

# INSIGHTSIAS

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION



## INSIGHTS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS + PIB SUMMARY

26 APRIL 2023

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# WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2023: MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND SOCIETIES

## Syllabus: Population and associated issues

**Context:** The ‘World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies’ was recently released by the World Bank.

### The World Development Report (WDR):

- It is an **annual** report published since **1978** by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (**IBRD**) or **World Bank**.
- It provides an in-depth analysis of a **specific aspect of economic development**.

### Highlights of the WDR 2023:

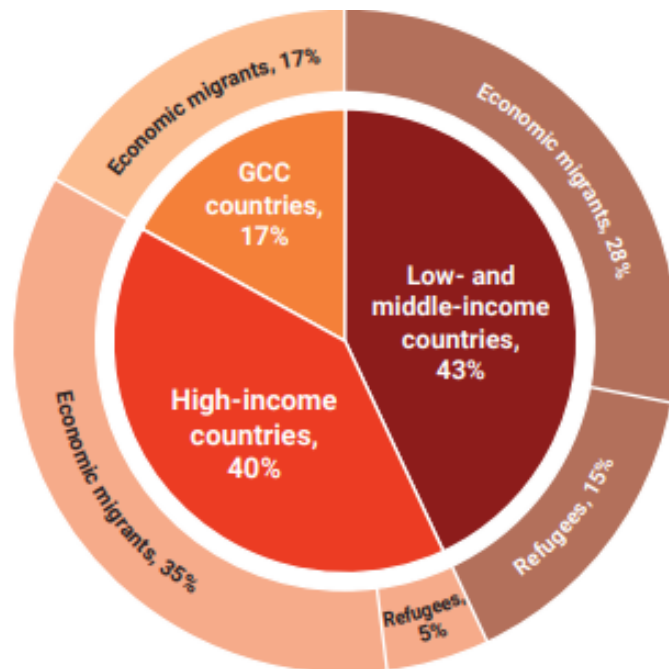
- **The share of working-age adults will drop sharply** in many (developed) countries over the next few decades.
  - **Spain**, with a population of 47 million, is projected to shrink by more than one-third by 2100, with those above age 65 increasing from 20 to 39% of the population.
- Most low-income countries are expected to see rapid population growth, putting them under pressure to create **more jobs for young people**.

### Opportunities offered by migration:

- **Migration is becoming more urgent** due to **severe divergences between and within countries** - in terms of real wages, labour market opportunities, demographic patterns and climate costs.
- **It can be a unique opportunity** for economies and people as well as meet the growing needs of both origin and destination countries.
- Migrants **transfer ideas, knowledge, and technology, spurring job creation and modernisation** - just as US Silicon Valley expatriates did when they helped nurture India’s IT sector.

### Challenges:

- As populations across the globe **age** at an unprecedented pace, **the global competition for workers and talent will intensify**.
- About 184 million people worldwide (including 37 million refugees) **lack citizenship in the country in which they live**.

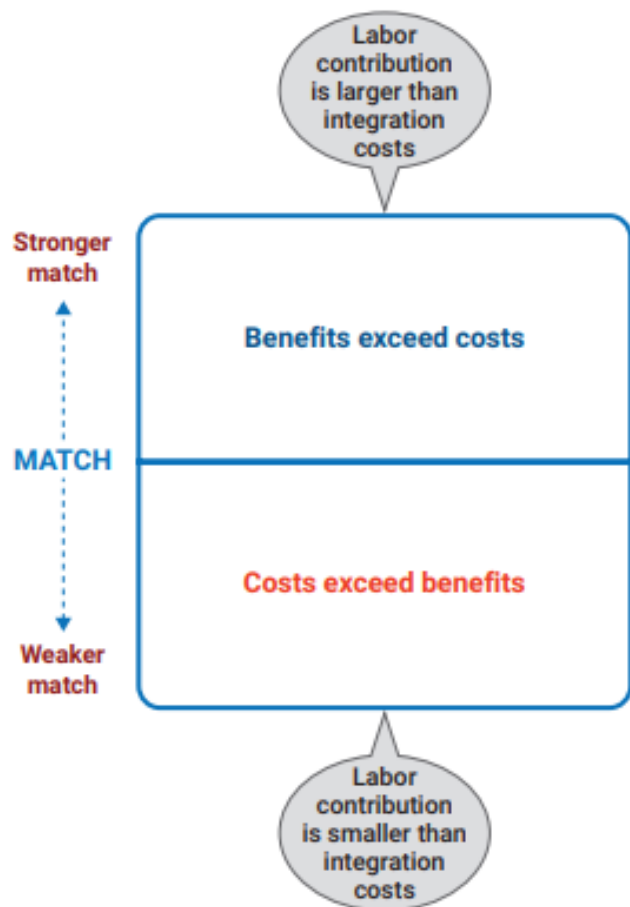


### Recommendations to promote migration:

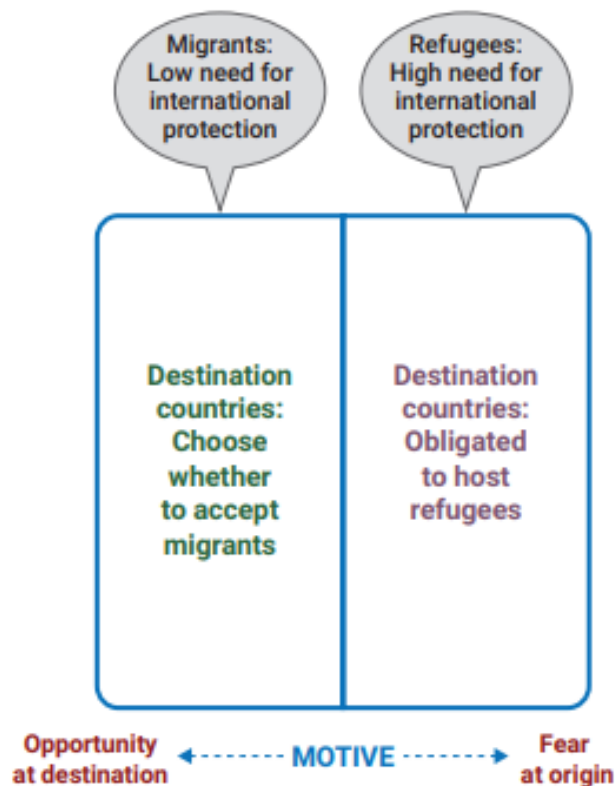
- The WB proposed **policies** to harness economic opportunities and for better migration management in destination, transit and origin countries (to mitigate the risks that migrants face). **For example**,
  - **Origin countries** should make labour migration an explicit part of their development strategy.
  - **Destination countries** should facilitate their **inclusion and address social impacts** that raise concerns among their citizens
- **Match-Motive Framework:** By combining “match” and “motive,” the framework identified policy priorities for countries.
  - **The “match” aspect** is grounded in labour economics and focuses on how well migrants’ skills and related attributes match the needs of the destination countries.
  - **The “motive” refers** to the circumstances under which a person moves in search of opportunity.
  - This determines the extent to which migrants, origin countries and destination countries gain from migration: **The stronger the match, the larger the gains**.
- The report also urged for **international cooperation and multilateral efforts** to strengthen the match of migrants’ skills with the needs of destination societies.

## Two perspectives on cross-border migration

**a. Labor economics:** When migrants' skills and attributes are a strong match, labor contributions exceed integration costs



**b. International law:** If migrants fear harm in their country of origin, destination countries are obligated to host them



**Insta Links:** [HUMAN MIGRATION: REASONS & IMPACT](#)

[GS Paper 2](#)

## KESAVANANDA: CASE AND ITS LEGACY

**Syllabus:** Structure, Organization and Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary

**Context:** Fifty years ago, on **April 24, 1973**, the SC delivered its landmark judgment in **Kesavananda Bharati vs the State of Kerala**.

### Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala

<b>What was the case about?</b>	<p><b>The extent of Parliament’s power</b> to amend the Constitution was the backdrop of the <b>tussle between the executive and the judiciary</b> in the first two decades of the republic.</p> <p>By the <b>1st Amendment of 1951</b>, the 9th Schedule was inserted - any law placed in this Schedule could not be questioned in any court of law.</p> <p>In <b>Shankari Prasad v. Union of India (1951)</b>, the SC upheld the 1st Amendment and held that Parliament’s power to amend any part of the Constitution was limitless.</p> <p>In <b>Sajjan Singh v. State of Rajasthan (1965)</b>, the SC asked whether the Parliament could take away even the critical fundamental rights</p> <p>In <b>Golaknath v State of Punjab (1967)</b>, the SC ruled that Parliament cannot amend fundamental rights.</p> <p>The <b>24th Amendment 1971</b> - amended <b>Articles 13, 368</b> - provided Parliament with the powers to amend any provision of the Constitution and insulated such amendments from <b>Judicial Review</b>.</p>
<b>Verdict</b>	<p><b>A 13-judge Constitution Bench</b> of the SC (with a 7-6 majority) redefined the relationship between Parliament and the Constitution by ruling that the <b>“basic structure”</b> of the Constitution is inviolable, and cannot be amended by Parliament.</p> <p>While the Parliament had vast powers to amend the Constitution, <b>certain parts</b> (“basic structure”) <b>are so inherent and intrinsic to the Constitution</b> that even Parliament cannot touch it.</p>
<b>What is the basic structure doctrine?</b>	<p>The origins of the basic structure doctrine are found in the <b>German Constitution</b>.</p> <p><b>In India</b>, while parliamentary democracy, fundamental rights, judicial review, and secularism are all held by courts as basic structures, <b>the list is not exhaustive</b> (decided by the court on a case-by-case basis).</p> <p>The basic structure doctrine has <b>formed the bedrock of <a href="#">judicial review</a></b> of all laws passed by the Indian Parliament.</p>

#### A scrutiny of the application of the doctrine over the past 50 years:

- Although the highest court has invoked “basic structure” **sparingly**, it has **mostly struck down amendments where judicial powers** have been curtailed.
- Since 1973, the Constitution has been **amended more than 60 times**. In at least **16 cases**, the SC has evaluated constitutional amendments with regard to the basic structure doctrine.
- **9/16** constitutional amendments have been upheld by the SC. **6 of these cases relate to [reservations](#)** [OBC, EWS and reservations in promotions].

#### Constitutional amendment entirely struck down by the SC:

- **The [Constitution \(99th Amendment\) Act 2014](#)**, which established the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) was struck down in 2015 on the grounds that it threatened **“judicial independence”** - a basic feature of the Constitution.
- **NJAC** would have been responsible for the appointment and transfer of judges, replacing the current Collegium system.

#### Constitutional amendments partially struck down by the SC:

- **In 6 instances**, including the Kesavananda ruling itself, the SC has “partially struck down” a constitutional amendment.
- In all these cases, the provision that was struck down related to the **denial of judicial review**.

## 6 instances when SC partially struck down an amendment:

Out of 6, 5 were during the Indira Gandhi era.

- **Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala (1973):** While the court upheld the land ceiling laws that were challenged, **it struck down the following portion of the 25th Amendment (1972)** -
  - If any law is passed to give effect to the **DPSP** it cannot be deemed to be void on the ground that it abridged rights under **Articles 14, 19 or 31**.
- **Indira Gandhi v Raj Narain (1975):** The SC struck down The Constitution (39th Amendment) Act 1975, which barred it from hearing a challenge to the election of President, PM, VP, and Speaker of Lok Sabha.
- **Minerva Mills Ltd vs Union Of India (1980):** The SC struck down a clause inserted in **Article 368**, which said there shall be **no limitation on the constituent power of Parliament**.
- **P Sambamurthy v State of Andhra Pradesh (1986):** The SC struck down a portion of the 32nd Amendment (1973), which constituted an Administrative Tribunal for Andhra Pradesh, **taking away the jurisdiction of the High Court**.
- **L Chandra Kumar v Union of India (1997):** The top court struck down a portion of the 42nd Amendment 1976, which set up administrative tribunals excluding judicial review by High Courts.
- **Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu And Others (1992):** The SC upheld The Constitution (52nd Amendment) Act that introduced the **10th Schedule/anti-defection law** in the Constitution.
  - However, the only portion of the amendment that was struck down was that **the decisions of the Speaker relating to disqualification cannot be judicially reviewed**.

### Significance of the verdict:

- The ruling (by the narrowest possible margin of 7-6) has **rejected majoritarian impulses** and **underlined the foundations of a modern democracy** saving both the **constitution and constitutionalism**.
- However, it marked a **definite assertion of the judiciary** against the majoritarian Parliament leading to **Parliamentary sovereignty vs Judicial supremacy, Judicial activism vs overreach** debates.
- A highly controversial **pluralist judicial creation** has been **accepted now** by legislatures, **the** executive, and the people of India.

**Insta Links:** [Admonishments that endanger the Constitution](#)

### Mains Links:

Q. "Parliament's power to amend the constitution is limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power". In light of this statement, explain whether parliament under Article 368 of the constitution can destroy the basic

structure of the constitution by expanding its amending power. (UPSC 2019)

### Prelims Links: (UPSC 2020)

Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India defines its 'basic structure' in terms of federalism, secularism, fundamental rights and democracy.
2. The Constitution of India provides for 'judicial review' to safeguard the citizens' liberties and to preserve the ideals on which the Constitution is based.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: 4

### GS Paper 2

## POWERS OF THE GOVERNOR UNDER ARTICLE 200

### Syllabus: Issues and Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure

**Context:** The SC said that governors should clear bills passed by the legislative assemblies as soon as possible, as mandated under Article 200 of the Indian Constitution.

### Article 200:

- **It gives governors the power to either grant assent** to a bill, withhold assent or reserve the bill for the president's consideration in certain cases.
- **The governor may return the bill** (if it is not a Money Bill) requesting the House/Houses to reconsider the bill.
- If such a bill is passed again by the House/Houses with/without amendment and presented to the governor for assent, **the governor shall not withhold assent**.

**The plea in the SC:** A plea was filed by the Telangana government **seeking directions to the governor** to clear ten bills passed by the state Assembly.

### What are the SC's observations?

- Article 200 states that the governor must "**as soon as possible**" after the presentation of the bill for assent return the bill for reconsideration to the House/Houses of the state legislature.
- The expression "**as soon as possible**" has a **significant constitutional intent and must be borne into**

mind.

#### The issue:

- The issue that is agitating State governments (**Kerala, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal**) is the non-decision/indecision on the part of the governor on a bill passed by the Assembly.
- In a new constitutional development, **the TN Assembly passed a resolution** urging the President of India to **fix a timeline for assent** to be given to bills passed by the Assembly.

#### Why is this resolution a new constitutional development?

- **Article 355 of the Constitution** says that it shall be the duty of the Union to ensure that the government of every State is carried on in accordance with the Constitution.
  - This provision justifies the “**invasion of the provincial field**” by the Union government and the proclamation of the **President’s rule** (under Article 356) in a State.
- If the governor violates Article 200 and **sits on the bills indefinitely** (an option not given by the Constitution), s/he is creating a situation where **governance of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the Constitution**.
- In such a situation, **the government of the State has a constitutional duty to invoke Article 355** and request the President to give suitable instructions to the Governor.

#### The practice followed in the United Kingdom:

- The veto could **only be exercised on ministerial advice**.
- Refusal of royal assent on the ground that the monarch strongly disapproves of a bill/ it was intensely controversial would be **unconstitutional**.

#### Case of India:

- **Under Article 154 of the Constitution**, the governor can exercise his/her executive powers **only on the advice of the Council of Ministers**.
- Whether the Governor (under Article 200) can withhold his/her assent to a bill in the exercise of his/her **discretionary powers?**
- Under the constitutional scheme, the governor is **only a constitutional head** and has no real powers.
- According to constitutional experts, **the governor can withhold assent to a bill only on ministerial advice**.
- Hence, there is a **confusion** on the issue in India.

#### Way ahead:

- A bill is a **policy imperative of the elected government which is responsible to the people**.
- Withholding assent means the **death of the bill**. Therefore, the government can challenge the inac-

tion of the governor in a court of law.

- **The SC must fix a reasonable time frame** for governors to take a decision on a bill passed by the Assembly in the **larger interest of federalism** in the country.

**Insta Links:** [Governor-Chief Minister confrontation](#)

#### Mains Links:

**Q. From the resolution of contentious issues regarding the distribution of legislative powers by the courts, the ‘Principle of Federal Supremacy’ and ‘Harmonious Construction’ have emerged. Explain. (UPSC 2019)**

#### Prelims Links: UPSC 2018

Consider the following statements:

1. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted against the Governor of a State in any court during his term of office.
2. The emoluments and allowances of the Governor of a State shall not be diminished during his term of office.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: 3**

#### GS2

## INDIA AND SCO

#### Syllabus: International Relations - Regional grouping

**Context:** Chinese and Russian defence ministers are attending a ministerial meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Delhi this week. Also, India will chair the Eurasian regional forum this year.

### About SCO:

Information	
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) (est. 2001; HQ: Beijing) is a Eurasian political, economic, international security and defence organization.	
Type	Permanent intergovernmental international organisation
Need	After the <b>collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991</b> , the then security and economic architecture in the Eurasian region dissolved and <b>new structures</b> had to come up.
Members	China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan (not Turkmenistan), were the original ‘ <b>Shanghai Five</b> ’. Uzbekistan was included afterwards. India and Pakistan joined the organization in 2017
Key priorities	Regional non-traditional security, counter-terrorism; Fight against the “ <b>three evils</b> ” of <b>terrorism, separatism and extremism</b>
Observers	Iran, Afghanistan, Belarus, and Mongolia
Current Head	India is the current chair of SCO
Internal conflicts within SCO	Between India and China; India and Pakistan; Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; Pakistan and Taliban-led Afghanistan; and <b>No Central Asian neighbour</b> has endorsed the Russian invasion of Ukraine.



### How India gains from SCO:

Dimensions		Benefits for India
Geopolitical Balance	Asian Player	SCO bolsters <b>India’s status as a major pan-Asian player</b> which is currently limited in the South Asian paradigm.
	Multi-alignment	Against the backdrop of the <b>Russia-Ukraine war; US’ power struggle with China and sanctions on Iran</b> . SCO helps India engage with all sides.
	“Shanghai Spirit”	It emphasises India’s foreign policy of <b>harmony, non-interference</b> in others’ internal affairs, and non-alignment.
Regional Engagement	Facilitates Bilateral Engagement	E.g., India is a major trade partner of Russia and China
	Informal Meeting Opportunities	The SCO summit gives an opportunity for Indian and Pakistani leaders; the India-Chinese delegation; India-Russian leaders to meet informally, on the sidelines.
Security dimensions	E.g., India wants access to intelligence and information from SCO’s counter-terrorism body, the <b>Tashkent-based Regional Anti-Terror Structure (RATS)</b> . Also, India through SCO can help in the stability of Afghanistan.	
Connectivity	E.g., International North-South Transport Corridor	

### India’s challenges in dealing with SCO:

Challenge	Description
Differences between India and Pakistan	Differences on cross-border terrorism, geopolitics, Kashmir dispute.

<b>Differences between India and China</b>	India's concern over China's BRI initiative and Chinese expansionist policy on India's borders.
<b>Intelligence sharing</b>	India may be hesitant to share intelligence with Pakistan and China within the SCO's anti-terrorism structures.
<b>SCO's Stance on Kashmir</b>	The SCO may not take a firm stance on the Kashmir dispute that India would like. <b>China is likely to take Pakistan's side</b> , creating tensions.
<b>Limited support for the India-China border dispute</b>	The SCO's other members <b>may not have the capability to stand up to China in any border dispute</b> between India and China, limiting the SCO's ability to help India.
<b>Containing China's rise</b>	India wants to <b>contain China's influence in the region</b> , but joint containment efforts may not happen within the confines of the SCO.
<b>Afghanistan is not part of SCO</b>	Cooperation with Central Asian states is important for India in combating terrorism in Afghanistan, but Afghanistan is not part of the SCO.

**Conclusion:**

While the SCO has been successful in attracting a growing number of regional states, its internal contradictions are casting a shadow over its strategic coherence.

**Insta Links:**  
[SCO](#)

**Mains Links**

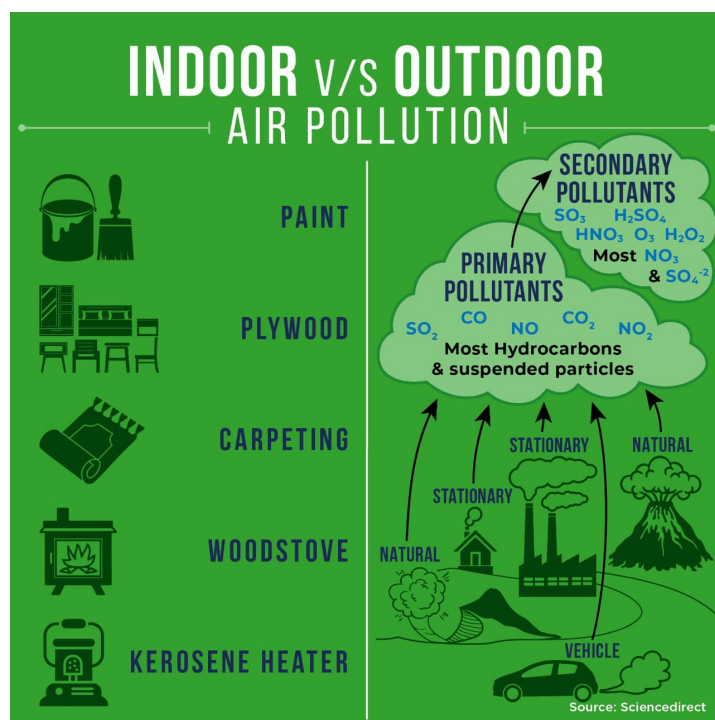
**Q. SCO serves India's quest for geopolitical balance and regional engagement, however, any benefits from it are cancelled out by the presence of China and Pakistan. Has India gained anything substantial from the SCO? Critically examine. (15M)**

[GS Paper 3](#)

## INDOOR AIR POLLUTION

**Syllabus: Environmental Pollution & Degradation**

**Context:** According to a study, India's poor indoor air quality can impair cognitive development in children under two years when brain growth is at its peak.



**Highlights of the study:**

- Poor air quality in households that used solid cooking materials such as **cow dung cake**.
- **Very small particulate fragments** (PM 2.5) in the air are a major concern as they can move from the respiratory tract into the **brain**.
- Infants (<2 years) from these houses had **lower visual memory scores and slower visual processing speeds**.
- As children grow up in polluted environments, **their developing organs and bodies are affected**.

**Impact:** Long-term consequences for life → lower economic productivity → increased burden on healthcare and mental health systems.

**Concerns for India:**

- According to the State of Global Air 2020 report, **over 116,000 infants in India died** within a month

of birth in 2019 due to air pollution, outdoor and indoor.

- Every third child in Delhi has impaired lungs making them vulnerable to **metabolic diseases**.

**Recommendations:** Since indoor air quality is linked to cooking fuels, **efforts to reduce cooking emissions should be a key target for intervention.**

**Control measures:**

- Public awareness
- Change in pattern of fuel use (**PM Ujjwala Yojana**, National Biogas and Manure Management Programme, **GOBARdhan Scheme**)
- Modification of design of cooking stove (**Unnat Chulha Abhiyan**)
- Improvement in ventilation
- Intersectoral coordination and global initiative

Content for Mains Enrichment (CME)

## TRADITIONAL METHODS OF WATER CONSERVATION IN INDIA

**Context:** India has conducted its first census of all water structures that hold rainwater and recharge groundwater, finding that the country has **2.4 million waterbodies**, 83% of which are being used for fisheries, irrigation, groundwater recharge, and drinking water.

Method	Description
<b>Talab/Bandhi</b>	Reservoirs to store water for drinking and household consumption
<b>Jhalaras</b>	Rectangular-shaped stepwells to collect subterranean water seepage from a lake or an upstream reservoir
<b>Baoli</b>	Stepwells with arches and motifs, open to people of all sections of society
<b>Kund (Gujarat and Rajasthan)</b>	The catchment area is shaped like a saucer sloping towards the circular underground well at the centre for rainwater harvesting
<b>Bawari (Rajasthan)</b>	Stepwells that divert rainfall to artificial tanks via canals on hilly terrain



<b>Taanka (Thar desert region in Rajasthan)</b>	Cylindrical paved underground pit for rainwater harvesting from courtyards, rooftops and artificially prepared catchments
<b>Nadi</b>	Village ponds where rainwater collects from natural catchment areas
<b>Bamboo drip irrigation system (Northeastern India)</b>	Irrigation technique using bamboo pipes to transport water from perennial springs
<b>Zings (Ladakh)</b>	Small tanks to collect melting glacier water
<b>Kuhls (Himachal Pradesh)</b>	Surface water channels for irrigation of fields tapping glacial waters from rivers and streams
<b>Jackwells (Great Nicobar Islands)</b>	Small pits for rainwater harvesting, constructed using bamboo and logs of wood
<b>Water harvesting structures of Ramtek (Maharashtra)</b>	Network of groundwater and surface water bodies with tanks connected by underground and surface canals for water flow from the foothills to the plains

Facts for Prelims (FFP)

## SRI RAMANUJACHARYA AND ADI SHANKARACHARYA

**Context:** Prime Minister has paid tributes to Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya and Sri Ramanujacharya on his birth anniversary and on his Jayanti.

**Comparison of Adi Shankaracharya and Sri Ramanujacharya:**

	<b>Adi Shankaracharya</b>	<b>Sri Ramanujacharya</b>
<b>Birth and Life-time</b>	 <p>Born in 788 CE in Kaladi, Kerala, and passed away in 820 CE</p>	 <p>Born in 1017 CE in Sripurumbudur, Tamil Nadu, and passed away in 1137 CE</p>
<b>Philosophy</b>	<b>Advaita Vedanta</b> (Non-Dualism)	<b>Vishishtadvaita Vedanta</b> (Qualified Non-Dualism)
<b>Interpretation of Vedas</b>	Argued that the <b>ultimate reality is Brahman</b> and that the universe is an illusion (Maya)	Argued that <b>Brahman is the ultimate reality</b> , but also that the <b>universe is real and a manifestation of Brahman</b>
<b>Approach to God</b>	Emphasized the <b>importance of renunciation and meditation</b> to realize the ultimate reality	Emphasized <b>devotion (bhakti)</b> to achieve union with the divine
<b>Scriptures</b>	Emphasized the importance of the <b>Upanishads and the Brahma Sutras</b>	Emphasized the importance of the <b>Bhagavad Gita and the Divya Prabandham</b>
<b>Influence</b>	<b>Revived Hinduism</b> and helped unify various philosophical schools of thought. Founded four mathas (monasteries) in India.	Popularized <b>devotion to Vishnu</b> and helped revive the Bhakti movement in India.
<b>Key Works</b>	Vivekachudamani, Upadesa Sahasri, and commentaries on the Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, and Brahma Sutras	Sri Bhashya, Vedanta Sara, and commentary on the Bhagavad Gita
<b>Legacy</b>	Considered one of the most influential thinkers in Indian philosophy. His teachings have had a profound impact on Indian intellectual and spiritual life.	His teachings have had a significant impact on the development of the Bhakti movement and South Indian culture. He is widely regarded as a saint and his legacy continues to inspire devotion to Vishnu.
<b>Statue</b>	A 12-foot statue of Adi Shankaracharya at Kedarnath (Uttarakhand)	Statue of Equality on the outskirts of Hyderabad, Telangana

**Prelims Links:**

Q. Which one of the following pairs does not form part of the six systems of Indian Philosophy?

- (a) Mimamsa and Vedanta
- (b) Nyaya and Vaisheshika
- (c) Lokayata and Kapalika
- (d) Sankhya and Yoga

**Answer: C**

## DELHI'S ZAFAR MAHAL

**Context:** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is set to begin conservation works at Zafar Mahal in south Delhi's Mehrauli, which was once the summer palace of Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last Mughal emperor.

### About Zafar Mahal

Attribute	Description
<b>Location</b>	Mehrauli village, Southern part of Delhi
<b>Purpose and built by</b>	Summer palace for the Mughal family. It was built by Emperor Akbar Shah II and completed by Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last Mughal Emperor in the 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> Century
<b>Dedicated to</b>	Hazrat Khwaja Qutubuddin Bakhtiar Kaki, a renowned Sufi saint to whom almost all the Mughal Emperors were disciples
<b>Components</b>	Palace or Mahal, and entrance gate (Hathi Gate)
<b>Legacy</b>	The Mahal is where <b>Bahadur Shah Zafar</b> , the last Mughal emperor, wished to be buried, but his <b>grave lies empty</b> . The exact burial place of <b>Bahadur Shah Zafar's sons and grandson</b> , who were executed by the British, is unknown.
<b>Nearby</b>	Dargah of Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki
<b>Cenotaphs</b>	Contains cenotaphs ("empty tombs") of later Mughal Emperors
<b>Festival</b>	The annual festival or procession known as <b>Phulon ki Sair</b> starts from Zafar Mahal and was started by Khawja Bhaktiyar Kaki as a protest against the British.



**Zafar Mahal**

## RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Type of Humidity	Definition	Unit of Measurement	Factors Affecting
<b>Humidity</b>	Humidity is the amount of moisture present in the air around us.		
<b>Absolute Humidity</b>	The actual amount of water vapour present in the atmosphere	grams/m <sup>3</sup>	Temperature, Location
<b>Relative Humidity</b>	Percentage of moisture present in the atmosphere compared to its full capacity at a given temperature	%	Temperature, Availability of water for evaporation (Higher the RH of air, the more it is filled with moisture)
<b>Dew Point</b>	The temperature at which saturation occurs in a given sample of air	°C	Temperature, Relative Humidity
<b>Specific Humidity</b>	Weight of water vapour per unit weight of air	g/kg	

### Why does relative humidity matter?

Relative humidity plays a significant role in how comfortable we feel in different environments. When the **relative humidity is high**, the air is already filled with moisture, and the sweat on **our skin can't evaporate**. This makes it difficult for our bodies to cool down, which can be **dangerous in hot weather**. In general, a relative **humidity of 30-60%** is considered comfortable, and environments with lower humidity may require humidifiers to increase moisture levels. On the other hand, a fan can be useful in areas with higher humidity to help move the air and promote sweat evaporation.

### What is Wet Bulb Temperature?

Wet bulb temperature is the **lowest temperature to which air can be cooled by the evaporation of water** at constant pressure, and it is a **limit beyond which humans cannot tolerate high temperatures**. It is measured by wrapping a wet cloth on a thermometer to observe the temperature at which evaporation occurs. The highest acceptable wet-bulb temperature for humans is **35°C (95°F) for six hours**, above which serious health problems can develop, even for healthy individuals.

## SWAGAT INITIATIVE

**Context:** Prime Minister will participate in a programme marking **20 years of completion** of the SWAGAT initiative in Gujarat

#### About the SWAGAT initiative:

Aspects	Details
<b>Name</b>	SWAGAT (State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology)
<b>Year started</b>	2003
<b>Purpose</b>	To act as a bridge between <b>citizens and the government by solving their grievances</b>
<b>Components</b>	State SWAGAT, District SWAGAT, Taluka SWAGAT, Gram SWAGAT, Lok Fariyad program
<b>Unique feature</b>	Helps the common man air their grievances directly to the Chief Minister
<b>Frequency</b>	Held on the fourth Thursday of every month
<b>Grievance rate</b>	<b>More than 99% of grievances submitted</b> to date have been resolved
<b>Awards received</b>	<b>United Nations Public Service Award</b> in 2010 for improving transparency

<b>Government Health Expenditure</b>	Increased from <b>1.13% (2014-15) to 1.35% (2019-20)</b>
<b>Government Health Expenditure as % of Total Health Expenditure</b>	Increased from <b>29% (2014-15) to 41.4% (2019-20)</b>
<b>Share of primary healthcare in Current Government Health Expenditure (CGHE)</b>	Increased from <b>51.3% in 2014-15 to 55.9% in 2019-20</b> . <b>National Health Policy 2017</b> where states that <b>two-thirds of public health spending</b> must be in Primary Health systems.
<b>Share of Out-Of-Pocket expenditure in Total Health Expenditure</b>	Declines from <b>62.6% in 2014-15 to 47.1% in 2019-20</b> . This shows progress towards ensuring <b>financial protection and Universal Health Coverage for citizens</b> .
<b>Per capita Government spending on healthcare</b>	<b>Doubles</b> (from Rs. 1,108 to Rs. 2,014 between 2014-15 to 2019-20)
<b>Private health insurance share</b>	Increasing
<b>Social Security Expenditure (SSE) on healthcare</b>	Increased (from <b>5.7% in 2014-15 to 9.3% in 2019-20</b> ). This increase in social security has a <b>direct impact on reducing out-of-pocket payments</b> .

## NATIONAL HEALTH ACCOUNTS ESTIMATES FOR INDIA (2019-20)

**Context:** The National Health Accounts Estimates report for India (2019-20) has been released, revealing various health outcomes.

#### Key highlights:

Key Highlights	Percentage of GDP and Significance
<b>Total Health Expenditure</b>	<b>3.6% (increased)</b>


<p><b>About National Health Accounts Estimates for India:</b> The report is produced annually by the National Health Systems Resource Centre (under Health Ministry)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Accounting framework used:</b> Internationally accepted System of Health Accounts 2011, ( recommended by World Health Organization)</li> <li>• <b>This is the 7<sup>th</sup> such report</b> ( from 2013-14 to 2019-20)</li> </ul> <p><b>National Health Systems Resource Centre</b> (est. in 2006-07; under the National Rural Health Mission) is the <b>apex body for technical assistance</b>, Strategy development and <b>capacity building</b> for the states and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)</p>
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## 2<sup>ND</sup> NORTH SEA SUMMIT

**Context:** Nine European countries have convened for a summit aimed at boosting the deployment of **offshore wind turbines** in the North Sea to make it the largest green energy centre in Europe.

#### About the 2nd North Sea Summit:

<b>Location</b>	Ostend, Belgium
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<b>Participants</b>	<b>7 EU countries:</b> Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands <b>2 non-EU countries:</b> Norway, and the United Kingdom
<b>Objective</b>	Accelerate deployment of offshore wind turbines to make the North Sea the “ <b>largest green energy centre in Europe</b> ”
<b>Targets</b>	<b>120 GW offshore wind energy</b> capacity by 2030, and 300 GW by 2050
<b>Previous Declaration</b>	The first summit in 2022 had <b>Esbjerg Declaration</b> (signed by Belgium, Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands in 2022)
<b>Key Announcement</b>	The Netherlands and the United Kingdom announced a new interconnection to link a <b>Dutch offshore wind farm to the UK</b>
<b>About Offshore wind turbines</b>	They generate electricity using <b>wind power in bodies of water</b> and are <b>larger than onshore turbines</b> , built to withstand harsh weather conditions and strong winds. The electricity generated is transmitted to the shore via undersea cables. Of the total power from wind, 93% comes from onshore systems and the rest only <b>7% offshore wind farms</b> .
<b>About the North Sea</b>	 <p>The North Sea lies between Great Britain, Denmark, Norway, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and France.</p>

### About National Generic Document Registration System

Topic	Information
NGDRS is an <b>advanced software application</b> for the <b>execution of land registration documents</b>	
<b>Initiated By</b>	Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development
<b>Developed By</b>	National Informatics Centre (NIC)
<b>Objective</b>	Ensure transparency, accountability, and reduction in time, cost, and procedures for execution of registration documents; Empower citizens by <b>enabling property valuation and online document submission</b>
<b>Compatibility</b>	Scalable, flexible, configurable, and compatible with state-specific needs
<b>Components</b>	Computerization of land record; Survey/Re-survey; Computerization of registration
<b>Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) (also called Bhu-Aadhar)</b>	Adopted by 26 states/UTs; pilot testing done in 7 more states/UTs; Part of <b>Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)</b> ; Provides <b>standardization across states</b> , easy sharing of land records, protects government land, and ensures transparency
<b>About DILRMP</b>	The Department of Land Resources is implementing DILRMP since <b>2016</b> as a <b>Central Sector Scheme for</b> - Computerization of land records; Survey/Re-survey; and Computerization of registration

### Optional:

#### Physics/ Science and Technology

- HT: [India ready to take the lead in Quantum tech \(by S&T minister\)](#)+ IE: [Quantum computers and India](#)+ BS: [Quantum leap – New mission can lead to benefits across sectors](#)

#### PSIR

- IE: [Indian and the SCO paradox](#) (by C Raja Mohan) (covered in today's CA)
- TH: [Indian diplomacy and the horses of interest, morality](#)
- BS: [Behind the 'Russia tilt' – Unpacking India's 'national interest', more than a year after the invasion](#)
- TH: [Indian diplomacy and the horses of interest, morality](#)

## NATIONAL GENERIC DOCUMENT REGISTRATION SYSTEM (NGDRS)

**Context:** The Ministry of Rural Development announced that **28 states and Union Territories in India** have adopted the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) for land records

## Agriculture

- IE: [Why urea rules India's farms](#) ( covered in [yesterday's CA](#))
- LM: [Our land records modernization initiative has a major gap to plug](#)

## Economy

- TOI: [Why Dollar's Losing Its Shine](#)
- EAC-PM: [Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister \(EAC-PM\) released a white paper India's Tryst with a Circular Economy](#)
- IE: [Self-reliance is the key. Concerted efforts are needed to address unemployment and inequality](#)
- IE: [Brain economy challenge: Technology will change the way we look at labour, capital and skills](#)

## Law/History

- TH: [Sanskrit as the official language, Ambedkar's amendment](#)

## Law

- IE: [50 years of Kesavananda Bharati case and its legacy](#)
- IE: [Which law, whose order? \(by P Chidambaram\)](#)

## Pub Ad Governance

- LM: [Will policy power India's race to space?](#)
- IE: [Legal challenge: ChatGPT debut sends policy-makers scurrying to regulated AI tools](#)
- TH: [Pending Bills, the issue of gubernatorial inaction](#)

## Botany:

- TOI: [Bengal Notifies Four More Biodiversity Heritage Sites](#)+ Th: [Botanical Gardens and Life on Earth](#)

## Sociology/ Indian Society

- TH: [The many benefits of marriage equality](#)
- IE: [Machine learning: As Ai tools gain heft, the jobs that could be at stake](#)

## State PSC

- Gujarat: PIB: [SWAGAT initiative](#)
- Tamil Nadu: FE: [Tamil Nadu passes Bill for flexible working hours](#)