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# Daily News Juice

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# National Logistics Policy

Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance



## Why in news?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the National Logistics Policy which is **aimed at easing the movement of goods** and **boosting the trade sector** in the Indian economy.
- Objectives of the Policy:
  - 1. The Policy would facilitate **faster movement of goods**.
  - 2. The Policy would also **reduce logistical costs**.

Logistical costs currently account for **13 to 14% of India's GDP**, almost double of what the costs are in developed countries.

Due to high logistical cost, the **competitiveness of India's exports** is greatly reduced.

## What is included in the Logistics?

- Logistics broadly includes facilities crucial to trade:
  - 1. **transport services** for the movement of goods,
  - 2. **storage facilities** that are particularly essential for trade in perishable goods such as food items, fruits, and vegetables,
  - 3. smooth functioning of **government services** that **facilitate trade such as licensing and customs**

## Features of the National Logistics Policy

- The new logistics policy has **four features**:
- **1. Integration of Digital System (IDS)** - Under the IDS, **30 different systems of seven departments are integrated** – including data from the road transport, railways, customs, aviation and commerce departments.
- **2. Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)** - A Unified Logistics Interface Platform ULIP will “bring **all the digital services related to the transportation sector into a single portal**.”
- **3. Ease of Logistics (ELOG)**- Ease of Logistics Services (E-Logs) has also been started for **industry associations to resolve issues by reaching out to the government**.
- **4. System Improvement Group (SIG)** – Team to oversee other three components.

## Steps taken earlier

- Some of the programmes and schemes aimed at improving logistics aspects, include
- **1. FASTag** for electronic toll tax collection
- **2. Faceless assessment** for customs.
- **3. Gati Shakti master plan** - A single platform was launched for ministries to monitor the progress of various infrastructure projects.

Q1. Which of the following are the components of National Logistics Policy, 2022:

1. Integration of Digital System
2. Unified Logistics Interface Platform
3. Ease of Logistics
4. Fast Tag collection

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

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# NAAC's system for assessing higher education

Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

## NAAC

- **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)** is an **autonomous body under the University Grants Commission (UGC)**.
- It **assesses and certifies Indian Higher-level Educational Institutions (HEIs)**, with gradings as part of accreditation.
- The gradings are given on basis of **curriculum, faculty, infrastructure, research, and other parameters**.
- The ratings of institutions range from **A++ to C**. If an institution is **graded D**, it means it is **not accredited**.

## Process of accreditation

- The first step requires an **applicant institution submitting a self-study report** of information related to quantitative and qualitative metrics.
- The **data is then validated by NAAC expert teams, followed by peer team visits to the institutions**.

# NAAC's system for assessing higher education

Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance



## Controversy

- The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has been subject of controversy over the rating of the **Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda** and allegations of bribery in the process.
- NAAC had reportedly withheld the grading of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda after receiving an anonymous complaint that the university unduly tried to influence the **peer review team** with gold, cash and other favours.
- However, on September 15, NAAC released the improved grading, terming the allegations as “false”.

## Who can apply?

- Only higher education institutions that **are at least six years old**, or from where **at least two batches of students have graduated**, can apply.
- The institutes need to be **recognised by the UGC** and have **regular students enrolled in their full-time programmes**.
- The **accreditation is valid for five years**.

# Reservation for Dalit Christians and Muslims

Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; Polity & Governance

## Why in news?

- The Centre is likely to soon decide on setting up a **national commission to study the social, economic and educational status of Dalits who converted to religions other than Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism.**
- **Several petitions are pending before the Supreme Court** seeking Scheduled Caste (SC) reservation benefits for Dalits who converted to Christianity or Islam.

## Position on reservation for SC

- The original rationale behind giving reservation to Scheduled Castes was that these sections had suffered from the social evil of untouchability, which was practised among Hindus. **The first order under Article 341 was issued in 1950, and covered only Hindus.**
- Following demands from the Sikh community, an order was issued in **1956, including Sikhs of Dalit origin** among the beneficiaries of the SC quota.
- In **1990**, the government acceded to a similar demand from **Buddhists** of Dalit origin, and the order was revised to state: “No person who professes a religion different from the Hindu, the Sikh or the Buddhist religion shall be deemed to be a member of Scheduled Caste.”

# Reservation for Dalit Christians and Muslims

## ST and OBC Reservation

- The rights of a person belonging to a **Scheduled Tribe are independent of his/her religious faith.**
- Similarly, **several Christian and Muslim communities have found place in the Central and state lists of OBCs.**

## Efforts to include Muslim and Christian Dalits

- The UPA government headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh set up **two important panels**: the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities, popularly known as the **Ranganath Misra Commission**, in October 2004; and a seven-member high-level committee headed by former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court **Rajinder Sachar** to study the social, economic, and educational condition of Muslims in March 2005.
- The **Ranganath Misra Commission**, which submitted its report in May 2007, recommended that SC status should be “completely de-linked...from religion and...Scheduled Castes [should be made] fully **religion-neutral like...Scheduled Tribes**”.
- Petitions are pending before Supreme Court on the basis of Ranganath Misra Commission report.

# 22-year-old Mahsa Amini death in Iran

**Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Issues**

## Why in News?

- The death of a 22-year-old Kurdish woman, **Mahsa Amini**, after being detained by Iran's morality police, has sparked widespread protests in the country.
- The circumstances of Amini's death are contested with authorities saying she had a heart attack, her family has alleged that she was beaten up during her detention.
- Amini was **detained for not wearing her hijab properly**, which is a punishable offence in Iran.

## Position in Iran

- **After the Islamic revolution (1978-79), Iran passed a mandatory hijab law in 1981. Article 638 of the Islamic penal code states that it is a crime for women to appear in public, or on the streets, without a hijab.**
- Amini was a **Kurdish woman** belonging to Iran's western province of Kurdistan, which is one of the border districts of Iran. There are **8 to 10 million Kurds present in Iran, which comes to 11 to 15% of Iran's population.** Iran has long been accused of oppressing them.