

9 PM Current Affairs Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE mains examination



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Features :

Arranged as per syllabus Topics
Most complete coverage of major
News Papers editorials

9 PM Compilation July [First Week] 2024

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GS Paper 1

Subject: Indian Society

Topic- Role of Women and Women's Organization, Population and Associated Issues, Poverty and Developmental issues, Urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

Changes in India's population perspectives

Context: The article discusses India's demographic changes, contrasting past fears of overpopulation with current hopes for economic growth due to a young workforce. It also highlights the intense competition for education, brain drain to Western countries, and millennials' choice to prioritize careers over having children.

For detailed information on **Challenges of Demographic dividend in India** [read this article here](#)

Why are millennials not having children?

Many millennials prioritize their careers over having children. They believe children would distract them from their professional goals. This choice affects India's expected demographic dividend.

How did India approach population control in the past?

- 1. Government Initiatives:** The government organized "vasectomy camps" in 1971, targeting sterilizations as a form of population control.
- 2. Sterilization Statistics:** In 1971 alone, approximately 1.3 million men underwent sterilization, with a target of 3.1 million by the following year.
- 3. International Support and Pressure:** The World Bank provided \$66 million in aid for sterilization programs from 1972 to 1980. Additionally, U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson linked food aid to India's adoption of sterilization policies in 1965.

How has the perspective on India's population changed?

- 1. 1970s Perspective:** Previously, India viewed its high population growth as an economic burden. Efforts focused on aggressive population control measures, such as sterilization.
- 2. Modern View:** Today, India sees its large, young population as a demographic dividend. A high proportion of working-age individuals (15-64 years old) is now considered a potential economic advantage, expected to drive growth.
- 3. Historical Context:** In 1971, efforts included 1.3 million sterilizations, reflecting the urgency of controlling population growth, compared to current policies emphasizing economic utilization of the population.

How is demographic impacting education and employment in India?

- 1. Intense Competition:** Over a million students compete for limited seats at IITs, medical colleges, and IIMs. For example, 1 million applicants for 10,000 IIT seats.
- 2. Brain Drain:** Many qualified Indians, like Satya Nadella and Sundar Pichai, seek opportunities abroad, contributing to \$125 billion in remittances.
- 3. High Costs:** Real estate prices in metro cities are high, pushing many to look for jobs overseas.

4. **Family-Run Businesses:** Limited top management roles in India's family-owned businesses drive professionals to seek better prospects abroad.

GS Paper 2

Subject: Indian Polity

Topic- Indian Constitution—Historical Underpinnings, Evolution, Features, Amendments, Significant Provisions and Basic Structure.

Climate Legislation for India

Context- The recent judgment in M.K. Ranjitsinh and Ors. vs Union of India & Ors. by the Supreme Court of India has marked a positive development in India's climate change legal framework.

The Supreme Court has introduced the right to 'be free from the adverse effects of climate change' into the Constitution of India, deriving from both the right to life (Article 21) and the right to equality (Article 14). The judgment states that there is no 'umbrella legislation' in India that relates to climate change. Thus, it implicitly suggests the enactment of climate legislation.

Read More- [SC Ruling on right against Climate Change- Explained Pointwise](#)

What are the advantages of bringing climate legislation?

- 1) It can set the vision for engaging with climate change across sectors and regions.
- 2) It can establish essential institutions, empower them, and implement structured governance processes to anticipate and respond to climate change.

What are the issues with single climate legislation?

- 1) **Comprehensive Law-**Creating a single comprehensive law that addresses all these aspects isn't practical, especially given the current legal framework covering most of these issues.
- 2) **Anticipating the Unpredictable Challenges-** It's impossible to predict in advance all the ways society needs to prepare for climate change.
- 3) **Challenges of Adopting Foreign Models** - Many countries' climate laws, like those modeled after the United Kingdom, concentrate narrowly on controlling carbon emissions. **For ex-** they establish regular five-year national carbon budgets and mechanisms to achieve them. This approach isn't well-suited for India.

What should be the way forward?

- 1) **Promoting Sustainable Development Across Sectors-** India should consider adopting a law that encourages decisions fostering sustainable development across various sectors like urban planning, agriculture, water management, and energy.
- 2) **Supportive Regulatory Environment-**Climate legislation should also create a supportive regulatory environment for more sustainable cities, buildings, and transport networks. It should enable adaptation measures such as heat action plans sensitive to local context
- 3) **Resilient Agriculture and Social Equity-**Climate legislation should include ways to transition to crops

or imposing stock limits on traders, promoting a freer market.

3. Economic Efficiency: Selling stored food during shortages prevents inflation spikes and supports economic stability.

Subject: Science & Technology

Topic- Achievements of Indians in Science & Technology; Indigenization of Technology and Developing New Technology.

IEEE 2061-2024 Standard

Context: The article discusses how mobile devices rely on cellular networks for connectivity. It explains the differences between access networks and core networks. It highlights challenges in rural connectivity and introduces the IEEE 2061-2024 standard for affordable rural broadband access.

What is the current status of cellular networks in India?

- 1. Urban vs Rural Tele-Density:** Urban areas in India show a tele-density of 127%, meaning most urban residents have more than one mobile connection. In contrast, rural tele-density stands at only 58%, indicating less than one connection per two people in rural areas.
- 2. Challenges in Rural Connectivity:** Rural regions face significant challenges due to lower income levels, sparse populations, and geographical remoteness, making network infrastructure costly and complex to deploy.

What Are Access and Core Networks?

- 1. Access Network (AN):** The AN includes base stations that provide wireless connectivity to mobile devices within a limited geographical area. These are commonly seen as towers with antennas.
- 2. Coverage:** Network operators install base stations across regions to ensure coverage. Each base station serves a specific area.
- 3. Core Network (CN):** The CN connects these base stations to other networks, such as the Internet. It operates centrally and is linked to base stations via optical fiber links called backhaul.
- 4. Data Flow:** Data from a user's device passes through both the AN and CN to reach its destination. Even nearby users must route data through the CN.
- 5. Mobility Support:** The CN is crucial for supporting user mobility, ensuring seamless connectivity as users move.

What Is the IEEE 2061-2024 Standard?

- 1. Definition:** The IEEE 2061-2024 standard, developed by IIT Bombay, focuses on providing affordable broadband access in rural areas.
- 2. How It Works:** It uses a heterogeneous network structure combining large coverage area base stations (macro-BS) with smaller area Wi-Fi networks. This allows for broad yet high-speed connectivity.
- 3. Integrated AN Control:** This feature enables seamless switching for devices between different network types (Wi-Fi to macro-BS), preventing service disruptions.

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4. Advantages:

- a) Cost-Effective:** Employs a multi-hop wireless middle-mile network, reducing the need for expensive fiber installations. The middle-mile network serves as a connection between the access network (local connections to users) and the core network (centralized connections to the internet).
- b) Flexibility:** Supports various technologies, like satellites and long-range Wi-Fi.
- c) Direct Connectivity:** Allows direct internet access from the AN, bypassing the central CN for local connections, which enhances network efficiency in rural settings.
- d) Potential Impact:** If widely adopted, this standard could significantly improve internet access in underserved rural areas, bridging the digital divide.

Issues with Anusandhan National Research Foundation

Context- The establishment of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) presents an opportunity to revolutionize India's research landscape. However, its success depends on addressing the current challenges in governance structure, funding mechanisms, and bureaucratic processes. In 2023, both Houses of Parliament passed the ANRF Bill, a major achievement for India's research sector. The scientific community welcomed it, anticipating reduced bureaucracy in academia and more research funding.

What are the objectives of ANRF?

- 1) Seeding, growing, and facilitating research in India, especially in universities and colleges.
- 2) Prioritizing the development of outstanding research cells in State Universities, as explicitly mentioned in the 2019 National Research Foundation (NRF) project report.

What are the issues with governance of Anusandhan National Research Foundation?

- 1) **Composition of Governing Bodies** -The governing structure includes a 15-member board and a 16-member council. This is dominated by senior government officials and established research institutions.
- 2) **Lack of Diverse Representation:**
 - A) No members from Central or State universities or colleges, despite over 95% of Indian students attending these institutions
 - B) Inadequate industry representation, with only one member (an Indian American businessman from Silicon Valley)
 - C) Limited gender diversity, with only one-woman representative (the Secretary of DSIR)

What should be the way forward?

- 1) **Diverse Representation**-The board and council should include representatives who understand the challenges faced at the university level. It should be made more diverse by adding more Indian industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and academics from both Central and State universities.
- 2) **Single Committee**-A single committee for strategy formulation and implementation should be created.
- 3) **Funding and Research Development**- India's underfunded research and development sector aims to generate over 70% of its funding from non-government and industry sources through ANRF. R&D budget should be enhanced to 4% of GDP to boost research output and global competitiveness.

Read more- [India's R&D Funding Status](#)

3) Reforms in Operational Requirements for ANRF-

- A) Adequate staffing
 - B) Implementation of a robust grant management system
 - C) Establishment of an internal standard peer-review system with reviewer incentives
 - D) Timely disbursement of research grants and student fellowships (less than six months turnaround)
 - E) Reduction of bureaucratic hurdles at funding and grantee institutions
 - F) Flexible spending without strict adherence to government's general financial rules (GFR)
 - G) Permission for purchases outside the Government e-marketplace (GeM) portal.
 - H) ANRF needs a total overhaul to avoid becoming another typical government department and to better connect research with teaching in universities.
- 4) **Future CEO**-The future CEO of the ANRF should possess experience in both industry and academia. He should be able to secure funding for the ANRF and understand the global innovation ecosystem.

Subject: Environment

Topic- Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment.

How India's new government should scale up climate action

Context: The article discusses how India's new government should scale up climate action, affecting all sectors. It highlights India's progress in climate leadership and outlines a plan for the next five years to enhance global leadership, sectoral emission reduction, and state-level climate action.

For detailed information on **Climate Change** [read this article here](#)

How is India shaping narratives and institutions for global climate action?

- 1. Establishing Global Institutions:** India founded the International Solar Alliance, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and the Global Biofuels Alliance, influencing global cooperation on renewable energy and infrastructure resilience.
- 2. Setting Ambitious Goals:** India announced a net-zero target by 2070, signaling a commitment to significant emission reductions rather than just reducing emission intensity.
- 3. Leading by Example:** During its G-20 presidency, India spearheaded the Green Development Pact, promoting sustainable economic pathways globally.
- 4. Innovative Policies:** India has initiated a domestic emissions carbon trading scheme, anticipated to function for 30-40 years, illustrating a long-term strategy for reducing greenhouse gases through market mechanisms.

What should be India's plan to demonstrate that economic development can be sustainable?

- 1. Host Major Climate Summits:** India should aim to host significant international climate events, like the United Nations Conference of Parties in 2028. This would build on its successful G-20 presidency and position India as a climate leader.
- 2. Set Sectoral Emission Targets:** Beyond the power sector, India should establish clear emission reduction goals for other sectors. For example, it should target zero-carbon two- and four-wheelers, promoting clean

energy jobs and rural mobility.

3. Promote State-Level Climate Action: India should support states in developing their net-zero plans. Collaboration with bodies like the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW) is crucial, as seen with Tamil Nadu and Bihar's plans.

4. Enhance Centre-State Coordination: Creating a Centre-State coordination group and incentivizing state-level actions through the Sixteenth Finance Commission can ensure better alignment without compromising state autonomy.

5. Strengthen Scientific Integration: India should integrate scientific modeling in policymaking and establish a unified data measurement, reporting, and verification system at the state level. This would improve the effectiveness of climate actions.

Subject: Internal Security

Topic- Security Challenges and their Management in Border Areas

Changes in India's National Security Council

Context: The article discusses recent changes in India's National Security Council, including the addition of a new Additional National Security Advisor (ANSA) and changes in how top security officials report to each other and the Prime Minister. It questions the roles and responsibilities of these positions and the impact of these changes.

For detailed information on **National Security Strategy of India** [read this article here](#)

What Changes Have Been Made to India's National Security Council?

1. New Appointments and Structure: The National Security Council now includes an Additional National Security Advisor (ANSA) along with three deputy NSAs, expanding the leadership structure.

2. Change in NSA's Role: The role of the National Security Advisor (NSA) has shifted to be more advisory rather than operational. The NSA now focuses on working with advisory bodies like the National Security Advisory Board and the Strategic Policy Group.

3. Reporting Relationships Altered: The NSA, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), and other key military and civil leaders are required to report both to the NSA and their respective ministers, complicating the chain of command and potentially leading to bureaucratic delays.

4. Introduction of Additional Bureaucratic Layer: The ANSA now acts as a gatekeeper in communications between six mid-level unit heads (three deputy NSAs and three service officers) and the NSA, adding a new layer of bureaucracy.

What Are the Broader Implications?

1. Uncertainty in Role Definitions: The lack of clear definitions for the roles and responsibilities of the NSA and other security officials could lead to inefficiencies in managing national security.

2. Potential for Turf Wars: The restructuring might cause conflicts between different government departments, as seen in potential meetings convened by the NSA with the Cabinet Secretary and other top bureaucrats, potentially upsetting established hierarchies.

3. Speculation on Leadership Succession: The restructuring has prompted speculation about the future of

the current NSA, Ajit Doval, and whether the new ANSA, Rajinder Khanna, will replace him. This uncertainty could impact strategic continuity and stability.

4. Influence on Security Briefings: With the new bureaucratic layer introduced by the ANSA acting as a gatekeeper in communication, there's uncertainty about whether the NSA or ANSA will handle the PM's daily security briefings, which affects the direct flow of information to the Prime Minister.

5. Hierarchical Discrepancies: Elevating the NSA to a cabinet rank while assigning the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) the rank of a secretary reduces the CDS's influence in key security discussions, especially since the CDS is not a permanent member of the cabinet committee on security.

6. Impact on Defence Strategy: By not having the CDS report directly to the Prime Minister, there may be delays and inefficiencies in addressing urgent defense modernization needs and strategic planning in response to regional security challenges.

Implication of Chinese stealth fighters for India

Context- A recent satellite image showed China's J20 Mighty Dragon stealth fighters and J10 Vigorous Dragon fighters at Tibet's Shigatse air base. This has led to discussions and comparisons with India's 4.5 generation Rafale fighters.

The IAF's core fleet of fourth-generation fighters like Su30s, MiG29s, and Mirage 2000s, plus two squadrons of 4.5 generation Rafale fighters, gives it an advantage that China is striving to neutralize. The article stresses the importance of India maintaining its air power advantage to strengthen its military capability and deterrence.

What are the challenges with India's air defense capabilities?

- 1) **Slow Response-**The IAF's combat air power is declining, but the government's response to address this critical issue has been slow.
- 2) **Insufficient Air Power** -India has a large hostile borders and extensive sovereign airspace. Hence, two squadrons of 4.5 generation Rafales are inadequate to meet both current and future security requirements.
- 3) **AMCA vs China's Sixth-Gen Fighters** -India's delayed fifth-generation fighter, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), won't be operational for another decade. By this time, China would have developed its sixth-generation fighters.
- 4) **Obsolescence Risk** -Upgraded MiG29, Mirage 2000, and Jaguar fleets will become obsolete before the AMCA is ready. This will further deplete India's high-end platform inventory.
- 5) **Delayed Induction of Tejas and AMCA** -By the time Tejas Mk 1A, Mk 2, and AMCA are fully operational, China could irreversibly alter the air power and military balance in the region in its favor.

Read More- [Indigenisation of Defence Sector](#)

What are its Strategic Implications for India?

- 1) **China's Growing Airborne Capabilities-** The deployment includes various types of aircraft and a KJ 500 early warning aircraft. This demonstrates China's growing ability to carry out extensive and intricate missions across significant distances.
- 3) **Buffer Zones-**Creation of buffer zones in disputed areas could set a precedent for aerial buffer zones. This could strategically restrict Indian Air Force (IAF) presence and operations in the region.
- 4) **No Fly Zone-**Forward airstrips and sovereign air spaces over disputed areas may become "no-fly zones" for Indian aircraft. This can impact intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and logistics operations.

What should be the way forward?

1) There is an urgent need to fulfill the Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) requirement to strengthen the inventory of 4.5-generation fighters.

2) India should consider bilateral partnership with France for additional jointly produced Rafales in India. This will ensure-

A) It ensures steady and stable induction from a reliable partner.

B) The partnership ensures greater platform commonality and future upgrades for platforms and weapons.

C) It includes technology transfer access for future 4.5 generation-plus variants and engine development for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).

D) This partnership helps balance the inventory and reduces dependence on Russia.

E) It prevents reliance on a volatile US military industry and promotes indigenous defense production.

Key areas for enhancing India's internal security

Context: The article discusses the need for a comprehensive plan to enhance India's internal security over the next five years. It highlights nine key areas requiring attention, including national security doctrine, internal security ministry, and issues in regions like Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast, among others.

For detailed information on **Need for a National Security Doctrine for India** [read this article here](#)

What are the key areas for enhancing India's internal security?

To enhance India's internal security, the following key areas need attention:

1. **National Security Doctrine (NSD):** Establishing an NSD to systematically define and address security challenges is crucial. Previous attempts to finalize drafts have not been successful.

2. **Internal Security Ministry:** A separate ministry for internal security is proposed to handle urgent matters efficiently, improving response times and focus.

3. **Jammu and Kashmir:** Despite a 66% reduction in terror incidents since the abrogation of Article 370, security challenges persist. Steps to reorganize the security setup and restore statehood are needed.

4. **Northeast Region:** Issues like ethnic conflicts and demands for separate flags and constitutions by rebel groups continue. The government should enforce agreements and manage conflicts effectively.

5. **Naxalite Problem:** There has been a 73% decline in violence from a peak in 2010. Initiating peace talks and addressing grievances could further reduce conflict.

6. **Intelligence Bureau and CBI:** The Intelligence Bureau and the CBI need restructuring to ensure they function without bias and with adequate legal and infrastructural support. There is a need to give the IB a statutory basis and to strengthen the CBI's legal mandate and resources.

7. **State Police:** Transform the state police from a "Ruler's Police" to a "People's Police," emphasizing community engagement and modern policing standards, similar to the reforms introduced by Robert Peel in Britain. It is essential for gaining public trust and effectiveness.

8. **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs):** The CAPFs face issues such as unplanned expansion and inadequate training. A high-powered commission is needed to address these long-term problems and improve the functioning of these forces.

9. **Technology in Policing:** Implementing advanced technological solutions can enhance policing capabilities and address new challenges effectively.

Way forward -A nation's global strength is directly linked to its internal unity and its capacity to resolve internal conflicts, thereby preventing any breeding ground for terrorism or extremism. The country's internal security situation would significantly improve if proactive and visionary measures are implemented as outlined above.

India's Response to the Kargil War

Context: The article discusses the Kargil War between India and Pakistan in 1999. It examines the tactical, strategic, and diplomatic aspects of the conflict, highlighting India's military and diplomatic responses, Pakistan's initial tactics, and the international reactions. The piece also reviews the post-war improvements in India's defense management highlighted by the Kargil Review Committee.

For detailed information on **National Security Strategy of India** [read this article here](#)

What Was the Kargil Conflict?

1. The Kargil War occurred between India and Pakistan in 1999, specifically from May to July, spanning 74 days.
2. It was fought in the Kargil sector of the Line of Control (LoC), the established border area in Kashmir.
3. This conflict resulted in significant casualties, with over 500 soldiers killed from each side.
4. The war was marked by Pakistan's attempt to cut off Indian military supply lines by seizing control of strategic points along the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh road. This was intended to demonstrate Pakistan's nuclear deterrent capability and force India to accept a new status quo without escalating to full-scale war.
5. The conflict underscored the volatile geopolitical tensions and the nuclear capabilities of both nations.

How Did India Respond?

1. India first proved Pakistan's violation of the 1972 Shimla Agreement using intercepted calls between Pakistani generals.
2. India used a "graduated response" strategy, starting with artillery bombardment to weaken enemy positions.
3. The Indian Air Force bombed forward Pakistani positions and the logistic node of Muntho Dalo, cutting off supplies. Attack helicopters and glide bombs were used to support ground troops.
4. India's military showcased effective tri-service operations without a formal tri-service doctrine.

What Was the International Reaction?

U.S. President Bill Clinton pressured Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Clinton urged Sharif to withdraw troops north of the LoC. By the end of July 1999, the previous status was restored.

What Were the Post-War Changes in India?

Establishment of the Kargil Review Committee (KRC): India established the KRC to analyze its defense needs and shortcomings, marking the first serious assessment since independence.

Findings and Improvements: The KRC identified significant gaps in India's security management, originally designed by Lord Ismay and recommended by Lord Mountbatten.

Creation of 14 Corps: Based on the KRC's recommendations, India formed the 14 Corps specifically to manage the defense of Ladakh, separating it from the responsibilities of 15 Corps, which previously handled

both Kashmir and Ladakh. This change aimed to enhance command efficiency in these strategic regions.

Subject: Disaster Management

Topic- Disaster and disaster management

Issues with Government Response to Forest fire

Context: The article discusses the devastating forest fires in Uttarakhand's Binsar forest. It highlights the problems caused by uncoordinated government efforts, inadequate resources, and poor infrastructure. It also suggests that involving and incentivizing local villagers could improve forest fire management.

For detailed information on **Forest fire in India** read [Article1](#), [Article2](#)

Why Are Forest Fires Increasing?

- 1. Increase in Frequency and Severity:** In the first half of this year, Uttarakhand reported 1,309 forest fires, a significant increase from 241 in the same period last year.
- 2. Climatic Factors:** The temperature exceeded 30 degrees Celsius for the first time in the Binsar Forest region of Uttarakhand. This increase in temperature intensified the risk of forest fires, as chir pine leaves, which are highly flammable, contribute significantly to the spread of fires.
- 3. Human Factors:** Carelessness with cigarette butts and mismanaged controlled burns exacerbate the situation. Additionally, there are reports of deliberate arson by villagers frustrated with restricted economic opportunities due to sanctuary policies.

What Are the Issues with Government Response to Forest fire?

- 1. Lack of Coordination:** Different government agencies struggled to work together effectively.
- 2. Inadequate Resources:** Firefighters lacked proper equipment, like fire-resistant clothing and oxygen masks. Most were untrained volunteers.
- 3. Poor Infrastructure:** Bad roads prevented fire engines and ambulances from reaching the fire.
- 4. Local Involvement:** Villagers, who used to help fight fires, are now less motivated due to lack of incentives.

How Can Future Fires Be Managed Better?

- 1. Improved Coordination:** Better leadership is needed to manage different agencies.
- 2. Better Resources:** The government should provide modern equipment and training for firefighters.
- 3. Infrastructure Improvement:** Roads should be maintained to allow access during emergencies.
- 4. Involving Villagers:** Incentives for villagers to help fight fires should be reintroduced, using their local expertise.

Issues with safety inspections in industrial areas in India

Context: The article highlights Maharashtra's ineffective safety inspections in industrial areas, leading to repeated accidents, including notable incidents in 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2023. It advocates for reforms aligned

with international safety standards. A significant explosion in Dombivli in May 2024 caused multiple fatalities and injuries, underscoring the urgency for change.

What are the issues with safety inspections in industrial areas in India?

- 1. Low Inspection Rates:** Across India, only 14.65% of registered factories and 26.02% of hazardous factories were inspected in 2021. This low nationwide rate reflects systemic issues in industrial safety oversight. This issue is widespread, with Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat showing even lower rates than the all-India average.
- 2. Inspector Shortages:** The shortage of inspectors exacerbates the problem. For instance, Maharashtra had only 48 out of 122 sanctioned inspectors appointed in 2021, resulting in each inspector being responsible for inspecting 818 factories annually.
- 3. Corruption and Bribery:** There are reports of informal agreements between inspectors and factory owners, leading to compromised safety inspections. The president of the Maharashtra Industry Development Association admitted that inspections were often done on an "understanding" basis.
- 4. Ineffective Enforcement:** The prosecution rates are low, with Maharashtra at about 14% in 2021, reducing the deterrent effect of inspections. This contributes to repeated safety violations and accidents.

What should be done?

- 1. Implement ILO Standards:** Follow International Labour Organization standards for inspections, including unannounced visits and sufficient staffing. This will enhance safety compliance.
- 2. Penalize Non-Compliance:** Impose penalties on both companies and state officials for safety lapses. This will ensure accountability and prevent negligence.
- 3. Tackle Corruption:** Address corruption by ensuring inspections are genuine and free from bribery. Reports of "understanding" between inspectors and factory owners must be eliminated for effective safety measures.

Why is Assam Prone to Flooding

Context: The article discusses how Assam, despite repeated floods and significant damage, has failed to effectively manage its flood situation. It highlights the geographical challenges, outdated flood control methods, and lack of modern infrastructure to predict and mitigate flooding. The text criticizes both state and central governments for inadequate response and planning.

For detailed information on **Floods in India** [read this article here](#)

Why is Assam Prone to Flooding?

1. Assam has over 120 rivers, many originating from extreme rainfall areas in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, China, and Bhutan.
2. The Brahmaputra River, one of the largest in the world, flows through Assam, contributing significantly to flooding.
3. The state's geography includes bowl-shaped lowlands like Guwahati, which are prone to waterlogging.
4. Historical flood control structures, built in the 1960s and 1970s, are outdated and not effective in current conditions.
5. Embankments and other flood control measures have not been adequately maintained or updated.

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6. The lack of modern weather stations and flood warning systems hampers effective disaster management.
7. Continuous construction projects have damaged natural water channels and marshes, worsening flood risks.

What should be done?

1. Implement the proposed flood mitigation projects announced by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, which aim to secure the region from floods.
2. Modernize the flood warning systems by installing advanced weather stations and sirens, as suggested by a parliamentary panel in 2021.
3. Integrate indigenous knowledge to construct flood-resistant housing and infrastructure.
4. Conduct regular dredging of rivers to manage sediment and improve flow.
5. Arrest soil erosion along riverbanks to stabilize landscapes and reduce sediment load in rivers.
6. Enhance collaboration between state and central governments to ensure resources and efforts are adequately directed toward sustainable flood management solutions.