

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY

WEEK: 2

JULY
2023

MAINS

- GS-I**
- THREE DECADES OF SEX DETERMINATION BAN IN HARYANA
 - DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION AND CHANGE IN WOMEN'S LIVES
- GS-II**
- NEED TO FOCUS ON PALLIATIVE CARE
 - INTERNET SHUTDOWN
 - SC ASKS NGO TO MOVE GOVT AGAINST 'SARPANCH-PATISM'
 - SC ON DELIMITATION EXERCISE IN NORTH-EASTERN STATES
 - VALIDITY OF TENURE EXTENSION OF CBI AND ED DIRECTORS

PRELIMS

ART & CULTURE

- Karnataka's Lambani craft

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- Risks faced by Zaporizhzhya

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

- Kui Language
- Playing of the national anthem and laws
- PM Gati Shakti

ECONOMY

- India's 'Remarkable' Poverty Reduction

ENVIRONMENT

- Forever Chemical
- Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft integrated with launch vehicle
- Tropical waters have turned 'green' in colour

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Naegleria fowleri
- US to handover cluster munitions to Ukraine
- MQ-9B Predator drones
- 'Anthropocene epoch'

NEWS IN SHORT

- Ker Puja
- Shelf Cloud
- African Union (AU)
- Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23)
- First Overseas IIT Campus
- India's first Tele-MANAS chat-bot
- 2023 Global Peace Index
- Extractive Economy
- Guillain-Barré Syndrome
- Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSV)
- Highway Hypnosis
- Chinkara (Gazella Bennettii)
- Salsola Oppositifolia Desfontania
- Ospreys
- Atlantic Menhaden
- Tomato Leaf Curl Virus (ToLCV)
- PBW RS1 Wheat Variety

SPECIALS

- The Global South

GS SCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

www.iasscore.in

— **Disclaimer** —

The current affairs articles are segregated from prelims and mains perspective, such separation is maintained in terms of structure of articles. Mains articles have more focus on analysis and prelims articles have more focus on facts.

However, this doesn't mean that Mains articles don't cover facts and PT articles can't have analysis. You are suggested to read all of them for all stages of examination.

CONTENTS

WEEK - 2 (JULY, 2023)

Section - A: MAINS CURRENT AFFAIRS			
Area of GS		Topics in News	Page No.
GS I	SOCIETY	• Three decades of sex determination ban in Haryana	02
		• Demographic transition and change in women's lives	04
GS II	POLITY & GOVERNANCE	• Need to Focus on Palliative Care	04
		• Internet Shutdown	05
		• SC asks NGO to move govt against 'sarpanch-patism'	06
		• SC on Delimitation Exercise in North-eastern States	07
		• Validity of tenure extension of CBI and ED Directors	08
Section - B: SPECIAL			
Area of GS		Topics in News	Page No.
GS II	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	• The Global South	12
Section - C: PRELIMS CURRENT AFFAIRS			
Area of GS		Topics in News	Page No.
GS I	ART & CULTURE	• Karnataka's Lambani craft	16
GS II	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	• Risks faced by Zaporizhzhya	16
	POLITY & GOVERNANCE	• Kui Language	17
		• Playing of the national anthem and laws	18
		• PM Gati Shakti	18
GS III	ECONOMY	• India's 'Remarkable' Poverty Reduction	19
	ENVIRONMENT	• Forever Chemical	20
		• Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft integrated with launch vehicle	21
		• Tropical waters have turned 'green' in colour	22
	SCIENCE & TECH.	• Naegleria Fowleri	23
		• US to handover cluster munitions to Ukraine	23



For Information, Contact: **8448496262**

| Website: <https://iasscore.in/>

GS SCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

SUCCESS IS A PRACTICE WE DO!



R. P. SINGH



RAJEEV CHOUDHARY



GAURAV BANSAL



MANOJ K. JHA



SIDDHARTH MITTAL



RAJNISH JINDAL



SHIVLAL GUPTA



ANURAG PATHAK



PRAVEEN KUMAR



RAJVARDHAN



SOURABH MISHRA



SMRITI RAO



ABHISHIEKH SAXENA



VIRAJ C. RANE

THE MOST EXPERIENCED & SEASONED SUBJECT EXPERT

GS III	SCIENCE & TECH.	• MQ-9B Predator drones	23
		• 'Anthropocene Epoch'	25
Section - D: SHORT NEWS			
Area of GS		Topics in News	Page No.
ART & CULTURE		• Ker Puja	29
GEOGRAPHY		• Shelf cloud	29
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS		• African Union (AU)	30
		• Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23)	30
		• First overseas IIT campus	30
POLITY & GOVERNANCE		• India's first Tele-MANAS chat-bot	31
		• 2023 Global Peace Index	31
ECONOMY		• Extractive Economy	32
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY		• Guillain-Barré Syndrome	32
		• Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSV)	33
MISCELLANEOUS		• Highway hypnosis	33
SPECIES IN NEWS			
ENVIRONMENT		• Chinkara (<i>Gazella bennettii</i>)	34
		• <i>Salsola oppositifolia</i> Desfontania	34
		• Ospreys	34
		• Atlantic menhaden	35
LOCATION IN NEWS			
GEOGRAPHY		• Sutlej River	37
		• Black Sea	37

GS SCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

IAS
2024

IAS 2024-25 GS FOUNDATION Mains *cum* Prelims

1 YEAR & 2 YEAR
PROGRAMME



Only Outcome Matters!

GS MAINS CLASSES (BASIC TO ADVANCE)

IAS
2024



The Ultimate Mains Programme

- ✓ Everything for GS MAINS in 7 Months
- ✓ Complete Coverage of GS PAPER 1,2,3,4 & Essay
- ✓ Answer Writing + Test Series with Personalized Mentoring



1B, Second Floor, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh,
New Delhi - 110005 (Beside Karol Bagh
Metro Station Gate No. 8)



8448496262



iasscore.in

SECTION: 'A'
(MAINS)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

THREE DECADES OF SEX DETERMINATION BAN IN HARYANA

Context: Recently, the Haryana's sex ratio at birth has dipped by 11 points between January and May, 2023.

- * In 2022, the state registered **917 female births per 1,000 males**.

About the situation:

- * Demand for gender determination tests in Haryana has sparked price wars in neighbouring Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, even though predictions are often wrong.
- * Haryana had recorded the lowest sex ratio at birth (SRB) as per the 2011 census, **with 834 female births per 1,000 males**.
- * Touts and operators offer to reveal the gender of a fetus using **DIY palm-held sonography devices**.
- * Tests cost as Rs.10, 000 in neighbouring states, and between **Rs.50, 000-Rs 1 lakh in Haryana**.
- * This has drawn concern for the state government and several measures have been taken to resolve the issue and find the culprits.

India ranks fourth in the world, after **Liechtenstein, China and Armenia**, in terms of skewed sex ratios at birth, according to data published by the **Asian Center for Human Rights**, an NGO based in New Delhi. There are 112 boys for every 100 girls in the world's second most populous nation.

Why the trend is on rise?

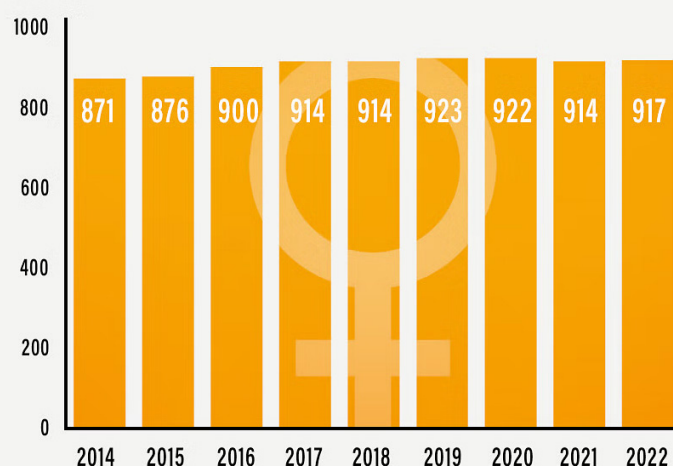
- * **Easy access to illegal tests:** With the advances in technology, sex determination has become easier very early on in pregnancy with fatal consequences for the girl child.
- * **Son obsessed society:** Female foeticide is due to strong son preference, the practice of dowry and the patrilineal necessity of heir.
- * **Social Blindness:** In Indian society, a son is considered the upholder of the family name, which he passes on to his son and so on. Many Hindu families believe that a person is guaranteed a place in heaven only if his or her son lights the funeral pyre and spreads the ashes in the river Ganges.
- * **Financial and cultural burden of a female child**

- * **Serious sex ratio problem in urban areas:** Contrary to popular perception that the deeply rooted prejudice against girls, reflected in the country's sex ratio, is mostly present in rural areas, some of the largest cities in India – including Delhi and Mumbai – had imbalanced sex ratio.
- * **Safety concerns:** People don't want girls all the more as they feel that it is difficult to keep them safe.

Why India's fight against foeticide, infanticide has failed?

- * **India's national child gender ratio** has fallen over the past three decades from 945 in 1991 to 918 per 1,000 boys in 2011.
 - ▶ The states of Haryana, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra have a ratio lower than 900 girls per 1,000, which could imperil the future gender balance and demographics of the country.
- * In the mid-1960s, new technology that allowed for **prenatal gender determination**, and thus sex-selective abortion, such as the ultrasound, was brought into India.
- * The liberalisation of the Indian economy in the 1990s made ultrasound technology more easily available.
- * The Indian government has implemented regulations to prevent female foeticide arising because of these new technologies. One of the main laws, the **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC & PNDT) of 1994**.
- * But these laws are often implemented poorly.
- * In India, the practice of sex-selective abortions is illegal, but it is still widely prevalent. Doctors and healthcare providers who perform sex-selective abortions can face severe penalties, including imprisonment and loss of license. However, the practice continues to thrive due to the high demand for male children.

Sex ratio at birth is the number of females born per 1,000 males



The Preconception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act 1994:

- The PC-PNDT Act was enacted on **20 September 1994** with the intent to prohibit prenatal diagnostic techniques for determination of the sex of the **foetus leading to female foeticide**.
- The preliminary object was to put a **check on female foeticide**.
- The few basic requirements of the Act are:
 - ▶ Registration under **Section (18)** of the PC-PNDT Act.
 - ▶ Written consent of the pregnant woman and prohibition of communicating the sex of foetus under **Section 5 of the Act**.
 - ▶ Maintenance of records as provided **under Section 29 of the Act**.
 - ▶ Creating awareness among the public at large by placing the board of prohibition on sex determination.
- **Provision under the Act:**
 - ▶ The Act provides for the prohibition of **sex selection, before or after conception**.
 - ▶ It regulates the use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques, like **ultrasound and amniocentesis** by allowing them their use only to detect:
 - ▶ Genetic abnormalities, metabolic disorders, chromosomal abnormalities, certain congenital malformations, haemoglobinopathies and sex-linked disorders.
 - ▶ No laboratory or centre or clinic will conduct any test including ultrasonography for the purpose of determining **the sex of the foetus**.
 - ▶ No person, including the one who is conducting the procedure as per the law, will communicate the sex of the foetus to the pregnant woman or her relatives by words, signs or any other method.
 - ▶ Any person who puts an advertisement for **pre-natal and pre-conception sex determination** facilities in the form of a notice, circular, label, wrapper or any document, or advertises through the interior or other media in electronic or print form or engages in any visible representation made by means of **hoarding, wall painting, signal, light, sound, smoke or gas**, can be imprisoned for up to three years and fined **Rs.10, 000**.

Possible consequences:

- * **Distorts the natural sex ratio:** The practice of sex selection distorts the natural sex ratio, leading to a
 - ▶ gender imbalance
 - ▶ reinforcement of discrimination against women
 - ▶ devaluation of females
- * **Increase in Child Marriage:** In case of less girl child, the probability of child marriage gets increased in the society, especially can be seen in areas like **Rajasthan, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh**.
- * **Affects Women reproductive health:** In the hope for a Son, the women are forced to get pregnant multiple times which impact their reproductive health.
- * **Increase chances of diseases:** Under-five mortality for girls in India remains 8.3% higher than for boys. Globally this is 14% higher for boys.
- * **Human trafficking:** Due to skewed sex ratio, men increasingly approach human smugglers, who supply them with women trafficked from poor families '**mol ki bahuein**' from countries like Bangladesh.
- * **Economic consequences:** The economic consequences are grave for this means that a huge proportion of the productive population is missing

and also the lack of women impairs the ability of men to work.

Government Interventions:

- * **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign in 2015**
- * **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana:** Launched in 2015, in order to promote the welfare of girl child. It encourages parents to invest and build funds for the future studies and marriage expenses of the girl's children.
- * **CBSE Udaan Scheme:** UDAAN is a project launched by the CBSE to address the low enrolment of girl students in prestigious engineering institutions and the teaching gap between school education and engineering entrance examinations.
- * **Other major schemes**
 - ▶ Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0
 - ▶ Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna (PMMVY)
 - ▶ Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)
 - ▶ Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)
- * The declining sex ratio calls for much greater social and political will and the willingness to take the help of powerful organised entities like the clergy and of

course civil society groups.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION AND CHANGE IN WOMEN'S LIVES

Context: The passage of World Population Day (July 11) is a time to look at how India's demographic journey has changed the lives of its citizens, particularly its women. The demographic transition has become a dramatic global phenomenon.

India's demographic journey (Background)

- * **Increased population:** India's population grew from about 340 million at Independence to 1.4 billion with the help of receding starvation, improved public health, and medical miracles brought to India.
- * **Increased life expectancy:** In 1941, male life expectancy was about 56 years; only 50% of boys survived to age 28. Today, life expectancy for men is 69 years, and nearly 50% live to see the ripe old age of 75.
- * These statistics mask the tectonic shift in the lives of people as they learn to adjust to a longer lifespan and fewer children. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the lives of Indian women.
- * **Women's childhood, adulthood, and old age** have been transformed over the course of demographic transition, sometimes positively, sometimes negatively.

How did the change demography impact women?

- * **Sex-selective abortion:** As families began having fewer children, ensuring at least one son became more difficult. Social norms and patrilocal kinship patterns combined with lack of financial security reinforce a preference for sons.
- * **Early marriage and child bearing:** While women's educational attainment increased, with over 70% of girls enrolling in secondary education, early marriage and childbearing remain the predominant forces defining women's lives.
- * **Less participation in labour force:** Early motherhood, perhaps, explains why lower fertility does not translate into higher labour force participation for women.
- * **Missed employment opportunities:** By the time peak childcare demands end, they have missed the window for occupations that require specific skills; only unskilled work is open to them.
- * **Decline in number of years women spend caring**

for children: With a fertility decline, active mothering occupies a smaller proportion of women's lives, creating space for education and employment.

With rising life expectancy, the proportion of the female population aged 65 and above increased from 5% to 11% between 1950 and 2022, and is projected to reach 21% by 2050.

- * **Older age issues:** Demographic shifts also affect women's lives at older ages. Women generally marry men who are older and are more likely to outlive their husbands. For widowed women, the lack of access to savings and property results in dependence on children, mainly sons, bringing the vicious cycle of son preference to full circle.
 - ▶ The 2011 Census shows that while only 18% of men above age 65 are widowed, about 55% of the women are widowed.

What measures are required?

- * **Changing patriarchal norms.**
- * **Better access to employment and assets:** Enhancing women's access to employment and assets would reduce their reliance on sons. It could break the vicious cycle of gendered disadvantage, stretching from childhood to old age.
- * **Access to safe and affordable childcare:** Early marriage and childbearing remain central to Indian women's lives. Hence, efforts should be made at improving women's labour force participation accompanied by access to safe and affordable childcare.

NEED TO FOCUS ON PALLIATIVE CARE

Context: India has experienced a steep rise in the burden of lifestyle-related non-communicable diseases (NCD) as millions of people are diagnosed with cancer in India every year while diabetes, hypertension, and respiratory diseases are also on the rise.

- * All these diseases need **palliative care** sooner or later in the disease trajectory.

What is Palliative Care?

- * Palliative care is the **branch of medicine** focusing on improving the **quality of life and preventing**

suffering among those with life-limiting illnesses.

- ✦ It aims to identify patients at **risk of over-medicalisation** at the **expense of quality of life and financial burden on the family**.
- ✦ It is often misinterpreted as **end-of-life care**. However, palliative care aims to improve the quality of life by addressing the **physical, psychological, spiritual, and social domains** of the health of people suffering from life-limiting diseases like **heart failure, kidney failure, certain neurological diseases, cancer**, etc.

Situation of Palliative Care in India:

- ✦ Palliative care in India has largely been available at **tertiary healthcare facilities** in urban areas.
- ✦ Due to this skewed availability of services, it is accessible to **only 1-2%** of the estimated **7-10 million** people who require it in the country.

How its accessibility is measured?

- ✦ Access to palliative care will be assessed by estimating **morphine-equivalent consumption of strong opioid** analgesics (excluding methadone) **per death from cancer**.
- ✦ The **World Health Organisation** recommends the use of **morphine consumption per capita** to assess morphine access for **palliative care services**.
- ✦ Using this indicator would also have allowed us to compare the progress of palliative care services in India with other countries.

Steps Taken:

- ✦ The **National Programme for Prevention & Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD)**, includes chronic diseases whose treatment contributes the most to health-related expenses.
 - ▶ **Launched in 2010** to counter the rising burden of non-communicable diseases in the country, the programme envisaged the provision of **promotive, preventive, and curative care** from the **primary to tertiary institutes**, thus providing health services delivery across the continuum of care.
- ✦ **National Programme for Palliative Care (NPPC)**: NPPC was announced in 2012; however, the lack of a dedicated budget has prevented the implementation of the programme since its inception.

Concerns:

- ✦ **Loopholes in policy implementation**: Existing policies are not reaching the real population and thus unable to grow to its fullest.

- ✦ **Lack of Accessibility**: Due to lack of policy implementation, the rural population is unable to access the facilities related to palliative care.
- ✦ **Excluding other chronic diseases**: As the policy is limiting its attention to cancer, the guidelines have also skipped an opportunity to bring focus on children suffering from chronic diseases.
- ✦ **Limited scope of measurement**: Including an indicator to assess morphine access is a welcome move, but an indicator focusing only on patients with cancer might lead to an inaccurate assessment of coverage of services.

Suggestive measures:

- ✦ These diseases progress to a stage where, in an ideal scenario, palliative care should take over curative care.
- ✦ Palliative care must be delivered at least at the health and wellness centre and sub-center level.
- ✦ The **67th World Health Assembly in 2014** called for palliative care to be integrated into health systems at all levels.



INTERNET SHUTDOWN

Context Over the past few years, the Indian government has increasingly been trying to control law and order by shutting access to the Internet. Between 2016 and 2022, 60% of Internet shutdowns across the world took place in India.

What is Internet Shutdowns?

- ✦ Internet Shutdowns may be defined as any disruption in access to the internet services most of which deals with mobile internet.

- **Preventive shutdowns** are imposed before an event takes place.
- **Reactive shutdown** is imposed after an event takes place and is generally the easiest way to control an escalating law and order situation.

What are the legal provisions for it?

- ✦ Prior to 2017, shutdowns were primarily enforced using **Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)**.
 - ▶ This section empowered the police and the District Magistrate to prevent unlawful gatherings and instruct individuals to refrain from specific activities.

- * However, in 2017, the law underwent amendments, leading to the introduction of the **Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rule 2017** by the Government.

Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rule 2017

- The suspension of Internet services is based on an expansive interpretation of Section 5(2) of the Telegraph Act 1855.
- However, it's important to note that the traditional law pertaining to the suspension of Internet services was not directly derived from the aforementioned Act or its associated rules.
- In August 2017, the method for suspending telecom services in cases of public emergency or safety, including the suspension of Internet services in India, was officially established under Section 7 of The Telegraph Act, 1855.
- These regulations were introduced as the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017.

- * Shutdowns should be exercised only in situations which require exceptional control and surveillance.
- * The Court has said a shutdown needs to be temporary, limited in scope, lawful and proportionate.

Article 92

- It says that reasonable restrictions ought to be imposed wherever necessary.
- The grounds include a threat to the nation, to national sovereignty, integrity and defence, or to avoid incitement to, or commission of, a cognisable offence.



SC ASKS NGO TO MOVE GOVT AGAINST 'SARPANCH-PATISM'

Context: The Supreme Court said that the government, and not the judiciary, should look into the problem of men often wielding the actual power behind elected women who remain "faceless wives and daughters-in-law" in grassroots politics.

How does it violate fundamental Rights?

- * The Internet plays a crucial role in realizing numerous Fundamental Rights beyond Freedom of Speech and Expression.
- * **Article 19 of the Constitution** mentions **freedom of speech and freedom** to practise any profession.
- * **Article 21** protects the **right to life and liberty**, which also encompasses the **right to education and the right to exercise one's freedom to access the Internet**.
- * In the digital age, people utilize it for essential activities such as accessing rations, conducting card transactions, communicating with relatives, managing healthcare, and more, all of which are vital for their daily functioning.

About Panchayat:

- * 'Panchayat', being "Local government", is a **state subject** and part of the State list of the **Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India**.
- * Through the **73rd constitutional amendment**, one-third of seats in Panchayats were reserved for women. Several **states raised the quantum of reserved seats to fifty percent**.
- * This was aimed at empowering women and ensuring their participation in the political process and decision-making at the grass root level.

Negative side of Internet shutdown	Positive side of Internet Shutdown
• Violation of freedom of expression	• Stopping people from sharing information or organizing protests
• Economic impact	• Avoiding cheating on school exams or preventing unrest during public holidays
• Impediment to education and communication	• Public safety and security
• Hindrance to emergency services and information dissemination	• Controlling dissemination of harmful content
	• Preventing cybercrimes

Supreme Court's View on Internet Shutdown

- * The Supreme Court has held in various decisions, including in **Anuradha Bhasin and Faheema Shirin**, that **access to the Internet** has to be preserved.

- * Punjab has also made provisions of **50% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions** in their respective **State Panchayati Raj Acts**.
- * **Clause (3) of Article 243D** of the Constitution

ensures the participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions by **mandating not less than one-third reservation for women** out of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election and the number of offices of chairpersons of Panchayats.

What is sarpanch-patism?

- * Most of the women’s sarpanches do not attend meetings.
- * **Instead**, the male family members of several women’s sarpanches were attending official meetings on their behalf. Some male members even sign documents on their behalf.

How does it impact?

- * Proxy sarpanches diminish women’s authority and block the election of women keen on bringing about a change in society through a career in politics.
- * This is not only making a mockery of the reservation of women in **Panchayati Raj Institutions** but also appears to be a hurdle for other deserving women candidates.

Reasons for emergence of "sarpanch proxies"	Required measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resistance due to Social barriers • Poor social status of women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ poor level of literacy ▶ confined to domestic spaces ▶ lack financial independence • Lack of skills • Failure of government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising society’s awareness about women’s rights • Sensitizing bureaucracy about the relevance of women’s participation at the panchayat level. • Social barriers due to traditional society need to go away.

SC ON DELIMITATION EXERCISE IN NORTH-EASTERN STATES

Context: Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) *prima facie* disagreed with the legal stand of the Election Commission of India (ECI) that it can only begin the delimitation process in Manipur, Assam, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh after getting an authorisation from the Centre.

Brief Background:

- * In pursuance to the request received from **Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India, Election Commission of India** decided to initiate the delimitation exercise of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in the **State of Assam** as per **Section 8A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950**.
- * Unlike other States, the ECI, and not the **Delimitation Commission**, have to conduct the delimitation exercise in these **four States**.
- * In the latest hearing, the SC observed that the **Election Commission of India** did not require the authorisation of the Government of India to conduct the exercise of delimitation.

About the Representation of the People Act, 1950:

- * **Section 8A of The Representation of the People Act, 1950** deals with the delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in the **States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur or Nagaland**.
- * **Section 8A(1)** says that, subject to being satisfied that the conditions were conducive, the President can rescind the deferment of the delimitation exercise in the **four States** and provide for the conduct of delimitation exercise by **the Election Commission**.
- * **Section 8A(2)** provides that the Election Commission has to start the delimitation process to determine **Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies** in the four States as soon as the **President rescinds the order**.

Within the **Constitutional Provisions and RPA 1950**, there is no such mandate to take authorization of centre before starting a delimitation exercise.

Provisions supporting Delimitation:

- * As mandated under **Article 170 of the Constitution, census figures (2001)** shall be used for the purpose of readjustment of **Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies** in the State.
- * Reservation of seats for the **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** will be provided as per **Articles 330 & 332** of the Constitution of India.

What is Delimitation?

- * ‘Delimitation’ is the act of **redrawing boundaries** of **Lok Sabha and Assembly** seats to represent changes in population dynamics.

What is the Process of Delimitation?

- * Under **Article 82**, the Parliament enacts a **Delimitation Act** after every Census.
- * Under **Article 170**, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
- * Once the Act is in force, the **Union government** sets up a Delimitation Commission.

Need of such an exercise:

- * To provide equal representation to equal segments of a population.
- * Fair division of geographical areas so that one political party doesn't have an advantage over others in an election.
- * To follow the principle of **"One Vote One Value"**.

The working of Delimitation Commission:

- * The **Delimitation commissioner Boundary commission of India** is a commission established by the Government of India under the provisions of the Delimitation Commission Act.
- * The main task of the commission is redrawing the boundaries of the various assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies based on a recent census.
- * The Commission's orders cannot be challenged in any court of law.

Composition:

- Retired Supreme Court judge
- Chief Election Commissioner
- Respective State Election Commissioners
 - ▶ The representation from each State is not changed during this exercise. However, the number of SC and ST seats in a state is changed in accordance with the census.
 - ▶ The present delimitation of constituencies has been done on the basis of 2001 census under the provisions of Delimitation Act, 2002.

VALIDITY OF TENURE EXTENSION OF CBI AND ED DIRECTORS

Context: Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) asked Enforcement Directorate (ED) Director to quit four months before his third extension and held that tenures of Directors of the Central Bureau

of Investigation and the ED has been stretched without any valid reason.

Background:

- * Recently, the President **promulgated two ordinances** that would allow the Centre to extend the tenures of the directors of the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate from **two years to up to five years**.
- * The controversy was around the point that **chiefs of the Central agencies** currently have fixed two-year tenure, but can now be given **three annual extensions**.

About the case:

- * A Bench headed by **Justice B.R. Gavai** held that the continuous service extensions given to ED chief in 2021 and 2022 were illegal.
- * Besides, the committees were required to **record reasons** in writing in support of their recommendations for these extensions.
- * They also cited Fundamental **Rule 56** which states that tenures of Government employees cannot exceed the age of **retirement at 60 years**.
- * The Court mentioned that while deciding this case in **2021**, the Court held that the CVC Act only laid down a minimum tenure of 2 years.
- * Tenures could be extended if the Director reached retirement age before the two year tenure completed.
- * Extensions to CBI or ED Directors were to be given only in **'rare and exceptional cases'**.

Who can extend the tenure of services?

- * A five-member panel composed of the **Central Vigilance Commissioner and Vigilance Commissioners** had to recommend if an ED Director was worthy of an extension in service.
- * In case of the CBI Director, a **High-Level Committee** of the Prime Minister, **Opposition Leader and the Chief Justice of India** had to recommend.

Tenure and Extension of service of ED & CBI Chief:

- * The **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946** and the **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act, 2003** have been amended to give the government the power to keep the two chiefs in their posts for one year after they have completed their **two-year terms**.
- * **Amendments made in DSPE Act:**
 - ▶ Provided that the period for which the Director

holds the office on his initial appointment may, in public interest, on the recommendation of the Committee (the committee led by the Prime Minister and leader of Opposition and CJI as members) and for the reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended up to one year at a time.

- ▶ Provided further that no such extension shall be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total including the period mentioned in the initial appointment.
- * **Amendments in CVC Act:**
 - ▶ Provided that the period for which the Director of Enforcement holds the office on his initial appointment may, in public interest, on the recommendation of the Committee (comprising of CVC chief, Revenue and Home Secretaries among

others) and for the reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended up to one year at a time.

- ▶ Provided further that no such extension shall be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total including the period mentioned in the initial appointment.

Significance of the move:

- * Considering that the CBI and the ED investigate corruption in the government and money laundering, it is crucial that these investigative institutions are kept safe from political interference.
- * Many argue that the wide powers of the ED, combined with a leader arguably in the good-books of the government, are a threat to democracy.

.....





IAS MAINS 2023

GS SCORE
An Institute for Civil Services

MMP | MAINS
MENTORSHIP
PROGRAMME

through

ANSWER WRITING + MOCK TESTS

-  Assessment through **42 Tests**
- **34 Topical Tests** (5 Questions) & **8 Mock Tests**
-  **Copy evaluation @ 48 Hrs.**
-  **Personalized Mentorship** before **test** and after **copy evaluation**
-  **Schedule your test** as per your **preparation plan**



10
JUNE

GS MAINS TEST SERIES 2023

By: MANOJ K. JHA & TEAM



18
JUNE

ETHICS & ESSAY TEST SERIES 2023

By: MANOJ K. JHA



OPTIONAL TEST SERIES 2023

POL. SCIENCE

TEST SERIES 2023

By: R. P. SINGH & VIRAJ RANE



HISTORY

TEST SERIES 2023

By: SHIVLAL GUPTA



PUB. AD

TEST SERIES 2023

By: RAJEEV CHAUDHARY



SOCIOLOGY

TEST SERIES 2023

By: SMRITI RAO



ANTHROPOLOGY

TEST SERIES 2023

By: SOURABH MISHRA



LAW

TEST SERIES 2023

By: RAJNISH JINDAL



GEOGRAPHY

TEST SERIES 2023

By: ANURAG PATHAK




TEST
STARTS
FROM

17 JUNE

SECTION: 'B'
(SPECIALS)

CURRENT AFFAIRS


THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Context: The unwillingness of many leading countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to stand with NATO over the war in Ukraine has brought to the fore once again the term “Global South.”

Brief Background:

- * The term “Global South” was coined by **Alfred Sauvy** in 1952, in an analogy with France’s historical three estates: the nobility, the clergy and the bourgeoisie.
- * It was first used in 1969 by political activist Carl Oglesby.

Categorisation:

- **First world:** Advanced capitalist nations
- **Second world:** Socialist nations led by the Soviet Union
- **Third world:** Developing nations

- * But it was only after the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union – which marked the end of the so-called “Second World” – that the term gained momentum.
- * Until then, the more common term for developing nations – countries that had yet to industrialize fully – was “Third World.”

What does the term “Global South” mean?

- * The term “Global South” is not geographical. In fact, the Global South’s two largest countries – China and India – lie entirely in the Northern Hemisphere.
- * Rather, its usage denotes a mix of political, geopolitical and economic commonalities between nations.

What are the major commonalities?

- * **Colonisation:** Major commonality between the **South countries** is that most have a history of colonisation, largely at the hands of **European powers**.

- * **Exclusion from prominent organizations:** The **region’s historical exclusion** from prominent international organisations – such as from the permanent membership of the **United Nations Security Council**.
- * **Economic issues:** In general, they are poorer, have higher levels of income inequality and suffer lower life expectancy and harsher living conditions than countries in the “Global North”.

- **‘Global North’** refers loosely to countries like the US, Canada, Europe, Russia, Australia and New Zealand
- **‘Global South’** includes countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

What is India's approach to Global South?

- * India’s rich history as the leader of the Non-Aligned Movement and its economic and geopolitical clout in global politics are propelling New Delhi to play a greater role in global geopolitics. Assuming the position of G-20 Presidency in 2022-23 is a testimony to this.
- * **Narrative to global geopolitics:** Being the leader of the Global South, India provides a voice to the Global South Movement.
 - ▶ Whether on the question of climate change, energy transition, taking a stand on normative issues or protecting the Global South’s interest, India played a proactive role in international forums over the years.
- * **Forerunner in sustainable energy transitions:** India is the forerunner in global and sustainable energy transitions. At various Climate Summits, India resisted the onslaught from the Global North and protected the interest of the Global South be it on the question of climate financing, limiting the emission norms.
- * **Significant contributions to the arena of energy transition framework** are
 - ▶ International Solar Alliance
 - ▶ push to hydrogen-based fuel
 - ▶ technical assistance to the countries of the Global South in harnessing solar energy and hydrogen-based fuel
- * **Democratising international relations:** Reforming the United Nations and broadening the UN Security Council’s permanent membership are some of the constant demands India has raised over the years.

Guiding Light:

The motto of G-20, which India is chairing, is based on "One Earth, One Family, One Future" — rooted in the Indian ethos of "vasudhaiva kutumbakam"— and "Sustainable Peace". Hence India's approach provides a guiding light to the **Global South movement**.

Why the concept is being reiterated now?

- * **Economic emergence:** The concept is being reiterated now partly because of the economic emergence of some of these South countries, such as India and China, in the last few decades.
- * **Political visibility:** This economic shift has gone hand in hand with enhanced political visibility. Countries in the Global South are increasingly asserting themselves on the global scene.

How Global South can help to resolve the emerging issues in the global geopolitics?

- * **Emerging challenges to the nature of global geopolitics:**
 - ▶ **Resource + Security:** Supply securitisation of food and energy, technology transfer, energy transition, and climate change issues and their impact on the global community.
 - ▶ **Genuine multilateralism:** The other important challenge is in the form of the need for "genuine multilateralism" of the institutions of global governance to provide an equitable voice to all countries.
- * The above challenges are giving opportunities to the countries of the Global South, which is emerging as a cohesive bloc, thus emphasising equity in the decision-making process at the global level.

Challenges before the Global South	Required Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of adequate energy supply at an affordable price. ● Lack of sustainable energy transition ● Adversarial consequences of climate change (largely due to the historical polluters of the Global North) ● Lack of equitable representation from the Global South at global forums. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is the need to securitize food, fertilizers. ● There is need to ensure a sustainable energy transition which can bring overall socio-economic development to the Global South. ● There is a need to look at the process of climate change repercussions on the Global South from a broader perspective. ● Broadening the membership of the UNSC is an important step towards democratising international relations.

Conclusion:

Global South is currently facing a major identity crisis emanating from historical experiences, Cold War legacies, and issues relating to supply chain securitisation. The post-Covid world order and the Ukraine war further aggravated the problem for Global South.

India, led by Prime Minister Modi, aims to address energy and food crises and the impact of the recession on the global economy in the Global South. India is committed to sharing its developmental experience and calls for inclusive global governance to promote growth and prosperity. India's leadership can reshape global geopolitics and invigorate the existing global order.

.....

GS SCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

IAS 2024

GS MAINS Q&A

COMPLETE GS MAINS & ESSAY *through*
CONCEPT BUILDING & ANSWER WRITING



CONCEPT
CLASSES



TESTS



STUDY
MATERIAL



MENTORING



OPTIONAL Q&A

POLITICAL
SCIENCE



SOCIOLOGY



ANTHROPOLOGY



HISTORY



GEOGRAPHY



LAW



PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



1B, Second Floor, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh,
New Delhi - 110005 (Beside Karol Bagh
Metro Station Gate No. 8)



8448496262



iasscore.in

SECTION: 'C'

(PRELIMS)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

To Attempt

Weekly Current Affairs Test, Visit

www.iasscore.in

KARNATAKA'S LAMBANI CRAFT

Context: As part of the third G20 culture working group (CWG) meeting in Hampi, a Guinness world record was created for the 'largest display of Lambani items'.

List of some important crafts in India

• Kondapalli Dolls	• Andhra Pradesh
• Bamboo and cane Craft	• Arunachal Pradesh
• Madhubani Painting	• Bihar
• Wall Paintings	• Chhattisgarh
• Lavo Mandri	• Goa
• Zari Work	• Gujarat
• Bidriware	• Karnataka
• Durries Weaving	• Madhya Pradesh
• Pattachitra	• Odisha
• Kantha	• West Bengal
• Kutch Embroidery	• Gujarat
• Chikankari	• Uttar Pradesh
• Kashmiri Shawls	• Jammu and Kashmir

About Lambani craft:

- * The Lambani embroidery is an intricate form of textile embellishment characterised by colourful threads, mirror-work and stitch patterns practised in several villages of Karnataka such as **Sandur, Keri Tanda, Mariyammanahalli, Kadirampur, Sitaram Tanda, Bijapur and Kamalapur**.
- * The **Lambani craft tradition** involves stitching together small pieces of discarded fabric to create a beautiful fabric.
- * The sustainable practice of patch-work is seen in many **textile traditions of India** and around the world.
- * The embroidery traditions of the Lambanis are shared in terms of technique and aesthetics with textile traditions across **Eastern Europe, West, and Central Asia**.

The Lambani Community:

- * It is a community that loves to adorn. They wear clothes that have a lot of **thread embroidery, buttons, shells, sequins, silver beads, etc.**
- * Not only their clothes, but their homes are interestingly styled, too.

- * The Lambanis have multiple colours on their walls, which are also decorated with artworks and art styles.



- * The Banjaras speak '**Gor Boli**' — also called '**Lambadi**'.
- * Since it has no script, it is written either in **Devanagari or in the local languages, like Telugu or Kannada**.
- * Many people belonging to this tribal group are **bilingual or multilingual**.

RISKS FACED BY ZAPORIZHZHYA

Context Russia and Ukraine recently accused each other of planning to attack the occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in the southern Ukraine.

What is a Pressurized Water Reactor?

Most common type of nuclear power reactor in the world that uses ordinary water as the moderator and coolant.

- **Composition:** Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) are fuelled by Natural Uranium. Light Water Reactors (LWRs) are fuelled by Low Enriched Uranium.
- **Operating System:** A PWR has two water systems:
 - ▶ **Primary Reactor system:** Retrieves heat generated in the reactor.
 - ▶ **Secondary Turbine system:** Produces electric power with steam generated by that heat.

About Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant:

- * The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is located near the town of Enerhodar in Zaporizhzhia Oblast, Ukraine.
- * It is situated on the Dnieper River, approximately 80 kilometers (50 miles) southeast of the city of Zaporizhzhia.

- * The Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant is the largest nuclear power plant in Europe and the fifth-largest in the world in terms of installed capacity.
- * It was commissioned in the 1980s and currently consists of six Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) units, each with a capacity of around 1,000 megawatts.

Reactor design at Zaporizhzhya:

- * **Type:** The Plant consists of six power units, and each unit is equipped with a specific type of reactor. The reactors at Zaporizhzhya are of the **VVER (Water-Water Energetic Reactor) type**, which is a pressurized water reactor (PWR) design.
- * The specific reactor type used at Zaporizhzhya is the **VVER-1000 (VVER-1000/320)**, which is a **third-generation design**. Here are some key characteristics of the VVER-1000 reactors:
 - ▶ **Core Design:** cylindrical core that contains fuel assemblies
 - ▶ **Fuel Assemblies:** consist of fuel rods containing enriched uranium fuel pellets.
 - ▶ **Coolant System:** The VVER-1000 reactors use ordinary water as both the coolant and moderator
 - ▶ **Safety Features:** The VVER-1000 reactors have multiple safety systems to prevent accidents and ensure safe operation. These include emergency core cooling systems, containment structures, and passive safety features like the inherent reactivity control system.

Risk at Zaporizhzhya

- * **Worst-case scenario:** If the containment is completely damaged with a projectile striking a reactor while it is generating power could depressurise the primary water circuit as steam and escape into the air, along with radioactive material and other volatile substances.
 - ▶ **Iodine-131:** This mixture will contain the isotope iodine-131 that damages the thyroid gland in humans.
 - ▶ **Caesium-137:** A breach and depressurisation would also release caesium-137, which was responsible for Chernobyl disaster as well.
 - ▶ Threat would be less as compared to Chernobyl as the design differences between the two NPPs could keep the fallout to within around a few hundred kilometres in **Zaporizhzhya**.
- * **Fukushima scenario:** When the NPP is disconnected from the external power grid with nuclear reactions not occurring in reactor, the nuclear fuel has to be cooled otherwise fuel could become hot enough to melt through the reactor's bottom, contaminating soil, air, and water.

Ultimate concern: The working conditions of the 3,000 people at the plant, most of whom have refused to sign new employment contracts with their new Russian employers, due to uncertainties over the management, violation of protocol, and suspicions of disloyalty.



KUI LANGUAGE

Context: Odisha Cabinet gave nod to Inclusion of the Kui Language in 8th Schedule of Constitution.

- * The Inclusion of kui language is going to benefit the **Kandha tribe** in the State.

About Kui Language:

- * Kui (also known as **Kandh, Khondi, Khond, Khondo**), is a **South-Eastern Dravidian language** spoken by the Kandha community.
- * It is primarily spoken in the **state of Odisha**.
- * It is closely related to other languages in the Dravidian family, such as **Gondi and Kuvi**. It was also referred to as the **Kuinga language** during the historical period.
- * With **941,988 registered native speakers**, it figures at rank 29 in the **1991 Indian census**.
- * **Script:** Kui is traditionally written using the **Odia script**, which is also used for writing the **Odia language**.



Parliament can amend the provision on the **official language of India** under the Constitution by a simple majority of its members. However, there is **no such procedure** of inclusion of a language under 8th schedule in the Constitution.

Provisions under Eighth Schedule:

- * The Constitutional provisions relating to the **Eighth Schedule** occur in **Article 344(1) and 351** of the Constitution.
- * **Article 344(1)** provides for the constitution to make **recommendations to the President** for the progressive **use of Hindi** for official purposes of the Union.
- * **Article 351 of the Constitution** provides that it shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the **composite culture of India** and to secure its

enrichment by assimilating without interfering with its genius, the forms, style and expressions used in Hindustani and in the other languages of India specified in the Eighth Schedule.

- * The **eighth schedule** includes the recognition of the following **22 languages**:
 - ▶ Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri are the **22 languages** presently in the eighth schedule to the Constitution.
 - ▶ Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution.
 - ▶ Subsequently, Sindhi was added in 1967; Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added in 1992; and Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santali were added by the **92nd Amendment Act of 2003**.

Demands from other States:

- At present, there are demands for inclusion of **38 more languages** in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.
- **Some of them are:** Angika, Banjara, Bhojपुरी, Chhattisgarhi, Kok Barak, Tulu etc.

PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AND LAWS

Context: In a recent incident, an executive magistrate in Srinagar sent 11 men to jail after they were detained for allegedly not rising for the National Anthem at an event.

What are the laws related to 'disrespect' to the National Anthem?

- * **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, (1971): Section 3** of the Act prescribes jail up to three years and/ or a fine for "intentionally preventing the singing of the National Anthem or causing disturbance to any assembly engaged in such singing".
- * **Article 51-A(a) of the Constitution** makes it every citizen's duty to "abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the national flag and the national anthem".

Bijoe Emmanuel v State of Kerala (1986):

- The law around alleged disrespect to the National Anthem was laid down by the Supreme Court in its **1986 judgment in Bijoe Emmanuel & Ors vs State Of Kerala & Ors**.

- The court granted protection to three children (in school), who did not join in the singing of the National Anthem at their school.
- The court held that forcing them to sing the Anthem violated their fundamental right to religion under **Article 25 of the Constitution**.
- **Standing up respectfully** when the National Anthem is sung **but not singing** oneself "does not either prevent the singing of the National Anthem or cause disturbance to an assembly engaged in such singing so as to constitute the offence".

PM GATI SHAKTI

Context: The government is working out a mechanism to share data with industry and potential investors about multi-modal connectivity as well as other physical and social infrastructure captured on the PM Gati Shakti platform.

More about the news:

- * The **Network Planning Group (NPG)** under **PM Gati Shakti**, has recommended five projects worth Rs 15,683 crore from the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**, in its 51st meeting.
- * These projects — located in **Mizoram, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, and Kanpur** — aim to improve connectivity to **industrial clusters and social sector assets**.
- * They also aim to **enhance logistics efficiency** by streamlining **freight traffic movement** and reducing congestion in cities.

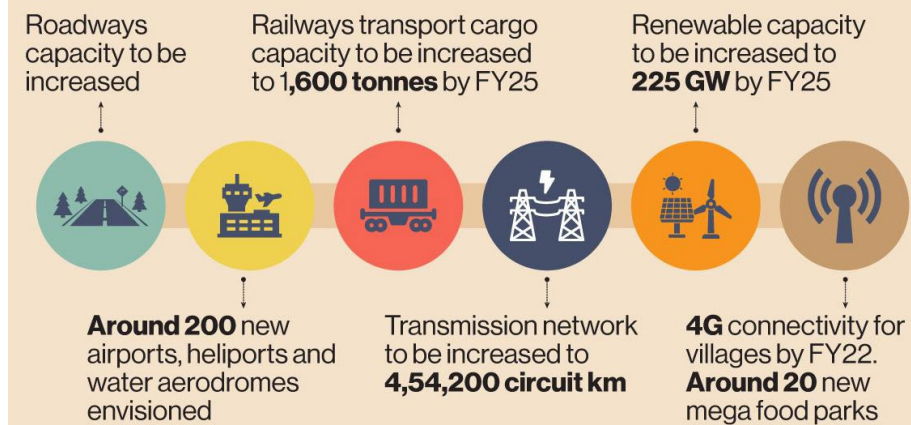
GIS platform

- The GIS platform integrates the **geospatial data** related to the infrastructure in the country and planning portals of various ministries and departments.
- The portal offers **access to over 1,460 layers of data**, covering various aspects such as **land, ports, forest, and highways**.

What is PM Gati Shakti NMP?

- * The PM Gati Shakti NMP was launched in October 2021.
- * **Objective:** Holistic integration of various ministries and to address the gaps to ensure infrastructure for seamless movement of people, goods and services.
- * The PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan is driven by seven engines - **roads, railways, airports, ports, mass transport, waterways, and logistics infrastructure**.

GATI SHAKTI MASTER PLAN



Basics of Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

* The global Multidimensional Poverty Index is used to measure acute multidimensional poverty in developing countries.

* **Indicators:** It monitors 10 indicators including health, education, and standard of living and “it also includes both incidences as well as the intensity of poverty.”

* **Released by:** The Index is released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford.

* The latest update of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) with estimates for 110 countries

- * **Composition:** The NPG is composed of representatives from various connectivity infrastructure ministries and departments.
- * These representatives include the heads of the network planning division, and their purpose is to ensure unified planning and integration of the proposals
- * **Development this fiscal:** As of this fiscal year, a total of **85 major infrastructure projects** worth Rs 5.4 lakh crore from various ministries have been recommended for approval under the initiative.
- * All logistics and connectivity infrastructure projects requiring investments of over Rs 500 crore are directed through the NPG.

What is Poverty?

- * **Poverty** entails more than the lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. People living on less than USD 1.90 a day typically is considered to be in poverty.
- * **Multidimensional poverty** encompasses the various deprivations experienced by poor people in their daily lives – such as poor health, lack of education, inadequate living standards, disempowerment, poor quality of work, the threat of violence, and living in areas that are environmentally hazardous, among others.
- * **Multi-dimensionally poor:** An individual who is deprived of one-third or more of the weighted indicators is multi-dimensionally poor.
- * **Extreme multidimensional poverty:** While any person deprived of one-half or more of the weighted indicators would fall into extreme multidimensional poverty.

Infrastructure as nation’s growth engine: Budget 2023:

- In the budget, the government took a bold step and increased the capital investment outlay to Rs 7.5 lakh crores.
- The budget 2023 increased the capital expenditures on Indian Railways by nine times more than the sum for the fiscal year 2013–14.



INDIA’S ‘REMARKABLE’ POVERTY REDUCTION

Context: The latest update of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) with estimates for 110 countries was released recently. It revealed that **25 countries successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years (including India), showing that rapid progress is attainable.**

Determination of poverty status in India:

Officially, a person who lives on a monthly expenditure of Rs.1,000 or less in cities and Rs.816 or less in villages, at 2011-12 prices is poor, per the poverty line determined by an **Expert Group (Tendulkar)** in that year.

Key-findings of the 2023 Index:

- * The analysis of trends from 2000 to 2022, focused on 81 countries, according to the report, revealed that 25 countries successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years.

25 NATIONS HALVE GLOBAL MPI VALUES

- India is one of the 25 nations that have successfully halved their global Multidimensional Poverty Index values within 15 years
- In India, the incidence of poverty fell from 55% (645 million) in 2005/2006 to 16% (230 million) in 2019/2021
- People in India who are multi-dimensionally poor and deprived under the nutrition indicator declined from 44% in 2005-06 to 12% in 2019/21
- Those who are poor & deprived of cooking fuel declined from 53% to 14% & those deprived of sanitation dipped from 50% to 11.3%
- In drinking water, those deprived fell from 16% to 3% & in housing from 44% to 14%

These include Cambodia, China, Congo, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Serbia, and Viet Nam.

- * **Acute multidimensional poverty:** 1.1 billion out of 6.1 billion people (just over 18 per cent) live in acute multidimensional poverty across 110 countries. Sub-Saharan Africa (534 million) and South Asia (389 million) are home to approximately five out of every six poor people.
- * **Poverty rate among children:** Children under the age of 18 account for half of MPI-poor people (566 million). The poverty rate among children is 27.7 per cent, while among adults, it is 13.4 per cent.
- * **Poverty in middle-income countries:** Nearly two-thirds of all poor people (730 million people) live in middle-income countries, making action in these countries vital for reducing global poverty.
- * **Poverty in low-income countries:** Although low-income countries constitute only 10 per cent of the population included in the MPI, these are where 35 per cent of all poor people reside.
- * **Poverty in rural areas:** Poverty predominantly affects rural areas, with 84 per cent of all poor people living in rural areas. Rural areas are poorer than urban areas across all regions of the world.
- * **India's Story:**

The **Sustainable Development Goal target 1.2** is for countries to reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions by 2030. India's progress shows that this goal is feasible, even at scale.

- A total of 415 million people in India came out of poverty within a span of just 15 years from 2005/2006 to 2019/2021.
- Poverty fell from 55.1% in 2005/06 to 16.4% in 2019/21 in India.
- In April, India surpassed China to become the world's most populous nation with 142.86 crore people.

- * Besides India, China lifted 69 million out of poverty between 2010-2014, and Indonesia 8 million between 2012-2017.
- * In neighbouring Bangladesh and Pakistan, 19 million and 7 million individuals came out of poverty during 2015-2019 and 2012-2018, respectively.

Poverty alleviating schemes:

- * Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (MNREGA)
- * National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)
- * Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)
- * Public Distribution System (PDS)
- * Housing for All
- * Atal Mission for Urban Rejuvenation and Transformation (AMRUT)

October 17 is observed as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

- * Smart Cities Mission
- * Digital India
- * Jan Dhan Yojana
- * Make in India

**FOREVER CHEMICAL**

Context: A recent study conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has found that nearly half of the tap water in the United States is estimated to contain one or more PFAS (per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances), also known as "forever chemicals."

What are Forever Chemicals?

- * PFAS, or forever chemicals, are **highly persistent synthetic chemicals** used in a wide range of industrial and consumer products.
- * PFAS are a group of more than 12,000 types of chemicals that are known to persist in the environment for long periods, hence their nickname "forever chemicals."
- * They have long-lasting properties, resist degradation, and can accumulate in the environment and the human body.
- * PFAS contamination of water, soil, and food sources is a major concern.
- * **Potential health risks:**
 - developmental issues
 - liver damage
 - immune system disorders
 - hormone disruption
 - certain types of cancer

CHANDRAYAAN-3 SPACECRAFT INTEGRATED WITH LAUNCH VEHICLE

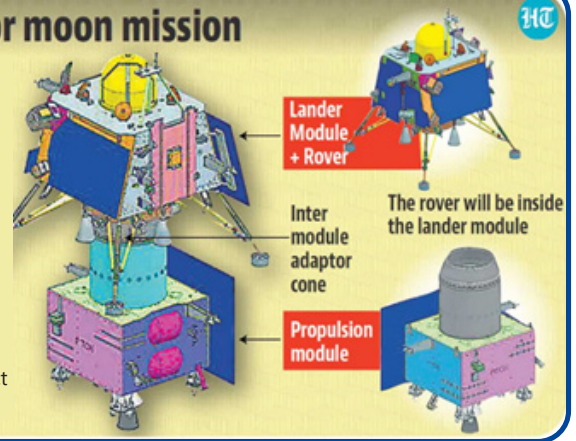
Context: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has integrated the spacecraft with the launch vehicle — Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3) with an aim to launch Chandrayaan-3 in July.

What is Chandrayaan Mission?

- * Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to **Chandrayaan-2** to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.
- * **Need:** The need for Chandrayaan-3 arose after the unsuccessful landing of the **Vikram lander** during **Chandrayaan-2**.
 - ▶ This new mission is designed to demonstrate the essential landing skills required for the proposed lunar polar **exploration mission** in 2024, which India intends to carry out in collaboration with Japan.
- * **Aim:** The mission aims to explore the Moon's surface, particularly areas that have been deprived of sunlight for billions of years.
- * **Lunar Exploration:** A lunar exploration oriented mission that aims at exploring the Moon and its resources through a series of robotic missions.
- * **Global Elite:** Mission makes India only the 4th nation after US, Russia and China to land on the moon.

Gearing up for moon mission

- Chandrayaan-3 consists of an indigenous lander module, a propulsion module, and a rover
- The lander and the rover will have scientific payloads to carry out experiments
- The mission aims to demonstrate safe and soft landing on the lunar surface, and have the rover conduct experiments



Composition:

The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft consists of three parts:

INDIA'S THIRD DATE WITH THE MOON

India will launch its third mission, Chandrayan-3, to the moon in an attempt to land on its surface in 2020-21. The mission will target a soft-landing near the lunar South Pole later this year or early next year

- 1** GSLV Mark-III (left) had to be operationalised for launching Chandrayan-2 due to its heavy payload. Chandrayan-3 will be much lighter as no orbiter would be stacked on it. Isro, however, has not specified the rocket type to be used in Chandrayan-3
- 2** Chandrayan-3's payload will be similar to Chandrayan-2 (above). It will have a lander, rover, like its previous iteration. Since it will not carry and orbiter, a propulsion module will be added to the lander. Isro already has a set of backup lander-rover unit that may be used after some modifications
- 3** The orbiter from Chandrayan-2 that's already in place will be used by the lander-rover to communicate with Earth. The orbiter, which originally had a mission life of one year, has been given an extension in mission life-it will be operational for 7 years.
- 4** The lander-rover is expected to land close to the lunar South Pole like Chandrayan-2 changes will be made to the sequence of powered descent, during which a velocity loss had caused the Chandrayan-2's lander-rover to crash. Isro has not yet revealed the details of the lander

MISSION COST

Chandrayaan-2			₹960cr
Chandrayaan-3	₹250cr	₹360cr	₹610cr
	Lander-rover	Launch rocket	

- * **Lander:** The lander will be powered by four throttleable engines and will feature a **Laser Doppler Velocimeter (LDV)**.
- * **Rover:** The rover will carry out chemical analysis of the lunar surface. Both the lander and the rover carry many scientific payloads for experiments on the lunar surface.
- * **Propulsion module:** The propulsion module has one main function—to carry the lander and rover from “launch vehicle injection” to a 100-kilometre circular polar lunar orbit before it separates from the other modules.

Chandrayaan-3's LVM-

- LVM-3 or Launch Vehicle Mark-III, is a **three-stage medium-lift launch vehicle** developed by ISRO and earlier known as the **GSLV Mark III**.
- It is the **most powerful rocket** in the space agency.
- **Lift-off mass:** 640 tonnes.
- **Payload capacity:**
 - ▶ upto 8,000 kilograms to a **low-Earth orbit**.
 - ▶ Upto 4,000 kilograms of payload to a **geostationary transfer orbit**
- Its **cryogenic upper stage** is powered by **CE-20 (India's largest cryogenics engine)**.
- The **core stage** is powered by two **L110 liquid-stage Vikas rockets**.



TROPICAL WATERS HAVE TURNED 'GREEN' IN COLOUR

Context: Recently, a study has indicated that **Tropical Ocean waters are turning Green in colour due to alteration in phytoplankton communities.**

- * The green colour comes from **chlorophyll**, a pigment that helps microscopic plant-like phytoplankton make food.

Highlights of the study:

- * According to the study, Climate change has altered the colour of **56 per cent** of the world's oceans.
- * The southern Indian Ocean, in particular, has seen a significant colour change.
- * The reason highlighted for the change in colour seems to determine **the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed** by the ocean.
- * Currently, oceans absorbed **25 per cent** of all carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.
- * The study also predicted that predicted that more

than **50 per cent of the world's oceans** will shift in colour due to climate change by 2100.

Data collection and Procedure:

- * They analysed data generated from the **Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS)** aboard the **Aqua satellite**, which has been monitoring ocean colour for two decades **between 2002 and 2022**.
- * The team then used to model to simulate **two scenarios**: one with the addition of greenhouse gases and the other without them.

How Oceans absorb CO₂?

- * The ocean absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere wherever air meets water.
- * Wind causes **waves and turbulence**, giving more opportunity for the water to **absorb the carbon dioxide**.
- * Fish and other animals in the **ocean breathe oxygen and give off carbon dioxide (CO₂)**, just like land animals.

Tropical Oceans & Ecosystem:

- * Tropical oceans encircle Earth in an equatorial region between the **Tropic of Cancer** (23.5° North latitude) and the **Tropic of Capricorn** (23.5° South latitude).
- * The central portions of the **Pacific and Atlantic Oceans** and most of the **Indian Ocean** lie in the tropics.
- * The warm tropical oceans play a critical role in regulating Earth's climate and large-scale weather patterns.
- * Much of the planet's biological diversity resides in the tropics, and the global distribution of species and ecosystems depends on **oceanographic and atmospheric processes that occur in the equatorial oceans**.

Significance of Tropical waters:

- * Tropical upwelling support huge populations of microscopic plants and animals called phytoplankton and zooplankton.
- * Plankton, in turn, feed many **species of fish and other marine life**, and humans who depend on fish for food.
- * Tropical fisheries account for about half of the **world's fish catch**, even though tropical oceans represent **only 0.01 percent of Earth's ocean volume**.
- * Coral reefs are another well-recognized feature of tropical oceans.

- * The seas surrounding tropical **islands and low-latitude continental shelves** away from major river deltas are ideal for coral reef formation.

Concerns:

- * A change in colour due to an **increase or decline** in the population will impact organisms that feed on plankton.
- * It will also change how much the ocean will take up carbon because different types of plankton have different abilities to absorb carbon dioxide.



NAEGLERIA FOWLERI

Context: A 15-year-old boy in Kerala has died due to a rare infection caused by *Naegleria fowleri* or “brain-eating amoeba”.

What is *Naegleria fowleri*?

- * *Naegleria fowleri*, commonly known as “**brain-eating amoeba**,” is a **single-cell organism** found in a warm freshwater environment such as lakes, hot springs and even in poorly maintained swimming pools.
- * It is so small that it can only be seen with a microscope. Only one species of ***Naegleria***, ***Naegleria fowleri***, infects people.
- * The amoeba enters the body through the nose and travels to the brain, leading to a severe and usually fatal brain infection known as **primary amebic meningoencephalitis (PAM)**.
- * Although the amoeba becomes vulnerable in its maturing or **trophozoite phase**, as a **cyst** it becomes resistant to its environment. It grows best at temperatures above 46 degree celsius.
- * Although **trophozoites** are killed rapidly by refrigeration, **cysts** can survive even extreme cold.
- * *Naegleria fowleri* infection does not spread from person to person, nor does it manifest symptoms when contracted in other forms.
- * **Cause:** Poorly maintained swimming pools or contaminated water sources increase the risk of exposure.
- * **Treatment:** A combination of drugs, often including **amphotericin B, azithromycin, fluconazole, rifampin, miltefosine, and dexamethasone**

Survival of Amoeba:

- Amoeba is known to thrive in any natural environment, particularly in warm water habitats. It survives on bacteria found in the sediment in lakes and rivers.
- However, it doesn't survive in saline conditions and is hence not found in sea water.



US TO HANDOVER CLUSTER MUNITIONS TO UKRAINE

Context: The United States has agreed to hand over cluster munitions to Ukraine, said the White House, as human rights groups continued their calls for putting a stop to the use of the controversial weapons known to cause civilian casualties in large numbers.

What is a cluster munition?

- * Cluster munitions, which are also known as **cluster bombs**, are canisters that contain tens to hundreds of smaller bomblets, also called **submunitions**.
- * **Launching vehicle:** The canisters can be launched using **missiles, dropped from aircraft, or fired from naval guns, artillery, or rocket launchers**.
- * At a prescribed height, the canisters break open depending upon the intended target, and the bomblets inside it spread out over that area.
- * The bomblets fuse with a timer and explode closer to or on the ground and spread shrapnel that is designed to take out **armoured vehicles** such as tanks and kill troops.

Why cluster bombs are considered more controversial than other bombs?

- * The impact of bomblets is on a wide area and can endanger non-combatants.
- * As per the International Committee of the Red Cross, around 10 per cent to 40 per cent of munitions fail.
- * The munitions, which fail to explode, have the probability of getting detonated by civilian activity years or even decades later.

Is using cluster bombs a war crime?

- * The use of cluster bombs **cannot be considered as a violation of international law**, however, using them against civilians can be seen as a **grave violation**.



MQ-9B PREDATOR DRONES

Context: The Indian Navy Chief, Admiral R Hari Kumar stated that India will deploy 16 MQ-9B Predator drones on the land border, out of the total 31 drones being bought from the United States.

What are the Predator drones?

- * The Predator drone or the MQ-9 Reaper is an **unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)**.
- * **Developed by:** General Atomics Aeronautical Systems
- * It is primarily used for **long-endurance, high-altitude surveillance and strike missions**.
- * The Reaper is the successor to the **MQ-1 Predator drone**. The development of the Predator began in the 1990s.
- * Its ISR capabilities, endurance, and armament make it an effective tool for tracking and targeting insurgent and terrorist networks, disrupting their activities, and supporting ground operations.

- * **Close Air Support:** The Reaper can provide close air support (CAS) to ground forces engaged in combat operations.
- * **Real-time support:** It can loiter over an area for extended periods, allowing it to provide real-time support, reconnaissance, and strike capabilities to troops on the ground.
- * **Image gathering and transmission:** It is equipped with a range of sensors and cameras that enable it to gather real-time imagery and transmit it to ground stations for analysis.
- * Its capabilities make it a **valuable asset** for military operations, border surveillance, and counterterrorism efforts.



MQ-9B Predator Drones

Max Gross Takeoff Weights **5,670 kg**

Fuel Capacity: **2,721 kg**

Payload Capacity: **2,177 kg across 9 hardpoints (8 wing, 1 centerline)**

Crew:
Two pilots in ground control stations

Weapons
Laser guided missiles
Anti-tank missiles
Anti-ship missiles

Missions

- Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief
- Search and Rescue
- Law Enforcement
- Defence Counter Air
- Airborne Early Warning

Missions

- Electronic Warfare
- Anti-surface Warfare
- Anti-Submarine Warfare
- Airborne Mine Counter Measures
- Long-Range Strategic ISR
- Over-the-Horizon Targeting

Why India needs Predator drones?

- * **Border security:** India's borders often face security challenges, including cross-border infiltration, smuggling, and territorial disputes. Predator drones can provide enhanced surveillance capabilities to monitor border areas, detect threats, and improve situational awareness.
- * **Counterterrorism operations:** Predator drones can help in counterterrorism operations by conducting surveillance, gathering intelligence, and providing real-time situational awareness to security forces.
- * **Maritime security:** India has a vast coastline, and ensuring maritime security is crucial for safeguarding its territorial waters, exclusive economic zones, and maritime interests. Predator drones equipped with maritime surveillance capabilities can monitor coastal areas, detect illegal activities such as smuggling and piracy, and support search and rescue operations.
- * **Disaster management:** India is prone to natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and cyclones.

Role and capabilities

- * The primary role of the Predator drone is **intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR)**.
- * **Precision airstrikes:** It is capable to conduct precision airstrikes. It can carry and employ a range of munitions, including the **AGM-114 Hellfire missiles** and **GBU-12 Paveway II laser-guided bombs**.

UAVs like Predator drones can be utilized for disaster management purposes, including assessing damage, monitoring affected areas, and facilitating relief and rescue operations.

- * **Strategic deterrence:** The acquisition of advanced UAVs like Predator drones can enhance India's overall defense capabilities and serve as a deterrent to potential adversaries like Pakistan and China.

'ANTHROPOCENE EPOCH'

Context: In a major development, geologists have provided evidence of the beginning of the Anthropocene epoch — a proposed geological epoch that began when human activity started to have a significant impact on the Earth.

* Anthropocene epoch denotes the present **geological time interval**, in which the Earth's ecosystem has gone through **radical changes** due to human impact.

As of now, at least officially, we're in the **Phanerozoic eon, Cenozoic era, Quaternary period, Holocene epoch and the Meghalayan age.**

Background:

- * Members of the **Anthropocene Working Group (AWG)**, which has been working since 2009 to make the Anthropocene part of the planet's time scale, the **35 geologists** have estimated that the new epoch started sometime between **1950 and 1954.**
- * They revealed the findings after analysing the Crawford Lake **in Canada, bottom sediments**, which have over the years captured the fallouts of

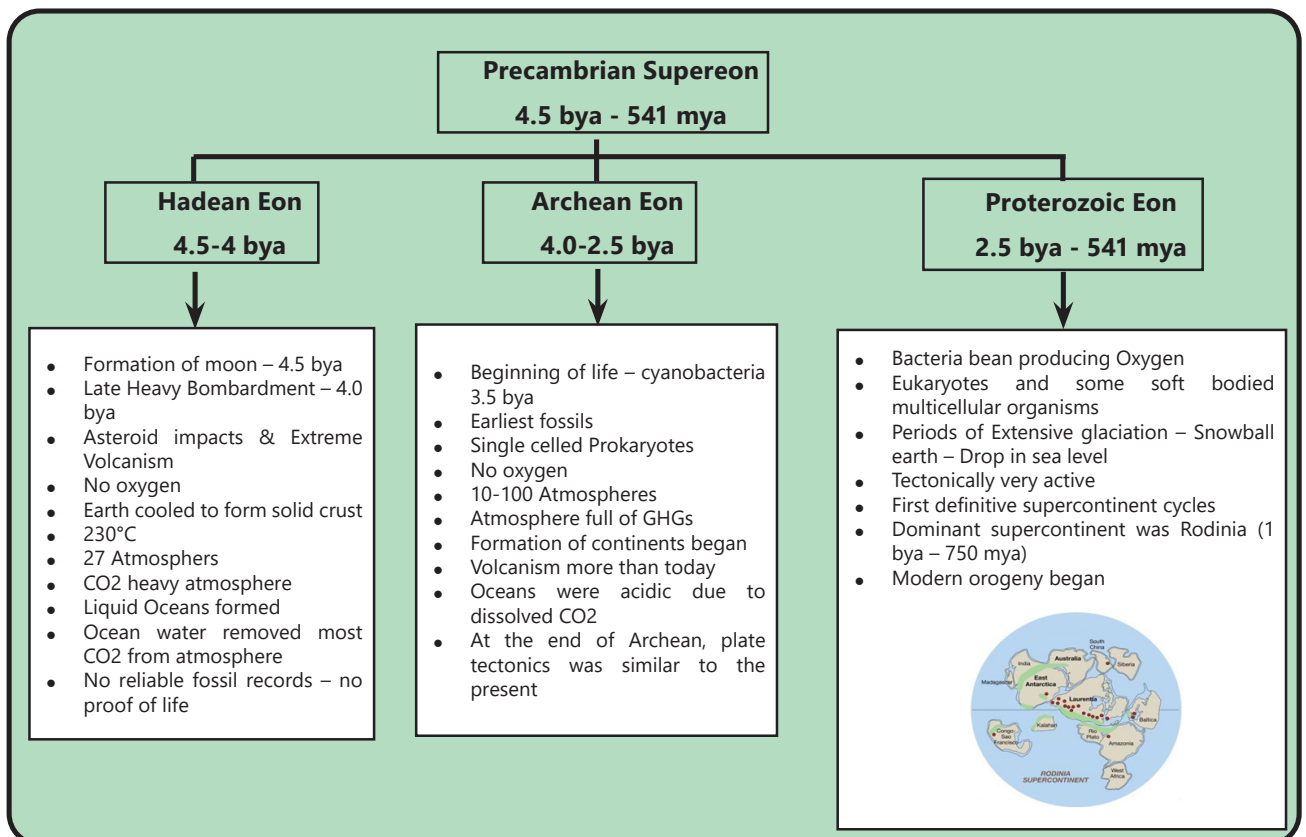
large-scale burning of fossil fuels, explosion of nuclear weapons and dumping of plastic and fertilisers on land and in water bodies.

What is the Anthropocene epoch?

- * The Anthropocene epoch as a term was first coined by Nobel Prize-winning **chemist Paul Crutzen** and **biology professor Eugene Stoermer in 2000** to denote the present geological time interval.
- * In this period, the Earth's ecosystem has gone through radical changes due to human impact, especially since the **onset of the Industrial Revolution.**
- * There are numerous phenomena associated with this epoch, such as **global warming, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, mass-scale soil erosion, the advent of deadly heat waves, deterioration of the biosphere and other detrimental changes in the environment.**

How the Earth's geological time scale is divided?

- * The **geological time scale (GTS)** divides and chronicles earth's evolutionary history into various periods from the beginning to the present based on definite events that marked a major change in earth's physical, chemical and biological features.
- * Major changes in earth's **physical and biological** history stretch over several millions of years and



hence in GTS all the divisions are expressed in 'million years (mya – million years ago).'

- * The planet's geological time scale is divided into **five broad categories:** eons, epochs, eras, periods, epochs and ages. "

Eon ==> Era ==> Period ==> Epoch

- * While **eon** is the **broadest category** of geological time, **age** is the **smallest category**.
- * Each of these categories is further divided into sub-categories.
- * For instance, Earth's history is characterised by

four eons, including **Hadeon (oldest), Archean, Proterozoic, and Phanerozoic (youngest)**.

How scientists able to identify these timelines?

- * According to the **New York-based Paleontological Research Institution**, "Most of the boundaries on the geological time scale correspond to the origination or extinction of particular kinds of fossils."
- * This is also related to something called the **principle of faunal succession**, which states that different kinds of fossils characterise different intervals of time.

.....

IAS-2024

GS SCORE
An Institute for Civil Services

ITS-2024

INTEGRATED TEST SERIES

Single Source of Integrated Preparation
for PRELIMS & MAINS

- ✓ Concept Building and Updation through **300+ Hrs. Classes**
- ✓ Assessment through **96 Tests** and Discussion for Prelims and Mains
- ✓ Value Addition **Study Material** and **Mentorship**



SECTION: 'D'
(SHORT NEWS)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

22
JUNE

GS MAINS QIP

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME
A SOLUTION *for* 500+ MARKS



17
JUNE

ETHICS & ESSAY MASTER CLASS 2023

By: MANOJ K. JHA



OPTIONAL QIP

MAINS 2023 CRASH COURSE

POL. SCIENCE QIP

A SOLUTION *for* 300+ MARKS

By: R. P. SINGH & VIRAJ RANE



HISTORY QIP

A SOLUTION *for* 300+ MARKS

By: SHIVLAL GUPTA



PUB. AD. QIP

A SOLUTION *for* 300+ MARKS

By: RAJEEV CHAUDHARY



SOCIOLOGY QIP

A SOLUTION *for* 300+ MARKS

By: SMRITI RAO



ANTHROPOLOGY QIP

A SOLUTION *for* 300+ MARKS

By: SOURABH MISHRA



LAW QIP

A SOLUTION *for* 300+ MARKS

By: RAJNISH JINDAL



GEOGRAPHY QIP

A SOLUTION *for* 300+ MARKS

By: ANURAG PATHAK



STARTS
FROM

22 JUNE

Ker Puja



Ker Puja is a Hindu religious festival and a state holiday in the north-eastern state of Tripura celebrated every year in the month of July.

About:

- During this period, devotees worship Ker, the guardian deity of **Vastu Devata**.
- Ker Puja will continue for **three days**.
- It is an occasion of deep cultural and religious importance, with rituals and customs that have been passed down through generations.
- Pregnant women, elderly individuals, and those who are unwell are taken to nearby villages to ensure their safety.
- The head priest, **or Chantai**, holds the highest authority on this special day.
- A large price of bamboo curved in the symbolic shape of Ker is curved and swung during the celebration.
- **Animal sacrifices and offerings** are made as part of rituals during this lesser-known puja.
- History behind the puja:
 - ▶ After being ruled by 184 kings for 517 years, Tripura was taken over by the government of India on October 15, 1949, through an agreement signed with **Kanchan Prabha Devi**, the **Regent Maharani at that time**.
 - ▶ As per the agreement, the Tripura government was obligated to carry on the support for temples, pujas, and festivals that were previously organized by the royal family.

Shelf Cloud



Massive shelf cloud formation captivates **Haridwar amid heavy rains** in North India.

About:

- According to the **US government's National Weather Service (NWS)** of the US government, shelf clouds - also known as **Arcus clouds** - are often associated with powerful storm systems, and many times they are reported as wall clouds, funnel clouds, or rotation.
- These clouds are sometimes seen beneath **cumulonimbus clouds, the dense, towering vertical cloud that causes intense rain**.
- A shelf cloud will usually be associated with a solid line of storms.
- The wind will come first with rain following behind it. It may appear to rotate on a horizontal axis.
- **Formation:** According to the UK Met Office, when a cold downdraft from a cumulonimbus cloud reaches the ground, the cold air may spread rapidly along the ground, pushing existing warm moist air upwards.
- As this air rises, water vapour condenses into the patterns associated with shelf clouds.

African Union (AU)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been pushing for the African Union – a continental body comprising 55 member states – to join the G20.

About AU:

- The **African Union (AU)** is a regional intergovernmental organisation that replaced the Organisation of **African Unity (OAU)**.
- AU is a continental organization consisting of 55 member states in Africa.
- It was established on May 26, 2001, in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**.
- The organisation's main goal is to promote and accelerate the political and socio-economic

Currently, **South Africa** is the only African country that enjoys member status in the G20.

Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23)



The seventh edition of the **bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23)** hosted by the Indian Navy, is being conducted at/ off Visakhapatnam.

About

- This edition marks the **11th anniversary of JIMEX**, since its inception in 2012.
- **Participants:** Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) units under the command of **RAdm Nishiyama Takahiro**, Commander Escort Flotilla One, and Indian Naval ships under the command of **RAdm Gurcharan Singh, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet**.
- **India's fleet:**
 - ▶ **INS Delhi**, India's first indigenously built guided missile destroyer
 - ▶ **INS Kamorta**, an indigenously designed and built Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette
 - ▶ **Fleet tanker INS Shakti**, a submarine, maritime patrol aircraft P8I

First overseas IIT campus



India will establish its first Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus outside the country in Tanzania.

About:

- The move is in line with India's National Education Policy 2020 and aims to strengthen educational cooperation between the two countries.
- The IIT campus in Zanzibar will begin offering programs from October and will be responsible for planning pedagogical strategies.

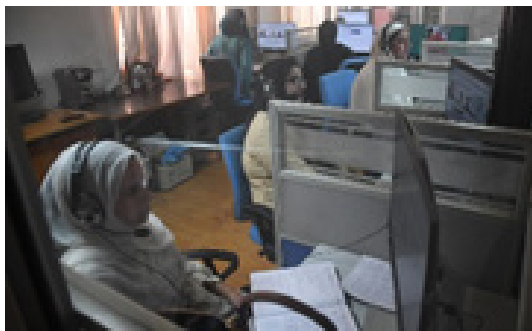
- The initiative is seen as a step towards internationalizing Indian education and expanding India's reputation and diplomatic relationships.

- Zanzibar is an archipelago off the coast of east Africa that united with Tanganyika in 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanzania.
- It is a semi-autonomous region of Tanzania.

K Radhakrishnan Committee:

- In 2021, the government formed a 16-member committee, headed by the chairman of the standing committee of IIT Council, **K Radhakrishnan**, to prepare a framework for setting up campuses abroad.

India's first Tele-MANAS chat-bot



The Government launched India's first Tele-MANAS chat-bot in the **Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir**, which will ensure round the clock services of health counsellors, clinical psychologists and consultants.

About:

- The Centre had in Budget 2022 announced the **National Tele Mental Health Programme of India, Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS)**.
- Tele-MANAS is a **two-tier system**.
 - **Tier 1** comprises State Tele MANAS cells, which includes trained counsellors and mental health specialists.
 - **Tier 2** comprises specialists at District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)/Medical College resources for physical consultation and/or **eSanjeevani** for audio visual consultation.

2023 Global Peace Index



The **2023 Global Peace Index** released its annual ranking of the most peaceful countries in the world.

Key-findings:

- Iceland has remained the most peaceful country. It also ranks as the **third happiest country in the world**, after **Finland and Denmark**.
- While the **United States** ranked 131 on the list, seven out of the top 10 most peaceful countries in the world are in Europe.
- **India:** India occupied the 126th spot in the rankings.
 - India experienced an improvement of 3.5 per cent in overall peacefulness over the past year, owing to improvements in violent crime, neighbouring countries' relations, and political instability.

About Global Peace Index:

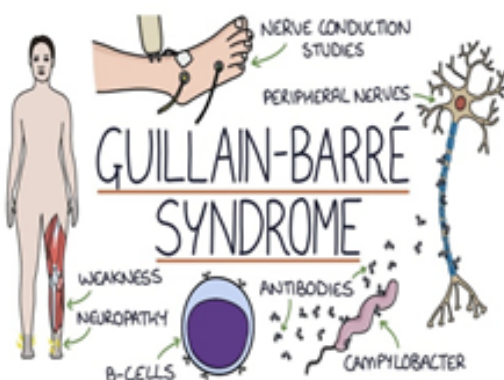
- **First released in:** 2008
- **Produced by:** Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)
- The Global Peace Index measures the state of peace using three domains of peacefulness:
 - ▶ Ongoing domestic and international conflict
 - ▶ Societal safety and security
 - ▶ Militarization

Extractive Economy

In a veiled attack on China, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that India is not an “**extractive economy**” and does not pursue narrow economic activities solely for its benefit in the resource-rich African continent.

About:

- An extractive economy is a specific type of economic system that heavily relies on the extraction and exploitation of natural resources as a primary driver of economic activity.
- **Characteristics of an extractive economy include:**
 - ▶ Natural Resource Dependency
 - ▶ Limited Economic Diversification
 - ▶ Foreign Ownership and Control
 - ▶ Environmental Degradation
 - ▶ Social Inequality

Guillain-Barré Syndrome

Peru has declared a national health emergency for **90 days** due to a surge in the cases of **Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)**, a rare neurological disorder.

About:

- Guillain-Barré Syndrome is a disorder where a **person's immune system attacks their body's peripheral nerves**.
- The immune system is the body's natural defence against illness and infection.
- The peripheral nervous system consists of the network of nerves outside the **brain and spinal cord**.
- In GBS, the **myelin sheath** – the layer of fat and protein encasing the nerve cells – becomes inflamed and can hardly carry stimuli.
- GBS usually occurs after an infection. According to the United States' Centers for **Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, about two in every three people who were diagnosed with the neurological disease had diarrhea or a respiratory illness several weeks before the onset of GBS symptoms.
- The symptoms of GBS mostly start within three weeks of an infection.

- People infected with **cytomegalovirus, Campylobacter jejuni bacteria, Epstein-Barr virus, Zika virus, or other viruses** could also be affected by GBS.
- As per the WHO, Zika virus infection is a “trigger” of **Guillain-Barré syndrome**.

Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSV)



The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** announced that it will be transferring its **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)** to the private sector.

About:

- SSLV is the new small satellite launch vehicle developed by ISRO to cater the launch of small satellites up to 500 kg to Low Earth Orbits on ‘launch-on-demand’ basis. It is configured with three solid stages 87 t, 7.7 t and 4.5 t respectively.
- SSLV is a 34 m tall, 2 m diameter vehicle having a lift-off mass of 120 t.
- A liquid propulsion-based **Velocity Trimming Module (VTM)** achieves desired velocity for the insertion of the satellites into the intended orbit. SSLV is capable of launching **Mini, Micro, or Nano-satellites (10 to 500 kg mass) to a 500 km orbit**.
- It provides low-cost access to Space, offers low turn-around time, facilitates flexibility in accommodating multiple satellites and demands minimal launch infrastructure.
- The SSLV is the sixth launch vehicle developed by the ISRO, following the Satellite Launch Vehicle-3 (SLV-3), Advanced Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV), Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), and Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3).
- The **SLV-3 and the ASLV** have already been retired.

Highway Hypnosis



The number of road accidents remains high in India, with the statistics showing that every year over 1.5 lakh people die because of road accidents.

What is Highway hypnosis?

- Highway hypnosis is a phenomenon when the driver zones out and entered an altered mental state during driving on a long straight road at an extended speed.
- Highway hypnosis can cause the driver to lose the sense of their surroundings and have no recollection of the events.
- It is also called white line fever when the driver gets into a somewhat zoned-out and hypnotic state while driving for a great distance.
- Caused by: lack of sleep or physical exhaustion.

Chinkara (*Gazella bennettii*)



Rajasthan court awards informer half of fine in Chinkara killing case.

About Chinkara or Indian gazelle (*Gazella bennettii*):

- Chinkara or Indian gazelle is the State animal of Rajasthan.
- **Geographic Range:** Indian gazelles, *Gazella bennettii*, are primarily found in the northwestern region of India in the state of Rajasthan.
- **Habitat:** Dry deciduous forests, open woodlands, and dry areas such as sand dunes, semi-arid deserts, and arid valleys.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - ▶ *Gazella bennettii* is considered a species of least concern by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.
 - ▶ They are included in the **CITES Appendix III**.

Salsola Oppositifolia Desfontania



A team of researchers from Gandhinagar-based **Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER)** Foundation has discovered a new species of saltwort called **Salsola oppositifolia Desfontania**.

About

- Salsola oppositifolia Desfontania is a **perennial shrub** that grows in saline, arid to semi-arid environments of the Kutch district.
- The species belongs to the family of **Amaranthaceae**.
- It is **rarely prostrate** and unlike other species of Salsola, does not have any hairs. As the name **oppositifolia** suggests, the leaves of this plant grow opposite each other in the stem.
- It is a **halophyte** — a plant adapted to growing in saline conditions.
- This species, earlier known from **Italy, Northern Africa, Palestine, Spain and Western Sahara**, has been reported for the first time from India.

Chinkara (*Gazella bennettii*)



According to recent findings, there has been lowest reproductive number in more than 50 years of monitoring the **local population of the Ospreys 'a raptor'**.


About Ospreys:

Ospreys are very large, distinctively shaped hawks. Despite their size, their bodies are slender, with long, narrow wings and long legs.


- Ospreys are brown above and white below, and overall they are whiter than most raptors.
- From below, the wings are mostly white with a prominent dark patch at the wrists.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The head is white with a broad brown stripe through the eye. • Juveniles have white spots on the back and buffy shading on the breast. • Ospreys reside around nearly any body of water: saltmarshes, rivers, ponds, reservoirs, estuaries, and even coral reefs. • Their conspicuous stick nests are placed in the open on poles, channel markers, and dead trees, often over water.
--	--

Atlantic Menhaden

	<p>The recent decline in Ospreys has happened due to shortage of fish species named 'Atlantic menhaden' and food for them.</p> <p>About</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These fishes are found in coastal and estuarine waters from Nova Scotia to northern Florida, Atlantic menhaden play many important roles. • They are filter feeders, primarily consuming phytoplankton and zooplankton in the water column. Menhaden support an important commercial fishery. • They constitute the largest landings, by volume, along the Atlantic Coast of the United States. • Menhaden are harvested for use as fertilizers, animal feed, and bait for fisheries including blue crab and lobster. • They are a major source of omega-3 fatty acids, so they are also used to develop human and animal supplements. • In estuaries like the Chesapeake Bay, they are food for striped bass and other fish, as well as for predatory birds, including osprey and eagles.
--	---

Tomato Leaf Curl Virus (ToLCV)

	<p>ToLCV is a significant concern for tomato farmers as it can cause substantial economic losses.</p> <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tomato leaf curl virus (ToLCV) is a plant virus. • It affects tomato plants and other crops in the Solanaceae family, such as peppers, eggplants, and potatoes. • It is a member of the Begomovirus genus. • Transmitted by: Whitefly <i>Bemisia tabaci</i>
---	--

PBW RS1 Wheat variety

	<p>The Ludhiana-based institution has developed a new variety of wheat called PBW RS1.</p> <p>About PBW RS1 variety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) has developed a new wheat variety called PBW RS1.
--	--



- This variety contains high levels of amylose starch, which is known to reduce the **risk of type-2 diabetes and cardiovascular diseases**.
- Unlike regular wheat, consuming chapattis made from PBW RS1 does not cause an immediate and rapid rise in glucose levels.
- The **high amylose and resistant starch content** in this wheat ensure that glucose is released more slowly into the bloodstream.
- Additionally, the slower digestion process increases the feeling of satiety, so a person consuming chapattis made from PBW RS1 would feel full after having just two, compared to **four chapattis made from normal wheat**.
- PBW RS1 has total starch content similar to other wheat varieties, **around 66-70 percent**.

Other Important Wheat varieties:

- PBW-343, WH-896(d), PDW-233(d), UP-2338, PBW-502
- **Major wheat-growing states in India** are Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Gujarat.

Sutlej River



Moderate flood in Sutlej River

About

- **Origin:** The Sutlej River originates from the Rakshastal Lake in Tibet, which is situated near the sacred Mount Kailash.
- It emerges from the Himalayas in the southwestern region of Tibet, near the India-China border.
- After entering India, it passes through Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab before eventually joining the Indus River in Pakistan.

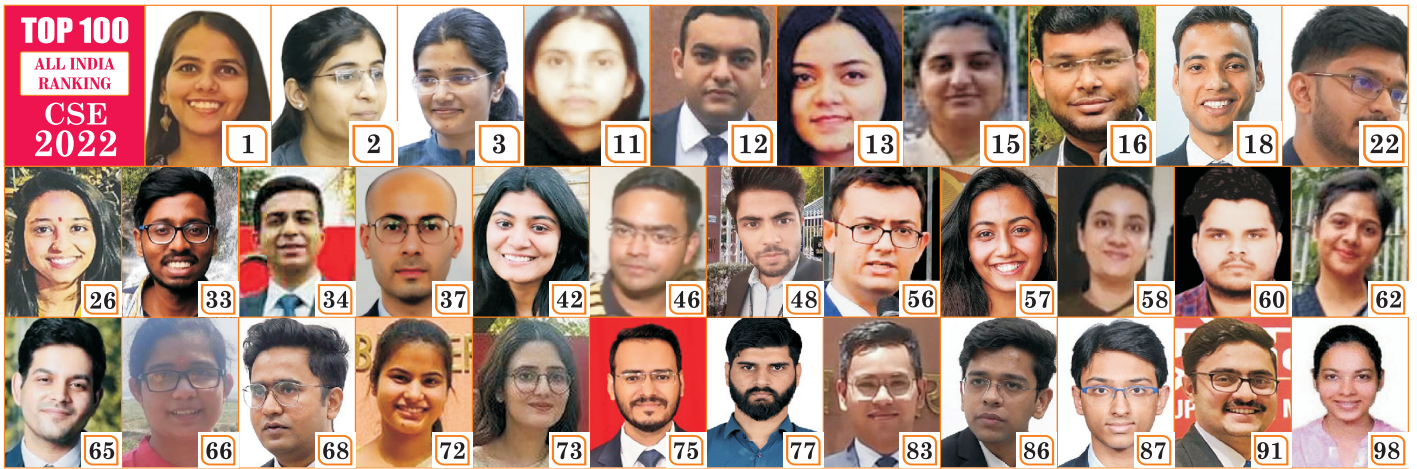
Black Sea



A deal allowing Ukraine to export grain via the Black Sea expires on July 17 and with Moscow saying it sees no grounds for an extension there are fears it may collapse.

About

- The Black Sea is located in **Southeastern Europe**.
- It is bordered by several countries.
 - **North:** It is bounded by Ukraine, Russia, and a small portion of Belarus.
 - **East:** It is connected to the Sea of Azov through the Strait of Kerch.
 - **South:** Turkey
 - **West:** Bulgaria and Romania
- **Surrounding Countries:** Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria, and Romania.
- **Connected Waterways:** The **Bosphorus Strait**, located in Turkey, connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara, which then leads to the Mediterranean Sea.



SUCCESS IS A PRACTICE WE DO!

