



Mains Marathon
Compilation

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Examine the causes of landslides in India, focusing on both natural and anthropogenic factors. How do these factors vary across different regions of the country?

Introduction: Contextual introduction

Body: Highlight both natural and anthropogenic factors and regional variations across the country.

Conclusion: Way forward

The devastating landslide in Wayanad on July 30th has caused unprecedented loss of life in Kerala, with over 250 fatalities reported. Experts have labeled it the deadliest landslide disaster in the state's history.

Natural Factors

- **Topography:** Steep slopes in regions like the Himalayas, Western Ghats, and Northeastern hills make them susceptible to landslides.
- **Geology:** Unstable rock formations and loose soil contribute to landslide susceptibility.
- **Climate:** Intense rainfall, especially during monsoons, saturates the soil, leading to landslides. Short, heavy downpours can act as triggers, as seen in Kerala.
- **Seismic Activity:** Earthquakes can destabilize slopes, particularly in the Himalayan region.

Anthropogenic Factors

- **Deforestation:** Cutting down native trees, especially for plantations like tea and coffee, weakens soil stability by removing deep-rooted vegetation that binds the soil to the bedrock.
- **Agricultural Practices:** Monocropping and changes in land use reduce soil cohesion and increase landslide risks.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Unscientific construction, road building, and mining destabilize slopes.
- **Urbanization:** Haphazard urban development in landslide-prone areas amplifies the risks.

Regional Variations in Landslide Susceptibility

- **Himalayan Region:** Susceptible due to steep slopes, deforestation, high seismic activity, and heavy monsoon rains. The terrain's young and unstable geological formations make this region particularly susceptible. Eg, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh.
- **Western Ghats:** High rainfall combined with deforestation and plantation agriculture leads to frequent landslides. Eg, Kerala, Karnataka & Maharashtra.
- **Northeast India:** Landslides are common due to high rainfall, deforestation, and shifting cultivation practices. Eg, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Mizoram.
- **Eastern Ghats:** Previously underappreciated, but new studies indicate susceptibility due to geomorphology and deforestation. Eg, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

Conclusion

It's crucial to establish comprehensive guidelines for human settlements, construction, and infrastructure development in hilly areas. Governments should use tools like the India Landslide Susceptibility Map before investing in projects. Experts emphasize that informed decision-making and adherence to best practices are essential to reduce the impact of landslides in India's vulnerable regions.

Evaluate the significance of the Broadcasting Regulation Bill, 2024, in the context of the evolving media landscape in India. What are the potential benefits of this regulation?

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Significance and benefits of the Bill

Conclusion: Way forward

The Broadcasting Regulation Bill 2024 aims to regulate various broadcasting forms, including TV networks, OTT platforms, and digital news. It introduces a unified regulatory framework, promotes self-regulation, and ensures accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Significance of the Bill

- **Consolidation of Regulations:** The Bill essentially provides regulatory provisions for various broadcasting services under a single legislative framework. It seeks to replace the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act of 1995 and other policy guidelines currently governing the broadcasting sector in India.
- **Self-Regulation Mechanisms:** The Bill introduces 'Content evaluation committees' for self-regulation and a 'Broadcast Advisory Council' to "advise the central government on program code and advertisement code violations.
- **Make Broadcasting Inclusive:** The Bill aims to make broadcasting more inclusive and accessible to people with disabilities. It promotes the use of subtitles, audio descriptors, and sign language. The Bill has a provision for appointing a "Disability Grievance officer" & hence promotes "ease of living".
- **Ease of Doing Business:** The bill aims to streamline business operations in the broadcasting sector by establishing a dispute resolution framework.

Potential benefits

- **Push for "Digital India":** The measure aims to encourage service evolution and technological improvement in the broadcasting industry, which will contribute to the achievement of our "digital India" goal.
- **Allows for "Right of Way":** The bill includes a provision for "Right of Way," which would make it simpler for cable operators to get approval from different municipal authorities to expand their network into a new city.
- **Encourages infrastructure sharing:** Just as telecom companies profited from pooling spectrum and cellular towers, broadcasters would also benefit from infrastructure sharing.
- **Ensure fairness and equity:** The Bill provides statutory penalties like advisory, warning, censure, or monetary penalties, for operators and broadcasters. Provision for imprisonment and/or fines is also there, but only for very serious offenses, such as obtaining registration with a false affidavit. These are linked to the financial capacity of the entity, taking into account their investment and turnover to ensure fairness and equity.

Conclusion

It is essential to conduct a thorough and transparent consultation process with industry stakeholders, civil society, and media experts to address the concerns like **government interference in Broadcast Advisory Council (BAC), increasing control over digital media, and more compliance for online platform which could be viewed as "license raj"**. Hence, the need is to ensure that the bill strikes a balance between regulation and freedom of expression.

Examine the significance of the recent Supreme Court verdict on caste sub-classification in India. How does this ruling address historical injustices and ensure equitable distribution of benefits among marginalized communities?

Introduction: Contextual introduction

Body: Significance of the verdict and how does it address historical injustices among SC & ST?

Conclusion: Way forward

The recent Supreme Court judgment allowing state governments to sub-divide reservation quotas for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), and potentially exclude the "creamy layer" from these benefits, marks a significant shift in India's approach to affirmative action. This decision, stemming from *the State of Punjab vs. Davinder Singh case, overturns the 2004 E V Chinniah* ruling, which treated SCs and STs as homogenous categories that could not be further subdivided.

Significance

- **Need for Evidence-Based Policies:** The judgment underscores the importance of data-driven approaches to social justice, possibly reinforcing the case for a nationwide caste census. This would provide the necessary data to implement more precise and effective affirmative action policies.
- **Fairer Allocation of Resources:** Sub-classification can lead to a fairer allocation of resources and benefits within the SC and ST quotas. It ensures that the most disadvantaged groups receive a proportionate share of the pie.
- **Maximizing the Impact of Reservations:** By targeting the most marginalized sections, the government can maximize the impact of reservation policies and achieve the goal of social upliftment more effectively.

Addressing Historical Injustices

- **Recognition of Heterogeneity:** This ruling acknowledges the diversity within SC and ST groups, allowing for a more nuanced approach to affirmative action that considers the unique needs and disadvantages of different sub-groups.
- **Rectifying Unequal Access:** The verdict recognizes that the benefits of affirmative action have not been evenly distributed across all SC and ST communities. By permitting sub-classification, the ruling aims to rectify these imbalances and ensure that the most disadvantaged sub-groups receive the support they need.
- **Targeted Interventions:** By permitting sub-classification, the government can now implement more targeted interventions and affirmative action programs to uplift the most vulnerable sections within these categories to break the cycle of poverty and discrimination that has persisted for centuries.
- **Empowering Marginalized Groups:** The decision empowers marginalized groups within the SC and ST communities to demand their rightful share of resources and opportunities. It gives them a stronger voice in the fight for social justice.

Conclusion

Overall, the Supreme Court's verdict on caste sub-classification is a landmark decision that has the potential to significantly improve the lives of millions of marginalized people in India. It is a step forward in the country's journey towards a more just and equitable society.

Discuss the role of regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms in ensuring the safety of educational institutions in urban areas. How can these be strengthened to prevent future tragedies?

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Role of regulatory frameworks & enforcement mechanisms and how to strengthen them?

Conclusion: Way forward

Urban areas in India, such as Delhi and its National Capital Region (NCR), have faced severe challenges in managing monsoon rains, leading to tragic incidents and highlighting the inadequacies of existing infrastructure. The safety of educational institutions in these environments is directly tied to the effectiveness of regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms.

Role of Regulatory Frameworks and Enforcement Mechanisms

- **Building Codes and Safety Standards:** Regulations must ensure that buildings are constructed following stringent safety codes, including earthquake-resistant designs in seismic zones, proper ventilation, and fire-resistant materials.
- **Health and Hygiene Standards:** Ensuring clean and adequate sanitation facilities is critical to prevent the spread of diseases. Regulatory oversight of eateries ensures that students receive safe and nutritious food.
- **Regular Inspections and Audits:** Government authorities must conduct regular inspections to ensure that institutions comply with safety regulations. These inspections should cover structural integrity, fire safety, sanitation, and security measures.
- **Penalties for Violations:** Strict penalties for institutions that fail to adhere to regulations, including suspension or closure.

Strengthening Regulatory Frameworks and Enforcement Mechanisms

- **Updating Infrastructure Standards:** Regulatory frameworks need to be updated to reflect modern urban realities and climate change-induced challenges. This includes revising building codes to ensure that all structures, including educational institutions, are designed to withstand extreme weather events and are equipped with adequate drainage systems.
- **Regular Inspections and Maintenance:** Regular inspections of drainage systems, buildings, and urban infrastructure are essential to identify and address vulnerabilities before they lead to disasters. Desilting drains and maintaining stormwater systems can significantly reduce the risk of waterlogging and related hazards.
- **Community Involvement:** Engaging the community in safety initiatives, including parent-teacher associations and neighborhood watch groups.
- **Public Awareness and Preparedness:** Educating the public, especially students and staff in educational institutions, about the risks of waterlogging and how to respond to emergencies can save lives. Emergency drills, proper signage, and clear communication channels are critical components of preparedness.

Conclusion

The tragedies that have occurred in cities like Delhi underscore the urgent need to strengthen regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms to ensure the safety of educational institutions. Inclusive and resilient urban planning, coupled with public awareness, will be key to preventing future disasters and safeguarding the lives of those in educational settings.

Examine the progress made in ensuring the dignity, freedom, and self-determination of transgender individuals since the landmark judgment. Highlight the challenges and gaps in the implementation of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Highlight progress made since judgment and list challenges and gaps in execution.

Conclusion: Way forward

The recognition of transgender individuals in the *NALSA vs. Union of India* judgment in 2014 as a third gender was a landmark moment in India's journey towards equality. The subsequent Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, aimed to further solidify their rights and protections.

Progress Made

- **Legal Recognition and Rights:** The NALSA judgment and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, have legally recognized the identity of transgender individuals, providing them with the right to self-identification and protection against discrimination in education, employment, healthcare, and access to public spaces.
- **Increased Visibility and Awareness:** These legal developments have contributed to greater visibility and awareness of transgender issues in Indian society. Media representation, public discourse, and advocacy have all played a role in challenging stereotypes and reducing stigma.
- **Educational and Employment Initiatives:** Some state governments and private organizations have initiated schemes and programs to promote the inclusion of transgender persons in education and employment. For instance, reservations in education and government jobs for transgender individuals have been introduced in states like Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- **Healthcare Access:** The Act mandates that transgender individuals have access to healthcare services without discrimination, including free sex reassignment surgeries (SRS) and hormone therapy in select government hospitals.

Challenges and Gaps in Implementation

- **Implementation Issues:** Despite the law, implementation remains a major challenge. Many transgender individuals face discrimination in accessing education, employment, and healthcare.
- **Social Stigma and Discrimination:** Deep-rooted societal prejudices and discrimination continue to hinder the full integration of transgender individuals into mainstream society.
- **Lack of Awareness:** There is a significant gap in awareness about the rights of transgender persons among the general public, law enforcement agencies, and government officials.
- **Incomplete Protection:** The Act falls short in addressing crucial issues such as hate crimes, access to justice, and comprehensive healthcare.
- **Economic Marginalization:** Transgender individuals continue to face economic hardships and a lack of livelihood opportunities.

Conclusion

While India has made significant strides in recognizing the rights of transgender individuals, the journey towards a truly inclusive society is far from over. Effective implementation of the Transgender Persons Act, coupled with sustained efforts to change societal attitudes, is essential to ensure the dignity, freedom, and self-determination of this marginalized community.

Evaluate the benefits of direct seeding in terms of water and labor savings, cost reductions, and environmental impact. Compare these benefits with the conventional methods of rice cultivation in India.

Introduction: What is DSR?

Body: Highlight its benefits and compare it with conventional methods of rice cultivation.

Conclusion: Way forward

Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR), is a method of rice cultivation where paddy seeds are directly sown in the field, instead of the traditional method of transplanting seedlings from a nursery into the main flooded field.

Benefits

- **Water:** The DSR technique conserves water more effectively than traditional transplanting methods. Experts estimate that adopting DSR can save approximately 15% to 20% of groundwater.
- **Labor:** DSR significantly reduces labor costs. Traditionally, transplanting an acre of paddy requires 4-5 laborers, costing around Rs 4,000. In contrast, a DSR machine can cover the same area in just 1.25-1.5 hours, using only about 3 liters of diesel at Rs 90 per liter, which greatly lowers the overall cost of cultivation.
- **Cost benefits:** The DSR method also saves power compared to the traditional method. It helps reduce weed problems and decreases the incidence of nutrient deficiencies, particularly iron, due to less nutrient leaching and deeper root development. This has made DSR increasingly popular among farmers in Haryana and Punjab.
- **Climate:** Field experiments have shown that DSR is a viable alternative to mitigate methane emissions, compared to the conventional paddy planting method, which is a major source of methane.

Comparison with conventional methods of rice cultivation

- **Water savings:** Direct Seeding requires less water while conventional transplanting requires significant amounts of water for both the nursery and the field, leading to higher water consumption. Water savings can be as high as 30-40% compared to traditional methods.
- **Labour Cost:** Direct Seeding reduces labor requirements significantly as it eliminates the need for nursery preparation, seedling uprooting, and transplanting while conventional transplanting is labor-intensive, requiring manual work for seedbed preparation, seedling transplantation, and subsequent field management.
- **Cost Reductions:** Direct Seeding requires lower labor costs, reduced water consumption, and potential for mechanization contributing to overall cost reduction while conventional transplanting is associated with the high cost of labor, water, and longer crop duration, leading to increased spending on inputs like fertilizers and pesticides.
- **Environmental Impact:** DSR is superior as it leads to significantly reduced methane emissions & improved soil health as compared to the conventional method which leads to depletion of the water table, higher greenhouse gas emissions & soil degradation.

Conclusion

India can achieve significant progress in water conservation, reducing the environmental footprint of rice cultivation, and improving the livelihoods of farmers by gradually shifting towards direct seeding.

Discuss the psychological impacts of climate-induced disasters on affected communities. How can these impacts be mitigated through policy and community-level interventions? (250 words)

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Highlight psychological impacts of climate-induced disasters and mitigation strategies

Conclusion: Way forward

Climate-induced disasters, such as hurricanes, floods, and wildfires, have profound psychological impacts on affected communities.

Psychological Impacts of Climate-Induced Disasters on Affected Communities

- **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD):** Climate-induced disasters, such as landslides and floods, often result in PTSD, characterized by distressing dreams, flashbacks, and heightened anxiety. For instance, after the 2021 Chamoli floods, survivors reported nightmares and heightened fear of future disasters.
- **Chronic Stress Responses:** Continuous exposure to stressors, such as prolonged heavy rains or persistent threats from climate-induced events, leads to maladaptive stress responses.
- **Cognitive Impairments:** Research has shown that individuals affected by major fires exhibited impaired selective attention and working memory. Emotional-interference processing, where emotional stimuli disrupt cognitive tasks, was notably affected.
- **Economic and Social Displacement:** Displacement due to disasters, such as the 2016 floods in Indonesia, impacts economic stability and mental well-being. While some displaced individuals report improved mental well-being, those in unstable or temporary housing often experience worsened mental health outcomes.

Mitigation Strategies

- **Detailed Planning:** Experts emphasize the importance of having a detailed disaster-management plan that includes steps for immediate response, identification of next of kin, resource assessment, and support networks. This logical approach can help shift from emotional to cognitive responses in the face of disaster.
- **Psychological First Aid (PFA):** Psychological First Aid involves initial disaster response interventions designed to promote safety, stabilize survivors, and connect them to resources. PFA includes meeting basic needs, listening to survivors, accepting their feelings, and referring them for further treatment.
- **Community-Based Approach:** PFA focuses on rebuilding community support systems rather than providing on-site therapy. The model emphasizes equipping communities to handle future calamities.
- **Health Vigilance:** Experts have highlighted the need for government and health authorities to monitor mental and physical health indicators in disaster-affected populations. This includes tracking the increased risk of both mental health conditions and physical diseases, such as metabolic and communicable diseases.

Conclusion

Mitigating the psychological impacts of climate-induced disasters involves integrating mental health support into disaster planning, fostering community resilience, and providing targeted assistance to vulnerable groups. Collaboration among government bodies, mental health professionals, and community organizations is key to effective recovery.

Critically evaluate the impact of the Union Budget on scientific research and development in India. How does the budget address the challenges of basic research and innovation? (250 words)

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Impact of budget on scientific research & how does it address challenges and concerns.

Conclusion: Way forward

The Union Budget plays a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of scientific research and development (R&D) in India. The Union Budget of Modi's third term continues to build on previous initiatives aimed at advancing technology and scientific research in India.

Impact

- **Focus on Advanced Technology and Innovation:** The Budget reinforces India's commitment to advanced technology sectors, including quantum technologies, supercomputing, and space exploration.
- **Support for Critical Sectors:** The Budget allocates funds to critical areas like climate-resilient agriculture, critical minerals, and clean energy. These are strategically important sectors given global challenges such as climate change and energy security.
- **Agricultural Innovation:** The focus on agricultural productivity and resilience, supported by initiatives like speed breeding platforms and climate-resilient crop varieties, indicates a targeted approach to transforming Indian agriculture through biotechnology.
- **Private Sector Engagement:** The budget highlights a shift towards increased private sector participation in R&D through the operationalization of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) with a ₹1 lakh crore corpus. This initiative aims to bridge the gap between academic research and commercial application, encouraging private investment in research.

Concerns and Challenges

- **Stagnation in Basic Research Funding:** Despite the increased allocations, concerns persist about the adequacy of funding for basic research. Leading scientists have pointed out that, when adjusted for inflation, the increase in allocations is nominal.
- **Operational Challenges of ANRF:** The operationalization of the ANRF is seen as a positive step, but there are concerns about its emphasis on prototype development alongside basic research.
- **Disparities in Funding Distribution:** There is a notable disparity in the distribution of research funding, with a significant portion going to central institutions like IITs, while state-run institutions receive a smaller share.
- **Sustainability of Research Funding:** The reliance on zero budgeting systems (ZBS) and quarterly reports creates challenges for research institutions, as these mechanisms are better suited to predictable and quantifiable projects, not the inherently uncertain nature of scientific research.
- **Nominal Budget Increases:** While there are increases in budget allocations, many scientists believe that these are not sufficient to keep pace with the growing demands of the research community.

Conclusion

More effort must be put into raising research funding as a share of GDP and implementing rules that guarantee fair distribution and support for both basic and applied research if India's scientific community is to reach its full potential.

Discuss the systemic barriers faced by survivors of gender-based violence in rural India. What reforms are necessary to ensure a more supportive and just legal framework for these survivors?

Introduction: Brief contextual Introduction

Body: Highlight systemic barriers faced by survivors of GBV & measures to deal with them

Conclusion: Way forward

Survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in rural India encounter a complex web of systemic barriers that hinder their access to justice and recovery. These barriers are deeply rooted in societal norms, patriarchal structures, and inadequate infrastructure.

Systemic Barriers

- **Social Ostracism:** Survivors of GBV, especially sexual violence, can experience stigma and ostracism in rural areas. They are deterred from reporting occurrences since they are frequently held responsible for the violence.
- **Legal Illiteracy:** A large number of survivors and their families do not know how to report GBV or about their legal rights. This ignorance also includes not knowing what exactly GBV is.
- **Geographical Barriers:** It can be challenging for survivors to file complaints or obtain medical attention in rural areas due to the lack of access to police stations, legal aid offices, and healthcare facilities.
- **Institutional Violence:** Survivors face systemic violence that begins even before they attempt to report GBV. The skepticism and apathy of law enforcement officials, the cumbersome and traumatic judicial processes, and the societal stigma attached to survivors all contribute to a vicious cycle of violence and injustice.

Necessary Reforms for a Supportive and Just Legal Framework

- **Including GBV in Political Agendas:** GBV should be given top priority in political party manifestos. Voters should hold candidates responsible for addressing and enacting GBV-related policies.
- **Enhancing Law Implementation:** Although India has robust legal provisions against domestic abuse and other gender-based violence, these laws are frequently not adequately enforced. Ensuring effective enforcement of laws and instituting accountability procedures for those who fail to uphold them should be a national priority.
- **Empowering Marginalized Communities:** National expansion is necessary for initiatives like Vanangna's government official training courses on survivor- and woman-centered procedures. These initiatives can contribute to the development of a more approachable and accommodating legal system for survivors, especially those from underrepresented groups.
- **Reducing Judicial Backlogs:** It is imperative to deal with the vast backlog of cases in the judiciary, especially those about GBV. Streamlining GBV cases and guaranteeing prompt justice can greatly enhance survivors' interactions with the legal system.

Conclusion

Political leaders and voters must treat gender-based violence not only as a societal issue but as a core matter of justice and human rights. Prioritizing GBV and establishing survivor-focused institutions are essential steps toward building a more just and equitable society that safeguards the safety and dignity of women in India.

Critically analyze the potential economic benefits and societal costs of allowing doorstep delivery of alcohol in Indian states. How can governments balance revenue generation with public health concerns?

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Highlight economic benefits and societal costs of doorstep alcohol delivery.

Conclusion: Way forward

States like Delhi, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are considering alcohol delivery via platforms like Swiggy. India, the sixth-largest alcohol market, saw per capita consumption rise from 1.6 liters in 2005 to 5.5 liters by 2018, with 16 crore users in 2018.

Economic Benefits and Societal Costs of Doorstep Alcohol Delivery

- **Excise Taxes:** States stand to gain significant revenue from the doorstep delivery of alcohol, as taxes on alcohol sales contribute up to 25% of the total revenue for many state governments.
- **Job Creation and Economic Activity:** The integration of alcohol delivery into platforms like Swiggy, BigBasket, and Zomato could stimulate economic activity by creating jobs in logistics, delivery, and the broader e-commerce ecosystem.
- **Normalization of Alcohol Use:** Doorstep delivery may normalize alcohol consumption in households, potentially leading to changes in social norms around drinking. This could increase alcohol-related harm, including domestic violence, particularly in households where alcohol misuse is already prevalent.
- **Questionable Safety for Women:** While doorstep delivery could theoretically reduce on-premise violence against women by eliminating the need to visit bars, it may not mitigate the broader issue of domestic violence linked to alcohol consumption.

Balancing Revenue Generation with Public Health Concerns

- **Strict Controls and Pricing:** Governments could implement strict regulatory measures, such as higher taxes on delivered alcohol, to discourage excessive consumption. Pricing strategies can make alcohol less accessible and reduce impulse buying.
- **Data Sharing and Monitoring:** Platforms offering alcohol delivery must share data with the government to monitor consumption patterns and assess the impact on public health. Continuous evaluation would allow for policy adjustments if evidence of harm emerges.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Governments should invest in public health campaigns to educate citizens about the risks associated with alcohol consumption and promote responsible drinking.
- **Enhanced Support Services:** Allocating a portion of alcohol tax revenues to fund treatment programs for alcohol-use disorders and support services for affected families can help mitigate the negative social impacts.

Conclusion

Allowing alcohol delivery in Indian states presents a trade-off between economic gains and societal costs. While it could boost revenue and consumer convenience, the public health risks are considerable. Governments should enforce strict regulations, prioritize public health, and use a data-driven approach to balance these outcomes effectively.

Analyze the significance of low-skilled, employment-intensive manufacturing in India's economic growth. Compare this approach with the IT services-led growth experienced in the 2000s.

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Significance of low-skilled employment and compare this with IT service-led growth

Conclusion: Way forward

India's economic growth narrative is often marked by optimism, fueled by high GDP growth rates and the aspiration of becoming a major global economic player. However, for India to sustain this momentum and achieve its goal of becoming a \$30-trillion economy by 2047, a shift towards low-skilled, employment-intensive manufacturing is crucial.

Significance of Low-Skilled, Employment-Intensive Manufacturing in India's Economic Growth

- **Addressing Labor Market Challenges:** With 46% of India's labor force still engaged in low-productivity agriculture and a female labor force participation rate (FLFPR) of just 37%, there is an urgent need to create job opportunities in sectors that can absorb large numbers of workers.
- **Learning from the Asian Tigers:** The success of countries like South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and Vietnam—often referred to as the 'Asian Tigers'—in achieving rapid economic growth through export-oriented, low-skilled manufacturing serves as a model for India.
- **Export Competitiveness and Global Integration:** Low-skilled manufacturing can help India become more competitive in global markets, particularly if the country can capitalize on the current geopolitical landscape, such as the China+1 strategy being adopted by multinational companies. By focusing on export-driven growth, India can increase its share in global trade and enhance its economic resilience.

Comparison with IT Services-Led Growth in the 2000s

- **Inclusivity and Broad-Based Growth:** The IT services-led growth in the 2000s primarily benefited urban areas and the educated middle class, creating a significant but somewhat narrow impact on the overall economy. While it contributed to India's GDP and positioned the country as a leader in the global IT industry, this growth model did not significantly address the employment needs of the broader population, particularly those in rural areas.
- **Reduce Regional Disparities:** Low-skilled manufacturing has the potential to create jobs across different regions and social strata, fostering more inclusive growth. This sector can help reduce regional disparities by encouraging industrial development in less-developed areas, thereby promoting balanced economic development.
- **Resilience and Sustainability:** The IT sector, while a major driver of India's economic growth, is vulnerable to external shocks such as global demand fluctuations and technological disruptions. On the other hand, low-skilled manufacturing offers a more stable growth path, as it is less susceptible to global market volatility and can absorb a larger portion of the workforce.

Conclusion

Low-skilled, employment-intensive manufacturing holds the key to unlocking India's economic potential, providing jobs to millions, and driving inclusive growth. By focusing on manufacturing and export-led growth, India can build a more resilient and inclusive economy, avoiding the middle-income trap and achieving its long-term economic goals.

Analyze the impact of political stability in Bangladesh on India's strategic and economic interests. How can India ensure continued cooperation despite political changes in Dhaka? (250 words)

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Impact of political stability on India and how to ensure continued cooperation despite political changes.

Conclusion: Way forward

In a surprising development, Sheikh Hasina has resigned as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and left the country. Her departure marks the end of her 15-year tenure and signifies a dramatic shift in Bangladesh's political landscape.

Impact

- **Regional Security:** Political stability in Bangladesh has a direct impact on regional security in South Asia. A stable government in Dhaka ensures better cooperation on counter-terrorism, border management, and curbing insurgency activities along the India-Bangladesh border.
- **Geopolitical Balance:** Bangladesh plays a crucial role in India's Act East Policy and in counterbalancing China's growing influence in the region. A stable Bangladesh under a government favorable to India helps maintain a strategic balance.
- **Bilateral Trade:** Political stability has been instrumental in deepening India-Bangladesh trade relations. A stable regime ensures the implementation of trade agreements, adherence to policies like duty-free quota access under SAFTA, and the smooth functioning of trade routes.
- **Investment Climate:** Stability in Bangladesh creates a conducive environment for Indian businesses to invest in sectors like textiles, pharmaceuticals, and energy. Political unrest or changes in government could lead to policy reversals, increased regulatory risks, and potential losses for Indian investors.

Ensuring Continued Cooperation Despite Political Changes

- **Regional and Multilateral Engagement:** India can leverage regional forums like BIMSTEC and SAARC to engage with Bangladesh on broader issues, ensuring that cooperation continues at the multilateral level even during domestic political transitions.
- **Implementation of Smart Border Management** - It's essential to create joint task forces that include law enforcement agencies from both countries to effectively tackle cross-border issues such as drug smuggling, human trafficking, and illegal immigration.
- **Diplomatic Engagement:** India should maintain strong diplomatic ties with all major political entities in Bangladesh. By engaging with multiple stakeholders, India can ensure that bilateral relations remain robust, regardless of who is in power.
- **People-to-People Relations:** Strengthening cultural and educational exchanges can create a strong foundation for bilateral relations that transcends political changes. Enhanced engagement through tourism, cultural exchanges, and academic partnerships can foster goodwill and understanding between the populations of both countries.

Conclusion

Political stability in Bangladesh is crucial for safeguarding India's strategic and economic interests. With a multi-faceted approach that includes diplomatic engagement, strengthening institutional frameworks, and fostering economic and cultural ties, India can ensure continued cooperation with Bangladesh, even amid political changes in Dhaka.

Discuss the Supreme Court's recent judgment on the All India Stray Dogs case. How does it reflect the balance between state and municipal laws versus central legislation regarding animal welfare?

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Key Aspects of the Judgement and balancing act among various agencies

Conclusion: Way forward

The recent Supreme Court judgment on the All India Stray Dogs case, officially titled *Animal Welfare Board of India & Anr. vs. People for Elimination of Stray Troubles & Ors.*, addressed the contentious issue of stray dog population management in India. The case, which had been ongoing for 15 years, was a legal battle between proponents of animal rights and those advocating for aggressive measures to control stray dog populations, including culling.

Key Aspects

- **Legislative Changes:** The judgment was influenced by the introduction of the new Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, which further reinforced the central law's stance against culling and emphasized sterilization and vaccination.
- **Scientific and Humane Approach:** The Supreme Court's decision was grounded in a scientifically backed approach to stray dog population control, as endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other expert bodies. The Court highlighted that culling had not proven effective in controlling stray dog populations, whereas sterilization had been recognized as the only humane and effective method.
- **Constitutional and Ethical Considerations:** The judgment also invoked Article 51A(g) of the Constitution of India, emphasizing the fundamental duty of citizens to show compassion towards all living creatures. The Court's ruling reflects a broader ethical perspective on how stray animals should be treated, aligning legal enforcement with constitutional values.

Balancing Act: Central, State, and Municipal Laws

- **Central vs. State and Municipal Laws:** The case centered on whether municipal and local authorities could kill stray dogs under state and municipal laws or whether they were bound by central laws like the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960, and the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2001. The Supreme Court ruled that local authorities must adhere to central legislation, which prohibits indiscriminate killing and mandates sterilization and vaccination as the humane and effective method for controlling stray dog populations.
- **Central Legislation:** Acts like the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA Act) provide a broad framework for animal welfare. They set national standards and guidelines.
- **State Legislation:** Many states have their animal welfare laws, which may provide more specific regulations or address regional issues.
- **Municipal Bylaws:** Local authorities often have bylaws to manage stray animals within their jurisdiction. These bylaws are crucial for on-ground implementation but can vary widely.

Conclusion

The judgment advocates for a humane and scientifically validated approach, resolving a protracted legal issue while also emphasizing ethical animal treatment. This ensures a careful balance between maintaining public safety and protecting animal rights.

Analyze the importance of winning local population support in counter-terrorism operations. How can the Indian Army balance operational efficiency with community engagement in Jammu?

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Importance of local population in counter-terrorism ops & balance between operational efficiency with community engagement

Conclusion: Way forward

The Jammu region's counter-terrorism efforts are facing significant challenges, exacerbated by the re-deployment of troops to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the increasing threat from infiltrated terrorists. The induction of additional troops, including Special Forces and Assam Rifles, into the region highlights the government's commitment to addressing the deteriorating security situation.

Importance of Local Population Support in Counter-Terrorism

- **Intelligence gathering:** Locals frequently have important knowledge regarding the whereabouts and activities of terrorists.
- **Early Warning Systems:** By promptly alerting the public to possible threats, security forces can take preventative action.
- **Refusing Safe Havens:** Terrorists frequently use locals as human shields and are dependent on their support. An antagonistic public can seriously impede their activities.
- **Long-Term Stability:** Reconstruction after a conflict and averting a return to violence depend on developing a relationship of trust and collaboration with the local populace.
- **Minimizing Collateral Damage:** Engaging positively with the community helps minimize unintended harm to civilians, which can otherwise fuel anti-security sentiments.

Balancing Operational and Community Needs

- **Civilian-Military Cooperation:** Establish robust civil-military coordination mechanisms to ensure that counter-terrorism operations do not alienate the local populace.
- **Humanitarian Aid:** Provide essential services like healthcare, education, and infrastructure development to demonstrate the army's commitment to the community's well-being.
- **Trust-Building Measures:** Implement community policing initiatives, conduct regular interaction programs, and address local grievances to build trust.
- **Information Dissemination:** Maintain open communication channels with the public, providing accurate and timely information about operations to counter misinformation.
- **Respect for Human Rights:** Adhere strictly to human rights principles and international humanitarian law to prevent civilian casualties and maintain public confidence.
- **Local Recruitment:** Consider recruiting locals into the security forces to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility.
- **Capacity Building:** Empower local communities to take ownership of their security by providing training in first aid, disaster management, and early warning systems.

Conclusion

Balancing operational efficiency with community engagement in Jammu requires a strategic approach that integrates new troops effectively with existing units, leverages local knowledge, and fosters positive relationships with the local population. This approach not only improves operational effectiveness but also contributes to long-term stability in the region.