

## CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

### PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – Q

#### **India, UN and Disarmament**

##### Why in News?

The first committee of the United Nations General Assembly has adopted two India-sponsored resolutions on nuclear disarmament which aim to reduce risk of nuclear accidents and call for a prohibition on the use of nuclear weapons. The UNGA first committee deals with the issue of disarmament and works in close cooperation with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament, the other two bodies to deal with the nuclear issue. The two resolutions adopted are-- 'Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons' and 'Reducing Nuclear Danger' under the 'Nuclear weapons' cluster. The adoption of resolutions, sources say shows "India's commitment towards the goal of nuclear disarmament."

##### Connectedness to the Syllabus

**Essay:** UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the India's contribution in the maintenance of the global peace, Nuclear Disarmament, Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the issues related to it.

##### **General Studies II:**

- Role of civil services in a democracy.
- India and its neighborhood- relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

##### **General Studies III:**

- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
- Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.
- Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
- Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money laundering and its prevention.
- Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

##### Articles Link

<https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-un-adopts-india-sponsored-resolutions-on-nuclear-disarmament-2854309>

<https://unrcpd.org/region/india/>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/un-adopts-india-sponsored-resolutions-on-nuclear-disarmament/articleshow/79034097.cms?from=mdr>

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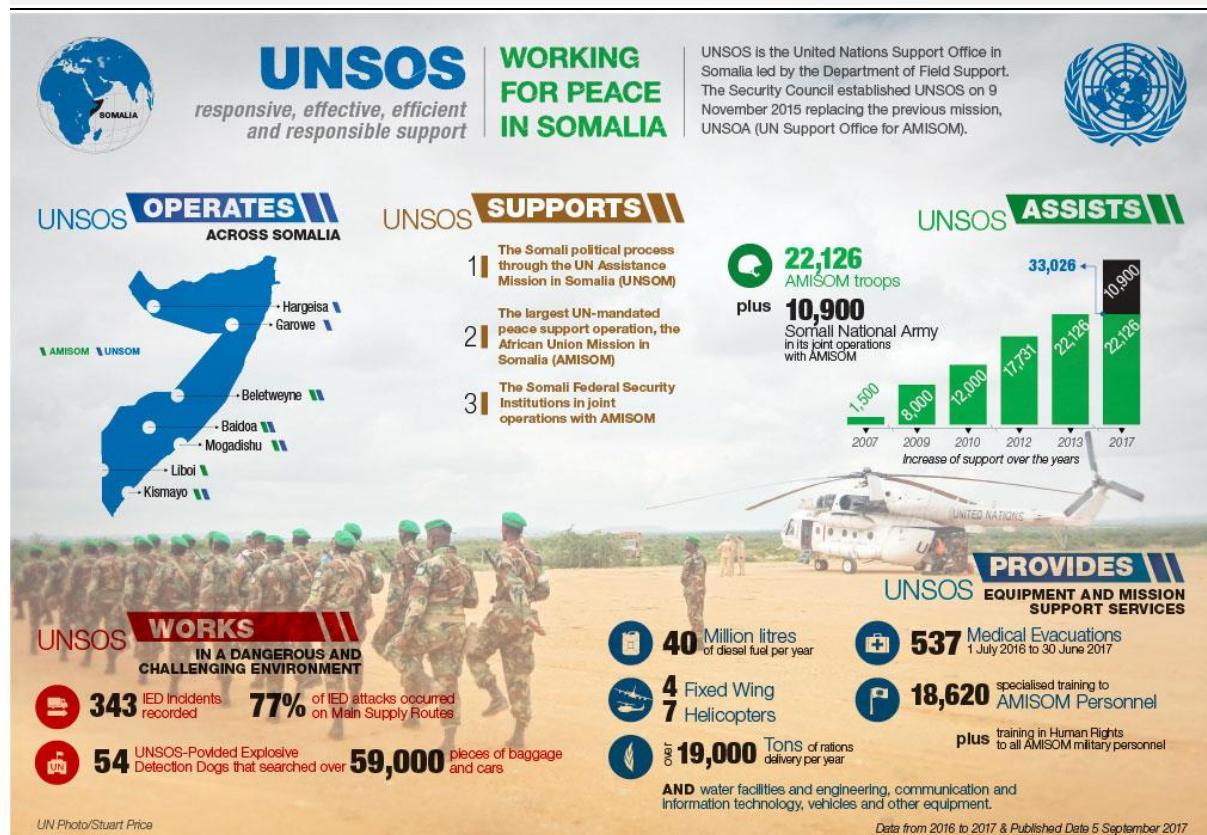
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<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/united-nations-general-assemblyadopts-india-sponsored-resolutions-on-nuclear-disarmament-2320623>

<https://www.mea.gov.in/distinguished-lectures-detail.htm?338>

<https://in.one.un.org/un-press-release/conference-on-disarmament/>

### Figures and Maps



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### PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – Q



### UN PEACEKEEPING FINISHES ITS MISSION IN LIBERIA

PEACEKEEPING IN LIBERIA (UNMIL) was established 1 June 2003 under UN Resolution 1509 to support the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and the peace process.  
[unmil.unmissions.org](http://unmil.unmissions.org)

Why we came? Liberia went through two civil wars between 1989 and 2003.



Conflict in Liberia claimed the lives of almost 250,000 people, mostly civilians  
GDP per capita dropped by more than 70% due to conflict  
1/2 of the population was forcibly displaced  
2/3 of women were subject to sexual violence during displacement

What we did?

UNMIL protected civilians, supported humanitarian and human rights activities and assisted in national security reform, including national police training and formation of a new, restructured military.



Between 2003 and 2018 over 126,000 military, 16,000 police and 23,000 civilian staff served in UNMIL



Disarmed over 100,000 combatants and secured over 21,000 weapons as well as over 5,000,000 rounds of ammunition



Enabled hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons to return home, including over 26,000 to Côte d'Ivoire



Held three peaceful presidential and legislative elections in 2005, 2011 and 2017



Supported the strengthening of Liberian security forces, including integration of women

Mission closes on 30 March 2018

### Why are we leaving?



The state, which had collapsed during the war, reestablished its authority throughout the country

The country's **justice and security** institutions – police, courts, corrections – were rebuilt and deployed throughout the country

Liberia's **borders** became **secure**

Economic recovery has regained more than **90%** of GDP losses experienced during the conflict

Today, the vast majority of internally displaced people have returned home, with only approximately **20,000** remaining from the millions originally displaced



### What is next?

UN Country Team together with Liberian national and local authorities, and civil society will continue progress on:

- Security Sector Reform and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)
- Human Rights and Transitional Justice
- Law Enforcement capacity building
- Social Cohesion
- Sustainable development

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**ROADMAP FOR THE DENUCLEARISATION OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA**

To achieve real and lasting peace, and the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, North Korea, South Korea and the US must embark on a long-term plan anchored in international law.

**STEP 1**  
Recognize that nuclear weapons pose an unacceptable risk to humanity

The start to solving any problem is admitting that there is one. North Korea and the US must both recognize the risks and unacceptable humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons.

**STEP 2**  
Ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The United States and DPRK should both commit never to test nuclear weapons by ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

As a legally-binding instrument founded on a robust verification system, the CTBT would also help overcome the trust deficit that is a real impediment to progress on denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

**STEP 3**  
Reject nuclear weapons, join the Nuclear Ban Treaty

North and South Korea should immediately join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), rejecting any role for nuclear weapons in their security policies.

The treaty, adopted by the UN in 2017, forbids the development, testing, possession, use, and threatening to use nuclear weapons.

Rather than risk the kind of disputes over verification and compliance that led to the collapse of previous talks, the United States and North Korea should agree to use a multilateral process for the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula through the Nuclear Ban Treaty.

**STEP 4**  
Remove North Korea's nuclear weapons in a verifiable and irreversible way

Under the TPNW, North Korea would work with a competent international authority to develop and implement a time-bound, verifiable, and irreversible plan for the total elimination of its nuclear-weapons programme.

The international community would play a key role in this process by verifying the elimination of North Korea's nuclear-weapons programme.

**STEP 5**  
Rejoin the NPT and world community

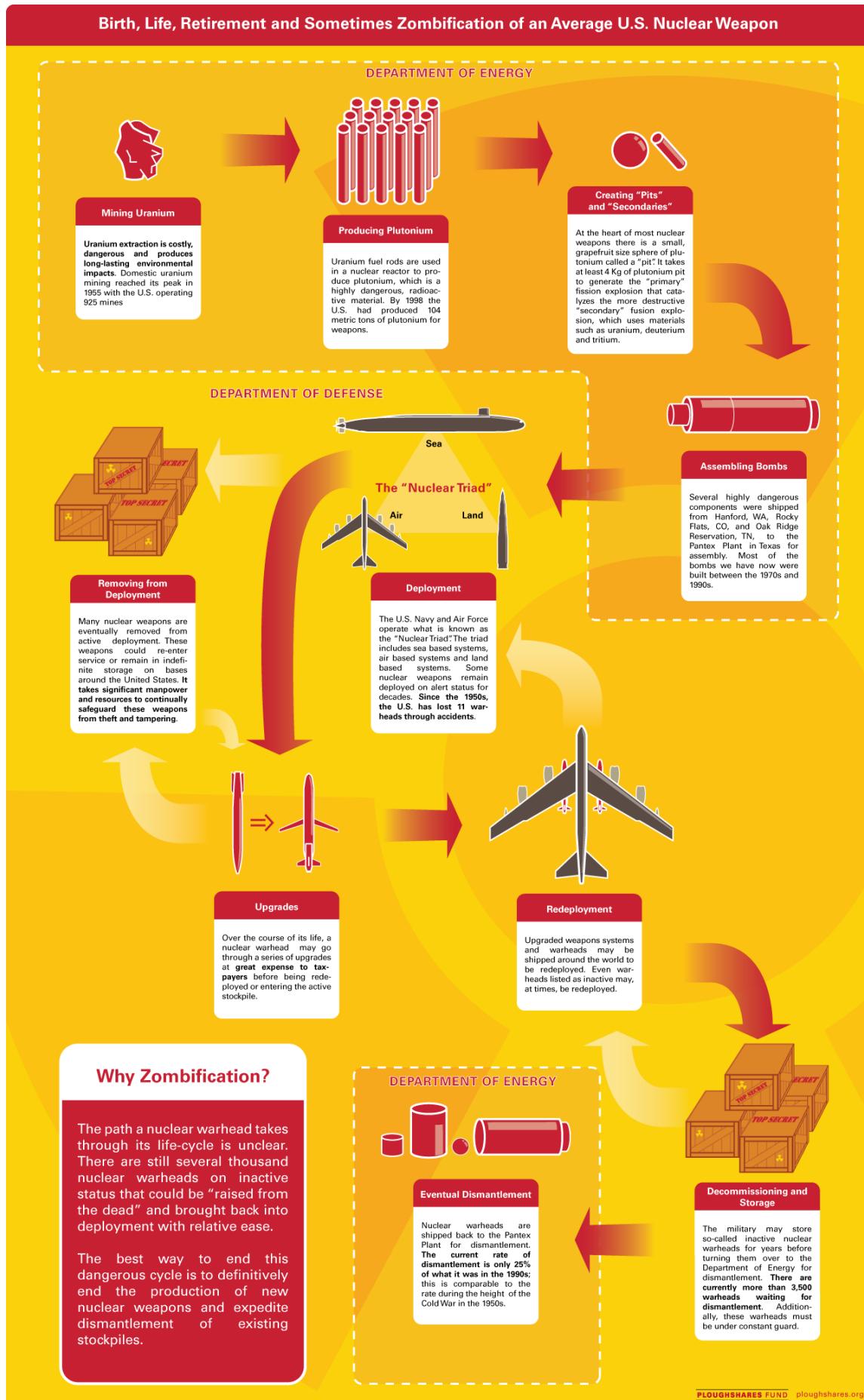
Following the elimination of its nuclear weapons, North Korea should rejoin the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The United States should pursue multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations as stipulated by NPT Article VI.

**Logos:** Institute of International Studies (Saarbrücken), ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons), Nobel Peace Prize 2017

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#### **Video Links**

**India and the Global Nuclear Order: The Wire:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U58M-xkJoKM>

**ORF: Indian Nuclear Policy Outlined at UN Conference on Disarmament; Farce at UNHRC and US polls:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gA\\_0jrmmt8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gA_0jrmmt8)

**Rajya Sabha TV: The Big Picture: 75 Years of UN:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8xa4uh2Au0>

**Rajya Sabha TV:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCbbL-14aIo>

#### **India & Afghanistan**

#### **Why in News?**

Pakistan's Foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's admission that Pakistan has complained to Kabul — "with evidence" — about India interfering in the Afghan peace process is as interesting a development. Perhaps Qureshi was referring to the visit of National Security Adviser Ajit Doval to Kabul recently, where he held talks with his counterpart Hamdullah Mohib and other Afghan leaders to "synchronise efforts to combat terrorism" and expand cooperation. India and Afghanistan, neighbours in Asia, have a historic and strong bilateral relationship, and are a part of several regional partnerships, including the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). According to the MEA, the friendly relations can be traced back to January 1950 when a five-year Treaty of Friendship was signed by then Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru and Afghan's then Ambassador to India Mohammad Najibullah.

#### **Connectedness to the Syllabus**

**Essay:** UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the bilateral issues between India and the Afghanistan, Bilateral Trade, India's role in the redevelopment of the war-torn Afghanistan, Peacebuilding measures and the issues related to it.

#### **General Studies I:**

- Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society.

#### **General Studies II:**

- India and its neighbourhood- relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

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## **CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE**

### **PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – Q**

#### **Articles Link**

<https://eoi.gov.in/kabul/?0354?000>

<https://carnegieindia.org/2020/06/02/dealing-with-taliban-india-s-strategy-in-afghanistan-after-u.s.-withdrawal-pub-81951>

<https://theprint.in/opinion/afghanistan-is-indias-one-reliable-neighbour-but-hekmatyars-surprise-entry-can-change-this/510017/>

<https://theprint.in/opinion/global-print/if-biden-ignores-afghanistan-pakistan-isi-will-get-a-long-rope-india-must-play-bigger-role/588699/>

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/opinion/decoding-india-s-move-in-kabul-101610974153284.html>

#### **Figures and Maps**

#### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- ⇒ Supply of 1.1 million MT of wheat to Afghanistan
- ⇒ The Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (IGICH) – a 400-bed hospital that caters to the well-being of children from all across the country

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

- ⇒ 218km road from Zaranj to Delaram to help move goods & services to Iran border
- ⇒ 220kV DC transmission line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul and a 220/110/20 kV substation at Chimgala
- ⇒ India-Afghanistan Friendship Dam (Salma Dam)
- ⇒ New Afghan Parliament

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ⇒ Private investments into Afghanistan, such as through the India Afghanistan Trade and Investment Show in 2017
- ⇒ 116 new 'High Impact Community Development Projects' in 31 provinces of Afghanistan

## 5 PILLARS THAT DRIVE INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP WITH **AFGHANISTAN**

#### CAPACITY BUILDING

- ⇒ More than 3,500 Afghans undergoing various training programmes in India
- ⇒ 1,000 scholarships per annum to Afghan nationals under Indian Council for cultural Relations (ICCR)
- ⇒ 500 Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) slots to Afghanistan annually to strengthen its administration and governance

#### CONNECTIVITY

- ⇒ Chabahar Port development
- ⇒ Direct Air Freight Corridor between India and Afghanistan established in 2017

Source: News reports

## OVER \$3 BILLION IN AID

India has given over \$3bn in aid to Afghanistan and worked on several major projects, including:

- ▶ **218km road** from Zaraj to Delaram to help move goods & services to Iran border
- ▶ **220kV DC transmission line** from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul and a **220/110/20 kV sub-station** at Chimgala
- ▶ India-Afghanistan Friendship Dam (Salma Dam).



Installed capacity of 42 MW.  
Irrigates 75,000 hectares

- ▶ **New Afghan Parliament** (pic) built with Indian support

The Indian-built **\$290 mn Afghanistan-India Friendship Dam**, known earlier as the Salma Dam, in Afghanistan's Herat province has reduced Kabul's dependence on its neighbours for electricity and is irrigating around **75,000 hectares**



Afghan parliament building was constructed by India at a cost of **\$90 m**

The Delaram-Zaraj Highway was constructed at a cost of \$135 million, financed fully by development grants from India

# Strengthening Ties

**Since 2001, India has undertaken projects worth over \$2 billion in Afghanistan**

**In 2016, India pledged to allocate an additional \$1 billion over the next five years**

**India's development partnership can be classified into five sectors--infrastructure development, humanitarian assistance, human resource development and capacity building, economic development, and connectivity**



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**India says its projects speak for itself and it will continue to stay on course in Afghanistan**



#### Video Links

Rajya Sabha TV: India's World: Afghan Peace Talks & India:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hs\\_KG051eeY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hs_KG051eeY)

Rajya Sabha TV: The Big Picture - The Afghanistan Puzzle & India:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCrl0sP7Eno>

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**Rajya Sabha TV: The Big Picture - India's Afghan Policy:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxg4F75Ygtk>

### Bank Licensing Framework

#### Why in News?

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had opened the doors for corporate to set up payments' banks for the first time, big industrial houses like the Tatas, Birlas, Ambanis, Mahindras and few others had made a beeline for a differentiated banking license. Reliance Industries, Aditya Birla Nuvo, Tech Mahindra, Tata Sons, Sun Pharma, all had applied for a licence. Some got the licence, whereas some withdrew from the race as a second thought on the viability of the payments banking model.

#### Connectedness to the Syllabus

**Essay:** UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the issue of the bad banks loan, privatisation of the public sector banks, Merger of the Banks, Banking Sector Reforms, Licensing of the Banks and the issues related to it.

#### **General Studies II:**

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

#### **General Studies III:**

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.

#### Articles Link

[https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/bs\\_viewcontent.aspx?Id=2651#:~:text=Over%20the%20last%20two%20decades,guidelines%20issued%20in%20January%201993.&text=Non%2DBanking%20Financial%20Companies%20could,meet%20the%20RBI's%20eligibility%20criteria.](https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/bs_viewcontent.aspx?Id=2651#:~:text=Over%20the%20last%20two%20decades,guidelines%20issued%20in%20January%201993.&text=Non%2DBanking%20Financial%20Companies%20could,meet%20the%20RBI's%20eligibility%20criteria.)

[https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/bs\\_viewcontent.aspx%3FId%3D2900](https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/bs_viewcontent.aspx%3FId%3D2900)

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=190679>

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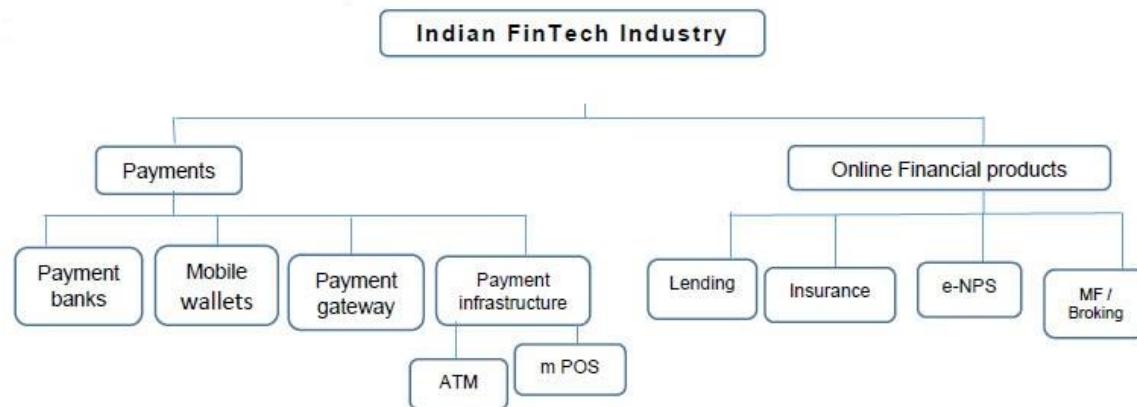
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### PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – Q

<https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/banking-needs-new-thinking-rbi-needs-to-consider-custodian-bank-licensing/2145226/>

<https://www.businessstoday.in/sectors/banks/rbi-to-open-doors-to-big-banking-business-for-tatas-birlas-ambanis/story/422546.html>

#### Figures and Maps



**Promoter cap:** Cap for promoters may be raised to 26% and for non-promoters to 15% at central bank's discretion

**NBFCs:** Non-banking financial firms with an asset size of ₹50,000 cr or more can aspire for a banking license

**SFBs:** Time-frame for payments banks to convert to a small finance bank to be three years from five years

► Provision for SFBs and payment banks to list within six years

#### **Bank licensing:**

Capital level for licensing new universal banks may be doubled to ₹1,000 cr; raised to ₹300 cr for SFBs from ₹200 cr

## BIG BANK REFORMS



ILLUSTRATION: AJAY MOHANTY

**NOFHC:** Non-operative financial holding company must for promoters, promoting entities, converting entities with other group entities

► NBFCs wanting to convert into universal banks with interests across financial services will have to set up NOFHCs

► Banks licensed before 2013 may move to an NOFHC structure. Have to shift within 5 years of attaining tax-neutral status

► Banks under NOFHC structure may be allowed to exit from it if they do not have other group entities in their fold

## WHO FITS THE BILL

	Total assets FY20 (₹cr)
<b>NBFCs - PRIVATE</b>	
HDFC	559,204
Bajaj Finserv	177,468
Shriram Transport	112,877
L&T Finance Holdings	108,807
Indiabulls Housing	95,212
M & M FinServ	77,942
Aditya Birla Cap	70,015
Chola Inv. & Fin.	63,205
Muthoot Finance	52,953
<b>NBFCs - GOVT</b>	
Power Finance Corp.	662,729
REC Ltd	321,685
LIC Housing Finance	209,695
PNB Housing	75,733
HUDCO	73,780

Source: Capitaline  
Compiled by BS Research Bureau

## CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

### PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – Q

#### Policy prescription

Some key policy decisions of the Reserve Bank of India

 **No extension** announced on loan moratorium beyond August 31

 **Banks allowed to restructure** stressed corporate and MSME loans

 **Relief to individual borrowers** at banks' discretion

 **Borrowing limits against gold relaxed**

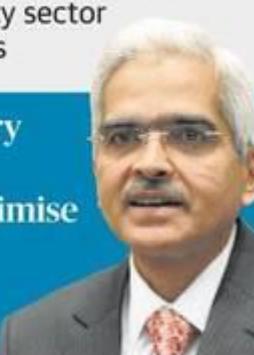
 **Tenure can be extended upto two years for personal loans**

 **₹10,000 crore support for NHB, NABARD**

 **Start-ups included in priority sector lending norms**

 While space for further monetary policy action is available, it is important to use it judiciously to maximise the beneficial effects for underlying economic activity

SHAKTIKANTA DAS, RBI Governor



#### Governor's prescription

A look at some of the key announcements made by the RBI

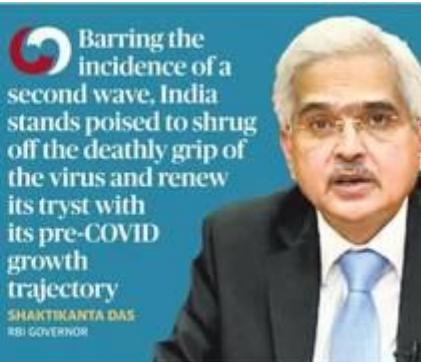
• Repo rate will remain unchanged at 4%

• Accommodative stance towards growth will be extended to next year

• Risk weightages for home loans have been rationalised to spur job-intensive realty sector

• Real Time Gross Settlement payment system to go 24/7 from December 2020

**PROJECTION**  
GDP to contract by **9.5%**, with positive growth likely in Q4



Barring the incidence of a second wave, India stands poised to shrug off the deathly grip of the virus and renew its tryst with its pre-COVID growth trajectory

SHAKTIKANTA DAS  
RBI GOVERNOR

#### Video Links

Rajya Sabha TV: The Big Picture: The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2020:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8dByvnerqE>

Rajya Sabha TV: Discussion Today - Idea Of Bad Banks:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKVe3b5x4a8>