YOJANA SUMMARY

INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

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HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

Unique Features of Indian Knowledge

- Indian Knowledge represents a continuous flow of wisdom in the Indian subcontinent, aiming for holistic development by balancing materialistic and spiritual life.
- Its unique aspect lies in its foundation on tradition, which has been passed down through generations, making Indian civilisation the world's oldest living civilisation.
- Despite being rooted in tradition, Indian Knowledge has continuously evolved through reforms.

The Foundation of Indian Knowledge: The Vedas

- **Four Vedas**: Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda, and Atharvaveda.
- **Four Upvedas**: Ayurveda (medicine); Dhanurveda (archery and warfare); Gandharvaveda (performing arts); Shilpaveda (architecture).
- The Vedas contain both philosophical and practical knowledge, while the Upanishads emphasize philosophical teachings.

Puranas: Simplifying Vedic Concepts

- **Number of Puranas**: 18 Puranas and 18 Upapuranas (Vedic tradition) and 3 Puranas (Jain tradition).
- **Knowledge in Puranas**: Topics include medicine, yoga, music, mathematics, and philosophical ideas presented in the form of stories. They also provide a model code of conduct for life.

Relevance of Indian Knowledge in Modern Times

- In the era of non-sustainable development, Indian Knowledge has gained renewed importance. Notable trends include:
  - Celebration of International Yoga Day (June 21) for physical and mental wellbeing.
  - A shift towards organic farming and herbal medicines.
  - Adoption of a luxury-free lifestyle.
  - Revival of traditional building designs.

Transmission of Vedic Knowledge

- The Vedic knowledge was transmitted orally across generations.
- According to the Yuga System in Puranas: **Kaliyuga** started in 3102 BCE. Preceding it were **Dwapara Yuga** (864,000 years), **Treta Yuga** (1,296,000 years), and **Satya Yuga** (1,728,000 years).
- Contrary to modern historians' views, Puranas claim the Vedic civilisation is millions of years old. Modern historians date the Vedic civilisation to around 1500 BCE and the Indus Valley civilisation to 3300 BCE, often considering the latter as pre-Vedic—a subject of ongoing debate.

Puranas and Decline of Study

- **Documentation**: Puranas were written between the 4th century BCE and 11th century CE.
- **British Education Policy**: The study of Puranas declined, leading to misconceptions.
  - **For example**, Puranas do talk about the Varna system. However, it is based on work - education (Brahman), security (Kshatriya), business (Vaishya), and service (Shudra), with variations across regions.

Itihas Granths: Ramayana and Mahabharata

- Ramayana and Mahabharata are considered historical texts.
- The Bhagavad Gita is part of the Mahabharata, originally called Jaya-Samhita.

Parallel Schools of Thought

- **Jainism:** Claims origins as old as the Vedic civilisation**. Mahavira** (599 BCE–527 BCE) was the 24th Tirthankar, not the founder**.** The **1st Tirthankar, Rishabh Dev**, was father to Bharat, after whom India is named.
- **Buddhism:** Believed to have been founded by Gautama Buddha (563 BCE–483 BCE), though its roots may be older.

Contributions in Mathematics and Astronomy

- **Notable figures include:** Baudhyana, Manava, Apastamba, Panini, Katyayana, Aryabhata, Varahamihira, and Parameshvara.
- **Srinivasa Ramanujan (1887–1920),** who contributed greatly to mathematics, was deeply influenced by Indian philosophy**.**

Indian Knowledge in Medicine

- **Ayurveda:**
  - A holistic health system focusing on balancing bodily elements through diet, lifestyle, and herbal treatments.
  - Texts like **Charaka Samhita** and **Sushruta Samhita** discuss anatomy, pathology, and surgical practices.
  - **Sushruta**: Known as the *"Father of Surgery*," documented procedures like cataract surgery.
- **Siddha System:**
  - Originated in Tamil Nadu, emphasizing harmony between the body, mind, and spirit using herbs and minerals.

In October 2020, the Ministry of Education established a division called Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), with its headquarters at AICTE in New Delhi.

Performing Arts and Architecture

- Natya Shastra by Bharat Muni:
  - Comprehensive treatise on dance, drama, and music.
  - Covers art forms, sculptures, paintings, and temple architecture, reflecting religious and metaphorical themes.

Community and Regional Knowledge

- Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is not limited to Sanskrit texts but includes diverse regional and tribal knowledge.
- Examples of regional expertise:
  - **Assam**: Brass and bronze casting in Hajo and Sarthebari, weaving of Muga silk in Sualkuchi, and ancient ceramic traditions in Ambari, Guwahati.
  - **Meghalaya**: Iron and ceramic technologies in Shillong are over 3,000 years old.

Inclusion in Education through NEP 2020

- The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 promotes the inclusion of IKS in the curriculum.
- Aims to combine traditional wisdom with modern science and technology for holistic learning.

Conclusion

- **Preservation and Practical Revival**
  - Efforts needed to document and preserve IKS across forms like texts, oral traditions, rituals, and practices.
  - Significant research and cataloging are required to make IKS accessible to future generations.
- **Interdisciplinary Applications**
  - Emphasis on applying IKS to sustainable development, healthcare, agriculture, and technology.
  - Practical integration of traditional knowledge with contemporary advancements is essential for revival.

DECOLONISATION OF THE MIND THROUGH THE INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

- India, known as Bharat, is celebrated as a 'Gyan-Bhoomi' or land of knowledge, with a rich tradition of systematically transmitting knowledge across generations.
- The Indian knowledge system (IKS) is a structured framework encompassing fields like Ayurveda, Yoga, Vedanta, and Nyaya, promoting pluralism, sustainability, and harmony.
- However, colonial education policies, such as Macaulay's 1835 'Minute on Education,' sought to replace indigenous knowledge with Eurocentric paradigms, disconnecting Indians from their intellectual heritage.

The Indian Knowledge System through the ages

- **Essence of the Upanishads and Indian Philosophy**
  - The Upanishads explore the Self (Atman) as distinct from mental and physical states, presenting two paths: **nivrtti** (detachment and self-knowledge) and **pravrtti** (engaged action).
  - **Advaita Vedanta**: A monistic philosophy identifying the Self with Brahman, viewing the empirical world as Maya (illusion).
  - **Bhatta Mimamsa**: Compares the eternal and transformative nature of the Self to gold's malleability.
  - **Jainism and Buddhism**: Jainism distinguishes between jiva (soul) and ajiva (matter), while Buddhism rejects a permanent Self, emphasizing karma and moral responsibility.
- **Philosophical Shift During the Bhakti Movement**
  - The Bhakti movement (7th-17th centuries) brought a devotional transformation, emphasizing equality, singular devotion, and liberation through faith.
  - Prominent saints like Sri Tulsidas, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Sri Guru Nanak Dev, and Sri Kabir Das championed Saguna (with form) and Nirguna (formless) devotion.
  - The movement promoted vernacular languages, universal brotherhood, and the guiding role of gurus in spiritual development.
- **Modern Indian Philosophers and Their Contributions**
  - **Swami Vivekananda**: Advocated rationality, education, and universal humanism. He believed in the inherent divinity of every soul, realisable through self-effort, discipline, and proper education.
  - **Sri Aurobindo**: Proposed a synthesis of idealism, realism, and pragmatism. He emphasized spirituality, creativity, and a strong work ethic as pathways to spiritual fulfillment.
  - **Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**: Rooted in Advaita Vedanta, he highlighted principles of organic unity, truth, and human diversity.
- **Core Values of the Indian Knowledge System (IKS)**
  - IKS emphasizes the holistic relationship between mind, body, and spirit, preserving cultural identity, promoting intercultural communication, and enriching global perspectives.
  - It underlines the values of truth, service, and universal brotherhood while integrating spirituality, creativity, and intellectuality for personal and societal growth.

Decolonisation of the mind and the Indian Knowledge System

- **Impact of Colonialism on Indian Consciousness**
  - Colonial rule not only devastated India's economy but imposed a colonial mindset through education, traditions, administration, and cultural practices.
  - This led to cultural hybridity, where traditional Indian values intersected with Western lifestyles, leaving lingering remnants of colonial influence, described by Edward Said as Orientalism.
    - Said emphasized that Orientalist stereotypes persist through repetition, shaping perceptions even today.
  - Similarly, Frantz Fanon's concept of colonial alienation underscores the discord created by Western paradigms, calling for the revival of indigenous heritage.
- **Colonial Intervention in Education and Culture**
  - Colonial powers distorted India's education system by establishing institutions like the **Calcutta Madrasah** (1781) and **Sanskrit College** (1791), designed to produce compliant administrators.
  - Western education fostered inferiority and severed connections with indigenous traditions.
  - Additionally, colonial narratives diminished India's intellectual achievements by comparing figures like Nagarjuna and Chanakya to Western counterparts, creating a false sense of Indian inferiority.
- **Decolonising the Indian Mind**
  - Decolonising the mind involves restoring indigenous knowledge, which emphasizes the interplay of mind, body, and spirit.
  - Indian traditions like **Samkhya, Nyaya, and Vedanta** focus on the Self (Atman) as a path to individual well-being (Sukha) and liberation (Moksha).

- Most philosophical schools, except ***Carvaka materialism***, sought liberation by overcoming ignorance of the true self.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Contributions

- India's knowledge tradition emphasizes **sustainability, equality, and holistic living**, reflecting in areas like:
  - **Environmental Stewardship**: Villages practiced sustainable harvesting of resources like medicinal plants and firewood.
  - **Agricultural Strength**: India's agriculture historically supported large populations and contributed significantly to the global economy.
  - **Scholarly Advancements**: India pioneered fields like mathematics, astronomy, and linguistics. Contributions include the invention of zero, the base-ten decimal system, and **Panini's Sanskrit grammar**, which remains unparalleled.
  - **Holistic Sciences**: Ayurveda and Yoga promoted disease prevention and holistic health.

Path to Liberation and Self-Realisation

- To free themselves from mental colonisation, Indians must embrace their indigenous knowledge tradition.
- This tradition offers frameworks for understanding morality, existence, and self-realisation while providing solutions to all aspects of human life.
- By reconnecting with these roots, India can achieve a self-determined identity and contribute to global well-being.

GURU-SHISHYA PARAMPARA - AN ETHICAL LEARNING WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO YOGA VASISHTHA

- The **Guru-Shishya parampara** originated during the **Vedic period (1500-500 BCE)**, with knowledge transmitted orally in **ashramas** and **gurukulas** under a Guru's guidance.
- Shishyas lived with their Guru, learning not only **Vedic texts** but also practical life skills like **humility, discipline, self-control, and community service**.
- This teaching method, called **'Shruti'** ('that which is heard'), involved listening to the Guru and repeated recitation of hymns, mantras, and verses.

Overview of Yoga Vasishtha

- The **Yoga Vasishtha**, also known as the **'Maharamayana,' 'Arsha Ramayana,'** and **'Vasishtha Ramayana,'** is a classical Indian scripture featuring a dialogue between **Sage Vashishta** and **Sri Rama**.
- Renowned for its poetic expressions and philosophical depth, it emphasizes **self-inquiry, meditation, and the nature of reality**, focusing on philosophical teachings rather than ritual or dogma.

SANSKRIT (SAMSKRATA) BHASA AS A KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

A major portion of Indian Knowledge is coded in what we call 'Sanskrit'. The Vedas are at the core of this knowledge.

Knowledge and Language

- **Role of Language in Knowledge Transmission** - Knowledge is abstract but is coded into language (Bhasa) to record, retain, and transmit it, making language an essential carrier of knowledge.
- **Indian Outlook Towards Language** - The Oxford dictionary lists four meanings of the word 'language', two of which are
  - the means of human communication, consisting of the use of spoken or written words in a structured way, and
  - the system of communication used by a particular community or country.

Bhasa as a Carrier of Knowledge

- **Bhasha**
  - In the Indian perspective, in principle it seems to look at 'Bhasa' as one single entity that:

        - is a means of communication comprising words,
        - has innumerable spatial and temporal variants, and
        - is dynamic and ever-changing.
    - All the specific names of languages are accommodated as variants of this one single 'Bhasa' in this view.
- **Strengths**
    - Bhasa excels in expressing complex ideas through words and sentences.
    - Humans possess an innate ability to acquire and utilize Bhasa.
- **Shortcomings**
    - **Inherent Ambiguity**: Synonyms and homonyms create confusion in interpretation.
    - **Dynamic Nature**: Bhasa evolves over time and varies across regions, risking misinterpretation or unintelligibility of knowledge coded in a specific context.

VEDIC MATHEMATICS AND METHODS OF MULTIPLICATION IN GANITASARASANGRAHA

Ancient Indian Scientific Work and Mathematics

- **Sastra and Vedic Influence**
    - The Sanskrit term "Sastra" refers to scientific or theological works.
    - Indian mathematics has evolved under various cultural influences, with its roots evident in the Vedic period.
    - Sciences were systematically studied and mentioned in texts like the Samhitas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Upanishads, and Vedangas.
- **Vedangas and Sutras**
    - The six Vedangas—Shiksha, Vyakaran, Chhandas, Nirukta, Kalpa, and Jyotish—played a key role in structuring Vedic knowledge.
    - Sutras, particularly part of Kalpa, emerged as distinct literature tied to the Vedas.
- **Sulbasutras and Geometry**
    - The Sulbasutras, practical manuals from the Vedic period, contributed significantly to geometry, detailing altar construction and measurements.
    - They are the oldest Indian mathematical texts, with four surviving Sulbasutras: Baudhayana (the oldest and largest), Apastamba, Katyayana, and Manava.
- **Post-Vedic Mathematicians**
    - Scholars like Aryabhatta, Bhaskaracharya, Sridharacharya, Mahaviracharya, and others advanced Indian mathematics.
    - **Mahaviracharya (9th Century):** A Jain mathematician, he authored ***Ganitasarasangraha***, distinguishing astrology from mathematics.
        - He asserted that the square root of a negative number does not exist and presented problems combining mathematical rigor, poetic beauty, and humor.

Srinivasa Ramanujan (22nd December, 1887-26th April, 1920)

- Tribute to the **great mathematician** Srinivasa Ramanujan. His birth anniversary is also celebrated as **National Mathematics Day.**
- He conceived the **Ramanujan number** i.e. 1729.

KONARK'S SUN TEMPLE: A GEO-HERITAGE MARVEL ON THE MAHANADI DELTA

- The Sun Temple at Konark, located on the eastern coast of India in Odisha, is an architectural marvel and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Constructed in the 13th century, this temple is dedicated to Lord Surya, the sun god, and is renowned for its intricate carvings and unique design that resembles a colossal chariot.

Konark Sun Temple

- **Location and History**
  - Konark, situated in Puri, Odisha, is renowned for its historical significance since the 9th century AD, partially influenced by the River Mahanadi.
- Architectural Style
- The Konark Sun Temple, built between the 12th and 13th centuries, is a unique blend of Pancharatha Dravidian and Nagar styles, locally known as the Kalinga Style.
- Etymology and Mythology
  - The name 'Konark' is derived from the Sun god, where 'Kona' refers to the South-East corner.
  - According to myth, the demon Arka was slain by the Sun god in the Agnikona (southeast corner), making the place significant. The Sun god is worshipped in this direction in other major temples of Odisha, such as Lingaraja and Jagannatha.

Geological Aspects

- **Geological Composition**
  - The extreme northern part of the district is made up of Khondalite gneiss from the Archaean age, while the rest is covered by Quaternary sediments from the Pleistocene to the present day.
- **Alluvial Deposits**
  - The landscape is shaped by alluvial deposits from the Mahanadi River delta, influencing the region's geology and construction practices.
- **Construction Materials**
  - Khondalite: Chosen for structural elements due to its durability.
  - Laterite: Used primarily for foundations, as it is easy to quarry.
  - Chlorite: Selected for intricate carvings due to its workability.
- **Impact of Geological Changes**
  - Geological studies reveal that shifts in river courses and sediment deposition have affected the site's stability.
  - Additionally, the temple's coastal location makes it susceptible to erosion from tidal surges and cyclones.

River System

- **Topography:**
  - The Puri region is characterized by an undulating to plain landscape, consisting mainly of coastal sandy and alluvial soil.
- **Drainage:**
  - The district lies within the Mahanadi River basin, with major rivers like Daya, Devi, Kushabhadra, Bhargavi, and Prachi draining the area.
  - These rivers follow southerly, southeasterly, and southwesterly courses.
- **River Features:**
  - The rivers are in their old stage, with several branching distributaries flowing into the sea or the Chilika Lake, which is a lagoon that was separated from the Bay of Bengal in the past.

Historical Context

- The Sun Temple at Konark was commissioned by **King Narasimhadeva I** of the *Eastern Ganga dynasty* around 1250 CE.
- It was built to commemorate his victory over invaders and to honour Lord Surya, who was believed to grant prosperity and victory.

Why was this Site Chosen?

- **Historical Background**
  - The site dates back to the 2nd century AD and was partially covered under the River Mahanadi during the evolution of its delta.

- In the 17th century, the temple, also known as the Black Pagoda, became a landmark for European sailors.

- **Purpose Behind Construction**
  - King Narasimha I, not a great devotee of the Sun-god, is speculated to have built the temple for personal reasons.
    - One theory suggests he built it after being cured of leprosy by the grace of the Sun-god.
    - Another theory indicates gratitude for being blessed with a son by the Sun-god's boon.
- **Geographical and Religious Significance**
  - **Transportation**: Rivers Mahanadi and Prachi were vital channels for transporting building materials and were considered holy.
  - **Healing Properties**: The Chandrabhaga River was revered for its healing properties, especially for skin diseases, influencing the choice of the site.

Architectural Style

- **Style**
  - A blend of Kalinga architecture and Dravidian influences.
  - Designed as a massive chariot with twelve pairs of wheels, symbolizing the sun's movement across the sky and the passage of time.
  - Wheels feature intricate carvings depicting life, mythology, and nature.
- **Sanctum and Sculptures**
  - The sanctum originally housed a colossal black granite image of Surya (Sun-god).
  - The image has deteriorated over time due to environmental factors.

Gajapati Narasimha Deva - I (Vira Nara Kesari)

He along with **Sibel Samantray Mahapatra Bishu Maharana and 12000 artisans** gave birth to the World Heritage Site on the coast of the Bay of Bengal.

Conclusion

- The legacy of Konark not only enriches our understanding of ancient Indian civilisation but also serves as a reminder of our collective responsibility to protect our cultural heritage amidst an ever-changing world.

ECO-CONSCIOUSNESS THROUGH INDIAN PHILOSOPHY

- A recent study highlights a sharp rise in extreme weather events during the first nine months of 2024, causing over 3,000 deaths and severe damage to infrastructure and agriculture.
- Extreme weather occurred on 93% of days, with Madhya Pradesh seeing the highest frequency of incidents and Kerala the most casualties. Climate records were broken, including the driest January since 1901 and unprecedented high temperatures.
- The report urges stronger disaster response systems and demands climate reparations from high-emission countries. It underscores the importance of **environmental consciousness**, which promotes sustainable practices by recognizing the link between human activities and the environment.

The Philosophical Foundations

- **Indian Philosophical View on the Environment**
  - Indian philosophy perceives the environment as a dynamic, interconnected system where humans coexist with other living beings, emphasizing harmony and balance.
- **Environmental Protection as a Duty**
  - Ancient Indian thinkers advocated environmental protection as a fundamental human responsibility, recognizing the fragile nature of the environment.
- **The Composition of Humans and Nature**
  - Indian texts describe humans and material entities as composed of nine tatvas (elements): Earth, Water, Fire, Air, Sky, Time, Directions, Mind, and Soil.
  - These elements decompose and return to nature after death.

- **The Emergence of Elements in Mythology**
  - Indian mythology narrates a phased creation of elements: water, earth, and sky emerged first, followed by aquatic animals, birds, land, air, and finally fire.
- **Environment as a Living Entity**
  - Indian thought views the environment as a transcendental entity, imbued with life across both biotic and abiotic forms.

Historical Context of Environmental Ethics in India

- The ancient and medieval periods of Indian history showcased deep reverence for nature, reflected in early conservation practices.
- **Ashoka's Edicts on Environmental Protection**
  - Ashoka's 3rd-century BCE edicts, inscribed on pillars and rocks, prohibited cutting green trees, punished offenders, and highlighted links between deforestation, pollution, and disease.
- **Edict No. V: A Conservation Milestone**
  - Dating back to 243 BCE and found in Rampurwa, Bihar, Edict No. V detailed conservation ethics, including the protection of species, restrictions on slaughter, and promotion of forest conservation.
  - It recognized forests as vital habitats and likely aimed to protect fish during breeding seasons. This early advocacy of conservation remains unparalleled for its time.

The Sacred Connection with Nature

- The Vedas, the oldest scriptures of India, articulate a worldview where the natural world is intertwined with the divine.
- This perspective fosters a sense of responsibility towards the environment, urging individuals to live in harmony with nature.
- Few Trees and their associations with Gods & Goddesses:
  - Ashoka (Saraca asoca)- Buddha, Indra, Vishnu, Aditi, etc.
  - Peepal (Ficus religiosa) -Lord Vishnu, Goddess Laxmi, Goddess Vana Durga, etc.
- In contrast, Western traditions often adopt an anthropocentric view, regarding nature primarily as a resource for human use, with little moral consideration for non-human entities.

Anthropomorphism in Indian Philosophy

- Indian philosophy highlights the significance of the non-human world by attributing human-like qualities to animals and plants.
- Worship practices like that of Pashupati Mahadev and moral lessons in tales such as the **Panchtantra** showcase animals and plants as vehicles for ethical and spiritual teachings.
- Reverence for cows, trees, and the association of animals with deities further reflect the value placed on all forms of life.

Buddhist Inspiration: Living in Harmony with Nature

- Buddhism advocates harmonious coexistence with nature.
- Monks in trans-Himalayan regions actively work to conserve endangered species, such as snow leopards, embodying Buddhist principles of compassion and ecological balance.

Jainism and Ecological Harmony

- Jainism emphasizes non-violence and interconnectedness, encapsulated in its teachings, such as: "You are that which you intend to torture, hit, or kill."
- This philosophy promotes respect for all living beings and ecological equilibrium.

Sankhya and Yoga: Pathways to Natural Alignment

- The Sankhya philosophy introduces the dual concepts of purusa (the observer) and prakriti (nature), advocating self-realization as a means to understand and harmonize with the environment.
- Yoga complements this by encouraging practices that nurture a deeper connection with nature and promote alignment with the natural world.

The Upanishads: Interconnectedness with the Cosmos

- The Upanishads articulate the profound interdependence between humans and the environment.
- They highlight the five gross elements—earth, water, fire, air, and space—as the essence of life, linking human existence to the cosmos.
- For instance, the Chandogya Upanishad asserts: "The earth is the essence of all beings," underlining the intrinsic connection between humanity and nature.

Ethical Dimensions of Eco-Consciousness

- **Ethical Foundations of Eco-Consciousness**
  - Indian philosophy emphasizes the dual relationship between humans and nature—physical and spiritual—guided by principles like ***ahimsa*** (non-violence) and ***karuna*** (compassion), promoting respect for all living beings.
- **Environmental Governance in Ancient Texts**
  - Ancient Indian shastras stress environmental responsibility. In Kalidasa's *Abhijnanasakuntalam*, Shakuntala's deep connection with nature highlights its role as a nurturing mother.
- **Dharma: Duty Towards the Environment**
  - The concept of Dharma underscores environmental stewardship, urging individuals to act responsibly towards nature, recognizing the broader consequences of their actions.
- **Karma and Eco-Consciousness**
  - The principle of Karma emphasizes that harming the environment, through acts like deforestation or pollution, disturbs cosmic balance and results in negative consequences.
- **Indigenous Perspectives on Nature**
  - India's indigenous cultures revere nature as a living entity, fostering a deep eco-consciousness and rejecting its domination or exploitation.

Conclusion: Reviving Ancient Wisdom for Planetary Survival

- Interconnectedness, ethical responsibility, and respect for all life are vital for the planet's survival.
- Modern challenges stem from humanity's disconnection from nature. To address this, individuals must reconnect with their **eco-self**, understanding their well-being is tied to the Earth's health.
- Education on India's rich knowledge systems can foster eco-consciousness and promote environmental stewardship.

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: A BUDDHIST APPROACH

- Emotional intelligence provides a nuanced approach to decision-making that is grounded in self-awareness and empathy.
- It includes the capacity to recognise, control, and understand one's own feelings as well as those of others.

Emotional Intelligence and Public Administration

- Public administrators are leaders who uphold democratic values, represent diverse social groups, and remain accountable to broader constituencies.
- Emotional intelligence (EI) is crucial for fostering trust and cooperation by creating communications that resonate with citizens' emotions and concerns.

Emotional Intelligence and Buddhist Philosophy

- **Inquiry into the Human Mind in Indian Philosophy**
  - Ancient Indian systems, especially Buddhist philosophy, excel in exploring the nature, function, and trainability of the human mind, highlighting the impact of emotions on thoughts, words, and actions.
- **Understanding Mental Afflictions**
  - The *Abhidharma Samuccaya* categorizes mental states as virtuous (kusala) or non-virtuous (akusala).

- It examines how ignorance, a distorted form of cognition, leads to afflictions like attachment, aversion, pride, and jealousy, disrupting mental equilibrium.

- **Emotional Intelligence in Public Administration**
  - Given the significance of EI in public administration, Buddhist teachings provide techniques to develop equanimity amidst challenges.
- **The Eight Worldly Concerns**
  - The Questions of ***Ratnacuda Sutra*** identifies the eight worldly concerns—gain and loss, fame and disrepute, pleasure and pain, praise and disparagement.
  - Public administrators often face decisions influenced by these concerns, making equanimity essential for balanced decision-making.

THE COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO JAN AUSHADHI KENDRAS

Introduction to the Jan Aushadhi Scheme

- **Objective:** To ensure easy access to high-quality affordable medicines for all through Jan Aushadhi Kendras.
- **Launch and Evolution**:
  - Launched in 2008, revamped as Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana (PMJAY) after 2014.
  - Renamed as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojna (PMBJP) in 2016.
- **Rationale for the Scheme**
  - Medicines account for a significant portion of outpatient expenses.
    - 72% in rural areas and 68% in urban areas (NSSO 71st round).
  - High cost of branded medicines due to patent royalties.
  - Generic drugs, manufactured after the patent expiry, are priced lower while maintaining the same active ingredients.
  - PMBJP prices medicines at a maximum of 50% of the average price of the top three branded medicines.
- **Targets and Implementation**
  - Expansion Goals: Aim to open 10,000 Kendras by FY 2023-24 and 10,500 by FY 24-25.
- **Implementing Agency**: Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), under the Department of Pharmaceuticals.

Role of PACS in Scheme Expansion

- After the Ministry of Cooperation's formation in 2021, PACS have diversified into 25 business activities.
- **Uttar Pradesh's Success:**
  - Over 5,200 PACS working as common service centers (CSCs).
  - More than 1,400 PACS have partnered with Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
  - PACS are now opening Jan Aushadhi Kendras, enhancing rural reach.
- **FY 2023 Initiative:** 2,000 PACS allowed to open Kendras nationwide.
- **Advantages of PACS Jan Aushadhi Kendras**
  - Increased access to affordable generic medicines in rural areas
  - Provide a source of income for PACS
  - Leverage a dedicated customer/patient base from PACS members
- **Challenges in Implementation**
  - Demand-supply gap due to frequent stockouts of popular medicines.
  - Delays in releasing incentives and payments, demotivating stakeholders.
  - Payment delays (beyond the 60-day period) negatively impact pharma vendors, leading to supply issues.
- **Technological Support**
  - **Jan Aushadhi Sugam Mobile App:**

    - Enables users to locate nearby Kendras using GPS.
    - Allows users to check generic medicine availability by entering brand names.
- **Recommendations for Effective Implementation**
    - **Coordination:** Ensure constant collaboration between the Department of Cooperatives and PMBI.
    - **Support to PACS:** Provide guidance for timely orders, smooth medicine supply, and prompt incentive disbursement.
    - Address the demand-supply gap and payment delays to maintain enthusiasm among stakeholders.

Conclusion

- The PACS Jan Aushadhi Kendras present a win-win model for both PACS and the objectives of PMBJP, ensuring rural access to affordable, high-quality generic medicines.
- Their success depends on addressing operational challenges and ensuring efficient execution of the scheme.

THE ART OF WEAVING: A SIGNATURE OF INDIA THAT WE NEED TO PRESERVE

Cultural and Economic Significance

- Traditional weaving techniques are vital for preserving cultural heritage, identity, and continuity within communities.
- Weaving offers essential economic opportunities, particularly for indigenous and marginalised communities.

India's Position in the Textile Industry

- India **ranks second globally** in textile production and exports.
- The textile industry is the second-largest employment-generating sector after agriculture.
- New initiatives like the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023** and the **PM Mitra Mega Textile Park Scheme 2023** offer significant growth opportunities for textile production and exports.

Challenges Faced by the Industry

- **Technological Gaps:**
    - Lack of upgradation and innovation affects productivity.
    - Slow adoption of new technologies.
    - More than 50% of workers lack skills in modern technology.
- **Infrastructure Issues:**
    - Many units lag behind Asian counterparts in infrastructure.
- **Policy and Regulatory Barriers:**
    - High GST rates on textiles.
    - Difficulty meeting global export standards.
- **Social Concerns:** Prevalence of child labour in textile production.

PM Mitra Mega Textile Park Scheme and Textile Industry Initiatives

- **PM Mitra Mega Textile Park Scheme (2023)**
    - **Allocation:** ₹4,445 crore allocated for seven states (Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh) over five years.
    - **Integrated Textile Value Chain**: Single-site facilities for spinning, weaving, processing, dyeing, printing, and textile manufacturing.
    - **Employment Opportunities**: Estimated to generate 1 lakh direct and 2 lakh indirect jobs per park.
    - **Export Promotion**: Linked to the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme under the new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023.
    - **Special Advance Authorisation Scheme**: Extended to enable prompt execution of export orders for apparel and textiles.
- **Other Key Government Initiatives**
    - **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:**

        - Approved outlay of ₹10,683 crore to make the industry globally competitive.
        - Focus on enhancing quality production and exports.
    - **Automation and Technology Upgradation:**
        - 100% automation allowed in the textile sector.
        - Schemes like the **Revised Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme** and the **Integrated Textile Park Scheme** showing positive results.
    - **Capacity Building:**
        - Implementation of various initiatives to strengthen skills and infrastructure in the sector.
    - **Duty Drawback Scheme:**
        - Export benefits introduced since March 23, 2023.
    - **Quality Control Measures:**
        - Mandatory global standards for 31 geotextile and 12 protective textile products as of April 11, 2023.

Challenges and Opportunities in the Indian Textile Industry

- **Employment and Economic Contribution**
    - **Employment:** 4.5 crore people directly and 6 crore indirectly employed in the textile sector.
    - **GDP Contribution:** Over 2% of India's GDP and 7% of total industrial production.
    - **Exports:** Dominance in the global readymade garment market, with 27% exports to the US, 18% to the EU, 12% to Bangladesh, and 6% to the UAE.
- **Challenges Faced by the Textile Industry**
    - **Export Competitiveness:**
        - Preferential subsidies to Bangladesh and Vietnam hurt India's textile exports.
        - Duty-free access for Bangladesh facilitates the indirect entry of Chinese textiles into India.
        - Sri Lanka, African countries, and others enjoy duty-free market access, reducing India's competitiveness.
    - **Technology and Productivity Issues:**
        - Lack of technological upgradation impacts productivity.
        - Need to expand weaving capacity to meet global demands.
    - **Price Instability:**
        - High yarn prices and fluctuating raw material costs hinder growth
- **Opportunities for Growth**
    - **Global Supply Chain Integration:**
        - Promote sustainable sourcing by working with local farmers and producers.
        - Implement fair trade principles and use environmentally friendly materials.
    - **State Government Initiatives:**
        - Fix yarn prices annually and create capital subsidies to expand the textile market.
        - Provide one-window solutions to address industry challenges.
- **Focus Areas for Development**
    - Enhance technology adoption and weaving capacity.
    - Address export-related challenges to improve competitiveness.
    - Promote sustainable and fair trade practices to benefit weavers and ensure supply chain integrity.

Handloom Weaving

Integration of Modern Technology

- **Automation & Customisation:** Introduction of modern looms and digital control systems has boosted productivity and enabled mass customisation in weaving.
- **Enhanced Personalisation:** Weavers can now easily customise designs, colours, and patterns, offering tailored products and improving customer satisfaction.

Historical Significance of Indian Textiles

- **Ancient Origins:** Textiles in India date back to 3000 BC during the Indus Valley Civilisation.

- **Silk Weaving Tradition:** Silk weaving is an important cultural practice, with silk fabrics worn on special occasions like weddings and festivals.
- **Vedic Literature:** References to weaving and spinning of cotton are found in Vedic texts, indicating its long history.

Cultural Uniqueness

- **Indigenous Fashion:** India maintains a unique, indigenous fashion tradition, unlike countries like Japan, China, or South America, which have adopted European-dominated multinational fashion trends.

Conclusion

- The Handloom Board, established in the 1960s, supports the handloom sector through **Weavers Service Centres** (WSC).
- Despite handloom's 11% share in textile production and a revenue of Rs 2,812 crore, it employs 4.4 million weaver families, many of whom face livelihood challenges.
- The **Handloom Reservation Act** protects weavers, and scrapping it could harm the sector.
- Textiles are India's second-largest employment source after agriculture, and handloom provides significant opportunities for women in rural areas.
- Promoting handmade products to customers who value them can help preserve cultural heritage, economic self-sufficiency, and sustainable practices.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Weaving with natural fibers like cotton, linen, hemp, silk, and wool is eco-friendly as they are biodegradable, renewable, and have a lower carbon footprint.
- Supporting local sourcing and fair trade reduces transportation emissions and helps communities.
- Upcycling and recycling in weaving also promote sustainability by reducing waste and contributing to a circular economy, minimizing the textile industry's environmental impact.

Digital Weaving and Tourism

- Digital weaving uses advanced technology, such as high-tech looms with sensors, to improve fabric quality and allow for customized designs.
- Visitors can join weaving workshops to learn techniques, engage with artisans, and appreciate craftsmanship, fostering cultural exchange and respect.
- Handcrafted textiles are popular souvenirs, and purchasing locally woven products supports sustainable consumption.

FROM OUTSOURCING TO OUTPACING: INDIA'S GCCS LEAD THE NEXT GLOBAL REVOLUTION

- India is the **Global Capability Centre (GCC) capital**, hosting over half of the world's 1,800 GCCs, which manage global functions like analytics, technology, product development, and innovation.
- The sector employs over 1.9 million people and has grown to a **$60 billion market size** in 2022-23, up from $19.6 billion in 2014-15.
- GCCs generate significant economic impact, yielding $3 for every dollar invested and driving five times more local job creation for each GCC job.

How the Centre Leveraged the Opportunity for National Growth

- **About**
  - The rapid growth of GCC reflects India's business-friendly environment. Initiatives like Ease of Business, Make in India and Digital India align perfectly with GCC needs.
- **Ease of Business**
  - SPICe+ (Simplified Proforma for Incorporating Company Electronically) introduction has made the company registration process smoother, cutting down on time and effort.
  - In 2024, the introduction of the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act** played a key role in reducing compliance burdens.

- This Act decriminalised 183 provisions across 42 central acts managed by 19 ministries, promoting a more business- friendly environment by simplifying rules for entrepreneurs.

- **Make in India**
  - GCCs benefitted from India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policies, which allow 100% foreign ownership in many sectors to invest and operate independently.
  - The establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and technology parks has allowed companies to benefit from tax exemptions.
- **Digital India**
  - Skill India Digital was introduced in 2023 to coordinate the joint efforts of the centre and state to ensure Indian youth are imparted future-ready skills.
  - Ministry-level interventions were done to upgrade the Al ecosystem, adding more pace to the initiatives.
- This combination of regulatory relaxations, incentives, and an abundant skilled workforce has enabled India to stay ahead of the game of competitors.

Facilitated Strategic Geographical Expansion

- Tier 2 and 3 cities like Ahmedabad, Kochi, Visakhapatnam, Jaipur, and Coimbatore have become attractive destinations for MNCs to set up GCCs due to lower operational costs and access to a skilled, diverse talent pool.

Standout from Competition

- India’s GCC Leadership: India outperforms Malaysia, Vietnam, and the Philippines due to a robust GCC ecosystem, advanced infrastructure, and a skilled workforce.
- **Competitive Advantage** - Malaysia and Vietnam primarily offer competitive labor costs, while the Philippines remains focused on BPO services.
- **Growth and Economic Impact** - GCC expansion in India has driven growth in real estate, hospitality, retail, and transportation, transforming cities into thriving business hubs.
- **Ecosystem Integration** - Collaborations with startups, universities, and research institutions foster innovation and strengthen India’s GCC dominance.