

# WEBINAR HANDOUT

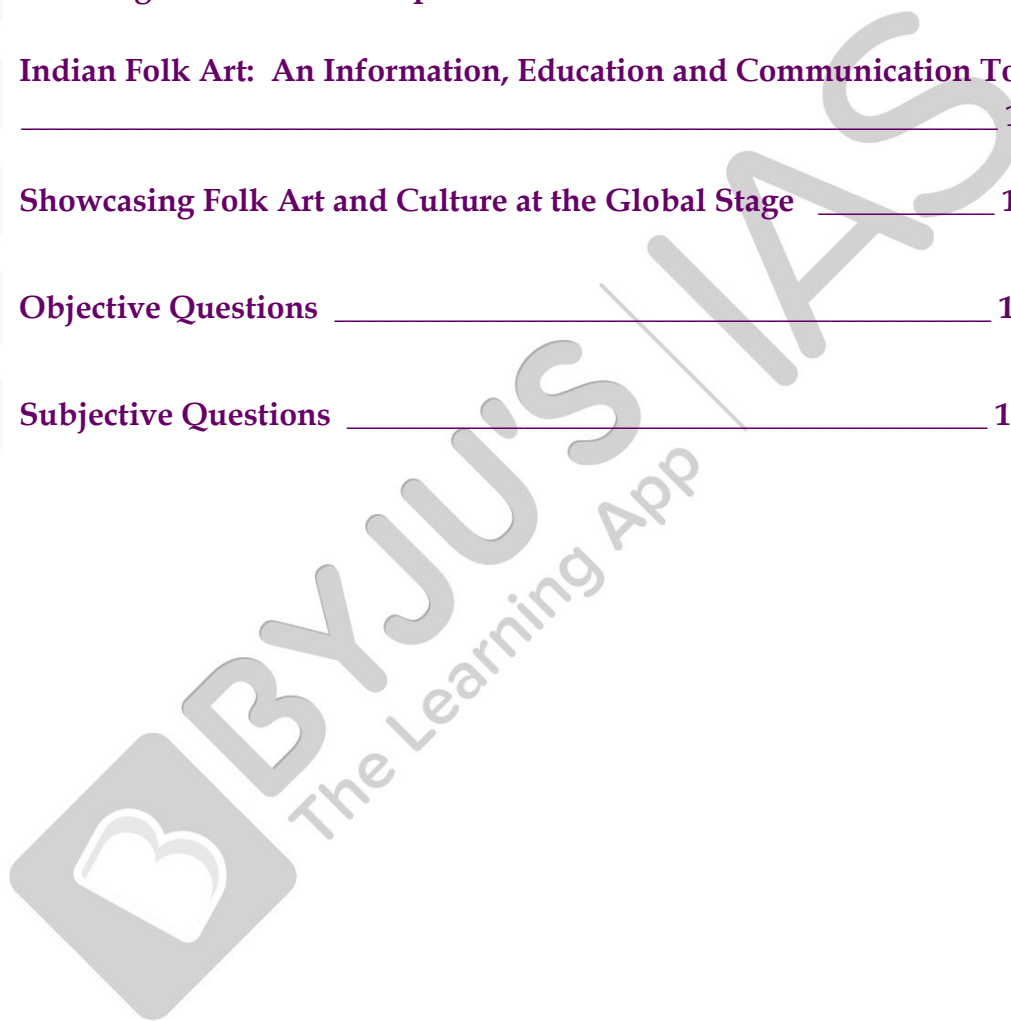


## Yojana and Kurukshetra

# CONTENT

YOJANA (MAY 2021) AND KURUKSHETRA (APRIL 2021)

<b>01</b>	One Nation, One Election _____	02-04
<b>02</b>	Paradiplomacy by the States _____	05-07
<b>03</b>	Challenges of Skill Development _____	08-10
<b>04</b>	Indian Folk Art: An Information, Education and Communication Tool _____	11-13
<b>05</b>	Showcasing Folk Art and Culture at the Global Stage _____	14-15
<b>06</b>	Objective Questions _____	16-17
<b>07</b>	Subjective Questions _____	18-18



## 1. One Nation, One Election

### Context:

- West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Puducherry had elections recently. Prime Minister has been repeatedly emphasising 'One Nation, One Election' as a necessity for development as there is an election in India almost every month.
- He has asked the presiding officers of elected bodies to ponder over the idea of having one election and one voters' list.

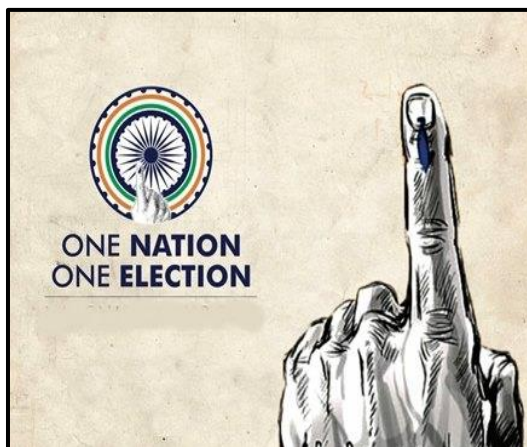


Figure: One nation one election  
Source: spmrf.org

### Background - Constitutional debate on ECI and elections

Speaking in the Constituent Assembly on the proposed Articles on Elections and Election Commission in the Constitution of India in the making then, Dr B.R. Ambedkar mentioned that the Drafting Committee had two alternatives before it on the constitution of Election Commission-whether it should be a permanent body or if it could be a temporary body to be set up before elections and wound upon completion of the process.

### Why part-time Election Commission?

- Elections were expected only once in five years except for the odd bye-elections to fill casual vacancies that might arise once in a while, and that might leave a permanent Commission with no work in the intervening four years.

### Why a Permanent body?

- Committee also anticipated the possibility of mid-term dissolution of Legislative Assemblies and that it was necessary to be in a state of readiness to conduct fresh elections promptly in such situations for which a permanent Commission was necessary.

### History of Simultaneous elections

Participating in the Constitutional debate, Prof. Shibaan Lal Saksena observed that since no fixed term for the Houses of Legislature or fixed election cycle was proposed in the Constitution, concurrent elections could happen in the initial years. Still later on there would be elections regularly in some State or the other.

As predicted by Prof. Saksena, we had concurrent elections only for the first two decades. The last occasion when we had near-simultaneous elections in the country was in 1967, with all Legislative Assemblies except those of Nagaland and Pondicherry going to polls with the Lok Sabha.

The fourth Lok Sabha constituted in 1967 was dissolved prematurely in 1971 ahead of its normal term resulting in a mid-term Lok Sabha election. This was the beginning of the end of simultaneous elections and we now have at least two rounds of Assembly general elections every year.

Thus, making ECI a permanent body turned out to be a wise choice. But this has not stopped the idea of simultaneous elections.

**Arguments/Advantages and Analysis for simultaneous elections****• Labour, time and expenditure:**

**Argument:** Simultaneous elections reduce labour, time and expenditure in the conduct of elections.

- Polling stations for Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections are the same. So is the electoral roll. Hence no extra labour or expenditure is involved on this count.
- However, in the conduct of elections, all logistic arrangements are replicated for the two elections when the same drill can cater to both the elections if held together. This would mean saving on transport, accommodation, storage arrangements, training, remuneration, and also human resources.
- Another area of saving in simultaneous elections would be in the deployment of the Central Police Force.

**Counter:**

- But, for simultaneous nationwide election, the requirement of EVMs in terms of numbers would be double compared to separate elections.
- Also, a proportional increase in reserve EVMs is essential which further adds to the cost. The incidental recurring expense in the storage and security of these machines will also be a considerable amount

Considering all this, the overall expenditure in holding elections may not see any substantial dip for the government on account of simultaneous elections, although simultaneous elections could, bring down the campaign expense of political parties by a long way.

**• Continuance in governance:**

**Argument:** Instances of pause in governance are addressed if elections are conducted in one go instead of staggered elections.

- A crucial part of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) (a set of behaviour guidelines for candidates and political parties that comes into operation from the date election is announced by the Election Commission) is the restrictions on the party in power - MCC prohibits using official resources for electoral activities, announcing financial grants, new schemes, etc. that may influence the voters in favour of the ruling party. The restriction is only in coming up with new schemes during the limited period when MCC is in force. The schemes, programs, and work already in progress are not affected.
- If all elections are held together, the restrictions under MCC will be through in one go.

**Counter:**

- Note that in the Lok Sabha election, the MCC applies to both the Union and State Governments. In the Legislative Assembly election, the Code, logically, applies to the outgoing State Government.
  - The restriction on the Union Government is only concerning new schemes specific to the State(s) going to polls and in bye-elections, the application of MCC is restricted to the District concerned.

Thus, the impact on governance on account of the enforcement of MCC during elections is minimal.

- Counters voter fatigue:** A simultaneous nationwide election could push up the voter turnout since a once-in-five-year event is bound to attract more enthusiastic participation across all sections.

**Challenges of simultaneous elections:****Need for amendments:**

- Both the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies (ordinarily) have a term of five years. According to the Constitution, while these Houses (Lok Sabha and State Assemblies) can be dissolved ahead of the scheduled expiry of the term of five years [Articles 85(2)(b) and 174(2)(b)], there is no provision for extension of the term unless a proclamation of Emergency is in operation.
- Also, Sections 14 and 15 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, empower the Election Commission to notify elections any time during the last six months of the term of the House and not earlier than that.
- Bringing the terms of all the Houses to sync with one another necessarily calls for either extending the terms of several of the Houses or curtailing of terms or a combination of both. For enabling such curtailing or extension of the term, the relevant Articles of the Constitution mentioned above will have to be suitably amended.

**Maintaining the simultaneous electoral cycle**

- Even if the terms are synchronised as a one-time measure, we will still need an adequate legal safeguarding place to avoid mid-term dissolution and protect the simultaneous elections cycle.
- For maintaining the electoral cycle, some countries have legal provisions to the effect that for a 'no-confidence motion' to be brought up against the government in office, the proposed resolution should also contain a constructive 'vote of confidence in an alternative government with a named leader to head it.
- In such cases, even if the sitting government is voted out in the House, there would be an acceptable alternative in place by virtue of the constructive vote of confidence. This helps to maintain the fixed term of the House and preempts the stalemate situation thrusting fresh election as the only option.

**Local Body elections:**

- The Local Body elections are conducted under the superintendence of a different constitutional authority, namely, the respective State Election Commission.
  - Holding local bodies' elections along with the other elections will require the team of the same polling officials to report to and take instructions from two different authorities simultaneously, even on the same issue, and they may not necessarily get the same direction in all cases.
- There is a distinct set of polling stations too for local bodies' elections.
- Further, the judicial forum before which the local bodies' election can be challenged is the Court of District Judge and other lower Courts whereas an election petition challenging a Parliamentary or Assembly election is to be brought up before the High Court.
  - Therefore, situations may arise where the same issue forms a ground to challenge the election may be raised in two different Courts.

Thus, it becomes much more complicated.

**Conclusion:**

Thus, it can be seen that there is no clear answer about the feasibility of the idea of the One Nation One Election. The need/feasibility of the idea, the merits, and demerits associated with it are all likely to be a subject of further scrutiny and analysis at different levels in the future.



## 2. Paradiplomacy by the States

### Context:

- The Prime Minister has indicated a paradigm transformation in India's foreign policy-making by appreciating the critical role that States can play in the conduct of diplomacy.
- He has vouched to launch the concept of Para-Diplomacy in India where states and cities would have the opportunity to forge special ties with countries or even cities of their interest.



**Figure: Paradiplomacy: Former Andhra CM with foreign delegates.**  
Source: quora.com

### Paradiplomacy

- Para diplomacy correlates to the engagements of sub-national states in the foreign policymaking means. Para diplomacy is also known as 'constituent diplomacy', 'state diplomacy', 'regional diplomacy', and 'subnational diplomacy'.
- An American scholar, John Kincaid, who sketched a foreign policy role for sub-national governments in a constitutional federal system in the US, originally introduced the notion of para diplomacy in 1990.

### Factors enabling Paradiplomacy

- **Economics:** Finance is a major imperative that supports the concept of para-diplomacy.
- **People-to-People Ties:** A significant surge in people-to-people synergies at multiple levels irrespective of national borders also push the sub-national states to effectively conduct para-diplomacy.

### Global Examples:

- **Canada:**
  - Canada is a great example of paradiplomacy with provinces like Quebec and British Columbia constitutionally empowered to drive their economic diplomacy independently.
  - Its success can be seen: Canada's national exports averaged just 10 percent growth vs 14 percent of British Columbia.
- **US:**
  - **Autonomy in FDI:** While export promotion by states in the US is coordinated with Washington, they have full autonomy to attract FDI.
  - **The Select USA 2013 Investment Summit:** a U.S. government initiative to promote trade and investment partnerships directly between foreign investors and state/ local governments.
  - **State Missions:** Starting with just a single mission set up by New York in 1953, there are now more than 225 state mission offices globally.

- **Brazil: Municipal model**
  - Paradiplomacy at the city level has evolved significantly in Brazil since 1988 when the decentralization of the Brazilian federation was approved under the new constitution.
  - The meteoric rise of Sao Paulo (number 6 FDI destination on the global rankings), now the richest city in Latin America, makes it the poster-child of Brazil's municipal paradiplomacy.
  - Britain and the United States have established formal bilateral relations with Sao Paulo which, perhaps is the only city in the world to have this distinction.
- **China: Hybrid model**
  - China's use of paradiplomacy to propel its impressive FDI performance is noteworthy. It uses a hybrid model that combines central coordination and municipal diplomacy.
    - With the "Open Coastal Cities" program in the 1980s to attract FDI, 14 coastal cities in China were allowed to maintain preferential policies such as reduced customs duties and permits for foreigners to operate financial and tertiary businesses.
    - In the next phase, they opened municipal foreign affairs offices in major economic cities so that they could lobby consulates for investments into their city.
  - The results are clear for all to see - In the late 1980s, Shenzhen was a fishing village; today it is a global economic powerhouse. Thus, Municipal paradiplomacy has enabled China to develop several mega-cities of international standard.
  - The U.S.-China Governors Forum, an annual meeting between U.S. governors and Chinese provincial leaders to promote trade and investment, is another important initiative.

## India and Paradiplomacy

### Diplomacy framework in India

- The Constitution of India provides for a strong union government and the ability to push foreign policy initiatives continues to remain under the sole responsibility of the union government.
  - Item 9-20 of the Union List from the 7th Schedule of India mandates the Centre's role in any consular or trade representations, foreign trade agreements, conventions with foreign countries and so forth.
- All FDI-related policy, ownership quotas and other matters are decided by the centre - the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and the Ministry of Commerce.
- There are State investment promotion boards. But they are primarily single-window clearance systems that assess and approve bids and do not concern themselves with promotional activity.
- States are not empowered to set up trade mission offices abroad. The state's levers for attracting FDI remain just governance, infrastructure and tax-related initiatives.

### What factors enabled Paradiplomacy in India?

- **LPG reforms:** The Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG) reforms due to economic liberalization of 1991 played a major role in carrying the practice of para diplomacy forward.
- **Technology and education:** The paradiplomacy concept also attained a footprint in India through trans border movements of technology, information, financial market and education.
- **Partisan role of the Centre:** At times, the partisan tone of central governments to the regional states have pushed the latter to look for alternative patterns of investment, trade promotion and development.

### Major fields of engagement

Following the economic reforms of the 1990s, Indian states have extensively contributed to India's foreign policy decision-making in two important fields:

- **Economic diplomacy**
  - India first commenced its operations of paradiplomacy in 1992 in the power sector, when the Maharashtra government agreed with Texas electric giant, Enron, and General Electric to fund its Dabhol Project.

- States like Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu ruled by regional parties, have taken up the role of entrepreneurs in co-operating with foreign companies in Europe, China, Japan, the United States and so on.
  - Telangana and Karnataka have promoted their capitals as high tech hubs abroad.
  - Kerala benefits by coordinating in diplomatic relations with the Middle Eastern countries as a great number of the state's inhabitants find employment in those lands.
  - Punjab has pushed for additional trade routes at the Wagah border and Tripura has set up and championed border *haats* or markets along the India-Bangladesh border.
  - There has also been a range of important vibrant investment summits designed by several states like Punjab, Goa and Gujarat.
- **Shaping India's foreign policy with its neighbours.**
    - The geographical area of India steers a role for border states in matters of para-diplomacy cooperation.

#### Need/Importance:

- **A worrying decline in foreign direct investment (FDI), economic growth and jobs:** States are oftentimes more suited to initiate diplomatic measures in sectors such as commerce, trade, cultural and educational exchanges and foreign direct investment (FDI)
- **Reinforce federalism:** Para diplomacy can reinforce the federal fabrication of the Indian government.
- **Realisation of potential:** It can also aid the local government to contribute their absolute potential in the regulation of cross-border connections.

#### Issues:

- **Coordination:** The biggest concern is that states might speak in different voices from the centre, complicating coordination in an already garrulous nation.
- **Compliance:** Additionally, to attract FDI, governments might compromise on tax collection, environmental regulation and other compliance issues, to the detriment of their residents.
- **Security:** issues for the sovereignty or security of the country considering that India is largely surrounded by neighbours who are hostile

#### Way forward:

- **Defining roles:**
  - FDI policy, certain caps on tax, and environmental benefits would be formulated centrally, but the states would be empowered to liaise with and appeal to foreign investors through consulate representatives, trade mission offices, delegations and other forums.
  - The role of the central government would also be to coordinate and monitor state-led initiatives that could have adverse national impacts.
- **Role of Diaspora:** Indian diaspora abroad can also help contribute through para diplomacy for their own respective states. For instance, the Telugu diaspora in the United States, Tamil Diaspora in Singapore, Punjabi diaspora in Canada etc.
- **Learn from leaders:** India should take ideas from cities like Sao Paulo, Macau and New York that have been successful in para diplomacy.
- **Consulates:** India can enhance its para diplomacy through the conception of consulates in regional states, launching federal foreign affairs offices under the administration of the MEA.
- **Cooperation:** More regular cooperation within the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and local offices using routine discussions and bureaucratic interplays could prove useful.
- **Role of Chief Ministers:** The incorporation of chief ministers in prime ministerial talks overseas will also boost paradiplomacy.

#### Conclusion

The Indian states must make use of their approaches to utilise the globalized industry for their advancement. With the UN estimating the majority of the global population to inhabit cities by 2050, para diplomacy is here to endure.



### 3. Challenges of Skill Development

**Context:**

- District Skill Committees (DSC) set up across many states over the last decade have a long way to go before they start effectively performing their role in planning, execution, and monitoring of skill training schemes. This is because DSC still lacks the requisite capacity to effectively discharge its functions.
- Capacity building of DSC is thus imperative if we want true decentralisation and expect the DSC to control the management of skill development at the district level to ensure optimum resource utilisation, fulfilment of local aspirations, and inclusion of all marginalised sections of society.



**Figure: Skill India**  
**Source: catchnews.com**

**Functions of DSC in the decentralised skill management regime**

- **Planning:** Planning for skill training by looking at among other things demand and supply, the socio-economic profile, and availability of skill infrastructure at the district level.
- **Resource Mobilisation:** DSC should make resources available for various activities such as identifying trainees, mobilisation, counselling, advocacy, etc.
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** Monitoring and evaluating what’s going well and what’s not to make course corrections is important to achieve outcomes.

**Why DSC?**

- **On ground experience:** DSC is composed of all the significant district development departmental officers who have, by their departmental programmes, a thorough understanding of the economic profile and potential of the district, the nature of its labour force, and the administrative systems in place that could bring about a fruitful arrangement of skill training across trades and communities to create employability.
- **Leadership:** The DSC headed by the District Collector is theoretically the fittest entity to undertake comprehensive skill development through proper planning for the district.

## Capacity building

### Capacity-building architecture for the DSCs

#### (i) Creating and managing knowledge

- Having a standard format for planning and monitoring skill training activities would aid DSC in preparing evidence-based plans.
- Accordingly, SANKALP (Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion Programme) prepared a DSC toolkit complete with templates for planning and monitoring of skill activities, a knowledge library with useful information for managing skill training.

#### (ii) Customising and localising content

- Plans must have the flexibility to ensure that they are rooted in the reality of the individual districts.

#### (iii) Disseminating knowledge through training

- The difficulty arises because of the absence of adequate two-way communication and dialogue between all the official stakeholders. This can be solved if the states and districts fully understand the purpose of such proposed capacity-building and actively seek to promote it. They could do so by
  - Allowing DSC members to be deputed for training.
  - providing incentives to the trained officers by allowing them next postings of their choice
  - by seconding or extending them in deputation posts in related departments of their choice
  - By sponsoring them for at least one higher training course in a nationally eminent institution or other similar ways.
- The State Administrative Training Institutes (ATI) can be roped in as
  - district officials could be deputed there for shorter duration courses as this was fairly standard practice
  - it would solve the language issue as the ATIs catered to state officials in their language
  - SANKALP financial resources could be correctly and usefully put into aiding content/manpower in ATIs
  - procurement would present no difficulty as ATIs are government institutions.

#### (iv) Providing opportunities for guided practice

- The concepts evolved in the Ministry with the help of specialist institutions and trainers can help guide in capacity building. There are many institutions in the country, both private and public, with expertise in capacity building and they can contribute to this.
- This knowledge then can be disseminated by institutions such as ATIs and guide practice.
- This way, DSCs over time can develop capacities themselves to produce credible data around skill and skill management

#### (v) Evaluation with actionable feedback.

- **Institutionalisation:** In addition to the above steps, we need to institutionalise this process of knowledge creation and dissemination by the DSC to equip DSC members with the ability to use their experience and knowledge for impact-making skill management.
- **Participatory/bottom-up approach:** We also need to elicit from state to state, district to district what they feel are their areas of weakness, gaps in understanding and what exactly they need to metamorphose into dynamic empowered active DSCs. This will address the fundamental issue of how to secure the total and active engagement of the district-level and state-level officials in the exercise of capacity-building.

**Content of capacity building:****Reinventing the nature of jobs:**

- Skills that have been non-remunerative and not perceived as upmarket, are often unfortunately the exclusive preserve of the poorer sections and the deemed lower.  
**Eg:** scavengers or 'Safai karmacharis'.
- To make works like scavenging, rag-picking, or waste disposal 'aspirational', we need mechanisation of the work.
  - We have to ensure the imparting of skill training using machines for hazardous and socially demeaning work which would render the tasks safe, hygienic and endow them with a modicum of human dignity.
  - It would change the scope and content of previously defined job roles and also introduce different supervisory levels striking a blow at the very root of the entrenched caste system.
- Safai work is an obvious and universal example but there are several lesser non-remunerative and often stagnant trades in which skill training needs to be re-invented and planned.

**Planning for linkages:**

- Planning for linkages is another important area in capacity-building wherein the ability and understanding of the planners to recognise the backward and forward linkages of district skill plans to integrate them with state-level and national-level planning and opportunities becomes important.
  - For example, Tourism and heritage conservation for public consumption are complex activities that are far from remunerative or even complete if viewed from the narrow confines of the district alone.
  - To provide opportunities in careers in tourism to aspiring local youth, the district planners would need to have the composite picture of national and state tourism maps/destinations/policy and derive from these the particular slot that their district could occupy in the larger picture.

**Understanding of psychology and psychometry**

- District skill planning also needs to have a thorough understanding of the socio-economic profile of the district population, the skills history of local communities, and their changing or emerging aspirations.
- The planning should be able to ensure that everyone's potential and aspirations are reflected and addressed through the micro-level study of district industry, economic activity, level of education, etc.
- Some understanding of psychology and psychometry is necessary for the planners for finding this fit between the opportunities and trainees' attitudes and aspirations.

**Financial management**

- The empowerment of DSC and their expanding role would necessitate financial resources and the means of raising them, whether they come from state budgetary allocations or innovative revenue generation models developed by DSC themselves. This would mean the need for training in financial management

**Interpersonal Communication**

- DSC are also now expected to interact with industry representatives such as local industry and trade chambers, sector skill councils, experts including professional consultants and MGN Fellows.
- Courses in self-development and interpersonal communication and other softer aspects will also help them be more effective in this.

**Conclusion:**

DSCs are pivotal in the success of the Skill India mission and for their success, it is very important to focus on the capacity building of these decentralised bodies. Only by skilling the skill managers can we hope to Skill India.

#### 4. Indian Folk Art: An Information, Education and Communication Tool

##### Development communication and its importance:

- Development communication refers to the use of communication to facilitate social development.
- Without appropriate, adequate and intensive development communication, the mind and intent of the planning and policy do not percolate down to the people on the ground the way it has been envisaged.

##### Folk media and Development communication:

##### Reasons for the popularity and effectiveness of folk media

- **Variety:** The popularity stems from its inexhaustible treasure of vivid forms, local aesthetics and meaningful themes.
- **Tradition:** It also draws its strength from age-old traditional stories and mythology
- **Belongingness:** It provides entertainment in the local dialect and has the aesthetic air of belonging and affinity in the local cultural context.
- **Participation:** Audience participation is an integral part of folk media.
- **Self-expression:** Its lively and dramatic and the lyrical entertainment satisfies the innate need for self-expression.
- **Simplicity:** folk media techniques are simple and easy and reflect the cultural ethos that touches people's hearts.



**Figure: Folk media as a development communication tool.**  
Source: ascentgroupindia.com

For example, bhajans, kirtans and tamashas are popular because of their liveliness/religious themes and compatibility with the local audience culture. Nautankis were extensively used in family planning and anti-dowry campaigns. Likewise, dramas, jatras, quawwallis, puppet shows, harikatha and other mediums attract huge crowds.

- Entrenched with festivals: Folk media is deeply entrenched in festivals and fairs which are quite frequent in our country. Since festivals are the times when all folk arts, dance, dramas and other events are organised and experienced by millions, they are great occasions for communicating behaviour change messages.

##### Use of folk media by the government:

- The Song and Drama Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was created in 1954 to meet the need to use folk media for development. Since then it has been using theatre, mime, songs, puppetry, ballet, dances etc for informing people about services and programs made available by the government.
- The mobile units of the Directorate of Field Publicity provide intimate and vibrant communication to rural people.



### Why was it underutilised?

- **Colonial Mindset:** The reason why folk communication was ignored (not utilized to its full potential) in development communication was the colonial mindset that believed that folk media is an extension of local culture and that it would inhibit or discourage modernisation.
- **New age tools:** It was also thought that the new age information needs new age communication symbols - technology-based mediums like radio and televisions.
- **Outreach:** In communication literature, it is often said that the folk media fails to reach the number of people that mass media achieves.

### Overcoming the limitations: The experience of Swachh Bharat communication

- **The experience of Swachh Bharat communication tells us that the combination of 3 elements:**
  1. A direct connect
  2. Using folk art as communication media
  3. Enabling environment

touches the heart of people the most and makes behavioural change possible. Where the communicator talks to people directly, in their language and in the listeners' environment is the best form of communication. Folk media IEC tools then reinforce this communication.
- The effectiveness of this can be seen in PM's approach in his Mann Ki Baat through which he has catalysed the participation of more than 5 crore students in swachhta programs in a short span of two weeks.
- During one of his addresses, he inspired people to use traditional festivals, arts and cultural ethos to bring a behavioural change in cleanliness. This started a series of SBM IEC themes celebrating every festival, every traditional event with swachhta fervour by using traditional art and folk communication methods.
- Also, all mediums of communication were treated as complementary to one another and packaged into one, which made the campaign successful.
- Thus, integration of traditional and modern communication systems is a recipe for successful development communication in rural India.

### Breaking it down: key takeaways from the Communicator in Chief - PM

- **Creating an enabling environment:** PM's deep understanding of Indian culture and traditions helped the SBM to create an enabling environment that is a prerequisite for behaviour change at scale.
- **Call for action:** He begins with a call for action - "Let's also start a mass movement for water conservation..."
- **Appeal to all:** He then appeals to people from all walks of life whether it be from the world of films, sports, media, social organisations etc and says that everyone should lead the movement in their own fashion.
- **Urge to use traditional wisdom:** " I urge all to share these traditional methods of water conservation..." He then connects it to a 200-year-old traditional water tank capable of harvesting rain in Porbandar and links it with Babu (Gandhiji) for further appeal.

### Successful Swachh Bharat Campaign examples:

- **Use of folk media in Uttarakhand:** SBM IEC also followed a similar approach. The swachhagrahis used folk dances to attract people and organised competitions (rangoli for attracting women). This impact was such that a village in Uttarakhand where the campaign was launched has now become open defecation free (ODF).
- **Koosu (meaning child in Kannada):** An initiative in the Kalburgi district of Karnataka to promote hygiene practice among women. Here a small program was devised wherein after an antenatal checkup, a pregnant woman having a toilet was honoured and her baby shower was organised by the local gram panchayat.
- **Rajasthan - fasting:** 30 Sarpanches of Baran district in Rajasthan took vows to have just one meal per day until their villages became ODF. Seeing the determination of the leaders, people too joined the movement.



- **Recognition:** PM honoured and paid respect to safai karmacharis working in the Kumbh Mela by washing and wiping the feet of 5 safai karmacharis in 2019.
- **Festivals:** SBM used each and every festival, be it Onam, Shivratri, Christmas or Diwali to spread the message of Swachhta. Even international days like women's day, yoga day, Champaran satyagraha day etc. were utilised for mass events such as Swachh Shakti, Chalo Champaran etc.

**Conclusion:**

One of the reasons for SBM's success in bringing behavioural change among crores of Indians was its proactive and judicious use of folk media in the amalgamation of modern technology and huge public participation. To continue and broaden this success of using folk media as an effective development tool, we need a dedicated volunteer force on the ground that keeps the flame burning.



## 5. Showcasing Folk Art and Culture at the Global Stage

### Context:

- In the upcoming UNESCO's meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, India looks forward eagerly and hopefully for the inclusion of 'Durga Puja' in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- Also, just last year Ministry of Culture had launched a draft National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) as part of its Vision 2024 with an aim to increase awareness about the various Intangible Cultural Heritage elements from different states of India at the national and international level to ensure their protection and preservation.

### Folk art

- "Folk" in most languages in India loosely translates to a sense of community.
- Though many folk art forms may look similar across states, they are quintessentially distinct. For example - Ghode Modini from Goa, Poikkal Kuthirai Aattam from Tamil Nadu and Kachchi Ghodi from Rajasthan may all superficially look similar but they all have very different content and context.
- Even today researchers are striving to accurately document all the folk art forms as there is such a huge diversity. But this excessive diversity creates hurdles in the path whilst attempting to showcase such form on a national and international level as they become difficult to manage.



Figure: The folk dance from Rajasthan  
Source: tilytravels.com

### Classical vs Folk

- The roots of Classical arts can be traced to 'Natya Shastra' by Bharata Muni that was compiled between 200 BCE to 200 CE. But not a single art form is mentioned explicitly in it. The classification was made so that it could be made accessible to more willing learners and also to preserve them. This led to the creation of learned audiences or Rasikas who could understand them. The patronage by the imperial heads had opened darbars to artists.
- On the other hand, the common people viewed art from a perspective that connected them with life itself. To them the darbars were inaccessible. So they turned fields and pavements into breeding grounds of art. They closely depicted their life, social relationships, work and religious affiliations. Thus they saw it as a medium of self-expression.
- Today, because of better availability of the standard codes of assessment and yardsticks to ensure quality, more efforts have been put to preserve classical arts over the folk arts. This has pushed folk art forms to take inspiration from the more economically rewarding and popular art forms, compromising the originality in the process.

**Efforts by the Government of India to promote Folk arts**

- The number of schemes and policy decisions implemented for the promotion of folk arts has increased in the last decade.
- Through ICCR - Indian Council for Cultural Relations 1267 crores was spent in the last six years as Grant-in-Aid to various agencies for the promotion of Traditional Folk Art and Culture.
- The government has organised 'Festivals of India Abroad' and ' Namaste India' in foreign countries like Senegal, Korea, Ukraine etc.
- Sanskriti channel, Virtual Museums and the Indian Culture Portal have tried to reduce the physical distance between arts and audience.
- Know India Programme for diaspora helps to acquaint them with traditional arts.
- Renovations of cultural centres like Jaffna in Srilanka have facilitated showcasing of Indian culture at the international level.
- Since 2015, Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav has been organised under the Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat campaign.
- Programs like Lok Kala Darshan, Tribal Dance Festival, Folk Theater Festival also have helped in the promotion.

**Need and purpose of showcasing:**

The very intent of promoting culture is to preserve it. But the impatience to exhibit and popularise folk arts without preserving their original flavour and distinctiveness (as it is subjected to several strains of making it more appealing), just to boost the economy is more dangerous than ignoring the arts. Sacred forms like Sopana Sangeeta, Baul Sangeet, Qawwali etc need to be preserved in their original sacrosanct form rather than being solely presented as a cultural extravaganza. Thus, while showcasing the original intent of preservation must be kept in mind.

**Way forward:**

The issue boils down to the question about what to promote and how to promote so that the objective of preservation is achieved. The following measures can help us in this aspect:

- Participatory movements and efforts involving documentation could facilitate the ambitious National Mission on Cultural Mapping and Roadmap. This can help preserve the folk arts in their original form.
- Instead of taking art forms to the people, initiatives like "Dekho Apna Desh" will help people go back to their roots, help appreciate that of others and experience them in their natural setting so that the torchbearers of culture needn't migrate from their habitat in search of opportunities.
- The establishment of more specialised agencies focusing purely on folk art and culture could catalyse the process of promotion.
- Setting up of gurukuls where these traditions will be passed on in their original and purest versions to future generations without being subjected to administrative slackening is needed.

**6. Objective Questions**

1. Consider the following statements:
1. Lok Sabha and State Assemblies can be dissolved ahead of the scheduled expiry of the term of five years.
  2. Election Commission has the power to notify elections any time during the last three months of the term of the House and not earlier than that.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Both the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies (ordinarily) have a term of five years. According to the Constitution, while these Houses (Lok Sabha and State Assemblies) can be dissolved ahead of the scheduled expiry of the term of five years [Articles 85(2)(b) and 174(2)(b)], there is no provision for extension of the term unless a proclamation of Emergency is in operation.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Sections 14 and 15 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, empower the Election Commission to notify elections any time during the last six months of the term of the House and not earlier than that.

2. The Municipal model of Paradiplomacy has been successful by which of the following countries?
- (a) China
  - (b) USA
  - (c) Canada
  - (d) Brazil

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

Paradiplomacy at the city level has evolved significantly in Brazil since 1988 when the decentralization of the Brazilian federation was approved under the new

constitution. The meteoric rise of Sao Paulo (number 6 FDI destination on the global rankings), now the richest city in Latin America, makes it the poster-child of Brazil's municipal paradiplomacy.

3. SANKALP scheme is an initiative of which of the following Ministries?
- (a) Ministry of Finance
  - (b) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
  - (c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
  - (d) Ministry of Panchayati Raj

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

(SANKALP) Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood is a scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) with a special focus on decentralised planning for skill development.

4. 'Kooosu' an initiative to promote hygiene practice among women under the Swachh Bharat Mission was carried out in which of the following states?
- (a) Telangana
  - (b) Karnataka
  - (c) Maharashtra
  - (d) Tamil Nadu

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Koosu (meaning child in Kannada) is an initiative in the Kalburgi district of Karnataka to promote hygiene practice among women. Here a small program was devised wherein after an antenatal checkup, a pregnant woman having a toilet was honoured and her baby shower was organised by the local gram panchayat.

5. Which of the following folk art forms is from the state of Rajasthan?
- (a) Ghode Modini
  - (b) Kachchi Ghodi
  - (c) Poikkal Kuthirai Aattam
  - (d) Dollu Kunita

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Kachchi Ghodi is a folk dance from Rajasthan. Ghode Modini is from Goa, Poikkal Kuthirai Aattam from Tamil Nadu and Dollu Kunita from Karnataka.

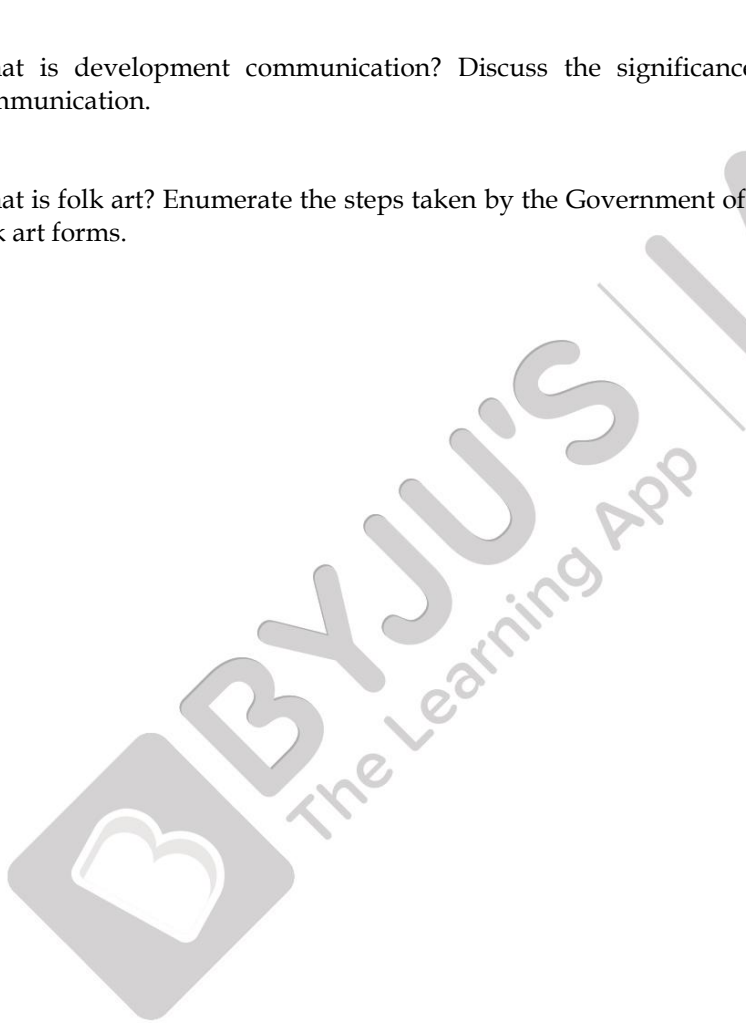


**Figure: Kachchi Ghodi**  
**Source: Wikimedia.org**



## 7. Subjective Questions

1. What is One Nation One Election? Discuss the merits and demerits of the system.  
(15 Marks, 250 Words)
2. What do you understand by the term 'Paradiplomacy'? Has India successfully utilized its potential in paradiplomacy? Comment  
(15 Marks, 250 Words)
3. One of the important challenges faced by District Skill Committees (DSC) is that of capacity building for effective discharge of their functions. In this context, suggest a framework and the requisite skill set that needs to be developed in the DSCs to make them work effectively.  
(15 Marks, 250 Words)
4. What is development communication? Discuss the significance of folk art in development communication.  
(15 Marks, 250 Words)
5. What is folk art? Enumerate the steps taken by the Government of India to promote and preserve folk art forms.  
(10 Marks, 150 Words)



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**RANK 03**

Pratibha Verma



**RANK 06**

Vishakha Yadav



**RANK 08**

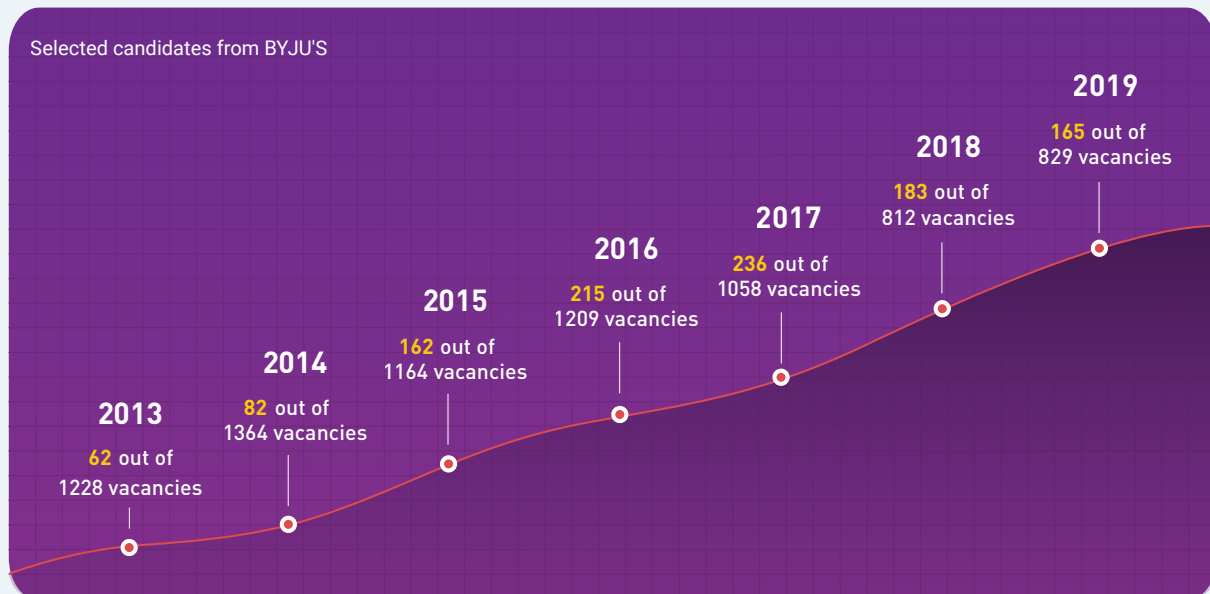
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