ForumIAS

7 PM COMPILATION

1st and 2nd Week June, 2024

Features of 7 PM compilation

- ❖ **Comprehensive coverage of a given current topic**
- ❖ **Provide you all the information you need to frame a good answer**
- ❖ **Critical analysis, comparative analysis, legal/constitutional provisions, current issues and challenges and best practices around the world**
- ❖ **Written in lucid language and point format**
- ❖ **Wide use of charts, diagrams and info graphics**
- ❖ **Best-in class coverage, critically acclaimed by aspirants**
- ❖ **Out of the box thinking for value edition**
- ❖ **Best cost-benefit ratio according to successful aspirants**

INDEX

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

🔲 Forum IAS

[Kurukshetra May 2024 Summary] Green Waste management technologies for rural India-Explained Pointwise

Waste management in rural areas worldwide, particularly in India, is still underdeveloped, resulting in harmful environmental effects because the methods used to handle waste are not adequate compared to the rate of waste generation.

With a large portion of the population residing in rural areas, it becomes necessary to empower these communities while addressing environmental concerns for sustainable development.

Source-Earthwatch India

What are the present waste management practices in rural areas?

1) **Open Burning and Air Pollution**-They face challenges with open burning of agricultural residues, e-waste, and plastics, releasing harmful pollutants and worsening air pollution and climate change.

2) **Inefficient Waste Management Systems**– Inefficient waste management systems such as open dumping, e-waste open burning, river dumping, pollution from plastic waste etc in rural areas, deprive communities of potential resources and economic opportunities.

What are the green waste management technologies for rural areas?

Composting Solutions	These systems utilise sensors to monitor temperature, moisture levels, and aeration, optimising the composting process and producing high quality compost for use in agriculture.
Smart Waste Modelling	Utilise data analytics platforms to analyse waste generation patterns, identify areas with high waste management and optimise waste management strategies accordingly. Data-driven insights can help authorities make informed decisions to reduce waste generation and improve recycling rates
Waste to Energy Solution	Technologies such as anaerobic digestion or biomass conversion help in generating renewable energy from organic waste materials. This not only reduces landfill waste but also provides a sustainable energy source for the community

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

ForumIAS

Recycling Robots	Introducing AI robotics into recycling centres enhances waste sorting efficiency, diverting recyclable materials from landfills. With AI robots capable of accurately differentiating between materials, recycling centres can operate longer hours.
Pneumatic Waste Pipes	Installing pneumatic waste pipes below public containers makes waste transportation to processing centers more efficient, reducing the necessity for conventional trash pickups. This innovative system minimises and prevents contributing to and more efficient waste management practices.
Solar-powered Trash Compactors	Solar-powered compactors increase trash bin capacity by up to 5 times, reducing the frequency of pickups and optimising waste collection processes.
E-Waste Kiosks	It encourages proper disposal and recycling of electronic devices, mitigating environmental management hazards associated with e-waste. This will prevent seeping of harmful chemicals into soil and water.

What is the significance of green waste management technologies for rural areas?
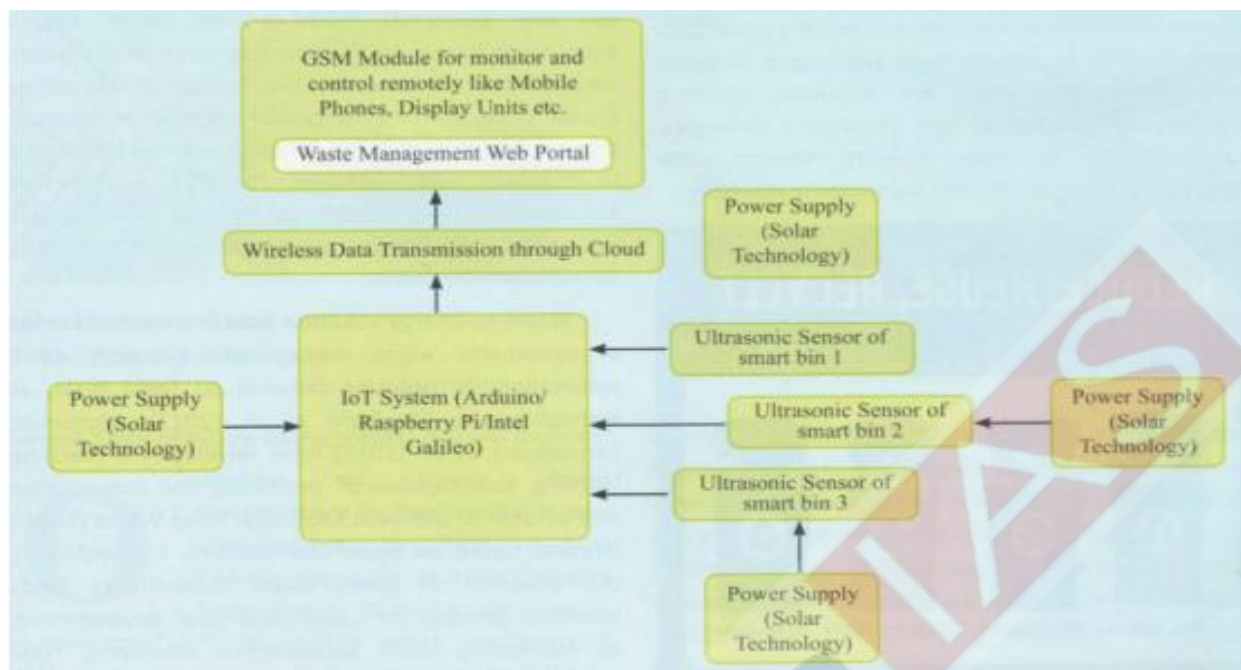
1) **Empowering Rural Communities**-It offer multifaceted benefits, including environmental conservation and socio-economic development. It will also bridge urban-rural socio-economic gaps and ensure equitable resource distribution for all.

2) **Environmental Sustainability**-Composting and biogas generation help manage organic waste sustainably while enhancing soil fertility and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

3) **Economic Opportunities**– Green waste technologies create income streams through the sale of compost and biogas, fostering rural entrepreneurship. This is also crucial for ensuring transition to circular economy and fulfilment of Net Zero Targets by 2070.

4) **Climate Resilience**-Proper waste management reduces greenhouse gas emissions and helps in mitigating climate change impacts.

5) **Community Engagement and Awareness**-Promoting green waste technologies empowers communities with knowledge and skills, fostering ownership and responsibility.

What are the challenges in adoption of green technology in rural areas?

1) Infrastructural bottlenecks– Limited infrastructure, resources, and awareness about proper disposal practices contribute to improper waste management in rural villages.

2) **Lack of Funds**-The village panchayats do not have adequate funds to promote the incentivisation of adoption of green technology.

3) **Resistance to Adoption-**In rural areas, people often use coal or wood for heating and cooking. It's hard to adopt newer, greener methods because of cultural habits,financial concerns, and the practical difficulty of making the change.

What are the potential solution?

1) **Adopting Smart Waste Management System (SWM)**-It employs IoT technology to revolutionize waste processing, enhance efficiency, and promote sustainability.

Source-Kurukshetra

A) Smart bins with ultrasonic sensors are placed across rural areas. They gather real-time data that is communicated to a central control using cloud platforms.
B) Solar-powered sensors ensure continuous operation and planned routes help save fuel costs.
C) When waste levels go above 80%, GPS-guided trucks pick up waste efficiently, saving time and resources. This setup improves waste management in rural India with eco-friendly and efficient solutions.

2) **Social Inclusion of Waste Pickers in Rural Villages**-They are subjected to worst forms of humiliation, discrimination, and socio-economic marginalization. This is despite the fact that they play an important role in waste management. Thus, there is a need to adopt a comprehensive framework that should-
A) recognise their contributions and grant them access to basic services.
B) ensure occupational health and safety and stabilise their incomes.
C) promote social inclusion and empowerment.

3) **Digital Monitoring of Waste Management**-Using IoT, mobile apps, and data analytics, it improves waste collection and disposal.
A) These systems connect stakeholders like waste pickers, recyclers, ULBs, and citizens via mobile apps, creating a digital network.
B) Real-time data monitors the waste journey from collection to recycling, facilitating seamless monitoring and management. For ex–The Eco Green Village Mobile Application for Waste Management, pioneered in Indonesia, targets rural areas to improve cleanliness, predict climate impacts, and advance Smart Kampong Initiatives through technology.

What are some of the best practices for successful implementation of green technologies in rural areas?

Successful implementation of green technologies requires the adoption of best practices and community-driven initiatives. Projects like the National Biogas and Manure Management Program (NBMMP) and the Swachh Bharat Mission have facilitated the
establishment of biogas plants and decentralised waste management systems. This has yielded positive socio-economic and environmental outcomes. Some of the best practices are as follows-

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.
ForumIAS

1) **Karnataka** -The "Flasiru Mane" project, pioneered by the NGO Hasiru Dala, trains women from marginalised communities to produce compost from organic waste, generating livelihoods and promoting environmental leadership.

2) **Gujrat**– Punsari village in Gujrat exemplifies sustainable development by generating electricity from village waste, showcasing the potential of waste-to-energy

3) **Punjab**-The "Pind Cycle" program incentives villagers to collect agricultural waste for biomass energy production, reducing crop burning incidents, improving air quality, and providing alternative sources of income for rural households.

Read more-**Green Technologies- Explained Pointwise**

What should be the way forward?

1) The local best practices should be replicated in other rural regions.

2)Formulation of local waste management plans should be encouraged. These plans may outline strategies for collecting, transporting, and treating waste.

2) There should be promotion of rural entrepreneurship that is in alignment with the objective of SDGs.

3) The government must implement policies that effectively address environmental injustice toward marginalised and remote communities.

4)The government should promote cohesion policies between Urban and Peri-Urban areas.

5) Concept of Sustainable 'Green' Rural Municipalities should be promoted.

6) The government should incentivise adoption of green waste technology and create a conducive environment for sustainable waste management.

7) There is a need to provide financial incentives, subsidies, and technical assistance to support small rural entrepreneurs and rural enterprises. This requires concerted efforts from policymakers, development agencies, and local stakeholders.

8) Public-private partnerships should be leveraged to facilitate technology transfer, foster innovation and entrepreneurship in rural areas.

By promoting adoption and scaling up green waste technologies, India can pave the way towards a greener and more inclusive future for its rural population.

> **Read more-**Compulsory Afforestation in India
> **UPSC Syllabus-GS Paper-3**-Environment, Conservation of Envrionment

[Kurukshetra May 2024 Summary] Use of Green Technologies in Sustainable Water Management- Explained Pointwise

Sustainable water management is a necessity for our present and future generations. The Sustainable water management is a multi-prolonged strategy that rests on four pillars which are environment, economic, social, and energy and resources. Use of green technologies is necessary for sustainable water management.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.
ForumIAS

Source- Kurukshetra

What are the Green Technologies being used in Sustainable Water Management?

Biofilters for storm water	The storm water is filtered by retrofitting conventional biofilters. There is a submerged (partly anoxic) zone with an embedded carbon source. This helps in cleaning storm water.
Denitrification	Denitrification and removal of copper from storm water have significantly improved the storm water quality. The use of E.Coli improves the water quality for secondary use.
Bioreactors	A bioreactor is a device containing bacteria and microorganisms placed on a moving bed biofilm reactor. The waste is deposited on a packed or fibrous bed and attached to a membrane to form a biofilm.
Biofilters	Microorganisms or bacteria are allowed to grow on biofilters to make a biofilm. Wastewater is passed through biofilm which will speed up the degradation of pollutants and organic matter present in the waste water.
Bioremediation	Microorganisms are applied to the wastewater sites to remove dangerous species or to convert toxins into less or non-toxic materials.
Electrowinning	Current is passed through wastewater with the help of electrodes. Metals are then electro-extracted from their oxidized forms to deposit on the cathode. Heavy metals including copper, nickel, silver, gold, cadmium, bismuth, cobalt, and others can be recovered from wastewater through electrowinning.
Desalination	Desalination technologies are being used to produce freshwater from seawater.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

ForumIAS

Other Green Technologies employed in the field of Water Management

Forward Osmosis	It uses a new eco-friendly chemical compound to draw the water molecules through a membrane leaving the salt behind. Then we separate the chemical from water through a heating process. This chemical can be reused in the process.
Clathrate Desalination	This technique traps water molecules in carbon dioxide and pressurises water molecules into clathrate crystals. Later, these crystals are broken down to release freshwater.
Dewvapouration	This technique humidifies a stream of heated air by running a stream of saline water on a heated surface.
Freeze Desalination	It uses the phase shift of water from liquid to solid state to remove salt from the ice crystals.

What are the advantages of using green technology for sustainable water management?

1. Averting the water scarcity- The indiscriminate exploitation and poor management of water has reduced the per capita annual availability of water, from 1816 cubic metre (cu m) in 2001, to 1544 cu m in 2011 to 1140 cu m in the year 2050. The use of green technology will help in averting the water scarcity.

2. Countering negative effect of climate change- The use of green technology helps in augmenting the supply of water, falling water table, water quality, and climate change.

3. Treatment of Waste water- Waste water treatment using green technology helps in increasing the water resource availability in the country. **For ex-** Use of Bioremediation, electrowinning technology helps in effective treatment of waste water.

4. Economic Growth and Job Creation- The employment of green technology offers potential for job creation in manufacturing, installation, maintenance, and research and development.

5. Improved Public Health- Green technologies in sustainable water management increases the pollutants removal-efficiency and nutrient recovery. The protection of human health and the environment improves with the employment of green technology in water management.

What are the Success stories of successful implementation of Green technologies?

1. Deep Tunnel Sewerage System- The Deep Tunnel Sewerage System is a massive underground superhighway for Singapore's used water management. The DTSS has adopted green technologies like energy efficient pumps, advanced membrane bioreactors, and a cogeneration plant that converts biogas into electricity. This process has resulted in reduced energy consumption, lowered carbon emissions, and increased resource recovery from wastewater.

2. Employment of Bio-remediating technique by Oil India- Bio-remediating technique by Oil India reduces oil contamination in water bodies so that these areas can be made conducive to the growth of aquatic life.

3. Werribee Treatment Plant in Melbourne- It has successfully implemented green technologies to achieve sustainable management of wastewater. Each year the plant produces 40 billion litres of recycled water which is then used for irrigation of parks, golf courses, and agricultural lands.

What are the challenges in the use of green technology in sustainable water management?

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

Forum IAS

1. Scalability and Cost-Effectiveness- The scalability and cost-effectiveness of green technologies for small-scale or remote applications is a major challenge for a developing country like India.

2. Low Public Acceptance- There is low public acceptance of non-chemical water treatment method. It is also influenced by various factors, like economic conditions and changes in government policy.

3. Huge requirement of Investment and Financing- The implementation of green technologies requires significant investment and financing. The requirement of huge investment and finance is a challenge for governments, industries, and individuals.

4. Environmental Impact- Green technologies can have unintended environmental impacts, such as changes in local ecosystems or water quality.

5. Integration with Existing Infrastructure- Green technologies require integration with existing infrastructure. This is can be a challenge due to compatibility issues.

> **Read More-** Green Technologies- Explained Pointwise

What Should be the Way Forward?

1. Research and Development- Continuous research and development are essential for identifying and implementing green technologies that are suitable to the needs of the sector.

2. Collaboration with the stakeholders- The researchers, engineers, and industry professionals must innovate and collaborate to increase the adoption of green technology in water management.

3. Public Policy for Green technology adoption- There must be emphasis on the development of Policy frameworks that include financial incentives, tax breaks, and regulatory requirements that drive the adoption of green technologies.

4. Public Awareness Programs- Massive public awareness programs along with behavioural change are the key to encourage the public and state towards the embracement of green technology.

> **Read More- MDPI**
> **UPSC Syllabus- GS 3- Environmental Conservation**

Special Category Status- Explained Pointwise

With the formation of the new NDA government at the Centre dependent upon two regional parties of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, the issue of demand for special category status has again gained prominence. In this article we will look at the benefits associated with special status and the concerns surrounding it.

What is Special Category Status? What is the history of Special Category status and the factors considered while awarding it?

A Special Category Status(SCS) is a classification given by Centre to assist in the development of those states that face geographical and socio-economic disadvantage.

History of Introduction and Aim- SCS mechanism was introduced in 1969, on the recommendation of the Fifth Finance Commission of India. It was based on the Gadgil formula. The mechanism of SCS was developed to assist certain states in their development and fast-tracking growth, if they faced historical economic or geographical disadvantages.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.
Forum IAS

Factors considered for according SCS (According to Gadgil Formula)

a. Difficult and hilly terrain

b. Low population density and/ or a sizable tribal population

c. Strategic location along borders

d. Economic and infrastructural backwardness

e. Non-viable nature of state finances

The 14th Finance Commission has done away with the 'special category status' for states, except for the Northeastern and three hill states. According to the 14th Finance Commission, the resource gap of the states should be filled by increasing the devolution of tax to 42% from the existing 32%.

This includes the Assam, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Uttarakhand and Telangana.

What are the reasons behind Andhra Pradesh's and Bihar's Demand for Special Category Status?

Andhra Pradesh Special Category Status Demand

1. Bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh to create Telangana- Andhra Pradesh had to suffer a loss of revenue and the loss of developed capital around Hyderabad due to AP Reorganisation Act, 2014.

2. Increased debt level of Andhra Pradesh- The debt of the residuary state of Andhra Pradesh, which was Rs 97,000 crore at the time of bifurcation, has reached Rs 2,58,928 crore by 2018-19.

3. Reduced Post-devolution revenue deficit- The 14th Finance Commission had estimated that post-devolution revenue deficit for AP for the five-year period 2015-20 would be Rs 22,113 crore. However, the actual post-devolution revenue deficit has been Rs 66,362 crore.

4. Unjust and inequitable Distribution- The successor state of Andhra Pradesh has inherited nearly 59% of the population, debt, and liabilities of the original state, but only 47% of its revenues.

Bihar Special Category Status Demand

1. Economic Backwardness- About one-third of Bihar's population lives in poverty. The state has a low per-capita GDP of around ₹54,000, marking it as one of India's poorest states.

2. Impact of Bifurcation- Bihar's bifurcation led to industrial decline, with many industries moving to Jharkhand, resulting in fewer employment opportunities.

3. Natural Challenges- The state faces regular floods in the north and droughts in the south, impacting agriculture and livelihoods.

4. Need for Welfare Funding- Bihar's Chief Minister highlighted the need for SCS to secure approximately ₹2.5 lakh crore for various welfare measures over five years.

5. Lack of Resources- Bihar argues its lack of natural resources and continuous water supply for irrigation contributes to its underdevelopment.

What are the benefits associated with the special category status?

Special category status provides significant financial and tax benefits to the recipient states from the central government. This aims to aid their development, to overcome their geographical and socio-economic disadvantages.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

⧉Forum IAS

1. Higher grants-in-aid- Higher grant-in-aid provided to the state government of the special category states from the Centre. **For ex-** Per capita grants to Special Category States is Rs 5,573 crore per year, whereas Andhra Pradesh (AP) which is pushing for SCS receives only Rs 3,428 crore.

2. Enhanced Central Funding- In the Special Category States, the Central government funds 90% of the Centrally sponsored scheme, compared to 70% in non-SCS states. The unspent money in a financial year does not lapse and is carried forward.

3. Tax Exemptions and incentives- The SCS states enjoy special industrial incentives such as Income-tax exemptions, custom duty waivers, reduced excise duty, corporate tax exemption for a certain period, concessions and exemptions relating to GST, and lower state and central taxes.

4. Improvement of employment opportunities- Special incentives to the special category states provide resources which are vital for the rapid industrialization of the primarily agrarian state. It also leads to improved employment opportunities for the youth and overall development of the state.

5. Investment in infrastructure- Granting of SCS encourages investments in specialty hospitals, five-star hotels, manufacturing industries, high-value service industries such as IT, and premier institutions of higher education and research.

What are the Concerns with Special State Status?

The 14th finance commission had opposed the continuation of special state status on the following grounds.

1. Increased Burden on Central Finances- Provision of additional funds, tax concessions and other benefits to SCS states puts a significant financial burden on the central government's budget. This also leads to concerns about fiscal sustainability.

2. Inequitable Distribution of Resources- Allocation of Special Category Status to some states while denying it to other states can lead to an inequitable distribution of resources.

3. Increase in Dependency and Reduction of Accountability- There are concerns that the SCS states may become overly dependent on central assistance. This also reduces their incentive to mobilize their own resources and hinder the development of a self-sustaining economy.

4. Permanent continuation of temporary SCS Status- Some states which had received SCS only for a temporary period have continued to enjoyed it for decades. There is lack of periodic impact assessment and re-evaluation.

5. Lack of Constitutional Basis- SCS lacks a clear constitutional or legal foundation. It is granted by the administrative decision of the National Development Council or the central government, making it vulnerable to changes.

What Should be the Way Forward?

1. Reassessment Criteria for SCS- There is a need to revisit the criteria for SCS. It can be expanded to consider the revenue deficit.

2. Alternative Funding Models: Following the Raghuram Rajan Committee's suggestion, w must explore new funding models based on a multi-dimensional index.

3. Increased Devolution by Finance Commission- There must be an increase in the devolution by the finance commission to address the poverty alleviation, focused aid for disaster management and agriculture, and policies that attract new industries and create job opportunities.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

Forum IAS

> **Read More-** The Indian Express
> **UPSC Syllabus- GS 2- Centre state relations**

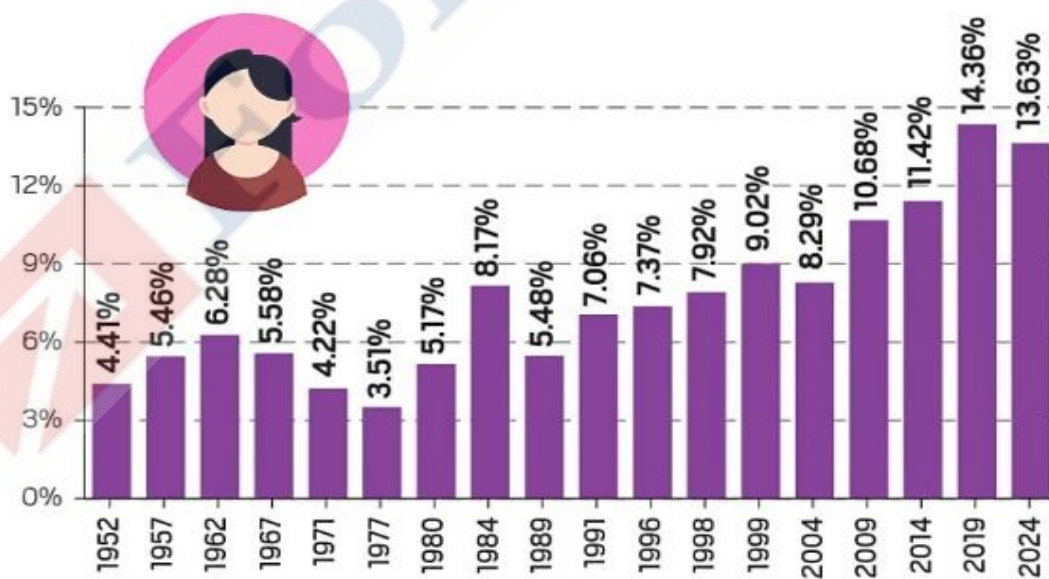## Political Empowerment of Women in India- An Analysis- Explained Pointwise

With the recent declaration of the Lok Sabha Results, the issue of political empowerment of women in India has again started to garner attention. The number of elected women MPs has fallen in the 2024 Lok Sabha has fallen to 74 from the 78 women MPs elected in 2019. In Lok Sabha elections 2024, a total of 797 women contested the elections, and 74 of them got elected. The strength of the 74 women MPs constitutes 13.63% of the elected strength of the lower house. This is much lesser than the proposed reservation for 33% of women representatives after the next delimitation exercise.

What has been the status of women representation in India?

a. Representation of Women in Parliament over the Years
1. Women made up just 4.41% of the strength of the Lower House in 1952. The number increased to more than 6% in the Lok Sabha held a decade later.
2. However, the number dipped to below 4% in 1971, ironically, with Indira Gandhi, India's first and only woman Prime Minister, at the helm.
3. There has been a slow, but steady rise in women's representation (with a few exceptions). The women representation crossed the 10% mark in 2009 and peaked at 14.36% in 2019.
4. Of the 74 women MPs elected in 2024, 43 are first time MPs. Women MPs have an average age of 50 years and are younger as compared to the overall age of the House, which is 56 years. These women MPs are as educated as their male counterparts, with 78% completing under graduation.

CHANGE IN WOMEN'S STRENGTH IN LOK SABHA OVER THE YEARS

Women in Lok Sabha 2024. (Data via PRS Legislative Research)

Source- The Indian Express

b. State Legislative assembly representation

The representation of women in State Legislative Assemblies has been low. The highest is in Chhattisgarh (14.4%) followed by West Bengal (13.7%) and Jharkhand (12.4%).

Source- PIB. Percentage of Women Representatives in State Legislative Assemblies as on December 31, 2021. The proportion for Jammu and Kashmir/Ladakh is based on last elections held in 2014.

c. Comparison with Global Standards

According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) 'Women in Parliament' Report (2021), the global percentage of women in parliament was 26.1%. India ranks lower than 140 other nations in terms of the number of women serving in their national legislatures. Even though the representation of women in Lok

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

Forum IAS

Sabha has increased post independence (~16% in 17th lok Sabha), India is behind a number of countries of Africa and South Asia (like Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka).

Why is there a need for greater political empowerment of Women in India?

1. Accountability and Gender-sensitive Governance- Political empowerment of women facilitates direct engagement in public decision-making and is a means of ensuring better accountability to women. It helps in undertaking reforms that can help make all elected officials more effective at promoting gender equality in public policy and ensuring their implementation.

2. Breaking the Patriarchal mould of Indian Politics- Indian Politics has been patriarchal with top party positions and positions of power have been occupied by male. Increase in women representation in parliament, dismantles the patriarchal nature of Indian politics.

3. Focus on Gender issues- According to UN Women, higher numbers of women in parliament generally contribute to stronger attention to women's issues. This ensures appropriate policy response to address gender issues and introduce women-sensitive measures.

4. Gender Equality- Women's political participation is a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality and genuine democracy. It helps establish public enquiries on women's issues and use findings to place issues on government agendas and within legislative programmes.

5. Change of Stereotypes- Enhanced representation helps in cooperation with the women's movement and the media to change the stereotyped image of women as only 'homemakers', to change it to 'lawmakers'.

6. Improvement of Economic Performance and Infrastructure- According to UN University, Women legislators improve the economic performance of their constituencies 1.8 per cent more than male legislatures. Evaluation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana shows the share of incomplete road projects is 22 percentage points lower in female led constituencies.

What are the reasons behind low political representation of women in India?

1. Gender Gaps in Political Ambition- Gender conditioning leads to lack of political ambition in women:
(a) Women are less encouraged to run for office/election than men.
(b) Women's tendency to shy away from competition also plays a role since the political selection process is likely perceived as highly competitive.
(c) The fear of 'big politics' and factors such as self-doubt, stereotypes and personal reservations prevent even the most politically gifted women from entering government
(d) Women's willingness to advance in their political careers can also be influenced by family and relational considerations. **For ex-** In Sweden, female politicians who are promoted to mayor (i.e. the highest office in municipal politics) experience a significant increase in the likelihood of divorcing their partner, whereas this is not the case for men.

2. Patriarchal Society- The patriarchal nature of Indian politics also prevents the increase in women participation in India.
(a) **Gender Disparities-** There are still many obstacles in the way of women in positions of leadership due to gender inequality in areas like as education, access to resources, and the persistence of biased views.
(b) **Sexual division of labour-** Women are responsible for the majority of housework and child care. This creates hindrance for them to enter politics.
(c) **Cultural and Social Expectations-** Cultural and Social Expectations are forced upon women which prevent women from participating in politics.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

ForumIAS

3. Cost of Contesting Election- Cost of contesting elections is rising with times. Lack of access to resources and assets means that women are much less likely to be able to raise the funds for contesting elections than men.

4. Male politicians as Gate-keepers- Party leaders generally prefer to promote male rather than female candidates. There is a general bias in the thinking regarding winnability of female candidates preventing them from selecting women leaders for election.

5. Growth of criminalisation and corruption- The exodus of women from politics can also be attributed to a lack of political education coupled with the growth in criminalization and corruption.

What measures have been undertaken for political empowerment of Women and increasing their participation?

Legislative Measures

1. Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam (Women reservation Act)– It has been passed to provide 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.

2. 73rd and 74th amendment Act- This amendment act provided 33% reservation to women in local bodies. Some states like Bihar have increased the women reservation in the local bodies to 50%.

3. Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women- In 1997 (11th Lok Sabha), the Committee on Empowerment of Women was formed to advance the position of women

4. Gender-Neutral Rules of Lok Sabha- The rules of the Lok Sabha were made completely gender-neutral in 2014 under the leadership of Meira Kumar. Since then, every document has called the head of a Lok Sabha Committee as the Chairperson.

Constitutional Measures

1. Article 14- It has established equality as a fundamental right. It inevitably necessitates equal opportunity, as stated in Article 15.

2. Article 46- It puts on the state the responsibility to safeguard vulnerable groups against social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

3. Article 243D- It ensures participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions by mandating at least 33% reservation for women in total seats and the offices of chairpersons of Panchayats.

4. Article 326- Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage.

International Covenants

Globally, several international commitments have been made, for achieving gender equality and these have emphasized on enhancing women's representation in political sphere.

1. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)- Upheld women's right to participate in public life.

2. Beijing Platform for Action (1995), Millennium Development Goals (2000) and Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030)- All these called for removing barriers to equal participation and also took into account increasing women's representation in parliament to measure progress towards gender equality.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.
ForumIAS

Political Participation of Women: International Conventions

- **Basic Human Right**: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) declare **Political Participation as a basic human right**.
- **Eliminate Discrimination**: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1979.
  - Article 7 calls for the State parties to **take appropriate steps to eliminate discrimination against women** in the political sphere.
  - Women must have equal right to vote and be eligible to hold public office, participate in policy formulation and implementation.
- **Women Participation**: The 4th World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) considered *'Women in power and decision making'* as one of the 12 critical areas in its **Platform of Action**.
- **30% Representation at Decision Making Level**: The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) endorsed a **30% target of women participation** at decision-making levels (1995).

Created by | ForumIAS©

Created By Forum IAS

What Should be the Way Forward?

1. Checks on the crimininalisation of politics- We must address the larger issues of electoral reforms such as measures to check criminalisation of politics and influence of black money to achieve the desired results of women reservation.

2. Intra party democracy- Institutionalisation of Intra party democracy will make availabe a wider pool of women candidates.

3. Nomination to Rajya Sabha and State Legislative Councils- Every Political Party must nominate 33% women and 67% men for every election to Rajya Sabha and State legislative councils to achieve true women representation.

4. Promotion of women participation at panchayat level through strengthening women self-help groups. This will ensure able women candidates for MP/MLA elections.

5. Strengthening women's agencies and organizations for building a progressive society with equality of opportunities among all citizens.

6. Promotion of girl's participation in College/Universities student political parties and political debate to increase their political prowess for future.

> **Read More-** The Indian Express
> **UPSC Syllabus- GS 1** Issues related to women, **GS II,** Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

↗ Forum IAS

Exam Paper Leaks- Concerns and Way Forward- Explained Pointwise

Recently, exam paper leaks in the Hindi heartland become one of the top poll issues in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. Exam paper leaks and scams in states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar, have been a key concern for young voters in the age group of 18-25. In this article, we will delve into the issue of exam paper leaks and the ways in which it can be curtailed.

Source- The Indian Express

What are the recent cases of exam paper leaks in India?

There have been 41 paper leaks over the last five years in 15 states, which has affected 1.4 crore job seekers who had applied for over one lakh vacancies. This has translated into angst and disappointment among the young voters. Some of the recent paper leaks are mentioned below-

1. UP Constable Recruitment and Promotion Exam Paper Leak (2023)- The UP Constable recruitment and promotion examination paper was leaked, leading to the cancellation of the exam and the arrest of three individuals suspected of being involved in the scam.

2. REET 2023 Paper Leak- The Rajasthan Eligibility for Elementary Teachers (REET) exam paper leak which was conducted by the Rajasthan Subordinate and Ministerial Services Selection Board (RSMSSB).

3. TSPSC Assistant Engineer Exam Paper Leak (2023)- The Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) Assistant Engineer recruitment exam was cancelled due to paper leak.

4. NEET UG 2024- The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for undergraduate medical courses witnessed multiple paper leak incidents.

5. Assam Class 10 Board Exam 2024- In Assam, a paper leak in the Class 10 state board exams prompted significant political controversy and public outcry.

What are the negative impacts of frequent Paper leaks in India?

1. Disproportionate impact on rural and marginalized community students- The students from remote rural backgrounds and marginalised castes, are disproportionately impacted as they come with the pressure of debts undertaken to pay fees of applications, coaching centres and computer training centres and rent.

2. Emotional, Mental and Physical Fatigue- With the cancellation of exams, there is an increase in the fatigue of students and the fear of a new generation of aspirants joining the queue.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

ForumIAS

3. Exacerbation of Job Crisis- The cancellation of recruitment procedures has added to spiralling of crises in the already scarce job market.

4. Disruption of academic calendars- The postponement and cancellation of Exams due to paper leaks, throw the academic schedules into disarray and cause uncertainty for students.

5. Loss of trust and confidence- The frequent paper leaks lead to students loosing their faith in the fairness and meritocracy of exams, and questions the value of their efforts and education.

What steps have been taken to address the exam paper leaks in India?

To address the issue of exam paper leaks in India, the following steps have been undertaken.

1. Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act- The act aims to prevent unfair means in the public examinations. This act aims to bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility in the public examinations system.

> **Read More-** Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act

2. Formation of the National Testing Agency (NTA)- The NTA was formed as a professional exam-conducting body to make the examination system more scientific, reliable, and professional.

3. Transition to Online Exams- Moving exams online was thought to be a solution to paper-based exams, as it reduces the risks associated with printing and distribution.

What are the lacunae with the exam system in India?

1. Loopholes in the Examination Process- Question paper setting, printing, and distribution are often vulnerable to leaks due to inadequate security measures.

2. Inadequate IT Systems- Online exams are vulnerable due to inadequate testing and deployment of IT systems. This further makes them susceptible to hacking.

3. Inadequate Penalties and Enforcement- The existing laws which criminalize cheating have not led to convictions. This demonstrates lack of effective enforcement and penalties.

4. Lack of Special Investigation Agency- India lacks a dedicated agency to investigate all types of examination offenses and bring culprits to justice quickly.

5. Discretion of the state governments in adopting the Public Examinations Bill- The Public Examination Bill leaves it to the discretion of the state governments to draft their own acts by serving as a model bill. However, state governments have displayed partisan interests in drafting model bills in the past, like the Model APLM Act.

What should be the Way Forward?

1. Compensation in case of exam cancellation- There must be adequate compensation for years of labour, exorbitant financial cost, and the emotional toll incurred by lakhs of candidates who pin all their hopes on the public exam.

2. Establishment of fast-track courts- Fast track courts must be established for the trial and convictions for people involved in paper leaks.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

Forum IAS

3. Strengthening of Examination Processes- We must enhance security measures in question paper setting, printing, and distribution to plug loopholes. We must leverage blockchain technology to securely store and manage exam-related data.

4. Enhancement of Penalties and Enforcement- We must impose stringent penalties on persons resorting to unfair means, as per the Public Examinations Prevention of Unfair Means Act.

> **Read More-** The Indian Express
> **UPSC Syllabus- GS 2-** Government policies and interventions for the development of various sectors (Bills and Acts)

Agnipath scheme-Concerns and Way Forward- Explained Pointwise

The Agnipath scheme, launched on June 14, 2022, is currently operational. The initial batch of Agniveers has finished their training and joined different units of the armed forces.The scheme has faced criticism, especially from veterans, for various reasons.

It also became a major political issue in the recently concluded Lok Sabha election, especially in states like Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan, where the Armed Forces are a popular choice for employment. The Principal opposition block in the elections campaigned against this recruitment scheme, which seemed to strike a chord with voters of the above-mentioned states.

Since no single political party could secure a clear majority in the recently held Lok Sabha election, significant allies of the ruling dispensation are pushing for a review of the contentious recruitment plan. In the backdrop of these changed realities, Agnipath scheme warrants a thorough investigation into its pros and cons.

What is Agnipath scheme?

1) **Introduction-**It is a short-service manpower model under which around 45,000 to 50,000 soldiers will be recruited annually. Of these, 75% will leave the service in four years. 25% will be allowed to continue for another 15 years under permanent commission. At present, all sailors, airmen, and soldiers, except the technical cadre of the medical branch, are recruited to the services under the scheme, which has also opened doors for the recruitment of women to the IAF and the Navy.

2) **Broad objectives of Agnipath scheme–**

A) To enhance youthful profile of the Armed Forces so that they are at their best fighting abilities, and increased risk taking ability, at all times.
B) To bring in young talent from society who can effectively use new technologies and have higher technical skills, using the country's technical institutions.
C) To provide an opportunity to the youth who may be keen to serve the Nation in uniform albeit for a short period of time.
D) To imbibe the Armed Forces ethos, camaraderie, commitment and teamwork in the youth.
E) To provide abilities and qualities such as discipline, dynamism, motivation and work-skills so that the youth remains an asset.

3) **Post Demobilisation Employment Opportunities-**

What is the significance of Agnipath scheme?

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.
ForumIAS

1) Leaner and Younger Force-It will reduce the permanent force size significantly for the country's armed forces, which currently consist of over 13 lakh personnel. Only 25% of recruits will be allowed to continue for another 15 years under permanent commission. This change is expected to lower the average age in the forces from 32 to 26 within the next 6 to 7 years.

2) Reducing Defense Expenditure: A leaner military and reduced benefits will significantly lower the defense budget, which has been a major concern for governments for many years. Over the past decade, Pay and Allowances (P&A) and Pension expenses have increased from 50% to 55%, while the portion allocated to acquisition and stores expenditure has decreased.Reserch and Development, which is critical for the self-reliance and has been aggressively pushed by the government through its 'Make in India' initiative and Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, hovers at a meagre 3-4 percent . In 2022-23, P&A and Pension will make up 79% of the Ministry of Defence's total revenue expenditure.

Broad Distribution of the MoD's Expenditure, 2013/14-2022/23

3) **Investment in Modern Warfare-**The saved money can be utilized to buy state-of-art technology and equipment which are the backbone of modern warfare. With its implementation, the military will become a future-ready fighting force, capable of meeting multiple challenges across the full spectrum of conflict
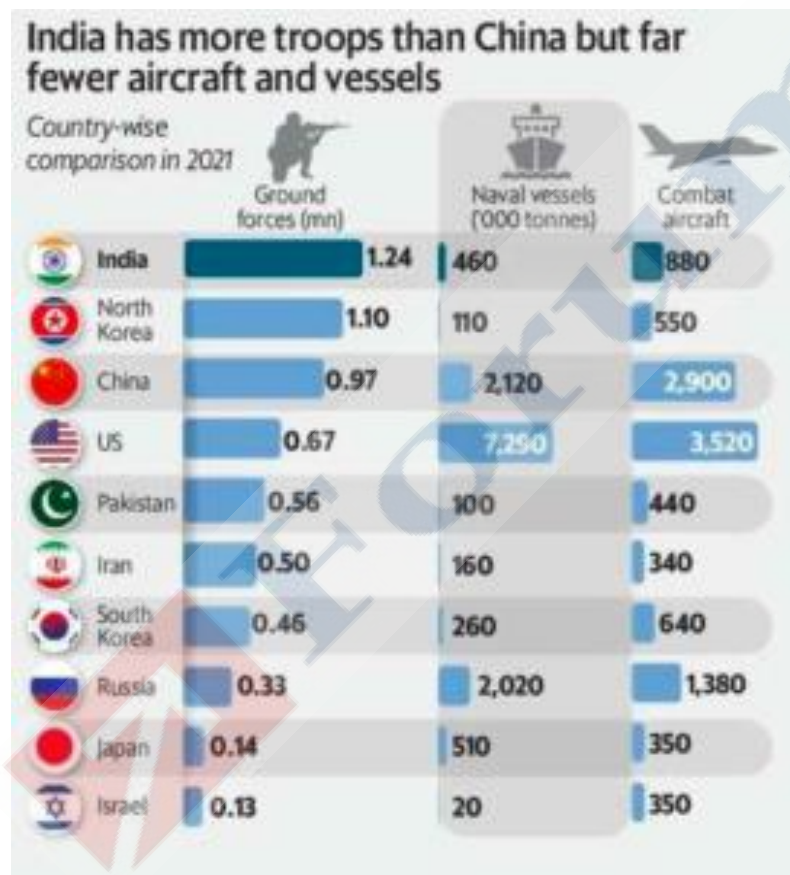

Figure 1.Source: Mint

4) All India, All Class Recruitment: This will make recruitment into the armed forces more inclusive by allowing enrolment from all parts of the country and all sections of society. This is important for the Army, which currently follows a regiment system based on region and caste.

5) **Ensuring rotation of troops-**The scheme aims to rotate soldiers more frequently by having shorter terms. This prevents stagnation and brings in new talent and skills regularly, ensuring a disciplined rotation of troops.

6) **Adhoc Buffer Force:** The ex-agniveers could act as an adhoc buffer force who may be called to serve again for boosting national security in times of external/internal threats.

7) **Providing skilled workforce:** After serving for 4 years, the 'Agniveers' (the temporary soldiers) would be discharged, and it is expected that they would contribute to the skilled workforce in various sectors, given their disciplined training and exposure

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

ForumIAS

8) Following theTrend Towards Personnel Reduction and Increased Capital Expenditure-There is a trend towards reduction in the number of personnel and emphasis on increasing capital expenditure on modern weapons and equipment in major countries.

For ex-the People's Liberation Army (PLA) underwent a massive demobilization from the 1980s onwards, bringing down total numbers from 4.5 million to about 2 million, with the focus on.

What are the concerns associated with Agnipath scheme?

1) **Protests and opposition**: The Agnipath scheme has faced widespread protests and opposition from various sections, including potential recruits, ex-servicemen, and political parties. There are concerns about the job security, pension benefits, and future prospects of the "Agniveers" after their four-year tenure.

2) **Increase in training capacities and infrastructure**:-With a constant inflow of new Agniveers every year, there will be a need to significantly enhance training capacities and infrastructure to accommodate their basic and advanced training requirements.

3) **Augmentation of administrative setup**-The scheme will require an augmentation and strengthening of the administrative machinery to handle the increased recruitment, periodic release after 4 years, and retention of 25% of the Agniveers for longer service.

4) **Impact on Armed Forces Structure and Soldier Motivation**– The change from Class-Based Recruitment Replaced with All-India All-Class Recruitment could harm the armed forces because it affects their managerial and operational effeciency. Indian Army soldiers, though trained well, also find motivation in their social identity, caring about their reputation among peers in their caste, village, or social group.

5) **Weaken Unit Cohesion and Combat Effectiveness**-Technology and advanced weapon systems alone cannot guarantee success in combat. As seen in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and the Israel-Hamas conflict, technological superiority can be countered by the adversary's technological measures. Thus, the human element, conventional combat tactics, and interpersonal bonding among soldiers can not be overlooked to prepare the army for modern warfare.

6) **Capability Drawbacks**-Agniveers undergo limited training of six months. Veterans and analysts doubt whether units would entrust Agniveers with tasks like handling ammunition, ordnance, weapons, and classified stores, or undertaking repairs on combat vehicles and artillery.

7) **Unhealthy Competition Among Agniveers-**Training, integrating, and deploying soldiers with varying experience levels and motivations could pose significant challenges. Selecting the 25% of short-term contracted soldiers to be retained may lead to unhealthy competition.If not addressed, this could become a serious issue and harm the unit's health in the long run.

8) **Recruitment by Inimical Elements**-There are concerns that after their discharge, Agniveers could be vulnerable to recruitment by inimical elements like Naxalites, insurgents, militants, and gangsters for nefarious purposes

9) **Personnel Shortages and Resource Utilization**-The Army, along with the other two services, is short of about 1,55,000 personnel, with the Army having the most vacancies at 1,36,000. The Agnipath scheme aims to fill these positions, which are mostly non-officer combat roles. Releasing 75% of trained recruits after four years of service in this context would be a waste of resources.

10) **Rehabilitation of Agniveers-**

A) The bond between a soldier and the state is called the 'military covenant.' Soldiers risk their lives to protect national interests, and in return, the nation promises them respect, recognition, gratitude, and fair

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

Forum IAS

compensation for their sacrifices. This connection is vital for keeping militaries strong, and it's important that the Agniveers don't feel neglected after their service.

B) If Agniveers don't receive adequate support after leaving the military, it might make a career in uniform less appealing. This could lower the quality of recruits joining the military. Also, if trained soldiers are discharged each year without employment, it could be risky if they become unemployed and frustrated. Some fear this could lead to increased militarization of society.

What should be the way forward?

1) **Raising Age Limit and Permanent Retention Quota**:-The Indian Army proposed extending the service period from 4 years to 7-8 years for Agniveers. It suggested raising the entry age for Agniveers in technical roles to 23 years and increasing the percentage of Agniveers transitioning to regular service after 4 years from 25 percent to 60-70 percent.

2) **Nurturing the Human Element**-The facets of the human element in Agniveers need to be addressed by the leaders responsible for their training and assessment. Value-based nurturing based on unit ethos needs to commence from the outset, irrespective of technological advancements in warfare.

3) **Incorporation of Psychological Testing**-There is a need to introduce psychological test as part of the recruitment process, similar to the methodology used for officer selection in the military. This will help unit commanders manage human resources better and facilitate the grooming and assessment of Agniveers.

4) **Continuous Preparation for Combat and Integration of Agniveers**-In combat, a military unit must perform well. Preparation for facing the enemy happens continuously and doesn't wait for actual combat. Likewise, unit commanders should focus on integrating Agniveers into the unit and ensuring that they work well as part of the team.

5) **Fostering Unit Cohesion through Character Development**:-To enhance unit pride and cohesion, there should be focus on individual character development, as it forms the foundation of discipline, motivation, and teamwork, essential for battlefield strength and unit camaraderie.

6) **Bridging the Military-Civilian Divide**-The military is highly respected for its role in national security. The beginning of Agniveer recruitment marks a move towards creating a citizen's army. Agnipath should help young people learn more about the military, bridging the gap between military and civilian life.

7) **Enhanced Entitelements & Benefits**-

A)They should be covered under contributory pension and generous gratuity scheme.Ex-gratia should be provided for disability during training. Moreover, if an Agniveer dies in war, their family should receive a subsistence allowance.

B) They should get opportunities in other security forces, veteran status, and preference for government jobs. Around 25-30% of soldiers should be retained through a transparent, merit-based system, with the option for voluntary extension.

8) **Implement robust skilling and resettlement programs**:-Developing robust skilling and resettlement programs in collaboration with the private sector and other government agencies could help ensure a smooth transition for "Agniveers" into civilian life after their tenure.The government may bring a legislation that mandates compulsory absorption of agniveers by private employers and corporates.

9) **Enhancing Educational Standards** –Educational requirements should be raised to 10+2, and a more rigorous national entrance exam should be implemented.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

Forum IAS

Read More-Indian Express,The Hindu

UPSC Syllabus-GS Paper-3-Various Security Forces and Agencies and their Mandate

Read more**-On the Challenges with the Agnipath Scheme – It is the conditioning of the Agniveer that merits attention**

NEET Controversy – Reasons and Way Forward- Explained Pointwise

In the recently declared result, 67 candidates who secured the top rank with the maximum possible score of 720 out of 720 in the recently held NEET examination. In the previous five years, the maximum number of toppers scoring 720 was just three. Around 1,500 candidates were awarded "grace marks" for "loss of time" during the exam, raising questions about the fairness and consistency of the evaluation process.

Many people, including politicians and some candidates, want the NEET results to be checked again or even for the exam to be cancelled due to the controversies and possible unfairness. To deal with this, the NTA and the Education Ministry constituted a 4 members committee to look into the results of those who got extra marks. The NEET controversy has once again reignited debates around issues like the suitability of the examination format, the impact of coaching institutes, and the need for a more holistic and equitable assessment system for medical admissions in India.

What is the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)?

1) Introduction-The NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) is an entrance examination for students who wish to pursue undergraduate medical courses (MBBS/BDS) and postgraduate courses (MD/MS) in government or private medical colleges.

2) **Conducting Body**-The exam is conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA). It is an autonomous body, constituted under the Ministry of Education.

3) **Languages**-The NEET exam is conducted in offline mode and in 13 languages. Candidates can select the question paper medium from the following languages: English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, Odia, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, or Punjabi.

What is the significance of NEET Examination?

1) **Single Entrance Test for Medical Admissions**-It serves as the single entrance test for admission to undergraduate medical (MBBS), dental (BDS), and other allied courses like AYUSH in government and private medical colleges across India. This test helps evaluate medical aspirants across the country in a consistent and standardized way.

2) **Regulating Medical Education Quality**-It ensures that students entering the medical field meet a certain level of quality and merit. By using a single entrance test for evaluation, it aims to uphold the quality of medical education and ensure that future healthcare professionals are competent.

3) **Addressing Admission Malpractices**-Before NEET, each state or institution used to conduct its own entrance tests for medical college admissions. This often resulted in problems like cheating, capitation fees, and a lack of transparency. Bringing all exams under the National Testing Agency (NTA) reduces these issues by making the process more centralized, transparent, and less prone to corruption or misconduct.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.
Forum IAS

4) **Upholding Reservation Policies**-It acts as a basis for distributing seats in medical colleges, which includes enforcing reservation policies for various student groups like economically disadvantaged sections or scheduled castes and tribes. This has been upheld by the Supreme Court in the case of Christian Medical College, Vellore v. Union of India.
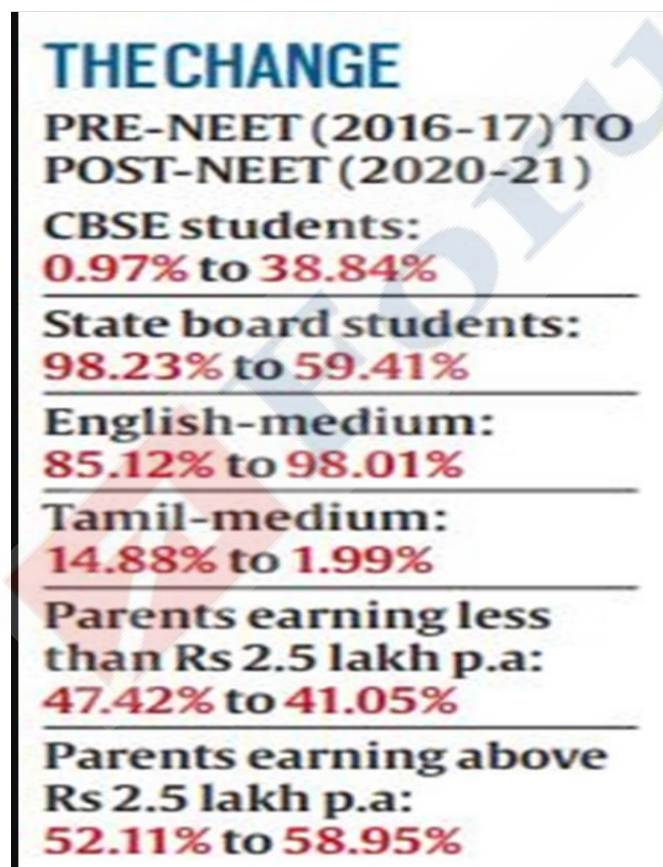
5) **Enhancing Global Recognition of Indian Medical Degrees**– NEET meets **global** standards for medical entrance exams, making Indian medical degrees more credible worldwide. This helps Indian medical graduates study more, get licenses, or work abroad, boosting India's reputation in healthcare globally.

8) **Efficiency and Cost–Effectiveness**– It simplifies the admissions process by removing the necessity of conducting multiple entrance exams by states and institutions. This saves time, money, and effort for both students and educational bodies.

What are the Resons behind NEET Controversy?

1) **Undermine Federal Structure and State Autonomy**– NEET undermines the federal structure by removing states' authority to admit students to government medical colleges. Education falls under state jurisdiction, allowing them to regulate education for state universities. NEET's introduction, for admission to all medical colleges, violates this federal structure and states' autonomy in educational decisions.

2) **Syllabus Disparity**-NEET's syllabus may not align exactly with what state boards teach, making it difficult for students to adjust to the exam format. This can make it tougher for students from state boards compared to those from CBSE or ICSE boards. The Rajan committee, set up by the Tamil Nadu government, pointed this out as well.

THE CHANGE

PRE-NEET (2016–17) TO POST-NEET (2020–21)

CBSE students:
0.97% to 38.84%

State board students:
98.23% to 59.41%

English–medium:
85.12% to 98.01%

Tamil–medium:
14.88% to 1.99%

Parents earning less than Rs 2.5 lakh p.a:
47.42% to 41.05%

Parents earning above Rs 2.5 lakh p.a:
52.11% to 58.95%

3) **Equity and Representation Concerns**-Reports like the Rajan Committee show that after NEET started, fewer students from rural areas, Tamil medium schools, low-income families, and Tamil Nadu state board schools got admission into medical colleges. This raises concerns about NEET's impact on equitable representation and social justice.This is main reason that Tamilnadu government has been opposing this mode of exam since its introduction.

4) **Language Barrier**-NEET is conducted only in a few languages like English, Hindi, and some regional languages. This poses a challenge for students from other regional languages, which are not covered under the current exam pattern.

5) **Translation Errors**-Even though the test is conducted in 13 languages, they are still many translation errors. For ex-Neet 2021 had a translation error in a Physics Question. Similarly, In the 2018 NEET, as many as 49 questions had errors in Tamil translation. This led to a Madras High Court order to award four marks for each of the 49 wrongly translated questions for all 1.07 lakh candidates who appeared NEET in the Tamil Language.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

🅉Forum IAS

6) **Stress and Mental Health Concerns-**The fierce competition and stress to excel in NEET adversely impact the mental health and overall well-being of students. This strain can lead to tragic outcomes such as suicides. For ex-Suicides of students in Kota.

7) **Dominance of Coaching Industries**–The dependency of students on coaching institutes for qualifying NEET examination raises concerns about the commercialization of education. These institutes charge substantial fees and further deepen the disparity between advantaged and disadvantaged students. As per Rajan committee report,99% of students who gained admission in 2019-20 had taken coaching. This underscores the dominance of coaching industries.

8) **Limitations of MCQ-based Mass Testing-**Well-designed MCQs can probe capacities like reasoning and judgment of the students. However, they cannot assess qualities like reflection and critical thinking, which are of paramount importance for professions like medicine.

9) **Transparency and Fairness**–Many young people have felt unfairly judged over time. Fair evaluation isn't just about morals; it's also an important condition for ensuring equity. The recent controversy over the 2023 NEET results has raised concerns about the transparency and fairness of the evaluation process.

10) **Logistical Challenges-**Conducting a nationwide exam for over 2 million applicants poses logistical challenges in ensuring smooth conduct, addressing technical glitches, and preventing irregularities like paper leaks. For ex-allegation of paper leaks in Bihar.

What should be done to resolve NEET Controversy?

1) **Addressing Socioeconomic Disparities-** Implement measures to provide equal opportunities for students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. This could include providing financial assistance, scholarships, and coaching support to economically disadvantaged students.

2) L**anguage Accessibility-**Conduct NEET exams in multiple languages to accommodate students from different linguistic backgrounds. This would help reduce the language barrier and ensure that all students have a fair chance of performing well in the exam, regardless of their language proficiency.

3) **Alignment of Curricula-**There is a need to ensure alignment between NEET syllabus and various state board curricula to minimize disparities in preparation among students from different educational backgrounds. Collaboration between central and state education boards can help achieve this alignment.

4) **Focus on Critical Thinking Skills**– NEET exam pattern should be revised to include questions that assess reflection, critical thinking and practical knowledge relevant to medical education and practice.

5) **Implement Rajan Committee Recommendations-**

A) It suggests using "normalized" Higher secondary scores to ensure fairness across different boards.

B)It also suggests recognizing socio-economic and other obstacles that could impact performance in the higher secondary exam and modifying scores accordingly using an "adversity score" system.

6) **Regulation of Coaching Industries-**There must be some form of regulations on charging of exorbitant fees by private coaching institutions. They must be mandated to organise seminars and mental health workshops to minimize negativity among students.

7) **Multi-Stakeholders Engagement:-**There is a need to engage stakeholders, including students, parents, educators, policymakers, and medical professionals to develop solutions that address the needs and concerns of all stakeholders.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

ForumIAS

8) **Continuous Evaluation and Improvement**-There is a need to continuously evaluate and improve the NEET examination system, monitor reforms, gather stakeholder feedback, and adjust policies to maintain exam effectiveness and integrity.

9) **Robust Grievance Redressal Mechanisms**-There should be establishment of robust grievance redressal system for candidates to raise concerns and have them addressed in a timely manner. Judicial oversight can be encouraged to ensure fairness and trust in the process.

Read more-Indian Express

UPSC Syllabus-GS Paper-2-Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

A detailed article on Paper Leaks can be **read here.**

Lithium Reserves in India – Challenges and Way forward- Explained Pointwise

Lithium (Li), sometimes also referred as 'White gold' due to its high demand for rechargeable batteries, is a soft and silvery-white metal. It started a race of mining and procurement of Lithium reserves in India and all over the world. In this process, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) discovered lithium reserves of 5.9 million tonnes in the Salal-Haimana area of Reasi district in Jammu and Kashmir, making India one of the top 10 countries with lithium reserves.

This attracted interest from several companies, including JSW Group, Hindalco Industries, Ola Electric, Vedanta Group, Shree Cement, and even State-run Coal India Ltd. The government quickly amended rules to allow private miners to bid for critical minerals like lithium, leading to an auction in November 2023.

However,the auction got only two bids and the government had to cancel it. The lithium reserves were listed in the third round of auctions, which ended last month. However, the response from the private companies are far from expectation. In this article, we will discuss, what are the challenges that are keeping them from mining lithium reserves in India and where are the other reserves.

What are the reasons behind this underwhelming response from private players for Lithium auction?

1) **Mineral Exploration and Classification**-There are four stages of mineral exploration – G4, G3, G2, and G1 – as classified by the United Nations Framework Classification for Reserves/Resources (UNFC-1997), with G4 as the initial stage. Each level represents a progressive step in exploration, from initial identification to a detailed understanding of resource potential. The lithium reserves in Kashmir are currently classified under G3, the second preliminary exploration stage after reconnaissance, indicating a low level of confidence in the quantity, grade, and mineral content estimates.

2) **Unproven and Speculative Reserves**-The biggest deterrent for companies in bidding for the lithium reserves in Kashmir is that they are unproven and highly speculative at the G3 stage.

2) **Geological hurdles**–

A) The lithium found in Kashmir is in the form of clay deposits mixed with other minerals, unlike the commercially viable brine or hard rock deposits mined globally. Extracting lithium from such deposits is yet to be tested commercially, and India's mining industry lacks the required technical expertise.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.
ForumIAS

B) Further, J&K is ecologically sensitive and falls under seismic zone V—a classification for the most seismically active regions. These factors make any industrial intervention in the area a challenging task.

3) **Sensitive Location**-The location of the reserves in Kashmir, close to the Line of Control and in an ecologically fragile Himalayan region, poses additional challenges due to potential political volatility and local resistance.

What is the status of lithium reserve in India and the World?

The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), part of the Department of Atomic Energy, has found about 1,600 tonnes of lithium resources in igneous rocks in the Marlagalla-Allapatna area of Mandya district, Karnataka.

Other potential areas are-

A) Mica belts in Rajasthan, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh.

B) Pegmatite belts in Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

C) Rann of Kutch in Gujrat.

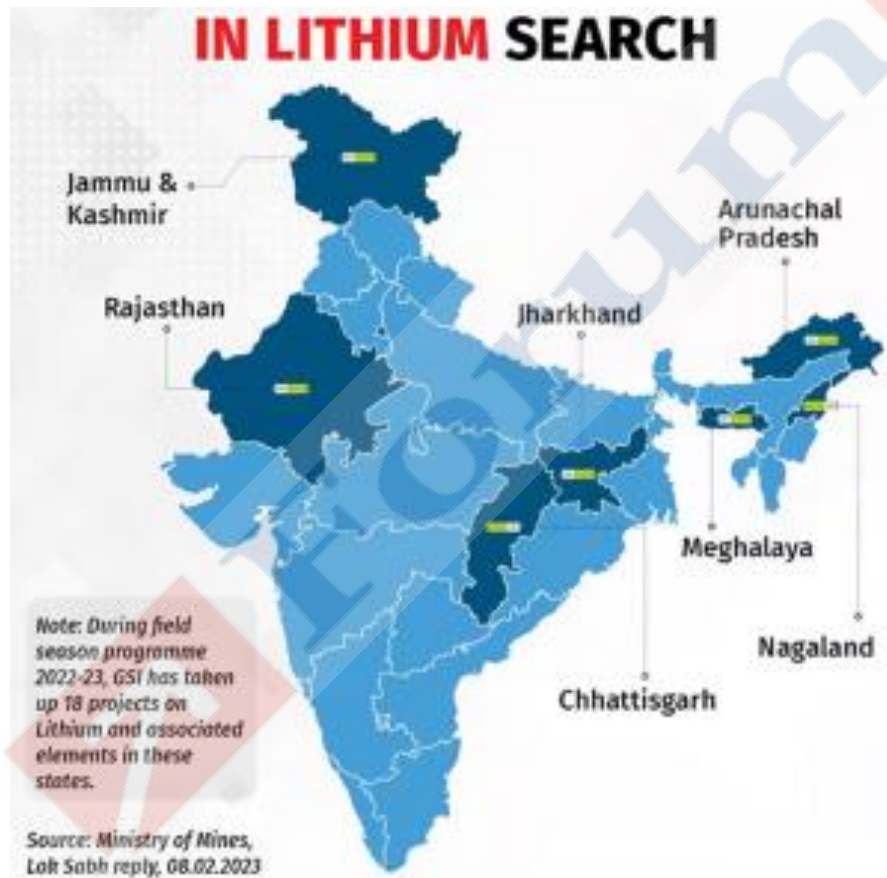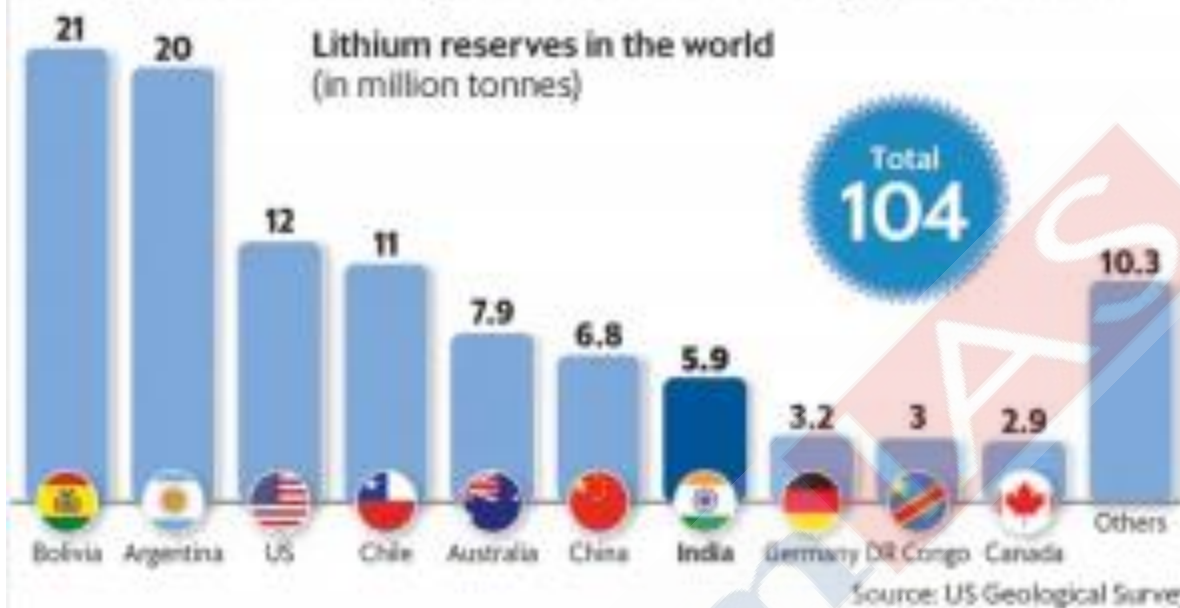**Global Lithium Reserves and Production**

In 2021, the world produced over 100,000 tonnes of lithium, which is four times more than in 2010. Australia is the biggest producer, making 52% of the world's lithium. Unlike Chile and Argentina, where lithium is taken from brines, Australia gets its lithium from hard-rock mines, mainly from spodumene.

Figure 2.Source-Ministry of Mines

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

ForumIAS

Fields of white gold

India may account for 5.7% of global reserves if the discovery in J&K is confirmed.

Lithium reserves in the world
(in million tonnes)

Total 104

Bolivia	Argentina	US	Chile	Australia	China	India	Germany	DR Congo	Canada	Others
21	20	12	11	7.9	6.8	5.9	3.2	3	2.9	10.3

Source: US Geological Survey

Source-US Geological Society

China, which is the third biggest producer of lithium, holds a significant position in the lithium supply chain. In addition to mining within China, Chinese companies have bought about $5.6 billion worth of lithium assets in countries like Chile, Canada, and Australia in the last ten years. China also has 60% of the world's lithium refining capacity for batteries.

Country-wise Global Production

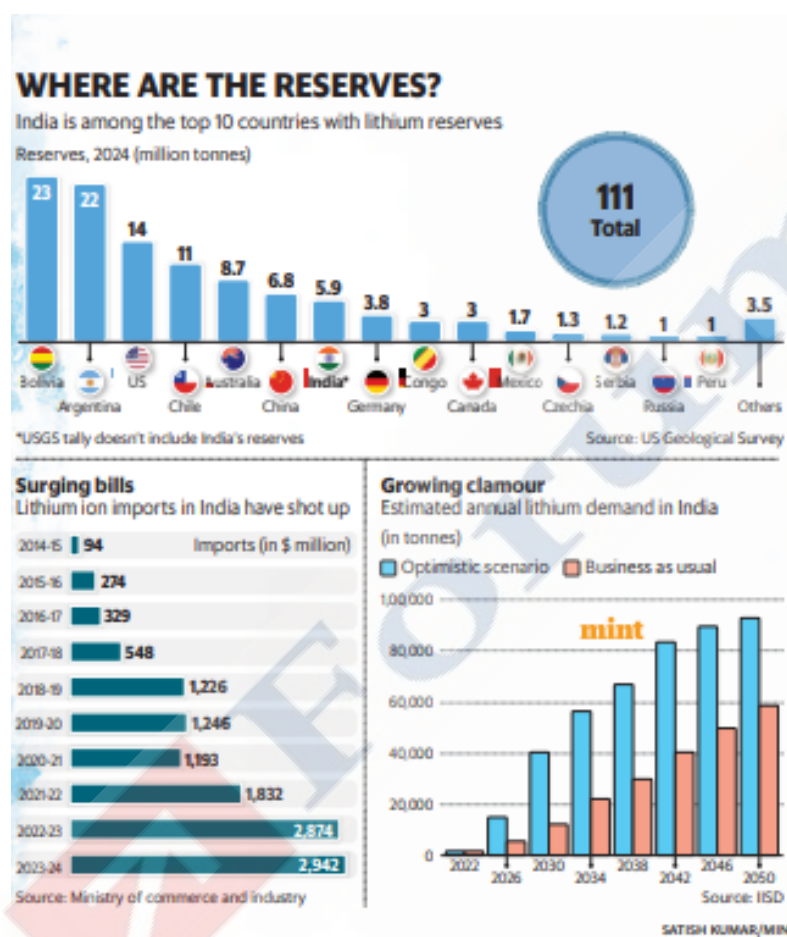| Rank	Country	2021 Production (tonnes)	% of Total
#1	Australia	55,416	52%
#2	Chile	26,000	25%
#3	China	14,000	13%
#4	Argentina	5,967	6%
#5	Brazil	1,500	1%
#6	Zimbabwe	1,200	1%
#7	Portugal	900	1%
#8	United States	900	1%
	Rest of World	102	0.1%
	Total	**105,984**	**100%**

Reserves-The "Lithium Triangle" region of Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina accounts for more than half of the global lithium reserves. However, lithium production is concentrated in Australia, Chile, and China.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

Forum IAS

Refining-China controls most of the world's lithium refining, making up two-thirds of the capacity. It's also a big supplier of lithium-ion batteries to India, providing about 75% of them.

What is the need and significance of the domestic production of Lithium for India?

1) **Meeting Growing Lithium-ion Battery Demand:**-India's lithium demand is projected to increase because more people will be using things like phones, renewable energy batteries, and electric cars in future. The demand for lithium in India is predicted to increase from 1,634 tonnes in 2022 to between 60,000 and 93,000 tonnes by 2050.

2) **Reducing Import Dependence**:-India currently has no lithium production and relies heavily on lithium-ion imports, which have surged from $94 million in 2014-15 to nearly $3 billion in 2023-24. **For ex**-India imports almost 70–80 per cent of its lithium and 70 per cent of its lithium-ion from China.Developing domestic lithium reserves could help reduce India's import dependence and associated costs.

WHERE ARE THE RESERVES?
India is among the top 10 countries with lithium reserves
Reserves, 2024 (million tonnes)

111 Total

*USGS tally doesn't include India's reserves
Source: US Geological Survey

Surging bills
Lithium ion imports in India have shot up

	Imports (in $ million)
2014-15	94
2015-16	274
2016-17	329
2017-18	548
2018-19	1,226
2019-20	1,246
2020-21	1,193
2021-22	1,832
2022-23	2,874
2023-24	2,942

Source: Ministry of commerce and industry

Growing clamour
Estimated annual lithium demand in India
(in tonnes)
☐ Optimistic scenario ☐ Business as usual

mint

Source: IISD
SATISH KUMAR/MINT

3) **Supporting Clean Energy Transition**:-Lithium is important for lithium-ion batteries, which are key for storing energy from sources like solar and wind power.Access to lithium reserves can help India switch to cleaner energy and keep the power grid stable.

4) **Enabling Electric Vehicle Adoption**:- Ensuring a stable lithium supply can ensure the adoption of EVs in India and contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.

5) **Strategic Importance**-China has mines in the lithium triangle and has refining capacity for more than half of the world's lithium. China has previously exerted its dominance, such as in 2010 when it stopped Rare Earth Elements (REE) exports to Japan during a disagreement. This highlights the importance for India to boost its domestic production to reduce its dependence on China for

lithium and other critical minerals.

What steps have been taken by the government to explore lithium reserves in India?

1) **Geological Surveys**: The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been actively involved in conducting geological surveys and explorations to identify potential lithium reserves across different regions of the country.

2) **Policy Reforms**: The government has introduced policy reforms to encourage exploration and development of lithium and other critical minerals. In 2023, the Ministry of Mines made a list called 'Critical Minerals for India.' This list includes minerals that are crucial for the country's economic growth and national security.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.
Forum IAS

Lithium is considered a 'strategic' mineral because India relies entirely on imports for it. This puts lithium at the top of the priority list.

3) **Protecting Mining Sector from Foreign Exploitation**-Indian government is committed to protect its mining sector from foreign exploitation by law. According to the Mines and Minerals Act, only Indian individuals or firms with Indian members can get licenses for mining. This prevents a situation seen in countries like Argentina or Chile, where foreign companies extract lithium, but the benefits mostly is nor reaped by the producing country.

4) **Auctions and Licensing**: The government has conducted auctions and issued licences for the exploration and extraction of lithium reserves. This includes offering lithium-bearing blocks for bidding to private companies and ensuring partnerships between government agencies and private sector players. **For ex**-In 2023, 20 blocks of critical and strategic minerals were auctioned to boost the mining process, including two lithium blocks in Jammu and Kashmir and Chhattisgarh.

5) **International Collaboration**: India has engaged in international collaboration and partnerships to leverage global expertise and technologies in the exploration and development of lithium reserves. **For ex**-the Ministry of Mines, through the state-owned Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL), has entered into a draft exploration and development agreement with Argentinan miner CAMYEN for possible acquisition and development of five-odd lithium blocks.

6) **Mineral Security Partnership**-India has recently joined an important group called the Mineral Security Partnership (MSP), led by the United States. MSP consists of 13 countries, including Australia, Canada etc, The goal of MSP is to encourage both public and private investment in global supply chains for critical minerals.

What are the challenges in extraction of Lithium in India?

1) **Environmental Concerns**-Lithium mining is resource-intensive, and the mineral waste produced can further pollute water and soil, affecting local inhabitants, agriculture, and biodiversity. **For ex**-Lithium mining requires a lot of water around 2.2 million liters to extract just one ton of the metal.

2) **Technical Challenges-**

A) India doesn't have the capability to refine lithium to make high-quality batteries. To do this, India needs to start from scratch by building the necessary facilities and expertise.Lithium found in Reasi is different from the one found in South America, making the refining process more difficult and expensive. India still lacks experience in this area, adding to the challenges.

B) Turning lithium ores into battery-grade lithium involves multiple steps. This multi-stage process requires sourcing chemical precursors like cobalt sulphate, nickel sulphate, and manganese sulphate. These chemicals must be obtained from specialized battery-grade companies, which India currently lacks.

3) **Security Challenges–**

A) India-Pakistan disputes over the Chenab River, proximity to the Line of Control, and the evolving situation since the abrogation of Article 370 may complicate capitalisation on the reserves.

B) Jaish-e-Mohammed's offshoot, the People's Anti-Fascist Front, declared that it won't allow India to access the resources.

4) **Lack of exploration and mining activities-** Lithium exploration and mining activities in India are still in their nascent stages. There has been limited investment and focus on developing lithium resources.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.
Forum IAS

5) **Socio-economic Concerns**-A study from 2018 looked at how lithium mining affects both society and the environment. Researchers say that not enough research has been done in the past 40 years to tackle the sustainability problems caused by impact of lithium mining on affected communities.

6) **Mining Policy**: The absence of an integrated mining policy for strategic metals and minerals, and poor domestic capabilities could hinder lithium exploitation.

What should be the way forward?

1) **Enhance Exploration Efforts**-India should intensify its efforts to explore and identify potential lithium reserves within the country.This includes conducting more geolorgical surveys, using remote sensing, and drilling in areas where there might be possibility of finding lithium.Collaboration with international experts and utilising advanced exploration technologies can aid in this process.

2) **Promote Research and Development**:- India should invest in research and development for lithium extraction. It should encourage academic and industrial research to develop cost-effective and environmentally sustainable methods for lithium extraction from various sources, such as pegmatites, brines, and clay deposits.

3) **Establish a Supportive Regulatory Framework**:-The government should develop a comprehensive policy and regulatory framework to encourages lithium exploration, mining, and processing activities.This means simplifying the licensing process, offering financial benefits, and ensuring environmental sustainability.

4) **Foster International Cooperation**-India can engage in international cooperation and knowledge-sharing initiatives with countries that have established lithium industries.
For ex-Australia and India has a comprehensive strategic partnership. It has lithium reserves in hard rock form, similar to India's deposits. Australia's knowledge in processing hard rock lithium could lead to technology transfer and strengthen the positive political relationship between the two countries.

5) **Strengthen Global Supply Chain**-India must also partner with like-minded countries such as the United States, Japan, Australia, Indonesia and South Korea to strengthen global lithium supply chain management and reduce strategic vulnerabilities.

6) **Leverage International Forums**-India should leverage forums such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, Mineral Security Partnership and the Quad to connect initiatives in the Indo-Pacific region and later extend them globally.

> **UPSC Syllabus**-: GS I, Distribution of key natural resources across the world; GS III, Infrastructure: Energy; GS III, Conservation.
>
> **Read more**–Rare Earth Elements: Strategic Importance and Reducing Import Dependence

Panchayat Raj Institution(PRI) in India-Significance, Challenges and Way forward – Explained , Pointwise

A recent World Bank report suggests giving more power to Panchayats and boosting their financial capacity to counteract recentralization caused by the increasing use of online payment systems and digital beneficiary tracking. The report emphasizes that empowering Panchayats is vital for effective local governance and recommends delegating more authority to them instead of reducing their power. Therefore, in this article, we will discuss the evolution of Panchayat Raj Institution(PRI) in India, the significance of PRIs for ensuring social

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

ForumIAS

justice and inclusive growth, various challenges hindering the growth of Panchayats and way forward to address these challenges.

How did Panchayat Raj Institution(PRI) evolve in India?

Article 40 of the Constitution, under the Directive Principles of State Policy, acknowledged the importance of panchayats. Although panchayats gained constitutional recognition, their structures differed among states because the Directive Principles were not legally binding. Consequently, several committees were established to promote uniformity in their structure.

1) The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957) recommended a three-tier model: Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, and Zilla Parishad. Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh were the first states to adopt this system.

2) The Ashok Mehta Committee (1978) proposed a two-tier system, taxation powers for Panchayats, and constitutional recognition.

3) The GVK Rao Committee (1985) emphasized Zilla Parishad's role in development and suggested the appointment of a District Development Commissioner.

4) The LM Singhvi Committee (1986) recommended constitutional recognition for Panchayati Raj Institutions and the establishment of Nyay Panchayats.

5) Finally,The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 gave constitutional status to the PRIs and established a system of uniform structure, elections, reservation of seats for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and women and devolution of fund, functions and functionaries to PRIs. The Amendment included a new Part IX to the constitution, with the title "The Panchayats". It covered provisions from Article 243 to 243(O); and a new Eleventh Schedule covering 29 subjects within the functions of the Panchayats.

What are some important constitutional provisions related to PRI in India?

Article 243B	This article provides for the direct election of members to the Panchayats at the village, intermediate, and district levels. It also specifies the tenure of Panchayats and the process for their dissolution
Article 243D	This article provides for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Panchayats, proportionate to their population.It also reserves one-third of the total seats for women.
Article 243G	This empowers the state legislature to provide Panchayats with the authority and powers to function as self-government institutions.
Article 243H	State legislatures are empowered to authorize Panchayats to levy, collect, and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls, and fees.
Article 243I	It mandates the formation of state finance commissions every five years by the Governor.
Article 243K	It provides for the establishment of an independent State Election Commission to conduct regular and fair elections to the Panchayats.

What is the status of funding for PRI's in India?

As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report on the financial dynamics of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India, PRIs generates revenue through following ways-

1) **Revenue Composition**:Panchayats earn only 1% of their revenue through taxes.Majority of their revenue comes from grants provided by the Centre and the States.Data indicates that 80% of the revenue is from Central government grants, while 15% is from State government grants.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.
Forum IAS

2) **Revenue Statistics**-In the fiscal year 2022-23, Panchayats recorded a total revenue of Rs 35,354 crore. Only Rs 737 crore came from their own tax revenue sources, like taxes on professions, land, stamps, properties, and services.

They also earned Rs 1,494 crore from non-tax sources, mainly from interest payments and Panchayati Raj programs. Notably, Panchayats received Rs 24,699 crore from the Central government and Rs 8,148 crore from

3) **Revenue Per Panchayat**:On average, each Panchayat earned about Rs 21,000 from its own tax revenue and Rs 73,000 from non-tax sources. In contrast, grants from the Central government averaged around Rs 17 lakh per Panchayat, while State government grants totaled over Rs 3.25 lakh per Panchayat.

4) **State Revenue Share and Inter-State Disparities**:Panchayats' share in their respective State's own revenue remains minimal.**For ex**-in Andhra Pradesh, revenue receipts of panchayats form just 0.1% of the State's own revenue, while in Uttar Pradesh, it forms 2.5%, the highest among states.

What is the significance of Panchayat Raj Institution(PRI) in India?

1) **Strengthen grassroots-level democracy**: PRIs provide a platform for direct participation of people in governance at the grassroots level, promoting democratic values and accountable administration.

2) **Decentralization of power**: The three-tier structure of PRIs (Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, and Zilla Parishad) facilitates the decentralization of power from the state to the local level, ensuring better understanding and addressing of local needs and priorities.

3) **Rural development**: It plays an important role in planning and implementing various rural development programs related to agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, and social welfare. **For ex**-The Panchayat of Hiwara, Uttarakhand,Pedda Amberpet Gram Panchayat, Telangana etc. are one of the best performing and developed Panchayats in India.

4) **Inclusive governance and empowerment of women**: The reservation system in PRIs ensures representation and participation of marginalized sections of society, such as women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes, promoting inclusive governance and empowerment. **For ex**-Chaavi Rajawat- An MBA turned Sarpanch made impressive changes by bringing better water, solar power, paved roads, and toilets in her ancestral village.

5) **Fulliment of SDGs:**-PRIs, being closer to the people, can provide public services better and faster, dealing with local problems promptly and meeting community needs. The role of PRIs is crucial in bringing development to the grassroots and implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level.

6) **Address Climate Change**–

A) **Adaptation**-Panchayats have a deep understanding of local conditions, traditional practices, and indigenous knowledge systems. This knowledge can be invaluable in developing locally relevant adaptation strategies to cope with the impacts of climate change, such as drought, floods, or changing weather patterns.

B) **Mitigation**-Panchayats can contribute to sustainable natural resource management practices, such as water conservation, afforestation, and soil conservation,.This can help mitigate the impacts of climate change.

7) **Social mobilization**:They serve as platforms for involving people in developmental projects and building a feeling of community ownership and responsibility.

8) **Preserving local culture and traditions**: It can play a role in preserving and promoting local cultures, traditions, and indigenous knowledge.This will ensure preservation of India's rich cultural diversity.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.
Forum IAS

9) **Accountability and transparency**: Directly electing PRI representatives and holding Gram Sabha meetings make local governance more accountable and transparent.

What are the initiative taken by the government to empower Panchayat Raj Institution(PRI) in India?

Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)	It aims to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system by enhancing the capacities of Panchayats for effective governance and efficient service delivery.It focuses on training, capacity building, and providing technical support to Panchayats.
e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project	This initiative aims to transform the functioning of Panchayats through the use of information and communication technology (ICT).It includes the development of applications for planning, implementation, and monitoring of various schemes and services at the Panchayat level.
Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) through PRIs	The Ministry has a nine-theme plan for Local Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs), involving the third tier of Government and traditional bodies in non-Part IX areas. It aims to combine key development programs at the Panchayat level, spread activities to all villages over time, and use digital tech for transparency and accountability.
Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme	It provides incentives to states for devolving functions, funds, and functionaries to Panchayats as per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission.It encourages states to empower Panchayats and promote accountability.
e-Gram Swaraj e-Financial Management System	This is a Simplified Work Based Accounting Application for Panchayati Raj which assists in enhancing the credibility of Panchayat through inducing greater devolution of funds to PRIs.
Geo-tagging of assets	Ministry of Panchayati Raj has developed "mActionSoft" – a mobile based solution to help in capturing photos with Geo-Tags (i.e. GPS Coordinates) for the works which have asset as an output.
SVAMITVA Scheme	Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) scheme was launched on National Panchayati Raj Day 2020 to enable economic progress of Rural India by providing "Record of Rights" to every rural household owner.
Gram Urja Swaraj Abhiyaan	The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is collaborating with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to encourage adoption of renewable energy in Gram Panchayats.This move aims to make Gram Panchayats self-reliant in energy and shift them from being just energy consumers to energy producers in the future.
Citizen Charter	The "Meri Panchayat, Mera Adhikaar- Jan Sevaayein Hamaare Dwaar" campaign was launched to ensure that Gram Panchayats have a Citizen Charter approved by Gram Sabhas. This Charter lists the different services provided by the Panchayat to citizens and the time limit for each service

What are the issues faced by the PRIs in India?

1) **Issues raised by second ARC in the Panchayat Raj Institution(PRI) in India-**

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.
Forum IAS

A) **Inadequate devolution of functions, funds, and functionaries** :It noted that the devolution of functions, funds, and functionaries to PRIs has been inadequate that limits their ability to effectively discharge their responsibilities.

B) **Capacity constraints and lack of training**-It highlighted the need for capacity building and training of elected representatives and officials of PRIs to enhance their skills and knowledge for effective governance.

C) **Multiplicity of agencies and lack of coordination**-:It highlighted the multiplicity of agencies involved in rural development programs and the lack of coordination among them.This leads to duplication of efforts and inefficient implementation.

D) **Interference from bureaucracy and state governments** -It raised concerns about excessive bureaucratic control and interference from state government officials.This undermines the autonomy and decision-making power of PRIs.

E) **Lack of clarity in roles and responsibilities** -It highlighted the lack of clear demarcation of roles and responsibilities among the three tiers of PRIs (Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, and Zilla Parishad), leading to overlapping functions and conflicts.

F) **Insufficient data and monitoring mechanisms**-It emphasized the need for better data collection and monitoring mechanisms to assess the performance and impact of PRIs in delivering services and implementing development programs.

G) **Lack of financial autonomy**-It stressed that PRIs don't have enough financial independence since they mostly depend on irregular and inadequate grants from state governments.

H) **Lack of accountability and transparency mechanisms** :It noted the absence of robust accountability and transparency mechanisms, such as social audits and performance evaluation system.This leads to potential misuse of funds and lack of public trust.

I) **Inadequate infrastructure and resources** -There is a lack of basic infrastructure, such as office buildings, equipment, and human resources, hindering the effective functioning of PRIs.

What are the recommendations to reform Panchayat Raj Institution(PRI) in India?

1) **Recommendation by 2nd ARC**–

A) **Strengthening the Gram Sabha**-The ARC proposed giving more power directly to the Gram Sabha. It suggested that the Gram Sabha should not only supervise but also be involved in planning economic development and social justice programs.

B) **Devolution of Functions, Funds, and Functionaries**:It recommended devolving more power, fund, and staff to local Panchayat Raj institutions (PRIs) based on the principle of subsidiarity. It advised states to transfer all responsibilities listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution to the PRIs.

C) **Capacity Building and Training**:The ARC stressed the importance of training elected officials and staff of PRIs to improve their abilities for better governance. It suggested creating special institutions for training and research focused on the Panchayat Raj system

D) **State Finance Commissions**:State Finance Commissions need to be empowered to recommend sufficient transfer of resources from the state to the local bodies.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

📐ForumIAS

E) **Separate Election Commission for Local Bodies**:It recommended the establishment of separate State Election Commissions for conducting elections to the PRIs and urban local bodies to ensure their autonomy and independence.

F) **E-Governance and Citizen Participation**:It highlighted the importance of leveraging information and communication technologies (ICT) for e-governance initiatives at the local level to improve transparency, accountability, and citizen participation.

2) **Miscelleneous recommendations by various experts**–

A) **Build Local Tax Capacit**y-It can be achieved through filling bill collector vacancies, digitizing property records, and granting panchayats more freedom to levy their own taxes and cesses.

B) **SHG-Panchayat Linkages**– Linking Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with Panchayats can improve village governance. This convergence enhances financial access and collective action for women. Recent studies show that SHGs empower marginalized women to participate in local elections, highlighting their importance in grassroots democracy.For ex-in Bihar

C) **Improve Administrative Data Quality**-There is a need to improve administrative data quality and enhance its accessibility by using visuals like maps and interactive charts that can be easily understood by citizens. By involving citizens in creating these tools, everyone can better understand and use the data to make informed decisions.

D) **Develop Scoring Systems for Panchayats**-There is a need to establishing a transparent scoring system to assess Panchayats that can be overseen by an independent body.This can foster accountability and performance improvement. Based on the performance ,Panchayat officials and staff can recieve rewards like certificates and increased funds for the village which can motivate them to perform their duties diligently.

Read more–Challenges faced by Urban Local Bodies In India

UPSC Syllabus-GS Paper-2- Issues and Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure, Devolution of Powers and Finances up to Local Levels and Challenges Therein

---

Indian Migrants in Gulf Countries – Challenges and Way forward

The recent case of deaths of over 40 Indian migrant workers in a fire in Kuwait has once again brought attention to the lack of safety and deplorable living conditions of Indian migrants in Gulf Countries. There have been similar incidents in recent past such as- the harsh working conditions and human rights violations during the FIFA World Cup in Qatar, the rapid development of infrastructure for the Dubai Expo, and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on migrants in Saudi Arabia due to cramped living spaces.These tragic incidents necessitate immediate action from Indian government.

In this article, we will discuss the challenges faced by the Indian migrant workers in Gulf countries and steps that can be taken to ensure the fulfilment of human rights of migrant workers in Gulf Countries.

What is the status of Indian workers in Gulf countries?

1) **Indian Diaspora in GCC Nations**-The Ministry of External Affairrs stated that about 8.88 million NRIs live in six Gulf nations. Specifically, 3.41 million NRIs reside in the United Arab Emirates, 2.59 million in Saudi Arabia, 1.02 million in Kuwait, 0.74 million in Qatar, 0.77 million in Oman, and 0.32 million in Bahrain.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.
Forum IAS

Indians constitute the largest expatriate community in the GCC nations, making up around 30% of the total expatriate workforce in the region.

2) **State wise trend of migrating workforce**-Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) 2023 estimates that 2.2 million people from the state have migrated, with 80% residing in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Off late,Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have begun replacing Kerala, which was a significant contributor of the blue-collar workforce, from India to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.This has been highlighted by UAE-based organisation, Huntr.

3) **Profile of the migrating workforce**–

A) **Age** -Most workers going to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are between 20 and 40 years old, the prime working age.

B) **Gender**-Historically, men dominated this workforce, but the Huntr report shows increased participation of women, particularly in hospitality.

C) **Education**-Workers vary in education from minimal formal schooling to vocational training, with some having job-specific skills. Many come from low-income families hoping for better financial prospects in Dubai.

4) **Job Composition-**Around 70% of Indian migrants in the GCC are blue-collared workers (low or semi-skilled workers).

What is the significance of Indian Migrants workers for India and Gulf Countries ?

1) **For India-**

A) **Economic Contribution**-Remittances from Indians in the Gulf is one of the major sources of foreign exchange remittances to India. Their remittances account for more than a quarter of the annual remittances from the Indian diaspora.

B) **Skill Development-**Migrating to Gulf countries help Indian workers to acquire new skills and gain experience. When they return to India, they can bring back valuable knowledge and expertise that can help different sectors of the Indian economy.

C) **Enhance India's Soft Power**-The presence of a large Indian diaspora in Gulf countries strengthens diplomatic and trade relations between India and these nations. The diaspora serves as a bridge for cultural exchange, investment, and business partnerships between the two regions.

2) **For Gulf Countries-**

A) **Labor Supply-**Indian migrant workers fulfill labor shortages in various sectors of the Gulf economies especially in construction, infrastructure, healthcare, hospitality, and domestic services. **For ex**-In Kuwait Indian workers constitute nearly a fifth of the country's workforce.

B) **Diversity and Multiculturalism**: The presence of Indian migrant workers adds to the cultural diversity of Gulf countries, enriching society through the exchange of customs, traditions, languages, and cuisine.

C) **Economic Growth**: Indian migrant workers help Gulf countries grow economically by boosting important industries, creating jobs for locals, and increasing consumer spending.

What are the challenges faced by the Indian workers in Gulf countries?

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

Forum IAS

1) **Exploitative Labor Practices-**Migrants, particularly those employed in low-skilled or unskilled job sectors, experience exploitation from employers who might hold back their pay, offer inadequate working conditions, or disregard labor rights.

2) **Recruitment Malpractices-**Recruitment agents impose exorbitant fees on migrants, who also face contract substitutions with altered wages or job roles upon arrival.Further,there is an additional risk of passport confiscation by employers or sponsors.

3) **Legal and Visa Issues-**Concerns regarding visas, work permits, and legal status expose migrants to the risk of deportation or exploitation by employers who may use deportation threats to suppress their rights.**For ex-**the visa sponsorship or "kafala" system, which binds workers to their employers, limiting their ability to seek better living or working conditions.

4) **Poor Living Conditions**– Migrants often live in overcrowded and substandard accommodations, which can have negative impacts on their health and well-being.**For ex-**the labor camp in Kuwait where the recent fire occurred was overcrowded and lacked proper safety measures like fire exits and firefighting equipment.

5) **Lack of Data and Invisibilization of Migrants-**There is a lack of data on migrants, both at their origin and destination countries which acts as a major challenge in addressing their issues. **For ex**– In Qatar, the lack of clarity and uniformity in data from different agencies made migrant workers, especially those in low-wage jobs, less visible.

6) **Legal Frameworks and Redressal Mechanisms**– The extended legal procedures, associated costs, and absence of legal aid and interpreters compound the challenges faced by the vulnerable migrant community.

7) **Language and Cultural Barriers**– Language barriers and cultural differences can pose challenges in communication and integration into the local community.This leads to social isolation and difficulties in accessing support networks.

8) **Discrimination and Racism-**Ther are subjected to discrimination and racism, both within the workplace and in society at large.This can affect their living and working conditions and opportunities for advancement.

9) **Mental Health Issues**:-The stress of migration, coupled with other challenges can contribute to mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and feelings of isolation among Indian migrants.

10) **Strain in Family Relationship-**They have to endure long separations from their families due to strict sponsorship rules and expensive family reunion processes. This separation can strain family bonds. Additionally, many migrants feel compelled to send remittances, which strains their finances and makes them more vulnerable to exploitation..

What are the initiative taken by Indian government to ensure welfare of migrant workers?

Emigration Act	The Emigration Act of 1983 provide the legal framework to regulate emigration of Indian workers.It mandates recruitment agencies to register and follow regulations on emigration procedures.
E-Migrate System	An online system that facilitates skilled and semi-skilled workers to get emigration clearances and track their immigration status.It prevents exploitation by recruiting agents and unregistered subagents.
Labor Mobility Partnerships	India has signed several labor agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with GCC nations like UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain to enhance protection for workers.These agreements cover areas like employment contracts, model labor policies and worker rights.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.
ForumIAS

Pre-Departure Orientation Programs (PDOS)	It focuses on improving the soft skills of Indian migrant workers, especially those heading to the Gulf region and Malaysia. This includes understanding the culture, language, traditions, and local laws of the destination country.
Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)	Established to provide emergency financial support to Indian workers in distress abroad.It can be used for repatriation, legal assistance, accommodation in shelters, and medical assistance.
Indian Workers Resource Centre	It has been set up at Dubai and four more IWRCs have been approved in Sharjah (UAE), Riyadh and Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), to provide guidance and counselling on all matters pertaining to overseas Indian workers.
Awareness Campaign	A campaign called 'Surakshit Jaaye Prasikshit Jaaye' (Go Safe, Go Trained) was launched to promote safe and legal migration.

What should be the way forward?

1) **Strengthening legal frameworks**:-India should work towards finalizing and implementing the draft Emigration Bill 2023 to provide a stronger legal framework to protect migrant workers' rights.

2) **Improving regulation of recruitment agents**:There should be strict monitoring and regulation of recruitment agents in India to prevent exploitation like charging exorbitant fees, contract violations etc.Further, registration with the eMigrate system should be made mandatory for all migrant workers.

3) **Setting up robust grievance redressal mechanisms**:-There is a need to expand the scale and effectiveness of initiatives like the MADAD portal for workers to file complaints.

4) **Enhance Diplomatic Efforts**: The government should enhage in dialogue with Gulf countries to advocate for the rights of Indian migrant workers and promote bilateral agreements that protect their rights and provide avenues for legal recourse.**For ex**-reform of the Kafala sponsorship system

5) **Leverage Global Platforms for Advocacy**–

A) If bilateral diplomatic efforts don't work, India could consider making careful statements at the United Nations Human Rights Council's review sessions.

B) India can push for change by referencing international agreements like the UN Human Rights Convention and the ILO's Declaration on Workers Rights.

D) India can also use reports from organizations like the ILO to highlight key issues, such as the need for better protection for workers in sectors like agriculture and domestic work in Saudi Arabia.

6) **Enhancing welfare measures**:There is a need to enhance budgetary allocations for the Indian Community Welfare Fund to provide more emergency assistance. More Indian Workers Resource Centers in Gulf nations should be set up to provide support services.

7) **Promoting skill development**-The goverement should offer skill training and certification programs for prospective migrant workers.This can improve their employability and access to skilled job opportunities.

8) **Promote Financial Literacy**- Migrant workers should be provided financial literacy to help them manage their finances effectively, avoid debt traps, and make informed decisions about remittances and investments.

9) **Promote Social Integration:** There is a need to promote social integration initiatives that encourage interaction between migrant workers and the local community.These initiative may have language and cultural training programs, community outreach initiatives, and recreational activities.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

ForumIAS

10) **Encourage Family Reunification**: The government should streamline visa processes and reduce financial barriers to facilitate family reunification so that migrant workers coulld bring their families to join them in Gulf countries.

> **Read more**–On Strengthening of India's Ties with the Gulf
> **UPSC Syllabus**-GS Paper-2-International Relations-Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's interests, Indian Diaspora.

Climate Change Negotiations after Bonn Climate Meet – Challenges and Way Forward

A recent Climate Change Negotiations in Bonn, Germany, struggled to agree on a new target for climate finance beyond the current $100 billion annually from developed to developing countries by 2024. The talks were expected to outline specific figures ahead of COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, but instead produced a lengthy "input paper". According to the 2015 Paris Agreement, developed countries are required to regularly raise money above the existing figure of $100 billion per year after 2025 due to the increasing needs for climate finance. This increased target, known as the **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG),** for the period after 2025, is expected to be decided in the upcoming CoP summit.

According to a UNFCCC report last year, developing countries need about $6 trillion by 2030 to fulfill their climate commitments. For adaptation alone, which is part of these commitments, they require between $215 billion and $387 billion annually. The report also highlights that global investments of approximately $4.3 trillion per year until 2030 are necessary for transitioning to clean energy worldwide, with an additional $5 trillion annually required after 2050 to achieve global net zero emissions.

This article will highlight the key outcomes of recently concluded talks examine the challenges climate change negotiations face, and propose a path forward.

> **To read more 7 PM Articles** – Click Here

What are the outcome of recently concluded Bonn climate meet?

1) **Inadequate progress on New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)** – Little progress was made on setting a new target for climate finance that developed countries must provide to developing nations after 2024. Developed and developing countries disagreed on how much money should be provided and which developing countries should contribute.

2) **Divergence on NCQG amount**-There was a divergence on deciding the NCQG amount. Developing countries proposed annual figures of $1.1-$1.3 trillion whereas developed nations did not make any specific financial offer.

3) **Trust deficit**-The discussions highlighted the ongoing lack of trust between developed and developing countries. Developing nations emphasized that the Paris Agreement clearly obligates developed countries to provide climate finance.

4) **Disagreements over Global Stocktake (GST) dialogue**-The first annual dialogue after the GST at COP28 exposed disagreements. Developed nations demanded stronger emission reduction targets from all parties but avoided discussion on transitioning away from fossil fuels.

5) **Fossil fuel transition**-Due to COP29 taking place in Azerbaijan, an oil-producing nation, there are concerns that the important topic of transitioning away from fossil fuels would not receive adequate attention.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

Forum IAS

6) **Inadequacy of Loss and Damage Support**-Developing nations, especially Least Developed Countries (LDCs), emphasized that current mechanisms to handle loss and damage from climate change impacts are insufficient.

7) **Deadlock on Mitigation Work Programme (MWP)**-Negotiations on the MWP have stalled because developing countries are resisting additional pressures, while developed countries are advocating for further discussions.

8) **Lack of consensus on Article 6 (market mechanisms)-**There were clarifications on some positions. However, there was no agreement on the guidelines for market mechanisms under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

What is the significance of Climate Change Negotiations?

May was the warmest on record, marking 12 consecutive months of record-breaking temperatures, according to Europe's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) also stated that there is now an 80% likelihood that at least one year between 2024 and 2028 will surpass 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.In the backdrop of this development, climate change negotiations assumes great sihnificance.

1) **Global Cooperation**: They provide a platform for countries to come together and collectively address climate change issue.

2) **Setting Targets and Commitments**: Negotiations establish targets for emissions, reductions, adaptation measures, and financial support.For ex– Paris Agreement. These targets guide national policies and actions.

3) **Legal and Policy Frameworks**-Global agreements like the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement establish legal frameworks that enforce countries' specific commitments. These agreements promote transparency and accountability by enabling nations to monitor progress and ensure mutual responsibility.

4) **Financial Support**-These negotiations involve discussions on climate finance, where developed countries pledge financial assistance to developing countries for mitigation (reducing emissions) and adaptation (building resilience to climate impacts).

5) **Technology Transfer:** They facilitate the transfer of technology and knowledge between developed and developing countries to support sustainable development and climate resilience.

6) **Long-Term Goals**-They set long-term goals, such as achieving net-zero emissions or limiting global temperature rise to specific thresholds.This helps in guiding global efforts towards a sustainable future.

7) **Public Awareness and Engagement**: Climate negotiations raise public awareness about the urgency of climate action and the need for global solidarity. They mobilize civil society, businesses, and other stakeholders to support climate goals.

8) **Addressing Equity and Justice**-They address fairness concerns by acknowledging historical responsibilities for emissions and vulnerabilities to climate impacts. Their goal is to achieve equitable sharing of responsibilities and benefits among nations and communities.

9) **Adaptive Governance**-They advocate for adaptive governance approaches that promote flexibility in policies and strategies.This helps in adapting to evolving scientific knowledge and shifting climate conditions.

10) **Accountability and Transparency**-They establish frameworks for monitoring, reporting, and verifying countries' actions and progress towards their commitments. This accountability promotes transparency and ensures that nations are taking meaningful steps to address climate change.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

Forum IAS

What are the challenges in Climate Change Negotiations?

1) **Conflicting national interests**:-Countries have diverse economic, political, and developmental priorities, which can conflict with climate action goals. Balancing these interests with the need for collective action is a major challenge.

2) **Equity and burden-sharing**:-Deciding on fair and equitable ways to distribute the responsibilities of climate action, especially between developed and developing nations, has been a contentious issue. Disagreements regarding historical responsibilities and capacities have impeded progress.

3) **Finance and Funding issues-**

A) **Insufficient Funding Levels**: Developed countries' funding for climate action in developing nations is not adequate enough to meet ambitious goals like those in the Paris Agreement.

B) **Lack of Predictability and Stability**– Developing countries find it challenging to plan and execute long-term climate projects due to unpredictable funding. Fluctuations in annual disbursements can disrupt ongoing initiatives.

C) **Balancing Adaptation and Mitigation**-There is a disparity in funding allocation between adaptation (building resilience to climate impacts) and mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions).

D) **Private Sector Engagement**– Mobilizing private finance for climate projects is difficult because of perceived risks, inadequate incentives, and the difficulty of aligning private sector goals with climate objectives.

E) **Debt Sustainability Concerns**:-Climate finance, which includes loans or debt-related instruments, can increase debt burdens in developing countries.

4) **Technology Transfer**:-Facilitating the transfer of clean technologies to developing countries on favorable terms is difficult because of issues related to intellectual property rights, market barriers, and capacity limitations.

5) **Emissions targets and commitments**-Setting ambitious yet achievable emission reduction targets and ensuring countries stick to their commitments has been difficult, mainly because of concerns about economic competitiveness and growth

6) **Inclusion and participation**-It has been challenging to include and address the voices and concerns of all stakeholders, including civil society, indigenous communities, and marginalized groups, in the negotiation process.

7) **Scientific uncertainty**-Despite strong scientific evidence, some countries and stakeholders still question climate science.This hampers agreement and action.

8) **Implementation and compliance**– There arises a great difficulty in ensuring effective implementation and compliance by all parties because of lack of political will, resources, or enforcement mechanisms.

9) **Complexity and scope**-Climate change spans across multiple sectors such as energy, agriculture, and transportation, posing challenges for comprehensive negotiations.

10) **Geopolitical tensions**– Geopolitical rivalries, trade disputes, and shifting global power dynamics can influence the dynamics of climate change negotiations and hinder cooperation.

How can climate change negotiations be made more effective and productive?

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

Forum IAS

1) **Enhance transparency and trust**-There is a need to build trust among parties.This can be done by ensuring enhanced transparency in reporting emissions and climate actions during climate change negotiations.

2) **Strengthen scientific collaboration**-It is important to promote cooperation among scientific communities and include more experts in negotiations to minimize uncertainties, offer reliable data, and improve decision-making processes.

3) **Prioritize adaptation and loss and damage**-Greater focus should be devoted towards adaptation strategies in climate change discussions, as well as addressing the loss and damage experienced by vulnerable nations from climate change effects..

4) **Promote Climate Justice and Equity**-Climate change negotiations should address equity concerns by acknowledging historical emissions responsibilities and supporting vulnerable groups like indigenous peoples and marginalized communities in decision-making.

5) **Facilitate technology transfer and capacity building**-The negotiations should ensure that developed nations fulfill their commitments to facilitate the transfer of climate-friendly technologies and assist in capacity building for developing nations.

6) **Explore innovative financing mechanisms**-: In addition to traditional financing channels,the negotiations should also promote exploration of innovative financing mechanisms, such as carbon pricing, green bonds, and public-private partnerships.

7) **Encourage inclusive participation**-Negotiations should include all stakeholders, such as civil society, indigenous communities, and marginalized groups, to increase support and commitment to climate policies and actions.

8) **Promote sectoral approaches**-The negotiations should promote sector-specific approaches, such as in energy, agriculture, and transportation in addressing climate change issue.This can help address the complexities of climate change and identify targeted solutions.

9) **Enhance compliance and accountability**-The negotiations should propose ways to enhance compliance mechanisms and use incentives or penalties to motivate countries to fulfill their commitments.

10) **Foster regional and sub-national cooperation**-Encouraging regional and sub-national cooperation, alongside global negotiations, can effectively tackle local climate challenges and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

11) **Navigating Geopolitical Tensions**-Climate change negotiations must acknowledge the impact of geopolitical tensions and power dynamics on issues of Climate Change.This approach can help navigate complex negotiations and foster consensus.

Read more-Climate Negotiations and India

UPSC Syllabus-GS Paper-2-International Relations & GS Paper-3-Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

Forum IAS