

PLI SCHEME AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

GS Paper - 2 - Government Policies & Interventions - GS Paper - 3 - Growth & Development - Liberalization

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Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing

- Incentive:** 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India
- Target Segments:** Mobile phones and specified electronic components
- Eligibility:** Subject to thresholds of incremental investment and incremental sales of manufactured goods
- Tenure of the Scheme:** Five years subsequent to the base year as defined (FY19-20)

WHY IN NEWS?

Recently, the **NITI Aayog** has commenced work on evolving a set of objective criteria to track value addition by companies which avail financial rewards under **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes**.

- The empowered group of secretaries which was instituted in June 2020 was **tasked with identifying the bottlenecks in PLI schemes, coordinating between states and companies for faster approvals**, evaluating and ensuring quick investments in PLI schemes, and ensuring overall turnaround of projects.
- The group is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, and has the Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog, the secretaries of **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**, Department of Commerce, Department of Revenue, Department of Economic Affairs, and the Secretary of the concerned ministry as its members.

WHAT IS THE PLAN?

- Taking the lead in **creating a centralised database to monitor progress in the PLI schemes across sectors**, the NITI Aayog plans to rope in an external agency – state-owned IFCI Ltd or **SIDBI** – to design and prepare the database.
 - This **database will capture value addition, actual exports** against commitments made, and job creation.
- A **dashboard to flag hurdles** at the state level will also be created.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES FACING THE PLI SCHEME?

- **No Common Set of Parameters:**
 - There **were no common set of parameters to understand the value addition by companies** that have received or are likely to receive incentives under the PLI scheme.
 - At present, **different ministries monitor the value addition** of their respective PLI schemes and **there is no way to compare two different schemes.**
 - Also, there are various deliverables such as the number of jobs created, the rise in exports and quality improvement and **there is no centralised database to gauge all these.**
- **Target for Companies for Incentives too Steep:**
 - Departments and ministries which **interact with companies operating in their sector also face certain specific issues.**
 - For instance, at times, the target for companies to qualify for incentives are too steep.
- **Domestic Companies Relied on One or Two Supply Chains:**
 - Until last fiscal, **only 3-4 companies managed to achieve the incremental sales** targets to qualify for the PLI scheme from the fourteen companies that had been approved.
 - Unlike global companies, **most domestic companies relied on one or two supply chains** which have been severely disrupted and due to no fault of their own, these companies won't qualify for the incentive.

WHAT IS THE PLI SCHEME?

- **About:**
 - The PLI scheme was **conceived to scale up domestic manufacturing capability**, accompanied by **higher import substitution and employment generation.**
 - The government has set aside **Rs 1.97 lakh crore under the PLI schemes** for various sectors and an additional allocation of Rs 19,500 crore was made towards PLI for solar PV modules in **Budget 2022-23.**
 - Launched in **March 2020**, the scheme initially **targeted three industries:**
 - **Mobile and allied Component Manufacturing**
 - **Electrical Component Manufacturing and**
 - **Medical Devices**
- **Incentives Under the Scheme:**
 - The incentives, calculated on the **basis of incremental sales**, range from as low as **1% for the electronics and technology products to as high as 20%** for the manufacturing of critical key starting drugs and certain drug intermediaries.
 - In some sectors such as **advanced chemistry cell batteries, textile products and the drone industry**, the incentive to be given will be **calculated on the basis of sales, performance and local value addition done** over the period of five years.
- **Sectors for the which PLI Scheme has been Announced:**

- So far, the **government has announced PLI schemes for 14 sectors** including **automobile and auto components, electronics and IT hardware, telecom, pharmaceuticals, solar modules, metals and mining, textiles and apparel, white goods, drones, and advanced chemistry cell batteries.**
- **Objectives:**
 - The Government introduced this scheme to **reduce India's dependence on China and other foreign countries.**
 - It supports the **labour-intensive sectors** and aims to increase the employment ratio in India.
 - This scheme works to **reduce down the import bills and boost up domestic production.**
 - However, PLI Yojana invites foreign companies to set up their units in India and encourages domestic enterprises to expand their production units.

Source: IE

PROTESTS AGAINST HINDI IN NORTHEASTERN STATES

GS Paper - 2 - Education - Government Policies & Interventions



WHY IN THE NEWS?

Recently, the Government of India provided that **Hindi would be made compulsory up to Class 10 in the eight northeastern states.**

- Hindi is described as **“the language of India”**.
- However, the move has been met with **protests from various organisations in the Northeast**. Also, several south Indian states have criticised the central government decision.
- Instead, these groups are supportive of **three-language policy – English, Hindi and the local language.**

WHAT ARE THE ARGUMENTS PRESENTED BY NORTHEASTERN ORGANIZATION?

- **Sixth Schedule:** The state is protected by the **Sixth Schedule of the Constitution** and the Centre would not be able to impose Hindi on the students.
- **Discrimination:** Centre's move will provide **Hindi-speakers the economic, academic and administrative edge** and let them control non-Hindi speaking regions of the country in the long run.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE WITH HINDI LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY?

- **Linguistic Organization of States:** In India most of the states have been formed on linguistic basis.
 - **Conflicts over identity**, especially over languages tend to be escalated due to limited resources in India.
- **Examples of Linguistic Division:** The status of language has been a critical issue that has caused division of states in the past.
 - Such states as **Andhra Pradesh (1st state formed on linguistic basis), Punjab and Gujarat** were created due to statehood demand on linguistic basis.
- **Instrument of Managing Conflict:** Language policy is one method by which **governments attempt to manage ethnic conflict**.
 - Thus, to develop federal cooperation, autonomy of the states over language policy can be a more viable option than the imposition of a three language formula.

WHAT IS THE THREE-LANGUAGE FORMULA & ITS NEED?

- **About:** Three-Language Formula was first proposed by **Kothari Commission 1968**. Under this scheme:
 - **First language:** It will be the mother tongue or **regional language**.
 - **Second language:** In Hindi speaking states, it will be other modern Indian languages or English. In non-Hindi speaking states, it will be **Hindi or English**.
 - **Third Language:** In Hindi speaking states, it will be **English or a modern Indian language**. In the non-Hindi speaking state, it will be English or a modern Indian language.
- **Need:** The primary aim is to promote multilingualism and national harmony.
 - The Kothari Committee's report observes that learning **languages is an important part of a child's cognitive development**.
- **Modus Operandi:** At the secondary stage, State governments were to adopt the three-language formula.
 - It included the study of a **modern Indian language**, preferably one of the southern languages, apart from Hindi and English in the Hindi-speaking States.
 - In the '**non-Hindi speaking States**', Hindi should be studied along with the regional language and English.
- **Issue in Implementation:** The states in the **hindi belt (such as in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar)** could not promote learning of south Indian languages under a three language formula.

- The states like **Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Tripura were not ready to teach Hindi** in their school curriculum.
- Instead they demanded autonomy of this issue.

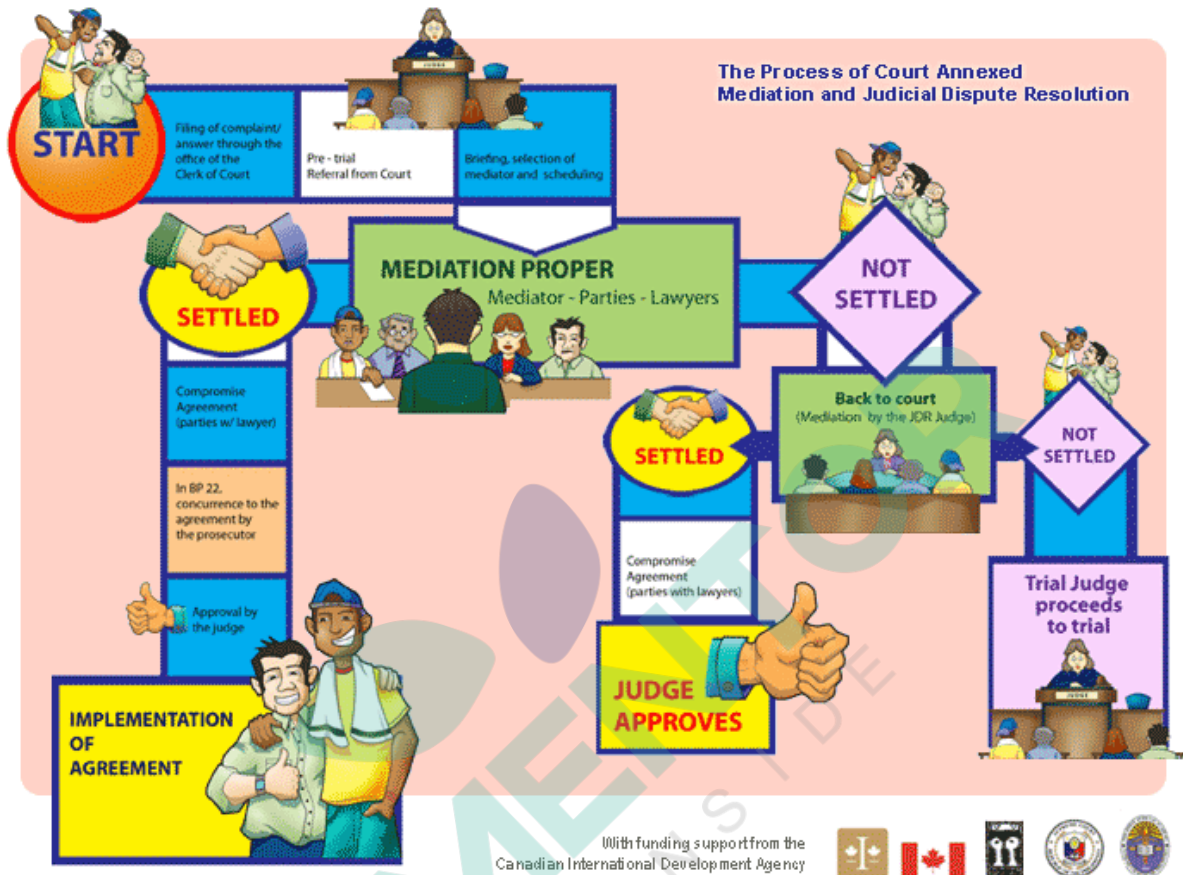
WHAT ARE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS RELATED TO LANGUAGES?

- **Article 29** of the Constitution of India **protects the interests of minorities**. The Article states that any section of the **citizens who have a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same**.
- **Article 343** is about the official language of the Union of India. According to this Article, it is to be **Hindi in Devnagri script, and numerals should follow the international form of Indian numerals**.
 - This Article also states that **English will continue to be used as an official language for 15 years from the commencement of the Constitution**.
- **Article 346** is about the **official language for communication between the states and between a state and the Union**.
 - The Article states that the “authorised” language will be used. However, **if two or more states agree that their communications shall be in Hindi, then Hindi may be used**.
- **Article 347** gives the **President the power to recognise a language as an official language of a given state**, provided that the President is satisfied that a substantial proportion of that state desires that the language be recognised.
 - Such recognition can be for a part of the state or the whole state.
- **Article 350A** facilities for instruction in **mother-tongue at the primary stage**.
- **Article 350B** provides for the establishment of a **Special Officer for linguistic minorities**.
 - The Officer shall be **appointed by the President** and shall investigate all matters relating to the safeguards for linguistic minorities, reporting directly to the President.
 - The President may then place the reports before each house of the Parliament or send them to the governments of the states concerned.
- **Article 351** gives power to the union government to issue a directive for development of the Hindi language.
- **The Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution of India contains a list of **22 recognised schedule languages**.
- Way Forward
- **Unity in diversity** has always been the strength of India. Therefore, in the context of identity associated with language and India being a federal polity, both **center and states should follow cooperative models** and avoid **language hegemony/chauvinism**.

Source: TH

MEDIATION IN JUDICIAL PROCESS

GS Paper - 2 - Judiciary - Dispute Redressal Mechanisms



WHY IN NEWS?

While addressing the **National Judicial Conference on Mediation and Information Technology**, the President advocated the concept of **Mediation in the Judicial Process**.

WHAT IS MEDIATION?

- Mediation is a **voluntary, binding process in which an impartial and neutral mediator facilitates disputing parties in reaching a settlement.**
- A mediator **does not impose a solution but creates a conducive environment** in which disputing parties can resolve all their disputes.
- Mediation is a **tried and tested alternative method of dispute resolution.** It has **proved to be a great success** in the cities of Delhi, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Nagpur, Chandigarh and Aurangabad.
- Mediation is a **structured process where a neutral person uses specialised communication and negotiation** techniques. Litigants participating in the mediation process have unequivocally endorsed it.
- It is a settlement process whereby disputing parties arrive at **mutually acceptable agreements.**
- Other than mediation there are some other dispute resolution methods such as **Arbitration, Negotiation and Conciliation.**

WHO CAN BE A MEDIATOR?

- Any person who **undergoes the required 40 hours training stipulated by the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee of the Supreme Court (SC)** can be a mediator.
- He also needs to have at least **ten mediations resulting in a settlement and at least 20 mediations in all** to be eligible to be accredited as a qualified mediator.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A MEDIATOR?

- To be **Impartial And Neutral**.
- **Manage interaction** between the parties
- **Facilitate communication** between the parties.
- **Identify barriers** to an agreement.
- **Identify interests** of the parties.
- **Develop terms of agreement**.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MEDIATION?

- Quick And Responsive.
- Economical.
- There is no extra cost.
- Harmonious settlement.
- Creating solutions and remedies.
- Confidential and informal.
- Parties controlling the proceedings.

WHAT ARE SOME CHALLENGES TO THE PROCESS OF MEDIATION?

- **Lack of Codification:** In January 2020, the SC in *MR Krishna Murthi v. New India Assurance Co. Ltd* pointed out the **urgent need for enacting a uniform legislation for mediation in India**.
- **Apprehension towards mediation & Lack of Awareness** – Mediation has never garnered sufficient reception among the legal fraternity.
 - In order to popularise mediation **as a dispute resolution mechanism, training sessions and seminars should be conducted** to familiarise judges with the benefits of mediation.
- **Infrastructural Concerns and Quality Control**– Improved emphasis on mediation will directly increase the workload on mediation centres which lack administrative strength.
 - This can lead to the languishing of cases that go against the basic tenet of mediation i.e. fast resolution of disputes.
 - To tackle this, **the practice of mediation should be professionalised in India**.
- **Inconsistency between existing laws on Mediation**– The Supreme Court in a case stated that the **terms ‘mediation’ and ‘conciliation’ are synonymous with each other**.
 - Contrastingly, the language of Section 89 of **Code of Civil Procedure (CPC), 1908** shows that the legislative intent behind the section was to differentiate between mediation and conciliation.
 - Thus, **the existing ambiguity has created a lot of vagueness in the process of mediation**.

WHAT ARE THE LEGAL PROVISIONS RELATED TO MEDIATION?

- Mediation in India is primarily governed by two legislative acts viz. the **CPC 1908** and the **Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (ACA)**.
- There are many other statutory provisions that make mediation a compulsory prerequisite to filing a suit in court. Some of these statutes are:
 - **Industrial Disputes Act, 1947**
 - **Companies Act, 2013**
 - **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006**
 - **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955**
 - **Special Marriage Act, 1954**
 - **Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016**
 - **Commercial Courts Act, 2015**
 - **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**

WAY FORWARD

- The **Covid-19 pandemic** has increased the prominence of mediation as a means for dispute resolution. **The plethora of cases initiated by the pandemic warrants a swift and effective redressal and mediation can be the perfect solution.**
- However, there are a lot of challenges that restrict the effectiveness of mediation. The **existing framework of having different mediation rules for different High Courts has further contributed to the element of uncertainty** in the mediation process.
- Thus, the most important step towards recognizing mediation as an effective tool for resolution would be to **enact a statute solely for mediation.**
 - **Mediation Bill, 2021** should be passed with all necessary inputs from all the stakeholders as soon as possible.
- The statute should strive towards **addressing the concerns of enforcement and quality control.**
- However, care and precaution should be taken to ensure that the **legislation does not intrude into the autonomy of the parties engaging in mediation.**
- The enactment should **supplement the flexible nature of mediation and should help in standardising the procedures involved in mediation.**
- Further, attempts should be made to promote mediation by making it a **mandatory step before litigation.**

Source: TH

MULLAPERIYAR DAM ISSUE AND DAM SAFETY ACT

GS Paper - 1 - Water Resources - GS Paper - 3 - Disaster Management - Infrastructure



WHY IN NEWS?

Recently, the **Supreme Court** ordered the reconstitution of the **Mullaperiyar dam's supervisory committee**.

- The committee will include **one technical expert each from Tamil Nadu and Kerala**, the two States involved in the dispute concerning safety of the dam.

WHAT WAS THE SUPREME COURT RULING?

- The court has **empowered the panel with functions and powers** on par with that of the **National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA)**.
 - NDSA is a body envisaged under the **Dam Safety Act, 2021**.
- For any act of failure, “appropriate action” will be taken against the persons concerned not only for having violated the directions of the court but also under the Act
 - The act **talks of one year imprisonment or fine or both for refusal** to comply with directions of bodies formed under the law.
- As per the Supreme Court latest order, the **two States are expected to nominate, within two weeks**, one representative each to the supervisory committee, in addition to one nominee each.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE MULLAPERIYAR DAM?

- The Mullaperiyar, a **126-year-old dam**, is located on the **confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar rivers** in Kerala's Idukki district.
- The dam stands at the height of 53.66 metres and 365.85 metres in length.
- The **dam** is owned, operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu.
 - **Tamil Nadu maintained it for several purposes**, including irrigation, drinking water supply and hydro-power generation.

WHAT ARE THE KEY HIGHLIGHTS ABOUT PERIYAR RIVER?

- The Periyar River is the **longest river in the state of Kerala** with a length of 244 km.
- It is also known as '**Lifeline of Kerala**' as it is one of the few perennial rivers in the state.
- Periyar River originates from **Sivagiri hills of Western Ghats**, in Tamil Nadu and flows through the Periyar National Park.
- The **main tributaries** of Periyar are Muthirapuzha, **Mullayar**, Cheruthoni, Perinjankutti.

WHAT IS THE DISPUTE?

- In late 1979, after the eruption of the controversy over the structural stability of the dam, it was **decided at a tripartite meeting** chaired by K. C. Thomas, the then Chairman of the **Central Water Commission** that **the water level be lowered to 136 feet** against the full reservoir level of 152 feet so that Tamil Nadu could take up strengthening measures.
- In 2006 and 2014 the **Supreme Court held that the water level be raised to 142 feet**, up to which Tamil Nadu stored water even last year (2021).
- The court's judgment of 2014 also **provided for the formation of the supervisory committee** and the completion of the remaining work by Tamil Nadu.
 - But, **there has been no end to litigation over the dam** with Kerala witnessing **landslides** in recent years.
- Though **there had been no reports of landslides in the vicinity of the dam site**, the events in other parts of the **State led to a renewed campaign against the dam**.
- The Kerala government **proposed that the existing dam be decommissioned** and a fresh one be built
 - These **options are not completely acceptable to Tamil Nadu** which wants to complete the remaining strengthening work and restore the level to 152 feet.

WHY IS THE DAM SAFETY ACT?

- **About:**
 - The Dam Safety Act, 2021 came into **force in December 2021**.
 - The act is **aimed at addressing the long-felt need for addressing issues** concerning the safety of major dams all over the country.
 - It **provides for surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of certain dams** for prevention of disasters related to dam failure, apart from institutional mechanisms to ensure their safe functioning.

- The Act covers those dams having a height of over 15m and between 10m and 15m with certain stipulations.
- **Create two National Institutions:**
 - **National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS):** It seeks to **evolve dam safety policies** and recommend necessary regulations, and the
 - **National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA):** It seeks to **implement policies and address unresolved issues** between the two States. The NDSA will be the regulatory body.
- **Create two State Level Institutions:**
 - The legislation also envisages the formation of **State Dam Safety Organisations and State Committees on Dam Safety.**
 - **Dam owners will be held responsible** for the construction, operation, maintenance, and supervision of dams.

HOW DOES THE DAM SAFETY ACT AFFECT MULLAPERIYAR?

- Since the act provides that the **NDSA will perform the role of the State Dam Safety Organisation for a dam located in one State and used by another**, the Mullaperiyar dam, strictly speaking, comes under the purview of the NDSA.
- Besides, the Supreme Court, which has been hearing petition after petition after its judgment in 2014, **mooted the idea of extending the powers of its supervisory committee** to take over charge of the safety and maintenance of the structure.

Source:TH

ENHANCED PINAKA MK-I ROCKET SYSTEM (EPRS)

GS Paper - 3 - Defence Technology



WHY IN NEWS?

The **Enhanced Pinaka Mk-I Rocket System (EPRS)** was successfully test fired in the Pokhran range in Rajasthan.

- As part of the same set of trials, the **Area Denial Munition (ADM)** was also successfully tested.
- The tests also **validated the performance of different variants of munitions and fuzes** that can be used in the Pinaka rocket system.
- ADMs are a **category of ammunition used to prohibit the adversary from occupying or passing through a particular area.**

WHAT IS EPRS?

- The EPRS is the upgraded version of the Pinaka variant that has been in service with the Indian Army for the last decade.
 - The design and development has been carried out by Pune-based **DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation)** laboratories - **Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE)** and **High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL)**.
- The upgrades include advanced technologies enhancing the range to meet the emerging requirements of the battlefield.
- While the **Mark-1 has a range of 38 km, the enhanced version of Mark-1 tested in the last fortnight has a range of 45 km** with some key additional features.
- The new incarnation of **pinaka represents one of the few examples of an evolutionary process** being followed with an indigenous Indian weapon system.

WHAT IS PINAKA?

○ **About:**

- The Pinaka rocket system is a **multi-barrel rocket system, which is** named after Lord Shiva's bow.
 - It is developed by Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).
- The development of the Pinaka was started by the DRDO in the late 1980s as an alternative to the Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher systems of **Russian make called the 'Grad', which are still in use by some regiments.**
- After successful tests of Pinaka Mark-1 in late 1990, it was **first used in the battlefield during the Kargil war of 1999, quite successfully. Subsequently, multiple regiments of the system came up in the 2000s.**

○ **Features:**

- It can fire a salvo of **12 rockets over a period of 44 seconds.**
- One battery of the Pinaka system consists of six launch vehicles, accompanied by loader systems, **radar** and links with network-based systems and a command post. **One battery can neutralise an area of 1 km by 1 km.**
 - As a key tactic of **long-range artillery battle**, the launchers have to 'shoot and scoot' to **ensure they themselves do not become the targets, especially being detectable due to its back blast.**

○ **Multiple Variants:**

- DRDO has also developed and **successfully tested the Mk-II and guided variants of the Pinaka, which has a range of around 60 km**, while the Guided Pinaka system has a range of 75 km and has integrated navigation, control and guidance system to improve the end accuracy and enhance the range.
- The navigation system of the Guided Pinaka missile is also aided by the **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).**

Source:PIB