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# 2-Minute Series

*A compilation of foundational topics prerequisite for Civil Services*

*For the 1st Week*

*of*

# June 2021

*(31st May to 5th June)*

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# 1. Geography

## 1.1. Seabed 2030 Project

- Context : Researchers under Seabed 2030 project have finished mapping nearly one- fifth of the world's ocean floor.
- Seabed 2030 is a collaborative project between the Nippon Foundation of Japan and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) - only intergovernmental organisation with a mandate to map the entire ocean floor.
- It aims to bring together all available bathymetric data to produce the definitive map of the world ocean floor by 2030 and make it available to all.
- The project was launched at the United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference in June 2017
- It is aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal #14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.

### Why Has Seabed 2030 Been Setup?

- In the past, satellites and planes carrying altimeter instruments have been able to provide large swathes of data about the ocean floor.
- The Seabed 2030 Project, however, aims to obtain higher quality information that has a minimum resolution of 100 m at all spots, using equipment such as deepwater hull-mounted sonar systems, and more advanced options such as Underwater Vehicles (AUVs).
- Knowing the depth and shape of the seafloor (bathymetry) is fundamental for
- understanding ocean circulation, tides, tsunami forecasting, fishing
- resources, sediment transport, environmental change, underwater geo- hazards, infrastructure construction and maintenance, cable and pipeline routing and much more.
- Example :
  - ✓ Importantly, the maps would also ensure a better understanding of climate change, since floor features including canyons and underwater volcanoes influence phenomena such as the vertical mixing of ocean water, and ocean currents – which act as conveyor belts of warm and cold water, thus influencing the weather and climate. – Indian Express

### Conclusion

- Despite many years of effort, less than 20 per cent of the world ocean's seafloor has been mapped.
- A co-ordinated international effort is needed to bring together all existing data sets and to identify areas for future surveys - to help us 'map the gaps'.

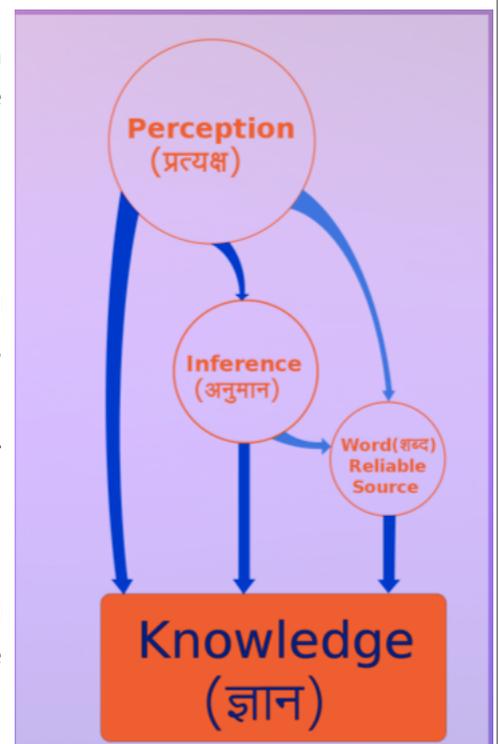
## 2. History

### 2.1.Sankhya /Samkhya School of India Philosophy

- Founder - Kapil Muni Source - SAMKHYA SUTRA
- SAMKHYA literally means 'count', probably the oldest one of all the Indian School of Philosophies.
- SAMKHYA school forms the theoretical foundation of YOGA school.
- It is based on a rational and scientific view and according to early Samkhya Philosophy, the presence of divine agency is not essential for the creation of the world.
- The world owes its creation and evolution more to Nature or Prakriti than to God.
- Samkhya School like other orthodox schools consider Vedas to be a reliable source of knowledge.
- During the 4th century AD, Purusha or spirit was introduced as an element in the Samkhya system, and the creation of the world was attributed to both.
- With the Progress in new ideas, it was believed that Nature (Prakriti) and Spirit (Purusha) element together created this world.
- Thus initially, The Samkhya school of Philosophy was materialistic (owing existence to Nature), but later it tended to become spiritualistic (owing existence to both Prakirti+ Purusha)
- Thus Sankhya accepts two basic tattvas or principles
  - ✓ Prakriti or Primordial matter (matter, energy)
  - ✓ Purusha or individual conscious being (self or soul or mind)
- And when these both are combined (Prakiriti along with Purusha), it manifests itself in the form of JIVA (a living being)
- Prakriti is inert and undergoes modifications while in association with a purusha. It evolves from subtle to gross, and manifests the visible world.
- According to Samkhya School -
  - ✓ The universe is described as one created by Purusa-Prakriti entity combination infused with various permutations and combinations of variously enumerated elements, sense, feelings, activity and mind.
  - ✓ It is a dualist philosophy, although between the self and matter as compared to mind and body as in Western dualist tradition.

#### Path to Salvation

- Samkhya considered ignorance as the root cause of suffering and bondage and a person can attain salvation through the acquisition of real knowledge.

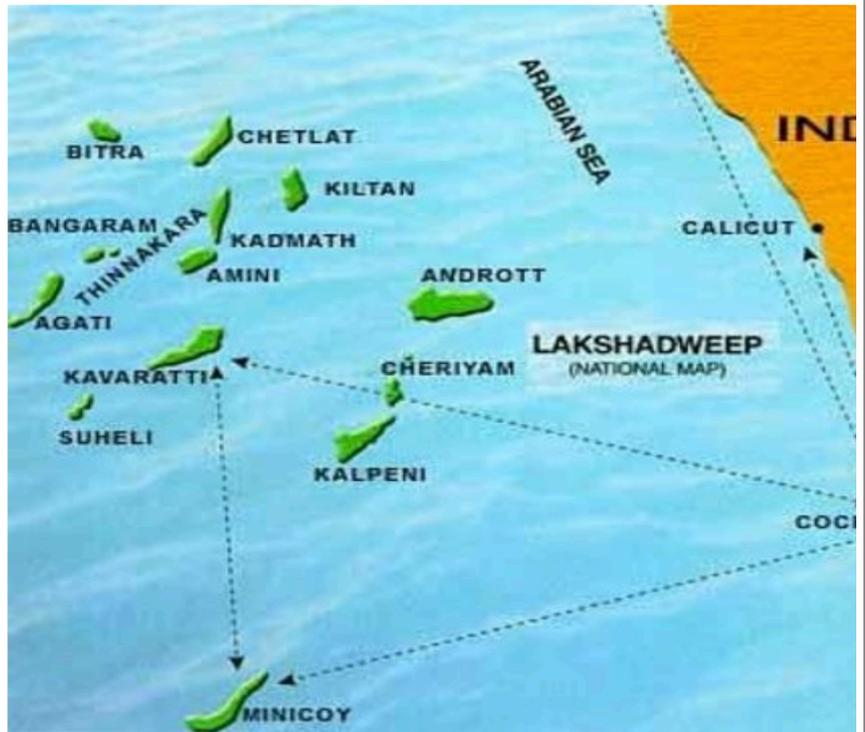


- A living being can become free from ignorance by understanding that Purusha is distinct from Prakriti, and this knowledge can be acquired through 3 of the 6 pramanas (Proofs) -
  - ✓ Perception - Pratyaksha
  - ✓ Inference - Anumana
  - ✓ Hearing - Shabada
- And all these combined, form the scientific system of inquiry.
- Samkhya philosophy is known for its theory of gunas (Qualities, innate tendencies). Gunas, as it teaches are three modes of matter -
  - ✓ Sattva - The guna of goodness, compassion, calmness and positivity.
  - ✓ Rajas - The guna of activity, chaos, passion and impulsivity, potentially good or bad.
  - ✓ Tamas - The guna of darkness, ignorance, dullness, laziness, lethargy and negativity.
- All matter (Prakrit) as Samkhya teaches has three guns, and in different proportions and each guna is dominant at specific times of day.
- The interplay of these guns defines the character of someone or something of nature and determines the progress of life.
- Existence of God or supreme being is not directly asserted, nor considered relevant by Samkhya philosophers.

## 3. Polity & Governance

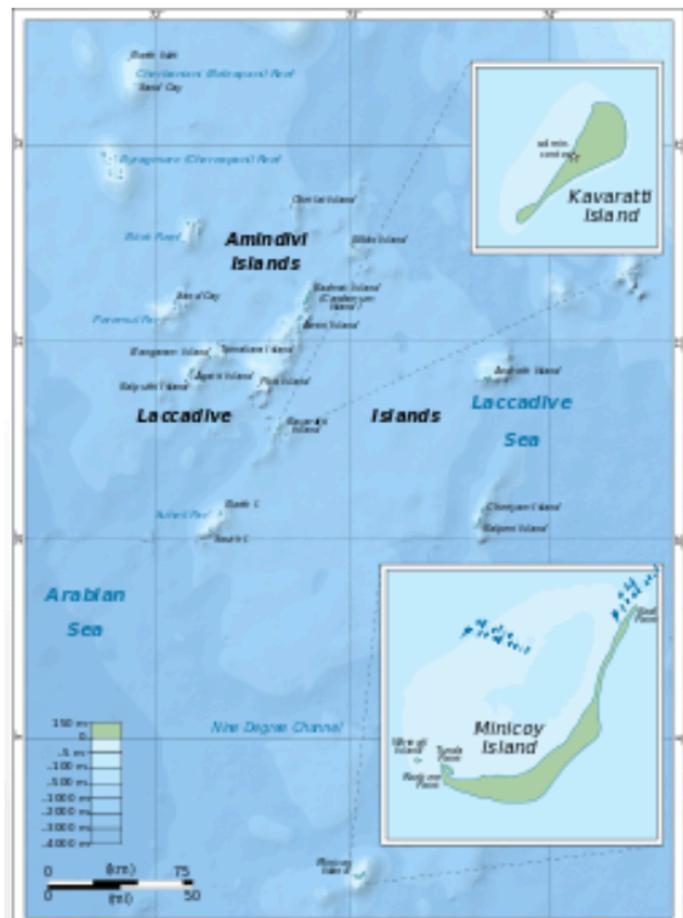
### 3.1. Lakshdeep Islands

- Lakshadweep is an archipelago of 36 islands in the Arabian sea and a part of a vast undersea mountain range, the Chagos - Lakshadweep Ridge.
- Lakshadweep means "one lakh islands" in Malayalam, the official as well as the widely spoken native language in the territory.
- The islands form the smallest union territory of India. The region forms a single Indian district with 10 subdivisions. Kavaratti serves as the capital of the Union Territory and the region comes under the jurisdiction of Kerala High Court.



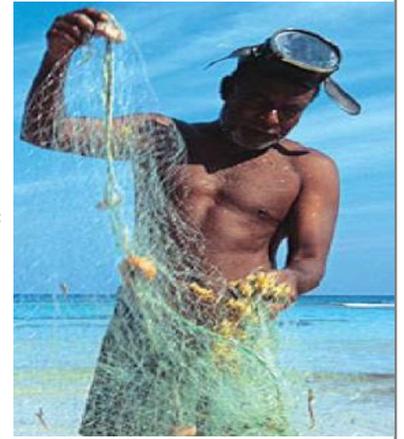
#### History and Society of Lakshadweep

- The islands have long been known to sailors, as indicated by an anonymous reference from the first century CE to the region in Periplus of the Erythraean Sea.
- The islands were also mentioned in the Buddhist Jataka stories of the sixth century BCE. Islam was established in the region when Muslims arrived around the seventh century.
- As per the 2011 Census, majority of the indigenous population is Muslim and most of them belong to the Shafi school of the Sunni sect. The culture is almost similar to that of Mappilas in the nearest mainland state of Kerala.



## Administration of Lakshadweep

- When the Constitution of India was adopted in 1949, the Indian federation was divided into Part A, B, C and D states.
- After the States Reorganisation Act of 1956, Part C and Part D states were combined into a single category of 'Union Territory'. The concept of the UT was added by the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956.
- India today has 8 Union Territories in all which are the federal territories and are administered by the Union Government of India.
- On 1 November 1956, during the reorganization of Indian states, the Lakshadweep islands were separated from Malabar District and organised into a separate union territory for administrative purposes. The new territory was called Laccadive, Minicoy, and Amindivi Islands before adopting the Lakshadweep name on 1 November 1973.
- Article 239 of the Indian Constitution deals with administration of UTs in India. The Constitution provides that save as otherwise provided by Parliament by law, every Union territory shall be administered by the President acting, to such extent as he thinks fit, through an administrator to be appointed by him with such designation as he may specify.
- Further, the President may appoint the Governor of a State as the administrator of an adjoining Union territory, and where a Governor is so appointed, he shall exercise his functions as such administrator independently of his Council of Ministers.



## Proposals by the Lakshadweep Administrator

- There has been a rising issue due to certain proposals by the current administrator, Praful K Patel, who is also the Administrator of the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. The proposed orders of the administrator are seen as infringing upon the socio-cultural fabric of the UT.
- A proposal order from the Administration seeks to ban the slaughter of cow, calf, bull and buffalo without a certificate from a competent authority. It prohibits the sale, transport and storage of beef and beef products. Penalties include a jail term up to one year and a fine of Rs 10,000.
- Another proposal falls under the Draft Panchayat Regulation 2021, wherein the Administration aims to bar people with more than two children from becoming a member of the gram panchayat. For those who already have more than two children, the regulation does not disqualify them provided they do not have further children after the date on which the rule comes into effect.
- Another proposal administration has decided to allow liquor to be served at resorts on inhabited islands. Currently, prohibition is in place on all inhabited islands, with liquor served only at resorts on the uninhabited Bangaram island.
- The Administration brought in a draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation (LDAR) to oversee development of towns on the islands, with sweeping changes in the way land can be acquired and utilised. It talks of declaration of 'planning areas' and constitution of 'planning and development authorities' for preparing a land use map and register, for large projects.

- The draft Lakshadweep Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Regulation provides for powers to detain a person for up to one year to prevent him from “acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order”. It allows for detention for anti- social activities from six months to a year without legal representation.

### **Issues raised by people of Lakshadweep**

- While the administration believes the proposals will boost tourism and development in Lakshadweep, its inhabitants have been skeptical due to the following reasons:
- The draft LADR gives the government and its bodies arbitrary and unchecked power to directly interfere with an islander’s right to possess and retain their property. The large projects may also have a detrimental impact on the fragile ecology and environment of islands.
- The Anti-Social Activities Regulation Bill 2021 is seen as authoritarian in an otherwise peaceful territory with a crime rate of 0.7% as per the 2019 NCRB Report.
- The Lakshadweep Animal Preservation and Regulation 2021 is seen as a direct infringement on the cultural and dietary habits of the region, decided without any consultation. This is coupled with the introduction of liquor in the islands which due to cultural reasons had a near-prohibition environment.
- This coupled with the relaxing of Covid-19 SOPs and doing away of mandatory quarantine, wherein anyone with a negative RT-PCR certificate issued in the previous 48 hours could travel to Lakshadweep leading to a spurt in cases and the island losing its ‘green zone’ tag.

## 4. Environment

### 4.1. National Mission on Use of Biomass in Coal based Thermal plants

#### Introduction

- In order to address the issue of air pollution due to farm stubble burning and to reduce carbon footprints of thermal power generation, Ministry of Power has decided to set up a National Mission on use of Biomass in coal based thermal power plants.
- This would further support the energy transition in the country and our targets to move towards cleaner energy sources.

#### Objectives

- The "National Mission on use of biomass in thermal power plants" will have the following objectives -
  - ✓ To increase the level of co-firing from present 5% to higher levels to have a larger share of carbon neutral power generation from the thermal power plants.
  - ✓ To take up R&D activity in boiler design to handle the higher amount of silica, alkalis in the biomass pellets.
  - ✓ To facilitate overcoming the constraints in supply chain of bio mass pellets and agro- residue and its transport upto to the power plants.
  - ✓ To consider regulatory issues in biomass co-firing.

#### Features

- The modalities of operation and structure of the Nation Mission are under finalization.
- It is being envisaged that the Mission would have a Steering Committee headed by Secretary (Power) comprising of all stakeholders including representatives from Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG), Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) etc.
- The Executive Committee would be headed by Member (Thermal), CEA. NTPC will play a larger role in providing logistic and infrastructure support in the proposed National Mission.
- The Mission would have full time officers from CEA, NTPC, DVC and NLC or other participating organizations.
- The duration of proposed National Mission would be a minimum 5 years.
- Various Sub-Groups on R&D, technical specifications, supply chain, certification and testing, regulatory issues are also proposed to be formed under the Mission.
- The proposed National Mission on biomass will also contribute in the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).