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Institute of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



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53/1, Upper Ground Floor, Bada Bazar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi -110060

www.tathastuics.com

9560300770, 9560300554

enquiry@tathastuics.com



S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	UNITY IN DIVERSITY
2.	PRELIMS POINTERS

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

SOURCE: [THE INDIAN EXPRESS](#)

TAG: *GS Paper I Indian Society, Social Issues*

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said there was no place for divisions in India's mantra of unity in diversity and that "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" was a spiritual belief.**

WHAT IS UNITY IN DIVERSITY

- ❖ The term '**diversity**' emphasizes **differences** rather than inequalities. It means collective differences, that is, differences which mark off one group of people from another. These differences may be of any sort: **biological, religious, linguistic etc.**
- ❖ Thus, diversity means variety of races, of religions, of languages, of castes and of cultures. **Unity means integration.** It is a social psychological condition.
- ❖ It connotes a sense of one-ness, a sense of we-ness. It stands for the bonds, which hold the members of a society together.
- ❖ **Unity in diversity essentially means "unity without uniformity" and "diversity without fragmentation"**. It is based on the notion that diversity enriches human interaction.

VARIOUS FORMS OF DIVERSITY IN INDIA:

- ❖ **Religious diversity:**
 - ☞ India is a land of multiple religions. Apart from the tribal societies, many of whom still live in the pre-religious state of animism and magic, the Indian population consists of the Hindus (82.41%), Muslims (11.6%), Christians (2.32%), Sikhs (1.99%), Buddhists (0.77%) and Jains (0.41%).
- ❖ **Linguistic diversity:**
 - ☞ Languages spoken in India belong to several language families, the major ones being the Indo-Aryan languages spoken by 75% of Indians and the Dravidian languages spoken by 20% of Indians. Other languages belong to the Austroasiatic, Sino-Tibetan, Tai-Kadai, and a few other minor language families and isolates.
 - ☞ India has the **world's second highest number of languages, after Papua New Guinea.**
- ❖ **Racial diversity:**
 - ☞ 1931 census classified India's racial diversity in the following groups- The Negrito, The Proto-Australoid, The Mongoloid, The Mediterranean, The Western Brachycephals and the Nordic.





- ☞ Representatives of all the three major races of the world, namely Caucasoid, Mongoloid, and Negroid, are found in the country.
- ❖ **Caste diversity:**
 - ☞ India is a **country of castes**. The term caste has been used to refer to both varna as well as jati. **Varna is the four-fold division** of society according to functional differentiation. Thus, the four varnas include **Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras and an outcaste group**.
 - ☞ Jati refers to a hereditary endogamous status group practicing a specific traditional occupation. There are more than 3000 jatis and there is no one all India system of ranking them in order and status. The jati system is not static and there is mobility in the system, through which jatis have changed their position over years.
 - ☞ Cultural patterns reflect regional variations. Because of population diversity, there is immense variety in Indian culture as it is a blend of various cultures. Different religion, castes, regions follow their own tradition and culture. Thus, there is variation in art, architecture, dance forms, theatre forms, music etc.
- ❖ **Geographical diversity:**
 - ☞ Spanning across an area of 3.28 million square kilometre, India is a vast country with great diversity of physical features like dry deserts, evergreen forests, lofty mountains, perennial and non-perennial river systems, long coasts and fertile plains.
 - ☞ In addition to the above described major forms of diversity, India also has diversity of many other types like that of settlement patterns – tribal, rural, urban; marriage and kinship patterns along religious and regional lines and so on.

FACTORS LEADING TO UNITY AMIDST DIVERSITY IN INDIA

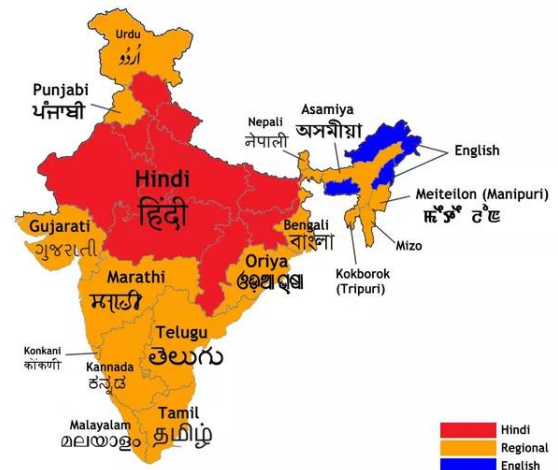
- ❖ **Constitutional Identity:**
 - ☞ The entire country is governed by **one single Constitution**. Even, most of the states follow a generalized scheme of **3-tier government structure**, thus imparting uniformity in national governance framework. Further, the Constitution guarantees certain fundamental rights to all citizens regardless of their age, gender, class, caste, religion, etc.
- ❖ **Religious co-existence:**
 - ☞ Religion tolerance is the unique feature of religions in India due to which multiple religions co-exist in India. **Freedom of religion and religious practice** is guaranteed by the Constitution itself. Moreover, there is no state religion and all religions are given equal preference by the state.
- ❖ **Inter-State mobility:**
 - ☞ The Constitution guarantees freedom to move throughout the territory of India under **Article 19 (1) (d)**, thus promoting a sense of unity and brotherhood among the masses. Other factors such as **uniform pattern of law, penal code, and administrative works (eg. All India services) too lead to uniformity in the criminal justice system, policy implementation etc.**
- ❖ **Economic integration:**
 - ☞ The Constitution of India secures the freedom of Trade, Commerce and Intercourse within the Territory of India under **Article 301**. Further, the **Goods and Service Tax(GST)** have paved way for '**one country, one tax, one national market**', thus facilitating unity among different regions.
- ❖ **Institution of pilgrimage and religious practices:**
 - ☞ In India, religion and spirituality have great significance. From Badrinath and Kedarnath in the north to Rameshwaram in the south, Jagannath Puri in the east to Dwaraka in the west the religious shrines and holy rivers are spread throughout the length and breadth of the country.
 - ☞ Closely related to them is the age-old culture of pilgrimage, which has always moved people to various parts of the country and fostered in them a sense of geo-cultural unity.
- ❖ **Fairs and festivals:**



- ☞ They also act as integrating factors as people from all parts of the country celebrate them as per their own local customs. Eg. Diwali is celebrated throughout by Hindus in the country; similarly Eid and Christmas are celebrated by Muslims and Christians, respectively. Celebration of inter-religious festivals is also seen in India.
- ❖ **Climatic integration via monsoon:**
 - ☞ The flora and fauna in the entire Indian subcontinent, agricultural practices, life of people, including their festivities revolve around the monsoon season in India.
- ❖ **Sports and Cinema:**
 - ☞ These are followed by millions in the country, thus, acting as a binding force across the length and breadth of India.

FACTORS THAT THREATEN INDIA'S UNITY:

- ❖ **Regionalism:**
 - ☞ Regionalism tends to highlight interests of a particular region/regions over national interests. It can also adversely impact national integration. Law and order situation is hampered due to regional demands and ensuing agitation
- ❖ **Divisive politics:**
 - ☞ Sometimes, ascriptive identities such as caste, religion etc. are evoked by politicians in order to garner votes. This type of divisive politics can result in violence, feeling of mistrust and suspicion among minorities.
- ❖ **Development imbalance:**
 - ☞ Uneven pattern of socio-economic development, inadequate economic policies and consequent economic disparities can lead to backwardness of a region.
 - ☞ Consequently, this can result in violence, kick start waves of migration and even accelerate demands of separatism. For instance, due to economic backwardness of the North East regions several instances of separatist demands and secessionist tendencies have sprung up in the region.
- ❖ **Ethnic differentiation and nativism:**
 - ☞ Ethnic differentiation has often led to clashes between different ethnic groups especially due to factors such as job competition, limited resources, threat to identity etc. E.g. frequent clashes between Bodos and Bengali speaking Muslims in Assam. This has been accentuated by son of the soil doctrine, which ties people to their place of birth and confers some benefits, rights, roles and responsibilities on them, which may not apply to others.
- ❖ **Geographical isolation:**
 - ☞ Geographical isolation too can lead to identity issues and separatist demands. The North-East is geographically isolated from the rest of the country as it is connected with the rest of the country by a narrow corridor i.e the **Siliguri corridor**. The region has inadequate infrastructure, is more backward economically as compared to the rest of the country. As a result, it has witnessed several instances of separatism and cross-border terrorism, among others.
- ❖ **Inter-religious conflicts:**
 - ☞ Inter-religious conflicts not only hamper relations between two communities by spreading fear and mistrust but also hinder the secular fabric of the country.
- ❖ **Inter-state conflicts:**
 - ☞ This can lead emergence of feelings related to regionalism. It can also affect trade and communications between conflicting states. For instance, Cauvery river dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.



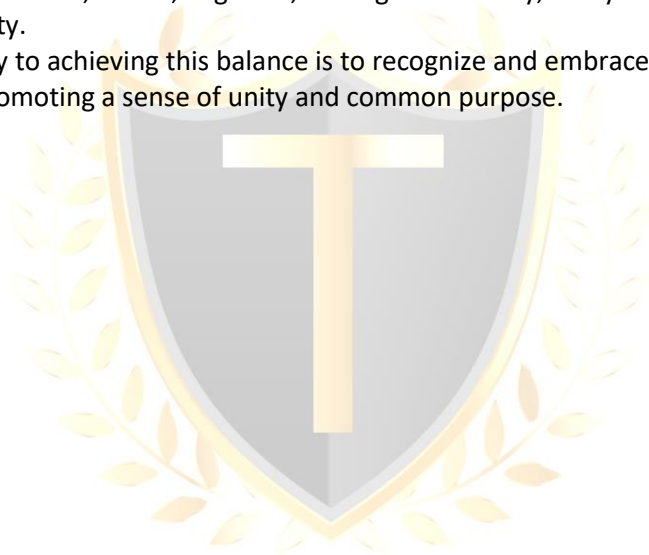


Sometimes external factors such as foreign organizations terrorist groups, extremist groups can incite violence and sow feelings of separatism. E.g. **Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)** has been accused of supporting and training mujahideen to fight in Jammu and Kashmir and sow separatist tendencies among resident groups.

In spite of the challenges posed by diversity, there can be no doubt on the role played by sociocultural diversity in sustaining and developing Indian society. Problem is not of diversity per se, but the handling of diversity in India society. The problems of regionalism, communalism, ethnic conflicts etc. have arisen because the fruits of development haven't been distributed equally or the cultures of some groups haven't been accorded due recognition.

WAY FORWARD


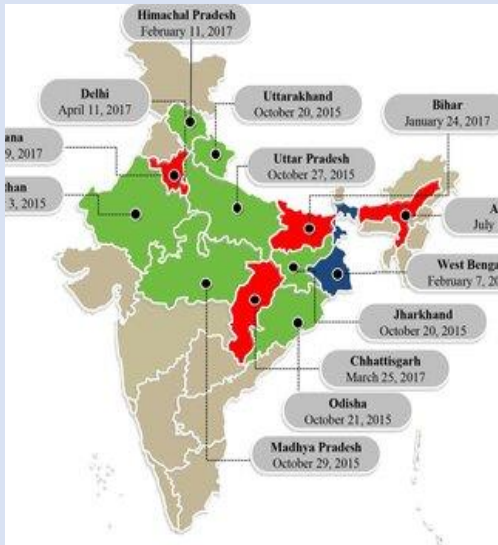
- ❖ To strike a balance between unity and diversity in India, it is essential to acknowledge and appreciate the differences among various groups while promoting a sense of togetherness, trust, and solidarity.
- ❖ It is crucial to refrain from attempting to assimilate or be assimilated into other cultures, but instead, show respect for the unique identities of each group.
- ❖ The process of balancing diversity with unity is an ongoing one, and it is essential to cultivate multiple identities.
- ❖ Regardless of one's racial, ethnic, linguistic, or religious identity, every citizen of India should prioritize their Indian identity.
- ❖ Ultimately, the key to achieving this balance is to recognize and embrace the differences while simultaneously promoting a sense of unity and common purpose.





PRELIMS POINTERS:

9th February, 2024

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
KILKARI SCHEME	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>The Kilkari Scheme, a mobile-based initiative under India's Digital India program, has gained attention as it expands its reach to Maharashtra and Gujarat, offering free, weekly audio messages on pregnancy, childbirth, and childcare to new and expectant mothers.</i> <p>ABOUT THE KILKARI PROGRAMME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Initiative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Kilkari is a <i>free mobile health service</i> launched by <i>India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.</i> ❖ Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ It sends <i>important health information</i> to pregnant women and <i>new mothers through phone calls.</i>  <p>KEY FEATURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Timed Messages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Sends weekly messages from the <i>second trimester until the child is one year old.</i> ❖ Languages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Messages are <i>available in different Indian languages.</i> ❖ Integrated with RCH Portal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Linked with a <i>central health portal for accurate messaging.</i> <p>CURRENT REACH AND FUTURE PLANS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Current Reach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Available in <i>18 states/UTs, expanding to all of India by 2025.</i> ❖ Expansion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Starting in <i>nine more states/UTs.</i> <p>KEY IMPACT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Health Improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Helps improve <i>institutional births, vaccination rates,</i> and feeding practices. ❖ State-wise Roll Out and Reach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ <i>Started in 2019, delivered over 13.5 crore messages,</i> successfully running in <i>Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.</i> ❖ Performance Analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Notable improvements observed, like a <i>5% increase in hospital births, over 15% more fully vaccinated children,</i> and an <i>over 8% rise in exclusive breastfeeding rates.</i> ❖ Key Outcomes: 



NYAYA BANDHU PROGRAMME: PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES

- ☛ Integrated with the national health portal, available in various languages, and showing measurable **improvements, Kilkari is a sustainable model addressing maternal health** goals and pregnancy-related issues nationwide.

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The Nyaya Bandhu Programme is in the news because it highlights the government's initiative to provide pro bono legal services and promote a culture of free legal assistance in India.*

ABOUT PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMME & NYAYA BANDHU APP

❖ **Launch and Objective:**

- ☛ Pro Bono Legal Services Programme **initiated in April 2017** by the Department of Justice.
- ☛ Aims to enhance "access to justice" for marginalized sections and fulfill the constitutional obligation of providing "free legal aid."



❖ **Nyaya Bandhu App:**

- ☛ Facilitates connection between marginalized individuals ("Applicants") and volunteered "Advocates" via mobile application.
- ☛ Seeks to promote a pro bono culture and recognize lawyers for their voluntary service.

PRO BONO CLUB SCHEME:

- ☛ Integrates law schools and students **to strengthen the pro bono programme.**
- ☛ **Selected law students (Pro Bono Associates) participate** in Pro Bono clubs for various activities.
- ❖ **Key Objectives of Pro Bono Clubs:**
 - ☛ **Enhance efficiency and quality of pro bono legal services.**
 - ☛ Instill social responsibility in law students towards community service.
- ❖ **Activities of Pro Bono Clubs:**
 - ☛ Pro Bono Litigation Assistance, **Community Care Legal Assistance**, Research, Documentation & **Reporting, and Promotion of Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism.**
- ❖ **Pro Bono Panels:**
 - ☛ Established in **each High Court to strengthen the Nyaya Bandhu network.**
 - ☛ Integrated within the **institutional framework of the justice system in India.**

KALADAN MULTI-MODAL TRANSIT TRANSPORT PROJECT (KMTTP)

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) has faced a significant setback after the rebel Arakan Army (AA) captured the Paletwa township in Myanmar, disrupting crucial connectivity plans between the ports of Kolkata and Sittwe.*

ABOUT THE KALADAN PROJECT

❖ **Joint Initiative:**

- ☛ Identified jointly by India and Myanmar to establish a multi-modal transport system for cargo shipment from eastern Indian ports to Myanmar and the North-Eastern part of India via Myanmar.



❖ **Connectivity:**

- ☛ The project aims to connect Kolkata seaport in India to Sittwe seaport in Myanmar via sea routes.
- ☛ From Sittwe, it will extend to Paletwa in Chin State through the Kaladan river route, and then by road to Mizoram state in Northeast India.
- ☛ Paletwa is located less than 20 km from the Bangladesh border.



❖ **Project Components:**

- ☛ Establishing sea connectivity between Kolkata and Sittwe.
- ☛ Connecting Sittwe seaport to Paletwa via the Kaladan river route.
- ☛ Extending the route from Paletwa to Mizoram state in India through road infrastructure.

❖ **Significance:**

- ☛ Reduces the distance from Kolkata to Sittwe by approximately 1,328 km, bypassing the narrow Siliguri corridor.
- ☛ Provides an alternative route to transport goods, easing pressure on the Siliguri Corridor.
- ☛ Enhances strategic links to the North-East, fostering economic development and trade.
- ☛ Strengthens land connectivity, integrating economic development in the Northeast with that of Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- ☛ Expands India's strategic presence in East Asia and its immediate neighbourhood.

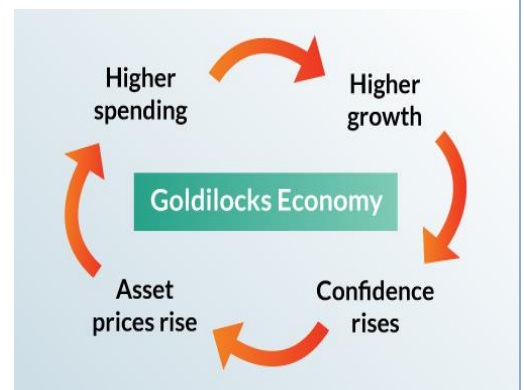
GOLDILOCKS ECONOMY

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ Recently, the *interim Union Budget and the monetary policy* have put in a framework for a **Goldilocks phase** of steady growth and moderate inflation for the Indian economy.

ABOUT THE GOLDILOCKS ECONOMY

- ❖ **Ideal State:** Economy not too hot or too cold, but just right, with full employment, stability, and steady growth.
- ❖ **Characteristics:** Balance between growth, employment, and inflation.
- ❖ **Indicators:** Low unemployment, asset price inflation, market interest rates, and inflation.
- ❖ **Maintaining Balance:** Achieved through fiscal spending, taxes, and central bank policies.
- ❖ **Transient Nature:** Subject to boom and bust cycles, temporary state.





KYASANUR FOREST DISEASE

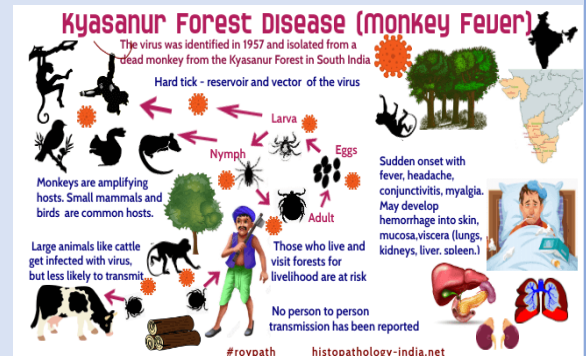
- ❖ **Investor Perspective:** Ideal for stocks and **fixed-income investments** due to positive earnings growth.
- ❖ **Challenges:** Requires coordination of various factors, **including economic conditions abroad.**
- ❖ **Impact on Investing:** Stocks perform well, but **overheating can lead to asset overvaluation and eventual economic slowdown.**

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ **The Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), also known as monkey fever, has recently made headlines due to two reported deaths in Karnataka since the beginning of the year, bringing attention to the increasing cases in the Malnad region.**

ABOUT KYASANUR FOREST DISEASE (KFD)

- ❖ **Discovery:**
 - ☛ Identified in **1957 in Karnataka State, India, after monkeys fell ill in the Kyasanur Forest region.**
- ❖ **Transmission:**
 - ☛ Spread through **tick bites or contact with infected animals, particularly monkeys.**
- ❖ **Symptoms:**
 - ☛ Include **fever, headache, muscle pain, vomiting, gastrointestinal issues, and bleeding.**
- ❖ **Diagnosis:**
 - ☛ Challenging and requires laboratory testing, with outbreaks **mostly occurring in rural and forested areas.**
- ❖ **Point-of-Care Testing:**
 - ☛ Developed by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** to aid in on-site sample processing, facilitating timely **diagnosis and patient management in remote regions.**



PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ **The implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) is in the news, highlighting its role in creating modern infrastructure and efficient supply chain management in the food processing sector.**

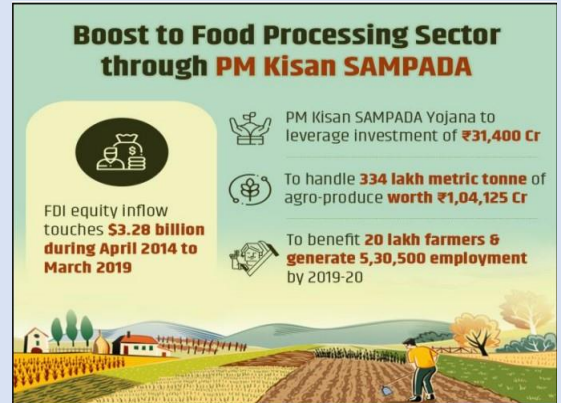
ABOUT PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA

- ❖ **Launch and Objective:**
 - ☛ Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) **initiated by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) since 2017-18.**
 - ☛ **Aims to create modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.**
- ❖ **Comprehensive Package:**
 - ☛ PMKSY comprises various **component schemes to boost the growth of the food processing sector.**



**AIRBUS'S A220
DOOR
MANUFACTURING
UNDER 'MAKE IN
INDIA'**

- ☛ Focuses on **providing better prices to farmers, creating rural employment, reducing wastage, increasing processing level, and enhancing export of processed foods.**
- ❖ **Project Approval and Completion:**
 - ☛ Over the last three years (2020-21 to 2023-24), 540 projects approved and 399 completed under PMKSY.
 - ☛ Resulted in the **creation of 86.06 LMT processing and 22.63 LMT preservation capacities.**
- ❖ **Employment Generation:**
 - ☛ Total of **1,78,781 employment opportunities** generated during the mentioned period.
- ❖ **Sub-Schemes and Financial Assistance:**
 - ☛ Financial assistance provided under **sub-schemes like Operation Greens Scheme, Integrated Cold Chain & Value Addition Infrastructure Scheme, and Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities Scheme.**
 - ☛ **Grants-in-aid offered for setting up food processing projects to reduce produce wastage and increase processing percentage in the country.**



WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The **unveiling of Airbus's A220 door manufacturing in India, in collaboration with Dynamic Technologies, marks a significant milestone in the country's aerospace sector under the 'Make in India' initiative.***

ABOUT AIRBUS 220 PLANES

- ❖ **Airbus-Dynamic Contract:**
 - ☛ **Airbus awards Dynamic Technologies, an Indian firm, a contract to manufacture doors for A220 planes, supporting 'Make in India' initiative.**
 - ☛ **Dynamic to produce cargo, passenger, and service doors, along with emergency exit doors, creating opportunities for Indian suppliers.**
- ❖ **Significance for India:**
 - ☛ Contract highlights **India's emergence as an aerospace manufacturing destination.**
 - ☛ Reflects **India's potential as a strategic resource hub, with plans to increase procurement to USD 1.5 billion.**
- ❖ **Expansion Plans:**
 - ☛ Airbus aims to expand **industrial footprint in India, including aircraft assembly and component manufacturing.**





☛ Contract brings complete **aircraft door-making technology** to India's aerospace ecosystem.

❖ **Implications for Indian Aviation:**

- ☛ Contract addresses **India's fast-growing civil aviation market**, with large orders from carriers like IndiGo.
- ☛ Contract contributes to growth and **employment dividends for India, aligning with 'Make in India' initiative.**

