# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 20-11-2024

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# Georgia

## Syllabus: GS-1; Geography-Mapping

## Context

- **President challenges election results as Georgia cracks down on protesters.**


## Geography

- **Location**: Located at the intersection of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, Georgia is a transcontinental country in the Caucasus region.
- **Borders**:
  - **North**: Russia
  - **South**: Turkey and Armenia
  - **East**: Azerbaijan
  - **West**: Black Sea
- **Capital**: Tbilisi
- **Major Rivers**: Kura River, Rioni River
- **Mountains**: Caucasus Mountains dominate the landscape, with Mount Shkhara (5,193 m) being the highest peak.

## History and Politics

- **Historical Context**:
  - Ancient history includes the Kingdom of Colchis and Iberia.
  - Part of the Soviet Union from 1921 to 1991.
  - Gained independence from the USSR in 1991.
- **Conflict with Russia**:
  - Georgia faced the **Russo-Georgian War in 2008** over South Ossetia and Abkhazia, which remain breakaway regions with Russian support.
- **Government**: Unitary parliamentary republic.
  - **President**: Ceremonial head of state.
  - **Prime Minister**: Head of government.

## Economy

- **Major Sectors**:
  - Agriculture: Wine production is significant; Georgia is known for its ancient winemaking tradition.
  - Tourism: Popular for its cultural heritage, mountains, and seaside resorts.
  - Energy: Hydropower and energy transit hub between Europe and Asia.
- **Trade Partners**: Turkey, Russia, China, and the European Union.
- **Currency**: Georgian Lari (GEL).

## India-Georgia Relations

- **Diplomatic Relations**:
  - India and Georgia established diplomatic ties in 1992.
  - Cooperation in trade, education, and cultural exchanges.
- **Economic Ties**:
  - Indian pharmaceutical and IT sectors have a presence in Georgia.
  - Opportunities in hydroelectric projects and tourism.
- **Cultural Exchange**:
  - Increasing number of Indian students pursuing medical studies in Georgia.
  - Yoga and Ayurveda gaining popularity.

## Strategic Importance

- **Energy Corridor**: Key transit route for oil and gas pipelines between the Caspian Sea and Europe.
- **Geopolitical Position**: Balances ties with the EU, NATO, and Russia.

# Maori community

### Syllabus: GS-1; Tribes

### Context

- A fight for Maori rights drew 42,000 protesters to the New Zealand Parliament in the capital Wellington.

### About

- **Origins**: The Maori are the indigenous Polynesian people of New Zealand. They arrived in New Zealand around 1300 AD from Polynesia.
- **Language**: Their native language is **Te Reo Maori**, which is one of New Zealand's official languages alongside English and New Zealand Sign Language.
- **Population**: Approximately 17% of New Zealand's population identifies as Maori (around 850,000 people as per the latest census).
- **Cultural Identity**: The Maori culture is rich in traditions, including carving, weaving, kapa haka (performing arts), and oral storytelling.

## Historical Context

- **Early Settlement**: Maori society was organized into tribes (**iwi**), subtribes (**hapu**), and family groups (**whanau**).
- **European Contact**: European colonization began in the 18th century, leading to significant disruptions in Maori society, including land loss, diseases, and cultural erosion.
- **Treaty of Waitangi (1840)**:
    - A foundational document signed between Maori chiefs and the British Crown.
    - It aimed to establish British sovereignty while guaranteeing Maori rights over their lands and culture.
    - Disputes over its interpretation and implementation continue to affect Maori relations with the government.

## Culture and Traditions

- **Haka**: A traditional war dance used to display strength and unity; now globally recognized, especially in sports.
- **Tattooing (Ta Moko)**: A traditional form of tattooing representing social status, ancestry, and achievements.
- **Marae**: A communal or sacred meeting ground where ceremonies and discussions take place.
- **Spiritual Beliefs**: Strong connection to nature, ancestors, and spirituality, often reflected in their legends and rituals.

## Socioeconomic Status

- Maori communities face challenges like:
    - Higher unemployment rates.
    - Disparities in health, education, and housing compared to non-Maori populations.
    - Efforts are ongoing to address these gaps through government policies and initiatives.

# Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)

## Syllabus: GS-2; Governance

## Context

- **Chanda Kochhar moves Bombay High Court to curb SFIO questioning beyond office hours.**

## About

- The **Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)** is a multi-disciplinary organization under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, tasked with investigating and prosecuting serious cases of corporate fraud in India.

## Establishment

- **Year of Establishment**: 2003
- **Background**: Set up based on the recommendations of the **Naresh Chandra Committee on Corporate Audit and Governance** in the wake of the financial irregularities exposed by the stock market and corporate scams like Satyam.
- Initially established via a Government Resolution; later, its legal powers were formalized under the **Companies Act, 2013**.

## Legal Framework

- The SFIO derives its authority primarily from **Section 211 of the Companies Act, 2013**.
- **Powers**:
    - Can summon and examine individuals.
    - Authorized to seize documents and assets related to investigations.
    - Investigative reports by SFIO are treated as evidence in courts.

## Functions

- **Investigative Role**:
    - Investigates cases of frauds related to companies that have complex financial irregularities and multi-disciplinary ramifications.
- **Prosecution**:
    - Files cases in the relevant courts for fraud detected during investigations.
- **Expertise**:

  - Utilizes experts from different domains, including corporate law, forensic auditing, accountancy, capital markets, and IT.
- **Policy Input**:
  - Provides inputs for policymaking and improving corporate governance.

## Structure

- **Director**: Head of SFIO, appointed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- **Team**: Comprises professionals from various fields, such as law, accountancy, forensic auditing, IT, and taxation.
- Operates through its **headquarters in New Delhi** and regional offices in key cities.

## Key Features

- **Multi-Disciplinary Nature**: Involves professionals across sectors to address complex frauds.
- **Autonomous Investigations**: SFIO investigates only on referral from the Central Government.
- **Comprehensive Analysis**: Focuses on detailed financial and legal analysis to trace fraud.

## Major Cases Handled

- **Satyam Scam**: Investigated the accounting fraud and corporate governance failure in the Satyam Computer Services case.
- **Kingfisher Airlines Case**: Probed financial irregularities involving the airline.
- **IL&FS Crisis**: Investigated the financial crisis of the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) group.

## Challenges

- **Overburdened Resources**: Increasing cases of fraud strain the organization's capacity.
- **Technological Sophistication**: Tackling complex fraud involving advanced technologies.
- **Inter-Agency Coordination**: Requires seamless coordination with other enforcement and regulatory agencies like ED, CBI, SEBI, and RBI.

# 'PPP plus PPP' Model

## Syllabus: Economic Growth- Development

## Context

- Calling for collaborative efforts to check the diabetes epidemic in India, Union Minister for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh on Thursday introduced the 'PPP plus PPP' model to unite domestic and international partnerships for scalable diabetes solutions in the country.

## About

- The 'PPP plus PPP' model is an evolved version of the traditional Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework, which aims to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of infrastructure projects by incorporating additional collaboration elements.
- While the traditional PPP model focuses on a partnership where the public and private sectors share the risks and responsibilities of a project, the 'plus' in 'PPP plus PPP' emphasizes innovations that deepen the collaboration and social impact, often going beyond the financial scope.

## Key Features of the PPP plus PPP Model

The 'PPP plus PPP' model integrates additional components to the conventional PPP approach:

- **Expanded Financial Structuring**: The model can include a variety of financial instruments and mechanisms that ensure the long-term viability of a project. This can involve leveraging both public funding and private capital for infrastructure development, making projects more resilient.
- **Broader Stakeholder Engagement**: Unlike traditional PPPs, which may focus more on the private-public interaction, the 'plus' suggests more comprehensive involvement of local communities, NGOs, and other stakeholders. This ensures that the projects are socially inclusive and provide broader benefits.
- **Enhanced Transparency and Governance**: The model includes greater transparency in project implementation, ensuring that there are fewer opportunities for corruption or inefficiencies. It also emphasizes strong governance practices to monitor the execution of projects closely.

## Applications of the PPP plus PPP Model

The 'PPP plus PPP' model can be particularly effective in sectors such as:

- **Infrastructure Projects**: Large-scale infrastructure projects like highways, airports, and railways often benefit from the public and private sectors sharing risks and resources. The enhanced model can integrate additional aspects, such as social or environmental benefits.
- **Urban Development**: In the case of urban housing and community development, this model may encourage private companies to partner with governments in providing affordable housing while ensuring the social objectives (such as reducing urban poverty or improving healthcare) are met.

## Advantages of the PPP plus PPP Model

- **Increased Efficiency**: By utilizing the private sector's expertise and resources, public infrastructure projects can be delivered more efficiently.
- **Risk Mitigation**: The sharing of financial and operational risks between the public and private entities ensures that the burden is distributed and can be managed more effectively.
- **Sustainability**: The 'plus' in the model ensures that projects are not only financially viable but also socially responsible, addressing environmental concerns and benefiting wider communities in the long run.

## Challenges

Despite its potential, the 'PPP plus PPP' model faces challenges:

- **Regulatory Complexity**: The integration of multiple stakeholders and financial mechanisms can lead to complex regulatory requirements, which can delay project implementation or increase costs.
- **Equity Concerns**: Ensuring that the benefits of a project are equitably distributed, especially in terms of affordability and accessibility for marginalized groups, can be difficult if the private sector's profit motives are not carefully managed.
- **Monitoring and Accountability**: There needs to be robust governance to ensure transparency and accountability throughout the life cycle of the project, from initiation to completion and beyond.

# Satyendra Nath Bose

### Syllabus: GS-3; Science and Technology

### Context

- Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh virtually inaugurates Centenary celebrations of iconic 'Bose-Einstein' Statistics.

### About

- Satyendra Nath Bose was an Indian physicist best known for his work on quantum mechanics in the early 20th century. He is particularly renowned for his collaboration with Albert Einstein in the development of the theory of the Bose-Einstein condensate, a state of matter.

## Early Life and Education

- **Born**: January 1, 1894, in Kolkata, India.
- **Education**:
  - Studied at the University of Kolkata (then Calcutta University).
  - Earned a degree in science and later completed his master's in physics.
  - He was influenced by the works of Lord Rayleigh and Max Planck.

## Contributions to Physics

- **Bose-Einstein Statistics**:
  - In 1924, Bose sent a paper on the statistical description of photons to Albert Einstein. This paper laid the foundation for the development of **Bose-Einstein statistics**, which describes the statistical distribution of identical particles known as bosons.
  - **Bosons** are particles that follow Bose-Einstein statistics, in contrast to **fermions**, which obey Fermi-Dirac statistics.
  - The work led to the prediction of the **Bose-Einstein condensate**, a state of matter that was experimentally realized decades later, in 1995.
- **Bose-Einstein Condensate**:
  - This state of matter occurs at very low temperatures, where a group of atoms can be cooled to near absolute zero, causing them to merge into a single quantum entity with distinct properties.
- **Bose's Work on Light**:
  - He contributed to the theory of light quanta and the study of **photon statistics**.
  - His research provided new insights into the wave-particle duality of light and helped establish the quantum nature of light.
- **Satyendra Nath Bose's Role in Popularizing Einstein's Work**:
  - Bose was instrumental in translating and explaining Einstein's theories to the Indian scientific community.
  - He was a key figure in bridging the gap between Western physics and Indian scientific traditions.

## Legacy and Honors

- **Indian National Science Academy**: Bose was one of the founding members.
- **Bose Institute**: Established in 1917 in Kolkata, this was the first research institute in India devoted to the study of physics and related disciplines. Bose was its first director.

- **Bose's name is immortalized in the naming of the term "boson" for a class of particles.**

## Satyendra Nath Bose's Impact on Science

- Bose's contributions not only shaped modern physics but also established a strong foundation for future research in quantum mechanics and condensed matter physics.
- His collaboration with Einstein is considered one of the most significant in the development of modern physics.

## Awards and Recognition

- **Padma Vibhushan (1954)**: India's second-highest civilian award.
- **J.C. Bose Memorial Award**: Instituted by the University of Calcutta.
- **Honorary Doctorates**: Awarded by several universities across the world, including the University of Dhaka.