



Mains Marathon
Compilation

31st July to 5th August, 2023

Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (First Week) 2023

- 1. Evaluate the effectiveness of the remedial measures directed by the Supreme Court to prevent mob violence and lynching. What are the challenges in their implementation?**
- 2. Evaluate India's performance in digital transactions compared to other developing countries. What steps can be taken to improve India's performance?**
- 3. Evaluate the changes proposed in the IIM (Amendment) Bill of 2023. How might these changes impact the functioning of IIMs?**
- 4. Evaluate the role of international multilateral climate funds in supporting climate mitigation and adaptation activities in the Global South. What challenges are associated with the disbursement of these funds?**
- 5. Discuss the potential of deep tech startups in transforming science and technology discoveries in public sector labs to market.**
- 6. Evaluate the challenges and opportunities of sustainable and equitable economic growth in the context of global governance.**
- 7. Discuss the role of nuclear weapons in India's strategic decision-making. How has being a nuclear power influenced India's international standing?**
- 8. Evaluate the potential impact of changing the age of consent on adolescents and the legal system in India.**
- 9. Discuss the concept of nuclear deterrence and its implications on global peace and security. How has the nuclear taboo evolved over the years?**
- 10. Critically evaluate the government's decision to require licenses for importing laptops and tablets. How might this impact the Indian economy and the tech industry?**

Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (First Week) 2023

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of the remedial measures directed by the Supreme Court to prevent mob violence and lynching. What are the challenges in their implementation?

Introduction: Give a brief context of SC guidelines.

Body: What are the measures directed by SC to curb lynching and mob violence?

Conclusion: Way forward.

Supreme Court expressed concerns regarding the inaction of various state governments over cases of mob violence and lynching of Muslims by cow vigilantes over the past five years, despite a Supreme Court judgment *in Tehseen Poonawala versus Union of India in 2018* against vigilantism. The case highlights issues of police apathy, constitutional violations, and a breach of "duty of care" towards the victims.

Remedial measures directed by the Supreme Court to prevent mob violence and lynching:

- **Responsibility of the State:** SC in Tehseen Poonawaala case highlighted that authorities of the States have the "principal obligation" to protect the lives of its citizens. The judgment noted that vigilantism ushers in anarchy, chaos, and disorder, and, eventually, there is an emergence of a violent society that cannot be tolerated in diverse countries like India.
- **Nodal Police Officer:** SC directed state governments to appoint a designated nodal officer, not below the rank of Superintendent of Police for taking measures to prevent prejudice-motivated crimes like mob violence and lynching. He has the primary responsibility to monitor the investigation of such crimes.
- **Cooperative federalism:** SC has noted that the cooperation of both centres and states is important in dealing with vigilantism. Both levels of government must also take steps to curb and stop inflammatory messages that may lead the mob to the violence of any kind.
- **Compensation to victims:** SC has directed state governments to prepare a lynching or mob violence scheme to compensate the victims within one month.
- **Fast track courts:** SC noted that states should set up Fast track courts in each district with courts expediting the process completely in 6 months.

Challenges in their implementation:

- **Accountability:** There is a lack of accountability of state officials for the dereliction of their duty. This has led to a lack of deterrence among the violators and impunity.
- **Social Media:** The rapid proliferation of social media has fueled mob mentality exacerbating the situation for state officials.
- **Delays in the Judicial system:** Dealy in the legal process and huge pendency in district and trial courts has deterred victims from seeking justice which hampers the legal process.
- **Lack of trust:** The mistrust between the communities stems from social tension, religious and caste divides, and lack of dialogue among different communities leading to violence.

Conclusion:

Addressing the challenge of vigilantism requires multi multi-faceted approach involving all stakeholders like the judiciary, police, religious leaders, media responsibility, and public awareness campaigns to promote social harmony.

2. Evaluate India's performance in digital transactions compared to other developing countries. What steps can be taken to improve India's performance?

Introduction: Give brief overview of digital transactions in India.

Body: Evaluate India's performance in digital transactions compared to other developing countries and steps taken to improve it.

Conclusion: Way forward.

Digital payments are transactions that happen online or through other digital platforms without a physical exchange of money. This indicates that both the payer and the payee exchange money via electronic means. Studies have well documented that demonetization in November 2016 and the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020 were major push factors for the widespread adoption of digital payments. By 2026–2027, according to a recent report by PwC India titled "The Indian Payments Handbook – 2022–27," UPI will reach a ground-breaking milestone of 1 billion daily transactions. During 2022-23, UPI accounted for 75 percent of the total transaction volume, signifying a massive shift towards digital payments.

India's performance in digital transactions compared to other developing countries:

- **Data from MyGov India:** India with 89.5 million digital transactions in the year 2022 has topped the list of five countries in digital payments, according to data from MyGovIndia. As per the data, in 2022, India accounted for 46% of the global real-time payments, adding that the digital payment transactions in India are more than the other four leading countries (Brazil, China, Thailand, South Korea) combined.
- **UPI:** The success of UPI domestically has enabled countries like Bhutan and Nepal to launch UPI, from April 2023. Similarly, Singapore started cross-border payments between its national payments system PayNow and UPI.
- **Competition & Innovation:** In India, there is fierce competition among a variety of companies, including banks, payment service providers, and fintech startups. The ongoing innovation brought about by this rivalry has led to the creation of user-friendly and secure payment solutions. Support from private players like Paytm, PhonePe, and Google Pay has popularised the concept of UPI.
- **Rural-Urban divide:** India still has to go a long way in bridging the rural-urban gap in digital payments compared to nations like Bangladesh & Kenya. Only 30% of Indians in rural areas made or received any digital payment as compared to 45% in Bangladesh and 74% in Kenya.
- **Gender Gap:** There is a sharp gender gap in digital transactions in India. The corresponding figure among women was only 28%, which is quite low as compared to Vietnam (44%), Brazil (73%), China (85%) and Kenya (74%), Bangladesh (34%).

Steps were taken to improve digital transactions:

- **Har Payment Digital's mission:** RBI launched a program that aims to adopt 75 villages and convert them into digital payment-enabled villages in observance of 75 years of independence.
- **Digital India program:** The flagship program aims to transform India into a digitally empowered society and a digital economy. Under this program, the Government targets to promote digital payments and support the development of low-cost and easy-to-use digital payment solutions for all sections of society.
- **E-RUPI:** This digital payment solution is a cashless and contactless instrument & is expected to play a huge role in making Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) more effective in digital transactions in the country.
- **Digital Payment ecosystem:** The ecosystem is characterized by schemes like JAM Trinity - Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile, Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Bharat Interface for Money-Unified Payments Interface (BHIM-UPI); Immediate

Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (First Week) 2023

Payment Service (IMPS); pre-paid payment instruments (PPIs), National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) system National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) all of which have created a robust ecosystem for a digital finance economy.

Conclusion:

Digital transactions have played a key role in the technological revolution in governance in India. As a result, government services have been made easily accessible & last mile delivery of government benefits has promoted financial inclusion as one of the important national objectives of the country.

3. Evaluate the changes proposed in the IIM (Amendment) Bill of 2023. How might these changes impact the functioning of IIMs?

Introduction: Brief context of the Bill.

Body: Main features of the Bill & how these can impact the functioning of IIMs:

Conclusion: Way forward.

Recently, the Government introduced the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the Lok Sabha to amend the statute governing IIM operations raising concerns about the planned modifications' potential to reduce the IIMs' autonomy. The purpose of the act is to undo the changes brought by the Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017 which had hugely expanded the autonomy already enjoyed by the IIMs.

Main features of the Bill & how these can impact the functioning of IIMs:

- **Appointment of the Director:** The proposed Bill amends the 2017 Act & gives the government an expanded role in the appointment of the IIM Director. Under the previous Act, the Director was appointed by a Board of Governors, and the government had a limited say in the process. The Bill proposes that the President of India shall be the Visitor of every Institute” & prescribes three primary roles for the Visitor: to make appointments, to audit the working of institutions, and to conduct an inquiry.
- **Accountability:** The proposed Bill by giving more powers to the Visitor as the Chairperson of the Board of Governors will be nominated by the Visitor. This will seek to restore the principle of democratic accountability in IIMs.
- **Inquiries against IIMs:** The proposed Bill confers the power of inquiry upon the Visitor. It deprives the Board of its power to conduct an inquiry against an Institute if it has not been functioning as per directions given under the Act.
- **Dissolution of the Board:** The proposed law would also permit the creation of an interim board by the Union government if the current board of governors was to be suspended or dissolved. It also makes it essential for the board to obtain "prior approval of the Visitor" before removing any director from office for any norm violation.
- **Coordination Forums:** According to the proposed legislation, the "Visitor" may also choose the chairperson of each IIM's coordinating forum. These groups are in charge of encouraging the cooperation and coordination that the institutes' work requires, as well as monitoring the accomplishment of the goals outlined in the policy.
- **Incorporation of Institutes:** According to the Act, any employee of an existing institution that becomes an IIM under this Act would continue to receive the same tenure, pay, and pension benefits. The Director of such institutions is exempt from this provision under the Bill. Recently, the National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE), Mumbai has been classified as IIM, Mumbai.

Conclusion

Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (First Week) 2023

The proposed bill seeks to establish meaningful checks and balances on the institutes & restore the accountability of IIMs to the government. However, there is a need for discussion among stakeholders, including IIMs, policymakers, and education experts, to find the most suitable balance between accountability and autonomy for these premier B-schools.

4. Evaluate the role of international multilateral climate funds in supporting climate mitigation and adaptation activities in the Global South. What challenges are associated with the disbursement of these funds?

Introduction: Briefly describe climate financing.

Body: Role of international multilateral climate funds in supporting climate mitigation and adaptation activities & challenges associated with it.

Conclusion: Way forward.

The Global South's efforts at climate mitigation and adaptation are greatly aided by international multilateral climate financing. To address the effects of climate change and implement programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve resilience to climate-related risks, these funds aim to provide developing nations with financial resources. The Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Adaptation Fund are some of the most significant multinational climate funds.

Role of international multilateral climate funds in supporting climate mitigation and adaptation activities:

- **Global cooperation:** Climate funds are a promise by rich nations to assist developing nations in addressing climate change, underscoring the importance of international cooperation in this endeavour.
- **Sustainable development:** Investments in sustainable agriculture, clean energy, and robust infrastructure are encouraged by climate funds, which support sustainable development.
- **Capacity development:** Multilateral climate funds assist developing nations in strengthening their institutions, capabilities, and knowledge to effectively address the issues posed by climate change.
- **Technology Transfer:** The funds assist in transferring climate-friendly technologies and practices from developed countries to developing countries, enabling the adoption of cleaner and more sustainable technologies.

Challenges associated with the disbursement of these funds:

- **Limited Institutional Structure:** Many developing nations lack the resources and knowledge necessary to obtain and efficiently use climate funds. For instance, small island developing states (SIDS) may have trouble obtaining funding because of their constrained institutional resources.
- **Uneven geographic distribution of finance:** The largest share (38% to 53%) of funding from multilateral Climate Funds has been directed to the countries of the Asia Pacific region while Least Developed Countries collectively represented only 10% of the total finance received.
- **High debt costs for climate/green projects:** Developing countries have insisted that developed country climate finance should be from public sources and should be provided as grants or as concessional loans. The overwhelming provisioning of climate finance through loans risks exacerbates the debt crisis of many low-income countries.
- **Data gap:** The global landscape of climate finance is heavily biased in favour of renewable energy due to the lack of accurate project-level statistics for private investments outside of renewable energy.

Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (First Week) 2023

- **More focus on mitigation:** Adaptation has traditionally received far less attention than mitigation in the global climate finance discourse. An important reason for this is that adaptation solutions often do not give an immediately palpable return on investment (ROI).

Conclusion:

India's efforts to tap into global finance must address crucial concerns like accounting for climate change-induced, developing measures towards enhancing the resilience of communities, and habitations to climate change's impact.

5. Discuss the potential of deep tech startups in transforming science and technology discoveries in public sector labs to market.

Introduction: What are deep tech startups?

Body: How can deep tech startups help in transforming science and technology discoveries in public sector labs to market?

Conclusion: Way Forward

Deep tech start-ups in India are characterized by their focus on cutting-edge technologies, such as advanced materials, quantum computing, space and remote sensing, artificial intelligence, robotics, biotech and pharma, electric vehicles, drones, defence, telecommunications, semiconductors, and many more. The importance of these start-ups lies in the fact that these startups go beyond the traditional digital marketplace and impact many more sectors of the economy, which will bring deeper industrialization in newer areas and more jobs.

How can deep tech startups help in transforming science and technology discoveries in public sector labs to market?

Innovation: The successful examples of various startups have shown how innovation & entrepreneurship have helped in transforming scientific discoveries from public labs to market. E.g., include IIT Madras's Research Park, which has incubated over 200 deep tech companies, especially in space and aviation; the C-CAMP, which has in its portfolio seven deep biotech startups, and the National Chemical Laboratory's Venture Centre support to file and commercialise high-quality patents.

Leverage ties between academia and industry: Various discussions with technology leaders in academia and industry have shown that faculty members find it easier to push their discoveries through startups founded by themselves or their alumni, instead of licensing or patent re-assignments. This helps the startup ecosystem thrive through unique relationships.

Access to capital: Due to their tremendous potential for development and disruptive nature, deep tech firms frequently draw venture funding and other types of private investment. The need is for the government to put more emphasis on such startups through the use of SIDBI funds.

Use of indigenously developed technologies: The need for the industry is to enable mass procurement of indigenously developed technologies across sectors like defense, urbanization, and health. This can help in successful collaboration between government and industry as seen in successful models like Tatas buying Saankhya and Tejas Networks, Reliance acquiring Faradion, and Hero Motors buying equity in Ather Motors.

Commercialization of Research: Public sector labs often conduct groundbreaking research, but translating these findings into practical applications and products for the market can be a lengthy and complex process. Deep tech startups can provide the entrepreneurial drive, agility, and specialized expertise needed to accelerate the commercialization of these technologies, turning research into real-world solutions.

Conclusion

The success of Startup India depends on collaboration between industry, academia, and government. The Startup movement has successfully captured the imagination of suburban and rural entrepreneurs with half of one lakh startups coming from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. The future start-up movement should direct the energies of India's entrepreneurs towards building Indian industrial and public capabilities, to support Indian economic growth, job creation, national security, and other national capabilities.

6. Evaluate the challenges and opportunities of sustainable and equitable economic growth in the context of global governance.

Introduction: Briefly explain the context.

Body: What are the challenges and opportunities of sustainable and equitable economic growth in the context of global governance?

Conclusion: Way forward

In the context of global governance, equitable and sustainable economic growth is a complicated, multifaceted issue that requires global cooperation to make economic growth more equitable and sustainable. Here's an evaluation of the key challenges and opportunities:

Challenges:

- **Poverty:** Growth in the economy does not always result in a fairer distribution of wealth. Global governance must address the rising wealth disparity and make sure that economic growth benefits all societal groups, particularly the disadvantaged and marginalized ones.
- **Environment degradation:** Environmental degradation, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion, can result from unsustainable economic practices. Implementing and enforcing environmentally friendly regulations and promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns require effective global governance.
- **Digital Divide:** Both opportunities and difficulties for economic progress are presented by the digital revolution. To ensure that all nations and communities can take advantage of the promise of the digital economy, it is crucial to bridge the digital gap.
- **Corruption:** Economic progress is hampered by corruption and poor governance, which also raises obstacles to the fair distribution of resources. The promotion of openness, responsibility, and good governance across boundaries should be the main goal of global governance initiatives.

Opportunities:

- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** A blueprint for sustainable and equitable development is provided by the SDGs of the United Nations. Global governance can coordinate resources and policies with these objectives to promote economic growth while preserving social and environmental aspects.
- **Green Economy:** There are numerous prospects for long-term growth and employment creation while moving to a green economy. Investments in green infrastructure, circular economy strategies, and renewable energy can boost the economy while addressing environmental issues.
- **Capacity building:** Global governance can support knowledge-sharing initiatives and capacity-building programs to help developing countries build their capabilities and effectively participate in the global economy.
- **Tech transfer:** Emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, digital platforms, and renewable energy present possibilities for higher productivity and sustainable

Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (First Week) 2023

economic growth. Global governance can encourage the adoption of these technologies for the benefit of all nations.

Conclusion:

India as chair of G20 this year offers new insights for global governance. India's vision of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (One Earth, One Family, One Future) & local governance can be a role model in dealing with the above challenges & can ensure full political, social, and economic freedom) for all citizens. India's approach to LiFE (lifestyles for sustainable development) requires "coherent actions amongst stakeholders at all levels rooted in collective actions across society". LiFE also requires the world's leaders to "recognize and amplify the role of local communities, local and regional governments and traditional knowledge in supporting sustainable lifestyles".

7. Discuss the role of nuclear weapons in India's strategic decision-making. How has being a nuclear power influenced India's international standing?

Introduction: Give brief context of the question.

Body: Role of nuclear weapons in India's strategic decision-making & how has being a nuclear power influenced India's international standing?

Conclusion: Way forward.

India's nuclear capabilities have a considerable impact on its international stature and are a major factor in its strategic decision-making. The quest for strategic autonomy and security concerns led to India's nuclear journey, and the country's nuclear status has had several effects on its foreign policy and place in the world:

- **Deterrence:** The nuclear arsenal of India acts as a deterrent against conceivable foes, mainly Pakistan and China. Nuclear weapons guarantee the highest level of deterrent stability and eliminate the prospect that India would face a nuclear, or even a significant conventional, existential threat.
- **Security challenges:** Given the claims that India's nuclear-armed enemies make on its territory, India acquired and maintains nuclear weapons as protection against nuclear blackmail or coercion. The security issues are brought on by China's aspirations to cross the line of actual control (LAC), Pakistan's persistent use of cross-border terrorism, and the potential for a two-front war with the neighbors.
- **Non-Proliferation Efforts:** India's position on international non-proliferation initiatives has also been influenced by its nuclear status. India supports disarmament and open access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes as a nuclear-armed state outside of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
- **Security Partnerships:** India's status as a nuclear power has led to a deepening of security and strategic partnerships with like-minded nations like the USA, Japan, and France. These partnerships encompass defense cooperation, strategic dialogues, and joint military exercises.

How has India's status as nuclear power influenced India's international standing?

- **Cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy:** India's access to civil nuclear technologies and international cooperation agreements have been impacted by its nuclear capabilities. In the field of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, some nations have shared and collaborated on technologies. For eg, India has signed nuclear cooperation agreements for peaceful means with the US, France, Russia, Canada, United Kingdom, Japan, etc.
- **Membership of multilateral groups:** India's nuclear status has influenced its bid for membership in the **Nuclear Supplier's Group (NSG), Australia Group (AG), Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), and Wassenaar Arrangement**. India is a member of all these groups except NSG.

Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (First Week) 2023

- **Regional Power:** India's nuclear status has influenced the regional dynamics of Asia by ensuring that a balance of power is maintained in the region which has contributed to a certain level of deterrence and stability in Asia.
- **Diplomatic Standing:** India now has a stronger voice in international diplomatic efforts relating to nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control as a result of its nuclear status. Discussions on these issues take India's perspectives into account.

Conclusion:

India's status as a major responsible nuclear power has come with enabling the country to resist external pressures and assert its national interests on the global stage. It allows India to make strategic decisions without the fear of coercion from nuclear-armed adversaries.

8. Evaluate the potential impact of changing the age of consent on adolescents and the legal system in India.

Introduction: Give a brief description of the POCSO Act.

Body: What can be the potential impact of changing the age of consent on adolescents?

Conclusion: Way forward.

Recently, there has been increasing clamour among the judiciary and civil society to reduce the age of consent in the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, enacted in 2012 to check crimes against children. Under the POCSO Act, any sexual activity with a girl under 18 years of age constitutes rape with or without the girl's consent. Consensual sexual activity among adolescents being criminalized under the law is cited as a major reason for the suggested changes.

What can be the potential impact of changing the age of consent on adolescents and the legal system in India?

- **Protection from Criminalization:** Lowering the age of consent might prevent consensual relationships between adolescents from being criminalized, reducing the chances of young people facing legal consequences for engaging in relationships with peers close to their age.
- **Child marriage:** The age at which a person can lawfully be married and the age of consent are frequently related. Laws and customs governing child marriage may need to be modified if the age of consent is reduced.
- **Prevent abuse of Law:** Courts in many cases have found that the POCSO act has been used by girls' parents to blackmail the family of the accused, resulting in injustice to boys. The reduction in age will address this issue and provide relief to the other side.
- **Definition of "consent":** Minor girls in India are involved in commercial sex as young as 10 to 13 years old and they depend on the sex trade for their livelihood. Upon lowering the age of consent it will be difficult to try these cases in court and prove that money exchanged was not "consent".
- **Social and Cultural Considerations:** Lowering the age of consent might require considering the cultural norms, societal attitudes, and local practices prevalent in India. It will require considerable time and efforts of courts to consider factors like the age gap between the accused and the victim, power dynamics, and caste equations — on a case-by-case basis to assess/establish consent.
- **Privacy:** Various studies have established that 18 to 25 percent of cases registered under the POCSO Act, were either found to be in consensual relationships or these were "romantic cases". This also raises concern as sometimes it violates the privacy of couples. So there is a need to review the act.

Conclusion:

The POCSO Act is not in sync with the social reality of adolescent interactions, as evidenced by the high incidence of acquittals. The High Courts have also recognized how criminal law might be disruptive in certain situations. The couples' marriage may have had an impact on several High Courts and led to the dismissal of romantic cases brought under the POCSO Act, but sexual behaviour is common during youth, and not all relationships result in marriage. The possibility for development, liberty, privacy, and developing autonomy of older teenagers who engage in such consenting sexual actions are all undermined by the blanket criminalization of such behaviour. Additionally, it affects the administration of justice since these lawsuits place a heavy strain on our courts and take resources away from examining and prosecuting true child abuse cases. Hence it is the right time to take a review of the Act.

9. Discuss the concept of nuclear deterrence and its implications on global peace and security. How has the nuclear taboo evolved over the years?

Introduction: Define Nuclear deterrence and nuclear Taboo.

Body: What are its implications on peace and security and how has nuclear taboo evolved over the years?

Conclusion: Way forward.

Nuclear deterrence is a concept in international relations and military strategy that is based on the notion that having a credible nuclear arsenal can deter enemies from launching a nuclear assault out of fear of severe reprisal. The core tenet of nuclear deterrence is that the prospect of mutual destruction serves as a potent inducement for nations to refrain from nuclear conflict. Nuclear taboo refers to the growing norm and understanding among nations that the use of nuclear weapons is morally and ethically unacceptable.

What are its implications for global peace & security?

- **Prevents Large-scale wars:** The fact that nuclear deterrence has helped to avert big power wars on a massive scale since World War II is one of the main arguments in favour of it. Nations contemplating aggressive steps against nuclear-armed enemies have been strongly constrained by the fear of catastrophic reprisal.
- **Balance of Power:** A certain degree of stability & peaceful existence in international affairs has resulted from the power balance brought about by nuclear deterrence. Mutual awareness of the dangers of nuclear war during the Cold War contributed to keeping relations between the US and the USSR relatively peaceful.
- **Arms race:** The pursuit of nuclear deterrence has led to an arms race in which nations strive to enhance their nuclear capabilities. While some contend that this competition helps to maintain stability, others worry about the possibility of proliferation, where more countries strive to obtain nuclear weapons, raising the risk of accidental use or unauthorized acquisition.

How has the nuclear taboo evolved over the years?

- **Post WWII:** Post WWII, Following the extreme devastation caused by the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, there was discussion on the ethical implications of nuclear weapons. This continued during the Cold War era also which started to shape public opinion and political discourse against the arms race.
- **Nuclear disarmament:** Efforts were made to limit the spread of nuclear weapons and reduce nuclear testing. E.g., Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) 1963, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) 1968, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) 1996, & finally Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons 2017.
- **Post-Cold War:** With the conclusion of the Cold War came major reductions in nuclear arsenals because accords like the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and the

Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (First Week) 2023

decommissioning of nuclear weapons by former Soviet states & notion of a "nuclear-free world" gained popularity.

- **Humanitarian initiatives:** The effects of nuclear weapons on society, especially the effects on the environment, human health, and socioeconomic conditions, have drawn attention. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) were prominent in advocating for the humanitarian approach to nuclear disarmament.

Conclusion:

While the efforts on disarmament, and non-proliferation seem to be partially successful the challenges such as geopolitical rivalries and technological advancements continue to shape the narrative around nuclear weapons and their place in global security.

10. Critically evaluate the government's decision to require licenses for importing laptops and tablets. How might this impact the Indian economy and the tech industry?

Introduction: Brief context of the government decision.

Body: Impact of this decision and how will it impact the tech industry.

Conclusion: Way forward.

Recently, the Union Government **issued an order requiring licenses to import personal computers, laptops, palmtops, automatic data processing machines, microcomputers/processors, and large/mainframe computers with immediate effect.** The industry has raised concern regarding the move as it could lead to the old days of license raj and bureaucratic discretion.

What is the impact of this decision and how will it impact the tech industry?

- **Curb imports from China:** The government has defended the move as it will curb the majority share of imports of these items from China. In 2022-23, imports of personal computers, laptops, etc. stood at \$5.3 billion, with China accounting for an overwhelming share of these.
- **Supply chain effect:** The decision might lead to unnecessary disruption in the immediate term, create supply shortages, and drive up prices of electronic equipment.
- **Boost to domestic manufacturing:** It is believed that this action will directly benefit the Centre's recently production-linked incentive (PLI) program for IT hardware. The move is aimed at pushing companies to manufacture locally in India, & strengthen the domestic IT infrastructure.
- **Security:** Recently there have been concerns regarding the electronic hardware imported from China as they were found to have security loopholes that may potentially endanger sensitive personal and enterprise data. Addressing the concern of cybersecurity is also one of the intended objectives of the government.
- **Domestic market:** The restriction will likely impact the domestic market of retailers and companies engaged in the business of electronic items. It will impact the income of retailers as the high demand for these items will impact the sales and discounts of the retailers and companies.
- **IT industry:** The industry has raised concern regarding the notification and asked for clarification as India's service sector critically depends on the import of these items.

Conclusion:

While the government has defended the move to boost domestic production, it should not lead to old socialist days of license and permit raj, and bureaucratic red-tapism which were regressive policies impacting India's growth negatively.