



Daily PIB Summary

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1. START-UP VILLAGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME (SVEP)



- I. The **Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)** is a sub-scheme under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.
- II. It aims to:
 - A. Promote rural entrepreneurship.
 - B. Support non-farm livelihoods.
 - C. Generate local employment.
 - D. Strengthen village economies.
- III. The programme provides:
 - A. Enterprise planning support.
 - B. Skill development and capacity building.
 - C. Business counselling.
 - D. Access to credit through SHGs and banks.
 - E. Handholding support through trained **Community Resource Persons – Enterprise Promotion (CRP-EPs)**.
- IV. SVEP particularly encourages entrepreneurship among:
 - A. Women.
 - B. Self-Help Group members.

- C. Rural youth.
- D. Marginalized communities.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)

- I. **Launched: 2011** (as NRLM); later renamed **DAY-NRLM** in 2015.
- II. **Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development.
- III. **Objective:**
 - A. Reduce rural poverty through sustainable livelihood opportunities.
 - B. Promote women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
 - C. Enhance financial inclusion and enterprise development.

START-UP VILLAGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME (SVEP)

Objectives

- Promote village-level enterprises.
- Reduce migration from rural areas.
- Encourage local value addition.
- Strengthen the rural non-farm economy.
- Improve household incomes.

Key Features

- Enterprise identification and planning.
- Business management training.
- Financial literacy.
- Credit linkage with banks.
- Mentoring by CRP-EPs.
- Market linkage support.
- Digital record-keeping and monitoring.

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

SVEP is implemented through:

- State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs).
- Block-level implementation units.
- Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- Village Organizations (VOs).
- Cluster Level Federations (CLFs).

- Community Resource Persons – Enterprise Promotion (CRP-EPs).

SIGNIFICANCE

Economic

- Promotes rural micro-enterprises.
- Generates local employment.
- Diversifies income sources.

Social

- Empowers women entrepreneurs.
- Reduces rural poverty.
- Encourages community-led development.

Institutional

- Strengthens the SHG ecosystem.
- Improves financial inclusion.
- Enhances entrepreneurial capacity in villages.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Programme:** Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP).
- **Parent Scheme:** Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- **Lead Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Target Beneficiaries:** SHG members, rural youth, women entrepreneurs, and rural households.
- **Support Provided:** Enterprise development, training, mentoring, credit linkage, and market access.
- **Strategic Importance:** Promotes self-employment, rural industrialization, and inclusive economic growth.
- **Challenges:** Limited market access, access to finance, digital literacy gaps, and sustainability of rural enterprises.
- **Way Forward:** Expand digital marketing platforms, strengthen value chains, improve credit access, integrate with the **One District One Product (ODOP)** initiative, and provide continuous business mentoring.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **SVEP: Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme**, a sub-scheme under **DAY-NRLM**.
- **DAY-NRLM: Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission**, implemented by the **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- **Launch of NRLM: 2011**; renamed **DAY-NRLM** in 2015.
- **Primary Objective:** Promote sustainable livelihoods and reduce rural poverty through women-led SHGs.
- **SHG (Self-Help Group):** Informal group, usually comprising 10–20 members, primarily women, engaged in savings, credit, and livelihood activities.
- **CRP-EP: Community Resource Person – Enterprise Promotion**, provides business guidance and mentoring to rural entrepreneurs.
- **Village Organization (VO):** Federation of multiple SHGs at the village level.
- **Cluster Level Federation (CLF):** Higher-level federation of Village Organizations that supports governance, livelihoods, and enterprise development.
- **Non-Farm Rural Enterprise:** Economic activities outside agriculture, such as retail shops, food processing, tailoring, handicrafts, repair services, and rural manufacturing.
- **SDG 1: No Poverty; SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP):

1. It is a sub-scheme of the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.
2. It is implemented by the **Ministry of Rural Development**.

3. It aims to promote rural entrepreneurship by supporting Self-Help Group (SHG) members and other rural entrepreneurs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

2. DELHI'S UNDERGROUND LINK TO THE FUTURE: THE TUNNEL SET TO REWIRE THE CAPITAL'S CONNECTIVITY



- I. The upcoming tunnel will:
 - A. Improve seamless connectivity across Delhi.
 - B. Reduce traffic congestion on major arterial roads.
 - C. Cut travel time and fuel consumption.
 - D. Improve logistics efficiency.
 - E. Reduce vehicular emissions.
- II. The project is expected to integrate with:
 - A. National Highways.
 - B. Urban Expressways.
 - C. Ring Road corridors.
 - D. Other major transport infrastructure in the National Capital Region (NCR).

- III. It is designed with advanced engineering features including:
 - A. Intelligent Traffic Management Systems (ITMS).
 - B. Modern ventilation.
 - C. Fire detection and suppression systems.
 - D. CCTV surveillance.
 - E. Emergency exits and communication systems.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Need for Underground Road Tunnels

Delhi faces:

- High traffic congestion.
- Rapid urbanisation.
- Increasing vehicle ownership.
- Air pollution.
- Limited availability of surface land.

Underground tunnels help:

- Increase transport capacity without major land acquisition.
- Preserve urban spaces.
- Improve traffic flow.
- Enhance road safety.

KEY FEATURES OF MODERN ROAD TUNNELS

- Multi-lane carriageways.
- Intelligent Traffic Management Systems (ITMS).
- Automated incident detection.
- Ventilation systems.
- Fire-resistant infrastructure.
- Emergency evacuation routes.
- Real-time traffic monitoring.
- Energy-efficient lighting.

RELATED GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan

- I. **Launched:** 2021.
- II. **Objective:**
 - A. Integrated infrastructure planning.

- B. Multi-modal connectivity.
- C. Faster project implementation.
- D. Reduced logistics costs.

Bharatmala Pariyojana

- I. National highway development programme.
- II. Focuses on:
 - A. Economic corridors.
 - B. Ring roads.
 - C. Border roads.
 - D. Expressways.
 - E. Urban connectivity.

National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)

- Long-term infrastructure investment programme covering transport, energy, urban development, and digital infrastructure.

SIGNIFICANCE

Urban Mobility

- Faster travel.
- Reduced congestion.
- Better last-mile connectivity.

Economic

- Lower logistics costs.
- Improved business efficiency.
- Enhanced investment attractiveness.

Environmental

- Reduced vehicle idling.
- Lower fuel consumption.
- Decreased greenhouse gas emissions.

Social

- Improved road safety.
- Better commuting experience.
- Enhanced quality of life.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Sector:** Urban Transport Infrastructure.
- **Location:** National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

- **Objective:** Improve connectivity through underground transport infrastructure.
- **Supporting Initiative:** PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.
- **Strategic Importance:** Urban mobility, logistics efficiency, and sustainable infrastructure development.
- **Challenges:** High construction costs, utility relocation, traffic management during construction, groundwater management, and long-term maintenance.
- **Way Forward:** Integrate tunnel infrastructure with public transport, adopt smart traffic management systems, ensure regular safety audits, and promote multimodal urban mobility.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan:** Launched in **2021** to provide integrated planning for multimodal infrastructure development.
- **Bharatmala Pariyojana:** Flagship highway development programme aimed at improving freight and passenger movement through economic corridors, expressways, and ring roads.
- **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP):** Infrastructure investment programme launched in **2019** to support projects across sectors.
- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI):** Statutory authority under the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways.
- **Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS):** Uses digital technologies such as CCTV, sensors, variable message signs, and automated traffic control for efficient traffic management.
- **Transit-Oriented Development (TOD):** Urban planning approach that promotes compact,



mixed-use development around public transport corridors.

- **National Logistics Policy (2022):** Seeks to reduce logistics costs and improve supply chain efficiency through integrated infrastructure and digital systems.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan** was launched in **2021** to promote integrated multimodal infrastructure planning.
2. **Bharatmala Pariyojana** primarily focuses on the development of national highways, economic corridors, and expressways.
3. The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** functions under the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

3. SPUDDING OF FIRST APPRAISAL WELL, MN-DWN18-1-HD, BEGINS IN MAHANADI OFFSHORE BASIN



- I. ONGC has begun drilling the **first appraisal well (MN-DWN18-1-HD)** in the **deepwater Mahanadi offshore basin**.

- II. The well follows earlier hydrocarbon discoveries and is intended to:
 - A. Estimate the size and quality of the reservoir.
 - B. Assess commercial viability.
 - C. Support future field development planning.
- III. The initiative is expected to:
 - A. Increase domestic oil and gas production.
 - B. Reduce dependence on imported crude oil and natural gas.
 - C. Enhance India's energy security.
- IV. The drilling is part of India's broader effort to unlock the hydrocarbon potential of frontier offshore basins.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

What is Spudding?

- **Spudding** refers to the **commencement of drilling** of an oil or gas well.
- It marks the official beginning of drilling operations after all preparatory work, including rig installation and safety checks, has been completed.

What is an Appraisal Well?

An **appraisal well** is drilled **after a discovery** to:

- Estimate the extent of the reservoir.
- Determine hydrocarbon quality.
- Evaluate commercial viability.
- Collect geological and engineering data for field development.

MAHANADI OFFSHORE BASIN

- Located along **India's east coast** in the **Bay of Bengal**, off the coasts of **Odisha and northern Andhra Pradesh**.
- It is one of India's important sedimentary basins with significant **deepwater hydrocarbon potential**.
- The basin contains both shallow-water and deepwater exploration blocks and remains



relatively underexplored compared to the Krishna–Godavari Basin.

IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT

Energy Security

- Increases indigenous oil and gas production.
- Reduces dependence on imported hydrocarbons.

Economic Benefits

- Supports economic growth.
- Generates employment in offshore exploration and services.
- Encourages investment in exploration technologies.

Strategic Importance

- Strengthens India's offshore exploration capabilities.
- Supports the objective of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** in the energy sector.

RELATED GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)

- Introduced in **2016**.
- Provides a uniform licensing framework for exploration and production.
- Replaced the **New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)**.

Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP)

- Allows companies to select exploration blocks of interest throughout the year.
- Encourages continuous exploration and investment.

Policy Reforms

- Liberalization of exploration in previously restricted offshore areas.
- Promotion of advanced seismic surveys and deepwater exploration.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Operator:** Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
- **Well:** MN-DWN18-1-HD (Appraisal Well).
- **Location:** Deepwater Mahanadi Offshore Basin, Bay of Bengal.
- **Purpose:** Evaluate discovered hydrocarbon reserves and determine commercial viability.
- **Strategic Importance:** Enhances domestic energy production and strengthens India's energy security.
- **Challenges:** Deepwater drilling complexity, high exploration costs, technological requirements, and environmental safeguards.
- **Way Forward:** Accelerate appraisal activities, adopt advanced offshore technologies, strengthen seismic imaging, encourage private participation, and expedite development of commercially viable discoveries.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Spudding:** The commencement of drilling of an oil or gas well.
- **Appraisal Well:** Drilled after a discovery to assess the size, quality, and commercial viability of a hydrocarbon reservoir.
- **Exploration Well (Wildcat Well):** First well drilled to search for hydrocarbons in a prospective area.
- **Development Well:** Drilled after commercial viability is established to produce hydrocarbons.
- **ONGC: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited**, India's largest crude oil and natural gas producer under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.
- **Mahanadi Basin:** Sedimentary basin located along the east coast of India with both shallow and deepwater hydrocarbon potential.
- **HELP: Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (2016)**, providing a unified licensing regime for oil and gas exploration.

- **OALP: Open Acreage Licensing Programme**, allowing companies to identify and bid for exploration blocks.
- **Sedimentary Basin:** A geological depression where sediments accumulate over millions of years and may contain petroleum and natural gas.
- **Deepwater Exploration:** Exploration conducted in offshore waters generally deeper than **400 metres**, requiring advanced drilling technologies.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

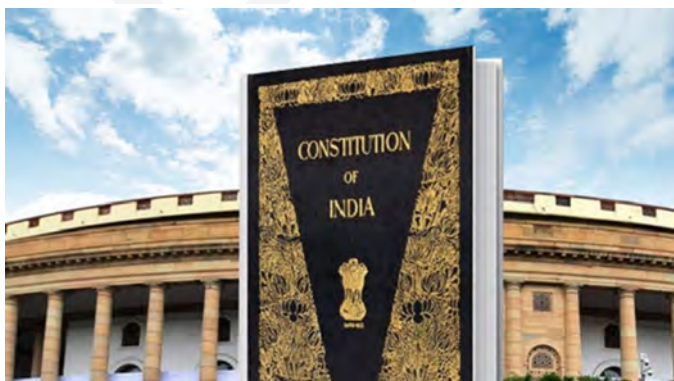
1. **Spudding** refers to the commencement of drilling of an oil or gas well.
2. An **appraisal well** is drilled after a hydrocarbon discovery to assess its commercial viability.
3. The **Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)** replaced the **New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)**.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

4. EIGHT CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS ENACTED IN THE LAST TWELVE YEARS, GOVERNMENT INFORMS PARLIAMENT



- I. Constitutional amendments are made under **Article 368** of the Constitution to address evolving governance needs.
- II. During the last twelve years, Parliament has enacted **eight Constitutional Amendment Acts**, covering:
 - A. Introduction of the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**.
 - B. Constitutional status for the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**.
 - C. **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** reservation.
 - D. Extension of reservation for **SCs and STs** in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
 - E. Reservation for **women in legislatures**.
 - F. Reforms relating to **cooperative societies**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Constitutional Amendment

A Constitutional Amendment is a formal change to the Constitution carried out under **Article 368**.

Procedure under Article 368

- I. Bill can be introduced in either House of Parliament.
- II. Must be passed by:
 - A. A **majority of the total membership** of each House; and
 - B. A **two-thirds majority of members present and voting**.
- III. Certain amendments additionally require ratification by **at least one-half of the State Legislatures**.
- IV. The Bill becomes law after receiving the **President's assent**.

MAJOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS (LAST TWELVE YEARS)

100th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2015

- Implemented the **India–Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement (LBA)**.
- Facilitated the exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh.

101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016

- Introduced the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**.
- Created a unified indirect tax system.
- Established the **GST Council** under **Article 279A**.

102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018

- Granted constitutional status to the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**.
- Inserted **Articles 338B** and **342A**.

103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019

- Introduced **10% reservation** for **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)**.
- Inserted **Articles 15(6)** and **16(6)**.

104th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2020

- Extended reservation for **Scheduled Castes (SCs)** and **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies until **2030**.
- Discontinued the reservation of seats for the Anglo-Indian community in legislatures.

105th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2021

- Restored the power of States to identify and notify **Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs)** for their own purposes.

106th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2023

- Popularly known as the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**.
- Provides **33% reservation for women** in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- The reservation will come into effect after the **next Census** and subsequent **delimitation exercise**.

111th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2025

- Amended **Part IXB** relating to cooperative societies.
- Strengthened governance and democratic functioning of cooperative institutions while respecting the federal distribution of powers.

SIGNIFICANCE

Governance

- Strengthens constitutional institutions.
- Improves administrative efficiency.

Social Justice

- Expands affirmative action.
- Enhances representation of marginalized communities and women.

Economic Reforms

- Facilitates tax reforms.
- Improves the business environment through GST.

Federalism

- Clarifies the role of States in identifying backward classes.
- Strengthens cooperative federalism.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Constitutional Provision:** Article 368.
- **Number of Amendments:** Eight during the last twelve years.
- **Major Themes:** Tax reform, social justice, women's empowerment, cooperative societies, and federalism.
- **Strategic Importance:** Keeps the Constitution responsive to changing socio-economic and governance needs.
- **Challenges:** Ensuring effective implementation, maintaining constitutional balance, and preserving the federal structure.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Article 368:** Deals with the **procedure for amendment of the Constitution**.



- **101st Amendment (2016):** Introduced the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**.
- **GST Council:** Constitutional body established under **Article 279A**.
- **102nd Amendment (2018):** Gave constitutional status to the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**.
- **103rd Amendment (2019):** Introduced **10% EWS reservation** through **Articles 15(6) and 16(6)**.
- **104th Amendment (2020):** Extended reservation for **SCs and STs** in legislatures; ended the nomination of **Anglo-Indian** members to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
- **105th Amendment (2021):** Restored States' power to identify **SEBCs**.
- **106th Amendment (2023):** **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam** providing **33% reservation for women** in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
- **Part IXB:** Deals with **Cooperative Societies**.
- **Special Majority:** Required for most Constitutional Amendment Bills under **Article 368**.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The **101st Constitutional Amendment Act** introduced the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**.
2. The **103rd Constitutional Amendment Act** introduced **10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)**.
3. The **106th Constitutional Amendment Act** provides for **33% reservation for women** in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

5. "ANCIENT BUDDHIST SITE OF SARNATH" INSCRIBED IN THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST



- **Sarnath**, located near **Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh**, is one of the **four principal Buddhist pilgrimage sites** associated with the life of **Gautama Buddha**.



- It is the place where **Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta)** after attaining enlightenment at Bodh Gaya, thereby **setting in motion the 'Dharmachakra' (Wheel of Dharma)**.
- The site contains important archaeological remains dating from the **Mauryan, Kushan, Gupta, and later periods**, reflecting the continuous evolution of Buddhist art, architecture, and monastic life.
- UNESCO recognition highlights Sarnath's global significance as a centre of Buddhist learning, art, and spiritual tradition.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

About Sarnath

- Location:** Near **Varanasi**, Uttar Pradesh.
- Ancient name: **Isipatana (Rishipattana)** and **Mrigadava (Deer Park)**.
- It is one of the **Four Great Buddhist Pilgrimage Sites**, along with:
 - Lumbini (Birth).
 - Bodh Gaya (Enlightenment).
 - Sarnath (First Sermon).
 - Kushinagar (Mahaparinirvana).

MAJOR MONUMENTS AT SARNATH

Dhamek Stupa

- Built to commemorate Buddha's **First Sermon**.
- Present structure dates mainly to the **Gupta Period**, with earlier Mauryan foundations.

Ashokan Pillar

- Erected by **Emperor Ashoka** in the **3rd century BCE**.
- The **Lion Capital of Ashoka**, discovered here, has been adopted as the **National Emblem of India**.

Dharmarajika Stupa

- Originally constructed by Ashoka.
- One of the earliest Buddhist stupas in India.

Mulagandha Kuti Vihara

- Modern Buddhist temple built by the **Mahabodhi Society**.
- Houses murals depicting the life of Buddha.

Archaeological Museum, Sarnath

- India's **oldest site museum**.
- Preserves the original **Lion Capital of Ashoka** and numerous Buddhist sculptures.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Objective

- Protect sites of **Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)**.
- Promote conservation and international cooperation.

World Heritage Convention

- Adopted by **UNESCO in 1972**.
- India became a **State Party in 1977**.

SIGNIFICANCE

Religious

- Sacred centre for Buddhists worldwide.
- Symbolizes the beginning of the spread of Buddhism.

Historical

- Flourished under the Mauryas, Kushans, and Guptas.
- Centre of Buddhist scholarship and monastic education.

Cultural

- Home to outstanding Buddhist art and architecture.
- Strengthens India's Buddhist heritage and cultural diplomacy.

Economic

- Boosts heritage tourism.
- Generates employment and local economic development.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Site:** Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath.
- **State:** Uttar Pradesh.
- **UNESCO Recognition:** Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- **Historical Importance:** Site of Buddha's First Sermon.
- **Associated Emperor:** Ashoka.
- **National Importance:** Lion Capital of Ashoka from Sarnath is India's National Emblem.
- **Strategic Importance:** Strengthens Buddhist tourism, heritage conservation, and India's cultural diplomacy.
- **Challenges:** Visitor management, urban encroachment, environmental degradation, and conservation of ancient structures.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen conservation efforts, promote sustainable tourism, enhance digital documentation, and improve visitor interpretation facilities.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Sarnath:** Place where **Gautama Buddha delivered his First Sermon** after attaining enlightenment.
- **Ancient Names:** **Isipatana (Rishipattana)** and **Mrigadava (Deer Park)**.
- **Four Major Buddhist Pilgrimage Sites:** **Lumbini, Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, and Kushinagar.**
- **Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta:** Buddha's **First Sermon**, explaining the **Four Noble Truths** and the **Noble Eightfold Path**.
- **Ashokan Pillar:** Built during the reign of **Emperor Ashoka (3rd century BCE)**.
- **Lion Capital of Ashoka:** Adopted as the **National Emblem of India** on **26 January 1950**.
- **National Motto:** "**Satyameva Jayate**", taken from the **Mundaka Upanishad**, appears below the Lion Capital.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Convention:** Adopted in **1972**; **India became a State Party in 1977**.

- **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):** Nodal agency responsible for the protection and conservation of centrally protected monuments in India.
- **Outstanding Universal Value (OUV):** The criterion used by UNESCO to determine whether a cultural or natural site deserves inscription on the World Heritage List.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding Sarnath:

1. Sarnath is the place where **Gautama Buddha delivered his First Sermon**.
2. The **Lion Capital of Ashoka**, adopted as the National Emblem of India, was discovered at Sarnath.
3. The **UNESCO World Heritage Convention** was adopted in **1972**.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)