



**Mains Marathon**  
**Compilation**

**December, 2023**







**Analyze the factors contributing to the increase in illegal migration from India to developed countries, particularly the U.S., and discuss the policy challenges it poses for the Indian government. .... 40**

**Evaluate the impact of eliminating market-distorting subsidies, such as those on farm inputs and outputs, and redirecting these funds towards schemes like PM-Kisan. How would this approach affect smallholders versus large-scale farmers? ..... 41**

**Analyze the role of the Indian Navy in ensuring the safety of maritime trade routes, particularly in the context of threats like the Houthi rebels in the Red Sea. How does maritime security impact global and national economies? ..... 42**

**Analyze the intersection of disability with social, economic, and gender vulnerabilities in India. How does this intersectionality impact the formulation of policies for the disabled?**

**Introduction:** Briefly describe the context of the question

**Body:** Analyse the intersectionality of disability with various factors and their impact

**Conclusion:** Way forward

Disability refers to a condition or impairment—physical, cognitive, sensory, emotional, or a combination thereof—that significantly limits an individual's ability to perform one or more major life activities. Approximately 1.3 billion individuals worldwide, or almost the whole population of India, are living with some form of disability. Individuals with disabilities have greater rates of poverty, limited access to opportunities and education, informality, and other forms of social and economic discrimination.

**Analysis of the intersectionality and its impact on policy formulation**

- **Social Intersectionality:** Individuals with disabilities frequently experience discrimination and social stigma, which makes them ineligible for jobs, education, and community involvement, among other facets of society. People with disabilities experience social isolation due to limited accessibility and unfavourable societal attitudes, which has an impact on their mental health and general well-being.
- **Economic Intersectionality:** Because of discrimination, inaccessible workplaces, and a lack of accommodations, people with disabilities frequently face obstacles while trying to get employment prospects. The absence of inclusive policies makes disabled people more economically vulnerable and makes it more difficult for them to become financially independent.
- **Gender Intersectionality:** Due to double discrimination based on both gender and disability, women with impairments are less able to access resources and are more susceptible to societal biases. Access to reproductive healthcare may be a barrier for women with impairments, which can create further issues with family planning and maternal health.

**Impact on Policy Formulation**

- **Inclusive Education:** To guarantee that people with disabilities have equitable access to education, policies must promote inclusive practices, accessible infrastructure, and the appropriate support services.
- **Employment Policies:** To improve the employability of people with disabilities, governments should create and put into place policies that support inclusive hiring practices, appropriate workplace accommodations, and skill development initiatives.
- **Healthcare Accessibility:** To ensure that people with disabilities, particularly women, have access to adequate and inclusive healthcare services, policies must concentrate on reducing healthcare inequities.
- **Initiatives for Social Inclusion:** To counteract social stigma and promote an inclusive society, it is imperative to implement initiatives that raise awareness, increase sensitivity, and facilitate community integration.

**Conclusion**

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. Projects like SPARK, unique ID for persons with disabilities (UDID) card, robust legal framework, and engaging the private sector are some of the ways to promote inclusive development for the disabled.

**Critically examine the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs' recommendation to re-criminalize adultery on gender-neutral grounds. What are the implications of this recommendation on the legal and social fabric of India?**

**Introduction:** Give context of the question

























































## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of December 2023

- **Manpower Costs:** A significant portion of the defence budget is allocated to personnel costs, including salaries, pensions, and benefits. The arrears to be paid for schemes like One Rank One Pension would put a strain on the budget.
- **Geopolitical Shifts and Regional Dynamics:** Defence priorities and budget distribution may need to be reevaluated in light of the changing geopolitical environment. Increased funding for defence is required in areas such as the Malacca Strait, West Asian rescue missions, and competition with China in the Indo-Pacific.

### Potential ways to optimize defence spending

- **Indigenous manufacturing:** Enhance defence-industrial capabilities to reduce dependency on imports and stimulate the domestic defence industry through programs like Atmanirbhar Bharat, and the Innovations For Defence Excellence (iDEX) scheme are notable achievements. These efforts should be supplemented with an increase in allocation for research and development and support from the private sector.
- **Policymaking:** Policy initiatives like restructuring of the Ordnance Factory Board, the promulgation of negative lists for imports, the higher allocation for capital expenditure, or even institutionalized support like the non-lapsable Modernisation Fund for Defence and Internal Security (MFDIS) can help to optimize defence spending.
- **Strategic partnerships:** The need is to regularly assess geopolitical threats and align defence priorities. Creating strategic alliances with like-minded countries such as the US, UK, Japan, and South Korea to share defence budget burdens & collaborate on research and development to mitigate security challenges.

### Conclusion

A well-thought-out defence strategy, coupled with prudent resource allocation and effective management, can enable India to maintain a strong deterrent capability in the face of evolving security threats.

### Examine the role of spectrum allocation in national security and economic development. How does the administrative allocation of spectrum for satellite broadband services impact India's strategic interests?

**Introduction:** Give a brief context to the question

**Body:** What role does spectrum allocation play in national security and economic development?

**Conclusion:** Way forward

Recently passed Telecommunication Bill, 2023 proposes significant and far-reaching changes in the regulatory architecture governing the telecom sector in India. It allows for the administrative allocation of spectrum for satellite broadband services. The Bill also allows the Central government to take over control and management of telecommunication services in the interest of national security or the event of a war.

### Role of Spectrum Allocation in National Security & Economic Development

- **Defence Communication:** The electromagnetic spectrum is crucial to military communication. Defence forces can maintain situational awareness, conduct operations without hindrance, and communicate effectively when resources are allocated securely and efficiently.
- **Surveillance and Reconnaissance:** Spectrum is essential for various surveillance and reconnaissance technologies, including radar systems. Proper allocation allows for the development and deployment of advanced defense technologies for monitoring and safeguarding national borders.
- **Broadband services and telecoms:** Spectrum serves as the foundation for both of these industries. The expansion of telecommunications networks is facilitated by efficient allocation, which also promotes economic development by enabling better internet services and connectivity.
- **Innovation and Technology Development:** A lot of new technologies are dependent on particular spectrum bands, like 5G and the Internet of Things (IoT). Allotting spectrum for innovation promotes the creation of new technologies, which boosts the economy and generates employment.



## Impact of Administrative Allocation of Spectrum for Satellite Broadband Services on India's Strategic Interests

- **Strategic Communication:** Satellite communication is a robust means of communicating strategically. India's strategic communication infrastructure is improved when a spectrum is allotted for satellite broadband services, including defence and diplomatic uses.
- **Global Competitiveness:** India can establish itself as a major player in the space and satellite industries by allotting spectrum for satellite broadband services. This boosts India's strategic influence internationally in addition to aiding in economic development.
- **Connectivity and Digital Inclusion:** Improved connectivity, particularly in rural and underserved areas, can be facilitated by the administrative distribution of spectrum for satellite broadband services in India. Ensuring universal access to information and communication technologies is imperative in mitigating the digital divide.
- **Emergency Response and Disaster Management:** The utilization of satellite broadband services can be extremely important in these scenarios. The spectrum allotted for these services bolsters India's capacity to efficiently handle emergencies, crises, and natural disasters.

### Conclusion

A balanced and strategic approach to spectrum management is essential to meet the growing demands of various sectors while ensuring the country's security and competitiveness on the global stage.

## Examine the constitutional validity of the Post Office Bill, 2023, in light of Supreme Court rulings on state surveillance powers and the right to privacy.

**Introduction:** Give a brief context to the Bill.

**Body:** Highlight key features of the Bill and concerns related to it.

**Conclusion:** Way forward

Parliament recently passed Post Office Bill, 2023 that seeks to replace the colonial-era Indian Post Office Act, 1898. The legislation is an attempt to ensure the effective functioning of the Postal Department as a messenger service and as a provider of banking facilities.

### Key features of the Bill

- **Interception of Articles:** Section 9 of the bill confers upon the Centre the power, through official notification, to authorize officers for the interception, opening, or detention of shipments in the pursuit of state security, fostering amicable relations with foreign states, maintaining public order, addressing emergencies, ensuring public safety, or ensuring compliance with other laws.
- **Exemption from Liability:** Section 10 of the legislation provides immunity to the Post Office and its officers, shielding them from liability related to loss, mis-delivery, delay, or damage during services, except as explicitly prescribed. The Post Office Act of 1898 has undergone substantial amendments, with the removal of the majority of offenses and penalties, except for non-payment cases, which remain recoverable as arrears of land revenue.
- **Special features:** The current bill abolishes Section 4 of the 1898 Act, which granted exclusive postal transportation privileges to the Centre. It also empowers the Director General of Postal Services to oversee specified extra services and set fees without parliamentary approval.

### Concerns related to Bill

- **Unauthorized State Surveillance:** Critics argue that the Bill threatens privacy rights by allowing unchecked interception of postal articles, raising the risk of unauthorized state surveillance and abuse. The Supreme Court, in the *PUCL v. Union of India (1996)* case, mandated safeguards to align with the right to privacy under Articles 19(1)(a) and Article 21.
- **Violation of Privacy:** In *Justice KS Puttaswamy versus Union of India (2017)*, the Supreme Court unanimously declared the right to privacy to be a fundamental right of all Indians. The broad powers given to the Central Government under the Bill violate six conditions for any state measure impacting privacy: legality, legitimate goal, suitability, necessity, proportionality, and procedural safeguards.

- **Vague Terms:** The term 'emergency' is not clearly defined anywhere in the Constitution and Bill. Hence, giving sweeping powers to the state of interception cannot serve as a reasonable ground for suspension of fundamental rights under Article 19(1).

### Conclusion

The government needs to address concerns related to the Bill raised by Opposition parties & establish clear, transparent rules for mail interception, ensuring these are fair and include procedural safeguards. Defining vague definitions and framing grievance redressal mechanisms can serve as a bedrock to balance concerns of national security with the right to privacy.

### Evaluate the ethical and legal challenges in the enforcement of money laundering laws in India, considering recent judicial observations on the ED's functioning and the potential for abuse of authority.

**Introduction:** Describe the formation of ED.

**Body:** What are the ethical and legal challenges in the enforcement of money laundering laws in India?

**Conclusion:** Way forward

The origin of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) dates back to May 1, 1956, when an 'Enforcement Unit' was established within the Department of Economic Affairs. Its initial purpose was to address violations of Exchange Control Laws under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA). Over time, the ED has evolved into a multi-dimensional organization, now tasked with investigating economic offenses under various laws, including the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, Foreign Exchange Management Act, and FERA.

### Ethical and Legal Challenges in enforcement of money laundering laws in India

- **Jurisdiction Overreach:** Criticism of the Enforcement Directorate's overreach was especially noted in the case Pankaj Bansal vs Union of India, where the Supreme Court highlighted issues with the ED's actions, including searches, seizures, and arrests, which have been deemed outside its powers & criticized the ED for not exercising its powers with probity, fairness, and consistency.
- **Limited Interpretation by the Supreme Court:** The Supreme Court, in the Vijay Madanlal Choudhary and Ors vs Union of India and Ors. (2022) case, interpreted the PMLA in a way that restricts its application to "wrongful and illegal gain of property" resulting from criminal activity related to scheduled offenses. The court emphasized the necessity for the property to qualify as "proceeds of crime" under Section 2(1)(u) of the 2002 Act.
- **Selective Targeting and Abuse of Process:** There have been concerns about the ED's selective targeting of individuals in states governed by the Opposition. There have been instances where the ED has conducted inquiries into offenses not covered by the PMLA, such as the alleged illegal mining of sand, which falls under state jurisdiction.
- **Impact on Federalism:** Absolute powers given to CBI & ED have eroded the principles of federalism as investigating agencies target states based on political considerations, potentially damaging the foundations of the Constitution.

### Conclusion

Concerns related to the ED's conduct, selective targeting, potential abuse of authority, and violations of federalism demand a closer examination of practices and actions of the enforcement agencies particularly by Constitutional bodies like courts to prevent further erosion of democracy and emphasize the need to uphold constitutional values.

**Critically analyze the relationship between sovereign credit ratings and a country's macroeconomic fundamentals, with a specific focus on India's experience. How do credit rating agencies' methodologies impact emerging economies like India?**

**Introduction:** Give a brief description of Sovereign credit ratings.

**Body:** What is the relationship between Credit ratings and macroeconomic fundamentals?

**Conclusion:** Way forward

Sovereign credit ratings, evaluations offered by credit rating agencies (CRAs), gauge a country's capacity to fulfill its debt obligations. These ratings hold significant sway in shaping the decisions of global investors, impacting a nation's borrowing expenses and its ability to tap into capital markets. The correlation between sovereign credit ratings and a nation's macroeconomic fundamentals is intricate and multifaceted.

**Relationship between Sovereign Credit Ratings and Macroeconomic Fundamentals**

- **Fiscal Policy:** Credit ratings are greatly impacted by a nation's budgetary management, government debt levels, and fiscal restraint. Downgrades could result from high levels of government debt relative to GDP.
- **Monetary policy:** The stability of a country's currency, inflation rates, and central bank policies are considered. A stable and predictable monetary environment is generally favourable for higher credit ratings.
- **Economic Growth:** Credit ratings are positively impacted by sustainable economic growth. A booming economy has the potential to increase revenue and decrease the overall amount of debt.
- **External factors:** Credit ratings can be adversely affected by external factors, including but not limited to global economic trends, political stability, social and political unrest, and trade dynamics that impact a country's credit rating.

**Credit Rating Agencies' Methodologies and Impact on Emerging Economies**

- **Focus on Short-Term Indicators:** Some methodologies may heavily rely on short-term indicators, potentially overlooking long-term growth prospects and structural reforms that are crucial for emerging economies.
- **Limited Diversity in Methodologies:** There is a concern that the methodologies used by major credit rating agencies may not fully capture the complexities and nuances of emerging economies, leading to a lack of diversity in assessment approaches.
- **Opaque Methodologies:** Rating agencies rely on qualitative factors based on subjective assessment, as opposed to objective measures of a sovereign's ability and willingness to pay its debts.
- **Ignoring macroeconomic fundamentals:** Rating agencies tend to rely on factors like Good governance, democracy, citizen's voice and accountability, rule of law, and control of corruption while giving less weight to factors like GDP growth, inflation, government debt-GDP ratio, fiscal and current account balances, external liabilities & forex reserve levels thereby lowering ratings of countries like India.

**Conclusion**

India should focus on fiscal consolidation & improving data collection especially related to Census and expenditure surveys. A diversified and comprehensive assessment framework would better capture the unique dynamics of emerging economies like India.

**Analyze the impact of the Telecommunications Bill, of 2023, on India's digital landscape, particularly in terms of government control and surveillance. Discuss the balance between national security and individual privacy in the context of this bill.**

**Introduction:** Give a brief context to the question

**Body:** Highlight the impact of the bill on India's digital landscape.

**Conclusion:** Way forward

The newly introduced Telecommunications Bill, 2023 aims to bring in structural changes to the current regulatory mechanisms in the telecom sector. It seeks to replace the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885, the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act of 1933, and the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act of 1950.

### Impact of the new bill on Digital Landscape

- **Powers of Interception:** In the event of a public emergency or a threat to national security, the government may halt, take over, or monitor any telecom service. In the event of a public emergency, interest, or safety concern, the Bill gives the central and state governments, or a government-authorized officer, the authority to request power suspension, disclosure, and interception.
- **Data Security and Privacy Issues:** The government is also authorized to announce standards and guarantee adherence to data processing and encryption in telecommunications. It is unclear whether the Centre will be able to stop widely used chat apps from encrypting text messages. The right to privacy of the user is violated by this.
- **Vague definitions:** The new Bill has left open different interpretations of definitions of telecom, telecom services, and what defines a message. It is purported that these definitions have been intentionally left vague to potentially regulate online platforms as well (OTT Platforms, and messaging apps like WhatsApp).

### Considerations for Balancing National Security and Individual Privacy

- **Data Protection Measures:** Adequate provisions for data protection and privacy are crucial. The legislation should align with or complement existing data protection laws to ensure the secure handling of personal information.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** To maintain public trust, the legislation should mandate transparency regarding surveillance practices. Regular reporting on the use of surveillance powers and accountability for abuses can help strike a balance.
- **Consultation with stakeholders:** In the spirit of democratic governance, involving the public & tech industry is vital to understanding the practical implications of the legislation on digital infrastructure, ensuring that it doesn't stifle innovation while meeting security objectives.
- **Explicit Legal Protections:** Strong and unambiguous legal safeguards against the abuse of surveillance authority should be a part of the bill that covers mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and judicial oversight.

### Conclusion

The impact of the Telecommunications Bill, of 2023, on India's digital landscape will largely depend on the specific provisions of the bill. Striking the right balance between government control, surveillance for national security, and protection of individual privacy is a delicate task. It requires a thoughtful approach that considers legal safeguards, data protection, transparency, and public participation to create a framework that addresses both security imperatives and the rights of individuals.

**Discuss the role of sanitation systems in urban areas in safeguarding public health and the environment. How do different types of sanitation systems, like twin pits and septic tanks, contribute to this goal?**

**Introduction:** Give a brief context to the question

**Body:** Highlight the role of sanitation in safeguarding health and the environment.

**Conclusion:** Way forward

Sanitation systems play a crucial role in safeguarding public health and protecting the environment in urban areas. Effective sanitation is essential for preventing the spread of diseases, ensuring a clean- living environment, and promoting overall well-being.

### Role of sanitation system in urban areas in safeguarding public health and environment

- **Disease Prevention:** Sanitation systems manage human waste to prevent waterborne diseases like cholera. Adequate sanitation also reduces breeding sites for disease-carrying vectors like mosquitoes, helping to prevent diseases such as malaria and dengue fever.
- **Water Quality Protection:** Sanitation systems treat wastewater to prevent water contamination. Proper sanitation also manages stormwater runoff to protect water bodies from urban pollutants, ensuring clean water resources for urban areas.
- **Resilience to Climate Change:** Resilient sanitation infrastructure can withstand climate change impacts. Urban sanitation planning must consider adaptation strategies for challenges like increased precipitation. Sustainable sanitation practices enhance urban resilience to climate-related issues.
- **Conservation of Environment:** Sanitation systems handle urban solid waste, promoting environmental conservation through proper management like recycling. Controlled waste disposal and reduced burning enhance air quality by curbing harmful pollutants.

### How do different sanitation systems contribute to the goal of public health?

- **Twin pits:** Twin pit latrines help in pathogen reduction, minimizing the risk of waterborne diseases and contamination of the surrounding environment. Twin pits promote sanitation with minimum environmental impact as waste gets decomposed in pits reducing the volume of waste thereby converting the waste into a more stable form, reducing the risk of groundwater contamination and soil pollution. Another major use of twin pits is they allow for the reuse of treated waste as a nutrient-rich fertilizer promoting resource conservation.
- **Septic tanks:** Septic tanks, in a decentralized approach, treat wastewater on-site, safeguarding water resources by preventing pollution of nearby bodies of water through a well-designed drain field. Properly designed and maintained septic tanks help prevent the direct release of untreated sewage into the environment, reducing the risk of diseases. Septic Tanks reduce the risk of waterborne diseases, minimize foul odours, and enhance the quality of life for residents.

### Conclusion

Effective implementation, proper maintenance, and community awareness are essential for the success of any sanitation system in achieving its public health and environmental protection goals.

## Critically examine the legal provisions related to medical negligence in India. How does the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill, 2023, impact the accountability and protection of medical practitioners?

**Introduction:** Define medical negligence.

**Body:** Highlight legal provisions related to medical negligence in India and their impact on doctors.

**Conclusion:** Way forward

Medical negligence is the term used to describe when a healthcare provider or medical professional violates their duty of care and causes harm, injury, or death to a patient. In India, complaints involving medical malpractice are usually filed as civil lawsuits in the relevant court, seeking damages. If a patient dies as a result of a healthcare professional's negligence, in certain situations, criminal charges may also be brought against them.

### Provisions related to medical negligence in India

- **Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002:** These guidelines outline the duties and responsibilities of medical practitioners, including the need to obtain informed consent from patients, maintain medical records, and adhere to medical ethics.
- **Consumer Protection Act of 2019:** This important piece of legislation protects the rights of customers, including those who are looking for medical services. The Act offers a legal path to compensation in the event of medical malpractice and inadequate medical care.

- **Indian Penal Code (IPC):** Sections 304A and 337-339 of the IPC deal with offenses related to causing death or harm by a rash or negligent act, including those committed by medical professionals. These sections may be invoked in cases of criminal negligence.

### Impact of Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill, 2023 on accountability and protection of medical practitioners:

- **Less severe punishment:** Under the BNS, the punishment for causing accidental death (like road traffic death) was increased to a maximum of five years while if such an act is committed by a medical practitioner during a medical procedure shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to a fine. This provision allows the same penalty that was specified under Section 304(A) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- **Accountability:** The newly drafted bill takes note of *Jacob Mathew vs the State of Punjab & Anr. (2005)* which lays down the accountability of medical practitioners in cases of medical negligence. The case highlights a framework that focuses on professional standards and the importance of medical ethics, the opinion of experts to establish negligence, and establishing principles of defining “gross” negligence leading to criminal liability.

### Conclusion

The new bill instills confidence in doctors, especially in critical situations, eliminating the fear of imprisonment and allowing them to take calculated risks which is beneficial for the doctor-patient relationship making it a positive development for public health.

### Discuss the role of international cooperation in addressing non-traditional security threats like drone attacks in maritime regions. What strategies can India adapt to enhance regional security collaboration?

**Introduction:** Give a brief context to the question

**Body:** What is the role of international cooperation in countering such threats and what strategies India can adopt to enhance regional security?

**Conclusion:** Way forward

A suspected armed drone strike on a merchant ship in the Western Indian Ocean has posed a concern for India in addressing non-traditional security attacks in the maritime region. These threats transcend national borders, making collaborative efforts essential to effectively manage and mitigate their impact.

### Role of international cooperation in addressing such threats

- **Information Exchange:** It is critical to set up efficient channels for the prompt exchange of intelligence about drone activity in marine areas. This may entail setting up local forums for exchanging intelligence.
- **Legal frameworks:** It is essential to create and uphold international legal frameworks that control the use of drones in maritime environments. It is possible to create bilateral and multinational agreements to establish uniform guidelines and rules.
- **Joint Training and Exercises:** Coordinating training sessions and exercises for maritime security helps foster interoperability between local security forces and navies.
- **Regional Forums and Organizations:** Joining regional security forums and associations, like ASEAN or the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), can offer forums for cooperation and debate of shared security issues.

### Strategies for India to enhance regional security collaboration

- **Cooperation in Intelligence:** India may contribute by sharing its intelligence, actively engaging in international forums, and working with other countries to improve collective situational awareness.

- **International Agreements:** India can advocate for and actively participate in the creation of international agreements that address the responsible use of drones, as well as the consequences of malicious drone activities.
- **Capacity Building and Technology Sharing:** India can assist neighbouring nations in developing and implementing drone detection and counter-drone technology by sharing best practices and technical know-how.
- **Diplomacy and Conflict Prevention:** To address common issues and advance regional stability, India can have diplomatic discussions with its neighbours. Misunderstandings and confrontations can be avoided with open lines of communication.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** India can help international businesses form alliances with its private sector, which will promote innovation and strengthen the country's defense against drone threats.

### Conclusion

India as a responsible global power needs to collaborate with Western nations' navies to escort convoys of merchant ships to their destination or create a safe transit corridor with warships on independent patrols. Alongside Indian navy should develop the ability to acquire laser systems and high-power microwave weapons that are more effective in countering armed drones.

### Critically examine the suitability of the WHO Growth Standards for measuring child undernutrition in India. What are the challenges and benefits of using these global standards?

**Introduction:** Describe WHO Growth Standards briefly.  
**Body:** Highlight the challenges and benefits of these standards.  
**Conclusion:** Way forward

The World Health Organization (WHO) Growth Standards are widely used to assess child growth and nutritional status globally. Child undernutrition remains a longstanding challenge in India, and it is widely acknowledged that the factors influencing undernutrition are diverse. These include elements such as food consumption, dietary variety, health conditions, sanitation, the status of women, and the overarching context of poverty.

### Challenges of using these standards

- **Environmental Factors:** In India, there might be significant variations in the quality of the water, sanitation, and exposure to illnesses. The health and development of children can be impacted by several factors, which makes it difficult to apply global standards consistently.
- **Socioeconomic Disparities:** There are large socioeconomic differences in India. The impact of socioeconomic factors on child nutrition may not be sufficiently taken into account by the WHO Growth Standards, which could result in an insufficient understanding of undernutrition.
- **Population Diversity:** India's population is diverse, exhibiting differences in socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and genetic makeup. Some subgroups' nutritional status may be misinterpreted as a result of the WHO Growth Standards' incomplete representation of this variability.
- **Reference Population Age:** The nutritional baseline of children in India may not fully match the WHO guidelines, which are based on a reference population of well-nourished youngsters. This could lead to youngsters being incorrectly classified as malnourished even though their nutritional status may be within the usual range for the community.

### Benefits of using these standards

- **International Comparisons:** India can evaluate the nutritional status of its children to global standards by using the WHO Growth Standards to facilitate international comparisons. This is especially crucial for monitoring the development of global health objectives.

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of December 2023

- **Measurement Consistency:** Standardization makes it easier for nations to adopt uniform monitoring and measurement procedures. It gives academics, decision-makers, and medical professionals a common language to interact and exchange data.
- **Evidence-Based Approach:** The WHO Growth Standards offer a solid methodology and a wealth of research as the basis for evaluating child growth. The scientific method improves the accuracy of growth evaluations.
- **Initiatives for Global Health:** Respecting international norms is in line with global health goals, which facilitates India's ability to work with others and obtain assistance from international health organizations.

### Conclusion

India needs to adopt a multi-pronged approach to address child growth and nutritional status by making efforts to meet the requirements of a 'minimum acceptable diet' as defined by WHO like quality of the meals under food security schemes, including eggs in meals for children and pulses in the Public Distribution System. Finally, multiple interventions such as better sanitation, access to health care, childcare services, and so on are required for better nutritional outcomes.

### Analyze the impact of civilian deaths in military operations on civil-military relations in conflict zones like Jammu and Kashmir. How can the Indian Army balance counter-insurgency operations with maintaining civilian trust?

**Introduction:** Give a brief context to the question

**Body:** Highlight the impact of civilian death on civil-military relations and how to deal with this.

**Conclusion:** Way forward

The impact of civilian deaths in military operations on civil-military relations in conflict zones like Jammu and Kashmir is significant and complex. In the year 2023, Rajouri, Poonch, and Reasi districts in the Jammu region recorded a total of 55 fatalities, comprising 20 security personnel and 28 individuals identified as terrorists.

### Impact of civilian deaths on civil-military relations

- **Erosion of Public Trust:** When civilians are killed in military operations, there is frequently a serious decline in public trust between the local populace and the armed forces. The military may be viewed by the public as an occupying force, inciting animosity and hatred.
- **Possibilities for Radicalization and Recruitment:** Insurgent groups might use civilian losses as powerful propaganda to attract recruits and support. The number of potential insurgents may rise as a result of people becoming radicalized in response to their sadness and outrage over the killings of civilians.
- **Effect on Civil-Military collaboration:** When civilian casualties are excessive, civil-military collaboration is strained. The military finds it difficult to work effectively with civilian authorities in areas like development, governance, and reconstruction, which makes efforts to maintain general stability more difficult.

### Measures that can be taken to balance counter-insurgency operations & maintain civilian trust

- **Engagement and Dialogue with people:** To gain the trust of the local people and learn about their issues, the armed forces should maintain open lines of communication. Organize frequent community gatherings to resolve complaints and guarantee openness in military activities.
- **Legal Accountability:** Armed forces should ensure that human rights norms and international humanitarian law are followed throughout military operations. This can be complemented with efforts to Integrate human rights education into military training programs to instill respect for civilian rights and international humanitarian law.
- **Training and Rules of Engagement:** Ensuring that soldiers receive thorough training on the significance of safeguarding civilians and following stringent rules of engagement is crucial. To



coordinate efforts in upholding order and attending to the needs of impacted communities, armed forces could collaborate closely with civil authorities.

### Conclusion

It takes years to win over the support of the populace and is a laborious process. The backing of the majority of Gujjar and Bakarwal communities was the most heartening aspect of the army's actions in the past operations. Village Defence Committees took up arms against the insurgents and fought alongside the Indian Army as a result of which the counter operations were successful. Balancing effective counter-insurgency operations with minimizing civilian harm is essential for restoring trust and achieving long-term stability in conflict zones like Jammu and Kashmir.

### Analyze the factors contributing to the increase in illegal migration from India to developed countries, particularly the U.S., and discuss the policy challenges it poses for the Indian government.

**Introduction:** Give a brief context to the question

**Body:** Highlight factors and policy challenges contributing to the increase in illegal migration.

**Conclusion:** Way forward

Recently, a plane carrying 303 Indians majority of which belonged to Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat suspected of human trafficking were detained near Paris which shows that people affected by distress in their homeland seek opportunities in the developed world despite the enormous risks during their journeys.

#### Factors contributing to the increase in illegal migration

- **Economic discrepancies:** People travel overseas in search of better job possibilities and greater living standards due to the economic discrepancies between industrialized countries and India.
- **Jobs Available:** People move in quest of better economic conditions because they are drawn to industrialized nations by the lure of higher-paying jobs and career potential.
- **Aspirations for Education:** Many people look for student visas as a means of immigration because they want access to top universities in industrialized nations and high-quality education.
- **Smuggling and Trafficking Networks:** The existence of formalized networks for smuggling and trafficking encourages illegal migration by taking advantage of weak people who ask for help crossing borders.
- **Policy gaps and Enforcement Difficulties:** Illegal migration is given room to grow due to policy gaps and enforcement difficulties in immigration laws, both in India and in the countries of destination.
- **Document Fraud:** The use of fraudulent documents and identity theft further enables individuals to navigate immigration processes and enter developed countries illegally.

#### Policy challenges for the Indian government in addressing illegal migration include

- **Enhanced Border Security:** To stop unauthorized border crossings and human trafficking, border security measures are being strengthened.
- **International Cooperation:** Working together with the countries of destination to improve information exchange, collaborative investigations, and coordinated countermeasures against unauthorized migration.
- **Economic Development:** Putting into practice strategies that address the underlying reasons of India's economic downturn by fostering employment growth and higher living standards.
- **Education and Awareness:** Spreading knowledge about the dangers of illegal immigration as well as the legal immigration routes.
- **Stricter Immigration Laws:** Putting stronger immigration laws into place, enforcing them, and penalizing individuals who engage in illegal immigration.
- **Consular services:** The objective is to enhance consular services for Indian nationals residing overseas and to tackle problems of lawful migration.

## Conclusion

It is time the Indian government paid attention to the trafficking racket that appears to be widespread, especially across parts of rural Punjab and Haryana, where gullible people fall prey to tall promises of a better future in the U.S. Their situation has been exacerbated by the crisis that they face in farming with plummeting incomes and overexploited and fragmented farmlands which is worsened by allegation of religious persecution.

### Evaluate the impact of eliminating market-distorting subsidies, such as those on farm inputs and outputs, and redirecting these funds towards schemes like PM-Kisan. How would this approach affect smallholders versus large-scale farmers?

**Introduction:** Give a brief context to the question

**Body:** Impact of eliminating subsidies on farmers

**Conclusion:** Way forward

Eliminating market-distorting subsidies, particularly those on farm inputs and outputs, and redirecting funds towards schemes like PM-Kisan, can have significant implications for both smallholders and large-scale farmers.

#### Impact on Smallholders

- **Initial Difficulties:** Smallholders may face challenges initially as they often heavily rely on subsidies for essential inputs like fertilizers, seeds, and irrigation. The sudden removal of these subsidies could lead to increased production costs, reducing their competitiveness.
- **Transition Period:** Depending on how well the income support program works, switching from input/output subsidies to direct income assistance (like PM-Kisan) will not be successful. Smallholders may receive direct financial aid through PM-Kisan or comparable programs, enhancing their financial security.
- **Empowerment:** By giving smallholders the freedom to make decisions based on their unique needs, direct income support can empower them. This could promote crop rotation, diversification, or investments in more environmentally friendly farming methods.
- **Risk Mitigation:** Income support schemes can act as a safety net during periods of low agricultural productivity or adverse weather conditions. This can help smallholders manage risks more effectively.

#### Impact on large-scale farmers

- **Decreased Reliance on Subsidies:** Government assistance to large-scale farmers, who frequently get a sizable portion of subsidies, may decline. On the other hand, if they are profitable, they may be in a better position to adjust to conditions dictated by the market.
- **Market Orientation:** Farmers may become more responsive to price signals and consumer needs in an agricultural sector that is more market-oriented as a result of the removal of subsidies. Large-scale farmers might be better able to adjust to these changes since they have better access to resources and market knowledge.
- **Enhanced Efficiency:** By focusing on maximizing their profits without depending on government assistance, large-scale farmers may be more inclined to implement sustainable and efficient farming methods as a result of the elimination of subsidies.
- **Income Support vs. Subsidies:** The redirection of funds towards income support schemes like PM-Kisan may not have a significant impact on large-scale farmers, especially if they are not heavily dependent on input subsidies. However, the overall fiscal policy and how funds are allocated will determine the extent of its impact.

## Conclusion

The intention of the government to take the total number of farmer-beneficiaries under the PM-Kisan to about 8.75 crores, from the current 8.12 crore is well thought which will require certain refinements in

policy like direct income support on a per acre basis & adding money to the scheme by eliminating market-distorting & environmentally-disastrous subsidies.

**Analyze the role of the Indian Navy in ensuring the safety of maritime trade routes, particularly in the context of threats like the Houthi rebels in the Red Sea. How does maritime security impact global and national economies?**

**Introduction:** Give a brief context to the question

**Body:** Highlight the role played by the Indian Navy in the Red Sea and the impact of maritime security on the economy.

**Conclusion:** Way forward

The Indian Navy plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety of maritime trade routes, not only for India but also for the global economy. In the context of threats like the Houthi rebels in the Red Sea, the Navy's role becomes even more significant due to the potential disruptions to vital shipping lanes.

### Role of the Indian Navy

- **Multilateral Cooperation:** To combat shared risks, the Navy works with international maritime security initiatives and organizations. To improve overall marine security, this involves taking part in cooperative patrols, information exchange, and capacity-building initiatives.
- **Protecting Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs):** India's maritime interests, especially its sea lines of communication, are the responsibility of the Indian Navy. This entails making sure that trade ships pass through vital chokepoints safely, such as the Red Sea, where shipping can be hampered by groups like the Houthi rebels.
- **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR):** Apart from security concerns, the Indian Navy is often involved in HADR operations. Rapid response to natural disasters or accidents at sea is crucial for ensuring the continuity of maritime trade and minimizing economic losses.
- **Counter-Piracy Operations:** The Indian Navy actively engages in counter-piracy operations in regions prone to piracy, such as the Gulf of Aden. Piracy not only poses a direct threat to maritime trade but also contributes to increased insurance costs and operational challenges for shipping companies.

### Impact of Maritime Security on Global and National Economies

- **Global Trade and Supply Chains:** A significant portion of global trade is conducted through maritime routes. Any disruption to these routes, whether due to piracy, conflict, or geopolitical tensions, can lead to delays, increased shipping costs, and potential shortages of goods. This can impact the overall efficiency of global supply chains and contribute to economic uncertainty.
- **Energy Security:** Many countries, including India, rely on maritime transport for the import of energy resources such as oil and natural gas. Disruptions in sea lanes can lead to energy shortages, affecting not only individual nations but also global energy markets.
- **Economic Impact on Nations:** For countries like India, with a substantial maritime trade volume, disruptions in sea routes can have severe economic consequences. The cost of insurance for ships passing through high-risk areas can increase, impacting the overall cost of goods. Additionally, interruptions in trade can affect industries, employment, and economic growth.
- **Geopolitical Stability:** Ensuring maritime security is vital for maintaining geopolitical stability. Unresolved conflicts or tensions in key maritime regions can have a cascading effect on international relations and, consequently, global economic stability.

### Conclusion

The waters of the Indian Ocean annually, carry 80 percent of the world's oil and 10 trillion tons of cargo to Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas making it the lifeblood of the global economy. Cooperative efforts like India's good relations with Israel and Iran can help address these challenges efficiently.