



## Forest Rights Act

### Relevancy

- ✓ G.S. Paper 2
- ✓ About Forest Rights act and recent issue related
- ✓ Importance of FRA

### Recently:

- ❖ On March 12, about 50,000 farmers protest march in Mumbai.
- ❖ A majority of these farmers were Adivasis and one of their demands was the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and through it, their land rights.

### What is FRA?

- The Forest Rights Act (FRA) was enacted in 2006.
- Its aim is to protect the claims of tribal communities over tracts of land or forests they have inhabited and cultivated for generations.
- It has the potential to democratize forest governance by recognizing community forest resource rights over an estimated 85.6 million acres, thereby empowering over 200 million forest dwellers in over 1,70,000 villages.

### What is the issue?

- FRA's future is uncertainly balanced between the democratic control and protection of forests on the one hand and greedy corporations backed by an unscrupulous political class on the other.
- It has become the site of a deep conflict.

### What needs to be understood?

- It is important to understand what is at stake with the FRA.
- The FRA has two distinct features.
- First, it seeks to restore individual and/or community rights of forest dwellers over land and forest resources.
- These rights include title rights, user rights, forest management rights and relief and development rights.
- Second, it devolves power to village-level gram sabhas to contest and exclude the alienation of land in the Scheduled areas.

### Why FRA is important?

- FRA enables village and tribal communities in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tripura to veto the land-acquisitions claims of corporations and state governments.
- It expands the mandate of the Fifth and the Sixth Schedules of the Constitution that protect the claims of indigenous communities over tracts of land or forests they inhabit.
- It thus gives jurisdiction to a different practice of “belonging”, where the person and his/her land — the part and the whole — become indistinguishable.
- Such demands for forest rights are a call for upholding local practices of belonging.
- We need to move away from a discourse of governance that thrives on creating internal colonies and fosters subject hood rather than citizenship.



**BrainyIAS**  
Key to Crack IAS

Write answer on [brainyias.com](http://brainyias.com)  
Write in real time conditions  
Get your answer evaluated by experts.  
Artificial intelligence embedded software.  
Evaluation of 6 parameters.



## Integrated Scheme for School Education

### Relevancy:

- ✓ GS Prelims, GS Mains paper I, II
- ✓ Schemes and policies of the government, Education, Integrated Scheme for School Education

### Recently:

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal of Department of School Education and Literacy to formulate an Integrated Scheme on School Education by subsuming Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE) from 1st April, 2018 to 31st March, 2020.
- ❖ An estimated allocation of Rs 75,000 crore over the period has been approved which is a 20% increase over the current allocations.

### Background:

- The scheme comes in the backdrop of PM's vision of Sabko Shiksha, Achhi Shiksha and aims to support the States in universalizing access to school education from classes pre-nursery to XII across the country.

### Salient Features of the Scheme:

- The vision of the Scheme is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education from nursery to senior secondary stage in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal for Education.
- The main emphasis of the Integrated Scheme is on improving quality of school education by focussing on the two T's - Teacher and Technology.

### The objectives of the Scheme, across all levels of schooling, are:

- Provision of quality education and enhancing learning outcomes of students;
- Bridging Social and Gender Gaps in School Education;
- Ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels of school education;
- Ensuring minimum standards in schooling provisions;
- Promoting vocationalization of education;
- Support States in implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009; and
- Strengthening and up-gradation of State Councils for Educational Research and Training (SCERTs)/State Institutes of Education and District Institutes for Education and Training (DIET) as nodal agencies for teacher training.

### Impact:

- The Scheme gives flexibility to the States and UTs to plan and prioritize their interventions within the scheme norms and the overall resource envelope available to them.
- It will help improve the transition rates across the various levels of school education and aid in promoting universal access to children to complete school education.
- The Scheme, by providing quality education, aims to equip the children with varied skills and knowledge essential for their holistic development and prepare them for the world of work or higher education in the future.
- It would lead to an optimal utilization of budgetary allocations and effective use of human resources and institutional structures created for the erstwhile Schemes.

### Benefits:

- Holistic approach to education
- Inclusion of senior secondary levels and pre-school levels in support for School education for the first time
- An integrated administration looking at 'school' as a continuum
- 4. Focus on Quality of Education- Emphasis on improvement of Learning Outcomes
- Enhanced Capacity Building of Teachers
- Focus on strengthening Teacher Education Institutions like SCERTs and DIETs to improve the quality of teacher training



# BRAINY IAS

- Enhanced use of digital technology in education through smart classrooms, digital boards and DTK channels
- Specific provision for Swachhta activities - support 'Swachh Vidyalaya'
- Improve the Quality of Infrastructure in Government Schools
- Enhanced Commitment to 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'- Upgradation of KGBVs from class VI -VIII to upto class XII
- Emphasis on 'Kaushal Vikas' in schools
- Support 'Khelo India' - provision for sports and physical equipment
- Preference to Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs), LWEs, Special Focus Districts (SFDs), Border areas and the 115 aspirational districts

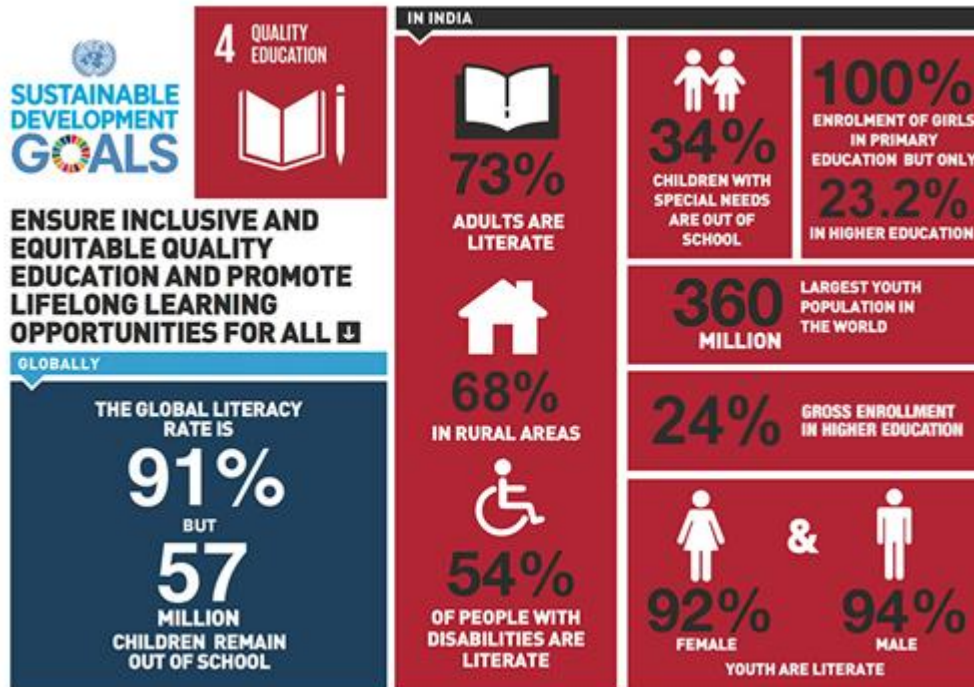


Figure: Goal 4 of Sustainable Development Goals of the UN - Education



**BrainyIAS**  
Key to Crack IAS

Write answer on [brainyias.com](http://brainyias.com)  
Write in real time conditions  
Get your answer evaluated by experts.  
Artificial intelligence embedded software.  
Evaluation of 6 parameters.



## Potential of Inland Water Transport

### Relevancy:

- ✓ GS Prelims, GS Mains paper III, Optionals- Economy, Geography
- ✓ Economy, Infrastructure, Inland Water Transport (IWT), PPP in IWT, Policy interventions required in IWT

### Recently:

- ❖ Lok Sabha just passed an amendment to the Central Road Fund Act, 2000, proposing to allocate 2.5 per cent of the funds collected for development of waterways.

### Facts about IWT in India:

- India has nearly 14,500 km of navigable waterways, yet inland water transport (IWT) accounts for less than 1 per cent of its freight traffic, compared with approximately 35 per cent in Bangladesh and 20 per cent in Germany.
- Of late, the government has taken few steps in this direction. The Lok Sabha just passed an amendment to the Central Road Fund Act, 2000, proposing to allocate 2.5 per cent of the funds collected for development of waterways.
- The budget for next fiscal has allocated ₹ 228 crore to the sector and allowed the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to raise ₹ 1,000 crore from the capital market.
- But this is a meager some amount given that the sector's investment requirements are close to ₹ 90,000 crore over the next few years to develop navigable routes, connectivity infrastructure to and from hinterland, terminals, vessels and repairing facilities.
- So public private partnership (PPP) is the need of the hour.

### The case for IWT:

- The cost of transporting one tonne freight over 1 km by waterway is ₹ 1.19 compared with ₹ 2.28 and ₹ 1.41 by road and rail, respectively.
- And the cost of developing an inland waterway is barely 10 per cent of a four-lane highway of similar capacity.
- But given IWT's nascence, the government and IWAI need to work on two channels — development of A) physical infrastructure, and B) policy level interventions — to draw private players in.
- Physical infrastructure:
  - The government should focus on developing navigation, channel operation and maintenance, and external connectivity infrastructure.
  - Private players can undertake terminal development, cargo and passenger handling, and building low-draft vessels and related repair facilities.
- Policy interventions that should be taken in order to promote IWT:
  - Offer incentives, including tax subsidies, for transporting a portion of industry cargo through IWT.
  - The Government can mandate/incentivise industries in the proximity of national waterways to use this mode for a portion of their shipments. Public sector entities such as Food Corporation of India, power plants and refineries can be similarly mandated.
  - Higher road taxes can be levied on transportation of coal and inflammable material over longer distances because they are harmful to environment or pose a danger to those in proximity.
  - Many waterways run parallel to transportation corridors and urban centres. For synergy, the government can promote industrial corridors along riverbanks and foster waterways-based industrialisation. This will not only ensure captive IWT cargo, but also tackle erosion of riverbanks as industries will tend to protect the land allotted to them.
  - Capital dredging, along with different waterways, will also offer opportunities to reclaim land along riverbanks. In West Bengal and Assam, where land for industries is an issue, such reclamation can be an answer.
  - Promoting passenger transportation and tourism: In many States, there are ferry services on national waterways, but these are mostly unorganised country boats. E.g. in Kerala and



## BRAINY IAS

- Assam, waterways have huge tourism potential. The Centre and States need to join hands to package and market river tourism in a big way to trigger a virtuous cycle.
- Resolving the protocol route issue with Bangladesh: Indo-Bangladesh joint dredging projects in Sirajganj-Daikhawa (146 km) on river Yamuna and in the Ashuganj-Zakiganj stretch (309 km) on river Kushiara in Bangladesh have been long delayed. Completion of these projects will enable movement of larger vessels from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to Sadiya in Assam through Bangladesh, and crank up waterways cargo traffic.

**Q. Critically analyse the potential of Inland Water Transport (IWT) in India. In what way can the policy intervention by the government promote the IWT?**



**BrainyIAS**  
Key to Crack IAS

**Write answer on [brainyias.com](http://brainyias.com)  
Write in real time conditions  
Get your answer evaluated by experts.  
Artificial intelligence embedded software.  
Evaluation of 6 parameters.**



## Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan and its achievements

### Relevancy

- ✓ G.S. Paper 2, Prelims
- ✓ About RUSA, its beginning
- ✓ The governance reforms central to the scheme
- ✓ Achievements of RUSA

### Recently:

- ❖ The budget for Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan is increased 4 times, and the second phase of the scheme is also approved.
- ❖ For the current year, Rs. 1,300 crore has been provided and funding has been made conditional to the performance.

### RUSA is:-

- Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 2013.
- Its aim was to increase enrolment in higher education by 30%.
- It primarily provides strategic funding to eligible State higher educational institutions.

### Why RUSA was introduced?

- India is estimated to have over 800 universities, with over 40,000 colleges affiliated to them.
- The Centre's slant toward premier institutions has continued ever since the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12).
- Central Fund - Presently, less than 6% of students study in about 150 Centrally-funded institutions.
- But they corner almost the entire funding by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).
- The funding is mainly directed towards starting more IITs, IIMs and Central universities.
- State Institutions - About 94% of students of higher education study in 369 State universities.
- In spite of a nine-fold increase in Budget allocation, State institutions have been left to fend for themselves.
- To make things worse, investment by State governments has been dwindling each year as higher education is a low-priority area.
- The University Grant Commission's system of direct releases to State institutions, bypassing State governments, also leads to their sense of alienation.
- Thus, despite being the face of higher education in India, State institutions do not get their due share.
- It was to address these critical concerns that the MHRD launched RUSA.

### How does it work?

- RUSA is not imposed on State governments in a one-size-fits all manner unlike other schemes.
- Under RUSA, states and institutions have to give an undertaking expressing their willingness to the idea of reform.
- They should also agree to meet the States' share of the cost.
- Accordingly, preparatory grants will be released to States to have the required systems, processes, and the technical support in place.
- The scheme is largely based on the conditional release of funds.
- It is linked to reforms in the key areas of governance, learning-teaching outcomes, reaching out to the unreached and infrastructure support.

### What are the governance reforms central to the scheme?

- State Higher Education Councils (SHECs) which have eminent academics, industrialists and other experts have been created.
- They play a major role, from an academic and professional point of view.
- They formulate the medium- and long-term State perspective plans.
- State has to give its commitment to creating a search-cum-select committee.
- This is to avoid arbitrariness in the selection of vice-chancellors.
- Mitigating the bane of the affiliation system is also a major objective.



# BRAINY IAS

- This is achieved through a reduction in the number of colleges affiliated per university.
- This is done by creating cluster universities and promoting autonomous colleges.
- An important precondition is the filling up of faculty positions and lifting the ban on recruitment (as in some States).

Other efforts to improve learning-teaching outcomes include:

- improving pedagogy by capacity-building of faculty
- selecting teachers in a transparent manner
- adopting accreditation as a mandatory quality-assurance framework
- implementing semester system
- involving academics of repute and distinction in decision-making processes

## What are the achievements of RUSA so far?

An independent performance review (of four years) of the scheme was done by IIT Bombay in 2017. It concluded that the funding linked to reforms has had a visible impact on higher education.

### GER improved

- Earlier when RUSA began, the gross enrolment ratio (GER) was 19.4%, faculty vacancies were at a high level of 60%, and a large number of universities were bloated with a teacher-student ratio of 1:24.
- Now GER is 25.2%, faculty vacancies are down to 35%, the ban on faculty recruitment by States has been lifted, and the teacher-student ratio is now 1:20.

### SHECs and governance reforms visible

- Several universities in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been right sized.
- Critical governance reforms such as the formation of the SHEC and merit-based appointments of vice-chancellors in Odisha, Goa, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu are visible.

### Improvement in accredited institutions

- There has been an improvement in the number of institutions accredited and their scores.
- In 2012, 106 State universities and 4,684 colleges were accredited.
- By 2017, an additional 145 State universities and 5,445 Colleges were accredited.

### In terms of its potential

- RUSA has reprioritized the country's needs, from funding only a few premier institutions to reaching out to institutions at the bottom of the pyramid.
- It has also changed the way regulators need to function.

### Letting go of government control is the key

- The litmus test of RUSA will be in how impartially the scheme is administered by the MHRD and the degree to which State governments allow the SHEC to function.
- Letting go of the governmental stranglehold over universities is linked to this.



Write answer on [brainyias.com](http://brainyias.com)  
Write in real time conditions  
Get your answer evaluated by experts.  
Artificial intelligence embedded software.  
Evaluation of 6 parameters.



## Supreme Court Decisions And Its Impact On The Economy

### Relevancy

- ✓ G.S. Paper 2
- ✓ Recent issue related to the country's GDP and employment
- ✓ Concerns regarding SC's decisions

### Recently:

- ❖ In recent times Judiciary has an adverse impact on the country's GDP and employment.
- ❖ To address this issue Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has called on the legal scholars and academicians to look into the impact of judicialisation of the economy, especially in cases where there is an adverse impact on the country's GDP and employment.

### What is the issue?

- The Constitution has always been a source of guidance while interpreting economic policy matters, but on several occasions the Supreme Court has not been able to keep pace with the changing policy regime.
- Recent examples involve:-
  - Affirming a stricter standard of patenting might impact innovation in the pharmaceutical industry.
  - An unconstitutional imposition of a tax can hit the automobile industry.
  - A ban on selling liquor near highways may affect the tourism industry.
  - The shock waves of the quashing of coal block allocations are still being felt throughout our banking system as well as power, metal, steel and mining industries.
- Many of these decisions by the SC were hailed as the apex court then were battling corruption that had gripped the country at the highest levels.

### What are the concerns with SC's decision?

- The government is bound by Constitutional diktats and if its actions violate Constitutional provisions, the Court can review such executive action and strike it down if necessary.
- However, when such executive action is being reviewed, the court cannot direct the government to follow a particular kind of economic policy.
- With regard to the coal it an integral part of industrial growth, then ignoring the economic impact of the cancellation of 214 out of 218 coal block licenses was undesirable and unacceptable.
- It is clear that Corruption or mala fides during the licensing process, proved beyond doubt, cannot be tolerated.
- But if SC cancels licenses only based on an apprehension of some wrongdoing the economy and people suffer
- Article 14 (equality before law and equal protection of law) of the Constitution is a safeguard against arbitrary government decision-making, but there are grave dangers if judiciary continues to traverse in alarmist path.

### What needs to be done?

- India is on the road of economic growth in such an environment it becomes the bounden duty of the Court to have the economic analysis and economic impacts of its decisions.
- The Supreme Court can't be insensitive to the potential economic impact that its decisions might have, especially when there is no statutory violation or the violation is, at most, of a technical character.
- Thus the court needs to avoid that particular outcome which has a potential to create an adverse effect on employment, growth of infrastructure or economy, or the revenue of the state.
- At the same time legal and economic professionals need to build the necessary theoretical framework for assisting the Supreme Court.





# BRAINY IAS



Write answer on [brainyias.com](http://brainyias.com)  
Write in real time conditions  
Get your answer evaluated by experts.  
Artificial intelligence embedded software.  
Evaluation of 6 parameters.



## WORLD HAPPINESS INDEX REPORT 2018

### Relevancy:

- ✓ GS Prelims, GS Mains paper I, IV
- ✓ Ethics and Integrity, World Happiness Index Report 2018

### Recently:

- ❖ World Happiness Index Report was released.

### Findings of the Report:

- Finland, Norway and Denmark bagged the first three positions.
- India is ranked terribly low (133 out of 156 countries) alongside some Sub-Saharan African countries, dropping 11 spots from last year.
- Most of the emerging economies — Mexico (24), Brazil (28), Argentina (29), Malaysia (35), Russia (59), China (86) — are placed far ahead of India. All the South Asian countries also ranked better compared to India.

### What are the Ingredients of Happiness?

- Besides measures of prosperity such as income and healthy life expectancy, the key variables that are used to ascertain happiness are generosity, having social support in times of trouble, and freedom to make life choices.
- Another important variable is trust, which is measured by the absence of corruption in business and government.

### ANALYSIS OF TRENDS IN HAPPINESS:

- On the ingredients of happiness:
  - There are internal and external factors. Income is helpful but not very important.
  - In most countries, less than 2% of the difference in happiness levels can be explained by income difference.
  - Relationships — human, family and personal — play a very critical role.
  - Having a job and how happy you are at work also impact happiness. People around you, too, have an impact.
  - Internal factors like physical and mental health are very important.
  - This is true about rich as well as poor countries and individuals.
  - Governments must seriously focus on tackling mental health issues.
- On age, gender and cultural effect on happiness
  - Research has not found much difference between genders.
  - Age does have an impact:
    - In richer countries, younger and older people are happier but those in middle years are not so.
    - In poorer countries, we have found happiness doesn't come back when they get old perhaps due to challenges of poor health.
  - Culture of a country is very important. Happiness is higher in societies that have higher levels of generosity and strong social bonds.
  - Countries where people support each other, have more freedom and society is less corrupt are happier.
- On money and happiness
  - Materialism and individualism aren't helping. Globally, as incomes have risen, happiness hasn't.
  - It is because of a breakdown of social factors. A sense of connection to families, to the wider society and community is critical.
  - Happiness in Scandinavian countries can also be credited to the egalitarian ethos there where people care for each other.
- On the role of religion:
  - Typically, religious people are happier than those without religion.
  - But it is also true that non-religious people with a wonder for life, having a sense of gratitude, too are happier.



## BRAINY IAS

- As people become more and more aware of modern science, their love for religious beliefs declines — this is a tendency throughout the world.
- On economic progress vs happiness:
  - Happiness from within is as important as from outside.
  - Pursuit of materialism, thinking that money can solve all problems, is a problem.
  - Comparing ourselves with others pushes up expectation levels.
  - Then, happiness is not so much dependent on reality but on expectations people have set. Preserving families ties, social fabric, improving consciousness in the society, tackling both physical and mental illnesses are important areas to focus on.
  - There are small countries like the UAE and Bhutan who do it.
  - Andhra Pradesh in India too plans to do it. It is only when you set a goal that you can align policies to meet them.
  - Public expenditure too should be looked at through this lens.

### REASONS OF AN UNHAPPY INDIA:

- Egalitarianism:
  - Despite being one of the fastest growing economies, India remains a non-egalitarian country, with burgeoning levels of economic inequality.
  - An Oxfam survey in 2017 has revealed that India's richest 1 per cent has cornered almost 73 per cent of the total wealth created in the country.
- Low public healthcare spending:
  - India's public health spending is well below the global average (just 1.4 per cent of GDP), leaving the deprived millions to pitiable public healthcare facilities.
  - Oddly enough, even the well-off Indian professional class, who can afford expensive private healthcare, are not guaranteed a long, healthy and happy life.
- Distrust of people in the state machinery:
  - Without doubt, India has failed in building a trustworthy social support system, helping people when they are in real trouble.
- Corruption:
  - It is proved over and over again that India's political system and business establishments are unable to manage big cash flows in a sustainable, responsible and transparent way.
  - Corrupt and fraudulent practices still hold the key as exemplified in the Nirav Modi episode and similar occurrences.
  - No further explanations are necessary as to why India's rank dropped in the latest global corruption perceptions index.

**Q. Trace out the reasons behind India's abysmal score on World Happiness Index Report, 2018?**



**BrainyIAS**  
Key to Crack IAS

**Write answer on brainyias.com**  
**Write in real time conditions**  
**Get your answer evaluated by experts.**  
**Artificial intelligence embedded software.**  
**Evaluation of 6 parameters.**