



INSIGHTSIAS

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

INSTA EDITORIAL COMPILATIONS

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Table of Content:

GS1:

Art, Culture and History:

1. The Ambedkar touch in rethinking social justice policies

GS2:

Polity:

1. An anti-terror law and its interference with liberty
2. Article 370 judgment is a case of constitutional monism
3. The deep import of the Article 370 verdict
4. Questionable searches under the Money Laundering Act

International Relations:

1. Navigating the U.S.-China relationship
2. India's growing neighborhood dilemmas
3. A time-honored connect that will help bridge the Gulf

Social Justice:

1. India, disability inclusion and the power of 'by'
2. Centers Of Inclusion
3. Growth charts — WHO standards versus India crafted

GS3:

Economy:

1. The GDP surprise
2. Calibrating a strategy for India's future growth
3. India's jobs crisis, the macroeconomic reasons
4. A Missing Industrial Policy

Ecology and environment:

1. Unpacking the Dubai climate meeting
2. COP28 — many a slippery slope ahead
3. Global Goal on Adaptation and the road from Dubai
4. An uphill struggle to grow the Forest Rights Act

Agriculture:

1. Harvest the Odisha story to ensure food security

Science and technology:

1. Telecom law upgrades for a digital authoritarian state
2. An AI For The People

Disaster Management:

1. Molding the Himalayas needs caution

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

The Ambedkar touch in rethinking social justice policies

Source: The Hindu

- **Prelims:** BR Ambedkar, constitution of India, SC, Phule etc
- **Mains GS Paper I:** Modern Indian history from middle of eighteenth century until the present-significant events, personalities, issues etc

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Modern liberal ideas, capitalist development and democratic churning** have made it possible that **Dalits** are now a well-recognised social and political force — a transformation made possible under the leadership of **B.R. Babasaheb Ambedkar**

- He is known as the **Father of the Indian Constitution** and was independent India's **first law minister**.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Dr. B R Ambedkar:

- He was born on **14 April 1891** in Mhow, Central Province (now Madhya Pradesh).
- He founded the **Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923)**.
- **Mahad Satyagraha:** He led the Mahad Satyagraha in March **1927** to challenge the regressive customs of the Hindus.
- **Round table conferences:** He participated in all three round-table conferences.

Major contributions:

- **Indian constitution:** Main Architect of Indian Constitution
- **Constitutional morality:** Effective coordination between conflicting interests of different people and administrative cooperation.
- **Social Reforms:** devoted his life to remove untouchability.
- **'Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha** (Outcastes Welfare Association)-1923
- **The temple entry movement** launched by Dr. Ambedkar in **1930** at Kalaram temple, Nasik.
- **Attended** all the **three Round Table Conferences (1930-32)**.
- **In 1936:** founded the **Independent Labour Party**.
- **In 1990:** **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**, was bestowed with **Bharat Ratna**.

Few important works of Dr. Ambedkar:

- Mook Nayak (weekly) **1920**
- Janta (weekly) **1930**
- The Annihilation of Caste **1936**
- The Untouchables **1948**
- Buddha Or Karl Marx **1956**

B.R. Ambedkar's principles of social justice:

- **It would disapprove the current realm of neo-liberal economy** for its neglect of the concerns of Dalits and Adivasis.
- **It would direct the market** to be more responsible towards the worst-off social groups.
- **It would direct the state** to reduce the pitfalls and slippages now in social justice policies and make them more relevant in the present day.
- **His approach allows us to diagnose illnesses** in the social and economic order.
- **He offers ethical corrective measures** to make institutions more democratic, representative and closer to the claims and the desires of marginalized social groups.
- **The mechanism of social justice** is not radical and transformative (unlike the Marxist model)
 - **It provides moral sensibilities** to institutions and makes it responsible towards the diverse population.

Present Neo-Liberal Market:

- **The neo-liberal market** is alien to ethical values
- **It overtly celebrates the exclusive control** of few corporate bodies and businessmen over capitalist development.

- **The market enterprise is more exploitative** and closer to a crony capitalist mode.
 - **This version of the market economy** needs reforms.

What steps need to be taken to improve the inclusion of socially deprived classes?

- **The new social justice policies should be expanded** to the private economy, with a focus to democratize the working classes and to reduce poverty.
- **A substantive integration of social justice policies** in directing the prospects of the market economy would integrate Dalits and Adivasis as a part of the working classes.
 - **It will elevate their stature** as influential upholders of capitalist assets.
- **Adivasi concerns to protect their habitats, ecological order and cultural autonomy** must be addressed
 - **while endorsing the fact about the market economy's** inevitability.
- **The current phase of economic development, technological innovations and the expansion of the market economy**
 - **It should be directed** toward making Dalit and Adivasi groups as influential arbitrators in the neo-liberal discourse.
- **Newer conditions and reparation policies** should be adopted to fight the historical wrongs and social discrimination against these groups
 - **ensure their equitable participation** in the diverse spheres of economic development.
- **The new framework of social justice must** ensure that an impressive class among Dalits and Adivasis emerges as the leaders, business entrepreneurs and influencers in the economic sphere.

- **It would allow policymakers** to look beyond the conventional social justice policies that often address Dalit-Adivasi groups as the passive recipient of the state's welfare packages.
- **Dalits and Adivasis should not be identified** only as the poor and migrant working class that is dependent upon the benevolence of corporate social responsibility for their livelihood.
 - **These groups should be advanced** as the essential components of urbanization, industrial production and technological innovations.
- **More affirmative action policies are required** to democratize the niche sphere of big businesses
 - **so that the Dalit-Adivasi class** should also emerge as industrialists, market leaders and crucial influencers in the global economy.

Way Forward

- **Ambedkar emerged as a torchbearer of liberal enlightened ideas** and expected that post-colonial India would be distinct from the past and would invite Dalits and other marginalized communities to be equal shareholders in the nation's economic and political development.
 - **The modernist objectives have been partially achieved** only today.
- **Ambedkar looked upon the modern state** as the key transformative force for the emancipation of Dalits and Adivasis.
 - **However, in the neo-liberal realm**, the state has been converted as the passive associate of big business
 - **It readily deviates from its social responsibilities** and welfarist values.
- **The new agenda of social justice should be oriented** towards the leaders of the market economy, educating to adopt welfarist measures for the worst-off social groups, and making them integral to economic development.
- **Ambedkar's version of social justice would help** us to redefine capitalism as a pluralist and cooperative mode of economic order
 - **It guarantees the substantive participation of Dalits and Adivasis** in the market economy and in the associated institutions of power and privileges.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. Are tolerance, assimilation and pluralism the key elements in the making of an Indian form of secularism? Justify your answer.(UPSC 2022)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

An anti-terror law and its interference with liberty

Source: The Hindu

- **Prelims:** UAPA, POTA, TADA,, fundamental rights etc
- **Mains GS Paper II and III:** Parliament-Structure, functioning and conduct of business, fundamental rights-violation and restriction, AFSPA etc

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- The **Division Bench of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court** cleared the release of journalist Fahad Shah.
 - **Journalist has been granted bail** in three cases already
 - **The preventive detention** orders against him were quashed.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act(1967):

- **The law aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.**
- **The Act assigns absolute power to the central government**, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so.
- **It has the death penalty and life imprisonment** as the highest punishments.

Key points:

- **Under UAPA**, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged.
- **It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner**, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.
- **Under the UAPA**, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum **180 days** after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court.

What was the case?

- **He was standing trial for various offenses under**
 - Penal Code
 - Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010
 - Offenses punishable under **Sections 13 and 18** of the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) 1967**.

What was the judgment?

- **It partially set aside the order framing charge**, as it has found no grounds to charge him for any offenses other than **Section 13 of the UAPA**, and under **the FCRA**.
- **The Court offered a timely reminder** to other courts and law enforcement agencies:
 - **The vast interference with liberty permitted** under the anti-terror law requires greater, not lesser, circumspection in its enforcement.
- **On matters of substantive law(Shah's counsel argument):** The charges under **Section 18** were legally unsustainable as the State had not linked his act of publishing an article with terrorist acts punished under the law.

- **Government's response:** The article was an act of terror, as it sought to harm 'property' in the form of India's reputation.
- **The High Court ruled:** To agree with the government would flip criminal law on its head by creating an altogether new offense
 - **Treating allegations of defaming** the country as terrorism seemed like a bridge just too far to cross.
- **On matters of arrest and detention:** High Court placed before itself an important question:
 - **Does Section 43-D(5)** mathematically deny bail in every case allegations are 'prima facie true?
 - **According to the High Court:** provisions such as **Section 43-D(5)** were meant to prevent the easy release of persons such as the imaginary bomber
 - **It could not become insurmountable obstacles** preventing the release of persons such as the shepherd.
- **High Court held: Only in cases where a 'clear and present danger'** is evinced are persons taken into custody.

Issues:

- **The use of UAPA to arrest and detain individuals** in situations that are either entirely unconnected to actual incidents of violence, or individuals tangentially connected with such incidents, has been well-documented.
- **The text of terrorism offenses under UAPA is** rather vague, and when read together with the preparatory offense of **Section 18**
 - **It allows the statute to cast** an unimaginably wide net to label seemingly innocent acts

- **such as** hosting an article online as a preparatory or conspiratorial act to commit terror.
- **There are the procedural recalibrations** of the ordinary rules of the game brought about by UAPA.
 - **The latter is most apparent in Section 43-D(5) of UAPA:** It places an embargo on courts from granting bail if they find that the police materials establish the accusations as 'prime facie true'.
 - **These twin features of the UAPA regime** were what contributed to Mr. Shah's arrest and continued detention.

Way Forward

- **The anti-terror law did not extend as far as to punish alleged** defamation of the country was not a radical finding.
- **The arguments on proportionality by invoking a 'clear and present danger'** test to restrict arrests are not novel
 - **The High Court itself acknowledges** the role of prior judicial decisions such as Joginder Kumar on this point.
- **What about compensation or damages for wrongful arrest and confinement? The** accountability of the state to redress the years that the accused would never reclaim.
- **Using UAPA to present the alleged defamation** of the country as an act of terror to justify the arrest and prolonged detention of a person is only a footnote in that long, rather undistinguished history.
- **The judgment in Fahad Shah and Supreme Court of India's decision in Vernon Gonsalves:** there is no need for revolutionary turns by courts to secure personal liberty in the face of oppressive laws and their enforcement.

- **The path to hold the state accountable** can be easily chartered by those willing to do so.
- **Justice Rohinton Nariman** urged the SC to strike down “the offensive portions of the UAPA”.
- **The debate on UAPA needs to be taken beyond the validity of a few select provisions:**The law’s very purpose and scope need careful examination.
- **The Court must determine** whether the breadth and consequences of UAPA are substantially out of proportion to its declared goals.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. Naxalism is a social, economic and developmental issue manifesting as a violent internal security threat. In this context, discuss the emerging issues gest a multilayered strategy to tackle the menace of Naxalism.(UPSC 2022)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

Article 370 judgment is a case of constitutional monism

Source: The Hindu

- **Prelims:** Jammu and Kashmir-Issue, article 370, Article 3, Federalism, geographic location etc
- **Mains GS Paper II:** Importance of Jammu and Kashmir, security concerns, delimitation Commission etc

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- The Supreme Court **unanimously upheld** the actions of the government regarding abrogation of **Article 370**.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Article 370:

- The **Constituent Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir** was empowered to recommend which articles of the Indian Constitution should apply to the state.
- **The J&K Constituent Assembly was dissolved** after it drafted the state's constitution.
- **Clause 3 of the article 370** gives the President of India the power to amend its provisions and scope.

Article 35A:

- It was introduced through a **Presidential Order in 1954**, on the recommendation of the J&K Constituent Assembly.
- **Article 35A empowers the Jammu & Kashmir legislature** to define the permanent residents of the state, and their special rights and privileges.
- It appears in Appendix I of the Constitution.

Removal of Article 370:

- **It commenced with a presidential order issued** nearly four years ago.

- **Amendments were made to make applicable** the entirety of India's Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- **The State was also sundered** into two Union Territories: **J&K** and **Ladakh**.
- **It was done when the State was under President's Rule** with no elected Legislative Assembly in place.

How was Article 370 introduced?

- **The Indian Independence Act, 1947:** It allowed the Government of India Act, 1935, to serve as an interim constitution until the country adopted its own.
- **The statute permitted princely States** to accede to India by executing an instrument of accession.
- **In the case of J&K**, the instrument came with qualifications that were ultimately written into **Article 370**.
- **It stipulated that Parliament could legislate for J&K** only over matters concerning **external affairs, defense, and communications**.
- **Where Parliament intended to legislate over areas otherwise** provided for in the instrument of accession, it could do so by consulting the State government.
- **where it proposed to enact laws beyond the agreed subjects**, it required additional ratification by the State's Constituent Assembly.
- **After 1957, when J&K's Constitution came into force**, its Constituent Assembly was disbanded and replaced by a Legislative Assembly.
 - **Article 370** remained unaltered.
- **Chief drafter Gopalaswami Ayyangar:** He described the State Constituent Assembly's recommendation, as mandated by **clause (3) to Article 370**, as a "condition precedent" to any effort at abrogating the provision.
 - **After the Constituent Assembly was disbanded**, this clause had become nugatory.

How was it altered?

- **Part XIX of the Constitution, Article 367** comprises a set of general rules for interpreting the Constitution.
 - **Through this Article, the President's order** on August 5, 2019, amended with a view to transforming the existing status of J&K.

- **It was done by adding a new clause to Article 367:** It stipulated that wherever the term “**Constituent Assembly of the State**” was used in Article 370, it would now refer to the “**Legislative Assembly of the State.**”
- **The basic thrust of Article 370 was abrogated,** without complying with the precondition that Ayyangar thought obligatory.

What is the Judgement of the Supreme Court?

- **Jammu and Kashmir did not Possess Sovereignty:**
 - **There is much evidence in Article 370 and the J&K Constitution** to show that in regards to Kashmir, a merger agreement was not necessary to surrender its sovereignty.
 - **Article 370(1) applied Article 1** of the Constitution of India (where J&K was listed as a Part III State) with no modifications.
 - **Section 3 of the J&K Constitution** explicitly states that “**the State of Jammu and Kashmir is and shall be an integral part of the Union of India.**”
 - **Section 147 of the Indian constitution prohibited any amendments to Section 3,** further making the provision absolute.
- **Article 370 is a Temporary Provision:**
 - **The Constitution framers placed Article 370 with the temporary and transitional provisions contained in Part XXI.**
 - It pointed out that the **Instrument of Accession (IoA)** made it “abundantly clear” that **Article 1** which stated that “**India that is Bharat shall be a Union of States**” applied in its entirety to J&K.
- **Constitutional Validity of Proclamations Under President’s Rule:**
 - The President has the power to make “**irreversible changes, including the dissolution of the State Assembly.**”
 - **The President's powers** are kept in check by “**judicial and constitutional scrutiny.**”
- **The Constitution of J&K Stands Inoperative:**

- **It is no longer necessary for the Constitution of J&K** through which only certain provisions of the Indian Constitution applied to J&K, to exist.
- **Set up a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to Address Human Rights**

How did the Court employ a monist reading of the Constitution in the Article 370 Judgment?

- **Federalism and constitutional sovereignty:**
 - **It imagines the Union Constitution** as the sole bearer of internal and external sovereignty.
 - **Article 370** laid down an elaborate framework for the distribution of powers and authority between the Union and the State governments.
 - **By focusing on sovereignty:** The Court ends up refusing to recognise the shared sovereignty model of Article 370.
- **The contingency of the presidential power:**
 - **The Court rejects the argument that Article 370** had gained permanence after the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly
 - **The Court relies on Clause 3** to hold that **Clause 1** could be operated without the concurrence of the State government
 - **The effect of applying all the provisions of the Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir** through the exercise of power under **Article 370(1)(d)** is the same as issuing a notification under **Article 370(3)**'.
- **The President has the untrammelled power to abrogate Article 370:** ordering a total application of the Indian Constitution to the State to the effect that the State's Constitution becomes inoperative is an uncontrolled power'.
 - **It defies the logic of federalism** and constitutional democracy.

Way Forward

- **Justice Sanjay Kaul:** 'views are to be taken from the entire nation via the Parliament, as the issue leading to the reorganization affects the nation as a whole'.
- **The popular sovereignty of a State's people vis-à-vis the State** becomes subordinate to the popular sovereignty of the entire nation vis-à-vis the Union as well as the States.

- **This is worrying in the context of J&K** where the threshold for reorganizing the State was historically much higher compared to the other States.
- **By relying on a monist reading of the Constitution:** The Court has not only upheld the abrogation of Article 370 but has also put its stamp of approval on the silencing, and rendering inconsequential, of the voice of the people of the former State of J&K.
- **India's Constitution establishes a system of governance**, where power and authority are divided between the Union and the States.
 - **Political scientist Louise Tillin:** described this balance as representing a form of asymmetric federalism
 - where some States enjoy greater autonomy over governance than others
 - **A feature reflected in various constitutional provisions**, especially in **Articles 371 to 371J**.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. The banning of 'Jamaat-e - islami' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize influence of OGWs.(UPSC 2019)

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- **Mains GS Paper II:** Importance of Jammu and Kashmir, security concerns, delimitation Commission etc

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- **A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court** unanimously upheld the power of the President to abrogate **Article 370**
 - Which led to the reorganization of the **State of Jammu and Kashmir to two Union Territories** and denuding it of its special privileges.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Article 370:

- The **Constituent Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir** was empowered to recommend which articles of the Indian Constitution should apply to the state.
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How was it altered?

- **Part XIX of the Constitution, Article 367** comprises a set of general rules for interpreting the Constitution.
 - **Through this Article, the President's order** on August 5, 2019, amended with a view to transforming the existing status of J&K.
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 - **Section 3 of the J&K Constitution** explicitly states that "**the State of Jammu and Kashmir is and shall be an integral part of the Union of India.**"
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 - **The Constitution framers placed Article 370 with the temporary and transitional provisions contained in Part XXI.**

- It pointed out that the **Instrument of Accession (IoA)** made it “abundantly clear” that **Article 1** which stated that “**India that is Bharat shall be a Union of States**” applied in its entirety to J&K.
- **Constitutional Validity of Proclamations Under President’s Rule:**
 - The President has the power to make “**irreversible changes, including the dissolution of the State Assembly.**”
 - **The President's powers** are kept in check by “**judicial and constitutional scrutiny.**”
- **The Constitution of J&K Stands Inoperative:**
 - **It is no longer necessary for the Constitution of J&K** through which only certain provisions of the Indian Constitution applied to J&K, to exist.
- **Set up a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to Address Human Rights**

Issues with the Judgment:

- **It undermines the rights of States vis-à-vis the Union** even on critical issues such as statehood and division
- **It grants the President far larger powers** over States than earlier envisaged
- **It allows long-term political and territorial decisions** to be made under limited-term emergency conditions such as President’s rule.
- **This judgment negates even the right to consultation** of the State’s elected representatives.
- **The verdict has reinforced a widespread belief** that Kashmiris are resented by the rest of India and their voice is repeatedly silenced.
- **Neither the main nor the concurring judgments** mention these events in their summaries of incidents prefiguring the presidential orders.
- **Instead of acknowledging the enormity** of the administration’s actions
 - **The judges accepted the alleged security threat** to the Amarnath Yatra of which nothing has been heard since
- **Security has also been accepted as a reason** for the delay in restoring statehood, despite the administration’s claim that the situation is much improved.

- **Justice S.K. Kaul's 'epilogue'** does take note of human rights abuses in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - **But it appears, like the main judgment,** to ignore the violation of human and political rights in and since August 2019.

Impact on Jammu and Kashmir:

- **Available data show a slowly rising curve of violence in Jammu and Kashmir** after the Union Home Ministry adopted policies of purge and censorship
 - **accompanied by deterioration** in the India-Pakistan ceasefire agreement.
 - **The data show a sharp curve** of diminishing violence during the peace process of 2002-13.
- **The rise in violence between 2016-2018** that the Attorney-General and Solicitor-General referred to might have been more effectively countered by the policy of the A.B. Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh administrations
 - **By improving democratic practice** on the ground in the State while engaging in peace talks with Pakistan.
- **Validation of the extreme clampdown of August 2019** and the actions taken under its cover
 - **It runs the risk of an upsurge in violence** if or when a semblance of democracy is restored.

Way Forward

- **The verdict's validation of the removal of autonomy, and administrative bias** towards developers and industrialists from outside the former State, can only harden alienation in the Valley.

- **The Union administration could start a new peace process:** It could restore statehood, and hold elections.
 - It could return freedom of expression.
 - **But it would need to be prepared for an outpouring of anger** that has thus far been damned by fear of arrest or worse
- **Longer term, it would need to return to the blueprint** for a solution that was developed by A.B. Vajpayee and Mr. Singh.
 - **That blueprint included the disarmament of armed groups and demilitarization** of the area
 - A soft border with autonomy for both **Jammu and Kashmir** and its **Pakistan-held parts**
 - **An option of joint development** for the whole of the former princely State.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. The banning of 'Jamaat-e – islami' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize influence of OGWs.(UPSC 2019)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

Questionable searches under the Money Laundering Act

[Source: The Hindu](#)

- **Prelims:** PMLA, Enforcement directorate, Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs), FATF etc
- **Mains GS Paper II and III:** Executive and Judiciary, Money laundering related issues.

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- The enforcement of the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002** has caused much consternation especially after its unusual interpretation by the Supreme Court in **Vijay Madanlal Choudhary and Ors vs Union of India and Ors.(2022)**.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Money laundering:

- Money Laundering refers to converting illegal earned money into legitimate money.
- *The government does not get any tax on the money because there is no accounting of the black money.* So Money

Laundering is a way to hide the illegally acquired money.

- **The term “money laundering”** originated from the Mafia group in the United States of America.
 - Mafia groups have made huge amounts of extortion, gambling, etc. and this money is shown as legal money.
- In India, “**money laundering**” *is* popularly known as **Hawala transactions**.

Working of Money laundering:

- A case of Money laundering ostensibly appears to be an above-board financial transaction, however, the criminality underneath is hidden by a three stage process:
- **The first stage:** when the crime money is injected into the formal financial System. This is called ‘**placement**’;
- **The second stage:** Money injected into the system is layered and spread over various transactions with a view obfuscating the tainted origin of the money. This process is called ‘**layering**’;
- **Third and the final stage:** Money enters the financial system in such a way that original association with the crime is sought to be obliterated so that the money can then be used by the offender or person receiving it as clean money. This is called ‘**Integration**’.

PMLA Act:

- The PMLA was introduced in 2002, ostensibly to tackle the problem of money laundering.
- It has been subject to several amendments including **2005, 2009, 2012**.
- There are **mainly 3 objectives of PMLA**:
 - **To prevent and control** money laundering.
 - **To confiscate and seize** the property obtained from the laundered money.
 - **To deal with any other issue** connected with money laundering in India.
- It was enacted in response to India's **global commitment (including the Vienna Convention)** to combat the menace of money laundering.
- Money laundering has become a matter of **international concern** and India has undertaken several international commitments in this regard.

Vijay Madanlal Choudhary and Ors vs Union of India and Ors.(2022):

- **The Supreme Court limited its application** to “on the wrongful and illegal gain of property as a result of criminal activity relating to a scheduled offense”.
- **It held that “the property must qualify the definition of “proceeds of crime” under Section 2(1)(u) of the 2002 Act”.**
- **The authority of the Authorized Officer** to prosecute any person for the offense of money-laundering gets triggered only if there exists proceeds of crime within the meaning of **Section 2(1)(u) of the 2002 Act** and further it is involved in any process or activity”.
- **The Court held that “Not even in a case of existence of undisclosed income and irrespective of its volume**
 - **The definition of ‘proceeds of crime’ under Section 2(1)(u)** will get attracted
 - **unless the property has been derived or obtained** as a result of criminal activity relating to a scheduled offense.
- **The law thus declared by the Court, binds on all under Article 141:**“If the offense so reported is a scheduled offense.
 - **The property recovered by the Authorized Officer** would partake the color of proceeds of crime under **Section 2(1)(u) of the 2002 Act**
- **The Court declared:** "Absent existence of proceeds of crime, as aforesaid, the authorities under the 2002 Act cannot step in or initiate any prosecution”.

Court's stand on ED:

- **The chronology of events reflects rather poorly**, if not negatively, on the ED's style of functioning.
- **The ED, mantled with far-reaching powers** under the stringent Act of 2002, must be seen to be acting with utmost probity, dispassion and fairness.
- **The ED failed** to exercise its powers. The Court added,
 - **No consistent and uniform practice** seems to be followed

Pavana Dibbur vs The Directorate of Enforcement, 2023:

- **It addressed key aspects of the PMLA:**
- **Section 3:** unless proceeds of crime exist, there cannot be any money laundering offense
- **To constitute any property as proceeds of crime**, it must be derived or obtained directly or indirectly by any person as a result of criminal activity relating to a scheduled offense
 - **Because, the existence of "proceeds of crime"** is "sine qua non" for the offense under Section 3 of the PMLA.

Issues with role of ED:

- **The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957** is not covered by the Schedule of the PMLA Act and offenses in relation thereto are not "Scheduled Offenses".
- **The ED in these States is conducting inquiries** with respect to the alleged illegal mining of sand, a minor mineral under the control of States and not the Union.

- **The Mines Act** has extensive provision to curb evasion and enables penalty and prosecution for any illegal extraction of minerals.
 - **But that power** is with the State government.
- **In Jharkhand, the ED purportedly registered** an enforcement case against an MLA of the ruling party and his associates based on certain **first information reports (FIR)** filed by some persons.
 - **Court delivered the judgment** transferring the police cases to the CBI.
 - **This raises questions about the abuse of authority** by central investigating agencies and the abuse of the process of court being permitted all along.

Way Forward

- **Federalism is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution of India,** but its foundation is being slowly chipped away through such processes.
- **If mines and minerals are not part of “scheduled offenses”** and in a case where “proceeds of crime” are non-existent
 - **Courts should not allow such investigations** to be carried out by the CBI and the ED.
- **Even as India spearheads global coordination,** ushering greater oversight on the domestic virtual digital assets ecosystem could provide much-needed assurance to everyday users as well as regulators.

- **A progressive regulatory framework** will instill the animal spirit in India's innovation economy and establish India's virtual digital assets leadership.
 - **A lot like how Rolls-Royce** rekindled the British manufacturing industry in the early 20th century.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. Discuss how emerging technologies and globalization contribute to money laundering. Elaborate measures to tackle the problem of money laundering both at national and international levels(UPSC 2021)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

Q. India's proximity to the two of the world's biggest illicit opium-growing states has enhanced her internal security concerns. Explain the linkages between drug trafficking and other illicit activities such as gunrunning, money laundering and human trafficking. What counter-measures should be taken to prevent the same?(UPSC 2018)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

Navigating the U.S.-China relationship

Source: The Hindu

- **Prelims:** Current events of international importance(Indo-Pacific, Regional forums, etc
- **Mains GS Paper II:** Multipolar World, Significance of Indo-Pacific for India, Indo-Pacific Region, Free and open Indo-Pacific, International organizations.

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- The **U.S. President** and his **Chinese counterpart** held a **summit** in **San Francisco** on the sidelines of the **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference**.
- **Aim:** To resurrect a bilateral relationship
 - The **US** and **China** established diplomatic ties in **1979**.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Phases in the US-China relationship:

- **19th century:** American missionaries began to arrive in China and began to generate empathy for the nation.
- **During World War II:** US backed Chinese nationalists in their fight against Japanese occupation.
- **The US tried to isolate China from 1949:** when the communists prevailed over the nationalists.
- **The 1970s:** It saw the US and communist China come together to counter the Soviet Union.
- **The 1980s:** Beginning of an economic engagement that turned into a huge commercial and technological partnership from the 1990s.
- **21st century:** some in the US began to see China as a potential threat.
 - America believed that China's growing economic prosperity would inevitably lead to greater democratization of its society.
- **US-China rivalry has intensified in the past two years covering:**
 - trade
 - technology
 - naval activities in the South China Sea
 - diplomacy.

How did relations sour between the U.S. and China?

What did the meet accomplish?

- **The decision to restore military-to-military communications** between the two nuclear weapons states
 - **It is critical to prevent** potentially catastrophic miscalculations.
 - **The respective defense forces** will now resume regular exchange of information under the **Military Maritime Consultative Agreement that started in 1998.**

Taiwan Factor:

- **Taiwan's status remains a bone of contention** between the US and China.
- **China is pursuing the goal of its reunification** into the mainland.

- **Under the “one-China” policy**, the US accepts China as the only legitimate government of China
- **It does not endorse Taiwan** as part of that country, and provides concrete security guarantees under the Taiwan Relations Act.

Recent Contention:

- **China condemned Ms. Pelosi’s travel** as constituting a serious violation of the status quo.
- **China fired ballistic missiles** off the Taiwan coast and conducted military drills as a deterrence exercise
- **The US House Speaker** received Taiwan’s President in California, the highest American official to do so on U.S. soil.

Where does the trade dispute stand?

Steps by USA:

- **The US President issued an executive order in 2021:** It blacklisted **59 defense and surveillance** companies under the so-called “**Chinese military-industrial complex**”.
- **The Trump administration in 2019** blacklisted several **Chinese Artificial Intelligence (AI)** start-ups for alleged human rights abuses in Xinjiang.
- **The Biden administration enacted in 2022, further extended in 2023,** on exports of **advanced computer chips** for the manufacture of semiconductors.
 - **The curbs bar U.S. and non-U.S. firms,** whose products contain **American technology,** from supplying hardware and software to specific Chinese companies

- **It prohibits American citizens and firms** from collaborating with Chinese chip makers, except under special permission.
- **Rationale:** To undercut China's strides in AI and supercomputing, which have powered its supersonic and nuclear weapons capability
- **The US views it as detrimental** to its security interests.
- **Executive order Biden issued in August** prohibiting U.S. investments in the high-tech arena.

Response by China:

- **It clamped a ban on gallium and germanium exports**, raw materials used in the production of microchips and weapons systems.
 - **These are listed in the U.S. inventory** of materials critical for economic and national security.
- **Curbs were imposed on exports** of various types of **graphite**, a vital mineral for the production of **electric vehicle batteries**
 - **China has dominance** in the global supply chain.
- **The government further tightened its anti-espionage** and data protection laws on the grounds of strengthening national security
 - **It forced firms to designate “for China” digital tools**, set up China specific email ids and hive-off country exclusive servers.

Way Forward:

- **The escalation of the bilateral dispute was epitomized** in the muscular approach that the U.S. adopted to shore up global hegemony
- **China's quest for world military and technological supremacy** that has crystallized under President Xi.
- **There is in evidence a greater emphasis on exploring pragmatic** avenues of coexistence through de-risking the two economies, rather than disengagement or 'decoupling'.

- **This is a significant shift**, and the only hope in the short term that the superpowers will climb down from their hard positions.
- **Stability in bilateral relations:** The recent meeting between the two heads of states certainly imply that there is a move toward bringing in more stability into bilateral relations.
- **The US's three-pillar approach towards China — “invest, align, compete:** This showcases the intent to deal with the threat posed by China without sliding into an inadvertent conflict.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. With respect to the South China sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affirm the need for safeguarding maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and overflight throughout the region. In this context, discuss the bilateral issues between India and China.(UPSC 2014)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

India's growing neighborhood dilemmas

Source: The Hindu

- **Prelims:** Current events of international importance(India-Bangladesh relations, SAARC, Teesta water agreement etc
- **Mains GS Paper II:** Bilateral, regional and global grouping involving India, Significance of Indo-Pacific for India etc

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Paper by K. Subrahmanyam: Titled “India’s Relations with her Neighbors”:** It was presented at a seminar and published by Strategic Analysis, the flagship journal of the **Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), in 1987.**

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Dilemmas faced by India in neighborhood:

- **The rise of politically anti-India regimes** in South Asia such as the one in the **Maldives** where the new government is effectively asking Indians to pack up and leave.
 - **A Khaleda Zia-led government in Dhaka**, which goes to the elections early next year, could turn out to be ideologically anti-India.
- **Structural dilemma**: resulting from China's growing influence in South Asia.
- **The growing entanglement of the region's smaller states** in the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** and other Chinese projects.
- **China's outreach to South Asian states** when the rest of the international community abandons or avoids them for normative or other reasons
 - **Example**:
 - Taliban-led Afghanistan
 - Military-ruled Myanmar
 - Crisis-hit Sri Lanka.
- **The overall impact of China's outreach** is far higher than that of India primarily as a function of deeper pockets.
- **China's desire to settle border disputes** with its neighbors (minus India), as seen in the case of Bhutan, is also a strategy to win over the region.

What will be the impact?

- **Chance that we will be geopolitically locked** in within an unfriendly South Asia.

Causes behind the dilemmas India faces in the neighborhood:

- **Regional geopolitical architecture** characterized by five overlapping elements.
- **Contemporary South Asia is characterized** by a diminishing presence of the United States, which, for a long time, was a geopolitical constant in the region.
- **For India, the US's presence in South Asia** was not always advantageous

- **Its departure is definitely disadvantageous**, in particular given how China has filled the power vacuum created by Washington's departure.
- **The aggressive and stupendous rise of China** has come as a 'geopolitical buffer' for the smaller states in the region which have become adept at using the 'China card' in their foreign policy assertions.
 - **India's neighbors are keen to practice strategic autonomy**; there is little appetite to do so vis-à-vis China.
- **The least interconnected regions** in the world, and poor, it is natural that the inhabitants of the region will tilt towards a power with the ability to cater to their material needs.
 - **India's ability to meet those needs** is limited
 - **China** is that power.
- **India, for the most part, has had a normative and political approach** towards the region, with the states in the region acquiescing, rebelling, and falling in line given the absence of choices.
 - **China has changed that India-centric calculus** by offering itself as the no-frills non-normative alternative.
- **For much of its independent existence India** enjoyed unrivaled primacy in the region.
 - **The downside of being the resident power in South Asia**
 - **All its attendant cultural, ethnic, refugee** and other spillovers — is felt more sharply than being the primary power.
 - **China, on the other hand, is the region's non-resident power: It** benefits from the absence of complications — ethnic, linguistic, religious — arising out of being a resident power.

- **Policy stance of India:** It exhibits a deep-seated status quo bias when it comes to dealing with the region's domestic politics and the multiplicity of actors/power centers therein.
 - **The one-track policy** generates path-dependencies often alienating other centers of power or opposition leaders.
 - **Example:** Bangladesh
- **Strong belief in India that South Asia minus Pakistan** would be amenable to Indian geopolitical reasoning which prompted an attempt to deal proactively with South Asia without Pakistan.
 - **This policy has not exactly panned out** that way India imagined.
- **India approached the neighborhood** with the idea that India's special relationship with the region rooted in culture, soft power, history and ethnicity
 - **Believing that It would help the country deal** with the neighborhood better than those without intimate knowledge of the region, namely China.

Way Forward

- **Old South Asia where India enjoyed primacy no longer exists:** Southern Asia' which has pretty much replaced South Asia
 - **China has emerged as a serious contender** for regional primacy.
 - **Realistic and pragmatic framing** would help India deal with the reality as it is rather than working with the mental frame of Indian primacy which is long gone.
- **India must proactively pursue the involvement of friendly** external actors in the region.
 - **It is the only way to deal with the impending possibility** of the region becoming Sino-centric.

- **Indian diplomacy must be flexible enough** to engage multiple actors in each of the neighboring countries.
 - **In a similar vein, dealing with whoever is in power** is a good policy, but engaging only those in power is bad policy.
- **India needs more hands for its diplomatic pursuits;** The glaring shortage of sufficient diplomats to implement the foreign policy of a country of **1.4 billion people** will prove to be India's single most crucial challenge going forward.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. Q. Project 'Mausam' is considered a unique foreign policy initiative of the Indian Government to improve relationships with its neighbours. Does the project have a strategic dimension? Discuss. (UPSC 2015)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

A time-honored connect that will help bridge the Gulf

Source: The Hindu

Prelims: Current events of international importance, west Asia, Saudi-Iran conflict, Arab League, OPEC, OPEC+, G20 etc

Mains GS Paper II: Bilateral, regional and global grouping and agreements involving India or affecting India's interests.

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Sultan of Oman** is visiting **India** on a state visit.
 - This is his **first visit to India** after taking over in January 2020.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

India-Oman Relations:

- The two countries across the **Arabian Sea are linked by geography, history and culture and enjoy warm and cordial relations**, which are attributed to historical maritime trade linkages.
- **The Sultanate of Oman is a strategic partner of India** in the Gulf and an important interlocutor at the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Arab League and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) fora**.
- **Gandhi Peace Prize 2019** was conferred on Late HM Sultan Qaboos in recognition of his leadership in strengthening the ties between **India & Oman and his efforts to promote peace in the Gulf region**.
- **Defense Relations:**
 - **Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC):**
 - The JMCC is the highest forum of engagement between India and Oman in the field of defense.
- **Military Exercises:**
 - **Army exercise:** Al Najah
 - **Air Force exercise:** Eastern Bridge
 - **Naval Exercise:** Naseem Al Bahr
- **Economic & Commercial Relations:**
 - Institutional mechanisms like **Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) and Joint Business Council (JBC)** oversee economic cooperation between India and

Oman.

- India is among **Oman's top trading partners.**
 - India is the **2nd largest market for Oman's crude oil exports** for the year 2022 after China.
 - India is also the **4th largest market for Oman's non-oil exports for the year 2022 after UAE**, US and Saudi Arabia and 2nd largest source of its import after UAE.
- **Indian companies have invested in Oman in sectors** like iron and steel, cement, fertilizers, textile etc.
- **India-Oman Joint Investment Fund (OIJIF)**, a JV between State Bank of India and State General Reserve Fund (SGRF) of Oman, a special purpose vehicle to invest in India, has been operational.
- **Indian Community in Oman:**
 - **There are about 6.2 lakh Indians in Oman**, of which about 4.8 lakh are workers and professionals. There are Indian families living in Oman for more than **150-200 years**.

Oman's role:

- **Oman is the closest** neighbor to India in the Arabian Gulf region.
- **With key Omani ports abutting the coastline along** the Arabian Sea as well as the Gulf of Oman leading into the Persian Gulf and towards the Gulf of Aden
 - Oman's location is of utmost strategic importance to India.
- **Along with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, Oman completes the trio of key strategic partners of India in the Gulf region.

- **During the Cold War era, and even thereafter:** The Arab world was largely ambivalent towards India and was often soft and supportive of Pakistan
 - It was Oman which kept its doors open to India.
- **Oman has pursued a foreign policy** which is based on the twin strands of moderation and mediation
 - **It includes a policy of deliberate neutrality** in dealing with regional issues and conflicts.
- **It has carefully balanced its close relations** with the western powers and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries
- **It has a pragmatic approach to neighboring Iran**, maintaining that the Straits of Hormuz will not be closed.
- **Even during the Persian Gulf crisis in 2019**, when the United States and Iran were on the brink of a military conflict
 - It was Oman which played a key role in diffusing tensions.
- **Oman's key role in the Iran nuclear deal in July 2015** is well documented and acknowledged too.
- **During the GCC-Qatar diplomatic stand-off**, Oman refused to join Saudi Arabia and other countries in breaking diplomatic ties with Qatar
- **Much before the Abraham Accords were signed between Israel, the UAE and Bahrain** in 2020: The Israeli Prime Minister had made a surprise visit to Oman.

India-Oman strategic partnership

- **Oman is a crucial pillar of India's West Asia policy**, with their multi-faceted engagement increasingly taking on a more strategic shape in recent decades.

- **The India-Oman strategic partnership** was signed during the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Oman in 2008
- **It is based on twin pillars** of mutual trust and shared interests.
- **Oman was one of the few countries** to have been invited by India to its G-20 presidency as a guest nation.

Defense and security engagement:

- **It forms a key pillar of this strategic partnership** and is governed by a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in 2005.
- **Oman is the first Gulf country** with which all the three wings of India's defense forces hold joint exercises.
- **Since 2012-13, an Indian naval ship** has remained on duty in the Gulf of Oman for **anti-piracy operations**.
- **Oman has allowed overflights/transit** by Indian military aircraft too.
- **Both countries have cooperated** in ensuring maritime security in the Indian Ocean region.
- **During the Persian Gulf crisis in 2019:** Indian Navy launched 'Operation Sankalp' to ensure the safe passage of Indian flagged ships which most often operated off the coast of Oman.
- **The MoU on Duqm Port** is a historic landmark in our security cooperation
 - It provides
 - basing facilities
 - Operational Turn Round and other logistics facilities to Indian naval ships operating in the region.

Trade and commerce:

- **It forms important pillar** of engagement.
- **Bilateral trade during FY 2022-23 reached \$12.388 billion.**
- **There are over 6,000 India-Oman joint ventures in Oman**, with an estimated investment of **over \$7.5 billion.**
- **India was the second largest market** for Oman's crude oil exports for the year **2022 after China.**
- **In October 2022, India and Oman launched the Rupay debit card** in Oman

- **India's initiative of promoting** digital public infrastructure (DPI) in the world.

Steps taken for further cooperation:

- **India and Oman are increasing engagement** in strategic areas such as space cooperation
 - **MoU on this was signed during the** PM's visit.
- **The possibility of an agreement on joint exploration** of rare earth metals, vital to modern electronic equipment, could add strength to the partnership.
- **The proposed India-Middle-East-Europe Connectivity Corridor (IMEEC)** infrastructure project to link India to Europe across West Asia could also see Oman playing an important role.
- **There is a proposal from the South Asia Gas Enterprise (SAGE)**, a private consortium based in India, to lay a **1,400 km long deep-sea pipeline** from Oman to India for the transfer of gas.

Way Forward

- **As a part of its broader global outlook and its outreach** in the extended neighborhood, India is seeking deeper engagement and collaboration in West Asia, of which Oman is an important pillar.
- **Security challenges in the region have a ripple effect in India** and, therefore, any instability in the region has a direct bearing on the safety and security of millions of Indians working there
 - India's energy security and its steadily growing trade relations.
- **Apart from being India's oldest strategic partner** in the region and closest neighbor, Oman is an integral part of all important groupings in the region;
 - the GCC
 - the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
 - the Arab League.

- **Its ability to manage rival ideologies** and power games in the region makes it vitally important to India.
- **Both countries consider themselves as ambassadors of peace and enjoy goodwill across ideologies in the world.**
 - **Oman is India's gateway to West Asia.**

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. How will I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA) grouping transform India's Position in global politics?(UPSC 2022)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

India, disability inclusion and the power of 'by'

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Prelims: Current events of national importance(Different social service Schemes, abala, sabala, All India Women's Conference, NFHS, Rights of persons with disabilities act,2016, digital India, census 2011 etc)

- **Mains GS Paper II & III:** Social empowerment, development and management of social sectors/services etc.

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- Globally, **1.3(one point three) billion** people live with some form of disability.
- Of them, **80% live in developing** countries; further, **70%** of them live in rural areas.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Disability:

- It is an umbrella term, covering **impairments**, activity limitations, and participation restrictions.
- **An impairment** is a problem in body function or structure;
- **An activity limitation** is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action
- **A participation restriction** is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations.

Constitutional Frameworks for Disabled in India

- **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 the state list of the **Seventh Schedule** of the constitution.

Issues faced by Disabled people:

- **Current systems are designed** for persons without disabilities and end up being exclusionary to people with disabilities, resulting in:
 - higher instances of poverty
 - lack of access to education and opportunities

- informality and other forms of social and economic discrimination.
- **The current employment scenario** is limited, providing fewer jobs for persons with disabilities
- **Current employment scenario perpetuates stereotypes** that create further barriers for people with disabilities to access the labor market.
- **The limited access to education** and employment.
 - **Some developmental schemes**, too, exclude them.
- **They are viewed as objects of charity** and not as persons with agency with an ability to participate in decision-making processes.

Importance of inclusive disability people:

- **The Inclusion of persons with disabilities** into the economy can help boost **global GDP between 3% to 7%**(International Labour Organization (ILO))

India and disabilities people:

- **In India, the Central and State governments** have various schemes for persons with disabilities
- **A unique id for persons with disabilities (UDID) card**, established as part of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (2016).

What Steps need to be taken?

- **Awareness** to ensure last-mile connectivity of the benefits enumerated for people with disabilities by the government
- **Capacity-building of community leaders** who can advocate for this at the grass-roots level.
 - **This is especially important in rural areas**, where persons with disabilities tend to face greater challenges when compared to their urban counterparts
- **A bottom-up approach to disability inclusion** is crucial to build productive pathways out of poverty
- **Ensure that persons with disabilities** are recognised as active members of society and the economy.
- **The private sector: It** holds a key in promoting the employment of persons with disabilities.
- **Engagement of employers' federations**, including those representing small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as with trade unions

- **It has shown to have great potential** to promote the employment of persons with disabilities.

The SPARK project:

- **The ILO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**, in collaboration with the **Women's Development Corporation in Maharashtra**, are implementing the SPARK project.
- **Persons with disabilities** were put in the lead
- **They are being identified** from the villages, and trained as Disability Inclusion Facilitators (DIFs).
- **The DIFs engage with the community**, persons with disabilities, caregivers of persons with disabilities, women from self-help groups and other stakeholders to raise awareness about disability inclusion and barriers to inclusion.
- **The DIFs identify women** with disabilities and mainstream them in existing self-help groups for social and economic development
 - **where these women** have been able to access funds to start an enterprise.
- **It has been able to bring an attitudinal shift** towards persons with disabilities, right from the societal to administrative levels.

Way Forward

- **Disability as an identity and entity** exists at the intersection of multiple vulnerabilities — social, economic and gender — with each facet requiring careful consideration when conceptualizing action for equity.
- **Disability inclusion is rooted in assuring the rights of persons** with disabilities and recognising the economic benefits of inclusion.
- **The goal of social justice cannot be achieved** without the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all spheres of development, starting with rural areas and rural resilience.
- **Evidence shows a bi-directional link to poverty, nutrition, and hunger**, and as a consequence, there needs to be more inclusive opportunities and employment in rural areas.
- **A fundamental shift in commitment, solidarity**, financing and action is critical.
- **By proper implementation and operationalisation of laws** and policies can we bring about positive changes in the lives of the disabled in India.

- **To ensure this we need to focus on four things** — disaggregated data, accessibility, finances and awareness.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment.(UPSC 2022)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

Centers Of Inclusion

[Source: Indian Express](#)

- **Prelims:** Special Marriage Act, 1954), LGBTQ, Directive Principles of State Policy, Article 14, 21 etc
- **Mains GS Paper II:** Government policies and interventions for development of various sectors, weaker sections of society and interventions for their development etc

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- The **All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), New Delhi**, recently announced its plans to open a **Centre of Excellence for transgender healthcare in 2024**.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

LGBTIQ+:

- LGBTQ is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning.
- These terms are used to describe a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Difficulties Faced by LGBTIQ+ Community:

- Heterosexuality
- In-equality & Violence
- Deprived in Rights
- Isolation from society
- Conflict in Family itself
- Racial Discrimination

Issues faced by LGBTQ Community:

- **Transgender people have been historically discriminated** against and marginalized — pathologized and labeled mentally diseased.
- **They have been subject to unscientific** and inhuman practices like “conversion therapy” by medical practitioners.
- **The community lacks access to healthcare** because of structural barriers like exclusionary infrastructure, lack of services and trained and sensitized healthcare workers.
- **State policies in primary and secondary healthcare** have made no effort to ensure access for the community.
- **Mental healthcare continues** to be dominated by tertiary institutes that have failed to provide for gender-diverse people.
- **For gender-affirming procedures**, some private providers have stepped in to tap into the lucrative market of sex reassignment surgeries
 - **Government hospitals, including AIIMS**, have largely stayed away.

How rights of LGBTQ Community were restored in India?

- **Navtej Singh (2018) case:** The top court read down **Section 377 IPC** and decriminalized consensual sexual conduct

- **Article 14:** It created an unreasonable classification for same-sex persons under Article 14
- **Article 21:** Violation of bodily autonomy under Article 21.
- **Article 15:** Any classification that perpetuated stereotypes was violative of Article 15.
- **Sexual orientation** implicated both negative and positive obligations on the state.
- **NALSA (2014):** The Court acknowledged the importance of sequential rights arising from 'gender identity' (employment, health care, education, equal civil and citizenship rights).
- **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act:**
 - It re-emphasised the role of governments in holistic healthcare services to the community:
 - providing sex reassignment surgery
 - hormone therapy
 - counseling services
 - HIV sero-surveillance
 - mental health services.
 - **It asked for a review of the medical curriculum** and medical research that caters to transgender persons.
 - **It called for facilitating trans peoples'** access to hospitals and healthcare institutions.

- **The Transgender Persons Rules, 2020:** state governments shall ensure the provision of separate wards and washrooms for transgender people in hospitals by 2022.
 - **States to undertake the sensitisation** of healthcare professionals
 - **Publishing of an equal opportunity policy** and notification of a complaint officer by every establishment.
 - **It suggested that at least one a government hospital** in a state should provide safe and free gender-affirming surgery and related services.

Way Forward

- **The plan to open a Centre of Excellence at AIIMS-Delhi** is a welcome step.
 - **It, however, would fulfill some needs of some transgender** people and should not be considered a panacea for all ills.
- **The Transgender Act makes it mandatory** for a transgender person to undergo surgery to change their gender within the binaries of male and female.
 - **This is in contravention of the NALSA judgment:** Any insistence on sex reassignment surgery for declaring one's gender is illegal.
- **There is a misplaced focus on tertiary care** and surgical procedures.

- **This is pushing transgender people** to undergo surgery to get a binary gender marker.

- **Certain documents in India, such as the passport,** still do not have the provision of transgender as a gender marker.
- **The aim should be to cater to felt needs for surgery** rather than coercing people into it to gain legal recognition.
- **One center cannot cater to the needs of transgender people across India:** All government medical colleges and hospitals in India should provide gender-affirming services.
 - **This must be in addition** to quality, inclusive, and accessible primary and secondary healthcare.
- **Institutions aiming to be Centers of Excellence** must comply with legal necessities like transgender-inclusive wards, washrooms, equal opportunity policy, and grievance mechanisms.
- **The medical curriculum needs revision** to serve the needs of gender-diverse people.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. Constitutional Morality' is rooted in the Constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of 'Constitutional Morality' with the help of relevant judicial decisions. (UPSC 2021)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

Growth charts — WHO standards versus India crafted

[Source: The Hindu](#)

- **Prelims:** Current events of national importance (Different social service Schemes, WHO, micronutrients, MGRS, Anemia FAO, GHI, NFHS-5, ICDS, Mid-day meal scheme etc)
- **Mains GS Paper I & II:** Social empowerment, development and management of social sectors/services related to Health.

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- India uses the globally accepted **World Health Organization (WHO) Growth Standards** to measure **malnutrition**.
- **The WHO standards** are based on a **Multicentre Growth Reference Study (MGRS)** that was conducted in **six countries** between **1997 and 2003 (Brazil, Ghana, India, Norway, Oman and the United States)**.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Malnutrition:

- **Malnutrition** is the condition that develops when the body is deprived of **vitamins, minerals** and other **nutrients** it needs to maintain healthy tissues and organ function.
- Malnutrition occurs in people who are either **undernourished** or **over nourished**.

Importance of nutrition during adolescence period:

- **Adolescence is a pivotal period** of cognitive development.
- **It improves the access to nutrition** during this “second window of opportunity of growth”.
- **It compensates for any nutrient deficiencies** acquired during early developmental stages in the girl child.
- **Adolescent health** is a significant indicator of women’s labor force participation in India in the long term.

- **As better nutrition improves** every young girl's prospect to participate in productive activities.

Determinants of undernutrition are:

- Food intake
- Dietary diversity
- Health
- Sanitation
- Women's status
- Poverty.

Measures of childhood undernutrition are based on anthropometric standards such as:

- **Height-for-age** (stunting/chronic undernutrition)
- **Weight-for-height** (wasting/acute undernutrition)

Multicentre Growth Reference Study (MGRS):

- **It was conducted in six countries between 1997 and 2003**
 - **Brazil, Ghana, India, Norway, Oman and the United States.**
- **The purpose was to determine the pattern of growth** (from birth to five years) of children who did not face any known deficiencies in their environments.
- **The MGRS took a prescriptive approach**, with the specific aim of setting growth 'standards' (how children ought to grow
 - **provided they have a healthy environment**) and not growth 'references' (how children of the reference group grow).
- **The sample for India in the MGRS** was drawn from a set of privileged households living in **South Delhi**
 - **children who met all the eligibility criteria** for the study including
 - having a favorable growth environment
 - being breast-fed

- having non-smoking mothers.

Difference between MGRS and Other Surveys:

- **An adequate number of equivalent samples** are difficult to find in large-scale surveys in India given the high levels of inequality as well as the underrepresentation of the rich in these datasets.
- **For instance:** Among children (**six-23 months**) in households of the highest quintile in National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 (2019-21)
 - **only 12.7% meet** the requirements of a ‘minimum acceptable diet’ as defined by WHO.
 - **Almost all mothers in the MGRS sample** had completed more than **15 years of education (in 2000-01)**
 - **54.7% of women in NFHS-5** had completed **12 or more years** of schooling.
- **The study norms of the WHO-MGRS are** different from these prevalence studies.
 - **For example:** MGRS included a **component of counseling** to ensure appropriate feeding practices
 - It is missing in the **NFHS** or **Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey**.
- **The MGRS sample** was for the purpose of setting prescriptive standards, most of the sampling concerns are resolved.
- **Difference in genetic growth potential of Indians** with respect to others and the **influence of maternal heights** on child growth.
 - **Maternal height** is a non-modifiable factor for the growth of her child.
 - **Low average maternal heights** are a reflection of the intergenerational transmission of poverty and poor status of women

- **therefore**, a measure of an environment of deprivation.
- **Replace**: An appropriate **indicator** of a deficient environment, such as **stunting**,

Why WHO-MGRS seems to be more appropriate?

- **A number of countries with similar or even poorer economic conditions**, including those in the South Asian region, have shown higher improvements in stunting prevalence using the same WHO-MGRS standards.
- **Regional differences within India**, both in the prevalence of stunting as well as increases in adult heights
 - **It indicates that some States** such as **Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu** and **Kerala** are achieving much faster reductions than others.
 - **Gene pools shift** at the population level with greater socio-economic development
 - **Demonstrated by the growing average heights** of countries such as **Japan**
 - **It refutes the immutability** of genetic potential.

What are the issues India is facing currently?

- **Inappropriately high standards** leading to a misdiagnosis of the situation
- **Resultant potential overfeeding of misclassified children** under programmes of the government to address undernutrition
 - **Resulting** in an increase in **overweight** and **obesity**.
- **Increasing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** in India.
- **Dietary gaps** in children

- **Poor coverage of schemes** such as mid-day meals and supplementary nutrition in anganwadis

Way Forward

- **The quality of the meals under the schemes** must be improved to ensure that they are not cereal-heavy
 - **Include all nutrients**, and contribute to dietary diversity.
- **Recommendations such as including eggs in meals** for children and pulses in the Public Distribution System must be acted upon urgently.
- **Along with improving diets**, multiple interventions such as better sanitation, access to health care, childcare services and so on are required for better nutritional outcomes.
- **Using the appropriate standards** is important for international comparisons and intra-country trends
 - **An advantage that would be ok lost** with any new country-specific standard.
- **Indian Council of Medical Research** has constituted a committee to revise the growth references for India.
 - **Committee has recommended a detailed rigorous study** to be conducted across the country to examine child growth with the purpose of devising national growth charts, if necessary.
- **Acquiring newer, and more precise information on child growth** is a welcome move
 - **Considering our high aspirations** of reaching development to every last person by 2047

- **It seems logical to stick to the aspirationally high but achievable standards suggested by the WHO-MGRS.**

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. Can the vicious cycle of gender inequality, poverty and malnutrition be broken through microfinancing of women SHGs? Explain with examples.(UPSC 2021)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

The GDP surprise

Source: Indian Express

- **Prelims:** Indian Economy(GDP, BOP, GVA, Economic reforms etc
- **Mains GS Paper III:** Indian economy and issues related to planning, mobilization of resources, Effect of liberalization on the economy etc

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- The **Indian economy** expanded by a staggering **7.6(seven point six) percent in the second quarter** of the ongoing financial year.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

International Monetary Fund (IMF) projections:

- **India is currently the fifth largest economy** in the world in U.S. dollar terms
- **It projects that India** will be the third-largest economy by 2027.
- **India has registered the highest growth rate** amongst G20 countries, surpassing China's for two successive years.
- **IMF's historical data shows** that India took six decades (1947 to 2007) to cross the one trillion-dollar GDP mark in 2007 (\$1.2 trillion).
 - **It took India just seven years** to become a \$2 trillion economy in 2014.
 - **It added another \$1.2(one point two)trillion** by 2021.

- **If India hits the IMF's projected figure of \$5.2(five point two)trillion by 2027: It would be adding \$2 trillion in just six years.**

Growth status:

- **The manufacturing sector grew at a robust 13.9(thirteen point nine)percent in the second quarter**
 - compared to **4.7(four point seven)percent** in the first quarter.
- **Growth in the second quarter was at a nine-quarter high.**
 - **The contribution of the sector reached a nine-quarter high of 2.5 percent.**

Reason for upstick in manufacturing sector:

- **Policy initiatives like:**
 - Government capital expenditure
 - PLI scheme (ensuring export competitiveness in specific sectors)
 - **Formalization drives** in both MSMEs (Udyam)
 - Labour force (e-shram)
 - Stabilization in incremental credit deployment.

The corporate sector:

- **The bottom line has grown** in the second quarter (at 31 percent)
 - **It is in line with the first quarter** growth of 30 percent.
- **FMCG sector: A barometer of rural consumption**
 - **It reported revenue growth of 5 percent**

- **EBIDTA (earnings before interest, depreciation, tax and amortization) and PAT (profit after tax) grew by 16 percent and 15 percent respectively.**
- **Private consumption decelerated to 3 percent**, perhaps reflecting the impact of higher inflation.

Sectors reporting higher credit rating upgrades to downgrade (U/D) ratios in the current year:

- **Auto components** and ancillaries
- Gas distribution utilities
- Telecommunication services, hotels, restaurants and leisure, retailing
- NBFCs

Agriculture:

- **It grew steadily** during the pandemic
- It grew by **1.2(one point two)percent** in the second quarter
- **A weak monsoon** has led to lower-than-normal kharif crop output this year.
 - **It has delayed the harvesting** of kharif crops and, in turn, affected the rabi crop sowing.

- **Within the farm sector: The share of “allied activities' ' (this includes dairy, fisheries, etc)**
 - **It may serve as a counter-cyclical** buffer in the agriculture ecosystem
 - **It has increased from 34.6(thirty four point six)percent in 2011-12** to 46 percent in 2021-22.
 - **It reduces dependence** on farm income.
- **The banks have started financing** the entire agri value chain.
- **Agri loans by banks have increased by 15.4 percent in 2022-23**, from around **10 percent** in the past two years.
 - **In 2023-24**, they have, on average, increased by **17 percent**.

Service sector:

- The growth moderated to **5.8(five point eight)percent** due to low growth in trade, hotels, transport and communication.
 - **This sector has the maximum** weightage in services.
- **Service sector has expanded by 9 percent**, which is much higher than the average **1.3 percent** decline in the second quarter of every fiscal year till the pandemic.

Way Forward

- **Government consumption and investments** registered healthy growth.
 - **Investment as measured by gross fixed capital formation** increased by 11 percent
 - **Driven by strong capital expenditure by the Centre (49 percent of budgeted target)**
 - **States (32 percent of budgeted)** in the first half of the current fiscal.

- **If there is one risk that foresees** it is the possibility of much softer global growth.
- **Major economies have witnessed** further tightening of financial conditions.
 - Global trade continues to face significant headwinds.

- **The economy is unlikely to slow down in line** with other major economies of the world as the government continues to undertake reforms.

- **Policymakers need to temper their optimism** by taking a slightly longer view with a wider angle — appreciating the fast-changing geopolitical underpinnings of economic policy making.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. Do you agree that the Indian economy has recently experienced recovery ? Give reasons in support of your answer.(UPSC 2021)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

Calibrating a strategy for India's future growth

Source: The Hindu

- **Prelims:** Indian Economy(GDP, BOP, GVA, IMF, World Bank, RBI, Economic reforms etc
- **Mains GS Paper III:** Indian economy and issues related to planning, mobilization of resources, Effect of liberalization on the economy etc

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- India's growth in **2023-24** is currently projected by the **RBI** at **7%**
 - **The IMF** and the **World Bank** have pegged it at **6.3(six point three)%**.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

International Monetary Fund (IMF) projections:

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- **If India hits the IMF's projected figure of \$5.2(five point two)trillion by 2027: It would be adding \$2 trillion** in just six years.

Present Economic Scenario of India:

- A growth of **7.8(seven point eight)%** and **7.6(seven point six)%** in the first two quarters of 2023-24, respectively
 - **A broad-based recovery** in the second quarter
- **India is likely to realize the RBI's currently projected growth** of **7%** in this fiscal year.
- **In the medium term, the IMF has projected** an annual growth of **6.3(six point three)%** up to **2028-29**.

Signs of De-globalisation:

- **Many ongoing geopolitical conflicts** such as the **Russia-Ukraine war** and the **Israel-Hamas war** have created a climate of sanctions
 - **It has led to breaks in supply chains** as well as disruptions in international settlements
 - **Due to non-access** to systems such as **SWIFT** for the sanctioned countries.
- **World real GDP growth** has fallen, leading to reduced demand for global exports.
- **Many countries including India** want to reduce their dependence on imported petroleum due to supply uncertainties and price volatility.

India's Exports Case:

- **Exports experienced a sharp acceleration** in the share of GDP during **2003-04 to 2008-09**.
- It peaked at **25% in 2013-14**.
- **In 2022-23**, it was **about 23%**, having fallen to a trough of **18.7(eighteen point seven)%** in **2019-20** and **2020-21**.

Areas of concern:

- **Fall in the household sector's savings** in financial assets which declined to **5.1(five point one)% of GDP** in **2022-23** from an average of **7.8(seven point eight)%** during the pre-COVID-19 period of **2015-16 to 2019-20**
- **This fall consisted of 2.2(two point two)% points of increase** in change in gross household financial liabilities and **0.5(zero point five)% points fall** in change in gross household financial assets.
 - **These changes may be temporary** post-COVID-19 responses.
- **It will pose a significant risk** to India's growth potential
 - **since it is the surplus household sector financial savings** that become available to the government and the corporate sector to draw resources
 - **To meet their investment demand** in excess of their own savings.

Gross fixed capital formation (GFCF):

- **Savings are converted into gross fixed capital formation (GFCF)** by adding **net capital inflows** and deducting change in stocks, valuables, and discrepancies.

- **The estimated nominal investment rate, that is GFCF relative to GDP, was 29.2(twenty nine point two)% in 2022-23.**
 - **The deflator of capital goods** is lower than that of all goods.
- **Using the five-year average of the relative magnitude of the two deflators:**
The nominal investment rate of nearly 29% would provide a real investment rate of about **33%**.
- **It needs to be increased by 2% points** to provide investible resources amounting to 35% of GDP
 - **Enabling a growth of 7% at an Incremental Capital-Output Ratio (ICOR) of 5**, which was its value in 2022-23.
 - **If the ICOR is lower**, achievable growth would be higher.

Employment scenario:

- **The large potentially employable population** seeking jobs in the presence of progressively more labor-saving innovations and technologies.
- **According to United Nations population projections:** The share of India's working age population is projected to peak at about **69 % in 2030**
 - **Its overall dependency ratio** would be at its lowest at **31.2(thirty one point two)%**.
- **Employment growth is critically dependent on GDP growth** and the structure of output.
- **The growth rate of the working age population** is projected to progressively **fall** from **1.2(one point two)% in 2023-24** to **0% in 2048-49**.
- **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)(2023):** The worker population ratio, showing the number of employed persons in the population above 15 years of age

- **It increased to 51.8(fifty one point eight)% from 44.1(forty four point one)% in 2017-18**, depicting an average increase of 1.5% points per year.
- **Non-agricultural growth will have to be high enough** to absorb labor released from agriculture which is estimated at **45.8% in 2022-23** by the PLFS.
- **Facilitating absorption of productivity-enhancing technologies** including **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Generative AI** would add to overall growth.

India's commitments:

- **India has committed to certain targets to reduce carbon emissions** in view of global climate concerns.
- **In the COP26 Summit, 2021**, India had committed to reducing total carbon emissions by one billion tonnes between **2021 to 2030** and achieving the target of **net zero emissions by 2070**.
- **India's own initiatives include the Green Grids Initiative (GGI)** and **One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG)**.
- **India is placing an emphasis on the use of electric vehicles** and ethanol-based and hydrogen fuels.

Way Forward

- **Climate-promoting technological** changes may reduce the potential growth rate.
 - **This adverse impact can be minimized by emphasizing** service sector growth which is relatively climate friendly.
- **To sustain growth close to its potential:**It is important to ensure that the combined fiscal deficit and debt to GDP ratios are brought down to 6% and 60%, respectively
 - **The burden of interest payments** relative to revenue receipts is kept within acceptable limits.

- **In the next two years, a growth rate of 6.5% seems feasible:** This represents, partially, a recovery from the low growth rate in the COVID-19 period.
- **Over the medium term, India's growth performance will be adversely affected** by many factors, both domestic and external.
 - Raising the savings and investment rates
 - Improving the skill acquisition of the young entrants to the labor market
 - Adopting a technology mix which is employment friendly
 - **India must focus** to achieve a growth rate of **7% to 7.5%**.
- **Policymakers need to temper their optimism** by taking a slightly longer view with a wider angle — appreciating the fast-changing geopolitical underpinnings of economic policy making.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. Do you agree that the Indian economy has recently experienced recovery? Give reasons in support of your answer. (UPSC 2021)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

India's jobs crisis, the macroeconomic reasons

Source: The Hindu

- **Prelims:** Current events of national importance (Different social service Schemes, unemployment, MGNREGA)
- **Mains GS Paper II & III:** Social empowerment, schemes for vulnerable sections, development and management of social sectors/services.

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- There are many **indications** everywhere that India continues to be going through a **jobs crisis**.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Unemployment:

- **National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO)** defines employment and unemployment on the following activity statuses of an individual:
 - Working (engaged in an economic activity) i.e. 'Employed'.
 - Seeking or available for work i.e. 'Unemployed'.
 - Neither seeking nor available for work.
 - The first two constitute the labour force and unemployment rate is the percent of the labour force that is without work.
- **Unemployment rate = (Unemployed Workers / Total labour force) × 100**
- Unemployment occurs when a person who is actively searching for employment is unable to find work.
- **Unemployment is often used as a measure of the health of the economy.**
- The most frequent measure of unemployment is the **unemployment rate**, which is the **number of unemployed people divided by the number of people in the labour force**.

Types of Unemployment in India:

Types of employment that prevail in an economy(such as India):

- **Wage employment** which is a result of labor demanded by employers in their pursuit of profits.
- **Self-employment** where labor supply and labor demand are identical, i.e The worker employs herself.
 - **All jobs are wage labor**, but all wage labor cannot be called jobs.

Indian economy:

- **The Indian economy is characterized** by the presence of both open unemployment (out of work job-seekers) as well as high levels of informal employment
- **It consists of the self-employed** as well as casual wage workers.
 - The last is also called “**disguised unemployment**”
 - **Being similar to open unemployment: It** indicates a lack of adequate employment opportunities in the formal sector.
- **The lack of opportunities** is reflected by a more or less stagnant employment growth rate of salaried workers in the non-agricultural sector in the last four decades.

Reason for constraints in the labor demand of the formal sector?

- **The labor demand in the formal non-agricultural sector** is determined by:
 - **Firms in the formal sector** hire workers to produce output for profit, labor demand depends on the amount of output that firms are able to sell.
 - **Under any given level of technological development,** labor demand in the formal sector rises when demand for output rises.
 - **Labor demand depends on the state of technology** that dictates the number of workers that firms need to hire to produce one unit of output.
 - **Introduction of labor-saving technologies** enables firms to produce the same amount of output by hiring a lower number of workers.

Employment growth rate:

- **It is determined by the relative strength of two factors:**

- **The output growth rate**
- The labor productivity growth rate (growth rate of output per worker).
- **If labour productivity growth rate does not change**, higher output growth rate increases employment growth rate.
- **Policies that promote higher economic growth** would also achieve higher employment growth.
 - **If the labor productivity growth rate rises**, employment growth rate falls for a given output growth rate.
- **In India, the employment growth rate of the formal and non-agricultural sector** remained unresponsive despite a significant rise
 - **In the GDP growth rate**
 - **The value added growth rate** during the 2000s as compared to the decade of the 1980s and 1990s.
- **The lack of responsiveness of employment growth rate** to changes in output growth rate reflects a phenomenon of jobless growth.
- **It indicates a strong connection** between labor productivity growth rate and output growth rate.

Jobless growth:

- **It is based on:**
 - **The tightness of the connection between** output growth
 - **The labor productivity growth.**
- 1. **The tightness of the connection between output growth:**
 - **The responsiveness of labor productivity** growth rate to output growth rate is **weak**.

- **Jobless growth emerges exclusively** on account of **automation** and the introduction of **labor-saving technology**.
 - **Employment growth rate** would necessarily increase if output growth rate happens to increase.
 - **Under weak responsiveness of labor productivity**, the positive effect of GDP growth rate on employment would dominate over the adverse effect of labor-saving technologies.
- 2. The labor productivity growth(case of India):**
- **The responsiveness of labor productivity growth rate** to output growth rate is high.
 - **The positive effect of output growth rate** on employment fails to counteract the adverse effect of labor-saving technologies.
 - **Employment growth rate** cannot be increased simply by increasing GDP growth rate.

Kaldor-Verdoorn coefficient:

- **It reflects the extent to which labor productivity growth rate** responds to output growth rate.
- **India's non-agricultural sector** is characterized by a higher than average **Kaldor-Verdoorn coefficient**, as compared to other developing countries.
- **It is this distinct form of jobless growth** that makes India's macroeconomic policy challenge qualitatively different from other countries.

Keynesian revolution in macroeconomics:

- **It highlighted the role of aggregate demand** as the binding constraint on employment.

- **Fiscal policy was perceived to increase labor** demand by stimulating output.
- **The developing countries that inherited a dual economy** structure during their independence, confronted additional constraints on output.

The Mahalanobis strategy:

- **It** identified the availability of capital goods as the binding constraint on output and employment
 - **putting forward** the policy for heavy industrialisation.

Government Initiatives:

Way Forward

- **The employment challenge can no longer be met** only through more rapid GDP growth.
 - **A separate policy focus** is needed on employment in addition to the focus on GDP growth.
- **Employment policies** will need both demand side and supply side components.

- **For example: In** India firms find it easier to automate due to a lack of adequate skilled labor
- **Increasing the quality of the workforce** through better public provisioning of education and health care, as well as bridging the skills gap, are important.
 - **On the demand side**, direct public job creation will be needed.
- **Financing expenditures while maintaining debt-stability** requires the reorienting of the current macroeconomic framework in a significant way
 - **including increasing the direct tax to GDP ratio** by reducing exemptions and improving compliance
- **A more imaginative use of macro-policy** to pursue a constructive employment agenda.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. How globalization has led to the reduction of employment in the formal sector of the Indian economy? Is increased informalization detrimental to the development of the country?(UPSC 2016)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

A Missing Industrial Policy

[Source: Indian Express](#)

- **Prelims:** Make In India(MII), PLI, NIP, GDP, Protectionist policy etc
- **Mains GS Paper II:** Government policies and interventions for development of various sectors and issues arising out of them etc
- **ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS**
 - The government has put the **new industrial policy (NIP '23)** on hold.
 - A draft had been circulated for **consultation** a year ago.
 - The **Make in India** campaign was launched in **2014**.
 - It is a very different policy package from the dogma of **self-sufficiency** that India embraced in the **1970s**.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Make in-India Programme

- **Make in India aims to transform the country into a leading global manufacturing and investment destination.**
- It is being led by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India.
- **It is an open invitation to potential investors** and partners across the globe to participate in the growth story of 'New India'.
- Make In India has **substantial accomplishments across 27 sectors under Make in India 2.0** which include strategic sectors of manufacturing and services as well.

Objectives:

- To **attract foreign investment for new industrialisation** and develop the already existing industry base in India to surpass that of China.
- Target of an **increase in manufacturing sector growth to 12-14% per annum** over the medium term
- To **increase the share of manufacturing sector in the country's Gross Domestic Product from 16% to 25% by 2022**
- To **create 100 million additional jobs by 2022.**
- To **promote export-led growth.**

Four Pillars:

- **New Processes**
- **New Infrastructure**
- **New Sectors**
- **New Mindsets**

Focus sectors:

Issues With Make in India(MII):

- **Make in India (MII) does not, bring back recollections** of the license raj, self-sufficiency, import-substituting industrialisation.
 - **Fears have been raised about the manner in which MII** is being implemented in some sectors
 - **particularly by raising tariff duties** to provide protection to encourage the setting up of domestic industry.
- **Fears of protectionist tendency** spreading to other sectors may be exaggerated.
- **On average, a mobile phone made on our shores has around 80-85 percent** of imported content (India Cellular and Electronics Association, 2022).
- **India's labor market research** points towards the presence of low-paying, subdued productivity, and mostly informal jobs in the unorganized sector

What steps need to be taken?

- **A large home market is not a substitute** for being competitive in exports.

- Every country that has “taken off” before us has been export competitive.
- **Made in India is a branding strategy to promote manufacturers** born out of Indian factors of production — land, labor, capital, entrepreneurship, technology, etc.
 - **It can only succeed** on the back of an effective MII operation.
- **Industrial policy over and above PLI for sectors** such as toys, readymade garments and footwear, to name a few, needs articulation as well.
- **Industrial policy in a labor abundant country** with mediocre educational attainments and skills is necessary to shape productive job creation for the abundant factor.
- **Job creation for our abundant factor, especially women**, is key, and that is only possible with labor-intensive manufacturing.

National Manufacturing Policy (NMP, 2011) and MII:

- **It sought to raise the contribution of manufacturing in GDP** from the **stagnant 15 percent** since the beginning of the **1980s** to at **least 25 percent** and to create **100 million** additional jobs.
- **It aimed “to transform India** into a global design and manufacturing export hub”. In other words, MII for the world.

MII and production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme:

- **PLI scheme is to attract investments** in key sectors and cutting-edge technology
- **It ensures efficiency and brings economies** of size and scale in the manufacturing sector
- **It makes Indian companies and manufacturers** globally competitive”.

Issues with Protectionist Policy In the 1970s and 1980s:

- **It created shortages, black markets, and rampant rent-seeking**, all in the name of the poor and distributive justice.
- **Licensing of cars, scooters, telephones, and several other sectors** only enriched producers and not the target consumers, who had no recourse.
 - **The producers who benefitted from the protection** actively lobbied for the regime’s longevity.

Way Forward

- **The narrative of jobless growth has stuck** because reasonable quality jobs with some social protection have been a conspicuous absence.
- **Over 99 percent of India’s 63 million MSMEs** are in the unorganized sector with very little flexibility for productive job creation.
 - Their hand-to-mouth existence is not a recipe for jobs or scale.

- **China's example suggests the influence of scale** in manufacturing for more and more jobs.
- **In the absence of data, policy** making is like shooting darts blindfolded.
- **The former Chief Economic Advisor, Kaushik Basu:** economic policymaking should contain both an intellect (to interpret data) and a moral compass to shape a better world.
- **In the absence of high frequency data on PLI**, either on value added or jobs generated, the latter ought to be employed in abundant measure.
- **Whenever NIP is next released**, it will be well advised, to continue India's drive to excel in labor-intensive sectors.
- **For the masses, the good old manufacturing sector** is still the best bet.
 - **With industrial policies gaining currency** even among erstwhile "freethinking" institutions and individuals, it is an opportunity for us.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. Faster economic growth requires increased share of the manufacturing sector in GDP, particularly of MSMEs. Comment on the present policies of the Government in this regard.(UPSC 2023)

MARKS)

(200 WORDS, 10

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

Unpacking the Dubai climate meeting

Source: [The Hindu](#)

- **Prelims:** Current events of national importance, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Nipah virus, The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) etc
- **Mains GS Paper I & II:** Development and management of social sectors/services related to Health and education etc

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- The **28th annual Conference of the Parties (COP28)** to the **United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change** will take place in **Dubai**.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Relevance of COP:

- **The COP remains the central place** where the machinery of global climate governance gets built.
- **All countries have a voice at COPs**, questions of equity and vulnerability are more likely to be placed on the table.

Devastating weather events of 2023:

- Extreme heat in North Africa and Europe
- Wildfires in Canada and Hawaii
- Floods in India and Libya
- Drought in the Horn of Africa.
- Land and ocean temperatures increases
- Antarctic sea ice decreased

Global Stocktake

- The **first** Global Stocktake (GST)
- It is a key part of the Paris Agreement machinery.
- **The GST** is at the heart of a **five yearly** ‘ambition cycle’, which consists of:
 - country pledges for climate action
 - A global assessment of progress through the GST
 - Renewed country pledges.
- **It assesses aggregate (not individual country) progress** in mitigation, adaptation and support (finance, technology and capacity).
- **The GST findings:** Greenhouse gas emission pathways are not on track to limit warming to the Paris targets of 2°C or 1.5°C.

Challenges to GST:

- **Developing countries:** GST must look at past efforts and bring accountability for the failure of many developed countries, consistent with equity
- **Developed countries argue that developing countries** will account for the bulk of future emissions and the GST should focus on limiting emissions going forward.

What does the GST do?

- GST calls for greater ambition
- It calls for enhanced implementation of pledges.
- **It focuses on actions countries** can and should take now versus uncertain future statements of intent for future decades.

What should GST do?

- **GST should inform and drive the next round** of bottom-up national pledges — Nationally Determined Contributions — mandated by 2025.

The case of Fossil Fuels:

- **India has been among those advocating** a broad focus on all fossil fuels versus a narrow focus on coal.
 - As was included in prior COPs.
- **Coal is the most polluting.**
 - Addressing climate change requires addressing all fossil fuels.
- **Oil and gas** are much larger sources of energy in the **developed world** and critical to **petrostates** such as **Dubai**
- **India** depends more on coal.

Way Forward

- **Diplomats at the COP are tasked** with addressing an ever-more urgent problem under challenging conditions for global cooperation.
- **To give implementation concrete form, the COP is likely to include language** that calls for countries to triple renewable energy and double energy efficiency
 - **Ideas that were notably included** in the recent **G20 Delhi Leaders' Declaration.**

- **Adaptation has often been the neglected dimension of climate negotiations:** COP28 is an opportunity to correct this, because a ‘Global Goal on Adaptation’ is to be agreed, setting unified, consistent targets for enhancing resilience and adaptive capacity.
- **Establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund, agreement:** This COP is tasked with advancing progress.
 - **In a pre-negotiation:** A fragile consensus was won on several issues:
 - **Who will pay into the fund** – developed countries are ‘urged’ and developing countries are ‘encouraged’
 - **who will receive** – the vaguely worded ‘particularly vulnerable’ countries.
 - **The World Bank was agreed as an interim host of the fund,** but under strict governance guidelines to provide a greater say for recipient countries.
- **The GST is careful to call for ambition** not only in action but also support for those actions, notably finance.
- **By COP28, the discussion has shifted to a concrete assessment** of needs to support mitigation and adaptation, with numbers hovering in the low trillion.
- **The stakes for countries from COPs are consequential,** in terms of climate impacts, fossil fuel energy politics, and competitiveness in emergent energy technologies.
 - **All this will not be resolved in Dubai,** but it will be an important marker in the slow unfolding of global climate politics.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. Besides being a moral imperative of the Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary precondition for sustainable development.” Analyze.(UPSC 2021)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

COP28 — many a slippery slope ahead

Source: The Hindu

- **Prelims:** Current events of national importance, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Nipah virus, The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) etc
- **Mains GS Paper I & II:** Development and management of social sectors/services related to Health and education etc

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- All 198 signatories to the 28th United Nations' Conference of the Parties (COP28) adopted a “transition away” from “all fossil fuels” as opposed to only coal, as was agreed upon at COP26, in Glasgow.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Relevance of COP:

- The COP remains the central place where the machinery of global climate governance gets built.
- All countries have a voice at COPs, questions of equity and vulnerability are more likely to be placed on the table.

Devastating weather events of 2023:

- Extreme heat in North Africa and Europe
- Wildfires in Canada and Hawaii
- Floods in India and Libya
- Drought in the Horn of Africa.
- Land and ocean temperatures increases
- Antarctic sea ice decreased

Global Stocktake

- The first Global Stocktake (GST)
- It is a key part of the Paris Agreement machinery.

- **The GST** is at the heart of a **five yearly** ‘ambition cycle’, which consists of:
 - country pledges for climate action
 - A global assessment of progress through the GST
 - Renewed country pledges.
- **It assesses aggregate (not individual country) progress** in mitigation, adaptation and support (finance, technology and capacity).
- **The GST findings:** Greenhouse gas emission pathways are not on track to limit warming to the Paris targets of 2°C or 1.5°C.
- **The global stocktake covers** mitigation, adaptation, financing and other support to developing countries
- **A report of technical deliberations and a synthesis report** had been prepared as inputs to the COP.
- **Based on the global stocktake review at COP28**, countries would be required to submit raised emissions reduction targets by **mid-2025 for finalization at COP30**.

Challenges to GST:

- **Developing countries:** GST must look at past efforts and bring accountability for the failure of many developed countries, consistent with equity
- **Developed countries argue that developing countries** will account for the bulk of future emissions and the GST should focus on limiting emissions going forward.

What does the GST do?

- **GST** calls for greater ambition
- It calls for enhanced implementation of pledges.
- **It focuses on actions countries** can and should take now versus uncertain future statements of intent for future decades.

The global stocktake input report:

- **It conveyed that the window for restricting global heating to 1.5(one point five)°C** above pre-industrial levels is rapidly closing.

- **Global average temperature rise is already dangerously close to that limit**
 - **It has already touched it on many days this year.**

Fossil fuels:

- **Fossil fuels, responsible for around 75%** of all greenhouse gasses
 - **About 90% of global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions took center stage at COP28 for the first time ever in climate COPs.**

GST Draft:

- **The 1.5°C target would require “deep, rapid and sustained” reduction in global emissions of 43% by 2030 and 60% by 2035 relative to 2019 levels**
 - **Reaching net-zero CO₂ by 2050, with global emissions expected to peak around 2020 or latest by 2025.**
- **The initial draft** text drew mixed responses, especially over phase-down or out of fossil fuels
- **The second draft** gave only a bullet list of options that countries “could” take towards emissions cuts, including
 - **“reduction” of fossil-fuel production and use**
 - **underplaying financial support** from developed countries.
- **Small island states** called the text a death sentence
- **African countries said** they would not leave without assurances on funding
- **The European Union** threatened to walk out saying the **1.5°C target** could not be attained with such a text.
- **The draft called for “transitioning away” from fossil fuels**, which several countries and observers suggested be read as signaling the end of the fossil fuel era.

Issues with the draft:

- **It has loopholes that could prolong production** and use of fossil fuels
- **It favored the industry as well as rich developed countries** with advanced technologies.
- **While calling for a phase-down of “unabated” coal power**, the door was left open for
 - “low-carbon fuels”
 - “low-emission” technologies
 - “low-carbon hydrogen”
 - “transitional fuels,”
 - They are widely used in Europe and the United States to describe natural gas)
 - These terms are with very loose definitions
- **It made special mention of carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS)** which has not achieved commercial viability and whose eventual emissions savings are unknown.
- **The emission reductions and shift to clean energy:** The draft did not adequately refer to equity or common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR)
- **This draft did not take the issue of financial support** by developed countries further, causing much anguish to climate vulnerable countries.
- **No fresh targets were mentioned in the draft**, not even for the new Loss and Damage fund formally set up on the first day and gathering pledges for a **meager \$470 million.**

Positive takes from the draft:

- **The draft expressed concern that the earlier commitment of \$100 billion per year by 2020, however inadequate, had not been met.**
- **It repeated the global stocktake reports' estimation that**
 - **developing countries needed about \$5.8-\$5.9 trillion for the pre-2030 period**
 - **with adaptation alone requiring \$215-\$387 billion per year**
 - **clean energy transition requiring about \$4.3 trillion per year, both until 2030.**

Way Forward

- **The delegate from Samoa, representing the small island states, followed by Africa, chiefly criticizing the lax attitude towards fossil fuels and the lack of financial support announced.**
- **The COP28 Declaration has left almost all the problems where they were before.**
 - **Other than recording a decision to “transition away” from fossil fuels**
 - **noting the broad global target for higher emissions reduction to achieve the 1.5°C goal**
 - **Nothing much of substance has been gained at COP28.**
- **A road map towards new targets in 2025 was not drawn up.**
 - **Financial assistance was not scaled up.**
- **The Global Goal on Adaptation was left half-baked.**
 - **A number of other documents were not finalized or approved.**
- **The fossil fuel industry went back happy, as did the developed countries which successfully dealt yet another blow against inter-nation equity, and have again escaped putting serious funds on the table.**

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. Besides being a moral imperative of the Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary precondition for sustainable development.” Analyze.(UPSC 2021)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

Global Goal on Adaptation and the road from Dubai

Source: The Hindu

- **Prelims:** Current events of national importance, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Nipah virus, The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) etc
- **Mains GS Paper I & II:** Development and management of social sectors/services related to Health and education etc

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- **The 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Dubai**
 - It was notable in terms of stopping the lackadaisical approach of the **international community** to the adaptation concern

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Relevance of COP:

- **The COP remains the central place** where the machinery of global climate governance gets built.
- **All countries have a voice at COPs**, questions of equity and vulnerability are more likely to be placed on the table.

Devastating weather events of 2023:

- Extreme heat in North Africa and Europe
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- Floods in India and Libya

- Drought in the Horn of Africa.
- Land and ocean temperatures increases
- Antarctic sea ice decreased

Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA):

- It was established under the **Paris Agreement to enhance climate change adaptation** by increasing **awareness** of and **funding** towards countries' adaptation needs in the context of the **1.5/2°C** goal of the **Paris Agreement**.
- **The draft text addresses critical issues:**
 - Climate-Induced Water Scarcity Reduction.
 - Climate-resilient food and Agriculture Production.
 - Strengthening Resilience Against Climate-Related Health Impacts.

Main target in the GGA:

- **Parties to the Paris Agreement** having “conducted up-to-date assessments of climate hazards
- **Climate change** impacts and exposure to risks
- **Vulnerabilities and have[ing] used** the outcomes of these assessments to inform their formulation of national adaptation plans
- **Policy instruments**, and planning processes and/or strategies”, by **2030**.

Challenges in the implementation of GGA:

- **By 2027, all the Parties have to establish** multi-hazard early warning systems, climate information services for risk reduction and systematic observation
 - **To support improved** climate-related data, information and services.
 - **A significant point is** whether it will advance adaptation.

- **A comprehensive review of experiences from the Millennium Development Goals** found that globally agreed goals do not trickle down easily from the global to the national level.
 - **National conditions, including administrative capacity and economic development**, were identified alongside adequate support as key influencing factors for the implementation of a global goal.

Measuring GGA:

- **Its ambition or implementation level** cannot be simply aggregated based on countries' national pledges.
- **The GGA framework has** launched a **two-year work programme** on indicators for measuring progress achieved towards the targets mentioned in GGA draft decisions.
 - But it does not currently mention who will develop them, or how.

Potential role of universal indicators:

- **In a global context of scarce public funds** and competing priorities, the idea of spending in those adaptation activities would not pose much difficulty if their results can be fairly measured and compared.
- **The idea of developing a standardized metric** is being supported by international donors and the national budget managers
 - **It would help them in applying** this to all sorts of adaptation projects.
- **After dimension of climate change problem mitigation** is working with one relatively simple and universal metric of CO2 equivalents
 - **It can be applied across specific contexts** to measure impacts in an easily comparable format.

COP Financing:

- **The COP28 Draft Decision:**
 - **The adaptation finance gap is widening: It amounts to highlighting the widening gap** between the estimated costs of meeting a given adaptation target and the amount of finance available.
- **The COP26's urge to developed countries** to double overall adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025 was repeated in the Draft Decision.
- **Estimates made on the basis of updated NDCs** or national adaptation plans indicate a figure of **\$71 billion per year from now to 2030.**
- **The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries** have admitted that their combined mitigation and adaptation finance flows fell short of the annual **\$100 billion to \$83.3 billion in 2020.**

Way Forward

- **The climate change regime has been largely mitigation centric;** rich countries do not gain much as the benefits of adaptation are local
 - **mitigation projects** generate benefits globally and the availability of low-cost mitigation options in developing countries.
- **Buchner(Climate Policy Initiative, Venice, 2011).** : A split between mitigation and adaptation finance is 95:5.
- **Self-reporting made by finance providers indicates:** There has been a trend of increasing international adaptation finance to developing countries in recent years, reaching **\$28.6 billion in 2020**
 - **The share of adaptation** in total climate finance to developing countries was **34% in 2020**, still far behind mitigation finance (**Adaptation Gap Report, 2022**).

- **The GGA is an encouraging development** as it contains a number of developments that are very useful for the cause of adaptation.
 - **It falls woefully short in terms of treating adaptation** on a par with mitigation
 - **It lays stress on holding the increase** in the global average temperature well below 2° C and 1.5° C essential for ensuring the continued availability of the largest number of adaptation options
- **GGA adds greater levels of mitigation** that will reduce the need for additional adaptation efforts.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. Describe the major outcomes of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). What are the commitments made by the India conference? (UPSC 2021)

I (200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

An uphill struggle to grow the Forest Rights Act

[Source: The Hindu](#)

- **Prelims:** UNESCO, SC/ST, Forest Rights Act (FRA) etc
- **Mains GS Paper I and II:** Conservation of Environment, Environmental impact assessment, FRA-positives and negatives etc

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- **In 2006, Rajya Sabha** endorsed the **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act**, enacted by the **Lok Sabha**.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Forest Rights Act:

Advantages of the Act:

- **It recognises the rights of the STs** because of their overall backwardness.
- **The illegal tree-felling and poaching** have come down following the stringent implementation of rules in the 'protected areas'.
 - Most forest dwellers acknowledged this fact.

Issues with the Act:

- **Ceiling of four hectares permitted under the Forest Rights Act (FRA):**
The majority of the forest dwellers claimed land measuring not more than one acre.
- **The rejection rate** of the other traditional forest dwellers was two times more than the STs.
 - In the case of the STs, the reasons were attributed to fresh encroachments
- **Claimed lands being on 'paisari bhoomis':** wasteland and forest lands which have not been notified as protected forests or reserved forests) or revenue lands
- **Multiple applications** made in a single family.
- **In the case of other traditional forest dwellers,** failure to produce evidence of dependency and dwelling on forest land for 75 years.

Importance of the Act:

- **It attempts to put an end to the long-drawn conflict** over supposed ‘forest encroachments’.
- **It seeks to create a much more democratic,** bottom-up forest governance.

Background of FRA:

- **The colonial takeover of India’s forests,** however, resulted in a massive disruption of traditions.
- **The Imperial Forest Department was established** to harvest and transform the forest to maximize timber and revenue
- It was tasked with protecting ‘state’ property against local communities, now deemed trespassers.

Injustices imposed by colonial forest policy:

- **Forests were seen as primarily a timber resource,** shifting cultivation was banned.
- **The so-called survey and settlement** of agricultural lands was incomplete and biased in favor of the state.
- **To ensure labor for forestry operations, ‘forest villages’ were created,** wherein forest land was leased for agriculture to (mostly Adivasi) households in return for compulsory (virtually bonded) labor.
- **Since forests were now state property,** all access to forest produce was limited, temporary and chargeable, and always at the mercy of the forest bureaucracy that was armed with police powers.
 - **Any concessions to local livelihood** needs were termed ‘privileges’ that could be modified or withdrawn any time.

- **The local community had no right to manage the forest**, as the state logged valuable forests and made heavily used forest de facto open-access.

Post-Independence:

- **In the hurry to assimilate princely States and zamindari estates** into the Union
 - **The forest areas were declared state property** without proper inquiry into who was residing in them.
- **Legitimate residents and cultivators became ‘encroachers’** overnight.
- **Forest lands were leased** out under the ‘Grow More Food’ campaign and other initiatives
 - **To meet the needs of a growing population**, but were never regularized.
- **Communities displaced by dams** were not given alternative lands, and ended up ‘encroaching’ forest land elsewhere.

Issues with The Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 (FCA):

- **Lakhs of communities were forcibly resettled** when creating sanctuaries and national parks.
- **In ‘diverting’ forests for development projects**, neither were the views or consent of local communities taken into consideration, nor, in spite of imposing hefty Net Present Value fees on the project, were the local communities compensated for the impact on their livelihoods.

Positives of FRA:

- **It first of all acknowledges** these historical (colonial) injustices and their continuation post-Independence.

- **The issue of so-called ‘encroachments’** is addressed through recognising individual forest rights (IFRs) to continue habitation and cultivation or other activities that existed before **December 2005**.
- **Forest villages are to be converted** into revenue villages after full rights recognition.
- **The issue of access and control** is addressed by recognising the rights of village communities to access and use forests and to own and sell minor forest produce
 - **To manage forests within their customary boundaries**, including in sanctuaries and national parks.
- **It ensures decentralized forest governance**, linking management authority and responsibility to community rights.
- **The Act lays down a democratic procedure** for identifying whether and where wildlife conservation may require curtailing or extinguishing community rights.
- **Having community rights over a forest translates ipso facto** into the community having a say in, if not veto over, any diversion of that forest and a right to compensation if diverted.
 - **This right was reaffirmed by the Supreme Court** in the Niyamgiri case
 - **Although the Forest Conservation Rules 2022 and FCA Amendment 2023** seek to bypass this right
 - **States can still put** in place such consent mechanisms.

Way Forward

- **The politicians in most States focused solely on individual rights** and projected the Act as an ‘encroachment regularization’ scheme.
 - **Some even encouraged illegal** new cultivation in a few pockets.

- **Imposing absurd digital processes in areas with poor connectivity** and literacy, such as the **VanMitra software in Madhya Pradesh**, is just a continuation of injustice.
 - **Even the open-and-shut case** of ‘forest villages’ has not been addressed in most States.
- **The extremely slow and incomplete recognition of community rights** to access and manage forests (loosely, community forest rights or CFRs).
- **Maharashtra, Odisha, and, more recently, Chhattisgarh**, are the only States to recognise CFRs substantially.
 - **Only Maharashtra** has enabled their activation by de-nationalising minor forest produce, at least in Scheduled Areas
 - **Thousands of villages** manage their own forests.
- **Unless political leaders, bureaucrats and environmentalists** all appreciate the spirit and the intent of the FRA
 - **The historical injustices** will remain unaddressed
 - **forest governance** will remain highly undemocratic
 - **The enormous potential** for community-led forest conservation and sustainable livelihoods will remain unrealised.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. How does the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2020 differ from the existing EIA Notification, 2006?(UPSC 2020)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

Harvest the Odisha story to ensure food security

[Source: The Hindu](#)

- **Prelims:** Current events of national and national and international importance(NFSA, PDS, NITI Ayog etc)
- **Mains GS Paper III:** Issues related to poverty and hunger, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection of vulnerable sections of society etc

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- The **28th annual Conference of the Parties (COP28)** to the **United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change** will take place in **Dubai**.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:

- **Objective:**
 - To provide for food and nutritional security in the human life cycle approach
 - Ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- **Coverage:** 75% of the **rural** population and upto 50% of the **urban** population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**.
- **Eligibility:**
 - **Priority Households** to be covered under TPDS, according to guidelines by the State government.
 - Households covered under existing **Antyodaya Anna Yojana**.

Provisions:

- **5 Kgs of foodgrains** per person per month at **Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg** for **rice/wheat/coarse grains**.
- **The existing AAY household** will continue to **receive 35 Kgs** of foodgrains per household per month.
- **Meal and maternity benefit** of not less than **Rs. 6,000 to pregnant women and lactating mothers** during pregnancy and six months after the child birth.
- **Meals for children** upto **14 years** of age.
- **Food security allowance** to beneficiaries in case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals.
- **Setting up of grievance redressal** mechanisms at the district and state level.

Present issues:

- **Disasters are projected to increase to 560 per year, that is 1.5 per day;**
- **Hunger and malnutrition** are expected to grow by **20%**
 - If the climate change impact goes unchecked
- **Food productivity** is expected to decline by **21%** due to global warming.

Case of Odisha:

- **Odisha's transformational journey** is cited as a model and a source of ideas for creating **food security** that is built around equity and sustainability.

Agricultural transformation of Odisha:

- **Odisha has moved from importing rice** from other States and making ends meet in the pre-2000s
 - **In 2022, producing 13.6 million tonnes** of food grains(its highest production on record)
- **Majority of farmers are small/marginal**, and productivity has increased despite a stable crop area.
- **The average rice yield**, which is Odisha's main crop, has tripled in two decades.

- **In 2000-01, the average yield was 10.41 quintals per hectare, In 2020-21, it had increased to 27.30 quintals per hectare.**
- **Kalahandi district was known as the “land of hunger,” but has now been transformed into Odisha’s rice bowl.**
- **At United Nations World Food Programme headquarters: Odisha’s commitment towards achieving the ‘Zero Hunger’ goal of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.**
 - **The focus is on small and marginal farmers and increasing their income.**
 - **It has directly contributed to strengthening their food security and creating resilient livelihoods.**
- **Implementing flagship schemes such as Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA)**
- **Disseminating scientific crop management practices through conventional and digital extension**
 - **It has increased non-paddy crop cultivation, while paddy cultivation has decreased.**
- **Odisha Millet Mission has helped diversify crops and promote climate resilience.**

Challenges:

- **Due to its geographical location and physical conditions, Odisha is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.**
- **It can disrupt current growth strategies and exacerbate poverty**
 - **It may lead to a loss of life, livelihoods, assets, and infrastructure.**

Odisha’s comprehensive Climate Change Action Plan:

- **This plan covers various sectors, including agriculture, coastal zone protection, energy, fisheries and animal resources, forests, health, industries, mining, transport, and urban and water resources.**

- **It was formulated by a team of experts** from multiple departments and incorporates inputs from civil society.
- **Various departments and agencies are responsible** for implementing the activities identified in the plan
 - which are being monitored by a **committee headed by the Chief Secretary**.
- **The approach towards climate resilience** is being developed from the bottom up.
- **The Crop Weather Watch Group: It conducts** weekly meetings, sees field visits by officers, and has video conferences to monitor the crop programme.
- **It helps the authorities** to take necessary measures during adverse weather conditions such as cyclones, floods, and droughts, which are frequent in the State.
- **Farmers are adopting climate-resilient** cultivation practices, that include
 - Integrated farming
 - Zero-input-based natural farming
 - Non-paddy crops
 - Better water management
 - Water-saving devices
 - e-pest surveillance
 - Large-scale farm mechanization with women-friendly drudgery-reducing farm implements.
- **Training farmers in crop-specific techniques**, including integrated nutrient and pest management, has boosted food grains production.

Steps taken by Government for food security:

- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana(which promotes organic farming)

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (which focuses on more crops per drop for improved water use)
- Soil Health Management (fosters Integrated Nutrient Management under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture)
- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKY)
- Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojana (PM POSHAN Scheme)
- Take-home rations
- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
- Digitisation and measures such as rice fortification, better health, and sanitation.

Way Forward

- **The consistent improvement of the agricultural sector** has made Odisha a surplus State for paddy production.
- **It is the fourth most significant contributor** to the paddy pool of the Food Corporation of India.
- **According to the available statistics for 2020-21:** Odisha produces **9%** of the total rice in India and accounts for **4.22%** of the total food-grain production of the country.
- **The partnership between the United Nations World Food Programme and the Government of Odisha** has seen innovation for pilots on improving food and nutrition security schemes, such as:
 - **The application of biometric technology** in the **Targeted Public Distribution System**
 - **Rice fortification**
- **In the State Ranking Index for the National Food Security Act** by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, for 2022
 - Odisha emerged as the top-ranked State in the entire country.
- **The WFP collaborates with the Government of Odisha** on its food security, livelihood and climate resilience initiatives.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. How has the emphasis on certain crops brought about changes in cropping patterns in the recent past? Elaborate the emphasis on millets production and consumption.(UPSC 2018)

10 MARKS)

(200 WORDS,

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

Telecom law upgrades for a digital authoritarian state

Source: The Hindu

- **Prelims:** Governance, digital India, Telecommunication Act, 2023 etc
- **Mains GS Paper III:** Digital India, cybercrime, Important aspects of governance(e governance, accountability)etc

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- The Lok Sabha passed the **Telecom Bill 2023** which will replace existing laws, including the **138-year-old Indian Telegraph Act.**

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Provisions of the Telecom Bill:

- **Authorisation for Telecom-related Activities:** Prior authorisation from the central government will be required to
 - **provide telecommunication services**
 - **establish**
 - **operate**
 - **maintain, or expand telecommunications networks**
 - **possess radio equipment.**
- **Existing licenses will continue to be valid** for the period of their grant, or for five years, where the period is not specified.

- **Assignment of Spectrum:** Spectrum will be assigned **by auction**, except for specified uses, where it will be allocated on an administrative basis.
 - These include purposes such as
 - **national security and defense**
 - **disaster management**
 - **weather forecasting**
 - **transport**
 - **satellite services such as DTH and satellite telephony**, and BSNL, MTNL, and public broadcasting services.
- **Satellite Internet Allotments: spectrum to satellite Internet providers like OneWeb (supported by Bharti) and U.S.-based companies such as SpaceX's Starlink.**
 - **Presently, active authorizations have been granted to OneWeb and Jio,**
- **Powers of Interception and Search:** Messages or a class of messages between two or more persons may be **intercepted, monitored, or blocked on certain grounds.**
 - Such actions must be necessary or expedient in the interest of public safety or public emergency
 - **They must be in the interest of specified grounds** which include:
 - security of the state
 - prevention of incitement of offenses, or public order.
 - **Telecom services may be suspended** on similar grounds.
- **The government may take temporary possession of any telecom infrastructure, network, or services on occurrence of any public emergency or public safety.**
 - **An officer authorized by the government may search premises or vehicles** for possession of unauthorized telecom networks or equipment.
- **Powers to Specify Standards:** The **central government** may prescribe standards and assessments for **telecom equipment, infrastructure, networks, and services.**

- **Right of Way:** Facility providers may seek a **right of way over public or private property** to establish telecom infrastructure.
 - **Right of way must be provided on a non-discriminatory** and non-exclusive basis to the extent possible.
- **Protection of Users:** The **central government** may provide for measures to protect users which include:
 - **prior consent to receive specified messages** such as
 - advertising messages,
 - **creation of Do Not Disturb registers,**
 - mechanism to allow users to report malware or specified messages.
- **Biometric Authentication** is mandatory for telecom customers to combat spam calls and messages.
 - **Entities providing telecom services** must establish an online mechanism for registration and redressal of grievances.
- **Appointments to TRAI:** The **Bill amends the TRAI Act** to also allow individuals with:
 - at least **30 years** of professional experience to serve as the **chairperson**
 - and at least **25 years** of professional experience to serve as **members**.
- **Digital Bharat Nidhi:** The **Universal Service Obligation Fund** has been established under the **1885 Act** to provide for telecom services in underserved areas.
- **Regulation of OTT Apps:** It has **removed over-the-top (OTT) services and apps from the definition of telecommunication services**, in a big relief to communication service providers such as **WhatsApp** and **Telegram**.
 - The **Ministry of Electronics and IT** will handle the regulation of OTT apps under the potential Digital India Act, not included in the Telecom Bill.
- **Offenses and Penalties:**
 - **Providing telecom services without authorisation**, or gaining unauthorized access to a telecom network or data, **are punishable with imprisonment up to three years**, a fine up to two crore rupees, or both.

- **Breaching terms and conditions of authorisation** is punishable with a civil penalty up to **five crore rupees**.
- **Possessing unauthorized equipment**, or using unauthorized network or service, is punishable with a penalty of up to **ten lakh rupees**.
- **Adjudication Process:** The central government will appoint **an adjudicating officer to conduct inquiries and** pass orders against civil offenses under the Bill.
 - The officer must be of the rank of **joint secretary and above**.
 - Orders of the adjudicating officer may be **appealed before the Designated Appeals Committee** within **30 days**.
 - **Appeals against the orders of the Committee**, in connection to breach of terms and conditions, may be filed with **Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)** within **30 days**.

Issues with the bill:

- **Renaming of the Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF)** as the **“Digital Bharat Nidhi:** The mere change in name does little to address the challenges of a persisting digital divide that have recently become worse.
- **Allocation of satellite spectrum without the need for auctions:** This is likely to benefit the market entry of select private firms
- **State control is present throughout the Telecom Act:**
 - **For instance, “licensing”** has been changed to “authorisation” while making it more severe.
 - **Definitional vagueness of “telecommunication” and “telecommunication services”** that will include “transmission of any messages”
 - **This will allow the Union government to license Over-The-Top (OTT)** messaging applications such as WhatsApp or email services such as Gmail.

- **This will be used alongside other regulations** to break the security and confidentiality by using encryption-based messaging.
- **Interception and surveillance powers, or Internet shutdowns:** language from the Telegraph Bill has been plagiarized without safeguards.
 - **Insertions, when present, such as a fresh provision on “national security”**, expand the ability of the Union government to use, prescribe standards, suspend and take over any telecommunication service.
- **To ensure the web of a surveillance state is complete**, the law requires any telecommunications service provider, that may include WhatsApp or Signal, to identify the user by “any verifiable biometric based identification as may be prescribed”.
- **A standard “kartavya kaal” clause** has been added in which there is a legal penalty of ₹25,000 for providing “any false particulars, suppressing any material information”, and, “fail to share information as required by this Act”.

Way Forward

- **It should have been sent to a Standing Committee**: Instead, the Telecom Bill was passed in haste through both Houses of Parliament.
- **Anuradha Bhasin vs Union Of India:** Learnings and recommendations from the Supreme Court’s decision and the *2021 report* of the *Standing Committee on Information Technology* need to be taken into consideration.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. Discuss different types of Cyber crimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace.(UPSC 2020)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

An AI For The People

[Source: Indian Express](#)

- **Prelims:** Science and technology, Artificial intelligence(AI), Generative AI, Big Data, GANs, ChatGPT1 tool, DALL.E2 etc
- **Mains GS Paper III and IV:** Significance of technology for India, AI, indigenisation of technology and development of new technology.

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- AI is projected to add **\$500 billion** to India's economy by **2025**, accounting for **10%** of the country's target GDP.

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Artificial intelligence(AI):

- It is a branch of computer science dealing with the simulation of intelligent behavior in computers.
- **It describes the action of machines** accomplishing tasks that have historically required human intelligence.
- **It includes technologies** like machine learning, pattern recognition, big data, neural networks, self algorithms etc.
- **E.g: Facebook's facial recognition software** which identifies faces in the photos we post, the voice recognition software that translates commands we give to *Alexa*, etc are some of the examples of AI already around us.

Generative AI:

- **It is a cutting-edge technological advancement** that utilizes machine learning and artificial intelligence to create new forms of media, such as text, audio, video, and animation.
- **With the advent of advanced machine learning capabilities:** It is possible to generate new and creative short and long-form content, synthetic media, and even deep fakes with simple text, also known as prompts.

AI innovations:

- GANs (Generative Adversarial Networks)
- LLMs (Large Language Models)

- GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformers)
- Image Generation to experiment
- **Create commercial offerings** like DALL-E for image generation
- **ChatGPT for text generation.**
 - It can write blogs, computer code, and marketing copies and even generate results for search queries.

Investments in AI:

- **Microsoft** decided to invest **\$10 billion** in the OpenAI project
- **Google** introduced its chatbot, **Bard**.
- **World's leading GPU manufacturer NVIDIA** reached a market cap of a trillion dollars.
- **Amazon** introduced **Bedrock**, giving its customers access to large language models of its own called **Titan**.
- **Google** uses generative models to improve its search engine and
- **Microsoft** integrates generative models for **Windows 11 navigation**.

Recent Issues found around the AI:

- **There are real dangers of LLMs** in particular, and of publicly deployed AI systems in general.
 - **AGI is imminent** and could prove to be an existential threat.
- **Data hunger of AI** which has implications on both diluting privacy and on labor conditions of platform workers.
- **AI's stochastic and opaque workings** which have impacts on democratic processes
 - **when AI systems are used in public-use** cases like **surveillance** and **policing**

- **Propensity of AI systems** in replicating and strengthening structural problems.

The practical consequence of AI:

- **AI is too complex to regulate** or even be understood by governments.

Global regulations:

USA's executive order on AI:

- **The US government had persuaded the companies** OpenAI, Microsoft, Amazon, Anthropic, Google, Meta, etc to abide by “voluntary rules” to “ensure their products are safe”.
- **The US administration signed an** “Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence”.

Europe's AI Act:

- **Unlike the US executive order**, the EU law has concrete red lines
- **It has prohibited arbitrary and real-time remote biometric** identification in public spaces for law enforcement.
- **It bans emotion detection**, which is now recognised to be a harmful pseudoscience, in workplaces.
- **It prohibits authorities** from using AI systems to generate social scores/credits.

Issues with the Law:

- **Emotion detection** is outside the regulatory ambit as long as it's not used in workplaces
 - **It leaves scope for the use** of this harmful and fraudulent tech.
- **The law doesn't address virtual assistants and chatbots** with the potential for damage (one common and harmful example is apps using chatbots to give physical and mental health advice).
- **There is still a complete lack of industrial policy** anywhere on AI,
 - **Vague frameworks of "trust" and "responsible AI"** fill this vacuum.

Challenges:

- **Aligning AI** with universally accepted human values.
- **The rapid pace of AI advancement, spurred by market pressures**, often eclipses safety considerations, raising concerns about unchecked AI development.
- **Governance: lack of a unified global approach to AI regulation** can be detrimental to the foundational objective of AI governance — to ensure the long-term safety and ethical deployment of AI technologies.
- **The AI Index from Stanford University** reveals that legislative bodies in 127 countries passed 37 laws that included the words "artificial intelligence".
- **There is a conspicuous absence of collaboration and cohesive action** at the international level, and so long-term risks associated with AI cannot be mitigated.
- **If a country such as China does not enact regulations on AI** while others do, it would likely gain a competitive edge in terms of AI advancements and deployments.

- **Unregulated progress can lead to the development of AI systems** that may be misaligned with global ethical standards, creating a risk of unforeseen and potentially irreversible consequences.
 - **It could result in destabilization and conflict**, undermining international peace and security.
- **Nations engaging in rigorous AI safety protocols** may be at a disadvantage
 - **Encouraging a race to the bottom** where safety and ethical considerations are neglected in favor of rapid development and deployment.
- **The uneven playing field can inadvertently encourage** other nations to loosen their regulatory frameworks to maintain competitiveness, thereby further compromising global AI safety.

Ethical Issues with AI:

Way Forward

- **The confluence of technology** with warfare amplifies long-term risks.
 - **Addressing the perils** of military AI is crucial.
- **The international community has formed treaties such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons** to manage such potent technologies
 - **Demonstrating that establishing global norms** for AI in warfare is a pressing but attainable goal.

- **There are significant challenges to AI policy**, but a dearth of democratic voices and the tendency to surrender the policy process around AI to a handful of tech companies need to be extended.
- **India can assume leadership in how regulators address children** and adolescents who are a critical demographic in this context.
- **Regulation should avoid prescriptions** and instead embrace standards, strong institutions, and best practices which imbue openness, trust, and accountability.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. What are the different elements of cyber security ? Keeping in view the challenges in cyber security, examine the extent to which India has successfully developed a comprehensive National Cyber Security Strategy.(UPSC 2022)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

Molding the Himalayas needs caution

Source: The Hindu

- **Prelims:** Parliament-Structure, organization and functioning, Disaster Management, Himalayas, GSI, UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, World bank, 74th amendment etc
- **Mains GS Paper II:** Parliament- structure, functioning and conduct of Business etc

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- The hurdles in delaying the rescue of **41 labourers**, who have been trapped inside the trapped **Silkyara tunnel**.
- The **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)** is building the tunnel

INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUE

Context

Char Dham road project:

- It is an ambitious attempt to widen nearly **900 kilometres of** hill roads
- The project will be executed by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)**
- **Aim:** To provide all-weather connectivity to the four major shrine:
 - Yamunotri
 - Gangotri
 - Kedarnath
 - Badrinath.
- **It will increase pilgrimage tourism** from the Indian plains
- **It will provide attendant local** economic dividends.

Challenges:

- **Rampant construction and its complex interaction with climate change:** It has led to massive landslides and floods in the fragile Himalayan range

Issues:

- **The processes in which environment clearances** were sought, undermining safety protocols
- **A new form of architecture** built to construct and monitor infrastructure projects, if at all they are desired, in the region.

- **The flash floods of 2013 in Uttarakhand** are suggested as the reason for the construction of the Char Dham Yatra.
- **The Himalayas are the youngest range of mountains** and are still in the formative stages.
 - **Geological and geotechnical studies:** This is a dangerous project and fatality-induced.
- **This area is extremely sensitive to earthquakes** and frictional shear rocks are present as well.
 - **Constructing** in this zone is dangerous.
- **The construction and projects in the region** has led to a situation where even the basics of mountain construction codes have been set aside.
- **The Environment Impact Assessment** has not been taken seriously.
 - **For example:** The **Char Dham Project**, which is around **900 kilometres** long and should have a single EIA.
 - **The project was broken into 53 sections** so that the EIA is prepared for a lesser region.
 - **The impact exhibited would also be lesser** than for a large ecosystem of 900 kilometres.

Way Forward

- **The Supreme Court of India has already seized** on the matter on the issue of carrying capacity in the Himalayas.
 - **The apex court should push** for a dialogue on it.
- **The carrying capacity cannot just be limited** to the number of people an ecosystem can sustain.
 - **It also has to take into cognisance** the total carrying capacity of the IHR from the infrastructure aspect.
- **The IHR is in a transformative phase and the impetus** for this transformation unfortunately comes from the new geographies.

- **There are spatial and temporal changes that go beyond the scope** and spaces of the Himalayan aesthetic, culture, and building typologies.
- **Sheer integration with the rest** is not the way of sustaining them
 - **This would plunder** the region.
- **Safety protocols:** The construction of the **Atal tunnel in the Kullu, and Lahaul & Spiti districts** of Himachal Pradesh.
 - **The executing company was so particular** in implementing safety measures that not a single casualty has been reported in its construction.
 - **They did not allow the workers to enter the tunnel** unless all the protocols were followed and checked.
- **International protocols and monitoring processes for tunnelling** that are efficient should be adopted.
- **A new legislative architecture** that allows people to monitor these projects and ensures that geological experts are part of every move is required.
- **The local communities who have lived in the mountains** should be an essential part of these monitoring structures with strict protocols.
- **Civil society groups and community-driven organisations** should be made part of the monitoring exercise.
- **The NHAI must realise that they are making roads** on soil and mountains and not on drawing boards in their offices.
 - **The BRO and even the PMGSY** have a better protocol of construction, where a certain period is allowed for stability.
- **The overemphasis on meeting targets** without stability and safety standards is further accentuating the disaster proneness.

QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Q. To what extent, in your opinion, has the decentralization of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots?(UPSC 2022)

(200 WORDS, 10 MARKS)

