

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

2ND WEEK SEPTEMBER 2022 CURRENT AFFAIRS

ROAD SAFETY

CONTEXT

Former Tata Group chairman Cyrus Mistry was killed in a road accident on National Highway in Maharashtra. The tragedy has highlighted once again the high number of fatalities that Indian roads witness every year.

PROBLEMS

- According to WHO, more than half of all road traffic deaths and injuries involve vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists, and their passengers.
- Developing economies record higher rates of road traffic injuries, with 93 per cent of fatalities coming from low- and middle-income countries

- In addition to the human suffering caused by road traffic injuries, they also incur a heavy economic burden on victims and their families, both through treatment costs for the injured and through loss of productivity of those killed or disabled
- Road traffic injuries have a serious impact on national economies, costing countries 3 per cent of their annual gross domestic product

SOLUTIONS

- The increased political and financial commitments, and road safety to be included in mainstream development policies.
- This is essential to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the target to halve road traffic crash fatalities and injuries by 2030

REPORTS

NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

&SUICIDES IN INDIA (ADSI) REPORT

- 55 lakh individuals died in accidents on India's roads in 2021, up from the 1.33 lakh deaths in the pandemic lockdown year of 2020.
- Two-wheelers accounted for most deaths 44.5 per cent. Buses accounted for 3 per cent of deaths in accidents. Speeding caused 87,000 deaths, accounting for over half of all deaths. Dangerous and careless driving was attributed as the cause of 42,000 deaths. The maximum increase in the number of traffic accident cases from 2020 to 2021 was reported in Tamil Nadu, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Kerala

UNION MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS-says wearing a seat belt reduces the impact of an accident by 80 per cent

SAVE LIFE FOUNDATION AND NISSAN- a study released in January 2019 recorded that only seven per cent of people in India always wear seat belts while sitting in the back seat, another 26 per cent wear them sometimes, and the rest never wear them.

LANCET-New global and country-level estimates suggest that routinely wearing helmets and seat belts, obeying speed limits, and avoiding drunk driving could save between 347,000 and 540,000 lives worldwide every year.

The benefits of more motorcyclists wearing helmets can save 5,683 lives in India. Interventions to reduce speeding such as infrastructure changes and electronic speed control could save an estimated 347,258 lives globally each year.

National and Global efforts for road safety

1. **India State Support Programme for Road Safety by World Bank-**
2. The World Bank has approved a USD 250 million loans for seven States under which a single accident reporting number will be set up to better manage post-crash events.
3. **Third High-Level Global Conference on Road Safety for Achieving Global Goals 2030**'- It was conceptualized to have zero road fatalities in India by 2030.
4. **Brasilia declaration**- India signed the Brasilia declaration and committed to a reduction in fatalities.
5. **Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019**- It provides for the constitution of the National Road Safety Board to advise the Central Government or State Government, as the case may be, on all aspects of road safety and traffic management
6. **The UN General Assembly adopted the resolution** "Improving global road safety" with the ambitious target of preventing at least 50% of road traffic deaths and injuries by 2030. The Global Plan

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aligns with the Stockholm Declaration, by emphasizing the importance of a holistic approach to road safety.

7. **Bloomberg Initiative for Global Road Safety (BIGRS) 2020-2025-**

It aims to reduce road crash fatalities and injuries in low and middle-income countries and cities by implementing a comprehensive set of actions that are proven to save lives.

8. **The Government constituted a Committee** under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar to finalize a draft National Road Safety Policy. Based on the recommendations of the Sundar Committee, the Union Cabinet approved National Road Safety Policy. The National Road Safety Policy outlines the policy initiatives to be taken by the Government at all levels to improve road safety activities in the country.

To achieve a significant improvement in road safety, the Government of India is committed to-

- the Government Raise Awareness about Road Safety Issues
- Establish a Road Safety Information Database
- Ensure Safer Road Infrastructure
- Safer Vehicles
- Road Traffic Safety Education and Training
- Enforcement of Safety Laws
- Emergency Medical Services for Road Accidents

- Strengthening Enabling Legal, Institutional, and Financial Environment for Road Safety, etc.

GOOD SAMARITANS

A Good Samaritan is a person who, in good faith, without expectation of payment or reward and any duty of care or special relationship, voluntarily comes forward to administer immediate assistance or emergency care to a person injured in an accident, crash, or emergency medical condition, or emergency. Good Samaritan Law protects Good Samaritans from harassment on the actions being taken by them to save the life of the road accident victims.

BANGALORE FLOODS

Source: The Hindu

Context

Bengaluru Urban and Rural, Ramanagara, Chikkaballapur, Kolar and Tumakuru are among the 11 districts that have received large excess rainfall, with departures as high as 230 per cent.

Key points

- The recent bouts of rainfall have already battered Bangalore and its surrounding districts.
- Roads, highways and tech parks are inundated and homes are flooded, critical infrastructure such as power and water pumping stations are

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waterlogged and lakes are overflowing.

- In the last few years, many parts of Karnataka have received excess rainfall during the monsoon season and there have been variations in rainfall patterns in traditionally dry regions.
- This year, the State registered only a 21 per cent departure from the normal between June and August.

- The water destroyed walls and gushed inside the houses. It even damaged the shutters of shops, Cars, autos and bikes floating in the water.
- It took days for the people to clear the silt that has entered their homes. Excess rain has ruined almost all crops.

The monsoon rain this year is the second highest that Bengaluru has seen since 1971.

The rainfall of September 4 (131.6 mm) was the third highest single-day amount that Bengaluru has ever recorded.

The intricately connected lake system in Bengaluru has seen major disruptions over the years with the proliferation of infrastructure and housing projects and industries also saw many lakes breach bunds.

- In the Ramanagara district, thousands of residents living in the low-lying area of Ramanagara and Channapatna towns have been struggling to cope with torrential rainfall, with several residential areas inundated.
- Everyone agrees that flooding in this drought-prone region is unprecedented.

- Even before the onset of the monsoon, most of the lakes were full. Due to heavy rain, the water overflowed.
- In the Ramanagara district, most of the 1, 490 lakes and other water bodies have been overflowing. Some have even breached their bunds.
- More than 90 per cent of the 102 lakes that spread over 100 acres each were overflowing in the district.
- **Major rivers such as Arakavathy and Kanva have been flowing to the brim.**

Overflowing water bodies

- Rivers reduced to insignificant streams in recent times have suddenly sprung back to life now.

River pollution

- The gushing waters of the Arkavathy river, a tributary of the Cauvery.

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- This water was earlier used for drinking and washing clothes and now it was not used for agriculture it contains chemicals discharged by industries
- The river water carries rainbow hues due to chemical pollution and it is known as a perennial river.
- People from other areas used to come to fetch drinking water from the river, Today the same people buy drinking water for 5 rupees a can.
- This is because a new project to counter excess pollution in the water will take a few more months.
- After this is done, water (3.4 MLD or Minimal Liquid Discharge, capacity) will be supplied to 10 -15 per cent of the city from T.G. Halli again.

Reasons for dying rivers

- Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment a non-profit organisation in 2015, examined why the Arkavathy was drying up.
- Reasons for the major cause of the dying of the river.
 1. A decline in inflows to the T.G. Halli reservoir due to the decreased rainfall.
 2. Many of the blockages in river channels were check dams built by various government departments.
 3. Drop in the water table due to intensive groundwater use, mostly for agriculture and
 4. The presence of eucalyptus plantations on the T.G. Halli catchment.

Irrigation system

- In Channapatna taluk, the lakes had dried up and started receiving water supply from the lift irrigation system.
- Lakes have been receiving water since 2014 and the agricultural sector has benefited a lot over the years.

Water supply to Bangalore

- Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural and the release of water from reservoirs increased the flow.
- The machinable dam started receiving over 4, 000 cusecs of water from the T.G. Halli reservoir.
- The water-holding capacity of Machanbele is one-third of the T.G. Halli reservoirs.
- T.G. Halli reservoir was opened to let out water after 30 years, water from the reservoir has not been supplied to Bengaluru for years.

Climate projection

- The multi-model climate projection shows that rainfall is expected to increase by 10-25 per cent in the districts of Karnataka by the mid-2030s.

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- Most of this will occur within a few days. when high-intensity rainfall gets more run-off.
- The water cannot infiltrate into the ground fast enough. Water needs a path out to be expected.

Watershed management

- Some innovative watershed interventions in the Arkavathy basin by volunteers of agencies have helped in water retention by the catchment and made water available to the local community.
- Recent good rainfall and the aberrations (high-intensity rainfall) have helped us receive the required water.
- Innovative watershed management has helped in retaining water in the catchment.
- This emphasises the need for innovative (ecological and engineering) solutions to manage watersheds.

Climate changes

- It is time it is accepted that there are changes in the climate.
- High-intensity rainfall and issues such as frequent depressions and cyclones point to this.

Studies have confirmed that enhancing the recharge capabilities of the catchment by maintaining sufficient open spaces and green spaces with native species, decentralised rainwater harvesting and wastewater treatment and reuse would help in meeting the water requirement.

- This will not burden the exchequer or lead to the wastage of public money.
- Unfortunately, large-scale projects are being pushed by vested interests to pilfer public money.

Work at a glacial pace

- Within Bengaluru city, the impact of poor management of projects is evident, as lake breaches have left many parts of the city marooned.
- The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) had taken up rejuvenation works of two of the largest and most polluted lakes, but the pace has been slow.
- Officials say heavy rainfall during the summer had slowed down de-silting.
- **Bellandur lake**, spread over 916 acres of land has 32,33 lakh cubic meters of the slit, of which 13.26 lakh cubic meters have been removed.

- **Varthur lake** is spread over 434 acres and has 15.10 lakh cubic meters of silt, of which 11.11 lakh cubic meters have been removed.

Saporlite and urbanisation

- Most of the flooding in Bengaluru is seen in the Ponnaiyar river catchment area.
- The soil and chemically altered product of parent rock (Saprolite) are also highly clayey.
- Because of this, geohydrological rainwater infiltration cannot happen.
- **Only 3 per cent of the water gets infiltrated in this soil condition.**
- The growth of urban jungle in this area over the years further deteriorated rainwater infiltration.

Stormwater drains

- The irrational urbanisation in areas around these lakes has resulted in the deterioration of original stormwater drains.
- The length, width and depth of these drains have reduced over decades.
- The perennial flow of sewerage water, whether treated or untreated, has shrunk the containing capacity to a great extent.
- Even today, more than 1200 MLD of sewerage water flows in these storm water drains.

Using Rainwater

- As all the natural channels are obstructed, the water cannot flow when it rains.
- To undo the damage, the sewerage water has to flow in separate drains and be treated.
- Recycled water should be redistributed at least for non-drinking purposes.
- At present, rainwater is getting polluted with sewerage water.
- Though there is scope for using rainwater, authorities are not seriously considering it.
- Clearing encroachment and obstruction to storm water drains and proper maintenance of lakes will help in the utilisation of water resources.

Encroachment of water bodies

- Though torrential rains are being blamed as a prominent cause of flooding.
- There has been a growing demand to clear encroachment of water bodies by allowing the free flow of water.
- The National Highways Authority of India too criticised for implementing a flawed design and blocking the Waterways.
- At the Sangabasappana Doddi underpass of the expressway, vehicles were submerged and lifted with the help of cranes.

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- There have been instances of under-construction toll gates getting flooded and water flowing over the newly built highway near Kumbalgod, Kaniminike and other areas.
- Flooding of roads at various stretches also forced the district administration to divert traffic.
- They also maintain that they are working with other departments to fix the problem.

The district administration has said that encroachments of the water bodies will be cleared based on Survey of India aerial surveys.

Once the survey is over, it will be superimposed with the village map to identify the extent of encroachment of water bodies in the district.

Hydrologic regime

- This is a classic example of poor infrastructure design, deliberately ignoring the hydrologic regime in the locality.
- Alterations in the hydrologic regime and disruption of the path of water have aggravated the situation.
- Bureaucrats and engineers conveniently came up with the theory of "lake breach" to hide their

inefficient and illogical designs and implementation of the project.

Conclusion

- The need for predictable models Specifically for Bengaluru integrating water, wastewater, flood water and groundwater.
- Need to better inter-agency coordination.
- Identifying the mismatched incentives and short-sightedness.
- Builders have incentives to cut costs and bureaucrats have incentives to favour large-scale projects that create avenues to earn kickbacks.
- As floodwaters ebb and the current misery is a distant memory, policymakers and administrators have their tasks cut out.

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KINGSWAY TO KARTAVYAPATH

Source: [indianexpress](https://www.indianexpress.com)

Context:

The iconic Rajpath, stretching from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, was renamed Kartavya Path. "As we complete 75 yrs of Independence, it is only fitting to shed the colonial baggage and move towards India at 100 with our legacy.

The Kartavya Path

- The entire stretch and the area from the Netaji statue under the Grand Canopy to the Rashtrapati Bhavan will be known as Kartavya Path. As per the NDMC resolution, Kartavya Path includes the erstwhile “Rajpath and Central Vista lawns”.
- Kartavya Path, which will be opened to the public at the end of the official function, will exhibit landscapes, lawns with walkways, added green spaces, refurbished canals, amenity blocks, improved signages and vending kiosks.
- It also includes several sustainability features like solid waste management, storm-water management, recycling of used water, rainwater harvesting, water conservation and energy-efficient lighting systems, among others
- The revamped and expanded lawns on both sides of the erstwhile Rajpath are part of the larger Central Vista project, where a new triangular Parliament building, along with the Central Secretariat and several other government offices, is being rebuilt.

Kingsway to Rajpath

- It was called Kingsway during British rule, the three-km stretch was built as a ceremonial boulevard by Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker,

the architects of New Delhi, more than a hundred years ago.

- The capital of the Raj moved to New Delhi from Calcutta in 1911, and construction continued for several years thereafter.
- Lutyens conceptualised the modern imperial city centred around a “ceremonial axis”, which was named Kingsway in honour of the then Emperor of India, George V, who visited Delhi during the Durbar of 1911, where he formally proclaimed the decision to move the capital.
- The nomenclature followed that of the Kingsway in London, an arterial road built in 1905, which was named in honour of King Edward VII, the father of George V.
- Following Independence, the road was given its Hindi name, Rajpath, on which the Republic Day parades took place over the decades that followed.
- During his address from the Red Fort on August 15, Prime Minister Modi stressed the abolition of symbols of colonialism.
- The new name and look of Rajpath, as well as the installation of the 28-foot statue of Netaji under the Grand Canopy under which a statue of George V once stood, are meant to represent the spirit of the proud new India.

The construction of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project began in February 2021, with the new Parliament building and the Central Vista Avenue redevelopment in the first phase. The aim is to build an iconic avenue that truly befits the New India, the government has said about the Rs 608 crore Central Vista Avenue project.



KERALA CRISIS- Vimochana samaram of Kerala in 1958-59

1. Background

- The political crisis that unfolded in Kerala exactly a decade after independence was probably (one of the) first true litmus test for the Indian democracy.
- It was a political clash involving violence, ideologies, populism, religion and ethnicities in which no actor was blameless, a political theatre that has been repeated innumerable times since.
- It is also a personal story, one of the leaders – all of whom with the best of intentions – struggling with forces bigger than themselves.
- In 1957, the Communist Party of India won Kerala’s assembly elections by a slim majority, forming the first communist state government in the country.
- The newly created linguistic state had its first general election in 1957 and the Communists had come to power by popular vote for the first time in history.
- It sent shock waves across the globe, especially in the US, where the cold war was a major policy plank, pursued as an essential means to destroy communism.
- At the height of the Cold War (five years to the Cuban Missile Crisis), this generated tremendous interest from around the world as one of the first democratically-elected communist governments. There were concerns within India as well including New Delhi.
- However, Jawaharlal Nehru, having just returned as Prime Minister in the second national elections, had no qualms.
- While he saw Indian communists as out of step with contemporary India, he was willing to give the new democratically-elected state government a chance.

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- He was further reassured by the communist party's promise to act within the constitutional bounds.

2. The Birth of Crisis

- The bills introduced on socialist lines, Initiatives like land reforms and minimum wages were radical enough, but the government seemed to get away with them.
- When it turned to education, the air caught fire. Official attempts to ensure better wages and working conditions for teachers in private schools and colleges should have been welcomed by all, but the effect was the opposite.
- The main reason was that education had become linked with religion. Schools and colleges had become profitable businesses for religious groups and Christian denominations. They wanted no government interference.
- The state was plagued by agitations, strikes and protests.
- While the protesters employed mob violence and rioting, the government resorted to lathi charges and firing.
- Around 150,000 protesters were jailed and there were some 248 lathi charges and many protesters were killed.
- The net result of American involvement and local communal networking was that a powerful and effective mass agitation against the

EMS government started shaking the state. Popular emotions were expertly aroused, passionate slogans invented, and revolutionary couplets recited by marching crowds.

- In July 1959, **Delhi took the unusual step of dismissing the elected government of a state.**

3. Emergency laws in India

- In many democratic countries, there arise times when certain powers, which in normal situations are beyond the scope of the government, get vested in it to address situations of emergency.
- In Germany, the emergency provisions are very much meticulously defined, and **India borrowed its emergency laws from Germany.** Both Germany and India have national and state emergencies, which are often not present in other major democracies such as the United States of America, which has national and financial emergencies.
- In India and Germany, the emergency declaration depends on the central executive who has the power of proclaiming it. Furthermore, in both these countries, the consequences of emergencies are specified in the constitution, and hence there is no dependence on the judiciary or its interpretation. This however does not mean that they are free from a judicial review which

will be elaborated upon later in this research.

- Therefore, it can be argued that as the emergency provisions of India, both at the national and state level, find their origin in Germany, the two countries continue to share many similarities in this regard.

4. The Result of president Rule

- The governor carries on with the administration of the state on behalf of the President. He or she takes the help of the state's Chief Secretary and other advisors/administrators whom he or she can appoint.
- The President has the power to declare that the state legislature's powers would be exercised by the Parliament.
- The state legislative assembly would be either suspended or dissolved by the President.

5. Misuse of President's Rule and Associated recommendations

- It was used for the first time in 1951 in Punjab. Between 1966 and 1977, Indira Gandhi's government used it about 39 times against various states.
- In the **S.R. Bommai case (1994)**, the Supreme Court of India put forth

strict guidelines for the imposition of Article 356.

- The **Sarkaria Commission Report (1983)** recommended that Article 356 should be used "very sparingly" and only as a last resort.
- The **Punchhi Commission** recommended that the centre should try to bring only a specific troubled area under its jurisdiction and that too for a brief period, not more than three months.

MARTHAND SUN TEMPLE-ARCHITECTURE OF HILLS

1. About

- Martand Sun temple is situated in the **Mattan area (originally called Martand or Bhawan) in the southern part of Kashmir.**
- Martand is a Sanskrit synonym for Surya.
- The Martand Temple was built by the Karkota dynasty king **Lalitaditya Muktapida, who ruled Kashmir from 725 AD to 753 AD.**
- The temple represents cosmological symbolism in an aesthetic grab.
- Lalitaditya built the famous and elegant **Sun temple at Martand and Parihaskesva at his capital Parihasspara.**
- The Sun temple of Martand stands in the middle of a large courtyard

having 86 fluted columns. The temple proper contains garbhagraha, antarala and lost mandapa, approached by a grand flight of steps. The pliant supporting the central shrine has two tiers; both with niches having **37 divine figures**.

- “Dedicated to Vishnu-Surya, the Martand Temple has three distinct chambers—the **mandapa**, the **garbhagriha**, and the **antralaya**—probably the only three-chambered temple in Kashmir. This points to the position it enjoyed. The temple is built in a unique Kashmiri style, though it has definite Gandhar influences.”



2. Temple architecture in Hills

- A unique form of architecture developed in the hills of **Kumaon, Garhwal, Himachal and Kashmir**.
- Kashmir’s proximity to prominent Gandhara sites (such as Taxila, Peshawar and the northwest frontier)

- lent the region a strong Gandhara influence by the fifth century CE.
- This began to mix with the **Gupta and post-Gupta traditions that were brought to it from Sarnath, Mathura and even centres in Gujarat and Bengal**.
- Brahmin pundits and Buddhist monks frequently travelled between Kashmir, Garhwal, Kumaon and religious centres in the plains like Banaras, Nalanda and even as far south as Kanchipuram.
- As a result both Buddhist and Hindu traditions began to intermingle and spread in the hills.
- The hills also had their tradition of wooden buildings with pitched roofs.
- At several places in the hills, therefore, you will find that while the main garbhagriha and shikhara are made in a Rekha-Prasada or Latina style, the mandapa is of an older form of wooden architecture.
- Sometimes, the temple itself takes on a pagoda shape.
- The Karkota period of Kashmir is the most significant in terms of architecture.
- One of the most important temples is Pandrethan, built during the eighth and ninth centuries. In keeping with the tradition of a water tank attached to the shrine, this temple is built on a plinth built in the middle of a tank.
- Although there is evidence of both Hindu and Buddhist followings in

Kashmir, this temple is a Hindu one, possibly dedicated to Shiva.

- The architecture of this temple is in keeping with the age-old Kashmiri tradition of wooden buildings.
- Due to the snowy conditions in Kashmir, the roof is peaked and slants slowly outward.
- The temple is moderately ornamented, moving away from the post-Gupta aesthetics of heavy carving.
- A row of elephants at the base and a decorated doorway are the only embellishments on the shrine.
- Like the findings at **Samlaji**, the sculptures at **Chamba** also show an amalgamation of local traditions with a **post-Gupta style**.
- The images of **Mahishasuramardini** and **Narasimha** at the **Lakshna-Devi Mandir** are evidence of the influence of the **post-Gupta tradition**.
- Both images show the influence of the **metal sculpture tradition of Kashmir**.
- The yellow colour of the images is possibly due to an alloy of **zinc and copper which were popularly used to make images in Kashmir**.
- This temple bears an inscription that states that it was built during the reign of **Meruvarman** who lived in the seventh century.

3. Medieval history of Kashmir

3.1. Karkota dynasty

- **Durlabhavardhana**

- Chinese pilgrim, Hsuan Tsang visited Kashmir and spent three years from A.D 631 to 633.
- He left a detailed account of Kashmir and its people, Buddhist monasteries,
- Ashokan stupas containing relics of Buddha.
- His territories extended beyond Kashmir and was the first king of Kashmir to issue coins, according to Chinese annals.

- **Lalitaditya**

- He was known for his military exploits and active patronage of arts and letters.
- The most important exploit of his career was the defeat of Yasovarman of Kanauj and the annexation of his kingdom.
- He founded many towns and settlements and built temples and maths.
- In Parihasapura he built four Vaishnava shrines with gold and silver images, a Buddhist

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temple enshrining a brass image and a monastery.

- The most important religious foundation laid by Lalitaditya was the Sun temple at Martanda.

cultivators who were further oppressed by forced labour.

- He founded Sankaraputrapattana which was adorned by three large shiva temples.

- **Didda**

She was the wife of the ruler Kshemagupta and dominated the political scene in Kashmir for half a century- as a queen-consort regent and finally as sovereign.

3.2.Utpala dynasty

- **Avantivarma**

- He is known for bringing peace, prosperity and stability to Kashmir with the help of his loyal minister named Sura.
- He founded Avantipura and built two great temples of Avantisvami and Avantisvara there.
- His reign is also known for the engineering achievements of Surya.
- Suyya devised a technique of controlling the waters of the river Jhelum and increasing the amount of cultivable land. It involved the improvement of facilities of irrigation.

- **Sankaravarma**

-
- His expeditions drained Sankaravarma's treasury and forced him to impose heavy taxes. His extortions fell heavily on temple endowments, priestly corporations, and on

3.3. Lohara dynasty

Harsa

He possessed both scholarly and musical talent. But lacked on military and administrative fronts. He is blamed for robbing temple treasures and melting down ancient images to replenish his exchequer.

3.4. II Lohara dynasty

Jayasimha

He is said to have ruled through a judicious combination of strength and cunning. He was the patron of Kalhana, the author of the Rajatarangini.

After Jayasimha's death, Kashmir continued to be ruled for about two centuries by a succession of weak Hindu princes until A.D 1337 when Hindu rule was terminated by Sultan Shamsuddin.

3.5. The declining phase

- After the eighth century, Buddhism was overshadowed by Shaivism and Vaishnavism.
- Kashmir fostered a distinctive four-faced Vaikuntha form of Vishnu.
- Utplala kings from Sankarvarma onwards were more inclined towards Shaivism.
- Kashmir was a citadel of the Pasupata sect.

4. another prominent temple apart from Martand

- Shankaracharya temple
- Pandrethan temple
- Sankara Guruvaram (Sugandesha) temple
- Naranag Temple
- Avantismwami (Avantipur) Temple

5. Early history of Kashmir tells about Religion.

- Nilamatapurana, a work from Kashmir of the seventh century A.D. informs that Kashmir has had a strong persistent tradition of Naga worship.
- When Asoka's missionary Majjhantika came to Kashmir to preach Buddhism in the third century B.C he had to contend with the Naga cult. Hsuan Tsang informs that Majjhantika achieved remarkable success.

- Kaniska convened the fourth Buddhist Council in Kashmir and at the end had the Tripitaka treatises engraved on copper plates and deposited in a stupa in the valley.
- Hsuan Tsang who stayed in Kashmir saw in the valley about 5,000 Buddhist priests and viharas.
- Ou-kong who visited Kashmir during the eighth century A.D. also found Buddhism in a flourishing state.
- The Karkota kings were followers of Brahmanical religion but they extended liberal patronage to Buddhism.
- Kashmir developed a stronghold of the Sarvastivada sect and played an important role in the spread of Buddhism and Buddhist art beyond India to Afghanistan, Central Asia, Tibet and China.

6. Conclusion

- Martand temple is one of the important archaeological sites in the country. Its impressive architecture reveals the glorious past of the area. Martand temple is the clear expression of Kashmir's pristine glory



Elizabeth II

1. About

- Elizabeth is the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York, who will become King George VI, and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.
- In 1947 Princess Elizabeth married Prince Philip at Westminster Abbey.
- She was crowned at Westminster Abbey on June 2, 1953, in front of 8,500 assembled guests.
- She became the first monarch in British history to rule for 70 years.
- She is also Head of the Commonwealth and Supreme Governor of the Church of England. In 1945, she actively joined World War II as a driver in the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service (WATS)

2. Contemporary situation

- Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's longest-reigning monarch and a rock of stability across much of a turbulent century died Thursday after 70 years on the throne. She was 96.
- The palace announced she died at Balmoral Castle, her summer residence in Scotland, where members of the royal family had rushed to her side after her health took a turn for the worse. A link to the almost-vanished generation that fought World War II, she was the only monarch most Britons have ever known, and her name defines an age: the modern Elizabethan Era.
- The impact of her loss will be huge and unpredictable, both for the nation and for the monarchy, an institution she helped stabilize and modernize across decades of huge social change and family scandals. With the death of the queen, her 73-year-old son Charles automatically becomes monarch, though the coronation might not take place for months.

3. The tenure served by the queen

- She endured through 15 prime ministers, from Winston Churchill to Liz Truss, becoming an institution and an icon — a fixed point and a reassuring presence even for those who ignored or loathed the monarchy.

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- She became less visible in her final years as age and frailty curtailed many public appearances.
- But she remained firmly in control of the monarchy and at the centre of national life as Britain celebrated her Platinum Jubilee with days of parties and pageants in June 2022.
- The same month she became the second longest-reigning monarch in history, behind 17th-century French King Louis XIV, who took the throne at age 4. On Sept. 6, 2022, she presided at a ceremony at Balmoral Castle to accept the resignation of Boris Johnson as prime minister and appoint Truss as his successor.
- As per the plan, after informing the British PM, the information about the Queen's death has already been conveyed to other governments where she was the head of state, and then to 38 other nations of the Commonwealth.
- Also, Queen's death means that Prince Charles immediately becomes King and head of state for 14 Commonwealth realms. However, an official proclamation will only be made a day after the Queen's death.
- This, according to the BBC, will happen at St James's Palace in London, in front of a ceremonial body known as the Accession Council.

4. What is Operation London Bridge

- The plan to deal with the death of the head of state in Britain was termed Operation London Bridge, and was first reported by The Guardian in 2017, and later by Politico in 2021.
- According to The Guardian, the London Bridge plan factored in the eventuality of her passing at Balmoral. The part of the plan for her death at her favourite castle in Scotland was codenamed 'Operation Unicorn'.
- These protocols are a detailed script for key logistical matters and procedures, including the funeral procession.

5. Protocols after death

6. About constitutional monarchy

- A constitutional monarchy is a form of government in which a monarch acts as head of state within the parameters of a written (i.e., codified), unwritten (i.e., uncoded) or blended constitution.
- It differs from absolute monarchy in that an absolute monarch serves as the sole source of political power in the state and is not legally bound by any constitution.
- Most constitutional monarchies employ a parliamentary system in which the Monarch may have strictly Ceremonial duties or may have Reserve Powers, depending on the constitution.

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- They have a directly or indirectly elected prime minister who is the head of government and exercises effective political power.
- As in most republics, a constitutional monarchy's executive authority is vested in the head of state.
- Today constitutional monarchy is almost always combined with representative democracy and represents (as a theory of civics) a compromise between total trust in the political class, and well-bred and well-trained monarchs raised for the role from birth.
- Though the king or queen may be regarded as the government's symbolic head, it is the Prime Minister who governs the country.

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ABSOLUTE MONARCHY	CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY
Absolute monarchy is a form of government where one person, typically a king or queen, holds absolute power	Constitutional monarchy is a form of government in which a country is ruled by a monarch whose power is limited by a constitution
The monarch is the highest and most powerful authority in the country	The monarch is a purely ceremonial ruler or a de facto head of state
The monarch has unlimited power and authority	The monarch shares the power with the parliament or another legislative body
Ex: Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Ex: the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, Sweden, Belgium, Cambodia, the Netherlands, and Thailand

7. The major difference between constitutional monarchy and absolute monarchy

Mains Question

1. What India can learn from the rest of the world to ensure road safety(250 words)
2. Who is good samaratarian, discuss the laws in India to protect them (250 words)
3. Explain Banglore floods through the prism of the Cauvery river drought (250 words)
4. What are the key features of Constitutional Monarchy (250 words)
5. What is the modern Elizabeth era, explain bilateral relations between India and the British during her reign9 250 words)

Prelims Questions

1. Which one of the following ancient towns is well known for its elaborate system of water harvesting and management by building a series of dams and channelising water into connected reservoirs?

- A- Dholavira
- B- Kalibangan
- C- Rakhigarhi
- D- Ropar

2. Which of the following is the only structural flood control measure

- A- Dikes
- B- Terraces
- C- Cutoffs
- D- Flood plain zoning

3. Which of the following statements is incorrect with respect to road safety?

- A- In the ‘Third High Level Global Conference on Road Safety for Achieving Global Goals 2030’ it was conceptualised to have zero road fatalities in India by 2030.
- B- Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar finalised a draft on National Road Safety Policy.
- C- Brasilia declaration was signed at the Second Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety
- D- According to National Crime Records Bureau’s Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India (ADSI), the maximum increase in the number of traffic accident cases from 2020 to 2021 was reported in Maharashtra.

4. Which of the following statement is not true?

- A- Five Indian states share borders with Bangladesh.

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B- India had signed MoU with Bangladesh on the use of the Chittagong and Mongla Ports for movements of Goods to and from India

C- India is Bangladesh's biggest trade partner, and its largest export market in Asia.

D- In 2021-22, Bangladesh has emerged as the largest trade partner for India in South Asia .

5. The Indian Navy's new ensign is inspired by the logo of which famous figure from history?

A- Maharana Pratap

B- Chatrapati Shivaji

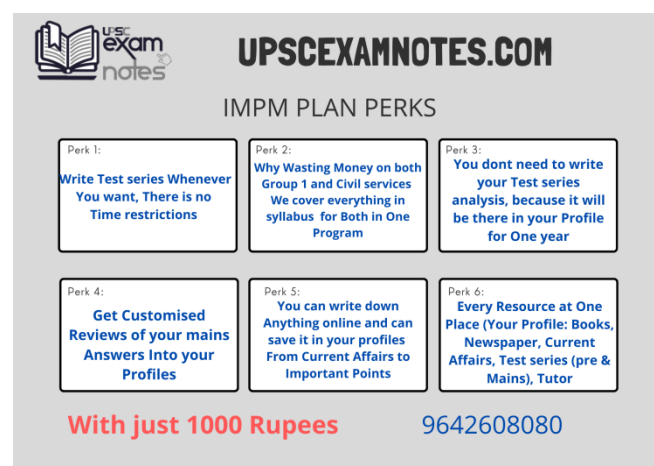
C- Chatrapati Shambaji Maharaj

D- Chandragupta Maurya

Key For prelims Questions

1	2	3	4	5
A	A	D	C	B

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