



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**18th June 2026**



**CONTEXT:** Health Survey Data, often highlight what we already know, do not take a sufficiently serious view of what has not improved, and rarely lead to immediate programmatic action.

## Data-Driven Governance in Public Health - Challenges

### Data-Action Disconnect

- Statistical exercises rather than policy instruments.

### Selective Use of Data

- Political credit-claiming rather than objective policy evaluation.

### Persistent Public Health Challenges

- Anaemia remains high despite years of interventions.
- Out-of-pocket expenditure continues to burden households.
- Rising obesity, diabetes, hypertension and other NCDs across social groups.

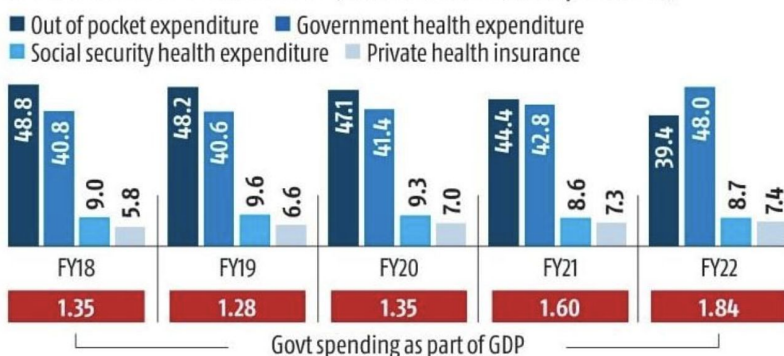
### Commercialisation of Health Challenges

- Health risks increasingly viewed as market opportunities.

### Delay in Data Availability

- NFHS-6 data collected in 2023-24 but debated only in 2026.
- Limited Academic Scrutiny due to late release of Raw datasets

## HEALTH SPENDING (as % of total health expenditure)



Source: National Health Account 2021-22

## Out-of-pocket expenditure on health shows declining trend, states latest National Health Accounts

The out-of-pocket expenditure as a share of the total health expenditure has been calculated as 43.4% in 2022-23, as against 64.2% in 2013-14; a Health Ministry official said this reduction is partly due to the impact of operationalisation of over 1.8 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandir wellness centres across the country



**CONTEXT:** Health Survey Data, often highlight what we already know, do not take a sufficiently serious view of what has not improved, and rarely lead to immediate programmatic action.

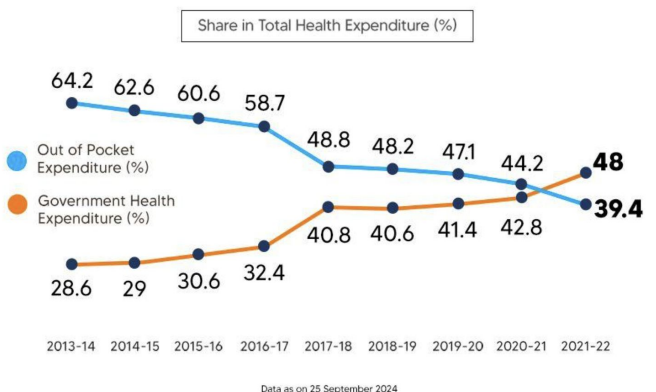
## Public Health Care - Challenges

1. **Unequal Access to Healthcare** - Rural-Urban Divide
2. **Healthcare Workforce Shortage** - Doctors, Nurses , Specialists , Public health professionals
3. **Infrastructure Deficits** - Inadequate beds, Shortage of diagnostic equipment , Poor maintenance , Limited ICU capacity
4. **Persistent Disease Burden** - NCDs, Obesity, Diabetes, etc
5. **Low Public Health Expenditure** - 1.43% of GDP in 2022-23,, National Health Policy (2017) target - 2.5% of GDP.
6. **Weak Primary Healthcare** - Late diagnosis, Overcrowded tertiary hospitals, Poor preventive care
7. **Mental Health Crisis** - Remains neglected despite growing disease burden.
10. **Pandemic Preparedness and Health Security** - Resilient healthcare systems capable of handling future pandemics.

**Government Health Expenditure (GHE) as % of GDP**



**Public Spending Overtakes Out of Pocket Expenditure For the First Time in Indian History**



**CONTEXT:** Health Survey Data, often highlight what we already know, do not take a sufficiently serious view of what has not improved, and rarely lead to immediate programmatic action.

## Data-Driven Governance in Public Health

### 1. Post-Survey Action Notes

- National and State-level Action Notes within **30–45 days** by.

### 2. State-Level Health Data Review Meetings

- Conduct regular working sessions at the state level.
- Focus on **"What must we change?"** rather than **"What can we highlight?"**

### 3. Integrated Health Data Systems

- Survey data, Health Management Information System (HMIS) data and Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) data.

### 4. Early Release of Primary Data

- Facilitate independent research and rapid policy analysis.

### 5. Evidence-Based Budgeting

- Link survey findings directly with budgetary allocations.
- Rising NCDs – Higher allocation for NCD prevention and treatment.

### From data to action

There is a need to reflect on how India continues to miss these opportunities. **Data improve health outcomes only when they are linked to timely and relevant policy decisions.** **Countries that make effective use of health data do not wait years for perfect academic papers or definitive solutions.** **Instead, they have robust systems and empowered institutions that generate rapid policy briefs, identify lagging districts and regions, conduct regular reviews, compare performance, allocate resources efficiently and adapt programmes as needed.** The translation of data into action is not merely a slogan; it is a discipline. India needs to cultivate that discipline if it is to realise the full value of the vast amounts of health data it collects.



**CONTEXT:** Health Survey Data, often highlight what we already know, do not take a sufficiently serious view of what has not improved, and rarely lead to immediate programmatic action.

### Strengthen Primary Healthcare

- Expand Health and Wellness Centres.
- Focus on preventive and promotive healthcare.

### Increase Public Health Expenditure

- National Health Policy target of 2.5% of GDP.

### Address Human Resource Gaps

- Expand medical and nursing education.
- Incentivise rural postings.

### Reduce Out-of-Pocket Expenditure

- Expand insurance coverage.
- Strengthen public provisioning of medicines and diagnostics.

### Adopt a Whole-of-Government Approach

- Address social determinants of health

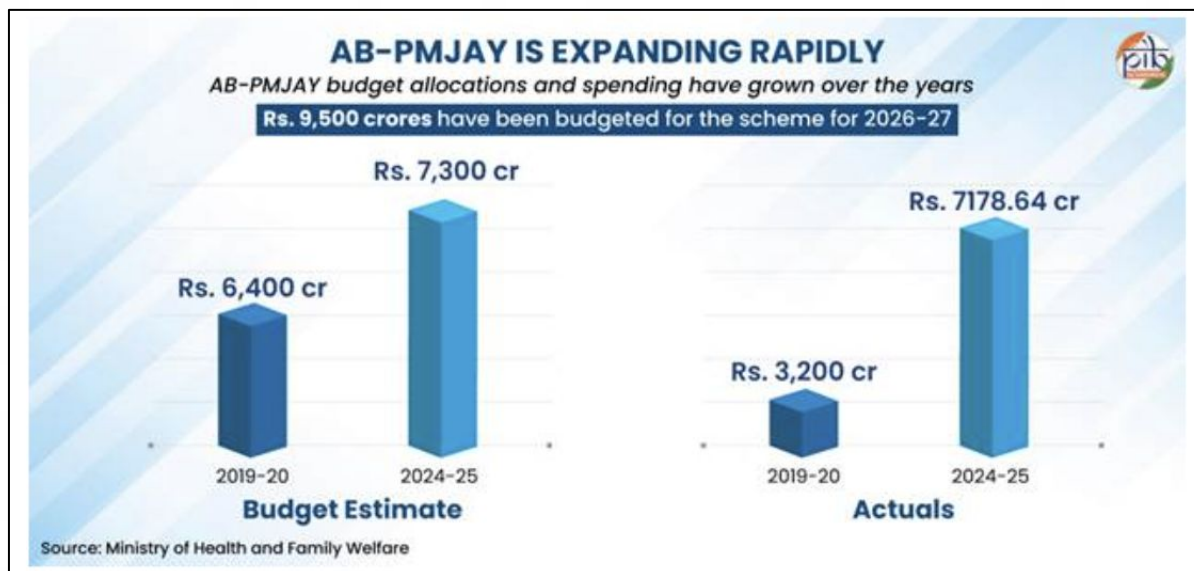
### Strengthen Disease Surveillance

- Real-time health monitoring systems.
- Early warning mechanisms.

### Mains Practice Question:

**Q.** Discuss the structural challenges facing India's healthcare system. Suggest measures required to build a more equitable and resilient health system.

**(250 word / 15 Marks)**



**CONTEXT:** Amid intensifying global competition in AI, semiconductors and deep-tech sectors, India must transition from being a technology adopter to a frontier innovator.

## India's Research and Innovation Ecosystem - Significance

### 1. Enhances Economic Growth and Productivity

- Drives long-term growth beyond capital accumulation and labour expansion.

### 2. Strengthens Global Competitiveness

- Enables firms to develop high-value products and technologies.

### 3. Promotes Technological Self-Reliance

- Reduces dependence on imported technologies.

### 4. Expands High-Skilled Employment

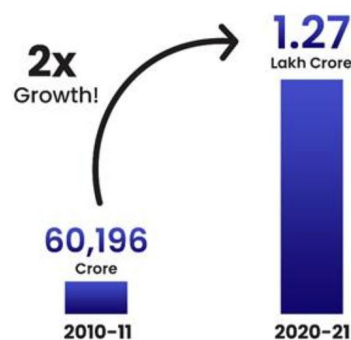
- R&D-intensive sectors generate quality jobs for scientists, engineers and researchers.

### 5. Supports National Security

- Critical technologies increasingly determine military and strategic capabilities.

### Growth in India's

Gross Expenditure on Research and Development



Source: Department of Science & Technology

## India's Research and Innovation Ecosystem - Challenges

### 1. Low R&D Expenditure

- Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) - **0.6-0.7% of GDP**

### 2. Large Domestic Market Reduces Innovation Pressure

- Many firms achieve profitability by serving domestic demand.

### 3. Limited Export Orientation

- Lower exposure to international competition weakens incentives for technological upgrading.



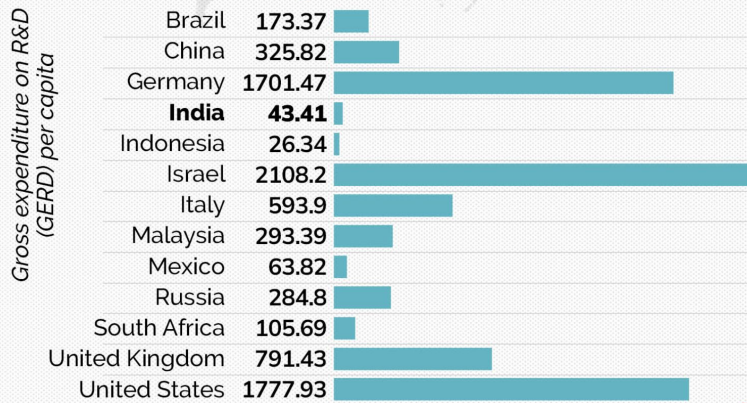
**CONTEXT:** Amid intensifying global competition in AI, semiconductors and deep-tech sectors, India must transition from being a technology adopter to a frontier innovator.

## HOW MUCH COUNTRIES SPEND ON R&D

India's GERD is one of the lowest in the world



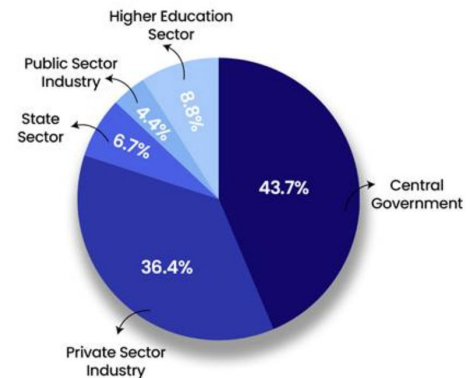
India's gross expenditure on R&D is **0.65%** of its GDP



In current PPP\$



## Sector-wise Share in India's National R&D Expenditure (2020-21)



Source - Department of Science & Technology

### 4. Short-Term Corporate Incentives

- Long-gestation research projects receive inadequate support.

### 5. Regulatory and Policy Uncertainty

- Innovation requires stable and predictable policy environments.

### 6. Weak Industry-Academia Linkages

- Research institutions and industries often function in silos.

### 7. Limited Commercialisation of Research

- Publicly funded research often fails to reach markets.

### 8. Inadequate Deep-Tech Financing

- Venture capital largely concentrated in proven business model

### 9. Inadequate Research Infrastructure

- Shortage of world-class laboratories.
- Limited testing and prototyping facilities.

### 10. Brain Drain

- India contributes talent but often loses the benefits of innovation.



**CONTEXT:** Amid intensifying global competition in AI, semiconductors and deep-tech sectors, India must transition from being a technology adopter to a frontier innovator.

## India's Research and Innovation Ecosystem – Way Ahead

### 1. Capital is Critical for Innovation

- Innovation ecosystems require patient and risk-tolerant capital.

### 2. Predictable Regulatory Environment is Essential

- Uncertain taxation and rent-seeking behaviour discourage innovation.

### 3. Talent Retention is as Important as Capital

- Innovation thrives where talented individuals see long-term opportunities.

### 4. Quality Public Infrastructure Supports Innovation

- Innovation ecosystems depend on both economic and social infrastructure.

### 5. India's Innovation Deficit is Primarily Institutional

- The biggest barriers are governance and policy-related rather than technological.

### 6. Strengthen Industry–Academia Collaboration

- Promote collaborative research centres and innovation clusters.

### 7. Link Government Incentives with R&D Commitments

- PLI benefits tie up with minimum R&D investments.

### 8. Expand Research Infrastructure

- Develop world-class laboratories.
- Strengthen testing, prototyping and incubation facilities.

### 9. Promote Deep-Tech Startups

- Space technology
- Defence technology
- Clean energy
- Biotechnology
- Semiconductor design

## Mains Practice Question

*Q. "India's aspiration to become a developed economy requires a transition from technology adoption to technology creation." Discuss. (15 Marks / 250 Words)*



**Newspaper :** The Indian Express **Page No :** 13

• GOVERNMENT HAS A TARGET OF BUILDING 10,000-KM OF HIGHWAYS IN THE ONGOING FINANCIAL YEAR 2026-27

## Amid West Asia conflict, bitumen woes hit India's road infrastructure push

### • Bitumen import

	Quantity	Amount (in Rs crore)
2016-17	9.51	1,638
2017-18	9.50	1,902
2018-19	8.77	2,149
2019-20	16.3	3,634
2020-21	20.55	4,325
2021-22	25.81	7,678
2022-23	27.97	9,945
2023-24	32.44	10,875
2024-25	29.00	9,326
2025-26	26.51	8,661

**Source:** Petroleum Planning and Analysis cell, MoPNG

**Note:** Figures in lakh metric tonnes

### • Consumption and domestic production

	Consumption	Production in India
2016-17	59.36	51.85
2017-18	60.86	52.68
2018-19	67.08	55.64
2019-20	67.20	48.92
2020-21	75.24	49.02
2021-22	78.16	51.11
2022-23	80.41	49.14
2023-24	88.07	52.40
2024-25	85.82	53.03
2025-26	88.41	53.60

from West Asia. Over 99% of India's bitumen imports come from Iraq, UAE, Iran, Oman and Bahrain. Zafar Khan, President of the Highways Investor Associ-

ation, said, "The Strait of Hormuz is critical for India's road sector because a substantial portion of the crude oil processed by Indian refineries originates from

the West Asia and transits through this route. Any disruption in the region can impact crude supplies, refinery operations, and consequently the

### THE MISMATCH

India was not always as dependent on imports. The change has been driven by the mega road projects undertaken within the last decade, through schemes like Bharatmala (for enhancing road connectivity via expressways and economic corridors) and PMGSY.

National Highways have grown from 91,287 km in 2014 to 1.47 lakh km currently (a 61% increase), while the length of expressways increased from 93 km to 3,052 km. However, domestic bitumen production has not kept pace. Imports have more than doubled, and consumption increased by almost 50%. Ac-



# Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement



**SYLLABUS : Prelims :** Bilateral Agreements  
**Newspaper :** The Hindu **Page No : 08**

## Dinakar Peri

### The story so far:

**T**he India-Russia bilateral Logistics Support Agreement (LSA), termed the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS), which had been dragging on for several years, was operationalised in January this year. There was a flutter on social media recently with claims that it allows the stationing of 3,000 Russian troops on Indian soil or vice versa, painting it as a military alliance. However, it is like any LSA, the likes of which India has signed with other countries.

### What are Logistics Support Agreements?

A logistics agreement is a **foundational military cooperation agreement** between

countries for administrative purposes that enables the reciprocal use of each other's bases and ports for supplies, repair, and fuel. The agreement also stipulates the occasions on which this can be utilised, generally for exercises, joint training, port calls, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief situations. As defence cooperation and military-to-military engagement become vital in international relations, the agreement simplifies essential administrative procedures and reduces bureaucracy.

For instance, the agreement with the U.S., Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) signed in 2016, the first such, provides a framework for reciprocal provision of logistic support, supplies and services for activities such as joint exercises, training, or humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. "It does not provide for the establishment of any

## Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS) ( India – Russia)

- Provide **reciprocal access** to each other's military bases, ports, and airfields for refueling, repairs, and logistical support.
- Strengthen **defence cooperation** by enabling smoother logistics during joint exercises and coordinated operations.
- Enhance **operational efficiency** by reducing deployment time and costs, especially for long-range naval missions.
- Support **faster and more coordinated humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR)** operations during emergencies



# Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement



**SYLLABUS : Prelims :** Bilateral Agreements  
**Newspaper :** The Hindu **Page No : 08**

## What are the existing agreements?

India has signed a series of logistics support agreements since the LEMOA in 2016. Currently, India has similar agreements with nine countries – the U.S., the U.K., France, Vietnam, Japan, Australia, Singapore, and Russia – concluded on similar lines, which provide logistics support and technical aid. The basic template and purpose for all these

Broadly, RELOS covers joint military exercises, training, HADR missions, port and repair services, medical support, as well as delivery of food and technical resources and reciprocal access to military facilities, including airbases and ports, to support ship and aircraft personnel.

One important aspect is that RELOS gives access to Russian military facilities in the Arctic as both countries expand cooperation there, as new navigation routes open up, a fallout of global warming.



**SYLLABUS : Prelims : Parliament**

**Newspaper : The Indian express Page No : 05**

## Parliamentary Privilege

- It refers to **rights and immunities** enjoyed by Parliament as an institution and MPs in their individual capacity
- Ensure they can function **without outside interference or fear**.

## Are they defined under law?

- According to the Constitution, the powers, privileges and immunities of Parliament and MP's **are to be defined by Parliament**.
- **No law has so far been enacted** in this respect.

## What is breach of privilege?

- Violation of any of the privileges of MPs/Parliament.
- Any action '**casting reflections**' on MPs, parliament or its committees
- This may include publishing of news items, editorials or statements made in newspaper/magazine/TV interviews or in public speeches

## Committee of Privileges

### Composition

- **Lok Sabha:** 15 members.
- **Rajya Sabha:** 10 members.
- Members are **nominated by the Speaker (Lok Sabha) / Chairman (Rajya Sabha)**.

### Chairperson

- In **Lok Sabha** – a member appointed by the Speaker.
- In **Rajya Sabha** – the **Deputy Chairman**

### Functions

- Examines cases of **breach of privilege** or **contempt of the House**, its members, or its committees.

### Investigates matters referred by:

- The House, or
- The Speaker/Chairman.
- Determines whether a breach of privilege has occurred.
- Submits a report with recommendations.
- Suggests the procedure for implementing its recommendations.

### Privileges are derived from:

- The Constitution of India
- Parliamentary conventions
- Laws made by Parliament
- Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
- Judicial interpretations

**Article 105:** Defines the powers, privileges, and immunities of the **Parliament and its members** .

**Article 194:** Defines the powers, privileges, and immunities of the **State Legislature and its members** .



**SYLLABUS : G.S. 2: Government Interventions**

**Newspaper : The Indian express Page No : 05**

## Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Scheme

- Centrally sponsored initiative - under the guidance of the Ministry of Education.
- **Objective** - Transform school education across the nation by developing over 14,500 model schools that reflect the spirit and vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **Selection:** Challenge mode with schools self-applying through an online portal.
- **Implementation:** Existing Samagra Shiksha administrative structure - Central Government, State and Union Territory Governments, local bodies, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)



Ministry of Education  
Government of India

75  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav

# PM SHRI Schools

(PM Schools for Rising India)

*Nurturing well-rounded individuals equipped with  
21st century skills*

More than 14500 Schools across  
the country to be upgraded &  
developed

To act as exemplar schools & also  
offer mentorship to other schools  
in their vicinity

To showcase all components of  
the National Education Policy 2020

Pedagogy adopted in these  
schools will be more experiential,  
holistic, integrated & play/toy-  
based

To benefit lakhs of students across  
the country

@EduMinOfIndia @EduMinOfIndia HRDMinistry @eduminofindia



**SYLLABUS : G.S. 2: Government Interventions**

**Newspaper : The Indian express Page No : 05**

## Key Features

- **Enhanced infrastructure:** Labs, libraries, art rooms.
- **Integration of technology:** Smart classrooms and digital learning tools.
- **Holistic learning approach:** Play-based learning in the early years, with flexible teaching methods.
- **School Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF):** Regular evaluation to maintain high standards.
- **Green Schools:** Incorporation of eco-friendly practices like solar panels, water conservation, waste management, and plastic-free initiatives.
- **Leadership:** PM SHRI schools will mentor and lead nearby schools, creating a ripple effect for quality education.
- **Skill Development:** Vocational training, internships, and entrepreneurship opportunities.

THE NEW Congress-led United Democratic Front government in Kerala has agreed to go ahead with implementing the Union Government's Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme in the state, but with a caveat — that Kerala will retain control over the curriculum and schools covered under the scheme.



**SYLLABUS : Prelims : Education**

**Newspaper : The Indian express Page No : 01**

## Quacquarelli Symonds

- London based global higher education consultancy.
- Parameters - Academic reputation, Overall score, Employer reputation, and employment outcomes.
- **Lens:** A collection of indicators
- **Five Lenses:** Research and Discovery, Employability and Outcomes, Global Engagement, Learning Experience, Sustainability.
- **Indicator:** A specific area of performance, such as Citations per Faculty or Employer Reputation.
- Institutions are scored and ranked on each indicator, which contributes to their overall rank.

## ● TOP 10 IN COUNTRY

National Rank	2027 Global Rank	2026 Global Rank	Institute
1	118	123	IIT Delhi
2	134	129	IIT Bombay
3	170	180	IIT Madras
4	205	215	IIT Kharagpur
5	221	222	IIT Kanpur
5	221	219	IISc Bangalore
7	322	328	Delhi University
8	335	339	IIT Roorkee
9	349	334	IIT Guwahati
10	452	503	Shoolini University*

\*BIOTECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

The latest edition of rankings features 52 Indian universities, down from 54 last year. For the number of institutions on the list overall, India ranked fifth (52) after the US (184), UK (93), China (85) and Germany (60).



**Q1. India has signed logistics support agreements with which of the following countries?**

1. Russia
2. Vietnam
3. Japan
4. Australia
5. Brazil

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below.**

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Answer: c**

**Q2. With reference to the Committee of Privileges in the Parliament of India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Committee of Privileges of the Lok Sabha consists of 15 members nominated by the Speaker.
2. The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha serves as the Chairperson of the Committee of Privileges of the Rajya Sabha.
3. The Committee of Privileges is empowered to examine cases of breach of privilege or contempt of the House, its members, or its committees.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

**Answer: c**

**Q3. With reference to the PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) Scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. PM SHRI is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at transforming school education by developing over 14,500 model schools across the country.
2. The scheme covers only schools run by State Governments and excludes Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas.
3. PM SHRI schools emphasise green infrastructure, smart classrooms, and experiential learning.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

**Answer: b**

**Q4. With reference to the latest Quacquarelli Symonds university rankings, consider the following statements:**

1. India is the fifth most represented country globally, with 52 universities featured in the rankings.
2. The ranking methodology includes parameters such as Academic Reputation, Employer Reputation, Overall Score, and Employment Outcomes.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: c**

**Q5. With reference to the Startup Recognition Framework, consider the following statements:**

1. A new category of "Deep Tech Startup" has been introduced for entities working on cutting-edge and breakthrough technologies.
2. For Deep Tech Startups, the age limit is 20 years from the date of incorporation/registration, and the turnover limit is ₹300 crore.
3. Cooperative societies are not eligible for startup recognition.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer: a**





# **VAJIRAM & RAVI**

## **Institute for IAS Examination**

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

---

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar,  
New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,  
Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121

Visit us at : [www.vajiramandravi.com](http://www.vajiramandravi.com)