National party status

The conditions for being registered as a national or state party are specified under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968.

To be recognized as a national party, a registered party has to fulfill any one of the following three conditions:

1. The party wins 2% of seats in the Lok Sabha (as of 2014, 11 seats) from at least three different states.
2. At a General Election to Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly, the party polls 6% of votes in four States in addition to 4 Lok Sabha seats.
3. A party is recognized as a state or regional party in four or more states.

When granted the national party status, the entity is entitled to certain privileges and perks.

1. Reserved symbol: A national party is given the right to use a reserved symbol for its candidates contesting across the country. This symbol is exclusive to the party and cannot be used by any other party. The pictorial symbol, which is allocated by the Election Commission, enables the large percent of illiterate voters to easily identify the party they want to vote for on the ballot.
2. National Presence: A national party can fight elections pan-India and can field candidates in any state, which helps in expanding its base and influence.

3. Single Proposer: Candidates from national parties require only one proposer at the time of filing of nomination. The party gets two sets of voter list revisions by the Election Commission and candidates also get access to the voter list.
4. Star Campaigners: National parties can field a maximum of 40 star campaigners. Expenditure on the star campaigners will not be included in the election expenditure of the party candidate
5. Government Land Allocation: National parties are given a government bungalow in New Delhi for its national president and office space at a subsidised rate in the national capital.
6. Free airtime on public broadcasters: National parties also get free airtime on public broadcasters such as Doordarshan and the All India Radio during the general elections to address the masses and convey their message

G7 pledges to quit fossil fuels faster

G7 countries' climate ministers have agreed - for the first time - to speed up their phase out of the fossil fuel consumption causing climate change, although they did not set a firm date for doing this.

The ministers have agreed "to accelerate the phase-out of unabated fossil fuels so as to achieve net zero in energy systems by 2050 at the latest".

the ministers agreed "to accelerate the phase-out of unabated fossil fuels so as to achieve net zero in energy systems by 2050 at the latest".At last year's COP27 U.N. climate summit,

countries failed to agree a deal on phasing down fossil fuel energy. A proposal by India to do this won support from more than 80 governments, but was opposed by Saudi Arabia and other oil- and gas-rich countries.

Insufficient financial support from wealthy countries to help developing countries switch to clean energy could also weaken the G7's leverage in bringing other countries on board with a commitment to eventually quit oil and gas.

Wealthy countries have still not met a promise to deliver $100 billion per year, starting in 2020, to help poorer countries cut emissions and cope with climate change. That amount falls far short of their actual needs, but has become symbolic of wealthy countries' failure to deliver promised climate funds.

G7 governments spent roughly $33 billion a year on international fossil fuel financing that could be redirected to help unleash private cash for clean energy.

Eurasia Free trade deal and India

The Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU or EEU) is an economic union of few post-Soviet states located in Eurasia. The five-member Union comprises Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Belarus. According to reports, a joint statement to launch FTA negotiations between India and EAEU was signed in June 2017.

India and Russia are engaging in discussions to for a free trade agreement (FTA) involving the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). It is aimed at diversifying and expanding goods by

exploring trade possibilities in automobiles and spare parts, electronics items, medical equipment, textiles, food and agricultural items and solar photovoltaic modules.

Russia discussing trade ties with India comes as Putin attempts to build closer relations outside the west. Russia, an important supplier of military hardware to India, displaced Iraq last month to become India's top supplier of crude oil.

Trade between Russia and India has jumped since the invasion, despite western efforts to impose sanctions on Moscow and to cut Russia out of global supply lines.

The EEC predicts that the FTA with India would help increase agricultural product exports from EAEU countries to India, including cereals, vegetables and vegetable oils, and beverages such as bottled mineral water.

India's fire power

India's indigenous missile development effort known as the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) that began in 1983 to develop the Prithvi, Trishul, Akash, Nag and an Agni Missile Technology Demonstrator. The IGMDP ended in March 2012 after 29 years. Four of these missile systems are in-service today—Prithvi, Trishul, Akash, Nag and the Agni. The pinnacle of India's land-based missile systems is the Agni-V, which is operated by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC). The Agni-V is an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5.000 km. The Agni-V is the cornerstone of India's policy to have credible minimum deterrence that underpins the commitment to 'No First Use' of nuclear weapons. The three-stage solid fuelled long-range surface-to-surface nuclear capable ICBM is capable of carrying a 1.5 tonne warhead. The

Agni-V was first tested in 2012 and the latest test was performed in December 2022. This strategic surface-to-surface missile can also be launched from a canister on a road mobile launcher, which enhances its survivability.

The Agni-V uses an all-composite light weight motor for its second stage and an innovative conical all-composite rocket motor. Re-entry temperatures of in excess of 4000 degree Celsius are tackled by an indigenously designed and developed carbon-carbon composite heat shield that maintains the temperature below 50 degree Celsius inside the payload compartment. Guidance is provided by a very high accuracy Ring Laser Gyro based Inertial Navigation System (RINS) and state-of-the-art Micro Navigation System (MINS).

The other variants of the Agni in service are the Agni 1, Agni 2, Agni 3 and Agni 4. The Agni 1-4 missiles have a range of 700-4,000km. The Agni 4 has a range of 4,000 km and features state-of-the-art avionics, a fifth generation on board computer and distributed architecture. The Agni 4 is a road mobile Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM).

The Agni P is a new generation nuclear capable IRBM with a range of 1,000-2,000 km, which is slated to soon enter service with the armed forces.

A new tactical missile developed by the DRDO is the Pralay surface-to-surface missile. The development of this new weapon commenced in 2015 and it was successfully tested twice in 2021. The new missile is slated to enter service with the Indian armed forces soon, starting with the air force first and then the army.

Pralay is powered by a solid propellant rocket motor and features several learnings from the DRDO's existing missile programmes. Capable of being launched from a mobile launcher, Pralay has a range of 150-500km. The missile guidance system includes state-of-the-art navigation system and integrated avionics. The DRDO has also been testing a heavier payload version of the missile with different range.

The Nirbhay subsonic cruise missile on the other hand has been in development for over a decade and is yet to enter service with the armed forces. With a range of 1,000 km, the Nirbhay long range sub-sonic cruise missile will be capable of deep penetration attacks to strike high value targets with precision. It can loiter and cruise at 0.7 Mach and fly at altitudes as low as 100 m.

The missile is guided by a highly advanced inertial navigation system indigenously developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI). The guidance, control and navigation system of the missile is configured around an indigenously designed Ring Laser Gyroscope (RLG) and MEMS based Inertial Navigation System (INS) along with GPS system.

The Indian Army, Navy and the IAF inducted the BrahMos weapon system in 2001, 2007 and 2020 respectively. The Indian Army has inducted the BrahMos in Block I, Block II and Block III variants. The Indian Navy will in future also receive Next-Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (Long Range).

The BrahMos-NG, which is now in development, will set the stage for the next 25 years of BrahMos Aerospace in India.

National Quantum Mission (NQM)

The Union Cabinet has recently approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) aiming to seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT). This will accelerate QT led economic growth, nurture the ecosystem in the country and make India one of the leading nations in the development of Quantum Technologies & Applications (QTA).

The new mission targets developing intermediate scale quantum computers with 50-1000 physical qubits in 8 years in various platforms like superconducting and photonic technology. Satellite based secure quantum communications between ground stations over a range of 2000 kilometres within India, long distance secure quantum communications with other

countries, inter-city quantum key distribution over 2000 km as well as multi-node Quantum network with quantum memories are also some of the deliverables of the Mission.

The mission will help develop magnetometers with high sensitivity in atomic systems and Atomic Clocks for precision timing, communications and navigation. It will also support design and synthesis of quantum materials such as superconductors, novel semiconductor structures and topological materials for fabrication of quantum devices. Single photon sources/detectors, entangled photon sources will also be developed for quantum communications, sensing and metrological applications.

Four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) will be set up in top academic and National R&D institutes on the domains - Quantum Computing, Quantum Communication, Quantum Sensing & Metrology and Quantum Materials & Devices. The hubs which will focus on generation of new knowledge through basic and applied research as well as promote R&D in areas that are mandated to them.

NQM can take the technology development eco-system in the country to a globally competitive level. The mission would greatly benefit communication, health, financial and energy sectors as well as drug design, and space applications. It will provide a huge boost to National priorities like digital India, Make in India, Skill India and Stand-up India, Start-up India, Self-reliant India and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Population- India overtook China

India has overtaken China as the world's most populous country, according to UN population estimates, the most significant shift in global demographics since records began.

According to the UN's projections, which are calculated through a variety of factors including census data and birth and death rates, India now has a population of 1,425,775,850, surpassing China for the first time.

It is also the first time since 1950, when the UN first began keeping global population records, that China has been knocked off the top spot

In India, the population has grown by more than a billion since 1950. Though growth has now slowed, the number of people in the country is still expected to continue to rise for the next few decades, hitting its peak of 1.7 billion by 2064. Today on average 86,000 babies are born a day in India compared with just 49,400 in China.

India's demography is far from uniform across the country. One third of predicted population growth over the next decade will come from just two states, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.Uttar Pradesh alone already has a population of about 235 million, bigger than Nigeria or Brazil.

Meanwhile states in south, which is more prosperous and has far higher rates of literacy, population rates have already stabilised and have begun to fall. In the next decade, states in the southern states such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu are likely to start grappling with an ageing population, and by 2025, one in five people in Kerala will be over 60

While India has one of the world's fastest-growing economies in the world, and recently overtook the UK as the fifth-largest, experts have stressed that the country needs more investment in education and employment to seize the opportunity presented by a young population over the next few decades.

Open network for digital commerce

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is an initiative aiming at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks. ONDC is to be based on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.

The foundations of ONDC are to be open protocols for all aspects in the entire chain of activities in exchange of goods and services, similar to hypertext transfer protocol for information exchange over internet, simple mail transfer protocol for exchange of emails and unified payments interface for payments.

These open protocols would be used for establishing public digital infrastructure in the form of open registries and open network gateways to enable exchange of information between providers and consumers. Providers and consumers would be able to use any compatible application of their choice for exchange of information and carrying out transactions over ONDC.

Thus, ONDC goes beyond the current platform-centric digital commerce model where the buyer and seller have to use the same platform or application to be digitally visible and do a business transaction.

ONDC protocols would standardize operations like cataloguing, inventory management, order management and order fulfilment. Thus, small businesses would be able to use any

ONDC compatible applications instead of being governed by specific platform centric policies. This will provide multiple options to small businesses to be discoverable over network and conduct business. It would also encourage easy adoption of digital means by those currently not on digital commerce networks.

ONDC is expected to make e-Commerce more inclusive and accessible for consumers. Consumers can potentially discover any seller, product or service by using any compatible application or platform, thus increasing freedom of choice for consumers. It will enable the consumers to match demand with the nearest available supply. This would also give consumers the liberty to choose their preferred local businesses. Thus, ONDC would standardize operations, promote inclusion of local suppliers, drive efficiencies in logistics and lead to enhancement of value for consumers.

Data from the National Health Accounts (NHA) 2019-20

The National Health Account (NHA) estimates for India 2019-20 is the seventh consecutive NHA estimates report prepared by NHSRC, designated as National Health Accounts Technical Secretariat (NHATS) in 2014 by the Union Health Ministry. The NHA estimates are prepared by using an accounting framework based on the internationally accepted standard of System of Health Accounts, 2011, developed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

With the present estimate of NHA, India now has a continuous series of NHA estimates for the country, from 2013-14 to 2019-20. These estimates are not only comparable

internationally, but also enable the policymakers to monitor the progress in different health financing indicators of the country.

Key highlights-

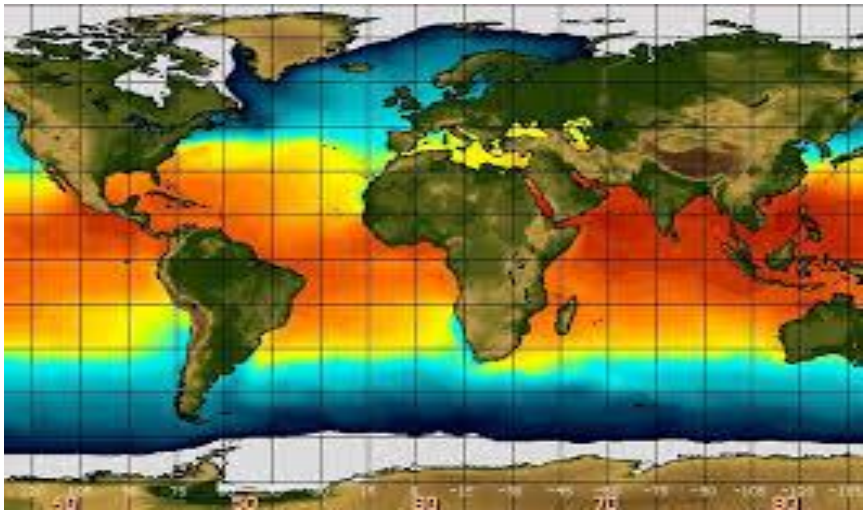
- It noted that the share of out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) in total health expenditure has declined from 62.6% in 2014-15 to 47.1% in 2019-20.
- The government health expenditure's share in the country's total GDP increased from 1.13% (2014-15) to 1.35% (2019-20).
- The data reflected that the government health expenditure (GHE) as a share of the total health expenditure (THE) increased from 29 per cent to 41.4 per cent during the same period.
- In per capita terms, GHE has doubled from Rs. 1,108 to Rs. 2,014 between 2014-15 to 2019-20.
- The government spending on health between 2018-19 and 2019-20 increased by 12%, more than double the growth rate between 2017-18 and 2018-19 which was at 5%.
- Additionally, in General Government Expenditure (GGE), the share of health sector spending has steadily increased from 3.94% to 5.02% between 2014-15 and 2019-20.
- Another positive trend in the country's health financing space is the increase in Social Security Expenditure (SSE) on healthcare. This increase in social security has a direct impact on reducing out-of-pocket payments.
- The share of SSE on health, which includes government-funded health insurance, medical reimbursement to government employees, and social health insurance programs, in total Health Expenditure (THE), has increased from 5.7% in 2014-15 to 9.3% in 2019-20.

IMD to release weather-wise hazard score for each state

India's Meteorological Department will release hazard scores in all states in May and June based on weather parameters that lead to extreme heat, to aid in heat wave management. The analysis takes into account parameters such as maximum and minimum temperatures, humidity, wind and duration of heat waves. Scores will be given based on graded weightage for each parameter, and will be aggregated for each month from March to June for each weather station. The exercise will be repeated for each weather parameter to help governments and agencies take timely and appropriate action for heatwave management during the peak season.

As instances of intense heat waves increase across the country, the India Meteorological Department will in May or June release hazard scores in all states on different weather parameters that lead to or aggravate extreme heat. This is expected to help in heat wave management. A heat hazard analysis will be an annual exercise carried out by the weather bureau between March and June, when temperatures soar in various parts of the country, a Met official said. Although India sees high temperatures between March and June, temperature recordings from some parts of the country have shown sharp spikes over the past decade.

Wind power and El Nino



The effects of El Nino, which occurs due to the warming of the Pacific Ocean waters, could lead to lower output amid soaring summer temperatures, driving up electricity demand. Wind power constitutes 10.2% of India’s total installed capacity at 42.6GW.

During El Nino, trade winds in the Pacific weaken or even reverse, and the westerlies may become dominant. The wind speed generally slows down during this period, causing warm water masses to move into the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. As sea surface temperature rises, rainfall increases along the western coast of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the US Gulf Coast while depriving India, Southeast Asia, and Australia of convective currents.

Wind power generation in India typically peaks between June and September, coinciding with the time the El Nino weather pattern will take effect. As wind speed slows down during this time, industry experts warn that power generation through wind turbines may also be affected.

The Indian wind power industry last witnessed a sharp slowdown in generation in 2020 as wind speed slowed. Around two-thirds of India's wind energy is generated during the four months to September.

Despite the government's emphasis on renewable energy, wind power generation in India has not grown at the same pace as solar. The government now plans to ramp up the sector, including promoting offshore wind energy, which has not seen much development in the country. The government has scrapped the reverse auction process for wind power projects that previously led to very low tariffs to support wind power generation.

Supreme Court modifies previous order

The Supreme Court has modified its 2022 order mandating a minimum 1-km eco-sensitive zone around national parks or wildlife sanctuaries, saying it would have prevented the government from building roads and other important infrastructure in those areas.

With the June 3, 2022 order sparking concerns about human habitations falling within the proposed ESZs, the Centre had approached the court seeking modification of some of the directions.

SC clarified further that no mining would be allowed, either within national parks and sanctuaries or in a 1-km radius.

It added that while granting Environmental and Forest Clearances for project activities in ESZ and other areas outside the Protected Areas, the centre as well as various State/UT Governments shall strictly follow the provisions contained in the Ministry's Office Memorandum of May 17, 2022.

LIGO- India

LIGO is a network of laboratories, spread around the world, designed to detect gravitational waves. These waves are incredibly weak, making their detection very challenging. The LIGO detectors are sensitive to distance changes that are several orders of magnitude smaller than the length of a proton.

In 2015, LIGO made history by detecting gravitational waves for the first time. These waves were produced by the merger of two black holes that were 29 and 36 times the mass of the Sun, 1.3 billion years ago.

Currently, there are three operational gravitational wave observatories around the world - two in the United States (Hanford and Livingston), one in Italy (Virgo), and one in Japan (Kagra). For accurate detection, four comparable detectors need to be operational simultaneously across the globe.

The LIGO detectors consist of two 4-km-long vacuum chambers, arranged at right angles to each other, with mirrors at the end. The experiment works by releasing light rays simultaneously in both chambers.

The LIGO-India project is an initiative aimed at detecting gravitational waves from the universe. It involves the construction of two vacuum chambers that are perpendicular to each other and 4 kilometres long each, making them the most sensitive interferometers in the world. The project is expected to commence scientific runs from 2030 and will be located in the Hingoli district of Maharashtra, approximately 450 km east of Mumbai.

The project has the potential to provide unprecedented insights into the mysteries of the universe, including the nature of black holes, neutron stars, and other celestial phenomena.

WMO State of the Global Climate report 2022

Highlights

- Concentrations of the three main greenhouse gases – carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide –reached record highs in 2021. The annual increase in methane concentration was the highest on record. Real time data from specific locations show levels of the three gases continued to increase in 2022.
- Global mean temperature in 2022 is currently estimated to be 1.15 ± 0.13 °C above the 1850-1900 average. The eight years 2015 to 2022 are likely to be the eight warmest years on record, with 2022 most likely to be 5 th or 6 th warmest.
- La Niña conditions have continued with short interruptions since late 2020 and are expected to continue through late 2022. This would mark the third consecutive year of La Niña. Such a triple-dip La Niña is unusual and has kept global temperature low for the second year in a row.

- Sea level continued to rise in 2022, reaching a new record high. Since January 2020, global mean sea level has risen by nearly 10mm, approximately 10% of the overall rise in sea level since satellite measurements began in 1993.
- A low winter snowpack in 2021/22 combined with an exceptionally warm summer in Europe led to record glacier mass losses in Switzerland with 6% of the glacier ice volume lost between 2021 and 2022. Between 2001 and 2022 the volume of glacier ice in Switzerland decreased from 77 km^3 to= 49 km^3, a decline of more than a third.
- In east Africa, rainfall has been below average in four consecutive wet seasons, the longest sequence in 40 years with early indications that the current season could also be drier than average. Across the region, under the effects of the drought and other shocks, an estimated 18.4 to 19.3 million people have faced food Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity before June 2022.
- Record breaking rain in July and August led to extensive flooding in Pakistan. There were at least 1 700 deaths and 33 million people affected. 7.9 million people were displaced.
- Record breaking heat waves affected China and Europe during the summer coupled with exceptionally dry conditions in places.
- The southern Africa region has been battered by a series of cyclones over two months, leading to a surge in the need for protection and shelter for hundreds of thousands of affected persons

Naval Ballistic missile Defence

Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Indian Navy successfully conducted a maiden flight trial of sea-based endo-atmospheric interceptor missile recently to

enter the elite club of nations with the capability to fire a Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) interceptor from a naval platform.

The purpose of the trial was to engage and neutralize a hostile ballistic missile threat, thereby elevating India into the elite club of nations having naval BMD capability.

Endo-atmospheric interception means the missile fired by Indian testing agencies had destroyed the incoming enemy ballistic missile within the Earth's atmosphere. Exo-atmospheric interception, on the other hand, is for destroying incoming enemy ballistic missiles outside of the Earth's atmosphere at a higher altitude.

Prior to this BMD test from a warship, India had successfully demonstrated the land-based BMD system with the capability to neutralize ballistic missile threats emerging from adversaries. In November 2022, DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight test of Phase-II of the BMD interceptor, code-named AD-1 missile, with a large kill altitude bracket.

AD-1 is a long-range interceptor missile designed for both low exo-atmospheric and endo-atmospheric interception of long-range ballistic missiles and aircraft. It is propelled by a two-stage solid motor and equipped with an indigenously developed advanced control system, navigation, and guidance algorithm to precisely guide the vehicle to the target.

The successful trial of AD-1 from both land-based and sea-based platforms would provide great operational flexibility to the Indian armed forces. India now possessed multiple options and the capability to engage incoming enemy ballistic missiles. The Indian BMD program aimed at providing a shield over its skies against all hostile missiles, including ones carrying nuclear warheads.

India launched the BMD program after the war with Pakistan in the Kargil sector in 1999 to counter the enemy nation's widening spectrum of ballistic missiles that usually delivered both conventional and nuclear warheads.

The two-tiered BMD program involved Prithvi missile-based Air Defense that can intercept enemy missiles at altitudes of 50 km to 180 km in the first layer. The Pradyumna interceptor has replaced the Prithvi Air Defense BMD already.

The second layer under the program is the Advanced Air Defense system for low-altitude interceptions. The Advanced Air Defense system is designed to destroy hostile missiles at 15 km to 40 km altitudes.

The Prithvi Air Defense system was first tested in 2006, then making India only the fourth nation globally to have such capabilities, after the United States, Russia, and Israel.

The Advanced Air Defense system got tested for the first time in 2007. Since then, both systems have gone through successive and multiple rounds of tests and are now in the process of deployment with the Indian armed forces.

50 yrs of basic structure judgment

Since 1973, the year of the Kesavananda Bharati judgment, the Constitution has been amended more than 60 times. In these five decades, the Supreme Court has tested constitutional amendments against the doctrine of basic structure in at least 16 cases.

In nine of these 16 cases, the Supreme Court has upheld constitutional amendments that had been challenged on grounds of violation of the basic structure doctrine. Six of these cases relate to reservations — including the quota for Other Backward Classes (OBC) and Economically Weaker Section (EWS), and reservations in promotions.

The Supreme Court has struck down a constitutional amendment entirely just once — The Constitution (Ninety-ninth Amendment) Act, 2014, which established the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), the body that would have been responsible for the appointment and transfer of judges, replacing the current Collegium system. The amendment was struck down by a five-judge Constitution Bench in 2015 on the grounds that it threatened "judicial independence", which the court ruled was a basic feature of the Constitution.

In six instances since 1973, including the Kesavananda ruling itself, the Supreme Court has "partially struck down" a constitutional amendment. In all these cases, the provision that was struck down related to the denial of judicial review.

Just one of these six rulings involve an amendment that was not made during the Indira Gandhi era — in Kihoto Hollohan, which dealt with the Tenth Schedule.

Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu And Others (1992): The Supreme Court upheld The Constitution (Fifty-second Amendment) Act that introduced the Tenth Schedule or the so-called "anti-defection law" in the Constitution. The only portion of the amendment that was struck down was the one that stated that the decisions of the Speaker relating to disqualification cannot be judicially reviewed.

In 2021, a three-judge Bench of the court struck down a portion of The Constitution (Ninety-seventh Amendment) Act, 2011, but on procedural — not basic structure — grounds. The amendment changed the legal regime for cooperative societies, and the court ruled that cooperative societies within a state, as opposed to inter-state, would fall under the State List, which means that a constitutional amendment relating to it must be ratified by half the states as prescribed in the Constitution. (Union of India vs Rajendra N Shah, 2021)

Kesavananda Bharati Sripadagalvaru and Ors vs State of Kerala and Anr (1973): While the court upheld the land ceiling laws that were challenged, it struck down a portion of the 25th Amendment (1972) which stated that "if any law is passed to give effect to the Directive Principles" it cannot "be deemed to be void on the ground that it takes away or abridges any of the rights contained in Article 14, 19 or 31".

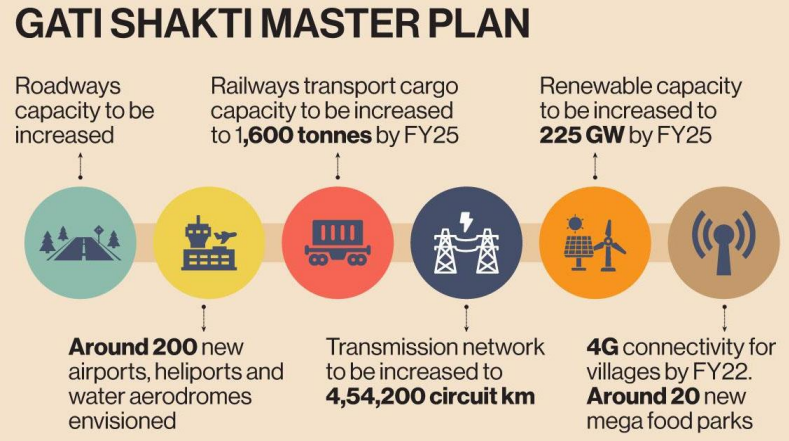
Indira Gandhi v Raj Narain (1975): The SC applied the principle laid down in the Kesavananda ruling for the first time in this case. It struck down The Constitution (Thirty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1975, which barred the Supreme Court from hearing a challenge to the election of President, Prime Minister, Vice-President, and Speaker of Lok Sabha.

Minerva Mills Ltd vs Union Of India (1980): The SC struck down a clause inserted in Article 368 (which gives the power and lays down the procedure to amend the Constitution), which said "there shall be no limitation whatever on the constituent power of Parliament to amend by way of addition, variation or repeal the provisions of this Constitution."

P Sambamurthy v State of Andhra Pradesh (1986): The SC struck down a portion of the 32nd Amendment (1973), which constituted an Administrative Tribunal for Andhra Pradesh for service matters, taking away the jurisdiction of the High Court.

L Chandra Kumar v Union of India (1997): The top court struck down a portion of the 42nd Amendment, which set up administrative tribunals excluding judicial review by High Courts.

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP)



The PM GatiShakti NMP is aimed at breaking departmental silos and bringing in more holistic and integrated planning and execution of projects with a view to addressing the issues of multi-modal connectivity and last-mile connectivity.

Under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, everything, from roads to railways, from aviation to agriculture, various ministries and departments would be linked.

National Logistics Policy (NLP) complements the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan. NLP lays down an overarching interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral, multi- jurisdictional and comprehensive policy framework for the logistics sector.

PM GatiShakti & National Logistics Policy are a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development. The approach is driven by seven engines, namely,

- Roads
- Railways
- Airports
- Ports
- Mass Transport

• Waterways
• Logistics Infrastructure

The scope of PM GatiShakti National Master Plan will encompass the seven engines for:
• economic transformation
• seamless multimodal connectivity
• logistics efficiency
The projects pertaining to these seven engines in the National Infrastructure Pipeline will be aligned with PM GatiShakti framework. The touchstone of the Master Plan will be world-class modern infrastructure and logistics synergy among different modes of movement - both of people and goods - and the location of projects. This will help raise productivity and accelerate economic growth and development.

The institutional framework for rolling out, implementing, monitoring and supporting mechanism is designed to have a three-tier system:
• Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS)
• Network Planning Group (NPG)
• Technical Support Unit (TSU)

Targets Under the plan

- ✓ In the Telecommunication sector, a total length of 35,00,000 kilometers of optical fibre cable network is to be laid down by 2024-25.
- ✓ New and Renewable Energy sector capacity is to be increased from 87.7 Gigawatt to 225
  Gigawatt by 2024-25.
- ✓ Power transmission network is to be upgraded from 4,25,500 circuit kms to 4,54,200 circuit
  kms by 2024-25.
- ✓ In Petroleum and Natural Gas sector, 17000 km-long trunk pipeline, connecting major demand and supply centres for industries, is to be added by 2024-25 making a total length of 34500 kms of pipeline across the country. All states are to be connected with the trunk natural gas pipeline network by 2027.
- ✓ Powered by Sagarmala, the shipping sector to see an increase in cargo capacity at the ports to 1759 Million Metric Tonnes per Annum (MMTPA) by 2024-25 from 1282 MMTPA in 2020

- ✓ Powered by Regional Connectivity Scheme – UDAN, the civil aviation sector to see an
  increase in the aviation footprint globally
- ✓ Powered by Bharatmala in the road transport and highways sector, 2,00,000 km-route of the national highway network to be achieved by 2024-25.
- ✓ By 2024-25, Indian Railways to see a decongestion by 51 per cent due to completion of critical projects