 hours in 2020-21, ~8 hours in Japan). In addition, time consuming custom clearances add to delay.
- **Tax Structure**: Multiple State and Center taxes lead to considerable loss of time in transit on roads.
- **Fuel Costs**: Higher fuel prices increase the transportation costs. Rising fuel prices are increasing the surcharges to the freight tariffs. This reduces profitability of the logistics sector.

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- **Government Regulations**: Carriers face significant compliance regulations imposed by State Governments and local authorities. It causes time overruns and disruption in supply chains.
- **Fragmented Sector**: Unorganized players control 90% of the logistics market. Fragmentation leads to low margins which prevents investments to scale-up operations or adoption of new efficient digital technologies.
- Waterways have a meagre share of ~5%. The higher logistics cost is leading to **a competitiveness gap** of US$ 180 billion for India. The difference will increase to US$ 500 billion by 2030.

India aims to become US$ 5 Trillion economy in the near term and a developed economy by 2047. For this, connectivity and robust infrastructure will become crucial points.

Q.6) AUKUS will trigger multiple strategic consequences for Asia, including India. Substantiate.

Indian Express

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Explain some strategic consequences of AUKUS for Asia, including India.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

AUKUS is a trilateral security partnership between the **United States of America, Australia, United Kingdom in the Indo-Pacific region**. The UK and the US will help Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines.

Strategic consequences for Asia:
- According to the Indian Observers, the partnership is much beneficial for India. As India has been at the forefront of rallying a broader coalition of countries in the Indo-Pacific**.**
- AUKUS is in essence about transforming Australia's strategic capabilities and making it a powerful factor in **shaping the Indo-Pacific regional security environment**.
- AUKUS will see a deeper partnership between the US, UK, and Australia in **developing a range of underwater technologies** to cope with the dramatic expansion of Chinese naval capabilities in the Indo-Pacific.
- The AUKUS also involves collaboration between the three countries in a range of **emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and quantum computing** that will shape regional security scenarios.
- This may also open the door for **greater S&T cooperation between India and Australia** which may eventually expand to cover sensitive strategic areas.
- AUKUS has reinvigorated the idea of **an "Anglosphere"** that speaks of the enduring geopolitical bonds between the US, UK, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. **India is now seeing a rapid expansion of its ties with the English-speaking world**.
- The AUKUS arrangement will look beyond information sharing to the integration of the technological and defence industrial bases of the three countries.
- The US is now **boosting the military capabilities of Japan and South Korea** and seeking to build a deeper partnership with India on strategic technologies.
- AUKUS which is perceived as an anti-China grouping by China may lead to erosion of regional stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Though AUKUS offers the advantage of balance of power, strategic autonomy and a check on Chinese aggression, it also has significant challenges as it has been termed as Indo-Pacific NATO. Hence, to progress with consultations and collaborations will be a prudent way forward.

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Q.7) A multi-pronged approach across enhancing employability, sport for leadership, and bodily autonomy is the key to strengthening leadership abilities among adolescent girls. Elaborate.
The Hindu

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Explain significance of multi-pronged approach in strengthening leadership abilities among adolescent girls.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

Today the world is home to a transformative generation of 900 million adolescent girls and young women. They would become the largest segment of women leaders, change makers, entrepreneurs, and innovators in history if provided with resources and opportunities. By offering equal opportunity to women, India could add an estimated $770 billion to its GDP by 2025.

Multi-pronged approach in strengthening leadership abilities among adolescent girls:

- Women at all levels of society must have **inclusion in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT).** EdTech can bridge the accessibility gap in education through hybrid learning models,
- There is a need to build and scale up solutions customised to the language, cultural nuances.
- **Internet accessibility** can give girls equal access to knowledge through digital inclusion.
- There is a need to **counter the stereotypes** against girls. It can be done by inclusion of grade appropriate STEM, financial education, and entrepreneurship syllabi into the educational curriculum for girls.
- Elements like Olympiads, innovation labs, bootcamps and competitions should be included in the educational curriculum for girls.
- Women need to be **empowered to make decisions** about their bodies. They should have freedom to decide about their sexual choices. They also need to be free from all forms of violence and harassment.
- Policies that provide services, **social protection and basic infrastructure** to women and create more paid jobs in the care economy are urgently needed.
- The inclusion of women in sports is necessary. It can **build their self-confidence**. It will promote leadership in women, strengthen their self-belief, and teach them the importance of teamwork.
- **Economic empowerment** is crucial to recognise, reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work. They should have shared responsibility within the household and equal participation in decision making spaces.

The public perception of men as leaders of STEM, finance, and entrepreneurship should be changed. Moreover, maternity leave, flexible work arrangements, childcare facilities in the workplace etc. should be promoted.

Q.8) Vibrant Village Programme will bring remote and border villages into the national mainstream, and make them more developed and self-sufficient. Examine.
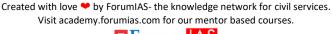**Indian Express**

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Explain how Vibrant Village Programme will bring border villages into the national mainstream. Also write some challenges.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

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Vibrant Village Programme is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**. It aims to comprehensively develop villages of blocks on the northern border thus improving the quality of life of people living in these villages. The scheme will be implemented in **Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Ladakh.** Vibrant Village Action Plans will be created by the district administration with the help of Gram Panchayats.

How Vibrant Village Programme will bring border villages into the national mainstream?

- It aims to strengthen and **enhance basic infrastructure** in the villages along the LAC. The objective is to address the issue of migration**.**
- Border villages are provided with all **basic amenities**. It includes modern housing and good roads; water and electricity supply; good education, health and communication facilities; access to Doordarshan channels.
- Tourism potential will be leveraged through the **promotion of local culture and traditional knowledge.**
- It will also develop **sustainable eco-agribusinesses** through the **"One village-One product"** concept.
- The scheme will also develop **growth centres on the "hub-and-spoke model"** through the promotion of social entrepreneurship, empowerment of youth and women through skill development and entrepreneurship.
- The scheme will identify and develop the economic drivers based on local natural human and other resources of the border villages.

Challenges:

- For decades our border villages remained untouched by development. **China increased its influence** along our borders by rapidly developing its infrastructure and increasing the presence of its army.
- India also suffered similar setbacks along the Pakistan border.
- **Rough and difficult terrain**, tough Weather and Climatic conditions, Seismically active areas in most of the border, inadequate manpower, Red tapism and bureaucratic delays in projects also act as hindrance.
- Terror activities also increased along the Myanmar border.

Proper and defined autonomy with respect to **3F: Funds, Functions and Functionaries** will help to boost the rapid development of border road infra, ultimately leading to economically integrated and strategically amiable border villages.

Q.9) Highlight the significance and challenges associated with allowing e-postal ballots for overseas Indian voters.

The Hindu

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Explain significance and challenges associated with allowing e-postal ballots for overseas Indian voters.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

India has the **largest diaspora population**, with nearly 1.35 crore NRIs spread across the globe. The Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) was **developed by the Election Commission of India with the help of C-DAC** for the use of service voters. This system enables the entitled service voter to cast their vote using an electronically received postal ballot from anywhere outside their constituency.

Significance of e-postal ballots for overseas Indian voters:

- The ETPBS method allowed for **greater turnout** among service voters in the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

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- The postal ballot method has been recognised as **a means to allow overseas voters to exercise their right.**
- **Time constraint** involved in dispatch of postal ballot **has been addressed** using this system, as it sends postal ballots electronically to eligible service voters.
- **Secrecy is maintained** and no duplication of casted ETPB is possible due to the unique quick response code.
- This is also a **more trustworthy way of registering mandates** rather than appointing proxies- which is currently allowed for service personnel who are a limited number in each constituency unlike NRIs who could constitute a more substantial chunk among the electorate in some States.

Challenges:

- It could require to overcome "**huge logistical challenges**" and needs "a realistic assessment of requirements" due to massive population of NRIs.
- It may cause monetary constraints.
- Lack of sufficient number of trained personnels.

An effective postal system should ease this process for NRIs. The rules must be clearly framed for eligibility on the basis of time spent away from the country.

Q.10) Critically examine the "national champions" model for infrastructure development.
Indian Express

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body**: Explain significance of national champions" model for infrastructure development. Also write some issues.
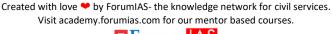> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

According to World Bank report, India has to invest $55 billion p.a. in urban infra to meet needs of growing population. To meet the growing demand the "national champions" model for infrastructure development is launched. In this model the **government picks a few large conglomerates to implement its development priorities.**
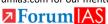
Significance of "national champions" model for infrastructure development:

- Access to some cash-rich projects allows these national champions to borrow from external credit markets by using these entities as collateral. This **lowers the cost of finance** of the other projects. It also **frees up domestic savings** for private investment.
- National champions can **contribute to economic growth** by generating revenue, creating jobs, and investing in research and development.
- National champions can invest heavily in research and development, leading to **technological advancements** that can benefit the broader economy.
- To incentivise their investment, infrastructure firms need to be given control over existing projects with strong cash flows. It **helps them to maintain profitability.**
- The public association of the champions with the government's national development policy generates a **competitive advantage** for the champions. It helps them in getting **domestic and foreign contracts.** This too guarantees some stable cash flow.
- The model can help ensure that the country has a **strong presence in strategically important industries,** such as defense or energy, which can be critical to national security.

Issues:

- There is direct association of these conglomerates with government policies. It creates the potential for markets and regulators to treat them as too big to fail. This opens the door to **market hysteria, and spillovers of sectoral problems into systemic shocks**.

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- It **encourages** market concentration. This can often be bad for efficiency and productivity at the economy-wide level.
- These projects take a long time to generate large cash flows. The state needs to provide the champions with access to additional cash flows. The country can turn into **industrial oligarchy.**
- It can generate the perception of an **uneven playing field** in terms of market access and selective regulatory forbearance. It can become a significant deterrent for foreign investors.

Infrastructure works as a national aspiration, a barometer of national progress, a mechanism for job creation, a vehicle for crowding in private investment. The newly established **Infrastructure Finance Secretariat** is a step in the right direction.

Q.11) Discuss the need to overhaul the mechanisms to tackle rising disinformation in India.
The Hindu

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body**: Explain the need to overhaul the mechanisms to tackle rising disinformation in India.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

"Disinformation" is false information disseminated intentionally to cause serious social harm. In the age of internet and social media, it has spread unchecked. This demands a public vigilance and awareness along with modern technological solutions to enhance scrutiny of all the facts and data.
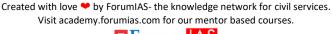
Steps taken by the government to tackle disinformation:
- **IPC Sections 153A and 295:** Under this action can be initiated against someone creating or spreading fake news if it can be termed as hate speech.
- **Defamation Suit:** IPC Section 499 makes defamation a criminal offence. Section 500 provides for punishment for criminal defamation.
- **Broadcasting Content Complaint Council (BCCC):** A complaint relating to objectionable TV content or fake news can be filed to the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council.
- **Information Technology Act, 2000: Section 69A** gives power to the Union Government to block access to any information online that it considers necessary in the **interest of the sovereignty and the integrity of India, the security of the state or public order.**
- The Union brought out the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021** to regulate content by online publishers of news and social media intermediaries.
- The recent **draft amendments to the IT Rules, 2021** empower the Press Information Bureau to flag inaccurate and fake news related to government bodies on social media platforms.

Issues with government measures in tackling disinformation:
- There has been little or **no serious discussion** on the menace and the extent of disinformation in India.
- The government in India has only employed knee jerk measures such as Internet shutdowns without following the doctrine of proportionality. This response is **over simplistic, nontransparent and autocratic.**
- The government has not introduced a **robust framework** to tackle the root causes of disinformation. Rather, the Union has granted itself greater powers to strike down any content that is not pleasant for the government.

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- The focus has been more on **containing criticism against the Union Government** and its leaders, instead of blocking fake news.

A more studied, comprehensive and calculated set of legislative actions is required. The objective should be to balance between free speech under Article 19 of the Constitution of India, and protecting citizens from malicious disinformation.

Q.12) Highlight the government initiatives to protect the fast-growing digital economy.
Times of India

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body**: Explain some government initiatives to protect the fast-growing digital economy.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

India has executed many citizen-friendly programs over the last 75 years. However, the **Digital India Initiative** has been a turning point for India. Today around 20 platforms run on this initiative which has made Indians to adapt technology in their lives. E.g. **Bhim UPI** has recorded over 6.28 billion transactions in July 2022.The digitization is expected to offer a **$700 billion opportunity for India by 2030.**

The following government initiatives are started to protect the digital ecosystem and combat cybercrime:

- **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS):** CCTNS has now been integrated into all 16,447 police stations in the country. In 99. 9% of police stations, 100% of FIRs are registered immediately in the CCTNS.
- **CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team):** It is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur.
- **Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)**: to expedite justice by exchanging data across courts, police, prosecution, prisons, and forensic labs. The recent Phase II of ICJS is based on the principle of **'one data, one entry'** and would be made available through a dedicated and secure cloud-based infrastructure with high-speed connectivity.
- **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**: Under this, seven platforms operate, such as a reporting portal, a cybercrime investigation task force etc. work in coordination with each other. So far, more than 20 lakh cybercrime complaints have been registered on the portal. Fifteen crore people have used this portal. A massive open online courses' platform (MOOCs) called the 'CyTrain' portal has been developed under I4C.
- **Fingerprint data system 'NAFIS'**: It has been launched with a storage capacity of 300 crore fingerprint data along with a '1930' helpline. More than 250 banks and financial intermediaries are onboarded on this platform, which helps in real-time actions like blocking and lien marking of defrauded money.
- **Safe City project**: It aims to create a safe, secure, and empowering environment for women in public places and has been introduced in eight selected cities.
- Grant-in-aid of about Rs 100 crore has been provided to states/UTs to set up **forensic-training laboratories** for the cyberworld.

India's digital vision talks about data sovereignty and giving domestic firms an advantage. With the right policy incentives, local firms could capture large shares of the digital payments market to become e-commerce players on a global scale.

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