



**Mains Marathon**  
**Compilation**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Week February, 2024**

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**Discuss the strategic importance of the India-UAE partnership in the context of regional security and energy cooperation. How do defense and energy agreements between the two countries enhance India's interests in the Gulf region?**

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

**Body:** Highlight the importance of the relationship between the two nations

**Conclusion:** Way forward

Prime Minister is scheduled to pay an official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that will include inaugurating a temple built by the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha in Abu Dhabi transforming India's relationship with UAE into becoming one of the most prominent bilateral relationships for New Delhi.

### Strategic Importance

- **Regional security:** Both India and the UAE face threats from extremism and terrorism. Their collaboration in intelligence sharing, training, and capacity building helps combat these dangers, contributing to regional stability. The Indian Ocean is crucial for trade and energy supplies. Cooperation in patrolling, information sharing, and joint exercises ensures safer maritime routes, benefiting both countries and their partners.
- **Energy Cooperation:** The UAE is a key supplier of oil and gas to India, meeting a significant portion of its energy needs. This stable and reliable partnership mitigates energy security concerns for India. The UAE invests heavily in India's infrastructure and renewable energy projects, supporting diversification and energy security. India also contributes to the UAE's ambitious clean energy goals.
- **Regional Connectivity:** Both nations are part of several important groupings such as the I2U2 or the West Asian Quad comprising India, Israel, the United States, and the UAE. The UAE is also part of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) infrastructure project that aims to connect India to Europe across the Arabian peninsula and is a potential rival to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

### Enhancement of India's Interests

- **Economic Benefits:** Strong trade ties and investments generate economic growth and job opportunities for both nations. Increased trade volume and infrastructure development enhance regional connectivity. Bilateral trade grew to \$85 billion in 2022-23, making the UAE India's third-largest trading partner and India's second-largest export destination.
- **Strategic Influence:** This partnership allows India to play a more active role in shaping the future of the Gulf region, contributing to regional stability and promoting its strategic interests.
- **Energy security:** The UAE is also India's trusted partner in energy security, being the only nation from the region that has strategic oil reserves stored in India.

### Conclusion

The India-UAE partnership is a cornerstone of regional security and energy cooperation in the Gulf. It serves mutual interests, enhances India's strategic influence, and contributes to a more stable and prosperous region. While challenges exist, continued dialogue, alignment of interests, and addressing concerns will ensure this partnership remains a vital force in shaping the future of the Gulf.

**Analyze the implications of focusing on global warming patterns rather than absolute temperature levels. How do these patterns influence the management of climate-related disasters and the formulation of climate policy?**

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

**Body:** Highlight the implications of focusing on global warming patterns rather than absolute temperature levels.

**Conclusion:** Way forward

Prioritizing patterns of global warming over absolute temperature readings provides important new perspectives on the dynamics of climate change and its consequences for managing climate-related disasters and developing climate policy.

### Implications of focussing on global warming patterns rather than absolute temperature levels

- **Early warning:** Rather than just keeping an eye on temperature fluctuations, patterns like changing precipitation patterns or increasing sea levels might provide earlier indicators of potential hazards. This makes it possible to take preventative actions like constructing flood barriers or moving populations that are at risk.
- **Determining regional effects:** The ways in which various regions are affected by climate change vary. Pattern analysis aids in identifying particular dangers and customizing solutions for regional requirements. For instance, changes in local weather patterns and their effects on agriculture can be predicted by researching ocean currents.
- **Recognizing intricate relationships:** Temperature increases aren't the only aspect of climate change. Understanding patterns facilitates the development of more complex and successful policy responses by illuminating the interactions between different elements such as deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions, and ocean currents.

### Influence on disaster management & climate policy

- **Targeted preparedness:** By implementing early warning systems and targeted infrastructure upgrades, an understanding of regional trends can help prepare for particular disaster types, such as floods or droughts.
- **Resource allocation:** More effective resource allocation for disaster prevention and response is made possible by identifying locations that are most susceptible to particular patterns.
- **Customized remedies:** By basing policy decisions on area trends, mitigation and adaptation plans can be created that are more just and efficient.
- **Evidence-based decision-making:** Pattern analysis offers solid proof to support policy actions, bolstering public acceptance and rationale.
- **International cooperation:** Given that different regions experience comparable issues resulting from interrelated climate systems, studying global patterns can promote international cooperation.

### Conclusion

While focusing solely on global warming patterns isn't enough, it's a valuable complement to monitoring absolute temperature levels. By embracing both approaches, we can gain a deeper understanding of climate change, improve disaster management, and formulate more effective climate policies at local, regional, and global levels. Ultimately, managing climate change requires a comprehensive approach that acknowledges both the global nature of the problem and the diverse regional impacts it presents.

### Discuss the significance of the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration adopted at the G-20 under India's presidency in promoting gender equity and equality. How does it reflect on India's commitment to women-led development and socio-economic empowerment?

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

**Body:** Highlight the significance of the declaration and its effect on women-led development.

**Conclusion:** Way forward

The New Delhi Leaders' Declaration adopted at the G-20 under India's presidency holds significant importance in promoting gender equity and equality on both national and global scales. The declaration reflects India's commitment to fostering women-led development and socio-economic empowerment through various policy measures and initiatives.

### Significance of declaration

- **Policy Framework:** The declaration probably delineates an all-encompassing policy framework to advance gender parity in a range of domains, including education, healthcare, work, and

entrepreneurship. It can entail pledges to pass and uphold legislation safeguarding women's rights and promoting equal chances.

- **Economic Empowerment:** India, a country with a fast-growing economy, understands how important it is for women to propel economic expansion. The proclamation might stress how crucial it is to support women in entrepreneurship, the workforce, and leadership roles. This could entail taking steps to give women-owned businesses better access to funding, education, and assistance.
- **Focus areas:** It specifically mentions key areas requiring action, including closing the digital gender gap, promoting women's entrepreneurship, and addressing gender-based violence.

### Reflection on India's commitment

- **Mixed signals:** India has supported internal efforts to promote gender equality, yet it still ranks poorly in international indices of gender equality.
- **Supporting particular areas:** India's emphasis on women's entrepreneurship and the digital gender gap is in line with the Declaration, although more extensive action is required.
- **Implementation:** Stronger domestic execution is required if India is to genuinely empower women at home. This can be achieved by translating its global commitments into stronger domestic policies and investments.
- **Global Collaboration:** The G-20 platform provides an opportunity for India to collaborate with other countries and international organizations in advancing the agenda of gender equity and equality. The declaration may underscore the importance of international cooperation and exchange of best practices in this regard.

### Conclusion

This presents an opportunity for industry worldwide to share some of the strategies we have created to promote women's entry and advancement in the workforce; invest in successful programs and initiatives and help them scale up; and collaborate to make inclusion a topic of discussion in the business community. Additionally, it's a chance to collaborate with the international community of business, academia, and investors to create solutions that will strengthen our commitment to promoting women's leadership and engagement in the economy by giving them better access to economic, health, and educational opportunities.

**Critically examine the challenges and opportunities presented by initiatives like SWATI in bridging the gender gap in science and technology in India. Reflect on the historical efforts and the evolving nature of policies aimed at promoting gender equity in the scientific community.**

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

**Body:** Present challenges and opportunities associated with the new initiatives

**Conclusion:** Way forward

SWATI, or Science For Women: A Technology & Innovation is the name of a portal that will be launched on February 11, celebrated worldwide as International Day For Girls and Women in Science. It is aimed at creating a single online portal representing Indian Women and Girls in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine).

### Challenges

- **Data Gaps and Inclusivity:** Building an exhaustive database is essential, but making sure that data is correct and inclusive is still a difficult task. Women in informal science roles and transgender women are examples of marginalized groups that SWATI needs to take into account.
- **Beyond Information Removing Systemic Barriers:** Building a database is a good start, but it must be used in conjunction with addressing more fundamental problems such as unconscious gender stereotypes, cultural biases, and a dearth of easily available support systems for child care and job advancement.

## Opportunities

- **Role Models and Inspiration:** Increased visibility of women in science can inspire younger girls to pursue STEM careers and challenge existing stereotypes. Highlighting diverse achievements and journeys can be particularly impactful.
- **Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing:** The platform can facilitate knowledge sharing, resource exchange, and collaboration between researchers, institutions, and stakeholders across India and internationally.

## Historical Efforts and Evolving Policies

- **Limited Focus:** Previous programs often focused on quotas or scholarships, without addressing underlying social and cultural barriers.
- **Top-Down Approach:** Many initiatives lacked community engagement and participation, leading to limited effectiveness and sustainability.

## Evolving Nature of Policies

- **Focus on Empowerment and Skills:** The emphasis is shifting to equipping women with relevant skills and providing mentorship and support networks.
- **Gender-Responsive Budgeting:** Allocating specific budgets for gender-focused initiatives within science and technology is gaining traction.

## Conclusion

Initiatives like SWATI hold promise for bridging the gender gap in science and technology, but their success hinges on overcoming data and inclusivity challenges, addressing systemic barriers, and measuring impact effectively.

## There is a visible transformation in India-Gulf relations over the last decade. Discuss the key factors contributing to this transformation and how it has impacted India's diplomatic and strategic stance in the Middle East?

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

**Body:** Highlight key factors in the transformation of the relationship

**Conclusion:** Way forward

The inauguration of the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan (BAPS) temple in Abu Dhabi and the release of eight Indian ex-naval personnel held on espionage charges in Doha together present a high water mark for Modi's diplomacy and symbolize the transformation of India's relations with the Gulf during the last 10 years.

### Key factors in the transformation

- **Energy Security:** About 40% of India's oil imports come from the Gulf, which continues to be a vital energy source. Recognizing their mutual need, both parties are making efforts to guarantee consistent energy supplies.
- **Economic Diversification:** Although gas and oil are still important, India and the Gulf are collaborating more in a variety of fields, including tourism, technology, infrastructure, and healthcare. This promotes stronger economic links and lessens reliance on individual goods.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Extremism, maritime security, and regional stability are issues that both India and the Gulf area face. More defense agreements and security cooperation have resulted from this confluence of interests.

### Impact on India's diplomatic and strategic stance

- **Emphasis on Security:** India works with Gulf nations on counterterrorism and intelligence sharing, and it actively takes part in maritime security activities.

- **Economic Focus:** Investment agreements and free trade agreements seek to expand bilateral trade and economic ties beyond the oil industry.
- **Soft Power Projection:** Bollywood's popularity, educational programs, and cultural exchanges all help to improve India's standing in the area.
- **Balancing Act:** India navigates complex regional rivalries, maintaining good relations with Iran despite growing ties with Saudi Arabia and the UAE. This "strategic autonomy" allows India to pursue its interests independently.

### Challenges and opportunities:

- **Geopolitical tensions:** Regional conflicts and power struggles pose challenges to stability and require careful diplomacy.
- **Diversification beyond oil:** Successfully transitioning beyond oil dependence is crucial for sustainable economic ties. Eg, the accumulation of hydrocarbon wealth over the decades has generated the "Khaleeji capital"— in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE — with growing influence around the world, from sports to real estate and banking to technology.

### Conclusion

All things considered, the shift in the relationship between India and the Gulf represents a developing strategic alliance characterized by mutual understanding, security cooperation, and economic cooperation. India's diplomatic and strategic posture in the Middle East is greatly influenced by these improved ties, which enable India to actively engage and advance its interests there.

### Discuss whether the proliferation of IITs has diluted the brand value and standards of these premier institutions.

**Introduction:** Give a brief description of IITs

**Body:** Highlight arguments against dilution & for dilution of brand value of IIT

**Conclusion:** Way forward

Indian Institutes of Technology, or the IITs, are the crown jewels of Indian higher education. They are world-renowned for the quality of their graduates and for their academic programmes in a range of fields in technology and engineering — and in the past decade, in research and innovation through research parks as well. However, for the past decade or so, and according to current plans, the IIT "system" has expanded beyond its capacity to maintain its high standards and is in danger of sinking into mediocrity. The proliferation of IITs, from 5 in 1951 to 23 as of today, has sparked debate about whether it has diluted their brand value and standards.

#### Arguments against dilution

- **Democratization of education:** An increased number of IITs provides more students, particularly those from non-metropolitan areas, with access to high-quality technical education, resulting in a more inclusive and diversified talent pool.
- **Concentrate on specialized fields:** AI, cybersecurity, and renewable energy are examples of newer IIT specializations that can stimulate innovation and meet industrial demands in the next years.
- **Expansion doesn't equate to dilution:** Proponents argue that increasing student intake doesn't automatically lower standards. Strict adherence to entrance exams and quality faculty recruitment can maintain high standards across new IITs.

#### Arguments for dilution

- **Faculty shortage:** Critics argue the rapid expansion outpaces the availability of qualified faculty, potentially affecting the quality of teaching and research.
- **Infrastructure constraints:** Building new campuses with world-class facilities requires significant resources, and concerns exist about resource allocation across all IITs.

- **Varying quality perception:** Employers might differentiate between "original" and "new" IITs, potentially impacting placement and brand perception.
- **Standardization concerns:** Maintaining uniformity in curriculum, teaching methods, and student support across a diverse set of institutions can be challenging.

### Conclusion

To maintain the integrity and excellence of the IIT system, it's proposed to limit the number to 10-12 "real" IITs near major cities, adequately funded and staffed with world-class faculty. Newly established institutes can be renamed and provide resources for quality education and research. Recruitment rules have been liberalized to attract foreign faculty, aiding in internationalization. Collaboration with top global universities and hiring foreign faculty as visiting scholars is favored over overseas branches. Policies to attract international students and sustained funding, both from the government and successful IIT alumni, are crucial to preserving the prestige of the IITs. Overexpansion risks diminishing their quality and reputation.

### Discuss the potential impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on traditional farming practices in India and how it could transform agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability. Include examples of AI applications currently in use.

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

**Body:** Highlight the impact of AI on farming practices

**Conclusion:** Way forward

Artificial intelligence (AI) holds immense potential to revolutionize traditional farming practices in India, impacting both agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability.

#### Potential impact of AI on farming practices

- **Increased Productivity:** AI algorithms analyze vast datasets (soil health, weather, etc.) to optimize resource usage. This can lead to targeted fertilizer and pesticide application, reducing wastage and environmental pollution, predictive irrigation & disease and pest detection.
- **Automation:** Drones for crop monitoring and spraying, autonomous tractors for plowing and seeding, and AI-powered robots for harvesting can improve efficiency and reduce labour costs.
- **Livestock Monitoring and Management:** AI can also benefit livestock farming by enabling real-time monitoring of animal health and behaviour. Wearable sensors and AI algorithms can detect signs of disease or distress in animals, allowing farmers to intervene promptly and prevent outbreaks.
- **Market Forecasting and Price Prediction:** AI-powered analytics can help farmers anticipate market demand and price fluctuations for agricultural commodities. By analyzing market trends, trade data, and consumer behaviour, AI algorithms can provide insights into when to sell crops and at what price, enabling farmers to optimize their revenue and reduce post-harvest losses.
- **Robotic Farming:** While still in the early stages, AI-driven robotic farming technologies have the potential to automate various tasks such as seeding, weeding, and harvesting. For example, autonomous drones equipped with computer vision can identify and remove weeds without the need for herbicides, reducing chemical usage and labour costs.

#### Current AI models in India

- **Saagu Baagu project:** AI-based platform empowers farmers with data-driven insights, leading to higher yields and reduced resource use in chili cultivation.
- **CropIn:** Provides AI-powered solutions for farm management, precision agriculture, and market access.
- **Arya. ag:** Leverages AI and satellite imagery for crop health monitoring and yield prediction.
- **Intello Labs:** Develops AI-powered software for grading and quality assessment of agricultural produce using computer vision.



- **Taranis:** Offers AI-driven precision agriculture solutions for pest and disease detection, as well as crop monitoring.
- **Ninjacart:** Utilizes AI algorithms to optimize supply chain logistics for fresh produce, connecting farmers directly with retailers and reducing food wastage.

### Conclusion

Despite challenges, AI offers a unique opportunity to transform Indian agriculture, ensuring both increased productivity and environmental sustainability. By addressing affordability, digital literacy, and infrastructure gaps, India can harness AI's potential to empower farmers and ensure food security for its growing population.

### Examine the arguments for and against providing paid menstrual leave and its potential impact on gender equality in the workforce.

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain the arguments for and against the need for menstrual leave policies.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Menstrual leave, also known as period leave, encompasses all policies permitting employees or students to take time off due to menstrual pain or discomfort. In workplace contexts, it pertains to policies facilitating either paid or unpaid leave or designated time for rest.

#### Arguments for Paid Menstrual Leave

- **Addresses health concerns:** Menstrual cramps and other symptoms can significantly impact productivity and well-being. Paid leave allows employees to manage their health without financial penalty.
- **Reduces stigma:** Openly discussing menstruation can be challenging. Paid leave normalizes periods and reduces workplace stigma, fostering a more inclusive environment.
- **Increases employee retention and satisfaction:** Paid leave demonstrates employer empathy and support, leading to higher employee satisfaction and reduced turnover.
- **Promotes gender equality:** By addressing a biological reality specific to women, paid leave helps level the playing field and reduce gender-based disadvantages in the workplace.
- **Boosts economic participation:** Paid leave allows women to maintain their earning potential and contribute more fully to the economy.

#### Arguments Against Paid Menstrual Leave

- **Potential for abuse:** Some argue employees might misuse the leave for non-menstrual purposes, creating administrative challenges and unfairness to others.
- **Cost burden on employers:** Implementing paid leave adds to payroll costs, potentially impacting small businesses disproportionately.
- **Reinforces gender stereotypes:** Linking leave to menstruation might perpetuate the idea that women are inherently less reliable or productive.
- **Potentially discriminatory:** Excluding men from similar leave policies could be seen as discriminatory, leading to resentment and legal challenges.
- **Logistical challenges:** Defining and verifying menstrual leave could be complex and intrusive, raising privacy concerns.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, paid menstruation leave raises legitimate concerns about productivity, gender stereotypes, and administrative difficulties even while it has the potential to improve the well-being of women in the workforce and advance gender equality. In light of these considerations, any choice to enact menstrual leave rules should be thoroughly reviewed and customized to the unique requirements and circumstances of both employers and employees.

**Discuss the implications of the Supreme Court's remarks and decisions on the religious character of places of worship for India's secularism. What does it signify for the future of communal harmony and the legal protection of minority places of worship?**

**Introduction:** Give a brief description of the Places of Worship Act.

**Body:** Highlight implications of SC remarks on the Act

**Conclusion:** Way forward

The Places of Worship Act was implemented to maintain the religious status of places of worship as they were on August 15, 1947. It prohibits the conversion of any religious place and ensures the preservation of their religious identity. The Places of Worship Act imposes a non-derogable obligation towards enforcing commitment to secularism under the Indian Constitution. The Places of Worship Act is thus a legislative intervention that preserves non-retrogression as an essential feature of our secular values.

### Implications of SC remarks

- **Secularism:** India's secularism is enshrined in its Constitution, aiming to ensure equality and freedom of religion for all citizens. However, controversies surrounding the religious character of places of worship often challenge this principle. The Supreme Court's interventions serve to uphold the secular fabric of the nation by providing impartial judgments based on legal principles rather than religious affiliations.
- **Peace and harmony:** The recent SC observations in the Babri Masjid Case have been seen as a slight beacon of hope for all backers of the idea of India. This is premised on the notion that modern Indians will be Indians first in law unlike the medieval and ancient inhabitants of this land, and thus the Act attempts to bolster Indian-ness in our appreciation of our shared cultural and religious past.

### Significance for future

- **Communal Harmony:** By resolving issues about holy sites in a fair and just way, the Supreme Court's rulings significantly contribute to communal harmony. The Court's interventions support the peace and harmony among India's various religious groups by defending the rule of law and guaranteeing fair treatment for all religious communities.
- **Legal Protection of Minority Places of Worship:** The cornerstone for the legal protection of minority places of worship is the Supreme Court's statements and rulings. The Court assists in defending the freedom of minority religious communities to practice their religion openly and without hindrance by resolving conflicts and shedding light on the ownership and administration of religious properties.

### Conclusion

Supreme Court's role in determining the religious character of places of worship is crucial for upholding India's secular values, promoting communal harmony, and ensuring the legal protection of minority places of worship. Its interventions contribute to maintaining peace and stability in a diverse and pluralistic society like India.

**Critically examine the Supreme Court's judgment on Electoral Bonds in the context of its impact on transparency and accountability in political financing. How does this decision align with the objectives of the Right to Information (RTI) Act?**

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

**Body:** What is the impact of Judgement on transparency, accountability, and the RTI Act?

**Conclusion:** Way forward

A recent SC judge gave a unanimous verdict citing the electoral Bonds scheme as "unconstitutional". SC held that anonymous electoral bonds are violative of the right to information and Article 19(1)(a). The Bench has directed the issuing bank (SBI) to stop the issue of electoral bonds. SBI also needs to submit the details of the electoral bonds purchase to the Election Commission of India (ECI). Through the electoral bonds scheme, individuals and organizations can make anonymous financial contributions to political parties by buying electoral bonds from the SBI.

### Impact of SC judgment

- **Transparency:** SC held that the voters' right is breached by the anonymity clause and that information on political parties is essential. Poll bonds are violative of fundamental rights, and infringement of RTI is not justified for curbing black money.
- **Accountability:** The opacity surrounding Electoral Bonds also raises questions about accountability in political financing. Without knowing the identity of donors, it becomes challenging to hold political parties accountable for their sources of funding. This lack of accountability undermines the democratic process and weakens public trust in political institutions.
- **Impact on corporations and policy:** The electoral bond scheme favour the ruling government of the time, as the guarantee of anonymity would allow the government to provide concessions in the form of licenses, leases, policy changes, and government contracts. The judgment would also impact companies that use "funnel money" to political parties without any oversight from shareholders.

### Decision aligns with the RTI Act

- **Freedom of speech and expression:** The SC weighed in favour of the RTI Act & upheld Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution as against informational privacy in the Electoral Bond case. The Court noted that transparency in political financing is crucial for voters to make informed decisions.
- **Structural issues:** The judgement however does not address structural issues in the functioning of the RTI Act like vacancies in Information Commissions, mounting pendency, delayed hearing of second appeals, perceptible opacity, and the casual approach of officers in dealing with RTI queries.
- **Compliance mechanism:** The decision offers hardly any hope of clearing backlogs. Compliance with the Commission's orders saw delays in some cases while probing queries on corruption led to the murder of many RTI activists. The recent change in the status and tenure of Information Commissioners has also affected the functioning of the RTI Act.

### Conclusion

The government could frame a committee under the Minister of Personnel, comprising information commissioners, officials, and even civil society members to examine issues and take appropriate measures to overhaul the RTI Act. The recent SC judgment can act as a catalyst in strengthening the RTI Act and restoring it to its past glory.

### Analyze the implications of the proposed Free Trade Agreement between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) with a specific focus on intellectual property rights and its impact on India's pharmaceutical industry.

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

**Body:** Impact on IPR & pharmaceutical industry

**Conclusion:** Way forward

The proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) has sparked debates, particularly regarding its impact on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and India's thriving pharmaceutical industry.

### Focus on IPR

- **Boosting IPR Protection:** FTAs frequently contain clauses meant to bolster intellectual property rights. This could result in trademarks, copyrights, and patents being strictly enforced. This would require India to bring its IPR rules more into line with international norms, which could affect the latitude that Indian pharmaceutical businesses have hitherto enjoyed.
- **Balancing National Interests:** Negotiating an FTA involves balancing national interests, including public health concerns, with economic priorities. India would need to carefully consider the

implications of any IPR provisions on its pharmaceutical industry, ensuring that access to affordable medicines remains a priority.

- **Shift Towards Innovation:** Conversely, more stringent IPR laws may encourage Indian pharmaceutical firms to increase their R&D spending to create novel medications and technological advancements. This might cause companies in the pharmaceutical industry to change from being mostly producers of generics to innovators.

### Impact on India's pharmaceutical industry

- **Impact on the Production of Generic Drugs:** Because of its thriving generic medication manufacturing sector, India is referred to as the "pharmacy of the developing world". Stricter patent enforcement, however, may hinder the production of generic medications since it may be more challenging for Indian businesses to create less expensive generic equivalents of copyrighted pharmaceuticals. This might make it harder to get inexpensive medications both here at home and abroad in nations that depend on Indian generics.
- **Obstacles to Medical Access:** India's pharmaceutical sector has been instrumental in providing the world with reasonably priced medications, particularly for conditions like HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. Stricter patent laws may make it more difficult for India to manufacture and export these life-saving medications, which might raise costs and limit access to healthcare in underdeveloped nations.
- **Possibility of Technology Transfer:** FTA frequently incorporates clauses about international cooperation and technology transfer presenting chances for Indian pharmaceutical businesses to work with their European counterparts, giving them access to new markets, technologies, and knowledge.

### Conclusion

The principle of data exclusivity has raised concerns among India's drug industry that could affect the industry which is a major exporter of drugs. India must focus on investing more in ethical drug trials and in fundamental research to help the local drug industry take on the foreign pharma industry.

### Discuss the key recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission regarding the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and its relevance to ensuring the economic viability of farming in India.

**Introduction:** Contextual Introduction

**Body:** Recommendations of commission and relevance on farming in India

**Conclusion:** Way forward

The recent farmers' protest has once again raised demand for a law to guarantee the procurement of all crops for all farmers at MSP and the determination of crop prices as per the recommendations of the Dr. Swaminathan Commission. The Swaminathan Commission, officially known as the National Commission on Farmers (NCF), was established in 2004 to address the issues faced by Indian farmers and to recommend policies for their welfare.

### Key Recommendations of the Commission

- **MSP at C2 + 50%:** The Commission recommended that MSP should be set at a level that ensures a minimum of 50% return over the comprehensive cost of production (C2), which includes actual paid-out costs, imputed family labour costs, and the imputed rent and interest on owned land and capital. This recommendation was aimed at providing farmers with remunerative prices that cover not just their production costs but also provide a reasonable profit margin.
- **Participation of Women in Agriculture:** Commission underscored the need to ensure the need to ensure that working women have the needed support services and have access to timely credit and extension services. It called for the setting up of a National Board for New Deal for Women in Agriculture under the Union Food and Agriculture Minister, with the Union Ministers for Women and Child Development, Rural Development, and Panchayati Raj as co-chairs.

- **Agriculture infrastructure:** The report also suggested that Farm Schools should be established in the fields of innovative farmers, to spread their message and methods. The report suggested establishing a grain bank and community food and fodder banks, promoting insurance, and setting up a national network of advanced soil testing labs.

#### Relevance on the economic viability of farming

- **Revision of MSP Regularly:** The Commission suggested that MSP should be revised periodically, ideally every year, to account for changes in input costs, inflation, and market conditions. Regular revision of MSP ensures that farmers receive fair and remunerative prices for their produce, thereby maintaining the economic viability of farming.
- **Diversification of Crops Covered Under MSP:** The Commission recommended expanding the coverage of crops under MSP to include a wider variety of crops beyond wheat and rice. This would encourage crop diversification, reduce the risk of price volatility, and promote sustainable agricultural practices.
- **Market Intervention:** The Commission suggested the establishment of a price stabilization fund to intervene in the market during price crashes and to provide support to farmers when prices fall below MSP. This mechanism would help mitigate the risks associated with price volatility and ensure stable incomes for farmers.

#### Conclusion

The Swaminathan Commission's MSP recommendations hold promise for improving farmers' income and agricultural sustainability.