CURRENT AFFAIRS WEEKLY

MAINS

GS-II
- PRISON IN INDIA
- INDIA'S IMR INDICATES A STEP TOWARDS 'GENDER EQUALITY'
- INDIA'S DRUG REGULATION PROBLEM
- POLITICAL INCLUSION OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED VIA SUITABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

GS-III
- ONLINE GAMING MARKET IN INDIA, AND PROPOSED RULES
- INDIA'S SPACE ECONOMY
- NEED OF LEGAL RIGHTS TO ANIMALS, TREES, AND RIVERS
- THE SOLUTION TO RADICALISATION IN INDIA
- CLICK CHEMISTRY & ITS APPLICATIONS

PRELIMS

ART & CULTURE
- First phase of the 'Shri Mahakaleswar Corridor' inaugurated
- Konda Reddi Tribe

POLITY & GOVERNANCE
- Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao now includes skilling
- RTI pleas pile up at information commissions
- Justice Dinesh Sharma to head UAPA tribunal
- Centre notifies credit guarantee scheme for startups
- Muslim federation to reserve seats for women in its panel
- Panel to study SC status of Dalits post-conversion

- Agri-credit societies to be set up in all Panchayats
- Pilot launch of e-rupee for specific use cases
- India & U.K. FTA & Issues

ENVIRONMENT
- Study finds 'sharp' decline in Vulture population
- Microplastics detected in human breast milk

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
- Vyommitra's skills get a lift off with digital grey matter
- Space exploration finds 'sodium content' throughout the moon surface

QUICK BYTES
- RBI's Scale-based Regulation (SBR)
- World Mental Health Day
- SCO's Anti-terror exercise hosted by India

MISCELLANEOUS
- Nobel Prize in Literature
- Nobel Memorial Prize for Economics
- Nobel Peace Prize
- IAF to launch new weapon system branch

SPECIAL
- Judicial Appointments by the Collegium is Questionable: Why?

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.

CURRENT AFFAIRS WEEKLY

CONTENTS

WEEK - 2 (OCTOBER, 2022)

****

SECTION: A
(MAINS)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

PRISON IN INDIA

CONTEXT:

In the recently highlighted issue, the Border Security Force handed over the Bangladeshi illegal migrants to their country without any procedure as established due to the lack of spaces in 'Prisons'.

◌ This has highlighted the concerns regarding overcrowded and staff less prisons in India.

What is the present situation?

An analysis of prison statistics by the **India Justice Report (IJR)** has found:

⊙ **Increase in arrest:** An increase of 7.7 lakh in the number of people arrested in 2021 as compared to 2020.

⊙ **Increased prisoners:** The number of prisoners has shot up from 3.7 lakh to 5.54 lakh in the same period — a 48% increase.

⊙ It was most acute in **three northern States/Union Territories** — Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi. In these three regions, the occupancy rate crossed **180%** in 2021 (180 prisoners for every 100 vacancies).

⊙ The **highest increase** was observed in Delhi, where the occupancy rate increased from 60% to 183%. **Decrease in staff:** While on the one hand, jails are overflowing, on the other, the **vacancies for prison officers** are alarmingly high in some States.

⊙ In **Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Jharkhand** over 60% of officer positions were vacant.
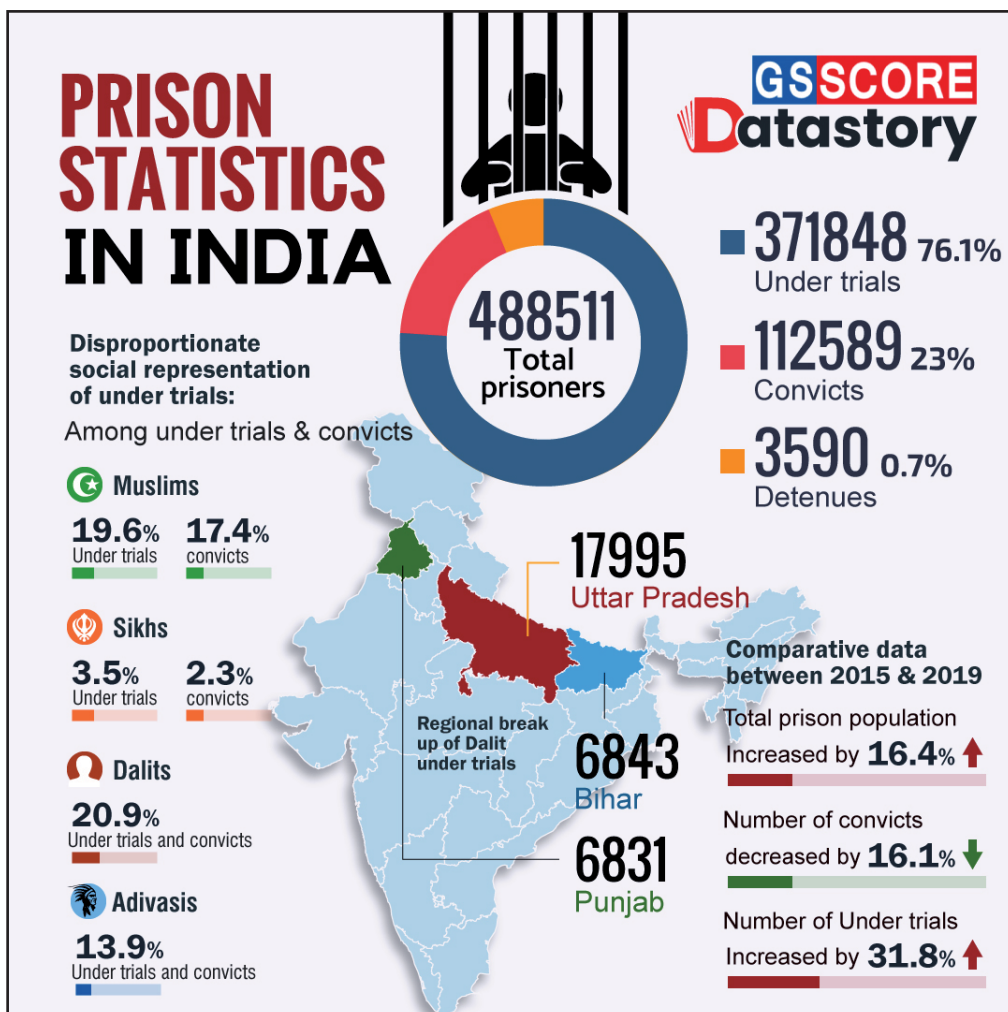
Types of Prisons:
- In India there are three levels of Prison
- Taluka level (Sub jails)
- district level (district jails)
- central level (central jails)

There are also some other types of jail such as women jails, Borstal school, open jails, and special jails.

What are the major issues across the jails in India?

- **Overcrowding:** Under-trials of the prisoners is prominent in Indian states, which ultimately lead to overcrowding in jails.
- **Shortage of staff:** The ratio between the prison staff and the prison population is approximately 1:7. It means only one prison officer is available for 7 prisoners.
- **Custodial Tortures /Deaths**

Other issues

- prolonged detention of under-trial prisoners
- unsatisfactory living conditions
- lack of treatment Programs
- Constant allegations for the indifferent and even inhuman approaches of prison staff
- Lack of legal aid
- Physical abuse of prisoners by the guards
- Suicide in prisons

Measures taken by the Government

- **E-Prisons Project**: The E-prisons project supplements the Prisoner Information Management system (PIMS) which provides a centralized approach for recording and managing prisoner information and generating different kinds of reports.

- **Model Prison Manual 2016:** The manual provides detailed information about the legal services (including free services) available to prison inmates. The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an advisory to all **States and UTs informing** them about the legal aid facility available to under-trial prison inmates.

- **National Legal Services Authority**: It has launched a web application to facilitate the under trial prisoners with **free legal services**. The objective of the above application is to make the legal services system more transparent and useful.

Right of Prisoners
- The rights of prisoners are covered under the **Prison Act, 1894.**
- **Important Rights**
- Right To Legal Aid
- Right To Speedy Trial
- Right Against Solitary Confinement And Protection From Torture

Exemplary developments
- The **Maharashtra government and Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives** Pvt Ltd have signed a MoU recently with an aim to work together to design, implement, and monitor and document a model programme to provide legal help to prisoners, especially under-trials.

Required measures:

- **More space share**
- **New reforms to the judicial process to decrease the length of trials and reduce the number of inmates.**

- ◎ **Modernisation:** Need to make jails modern and technologically adept with stringent security measures

- ◎ **Better standard of living**: Need to introduce better living and health facilities, libraries, and training programmes for prisoners to help them get back to society.

- ◎ **Focus on mental health**: Effective initiatives to promote mental development.

- ◎ **Introducing Pattern-or-Practise Investigations (PoP Investigation)** against prison administration, on lines of the United States that first introduced PoP Investigations in 1991 to initiate police reforms, could be key to solving the crisis.

Prominent recommendation of A. N. Mulla. committee (1980) are:

- Improving prison condition by making available proper food, clothing, sanitation etc.
- The focus must be on human rights of prisoners besides improving their amenities.
- Undertrial in jails to be reduced to bare minimum and they be kept away from convicts.
- The prison staff to be properly trained and organized.
- The focus must be on Rehabilitation and reforming of offender.
- The Government should make an effort to provide adequate financial resources.

INDIA'S IMR INDICATES A STEP TOWARDS 'GENDER EQUALITY'

CONTEXT:

As a significant development, the female Infant mortality rate (IMR) has registered a decline in India. The identical IMR of boys, and girls a step towards gender equality.

Highlights of the Report:

- ◎ **Sample Registration System Statistical Report 2020**, has highlighted a decline in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR).

- ◎ No gender difference has been observed in 2020 (Male -28, Female - 28).

- ◎ The IMR has remained higher for female babies than males but the gap had reduced since 2011.

- ◎ A **drop in the Neonatal Mortality Rate** from 22 per 1000 live births in 2019 to 20 per 1000 live births in 2020.

- ◎ India will soon achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** targets by 2030.

SDG 3.2: SDG 3.2 seeks to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under the age of 5. Countries are currently looking to reduce neonatal mortality to at least 12 deaths per 1,000 live births and under 5 mortality rates to at least 25 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Infant Mortality Rate:

- ◎ Infant mortality is the death of an infant before his or her first birthday.

- ◎ The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births.

- ◎ In addition to giving us key information about maternal and infant health, the infant mortality rate is an important marker of the overall health of a society.

IMR has 2 components:

- ◎ **IMR:** infants dying within 1 year of birth

◎ **Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR):** It is defined as the 'number of deaths during the first 28 completed days of life per 1,000 live births in a given year or period'

Causes:

◎ **Abysmal Doctor-to-Patient Ratio**: There is a problem of understaff in Medical sciences in India

◎ **Availability of Life-saving Equipment:** We have low availability of life-saving equipment like ventilators, life support systems, radiant warmers, blood-pressure monitoring systems, etc.

◎ **Pre-admission Causes:** These include, underweight babies who are more prone to infections within the first **48 hours** of their birth.

◎ **Insufficient Resources**: The current GDP allocation for the health sector is just 2.1 % of the total GDP. In other countries, this rate varies from 3.5-5%.

◎ **Malnutrition:** According to **National Family Health Survey-5:** At least 67 percent of children (6-59 months) have anemia and 57.0 percent of women (15-49 years) are anemic.

Introducing Behavioral Change:

◎ Several schemes have been launched by the respective governments but the one that stands out is ***Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao,*** and ***National Girl Child Day.***

◎ It came into existence when the country was observing a consistent decline in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR). The decline from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 and further to 918 in 2011 is alarming.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao:

◎ The Scheme was launched in 2015.

◎ This is a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,** and **the Ministry of Human Resource Development.**

◎ The Overall Goal of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme is to **celebrate the girl child** and **enable her education**.

Other objectives:

◎ Prevention of gender-biased sex-selective elimination

◎ Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child

◎ Ensuring education and participation of the girl child

> **National Girl Child Day:**
> - National Girl Child Day was first initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
> - The main focus is on changing society's attitude towards girls, decreasing female feticide and creating awareness about the decreasing sex ratio.

A Positive Change:

◎ **Encouraging Trend:** The data suggests that the girl child is receiving better care and attention from parents as well as the health staff.

◎ **Reduced Gender Discrimination**: It also indicates that gender discrimination is largely absent when it comes to addressing the causes of infant mortality:

➤ Preterm birth

➤ Low birth weight

➤ Pregnancy-related complications

Interventions for improving Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):

- **Promotion of Institutional Delivery through Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY):** Promoting Institutional delivery by the skilled birth attendant is key to reducing both maternal and neonatal mortality.

- **Emphasis on facility-based new-born care at different levels to reduce Child Mortality:** Setting up of facilities for the care of sick new-borns such as Special New Born Care Units (SNCUs), New Born Stabilization Units (NBSUs) and New Born Care Corners (NBCCs).

- **Capacity building of health care providers**: Various pieces of training are being conducted under NHM to train doctors, and nurses for early diagnosis and case management of common ailments of children and care of the mother during pregnancy and delivery.

- **Management of Malnutrition:** Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) have been established for the management of severe acute malnutrition.

- **Appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)** practices are being promoted in convergence with the Ministry of Woman and Child Development.

- **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP):** Vaccination protects children against many life-threatening diseases. The Government of India supports the vaccine programme by the supply of vaccines and syringes, Cold chain equipment, and provision of operational costs.

- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK):** entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free and no expense delivery including Caesarean section.

- **Home-based new born care (HBNC):** Home-based new-born care through ASHAs has been initiated. The purpose of Home Based New Born Care is to improve new born practices at the community level and early detection and referral of sick new born babies.

- **Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS):** A name-based Mother and Child Tracking System have been put in place which is web-based to ensure registration and tracking of all pregnant women and new born babies.

- **Anaemia Mukt Bharat:** In 2018, the Government of India launched the Anaemia Mukt Bharat (AMB) strategy with the target to reduce anaemia in vulnerable age groups.

Definitive Role of Governance:

- **Increased Institutional Deliver:** Percentage of live births in hospitals shot up from 35% in 2006 to 67% in 2011 to 82% in 2020.

- **Improved Healthcare services:** The percentage of deaths with medical attention received at hospitals has risen from 28% in 2006 to 34% in 2011 and 49% in 2020.

- **Increased Expenditure on health:** Economic growth has boosted spending in social sectors. Public health focus. Combined government expenditure on health had increased from Rs 2.73 lakh crore in 2019-20 to Rs 4.72 lakh crore in 2021-22, a 73% increase.

- **Improvement in Social Indicators:** As per the latest **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5**, social indicators such as sex ratio and health outcome indicators, viz., **infant mortality rate**, **under-five mortality rate**, and **institutional birth rates** have improved over years.

Suggestive measures:

- **Bringing Behavioural Change**: Increasing female education and economic prosperity help to improve the ratio.

- **Sensitizing Youth**: There is an urgent need to reach young people for reproductive health education and services as well as to cultivate gender equity norms.

- **Stringent Enforcement of Law:** India must implement the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994 more stringently and dedicate more resources to fighting the preference for boys.

INDIA'S DRUG REGULATION PROBLEM

CONTEXT:

The recent WHO allegation saying cough syrups manufactured by an Indian firm could potentially be linked to the death of 66 children in Gambia raises the burning crucial questions related to drug regulation in the country.

⦿ ABOUT

What was the reason for death of Children? (A Case Study)

- The syrup was found by WHO to be adulterated with **diethylene glycol (DEG) and ethylene glycol.**

- These chemicals are toxic to humans, and can result in **abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, inability to pass urine, headache, and altered mental state.**

- It can also lead to acute kidney injury that can prove **fatal** in children.

⦿ ANALYSIS

What are the present Drug regulations in India?

Drug regulation in India is a complex process managed by law, mainly the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940, and by multiple ministries, including the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**. The law creates a web of regulatory authorities to govern the process at both the central and the state level.

At Centre level:

- At the central level, the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**, has created **the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO),** within which the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) is the key regulatory authority, acting under the advice of the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) and the Drug Consultative Committee (DCC).

- CDSCO operates through zonal offices spread across the country, which have designated roles in drug regulation, such as inspections, recalls, and market surveillance.

- CDSCO also has a role in overseeing the functioning of state authorities involved in drug regulation.

At State Level:

- There exist **State Drug Regulatory Authorities (SDRAs),** which are statutory bodies created under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

- Falling under the ambit of the respective Health Departments of each state, SDRAs are tasked with limited aspects of **drug regulation.**

- SDRAs are often conjoined with the **food regulation department** under the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in that state, which complicates the proper demarcation of regulatory responsibilities.

What is the Process of drug regulation?

- CDSCO has been entrusted with the responsibility for the approval of new drugs, and the conduct of clinical trials in the country, as well as laying down the standards for drugs.

- It also controls the quality of imported drugs, oversight over the SDRAs and an advisory role in ensuring uniformity in the enforcement of the Drug Control Act.

- Applications for approval of New Drugs are evaluated by the **12 Subject Expert Committee (SEC)** (formerly referred to as New Drug Advisory Committees (NDAC)), consisting of experts usually drawn from **Government Medical Colleges and Institutes** across India.

The **Drugs and Cosmetics Act** also has **provisions to compensate the families** of victims of adulteration. It calls for the penalty to be extracted from a convicted manufacturer and given to families of the victims.

What are the challenges associated with Indian drug regulations?

- **Non-scientific classification of offence:** The distinction between minor and major offenses isn't scientific in India. States do not prosecute dissolution, disintegration, or impurity failures because they deem them minor offense.

- **Liberal punishments:** lack of adequate fines and punishment has made the crime of Pharma sectors more prominent.

- **Competition between states to boost the Pharma sector**: As government of India has made pharma sector under innovation criteria for rankings among states has led it under a competition to establish drugs and pharma industry.

- **Interstate variation in the prosecution**: The variations among the States' regulation against drug control and Quality check makes it difficult to analyse the real problem.

What are the reasons behind the lack of drug regulations in India?

- **Lack of R&D:** The Indian pharma industry faces lack of research components and real time good manufacturing practices.

  - No doubt investment (as % of sales) in research & development by Indian pharma companies increased from 5.3 per cent in FY12 to 8.5 per cent in FY18 but it is still low as compared to US counterparts that invest in R & D 15–20% of their sales.

- Compliance issues and good manufacturing practices:

  - This has somehow always been a problem for the Indian companies. The on-going rumour is that the **United States Food and Drug Administration** are trying to block the growth of the companies.

Thakur's Prescription

Problem	Solution
Poor coordination, inconsistent application of law across states	Amend Rule 69 of D&C Act
Weak drug quality investigation system	Use statistical method to draw drug samples for testing
Weak prosecution of sub-standard drugmakers	Enforce Section 27 of D&C Act; DCC guidelines (2008) "illegal and unconstitutional"
Lack of safety norms for generic drugs sold in India	Make bioequivalence studies, stability testing mandatory for all generics; Establish a system for nationwide withdrawal of bad batches of drugs
No proper list of sub-standard drugmakers	Mandate states to contribute info. to an easily searchable national database
Sub-standard drugs used in govt hospitals	Enact a public procurement law for uniform blacklisting norms and transparency between procuring agencies

Why is the approval of USFDA important?

- The approval of USFDA is important because the **largest consumer of pharma products** is the USA and India is a major exporter.

- The opinion of the USFDA is considered to be the standard in the sector as well.

- The companies are trying to improve their standards and this issue can be solved by having officials who are more stringent and inspections on a regular basis can be done.

POLITICAL INCLUSION OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED VIA SUITABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

CONTEXT:

Recently, a petition admitted by the Supreme Court that called for the introduction of ITTS technology to allow blind voters to verify their votes has set off a debate, with some disability rights activists raising concerns over the practical issues that may crop up.

The present method

- At present, a blind voter could vote with the help of a companion who would be able to read **the VVPAT slip** or vote on their own using the Braille signs on the EVM, but not be able to verify the vote.

- This method raised issues of **autonomy and secrecy**.

Voters with disabilities

- Voters having one of the 21 disabilities, mentioned by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, are termed as voters with disabilities.

- The **21 disabilities include blindness, low vision, dwarfism, locomotor disability, intellectual disability, mental illness**, among others.

- According to the 2011 Census, there are about 2.68 crore disabled persons in India, of whom about 50 lakh persons have disability in seeing.

- But their votes carry just as much importance as any other.

Barriers to electoral participation for PwD category

- inadequate or inaccessible voter education

- difficulties in voter registration and physical access to polling stations

- inability to vote independently and privately

- absence of or inappropriate assistance from poll personnel

How ITTS software can help?

- It is a stand-alone, real-time system to capture the **image of the paper slip** generated by the printer in VVPAT, extract text from it and convert the text into speech that can be listened to through the headphones.

- The ITTS device consists of four main components:
  - Camera
  - programmable system (optical character recognition software and text-to-speech engine)
  - headphones
  - battery

Constitutional Rights:

◉ **Article 41** of the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)** states that State shall make effective provision for securing right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, within the limits of its economic capacity and development.

◉ The subject of '**relief of the disabled and unemployable'** is specified in state list of the **Seventh Schedule** of the constitution.

Possible Impacts:

Positive	Negative
• Help PwD to enhance their political participation. • Entertain their will and problems associated to them will be addressed by the representatives they choose. • Increase confidence and people comfortable with them in the society.	• Machine malfunction • Technology failure can become a cause of concern for people's criticism. • Lack of training module for PwD regarding technology. • Stakeholders' consent is not involved. • Lack of Awareness to stakeholders

Suggestive measures

➤ Provisions for community training and people participation must be included.

➤ Inclusion of alternate equipment in case of technological failures.

➤ Educate the stakeholders regarding their rights and duties.

ONLINE GAMING MARKET IN INDIA, AND PROPOSED RULES

CONTEXT:

A task force set up by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has prepared a final report of its recommendations to regulate the online gaming industry in India.

◉ BACKGROUND:

◉ Online gaming has flourished during the pandemic. The average time spent on online gaming has gone up almost 65% from pre-Covid levels.

◉ India currently has no comprehensive legislation with regards to the legality of online gaming or boundaries that specify applicable tax rates within the betting and gambling industry.

◉ In this regards a task force was mandated to study global best practices and recommend a regime for a uniform regulatory mechanism for online gaming.

Recommendations of Task Force:

◉ **A Central-Level Law:** A central-level law should apply to real money and free games of skill, including e-sports, online fantasy sports contests, and card games among others.

➤ Casual games with no real money element in the form of stakes may be kept outside the scope of such rules. Unless they have a high number of users in India, or permit the publication or transmission of information in the nature of any inappropriate content like violence, nudity, addictive content or misleading content.

◉ **Dispute Resolution:** A **three-tier dispute resolution mechanism**, similar to that prescribed under the Information Technology Rules, 2021 for online streaming services, consisting of:

➤ A grievance redressal system at the gaming platform level,

➤ Self-regulatory body of the industry, and

➤ An oversight committee led by the government**.**

⊙ **Formation of a Regulatory Body:** This body will determine what qualifies as a game of skill or chance, and accordingly certify different gaming formats, seek compliance and enforcement.

⊙ **Online Gaming platform Mechanism as a legal entity:** Any online gaming platform – **domestic or foreign**– offering real money online games to Indian users will need to be a legal entity incorporated under Indian law.

➤ These platforms will also be treated as 'reporting entities' under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.**

⊙ They will be required to report suspicious transactions to the Financial Intelligence Unit-India.

⊙ **Nodal Ministries: MeitY may act as the nodal ministry** to regulate online gaming, **except for the e-sports category** on which the Department of Sports can take the lead.

➤ Certain other aspects of online gaming such as advertisements, code of ethics relating to content classifications etc. could be regulated by the **Information and Broadcasting Ministry**.

● The **Consumer Affairs Ministry** can regulate the sector for unfair trade practices.

Online Gaming Market in India:

• **Market growth**: The online gaming industry in India grew at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 38% between 2017-2020, as opposed to 8% in China and 10% in the US.

• **New user base**: India's percentage of new paying users (NPUs) in gaming has been the fastest growing in the world for two consecutive years, at 40% in 2020 and 50% in 2021.

• **Revenue generation:** The revenue of the Indian mobile gaming industry is expected to reach $5 billion in 2025.

Banning of Online Gaming:

⊙ Many social activists, government officials and those in law enforcement believe that online games like rummy and poker are **addictive in nature**, and when **played with monetary stakes leads to depression, mounting debts and suicides**.

⊙ Earlier, the World Health Organisation (WHO) had announced a plan to include **"gaming disorder"** as a mental health condition.

INDIA'S SPACE ECONOMY

CONTEXT:

According to the report titled 'Developing the Space Ecosystem in India: Focusing on Inclusive Growth', India's space economy was pegged at $9.6 billion in 2020 and is expected to touch $12.8 billion by 2025.

What does Space Economy mean?

⊙ Space Economy can be understood as **the full range of activities and the use of resources that create value and benefits to human beings in the course of exploring, researching, understanding, managing, and utilising space.**

⊙ **New Space Economy 2022** represents an innovative approach to the Space Sector under multiple aspects, such as the number and typology of the main players and investors, the space application, its economic impact, old objectives linked to science and the Space Race, together with new objectives such as

What is likely to spur the market forward?

- increased demand for small satellites

- increase in demand for military and defense satellite communication solutions

- Setting-up spaceparks across the country will be key to attracting global startups working in the space sector

ET tech

Global space economy: Present and future

In 2020 — $447 billion

By 2035 — $800 billion (Est.)

By 2047 — $1.5 trillion (Est.)

India Space Policy 2022

Size of the Indian space economy: $5 billion

● **3%** India's contribution to the global space economy

◌ **Over 10%** Estimated contribution: Over 10% by 2030 (CAGR of 48%)

PERCENTAGE OF THE GDP: 0.19% (SLIPPED FROM 0.26% IN 2011-12)

Source: ISRO, Economic Survey 2022-23
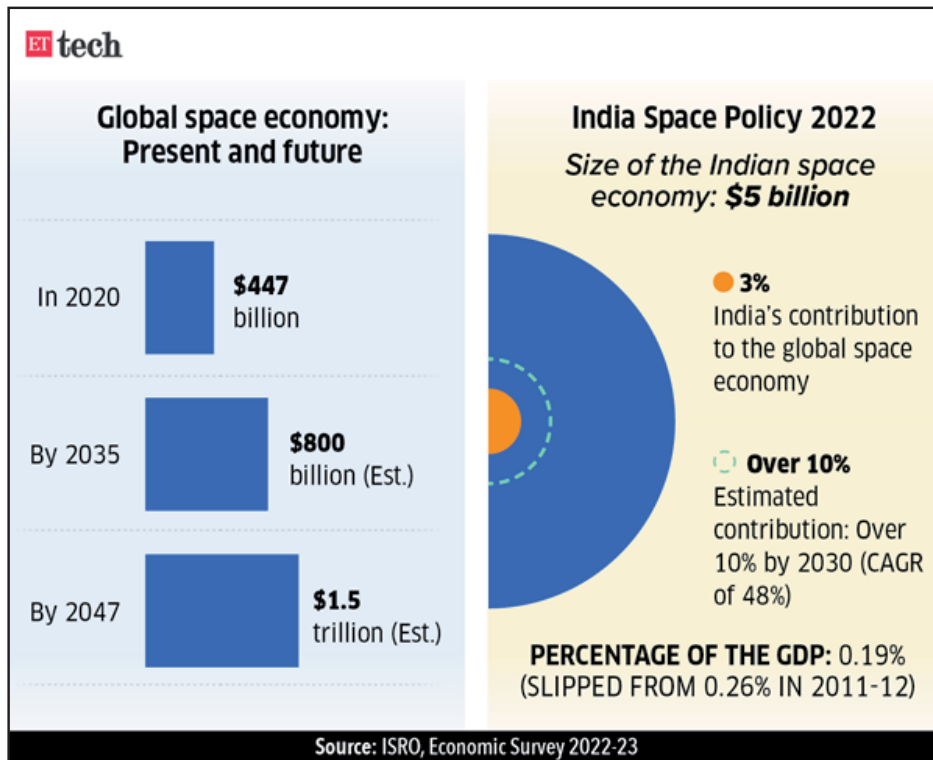
How India is going to achieve the estimated targets?

- By increasing its Indigenous manufacturing of Satellites and Space objects.

- By Inclusion of Private players in the field of Space.

- By attracting global start-ups working in the space sector and help to incubate space tech companies in India.

Do you know?

- India has of over **100 space tech start-ups** with investments in the segment touching **$68 million** in 2021.

Recent Government Initiatives:

- **Privatisation:** The government opened up the space sector to private sector players.

- **IN-SPACe & ISpA:** In 2020, the government announced the formation of the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre** (IN-SPACe) and the Indian Space Association (ISpA).

- **Updated Policies:** The government recently updated the **SpaceCom** and **SpaceRS policies,** liberalizing the traditional satellite communication and remote sensing sectors.

- **New Drone Rules:** The government also released new rules for dronesas well as guidelines for acquiring and producing geospatial data.

- **Registration for space objects:** The national registration mechanism for space objects has been implemented, with five satellites registered. A total of six memorandums of understanding have been signed with private or academic entities for sharing technical expertise and facilities.

Steps to scale up

Updated SpaceCom & SpaceRS policies: liberalised traditional satellite communication & remote sensing sectors

New rules for drones & guidelines for geospatial data

National registration mechanism for space objects: five satellites registered

What further measures are required?

- A comprehensive policy for the space sector
- Introduction of production linked incentive (PLI) scheme
- Promotion of independent launch solutions for private sector satellites

NEED OF LEGAL RIGHTS TO ANIMALS, TREES, AND RIVERS

CONTEXT:

The report for the Law Society explores the scope of recalibrating the relationship between humans and mother earth in the future.

About the Report:

- The report is titled as *"Law in the Emerging Bio-Age"* by the Law Society (an independent professional body for solicitors in England and Wales).
- The subsequent report concluded that the evolution of this relationship demands new regulations, **including rights for non-humans**.

Key Questions raised in the report:

- Role of legal structure in improving human relations with living systems and our planet.
- Role of law in supporting the evolution of ethics in the capacity to manipulate living systems.
- Outcomes of granting rights to non-human life forms.
- Articulating legal frameworks to make them fit for the future.
- Legal Practitioner for the **bio age.**

Why it is necessary to grant nature rights?

- **Need to protect nature** — animals, plants, rivers, and beyond — because their existence is more than sustaining human lives. It is the holistic recognition that all life and all ecosystems on our planet are deeply intertwined.
- **Nature has an intrinsic right to exist** free of harm, regardless of the value, it provides humans.

- **Impact of anthropogenic activities:** Impacts from human activity on land and in the water, is influencing nature.

  ➤ Climate change, ocean acidification, permafrost melting, habitat loss, eutrophication, stormwater runoff, air pollution, and contaminants are a few examples calling for attention.

- **Impact of climate change:** Warmer temperatures over time are changing weather patterns and disrupting the usual balance of nature. They are affecting non-human entities and their right as well.

Few Exemplary Regulations:

- **Ecuador was the first to recognize the rights of nature.** Article 71 begins: "Nature, where life is reproduced and occurs, has the right to integral respect for its existence.

- **Bolivia** adopted a biocentric/biocentric approach through the Law on the **Rights of Mother Earth (2010);** the enumerated rights are the rights to life, diversity of life, water, clean air, equilibrium, restoration, and pollution-free living.

- There is also a campaign to make **ecocide a prosecutable offense** at the international criminal court (ICJ), Hague.

Need to give non-human entities rights:

- **To tackle climate breakdown and biodiversity loss,** countries need to provide the 'rights' to the neglected elements of nature.

- **Something very different has to be done** to leave this planet more survivable to future generations.

- It means **granting legal rights and protections to non-human entities** such as animals, trees, and rivers is essential.

- Human makes up a fraction of this global ecosystem, and an **evolving legal framework** suited for the future requires **assigning rights to non-human entities**.

Existence of Nonhuman Rights:

- **Rights of Nature**: The concept of nature is not currently understood to include individual animals. But the provisions recognizing the **rights of nature** still implicitly acknowledge that a nonhuman can have rights.

  ➤ It is also important to understand that, theoretically, the rights of nature may be violated even in the absence of any injury to humans.

- **Judicial Recognition:** Rivers have been treated as legal persons in some jurisdictions, notably in Bangladesh, Colombia, Ecuador, India, New Zealand, and the United States.

  ➤ A **landmark judgment of the Uttarakhand High Court (UHC),** has extended the *legal personhood* to the Ganga, the Yamuna, their tributaries, and all other natural objects.

  ➤ In another case, the High court of Punjab and Haryana recognized all animals in the animal kingdom, including avian and aquatic species, as legal entities.

  ➤ **Banning Jallikattu Practice:** The Supreme Court order of 2014 bans jallikattu, because traditional sports involved the taming or overpowering of bulls.

Constitutional Provisions:

- *Article 51-A* of the Constitution of India states that it is the fundamental duty of all citizens to have compassion for living creatures.

- *Article 48-A* of the constitution of India requires the State to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

- At **local and village level**, Panchayats have been empowered under the constitution to take measures such as soil conservation, water management, forestry and protection of the environment and promotion of ecological aspect.

New Legal Framework:

- **Inclusive Framework:** We need a framework that is more ecocentric than anthropocentric.
- **Ethical questions:**
  - ➤ Ethics of bringing back species from extinction or eradicating existing ones.
  - ➤ Wiping out mosquitoes, which carry malaria and other diseases.
  - ➤ Calves are taken away from their mothers and even pets,

◉ WAY FORWARD:

- **Neo-Pantheism:** It is like enshrining, the idea of pantheism into 21st-century legal frameworks. It amounts to essentially granting personhood rights to non-human entities.
- **Beyond Numinous Rights:** The rights given to non-human entities must not be seen from the limits of culture and religious beliefs.0
- **Repositioning Laws:** It is a moral duty and legal obligation of the state to protect the rights of animals and change animals' legal status based on changing morality and existing legal principles.

THE SOLUTION TO RADICALISATION IN INDIA

CONTEXT:

The ban on the PFI has raised the question of the effectiveness of banning radical organizations in arresting the rise of radicalization.

- **Such developments raise questions over the fruitfulness of politico-legal actions like banning an outfit to keeping a check on the growth of radicalization.**

About Radicalization:

- Radicalization is the process by which an individual or a group comes to adopt increasingly radical views in opposition to a political, social, or religious status quo.
- It is when someone starts to believe or support extreme views and then participates in extremist groups or acts.

Types of Radicalizations:

- **Right-Wing Extremism:** This type of radicalization is usually associated with fascist, racist, ultranationalist, and supremacist ideas.
- **Left-Wing Extremism:** It focuses mainly on anti-capitalist demands and calls for the radical transformation of political and social systems.
- **Politico-Religious Extremism:** This form of radicalization generally involves a political interpretation of religion.
- **Single-Issue Extremism:** The category usually includes radical environmental or animal rights groups, anti-abortion extremists, certain anti-gay/anti-feminist movements, and ultra-individualist or independent extremist movements.

The inception of PFI:

- ➤ It is a radicalized Islamist outfit, operating for close to **three decades**.
- ➤ The PFI's has been alleged of having links with outlawed Islamist organizations such as:
- ➤ the Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI)
- ➤ the Bangladesh-based terror organization

- ➤ Jamat-ul-Mujahideen-Bangladesh (JMB)
- ➤ and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)
- ◉ The PFI has also been carrying out its activities in other states of India through like-minded organizations.

PFI and its activities:

- ◉ PFI and similar organizations can be seen as **not having Islamic subtitles** in their organization's names. This is purposefully done to **legitimize the PFI's official claim as a "neo-social organization**".
- ◉ They also try to **forge alliances with non-Muslim organizations** to **avoid any surveillance from state agencies.**
- ◉ PFI is one of the most well-organized radical outfits, ensuring that it **leaves no trace or evidence of its activities behind.**

"Ban" as a solution to religious radicalism:

The Answer to the question is perhaps non-affirmative.

- ◉ **Resorting to incarnation:** The past observation shows that extremist organizations have a record of morphing from one organization to another. It's difficult to rule out the new incarnation of the same organization in the future.
- ◉ **Limitations of Politico-legal actions**: The banning of these radical outfits is undoubtedly crucial to curb violent activities, but such a measure is insufficient **given their structured approach.**
- ◉ **Investing at the social level**: Right after the ban, the government must reach out to those communities from which these radical outfits often seek support.
  - ➤ This will not only expose them but also make them aware of the nefarious ideologies of these organizations.
  - ➤ **The absence of comprehensive measures** at the social level often **nullifies the initial role of politico-legal measures.** As the **banned outfits have inherent tendencies of resurfacing** and portraying of them as messiahs to the downtrodden to further their radical agenda.
- ◉ **Supporting Minorities:** Radicalisation is usually a process, not an event. During that process, it is possible to intervene to **prevent minorities/vulnerable people** from getting radicalized.
  - ➤ The government must also work towards assuring the protection of minority communities from any attempts at victimizing and marginalizing them. This would help in curbing the very foundation of radicalism.

Prevention of radicalization:

- ◉ Countering terrorist propaganda
- ◉ Curbing hate speech
- ◉ Addressing radicalization in prisons
- ◉ Promoting inclusive society, education, and common values
- ◉ boosting research, evidence-building, monitoring, and networks

Working on "Prevent Strategy":

- ◉ **Responding to the Ideological Challenges:** All such groups have an ideology. Promoting that ideology, frequently on the internet, facilitates radicalization. So, disrupting their ability to promote radicalization is a fundamental part of Prevent's strategy.
- ◉ **Prevent people from being drawn into radicalization** and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.
- ◉ **Working with sectors and institutions:** Priority areas include education, faith, health and charities, and socio-religious groups, which are often used to radicalize people in the name of upliftment.

Government Initiatives:

- ◉ **Legal mechanisms:** The **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** Act was introduced in 2008 after the terrorist attacks in Mumbai (2008).

➤ The **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA**) was introduced in 1967. It aims to provide for the more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations dealing with terrorist activities.

◉ **Institutional mechanisms: Counter-Terrorism and Counter Radicalization (CTCR) divisions** of the Ministry of Home Affairs are the key wings of the Government of India dealing with "radicalization, counter-radicalization, terrorism, and counter-terrorism".

◉ **Cyberworld and technology mechanisms: The Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections** 124A, 153A, 153B, 295A, and 505 prescribe a firm approach against any word, spoken or written, that promotes disharmony, enmity, and hatred.

CLICK CHEMISTRY & ITS APPLICATIONS

CONTEXT:

Recently, the Nobel Prize in chemistry, 2022 was awarded to scientists Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and K. Barry Sharpless for their development of 'click chemistry' and 'bioorthogonal chemistry'.

☐ **So let us assess the applications of 'Click chemistry' and understand how it works.**

⊙ ABOUT:

◉ Click chemistry is a method for attaching a 'probe' or 'substrate' of interest to a specific biomolecule, a process called bio-conjugation.

◉ The possibility of attaching fluorophores and other reporter molecules has made click chemistry a very powerful tool for identifying, locating, and characterizing both old and new biomolecules.

> Fluorophores are **microscopic molecules, which may be proteins, small organic compounds, or synthetic polymers that absorb light of specific wavelengths and emit light of longer wavelengths**.

◉ One of the earliest and most important methods in bioconjugation was to express a reporter on the same open reading frame as a biomolecule of interest.

◉ Notably, **GFP was first** (and still is) expressed in this way at the **N- or C- terminus** of many proteins. However, this approach comes with several difficulties.

◉ For instance, GFP is **a very large unit** and can often affect the folding of the protein of interest.

> **Bio-orthogonal Chemistry:**
>
> • Bioorthogonal chemistry represents a class of **high-yielding chemical reactions** that proceed rapidly and selectively in biological environments without side reactions towards endogenous functional groups.

◉ To overcome these challenges, chemists have opted to proceed by identifying pairs of **bioorthogonal reaction partners**, thus allowing the use of small exogenous molecules as **biomolecular probes**.

⊙ ANALYSIS

What are its applications?

◉ Click chemistry, is a way of building molecules like snapping Lego blocks together.

◉ It takes **two molecules** to click, so researchers refer to each one as '**click partners**'.

◉ It is a term that was introduced by **K. B. Sharpless in 2001** to describe reactions that are high yielding, wide in scope, create only by-products that can be removed without chromatography, are stereospecific, simple to perform, and can be conducted in easily removable or benign solvents.

◉ The click reaction has proven to be **very useful for modifying functional biomolecules because of its high chemoselectivity**.

Structure of GFP — Chromophore
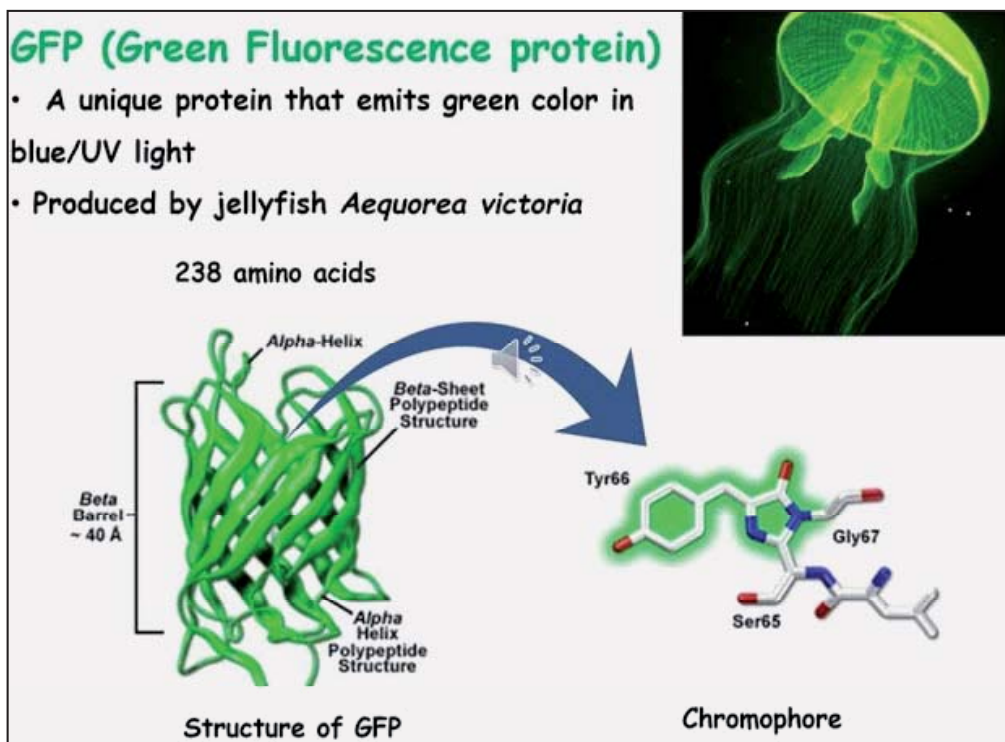
- Biologic oligomers and polymers, such as peptides, nucleic acids, and carbohydrates, have been modified by using the copper-catalyzed azide-alkyne cycloaddition click reaction.
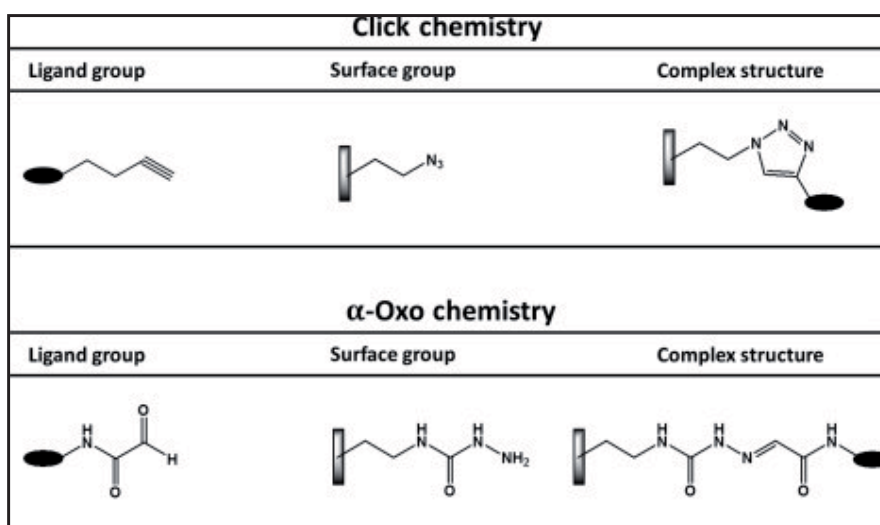
How it works?

- Click chemistry is the **1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of an azide and alkyne to form 1,2,3-triazole**, which has been applied for a wide range of applications due to its simple workup and purification steps, rapidly creating new products.
- For a reaction to be considered a click reaction, it **must satisfy certain characteristics**:
- modularity
  - ▶ insensitivity to solvent parameters
  - ▶ high chemical yields
  - ▶ insensitivity towards oxygen and water

➤ regiospecificity and stereo specificity

➤ A large thermodynamic driving force (>20 kcal/mol) to favour a reaction with a single reaction product. A distinct exothermic reaction makes a reactant "spring-loaded".

● **The process would preferably:**

➤ have simple reaction conditions

➤ use readily available starting materials and reagents

➤ use no solvent or use a solvent that is benign or easily removed (preferably water)

➤ provide simple product isolation by non-chromatographic methods (crystallisation or distillation)

➤ Have high atom economy.

Is Click Chemistry irreversible?

➤ 'Click chemistry' allows for the linking together of chemical modules, however, there are currently no methods that also allow for facile **'de-clicking'** to unlink them.

Additional applications include:

◉ Two-dimensional gel electrophoresis separation

◉ Modification of natural products and pharmaceuticals

◉ Drug discovery

◉ Modification of DNA and nucleotides by triazole ligation

◉ Polymers and biopolymers

◉ Surfaces

◉ Material science

◉ Nanotechnology etc.

Limitations:

◉ Limitations emerge from the chemistry of the probe to its target. In order for this technique to be useful in biological systems, click chemistry must run at or near biological conditions, produce little and (ideally) non-toxic byproducts, have (preferably) single and stable products at the same conditions, and proceed quickly to high yield in one pot.

****

Section: B
(SPECIALS)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS BY THE COLLEGIUM IS QUESTIONABLE: WHY?

CONTEXT:

Recently addressing the National Cultural Diversity Summit of Asian Australian Lawyers' Association Inc., former Chief Justice of India (CJI) has made certain observations regarding the collegium system which once again brought the much-debated issue of the process of judicial appointments to the fore.

◉ BACKGROUND

- The collegium system evolved out of a series of judgments of the Supreme Court that are called the "**Judges Cases".**

- The collegium came into being through the interpretations of the relevant provisions of the Constitution that the Supreme Court made in these Judges Cases.

> ### Evolution of the System:
>
> - **First Judges Case (1981):** It declared that the "primary" of the CJI's (Chief Justice of India) recommendation on judicial appointments and transfers can be refused for "cogent reasons."
>   - ➤ The ruling gave the Executive primacy over the Judiciary in judicial appointments for the next **12 years**.
> - **Second Judges Case (1993):** SC introduced the Collegium system, holding that "**consultation**" really meant "concurrence".
>   - ➤ It added that it was not the **CJI's individual opinion**, but an institutional opinion formed in consultation with the two senior-most judges in the SC.
> - **Third Judges Case (1998):** SC on the President's reference (**Article 143)** expanded the Collegium to a five-member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues.

◉ ABOUT

What is Collegium system?

- The collegium is a group consisting of the **Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges** of the **Supreme Court** that decides the **appointment of judges** to the apex court.

How it works?

- The Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium system, and the government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium.

- Names recommended for appointment by a **High Court collegium** reach the government only after approval by the **CJI** and the **Supreme Court collegium**.

- Sometimes the government delays making the appointments, especially in cases where the government is perceived to be unhappy with **one or more judges** recommended for appointment by the collegium.

Appointment Procedures:

For Judges of Apex Court	For High Court CJ
• For other judges of the SC, the proposal is initiated by the CJI. • The CJI consults the rest of the Collegium members, as well as the senior-most judge of the court hailing from the High Court to which the recommended person belongs. • The consultees must record their opinions in writing and it should form part of the file. • The Collegium sends the recommendation to the Law Minister, who forwards it to the Prime Minister to advise the President.	• The Chief Justice of the High Court is appointed as per the policy of having Chief Justices from outside the respective States. • The Collegium takes the call on the elevation. • High Court judges are recommended by a Collegium comprising the CJI and two senior-most judges. • The proposal, however, is initiated by the outgoing Chief Justice of the High Court concerned in consultation with two senior-most colleagues..

	The recommendation is sent to the Chief Minister, who advises the Governor to send the proposal to the Union Law Minister

⊙ **ANALYSIS**

What is the role of Government in the judicial appointments?

⊚ The role of the government in this entire process is limited to **getting an inquiry** conducted by the **Intelligence Bureau (IB)** if a lawyer is to be elevated as a judge in a High Court or the Supreme Court.

⊚ The government can also raise objections and seek clarifications regarding the collegium's choices, but if the collegium reiterates the same names, the government is bound to appoint them.

On what grounds has the collegium system been criticised?

⊚ **On account of Transparency**: The system is non-transparent, since it does not involve any official mechanism or secretariat.

⊚ **No definite Eligibility:** it is seen as a closed-door affair with any prescribed norms regarding eligibility criteria, or even the selection procedure.

⊚ **Lack of Consensus and Consultation**: There is no public knowledge of how and when a collegium meets, and how it takes its decisions. There are no official minutes of collegium proceedings.

What were Attempts to reform the Appointment System?

⊚ The attempt made to replace it by a **'National Judicial Appointments Commission'** (through Ninety-ninth Amendment Act, 2014) was struck down by the court in 2015 on the ground that it posed a threat to the independence of the judiciary.

⊙ **WAY FORWARD**

⊚ Filling up of vacancies is a **continuous and collaborative process involving the executive and the judiciary,** and there cannot be a time frame for it. However, it is time to think of a permanent, independent body to institutionalise the process with adequate safeguards to preserve the judiciary's independence guaranteeing judicial primacy but not judicial exclusivity.

⊚ It should **ensure independence, reflect diversity, and demonstrate professional competence and integrity.**

****

Section: C
(PRELIMS)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

FIRST PHASE OF THE 'SHRI MAHAKALESWAR CORRIDOR' INAUGURATED

⊙ **CONTEXT:**   **Prime Minister inaugurated the first phase of the 'Shri Mahakaleswar Corridor' in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.**

About Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga

- The temple is located in the historical city of Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, India. It is situated on the banks of the holy river, Shipra.

- Mahakal is the only jyotirlinga facing south; the rest face east. That is because the south is believed to be the direction of death.

- The jyotirlingas, or shrines, are believed to be the most sacred abodes of Shiva.

- **Origin:** The time of origin of the temple may be assigned to the pre-historic period as the Puranas say it was first established by Prajapita Brahma.

- **Style:** The Mahakaleshwar temple has been built in Maratha, Bhumija and Chalukya architectural styles.

What are Jyotirilingas?

- Jyotirlingas are sacred shrines of Lord Shiva; it is believed that Lord Shiva himself visited these places and hence they have a special place in the hearts of devotees.

- There are 12 of them in India.

- Jyotirlinga means 'column or pillar of light'. The 'stambha' symbol represents that there is no beginning or end.

Shri Mahakaleswar Corridor:

- It is the first phase of the Mahakaleshwar Temple corridor development project worth ₹856 crores.

- After completion will become one of the largest corrido[rs]

- The project spreads around the old Rudrasagar lake.

- The lake has also been redeveloped as part of the Mahakal River project.

- The project will not only bring a large number of devotees to Ujjain but will also make the city a global tourist destination.

Other jyotirlinga sites:

- Somnath in Gujarat
- Dwarka's Nageswar in Gujarat
- Mallikarjuna at Srisailam in Andhra Pradesh
- Omkareshwar in Madhya Pradesh
- Kedarnath in Uttarakhand
- Bhimashankar in Maharashtra
- Triambakeshwar in Maharashtra
- Aurangabad's Grishneshwar in Maharashtra
- Viswanath at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh
- Baidyanath Temple in Jharkhand's Deoghar
- Rameshwar at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu

About Ujjain:

- The city of Ujjain was also one of the primary centers of learning for Hindu scriptures, called Avantika in the 6th and 7th centuries BC.

- Astronomers and mathematicians such as Brahmagupta and Bhaskaracharya also made Ujjain their home.

- According to Surya Siddhanta (4th century), which is one of the earliest available texts on Indian astronomy, Ujjain is geographically situated at the intersection of zero meridians of longitude (Madhyarekha) and the Tropic of Cancer (Karkavrutta) intersect.

- This is the reason often sighted for it being connected to time and space, and the main Shiva temple is dedicated to Mahakal, the lord of time.

KONDA REDDI TRIBE

⊙ **CONTEXT:**   **Dried bamboo shoots form an essential part of the dietary chart to the member of Konda Reddi. It is because of the belief of them being highly nutritious.**

About Konda Tribe:

- It is **one of the most backward tribal groups** in the states of **Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.**

- They inhabit on both the banks of the Godavari River (East and West Godavari districts), in the hilly-forest region of Khammam (Telangana) and Srikakulam (Andhra Pradesh).

- They live in the **interior forest areas largely cut off from the mainstream**.

- Traditionally, they were **shifting cultivators,** and recently, some of them have adopted settled agriculture and horticulture.

- Their mother tongue is Telugu with a unique accent.

- Konda Reddis has also been recognized as a **Primitive Tribal Group (now Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group).**

- The **Konda Reddis are known for their eco-friendly practices** such as the use of household articles made of bamboo, bottle gourd, and seed**.**

Details:

- The tribal people inhabiting the forest are entitled to collect every form of bamboo tree, which is classified as **Minor Forest Produce (MFP).**

- **They have the right to exploit its commercial value for their livelihood.**

- As per their practice, they hang the garlands of bamboo shoots on the roofs of their dwellings and dry them for a week.

- After about a week, when the shoots are fully dried, the families store them for consumption till the next monsoon.

> **Minor Forest Produce (MFP):** MFP includes all non-timber forest produce of plant origin and includes bamboo, canes, fodder, leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins, and many forms of food including nuts, wild fruits, honey, lac, tusser, etc.

BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO NOW INCLUDES SKILLING

⊙ **CONTEXT:**   The Centre has expanded the scope of its flagship outreach program 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' to include skilling.

Details:

- The government has decided to include skilling for girls in its Beti Bachao, Beti Padao programme and has included the following component in the scheme:

  - Ensuring a 1% annual increment in enrolment at the secondary school level

  - To raise awareness about safe menstrual hygiene

  - To promulgate the elimination of child marriages

- The scheme will now also focus on **increasing the enrolment of girls in secondary education**, particularly in **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects**.

- Women have been historically under-represented in areas such as technology.

> **About Beti Bachao, Beti Padao:**
> - It was **launched in January 2015 with the aim to address sex-selective abortion** and the **declining child sex ratio** which was 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.

- This is a **joint initiative** of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- The program is being implemented across 405 districts in the country.

RTI PLEAS PILE UP AT INFORMATION COMMISSIONS

⊙ **CONTEXT:** Vacant posts and inadequate members are taking a toll on the transparency regime and it is resulting in pendency in the resolution of RTI pleas.

Details:

- As per the latest update-
  - About 3.15 lakh complaints or appeals are pending with 26 information commissions across India.
  - The highest number of pending cases was in Maharashtra at 99,722 followed by Uttar Pradesh at 44,482.

Right to Information (RTI)

- Right to Information (RTI) means that **any Indian citizen** can request any information (which is supposed to be public knowledge) from the offices and departments of the state or central governments.
- The **RTI Act, 2005** mandates that the said offices and departments must process such requests in a timely manner.
- Under this Act, access to information from a public agency has become a **statutory right** of every citizen.
- It is a fundamental right flowing from **Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution.**

Problem Areas:

- **Not Imposing penalties:** Commissions did not impose penalties in 95% of the cases where penalties were potentially imposable.
  - **Large Backlog of cases**: The large backlog of cases has built up, resulting in a long waiting time for disposal, as governments have failed to make appointments of information commissioners in a timely manner.
  - **Tardy disposal rates**: In several commissions, there is a lack of transparency in their functioning which is resulting in a tardy disposal rate.
  - **Vacant Posts**: Out of a total of 165 posts of information commissioners, 41 are vacant, including two chief State information commissioners.
  - **Women's Representation**: There are only 5% (only 8) of women information commissioners in the country.

JUSTICE DINESH SHARMA TO HEAD UAPA TRIBUNAL

⊙ **CONTEXT:** The Centre has appointed Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma as the presiding officer of the tribunal for the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), related to the ban on the Popular Front of India (PFI).

About:

- The **National Investigation Agency** and **Enforcement Directorate** had alleged that PFI was engaged in raising and collecting funds from abroad.

- They were also reported transferring funds to India through "**clandestine and illegal channels".**

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) declared the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its front organizations including its student wing- the Campus Front of India (CFI) as **an "unlawful association"** under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

- The Muslim organization has been banned for five years along with eight associates or front organizations.

UAPA Law

- **Enacted in 1967,** the UAPA was amended to be **modelled as an anti-terror law** in 2004 and 2008.

- In **August 2019**, Parliament cleared the Unlawful Activities (Prevention), Amendment Bill, 2019 to designate individuals as terrorists on certain grounds provided in the Act.

- In order to deal with terrorism-related crimes, **it deviates from ordinary legal procedures** and **creates an exceptional regime** where **constitutional safeguards of the accused are curtailed**.

CENTRE NOTIFIES CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME FOR STARTUPS

⊙ **CONTEXT:** **The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry has notified the credit guarantee scheme for start-ups.**

About Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS):

- This scheme would help to provide the much-needed **collateral-free debt funding to start-ups**.

- The scheme will act as a **key enabler and risk mitigation measure** for the lending institutions enabling collateral free funding to startups.

- The scheme has been approved for the purpose of **providing credit guarantees** to loans extended by **Member Institutions (MIs)** to finance eligible borrowers.

- **Member Institutions (MIs)** include financial intermediaries (banks, financial institutions, Non-Banking Financial Companies) engaged in lending/investing and conforming to the eligibility criteria approved under the Scheme.

- The credit guarantee cover under the Scheme would be **transaction based and umbrella based.**

- The exposure to individual cases would be **capped at Rs. 10 crore per case** or the actual outstanding credit amount, whichever is less.

- The **umbrella-based guarantee cover** will provide guarantee to **Venture Debt Funds (VDF)** registered under **Alternative Investment Funds (AIF)** regulations of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Statistics about Start-ups in India:

- India has become the **3rd largest start-up ecosystem** in the world after the US and China.

- India is home to as many as **75,000 Startups**.

- **49% of start-ups are from tier-2 and tier-3 cities.**

- There are currently **105 unicorns,** out of which 44 were born in 2021 and 19 in 2022.

- Startups are also emerging in the fields like IT, agriculture, aviation, education, energy, health and space sectors.

MUSLIM FEDERATION TO RESERVE SEATS FOR WOMEN IN ITS PANEL

◉ **CONTEXT:** For the first time ever the seats have been reserved on caste lines in any Muslim body in the country.

Details:

- All India **Two seats each have been earmarked for women and notified Muslim OBC representatives.** This is the **first time ever that seats have been reserved on caste lines** in any Muslim body in the country.

- It has announced plans to reserve seats for women and Pasmanda community representatives to the body's **25-member national executive**.

How these changes have been introduced?

- The changes have been brought in with select amendments to the '**Constitution of the Mushawarat**'.

- The amendments were brought in through a referendum that took place via **a postal ballot.**

- The moment the amended constitution got the consent of the members, it was considered passed.

- A little over 81% of the members voted in favour of reservation for women through a referendum while nearly 74% voted in favour of Pasmanda reservation.

PANEL TO STUDY SC STATUS OF DALITS POST-CONVERSION

◉ **CONTEXT:** A three-member commission to be headed by ex-CJI K.G. Balakrishnan has been asked to study the SC status of Dalits post-conversion.

Details:

> The **2011 Census places** the number of scheduled castes in India at 16.6 percent of the total population, or approximately 166,635,700 people.

- The Union government is seeking to examine the issue of whether Scheduled Caste (SC) status can be accorded to Dalits who have over the years converted to religions **other than Sikhism or Buddhism.**

- This is crucial when there is already a petition in the Supreme Court, regarding the inclusion of **Dalit Christians** and **Dalit Muslims** and the removal of the religious criteria for inclusion as SCs.

Who can be considered a scheduled caste?

- The **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950** provides for only those belonging to **Hindu, Sikh, or Buddhist** communities to be categorized as SCs.

- **Initially, the Order only allowed for Hindu communities to be classified as SCs** based on the social disabilities and discrimination they faced due to untouchability.

- It was **amended in 1956 to include Sikh communities** and again in **1990 to include Buddhist communities as SCs.**

Caste:

- Caste is something that is determined by the birth of an individual.

According to D.N. Mazumdar;

– *'Caste is a closed class' i.e. class refers to people based on property, business, occupation i.e. one cannot change his own caste system but can change the class system and can be a member of many classes at the same time.*

AGRI-CREDIT SOCIETIES TO BE SET UP IN ALL PANCHAYATS

⊙ **CONTEXT:** Union Home and Cooperation Minister said that primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) will be set up in all panchayats of the country.

What are Primary Agricultural Credit Societies?

- PACS are **ground-level cooperative credit institutions** that provide short-term, and medium-term agricultural loans to the farmers for the various agricultural and farming activities.

- It works at the grassroots gram Panchayat and village level.

- The first Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) was formed in the year 1904.

- The PACS functioning at the base of the cooperative banking system constitutes the major retail outlets of short-term and medium-term credit to the rural sector.

PACS in the country:

- There are about 95,000 PACS in the country of which only **65,000 are active** at present.
- According to the union home minister, **all panchayats must have one such body by 2027.**
- This will be helpful in promoting farming and dairy activities at the grassroots level.
- The cooperation ministry is working on a plan to set up multi-purpose PACS in panchayats over the next five years.

Functions of PACS

- Maintaining the supply of the hired light machinery for agricultural purposes.
- To arrange for supplying of agricultural inputs. Examples -are seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, kerosene, etc.
- It will carry out activities like the sale of gas and petrol and the storage and marketing of dairy and farm products to alleviate poverty and empower women.
- It helps its members by providing marketing facilities that could enhance the sale of their agricultural products in the market at the proper prices.
- Generating optimum financial benefits for people engaged in animal husbandry and allied sectors.

PILOT LAUNCH OF E-RUPEE FOR SPECIFIC USE CASES

⊙ **CONTEXT:** **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is going to commence limited pilot launches of the e-rupee, or Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or digital rupee, for specific use cases.**

About e-rupee:

- **E-rupee is the same as a fiat currency** and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency. Only its form is different.
- It can be **accepted as a medium of payment**, legal tender, and a safe store of value.
- The digital rupee would **appear as a liability on a central bank's balance sheet.**

Types of e-rupees:

- Based on the usage and the functions performed by the digital rupee and considering the different levels of accessibility, CBDC can be demarcated into two broad categories:

- **General purpose (retail) (CBDC-R):**

  ⊙ It is an **electronic version of cash** primarily meant for retail transactions.

  ⊙ It will be **potentially available for use by all,** that is, private sector, non-financial consumers, and businesses and can provide access to safe money for payment and settlement as **it is a direct liability of the central bank.**

  ⊙ However, the RBI has not explained how the e-rupee can be used in merchant transactions in the retail trade.

- **Wholesale (CBDC-W):**

  ⊙ It is **designed for restricted access to select financial institutions.**

  ⊙ It has the potential to **transform the settlement systems for financial transactions** undertaken by banks in the government securities (G-Sec) segment, inter-bank market, and capital market more efficiently and securely.

What's RBI's plan?

- The development of CBDC could **provide the public with a risk-free virtual currency** that will give them legitimate benefits without the risks of dealing in private virtual currencies.

- The approach to the issuance of CBDC will be governed by **two basic considerations**:
  - ◉ To create a digital rupee that is as close as possible to a paper currency.
  - ◉ To manage the process of introducing the digital rupee in a seamless manner.

- RBI is not in favour of e-rupee with interest. Because people might withdraw money from banks and convert it to digital rupee - causing banks to fail.

Advantages of e-rupee:

- Reduction in operational costs involved in physical cash management
- Fostering financial inclusion
- Bringing resilience
- Efficiency and innovation in the payments system.
  - Add efficiency to the settlement system

- Boost innovation in the cross-border payments space
- Provide the public with uses that any private virtual currencies can provide, without the associated risks.

INDIA & U.K. FTA & ISSUES

⊙ **CONTEXT:**   **Despite the setback over Suella Braverman's (U.K. Home Secretary) comments on Indian migrants (discomfort about "open borders" with India), officials are optimistic to conclude a framework India-UK FTA.**

What are the persistent issues between India and UK?

- Illegal Migrants
- Mobility
- Data Localization
- Reducing tariffs on Scotch whisky
- Access to legal services

About Free Trade Agreement:

- It is a **pact between two or more nations to reduce barriers** to imports and exports among them.
- Under a free trade policy, goods and services can be bought and sold across international borders **with little or no government tariffs, quotas, subsidies, or prohibitions** to inhibit their exchange.
- The concept of free trade is the **opposite of trade protectionism or economic isolationism.**

India's Trade with the UK:

- The UK remained the **sixth largest investor in India**, with a cumulative investment of approximately **USD 31.92 billion during FY 2000-22.**
- This constituted around 5**.4% of the total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** into India.
- India's **trade in goods and services** with the UK amounted to **USD 31.34 billion in FY 2022**, as against USD 19.51 billion in 2015.

- 618 UK Companies have been identified in India, they together employ approximately **4.66 lakh people** and have a combined **turnover of Rs 3,634.9 billion.**

Importance of Indo-UK Partnership

- **For the United Kingdom:**

  - **India is a key strategic partner for the UK** in the Indo-Pacific both in terms of market share and defense.

  - For Britain, a successful conclusion of an FTA with India would provide a **boost to its 'Global Britain' ambitions** as the **UK has sought to expand its markets beyond Europe since Brexit.**

  - Britain has been trying to seize opportunities in the growing economies of the Indo-Pacific to cement its place on the global stage as a serious global actor.

  - The British would be **better able to achieve this goal with good bilateral relations with India.**

- **For India:**

  - The UK is a **regional power in the Indo-Pacific** as it **possesses naval facilities in Oman, Singapore, Bahrain, Kenya, and British Indian Ocean Territory.**

  - The UK has also confirmed £70 million of British International Investment **funding to support the usage of renewable energy in India**, which will help in building renewable energy infrastructure and developing solar power in the region.

  - India has sought **easy market access for Indian fisheries, pharma, and agricultural products** besides **duty concession for labor-intensive exports.**

STUDY FINDS 'SHARP' DECLINE IN VULTURE POPULATION

Context:	According to a New UK study, decline in Vulture population is one the key issues seen by all around the world. This issue has been addressed by many countries via conservation efforts, however still there is a need to improve the vulture tracking measures.

Why vultures matter?

- Vultures feeding on dead animals help **areas getting rid of carcasses** that, otherwise, would provide foul smells and scenery for a much longer period hence also known as **nature's cleanup crew**.

- Vultures also play a valuable role in keeping wildlife **diseases in check**.

Causes of decline:

> **Diclofenac i**s a veterinary non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), which is used to treat pain and inflammatory diseases such as gout in carcasses that vultures would feed off.

- Uncontrolled veterinary usage of **non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs** (NSAID), including Aceclofenac, Ketoprofen and Nimesulide.

- Illegal use of the banned drug Diclofenac, are toxic to vultures if they feed on carcasses within **72 hours** of the drugs' administration to such livestock.

Vultures in India:

- Vultures are scavenging birds of prey. They are nature's most efficient scavengers.

- India shelters about **nine species** of vultures, but most of them face the danger of extinction.

Sr. No.	Name of the Vulture Species	IUCN status	Pictorial Representation
1.	Oriental White-backed Vulture (Gyps Bengalensis)	Critically Endangered	
2.	Slender-billed Vulture (Gyps Tenuirostris)	Critically Endangered	
3.	Long-billed Vulture (Gyps Indicus)	Critically Endangered	
4.	Egyptian Vulture (Neophron Percnopterus)	Endangered	
5.	Red-Headed Vulture (Sarcogyps Calvus)	Critically Endangered	
6.	Indian Griffon Vulture (Gyps Fulvus)	Least Concerned	
7.	Himalayan Griffon (Gyps Himalayensis)	Near Threatened	
8.	Cinereous Vulture (Aegypius Monachus)	Near Threatened	
9.	Bearded Vulture or Lammergeier (Gypaetus Barbatus)	Near Threatened	

Important Government Initiatives:

- **Vulture Conservation 2020-2025**: A Vulture Care Centre (VCC) was set up at Pinjore, Haryana in 2001 to study the cause of deaths of vultures in India.

- **The Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre** in Pinjore is the world's largest facility within the state's Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary for the breeding and conservation of Indian vulture species.

- **SAVE (Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction):** The consortium of like-minded, regional and international organizations, created to oversee and coordinate conservation, campaigning and fundraising activities to help the plight of south Asia's vultures.

- **Objective:** To save three critically important species from extinction through a single programme.

- **SAVE partners**: Bombay Natural History Society, Bird Conservation Nepal, RSPB (UK), National Trust for Nature Conservation (Nepal), International Centre for Birds of Prey (UK) and Zoological Society of London.

- **Ramadevarabetta Vulture Sanctuary**: The vulture sanctuary was officially set up in 2012, but the long-billed, Egyptian and white-backed vultures have been roosting in the hills of Ramanagara for several decades. These are the three species found in Ramanagara out of the nine found in India.

MICROPLASTICS DETECTED IN HUMAN BREAST MILK

◉ **CONTEXT:** **Scientists have found microplastics in breast milk, raising concerns over potential health risks for infants.**

Concern:

- In general, babies and young children are more vulnerable to chemical and particle exposure.

- Presence of microplastics in breast milk is of great concern for the extremely vulnerable population of infant.

- Researchers have also stressed that the advantages of breastfeeding are much greater than the disadvantages caused by the presence of polluting microplastics.

Advice to pregnant women:

- Avoiding food and drink packaged in plastic, cosmetics and toothpastes containing microplastics, and clothes made of synthetic fabrics.

What are microplastics?

- They are defined as plastics less than five millimeters in diameter—smaller in diameter than the standard pearl used in jewelry. It can be harmful to our ocean and aquatic life.

- There are two categories of microplastics: primary and secondary.

  ◉ **Primary Microplastics:** They are tiny particles designed for commercial use and microfibers shed from clothing and other textiles. E.g. Microbeads found in personal care products, plastic pellets and plastic fibres.

  ◉ **Secondary Microplastics**: They are formed from the breakdown of larger plastics such as water bottles.

Chemicals in plastic products:

- The two most important substances to watch out for in plastics are **bisphenol A (BPA),** used in a variety of consumer products, and certain '**phthalates'.**

- BPA has been classified as an **endocrine disruptor,** which means that it has toxic effect on our ability to reproduce, they may damage fertility or the unborn child.

India-Specific Initiatives:

- **Elimination of Single Use Plastic**: In 2019, the Prime Minister of India pledged to eliminate all single-use plastic in the country by 2022, with an immediate ban in urban Delhi.
- **Important Rules**: Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 state that every local body has to be responsible for setting up infrastructure for segregation, collection, processing, and disposal of plastic waste.
  - ▶ **Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018** introduced the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
- **Un-Plastic Collective**: Un-Plastic Collective (UPC) is a voluntary initiative launched by the UNEP-India, **Confederation of Indian Industry and WWF-India.**
  - ▶ The Collective seeks to minimise externalities of plastics on the ecological and social health of our planet.

VYOMMITRA'S SKILLS GET A LIFT OFF WITH DIGITAL GREY MATTER

⊙ **CONTEXT:** Vyommitra', the humanoid designed and developed by the ISRO has been successfully integrated with a computer 'brain' which enables it to 'read' control panels aboard and communicate with the ISRO ground stations.

About Vyom Mitra:

- **The humanoid has been developed by the ISRO Inertial Systems Unit, Thiruvananthapuram.**
- **Vyom Mitra is a half-humanoid** and her body stops at the torso and has no legs.
- The humanoid will simulate the human functions required for space before real astronauts take off.
- She has been **designed to resemble a human with facial expressions** and **speech and sight.**
- Vyommitra is also set to get a **digital twin**. The 'twin' will undergo computer simulations where the control systems are tested for microgravity conditions.
- Vyommitra will fly aboard the first unmanned test flight ahead of the crewed Gaganyaan flight expected in 2024.

SPACE EXPLORATION FINDS 'SODIUM CONTENT' THROUGHOUT THE MOON SURFACE

⊙ **CONTEXT:** Recently, the Scientists from Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have mapped out the global distribution of sodium on the Moon's surface.

⊙ **ABOUT**

About the Exploration

- The research has been done using **CLASS instrument** carried by the second Indian Moon mission, **Chandrayaan-2.**

- It uses a large area **soft X-ray spectrometer**.

- This is the first effort to provide a global-scale measurement of sodium on the lunar surface using **X-ray fluorescent**

Characteristics of Sodium:

- Sodium is a soft metal that tarnishes within seconds of being exposed to the air.

- It also reacts vigorously with water.

- Sodium is used as a heat exchanger in some nuclear reactors, and as a reagent in the chemicals industry.

- It has **a low melting point, with a relative density of 0.97 at 20ºC (68ºF)**.

- From the commercial point of view, sodium is the most important of all the **alkaline metals.**

New Findings:

- The study found a thin **veneer of sodium atoms** that are weakly bound to the lunar surface apart from the minor quantities found in lunar rocks.

- These sodium atoms on the surface are liberated when enough energy is given to them by solar ultraviolet radiation and solar wind ions.

- Sodium is the only element apart from **potassium** that can be observed through telescopes in the lunar atmosphere (its exosphere).

- This new map of sodium would enable understanding of the **surface-exosphere**

X-ray fluorescent spectra:

- **X-ray fluorescence** is commonly used to study the **composition of materials** in a non-destructive manner.

- When the sun gives out solar flares, a large amount of X-ray radiation falls on the moon, triggering X-ray fluorescence.

- The CLASS measures the energy of the X-ray photons coming from the moon and counts the total number.

- The energy of the photons indicates the atom (for instance, sodium atoms emit X-ray photons of 1.04 keV) and the intensity is a measure of how many atoms are present.

****

Section: D
(QUICK BYTES)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

⊙ **CONTEXT:** The World Mental Health Day is observed on 10th of October every year. The Covid-19 pandemic has even made all of us realise the importance of mental health. To celebrate this day, GOI had announced to launch T-MANAS portal.

Mental illness is an amalgamation of biological, social, psychological, hereditary, and environmental stressors.
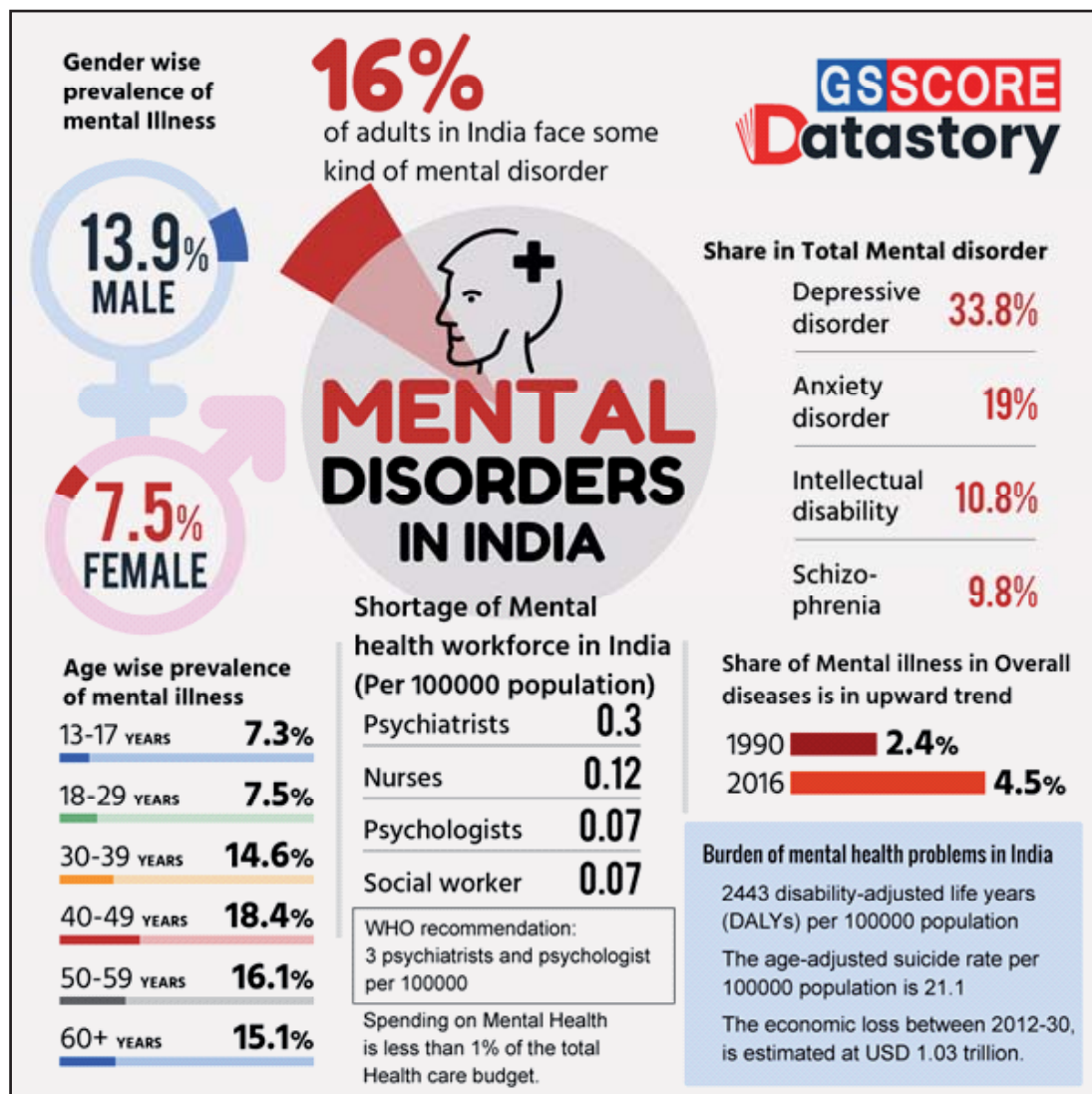
Other Government Initiatives:

- **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP):** Aim to be implemented in 704 districts for which support is provided to States/UTs through the **National Health Mission.**

- **Community Health Centre (CHC) and Primary Health Centre (PHC) levels** were established to address outpatient services, assessment, counselling/ psycho-social interventions, continuing care and support to persons with severe mental disorders, drugs, outreach services, ambulance services etc.

- **National Tele Mental Health Programme**: In Budget (2022-2023), India's Finance Minister announced the programme to improve access to quality mental health counselling and also care services.

- **T-MANAS** (Tele-Mental Health Assistance and Nationally Actionable Plan through States) aims to provide mental health support and interventions to people in remote and neglected areas.

- **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017:** It aims to provide mental healthcare services for persons with mental illness.

- **KIRAN:** The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a 24/7 toll-free helpline to provide support to people facing anxiety, stress, depression, suicidal thoughts, and other mental health concerns.

- **Manodarpan Initiative:** It is an initiative of the Ministry of Education under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. It is aimed to provide psychosocial support to students, family members, and teachers for their mental health and well-being during the times of Covid-19.

> **Madhya Pradesh** is going to be the first State in the country to draft a suicide prevention strategy and the government has formed a task force for it.

SCO'S ANTI-TERROR EXERCISE HOSTED BY INDIA

◉ **CONTEXT:** **The National Security Guard (NSG) of India is hosting the multinational JATE 'Manesar Anti-Terror 2022' under the framework of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure at the NSG Manesar Garrison.**

About the event:

- The exercise is aimed at exchanging expertise and best practices, and build synergy between the **Counter Terrorism Forces** of the **SCO RATS member countries** to enhance capabilities for conducting anti-terrorist operations and countering other security threats collectively.

- **Stage-1** of the exercise was conducted from July 27 to August 1, 2022 by the National Counter Terrorism Forces (NCTF) of SCO member countries in their respective territories.

- **Stage-2** of the Exercise is being conducted from October 08 to 13 at NSG Manesar Garrison, in which eight representatives from NCTF of Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Uzbekistan, Russian Federation and NSG of Republic of India are participating.

- **Objective:** The exercise will provide a platform to the participating member countries to enhance their operational capabilities and exchange experience in combating terrorism, separatism and extremism, which are common regional security challenges.

Section: E
(MISCELLANEOUS)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

CONTEXT:

French author Annie Ernaux, known for her deceptively simple novels drawing on personal experiences of class and gender, was awarded the 2022 Nobel Prize in Literature.

About Annie Ernaux:

- **Ernaux, née Duchesne,** was born in Lillebonne Normandy in 1940.

- She worked as a schoolteacher, and as a teacher at the Centre for Distance Education.

- She retired in 2000, devoting herself fully to her writing.

- More than 20 of her books have been school texts in France for decades.

- According to the jury, she was honoured "for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory".

About the Nobel prize in literature:

- The Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded 115 times to 119 Nobel Prize laureates between 1901 and 2022.

- The 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded to novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah.

Contribution of Indians:

Poet and writer Rabindranath Tagore was the first non-European and Indian to get a Nobel Prize in 1913 in literature.

NOBEL MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR ECONOMICS

CONTEXT:

In the recently announced Nobel prize in Economics, Douglas W Diamond, Philip H Dybvig and Ben S Bernanke won for research into banking and financial crises.

Ben S Bernanke was the former chairman of the US Federal Reserve from **2006 to 2014** with **Douglas W Diamond**, an economist at the University of Chicago, and **Philip H Dybvig** at Washington University in St Louis.

⊙ ABOUT

About the Award

- The economics award, among the highest honours in the field, is not, technically, a **Nobel Prize.**

- It is called the '**Sveriges Riksbank Prize**' in **Economic Sciences** in Memory of **Alfred Nobel** as it was not among the original categories that Alfred Nobel set out in his will **in 1895.**

- It is funded by **Sweden's central bank** and has been given out only **since 1969**.

Contributions:

- Bernanke in **1983** wrote a paper that broke ground in explaining that **bank failures** can propagate a financial crisis rather than simply being a **result of the crisis.**

- **Diamond and Dybvig** wrote a paper on the risks inherent in maturity transformation, the process of turning short-term borrowing into long-term lending.

- Diamond also wrote about how banks **monitor their borrowers**, noting that knowledge about borrowers disappears upon bank failures, extending the consequences of the upheaval.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

CONTEXT:

The Nobel Peace Prize for 2022 has been awarded to human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski from Belarus, the Russian human rights organisation Memorial, and the Ukrainian human rights organisation Center for Civil Liberties.

⊙ ABOUT

Belarus's Ales Bialiatski

- **Ales Bialiatski is a Belarusian human rights activist**, who is currently being held in prison without trial.

- He was one of the initiators of the democratic movement in Belarus in the mid-1980s.

- He has devoted his life to promoting democracy and peaceful development in his home country.

- He is credited with founding the organisation **Viasna (Spring)** in 1996.

- Viasna is a broad-based human rights organization that documented and protested against the authorities' use of torture against political prisoners.

Russian human rights organisation, Memorial

- **Russian human rights organisation** was established in 1987, by human rights activists in the former Soviet Union.

- **Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov** and human rights advocate Svetlana Gannushkina were among the **organization's founders.**

- Memorial is based on the notion that **confronting past crimes is essential in preventing new ones.**

- It wanted to ensure that the **victims of the communist regime's oppression would never be forgotten.**

Ukrainian human rights organisation, Center for Civil Liberties:

- **The Center for Civil Liberties was founded in Kyiv in 2007.**

- It was aimed at advancing human rights and democracy in Ukraine.

- The committee has described them as **one of the leading actors in Ukraine.**

- They have been **successful in influencing the formation of public opinion** and public policy.

- They have been **actively participating in international networks** and solidarity actions to promote human rights.

About Nobel Peace Prize:

- The **Nobel Peace Prize** is one of the five Nobel Prizes established by the will of Swedish industrialist, inventor, and armaments manufacturer Alfred Nobel.
- The peace prize is along with the prizes in Chemistry, Physics, Physiology or Medicine, and Literature.
- **The first Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in 1901.**
- **Selection of Nobel Prize laureates**
  - The **Norwegian Nobel Committee** is responsible for the selection of eligible candidates and the choice of the Nobel Peace Prize laureates.
  - The Committee is composed of five members appointed by the Storting (Norwegian parliament).
  - The **Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo**, Norway, not in Stockholm, Sweden, where the rest of the other Nobel Prizes are awarded.

IAF TO LAUNCH NEW WEAPON SYSTEM BRANCH

CONTEXT:

The Indian Air force day (8 October) has been celebrated as completion of 90 years of the Air force foundation. The IAF chief has announced to create a new weapon system branch for the first time since Independence.

- The theme for the year 2022 was **"IAF: Transforming for the Future".**

About the new Branch

- Though a major reorganisation of the branch system was last done in 1971. This new branch represents a much-needed reform.
- The new Weapon Systems branch will combine four streams –
  - Surface-to-Surface Missiles
  - Surface-to-Air Missiles
  - Remotely Piloted Aircraft (drones)
  - Weapon System Operators
- The creation of this branch would result in savings of over Rs.3, 400 crore due to reduced expenditure on flying training.

Major Branches: The IAF has nine branches that officer cadets can join – Pilots, Navigators, Technical Officers, and Ground Duties (Administration, Logistics, Accounts, Education, and Meteorology).

****

GS SCORE
An Institute for Civil Services

OUR CLASSROOM & ONLINE COURSES

GS FOUNDATION

- ☑ 1 Year IAS Foundation
- ☑ 3 & 2 Year IAS Foundation
- ☑ GS Mains Foundation

OPTIONAL FOUNDATION

- ☑ Political Science
- ☑ History
- ☑ Geography
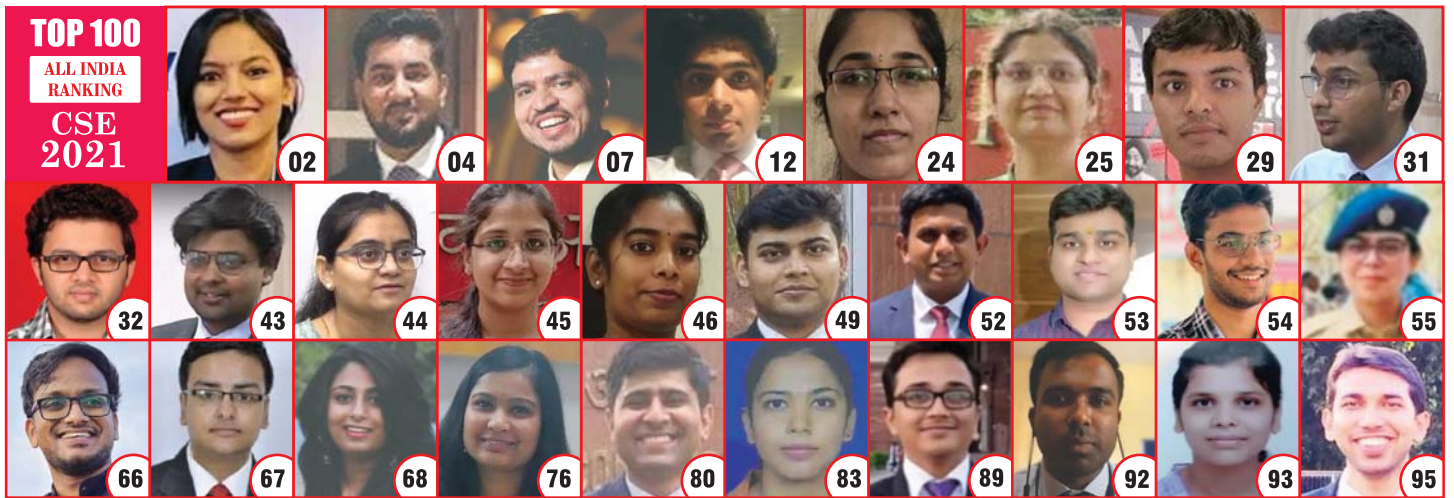- ☑ Public Administration
- ☑ Anthropology

MAINS COURSES

- ☑ GS Mains Advance
- ☑ Applied GS
- ☑ Ethics Integrity & Aptitude
- ☑ Essay Writing
- ☑ GS Paper 2
- ☑ GS Paper 3

TEST SERIES

- ☑ Prelims Test Series
- ☑ GS Mains Test Series
- ☑ Essay Test Series
- ☑ Ethics Test Series
- ☑ Optional Test Series
  - ◉ Political Science
  - ◉ Geography
  - ◉ History
  - ◉ Public Administration
  - ◉ Anthropology
  - ◉ Sociology

Visit: 🌐 www.iasscore.in

GS SCORE
An Institute for Civil Services

CSE RESULTS

SUCCESS IS A PRACTICE WE DO!

TOP 100
ALL INDIA RANKING
CSE 2021

02 04 07 12 24 25 29 31
32 43 44 45 46 49 52 53 54 55
66 67 68 76 80 83 89 92 93 95

TOP 100
ALL INDIA RANKING
CSE 2020

8 9 12 13 14 16 17 19 20
24 26 28 30 31 36 38 41 45 50
51 52 55 56 58 59 67 68 70 71 73
74 76 78 83 84 85 86 89 93 98 100

TOP 100
ALL INDIA RANKING
CSE 2019

3 6 10 11 16 17 21 22 28
30 33 38 39 42 44 46 53 54 59 66 69
70 72 77 78 80 82 84 86 87 94 97 98