

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

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Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF) in India

Source: The post Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF) in India has been created, based on the article "Reimagining access to justice" published in "The Hindu" on 17th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- dispute redressal mechanisms

Context: The article discusses Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF) in India. It highlights how TPLF can help individuals afford legal battles against powerful entities. The article also emphasizes the need for a regulatory framework to manage TPLF and ensure fair access to justice for all.

For detailed information on **third party funding** [read this article here](#)

What is Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF)?

Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF) allows external investors to finance legal cases. In return, these investors get a share of the winnings. It helps people who can't afford legal expenses, making justice more accessible.

Why is TPLF Important in India?

1. Justice in India is becoming increasingly expensive, and many can't afford them.
2. With over 80,000 cases pending in the Supreme Court and around 40 million across the country,
3. TPLF could provide access to justice and empower disadvantaged groups to pursue legal action.
4. The Supreme Court views TPLF as a "**potential equaliser**" in the courtroom.

How has TPLF been accepted in India?

1. The Supreme Court, in **Bar Council of India v. A.K. Balaji**, supported TPLF. It said TPLF is acceptable as long as lawyers don't fund the cases.
2. This builds on the **Ram Coomar Coondoo v. Chunder Canto Mookerjee** case, which said English laws against such funding don't apply in India.

What Challenges Does TPLF Face?

- 1. Profit-Driven Funding:** Critics worry that funders may choose only profitable cases, ignoring important but less profitable ones. There is also concern over how much control funders should have in deciding case strategies.
- 2. Regulatory Gaps:** India lacks a comprehensive national framework for TPLF, leading to uncertainty in operations. Only some states, like Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, have started to recognize TPLF.
- 3. Transparency Issues:** Without regulations, there are concerns about how funding deals are structured, risking clients' decision-making rights.

4. Court Involvement: Determining the appropriate level of court oversight is complex and needs clear guidelines to maintain judicial integrity.

What are global examples of TPLF regulation?

Hong Kong's 2019 Code of Practice for Third Party Funding in Arbitration requires funders to disclose financial details, liability, and control. India may adopt similar rules to protect against risks and ensure fair litigation.

Question for practice:

Discuss the importance of Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF) in making justice more accessible in India.

Status of organ transplant surgeries in India

Source: The post status of organ transplant surgeries in India has been created, based on the article "**Express View on illicit kidney trafficking: The body shop**" published in "**Indian Express**" on 17th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Governance-Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health

Context: The article discusses India's organ transplant sector, highlighting both its growth and the illegal organ trafficking networks. It mentions legal donations and reveals international illicit markets, emphasizing the need for stricter enforcement and better awareness about organ donation.

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

What is the status of organ transplant surgeries in India?

1. India is a major hub for organ transplants, performing about 18,000 operations each year, the highest number after the US and China.
2. These surgeries mostly occur in private hospitals and attract international patients, showcasing India's advanced healthcare capabilities.

For detailed information on **India trails in deceased organ donation** [read this article here](#)

What illegal activities are associated with organ transplants?

1. The sector faces challenges with illegal organ trafficking involving doctors, hospital staff, and criminals.
2. A report exposed a network operating between India and Bangladesh, using fake documents to facilitate organ sales, deceiving the system as "altruistic donations."

What are the legal frameworks for organ donation in India?

1. India's laws allow three types of organ donations: from close relatives, altruistic donors, and swap donations between incompatible pairs.

2. Foreign donors must prove their donations are not coerced or paid for, requiring a certificate from their embassy.

For detailed information on **National Organ Transplant Programme(NOTP)** [read this article here](#)

What are the consequences of these illegal activities?

1. Illegal organ trading has been ongoing for over eight years, undermining trust in the healthcare system.
2. Despite some police success in dismantling trafficking rings, more consistent and thorough investigations are needed to preserve the integrity of organ transplantation.

What are the solutions to organ trafficking?

In addition to stronger law enforcement, there is a need to raise awareness about organ donation, correct misconceptions, and address gender imbalances—where women are often donors and men recipients. These steps could reduce organ trafficking in the long term.

Question for practice:

Examine the challenges faced by India's organ transplant sector, including both legal frameworks and the illegal organ trafficking networks.

Importance of disaster risk insurance

Source: The post importance of disaster risk insurance has been created, based on the article “**Why climate change is a national security issue**” published in “**Indian Express**” on 17th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3- Disaster Management

Context: The article discusses the importance of disaster risk insurance in protecting both individuals and the economy from the impacts of disasters. It emphasizes the need for early warning systems, compensation, and insurance to secure human and national security.

For detailed information on **Disaster Management Act 2005** [read this article here](#)

How do disasters affect personal and national security?

1. Disasters can devastate personal lives, rendering even middle-class families homeless, as seen during earthquakes.
2. Nationally, disasters hinder economic growth, impacting India's \$5-trillion and \$10-trillion economic goals.
3. Disasters lead to downturns, damaging infrastructure and disrupting livelihoods.
4. In 1991, Bangladesh lost 140,000 people to a super cyclone, causing long-term human security challenges.
5. The 2011 Haiti earthquake killed 316,000 people, forcing migration due to inadequate recovery efforts.

6. Pakistan's 2022-23 floods displaced 2.6 million people, making them vulnerable to exploitation by extremist groups, further destabilizing national security.

What role does disaster risk insurance play?

1. Disaster risk insurance helps people recover from losses after a disaster.
2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's **Ten-Point Agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** highlights the importance of risk coverage for everyone, including households and companies.
3. Insurance cannot stop disasters, but it can ensure that people receive compensation to rebuild their lives.
4. Many countries use disaster risk insurance to ensure faster recovery.

Why is disaster-related insurance important in India?

1. India is now focusing on disaster-related insurance as it realizes the importance of protecting people and the economy.
2. The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** is working with insurance companies to develop effective insurance models.
3. Parametric insurance is being considered, as it offers quick payouts based on agreed disaster parameters, avoiding lengthy claim processes.

How can disaster risk insurance strengthen human security?

1. Human security is crucial for national security, especially in conflict-prone regions.
2. Countries like Bangladesh and Haiti have struggled with the aftermath of disasters, leading to displacement, illegal migration, and vulnerability to radical ideologies.
3. Pakistan's floods displaced 2.6 million people in 2022-23, and without proper recovery support, these people could be exploited by extremist groups, just like Afghan refugees were in the 1980s. Disaster risk insurance can reduce such vulnerabilities.

Question for practice:

Discuss how disaster risk insurance can strengthen human and national security.

India's electronics manufacturing goal

Source: The post India's electronics manufacturing goal has been created, based on the article "**India's \$500 billion opportunity — and how not to lose it**" published in "**Indian Express**" on 17th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3- Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

Context: The article discusses India's ambitious goal of reaching \$500 billion in electronics manufacturing by 2030. It emphasizes the need for regional clusters to support growth, customized regulations, and devolution of powers to local authorities to create competitive manufacturing environments.

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

What is India's electronics manufacturing goal?

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi set a target of \$500 billion (Rs 4.20 lakh crore) for electronics manufacturing by 2030.
2. This target is bold, as India's total manufacturing output in 2023-24 was only \$660 billion (Rs 55.4 lakh crore). Growth in electronics manufacturing can help create jobs.

What Strategy is Needed to Meet This Target?

1. The government plans to focus on export-led growth.
2. This involves developing competitive regional manufacturing clusters, similar to those in Silicon Valley, Taiwan, and Shenzhen.
3. Regions like Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu and Noida in Uttar Pradesh are already key players, contributing nearly 50% of India's electronics exports.

What factors make successful manufacturing regions?

Three main factors are crucial:

- 1. Large Size with Anchor Investors:** Successful regions are large and have major companies that drive growth. For example, Shenzhen in China covers 2,000 square kilometers and exports around \$350 billion.
- 2. Customized Regulations:** These include favorable labor laws and taxation policies that facilitate easy movement and management of components across borders.
- 3. Devolution of Power:** Local authorities need the power to make decisions quickly and efficiently, catering to the needs of the manufacturing sector.

How Can India Implement These Changes?

1. It is suggested to develop around existing manufacturing clusters by declaring large special regions. This would integrate current factories and new parks.
2. Regulations should be adjusted to attract major global players and streamline processes. The example of GIFT city, a differentially regulated zone for financial services, shows that such models can work in India.
3. By focusing on these strategic areas, India aims to transform its electronics manufacturing sector and meet its ambitious 2030 target.

Question for practice:

Examine the strategies and factors necessary for India to achieve its \$500 billion electronics manufacturing target by 2030.

How western industrialization led to political and economic advantages over the East

Source: The post how western industrialization led to political and economic advantages over the East has been created, based on the article “**Spotlighting the work of the Economics Nobel winners**” published in “**The Hindu**” on 17th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3-Indian Economy Growth and Development

Context: The article discusses the Great Divergence, highlighting how Western industrialization led to political and economic advantages over the East. It emphasizes the role of institutions, especially extractive ones established during colonialism, in shaping long-term economic development, particularly in countries like India.

What is the Great Divergence?

1. The Great Divergence refers to the growing economic and political gap between the West and the East in the 17th and 18th centuries.
2. Western Europe industrialized early, gaining advantages that allowed them to project political power globally. This also helped them reap economic rewards, leading to lasting global inequalities.

What is the role of institutions in development?

1. Institutions are the rules that shape human behavior and constrain power. For example, constitutional limits on executive power prevent misuse of authority.
2. Economists Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson (AJR) highlighted the difference between extractive and inclusive institutions. Extractive institutions benefit a small elite, while inclusive institutions promote broad participation and prosperity.

For detailed information on **How different types of institutions impact a country's prosperity** [read this article here](#)

How does AJR's research apply to India?

1. AJR's research highlights how colonialism established **extractive institutions** in India that hindered long-term development.
2. **Landlord-based land tenure systems** under British rule led to lower agricultural investments and productivity. Abhijit Banerjee and Lakshmi Iyer (2005) found that these areas still suffer from lower growth today.
3. **Direct vs. Indirect Colonial Rule:** Lakshmi Iyer (2010) showed that areas under **direct British rule** in India had fewer schools, roads, and health centers than those under indirect rule. This disparity persisted for years.

4. AJR's research suggests that **political power** shaped economic outcomes. Colonial elites benefited from extractive institutions, which hindered economic progress in many regions of India, especially in agriculture and infrastructure development.

Question for practice:

Examine how the establishment of extractive institutions during colonialism impacted long-term economic development in countries like India.

Benefits and Criticisms of Universal Transfers

Source: The post benefits and criticisms of Universal Transfers has been created, based on the article "A modified UBI policy may be more feasible" published in "The Hindu" on 18th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3 – Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

Context: The article discusses whether India should adopt a Universal Basic Income (UBI) to address unemployment and poverty. It explores the feasibility of a modified UBI as a social safety net and suggests combining it with existing welfare programs for better coverage.

For detailed information on **Universal Basic Income** [read this article here](#)

Why is UBI Being Discussed Again?

1. UBI is being discussed again due to rising concerns about unemployment and inequality, as highlighted by the International Labour Organization.
2. Automation and Artificial Intelligence have slowed global job growth, contributing to rising youth unemployment in India.
3. India faces a problem of jobless growth, where productivity increases without matching job creation, worsening inequality.
4. The 2016-17 Economic Survey of India recommended considering UBI as a solution to help those affected by unemployment and poverty.
5. UBI has become more feasible with India's JAM (Jan-Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile) infrastructure, enabling direct benefit transfers.
5. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the importance of income transfers in times of crisis, adding urgency to discussions around UBI.

What are the current income transfer schemes in India?

1. **PM-KISAN:** Provides ₹6,000 annually to all farmers. By 2020-21, it aimed to cover 10 crore households, with a cost of ₹75,000 crore (0.4% of GDP).
2. **Rythu Bandhu Scheme (Telangana):** Offers unconditional payments of ₹4,000 per acre to farmers.

3. KALIA (Odisha): Provides cash transfers to farmers to support their livelihoods.

What are the Benefits and Criticisms of Universal Transfers?

A. Benefits of Universal Transfers:

1. Reduced Administrative Costs: Universal schemes reduce costs by eliminating the need for beneficiary targeting, as seen in broader applications like PM-KISAN.

2. Minimized Exclusion Errors: By covering everyone, universal transfers reduce the risk of missing eligible recipients.

3. Fewer Intermediaries Involved: This directly lowers the chances of funds leaking before reaching the intended recipients.

4. Avoids Work Disincentives: Universal transfers provide a basic income without discouraging work, unlike some targeted programs that may reduce incentives to seek employment.

B. Criticisms of Universal Transfers:

1. High Financial Cost: Implementing a UBI could require up to 11% of GDP, posing substantial budgetary challenges.

2. Benefits to the Wealthy: The inclusion of wealthier individuals in UBI schemes raises concerns, although tax adjustments could offset the net benefit to high earners.

3. Implementation Challenges: Issues like Aadhaar verification failures and bank rejections have been problematic, as highlighted by the PM-KISAN experience.

Is UBI Financially Feasible?

1. Large-scale UBI proposals, amounting to 3.5%-11% of GDP, are financially challenging for India. Implementing such a scheme would require cutting other anti-poverty programs or raising taxes substantially.

2. A more feasible option is a limited UBI scheme pegged at 1% of GDP. This scheme would provide ₹144 per month to every citizen, similar to PM-KISAN, which currently supports farmers.

3. The PM-KISAN scheme, covering 10 crore households, costs ₹75,000 crore, about 0.4% of GDP. Expanding this scheme universally would cost approximately double.

4. The fiscal burden is manageable if it's combined with existing schemes like MGNREGS.

5. Thus, a modified UBI scheme, rather than a full-scale one, could be financially feasible.

Question for practice:

Examine the financial feasibility of implementing a Universal Basic Income (UBI) in India, considering its potential costs and the possibility of combining it with existing welfare programs.

The case regarding the marital rape exception (MRE)

Source: The post the case regarding the marital rape exception (MRE) has been created, based on the article "On the exception to marital rape" published in "The Hindu" on 18th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Governance-mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

Context: The article discusses a Supreme Court case challenging the legal exception that protects husbands from being prosecuted for marital rape. It explains the origins of this exception, judicial precedents, and ongoing legal debates about its constitutionality and societal impact.

For detailed information on **The Issue of Marital Rape** [read this article here](#)

What is the case regarding the marital rape exception (MRE)?

1. The Supreme Court is hearing petitions challenging the marital rape exception (MRE) in Indian law.
2. This exception, found in Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), protects husbands from being charged with rape if their wife is over 18 years old.
3. The challenge also extends to a similar provision in the new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Where did MRE Law originate?

1. The Marital Rape Exception (MRE) law originated from English common law, specifically the "**doctrine of coverture**." This doctrine treated the husband and wife as a single entity after marriage, denying women legal autonomy.
2. **British jurist Matthew Hale codified the MRE in a 1736 treatise**, stating that a husband could not rape his wife due to marital consent.
3. The doctrine was adopted by British colonies, including India.
4. **England abolished the MRE in 1991 in R vs R**, recognizing that it no longer reflected the modern view of marriage and women's rights.

What are the major issues with MRE?

1. **Violation of Equality (Article 14):** The MRE creates unequal treatment by denying married women legal protection against non-consensual sex, unlike unmarried women.
2. **Impact on Women's Rights:** Violates women's right to privacy and bodily autonomy (Article 21), as seen in *K.S. Puttaswamy* and *Joseph Shine* cases.
3. **High Incidence of Domestic Violence:** Nearly one-third of married women (18-49 years) in India experience physical or sexual violence by their husbands (NFHS-5).
4. **Colonial Legacy:** The MRE stems from outdated colonial laws rooted in patriarchal views of marriage.

What are the Judicial views on MRE?

1. Karnataka High Court (2022): Ruled that a husband can be prosecuted for raping his wife, emphasizing no legal exception should license crimes, citing the 2013 Justice J.S. Verma Committee report.

2. Delhi High Court (2022): Issued a split verdict. Justice Shakti Chaudhary found the MRE unconstitutional, citing bodily autonomy. Justice Shankar upheld it, seeing marital sex as a “legitimate expectation.”

3. Supreme Court (2022): Recognized marital rape in cases involving intimate partner violence, acknowledging that sexual assault by a husband could constitute rape.

What is the Government's Stance?

1. The government opposes removing the marital rape exception (MRE) and has stated this position in a Supreme Court affidavit.

2. It argues that marriage creates an expectation of “reasonable sexual access” not found in other relationships.

3. The government acknowledges that violating a wife’s consent is wrong but considers labeling it as “rape” to be too harsh and disproportionate.

4. It warns that criminalizing marital rape could harm the sanctity of marriage and lead to false accusations.

5. The government's stance echoes Justice C. Hari Shankar's 2022 Delhi High Court opinion supporting the MRE's legality.

What would happen if the Law changed?

1. If the Supreme Court strikes down the MRE, it will not create a new offense but would remove the husband's immunity from prosecution for rape within marriage.

2. This change would align legal treatment of marital rape with that of other forms of sexual assault.

Question for practice:

Examine the implications of removing the Marital Rape Exception (MRE) in Indian law, particularly regarding its effects on gender equality, privacy rights, and the institution of marriage.

India's progress in human development

Source: The post India's progress in human development has been created, based on the article “**India’s SDG focus and its human development issues**” published in “**The Hindu**” on 18th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources

Context: The article discusses India's progress in human development, highlighting its HDI ranking, gender gaps in labor participation, and rising income inequality. It emphasizes the need to address these challenges to achieve sustainable development and meet the SDGs.

For detailed information on **Prioritizing Human Development** [read this article here](#)

How are human development and the SDGs connected?

1. The Human Development Index (HDI) measures progress in **three key dimensions: a long and healthy life, knowledge, and a decent standard of living.**
2. These dimensions are directly linked to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as SDG-3 (good health), SDG-4 (quality education), SDG-5 (gender equality), SDG-8 (decent work), and SDG-10 (reduced inequality).
3. Achieving sustainable development requires boosting human development through improvements in health, education, and income equality.

What is India's progress in human development?

1. According to the UNDP's Human Development Report (HDR) 2023-24, India is in the 'medium human development category' with an **HDI value of 0.644. India ranks 134 out of 193 countries.**
2. Neighboring countries like Bangladesh (129), Bhutan (125), and China (75) have seen faster progress.
3. Its HDI value increased from 0.434 in 1990 to 0.644 in 2022, marking a 48.4% rise.
4. However, the HDI value stagnated in 2019-20 at 0.638 and fell to 0.633 in 2021 before improving again.

What are the gender development issues in India?

1. India has a large gender gap, especially in the Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR), with a difference of 47.8% between men (76.1%) and women (28.3%).
2. Female participation in labor is much lower compared to countries like China (53.6%) and Bangladesh (39.2%).
3. In rural areas, female participation has risen from 24.6% in 2017-18 to 41.5% in 2022-23, but in urban areas, it has only increased slightly, from 20.4% to 25.4%.

How severe is income inequality in India?

1. India has high income inequality, with the richest 1% holding 21.7% of the country's wealth.
2. This is higher than countries like Bangladesh (11.6%), China (15.7%), and Nepal (9.7%).
3. India's inequality also exceeds the global average of 17.5% and South Asia's average of 19.6%.

Way forward

India must address gender gaps in labor participation and growing income inequality. These challenges need attention to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and foster human development.

Question for practice:

Discuss how gender gaps in labor participation and income inequality affect India's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Signs of a potential improvement in India-Pakistan relations

Source: The post signs of a potential improvement in India-Pakistan relations has been created, based on the article “**In India-Pakistan meet on sidelines of SCO, a kind of hope**” published in “**Indian Express**” on 18th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2-International Relations-India and its neighbourhood- relations.

Context: The article discusses signs of a potential improvement in India-Pakistan relations following Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to Islamabad for the SCO summit. It highlights Pakistan's recent diplomatic warmth and suggests this might lead to renewed dialogue between the two nations.

What is the significance of Jaishankar's visit to Islamabad?

1. Jaishankar's visit to Islamabad for the SCO summit marks a possible thaw in India-Pakistan relations.
2. The diplomatic tone was notably warmer compared to previous engagements, such as Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's abrasive stance at the 2023 SCO meeting in Goa.
3. Pakistan's hospitality, despite internal turmoil, reflects a possible shift in its foreign policy approach.

For detailed information on **What is SCO?** [read this article here](#)

Why is Pakistan reassessing its foreign policy?

1. Pakistan is facing severe internal challenges, including political instability, economic problems, and rising public unrest, prompting a reassessment of its foreign policy.
2. Inflation and economic instability are at the forefront, pressuring the government to focus on stabilising the country.
3. The army, led by General Asim Munir, appears to support a shift in foreign relations to ease tensions.
4. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government, mentored by Nawaz Sharif, is adopting a more pragmatic approach. It recognises that better relations with India could help address domestic issues and bring economic benefits.
5. Additionally, Pakistan is recalibrating its stance due to India's growing global influence, recognizing that cooperation with India could bring more advantages than hostility.

What is the role of different perspectives in India's policy towards Pakistan?

- 1. Realists (Subedars):** Realists have dominated India's policy, especially during Modi's tenure. They focus on security and advocate a hardline stance against Pakistan, prioritizing national defense.
- 2. Liberal Institutionalists (Saudagars):** This group emphasizes trade and economic ties as tools for peace. They argue that cooperation in areas like trade can benefit both nations economically.

3. Constructivists (Sufis): Constructivists promote dialogue, cultural exchanges, and reconciliation. They believe addressing historical grievances through diplomacy can build trust between India and Pakistan.

4. Incorporating all three perspectives could create a more balanced and cooperative approach to India-Pakistan relations.

Question for practice:

Discuss the factors influencing Pakistan's reassessment of its foreign policy towards India.

Impacts of the Char Dham Highway Project

Source: The post impacts of the Char Dham Highway Project has been created, based on the article “A perilous highway to salvation in the Himalayas” published in “The Hindu” on 19th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3 – Disasters and disaster management

Context: The article criticizes the Char Dham Highway Project in Uttarakhand for causing ecological damage. A study reveals that road widening has doubled landslides, leading to fatalities. The government ignored environmental concerns and prioritized tourism over safety, risking further harm to the fragile Himalayan ecosystem.

What is the Char Dham Highway Project?

1. The Char Dham Highway Project is a 900-kilometre long, 12-metre wide, two-lane road meant to boost religious tourism in Uttarakhand.
2. It aims to connect four sacred shrines in the Himalayas.
3. The project costs ₹12,000 crore and was initiated despite opposition from environmentalists.

For detailed information on **Char Dham Project** [read this article here](#)

What are the impacts of the Char Dham Highway Project?

- 1. Increased Landslides:** Road-widening has caused 309 landslides along a 247 km stretch, with a density of 1.25 landslides per km. This has doubled the frequency of landslides, leading to road blockages and accidents.
- 2. Loss of Lives:** Landslides have become a regular occurrence, especially during pilgrimage seasons. In the last four years, 160 people have died in landslide incidents across Uttarakhand.
- 3. Ground Subsidence:** Joshimath has suffered land subsidence due to unplanned development and poor drainage, with temples like Tungnath facing foundation weakening and water leakage.
- 4. Depopulation of Villages:** According to the 2011 Census, 1,053 villages in Uttarakhand are uninhabited, and more than 400 have fewer than 10 residents. Large infrastructural projects, combined with low agricultural returns, are forcing locals to leave farming and seek jobs in tourism. Local land is increasingly sold to entrepreneurs from the plains.

5. Climate Change Contribution: Climate change models predict more extreme rainfall, increasing the frequency of landslides and accidents. The researchers warn that as summer monsoon precipitation increases, the risks to the already fragile mountain ecology will rise further.

What is the government's justification for the project?

1. The government justifies the Char Dham Highway Project by citing the need for faster, all-weather road connectivity for pilgrims and the military.
2. It argues the project will help move troops and armaments to remote areas.
3. Despite initial recommendations for a narrower road (5.5 m), the Supreme Court allowed the wider roads, prioritizing national security.
4. The government bypassed environmental clearances by dividing the project into over 50 smaller segments.
5. It highlights increased employment in tourism but overlooks environmental and local distress.

What are the larger concerns?

1. The government continues with major construction projects in fragile areas, such as plans to widen roads in the Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone.
2. Environmentalists argue that such development is unsustainable and calls for a reduction in these massive projects to protect the Himalayas from further harm.

Question for practice:

Discuss the government's justification for the Char Dham Highway Project despite the environmental concerns.

India's recent monsoon challenges and Mission Mausam

Source: The post India's recent monsoon challenges and Mission Mausam has been created, based on the article "Forecasting better in India, come rain or shine" published in "The Hindu" on 19th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3 – Disasters and disaster management and GS 3-Science and Technology-developments and their applications and effects in everyday life

Context: The article discusses India's recent monsoon challenges, including severe flooding and changing weather patterns. It highlights the need for better weather forecasting and early warning systems. The government's 'Mission Mausam' aims to enhance weather observation, improve forecasting, and make data accessible for public use.

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

What are the current weather challenges in India?

1. India is experiencing severe monsoon seasons with recurrent flooding affecting many states.
2. According to a 2021 study by the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW), about 40% of Indian districts face alternating climate hazards.

3. Flood-prone areas also experience droughts in the dry season. Over the past decade, heavy rainfall days during the monsoons have increased by 64%.

4. Nearly two-thirds of India's population are exposed to flood risks, but only one-third of the flood-prone areas are covered by early warning systems.

What is 'Mission Mausam' and its objectives?

1. **Mission Mausam** was approved in September 2024 to improve India's weather forecasting capabilities.
2. The mission has a budget of ₹2,000 crore and aims to strengthen India's weather observation network.
3. It will be implemented by three key institutes under the Ministry of Earth Sciences: the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).

For detailed information on **India's Mission Mausam** [read this article here](#)

What more needs to be done to improve India's weather forecasting capabilities?

1. **Expand radar coverage:** India has 39 Doppler Weather Radars, but only five cover the west coast where cyclones are increasing. Cities like Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, and Jodhpur need radar coverage to manage frequent flooding.
2. **Open access to weather data:** The United States and European countries provide weather data openly, encouraging innovation. India should follow this model to help researchers and entrepreneurs develop localized early warning tools.
3. **Improve communication tools:** While the IMD provides weather warnings through apps, user guidance is needed. Videos and media explaining how to interpret warnings will enhance decision-making.

Question for practice:

Discuss how the implementation of 'Mission Mausam' aims to address India's weather forecasting challenges highlighted by recent severe monsoon seasons.

The issue around satellite spectrum allocation in India

Source: The post the issue around satellite spectrum allocation in India has been created, based on the article "Satellite spectrum, a high stakes game" published in "Indian Express" on 19th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3- Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

Context: The article discusses the debate over how satellite communication spectrum should be allocated in India. While some favor auctioning it, others, including the government, support administrative allocation, which aligns with global practices. The issue of spectrum charges remains unresolved.

For detailed information on **Telecom Sector and Spectrum Auctions in India** [read this article here](#)

What is the issue around satellite spectrum allocation?

1. There is a debate in India over how satellite communication spectrum should be allocated.
2. Some companies, like Reliance Jio, support auctioning the spectrum.
3. Others, like Starlink and OneWeb, prefer administrative allocation, as satellite spectrum is internationally regulated by the ITU (International Telecommunications Union) and does not have national territorial limits.

What is the government's position?

1. Jyotiraditya Scindia, the Minister of Communications, has clarified that the government will administratively allocate the spectrum for satellite communication.
2. This follows global practices and aligns with The Telecommunications Act 2023.
3. The Act permits spectrum allocation by administrative processes for services listed in the First Schedule, including satellite-based services.

What are the concerns about spectrum charges?

1. There are ongoing discussions about how companies should pay for the satellite spectrum.
2. One option is to link spectrum charges to a company's Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).
3. Another proposal suggests an upfront fee to ensure only serious companies enter the market.

What is the market potential for satellite broadband in India?

India's satellite broadband service market is expected to grow significantly. Deloitte predicts the market will reach \$1.9 billion by 2030. The goal is to create a competitive and vibrant industry without making it too difficult for new players to enter.

Question for practice:

Examine the debate over satellite communication spectrum allocation in India and the different perspectives of companies and the government on this issue.

India's innovation landscape transformed

Source: The post India's innovation landscape transformed has been created, based on the article "Manpreet Badal writes: There is a start-up revolution in India" published in "Indian Express" on 19th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2 Governance- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Context: The article highlights India's rise as a global innovation leader, driven by a strong start-up ecosystem, government initiatives, and expanding entrepreneurship. Key policies and programs have boosted India's innovation ranking, benefiting sectors across the country, including smaller cities.

For detailed information on **The Indian Innovation That Can Change the World** [read this article here](#)

How has India's innovation landscape transformed?

1. India has undergone a remarkable transformation in innovation. It moved from the third quartile to becoming a global leader in technology and creativity.
2. The country's start-up ecosystem is now the third-largest in the world. India had 111 unicorn start-ups in January 2023, valued at over \$350 billion.
3. By 2030, the number of tech start-ups is expected to grow from 68,000 to 1,80,000.
4. Innovation is spreading to Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, showing that entrepreneurship is growing beyond major urban centers.
5. India is ranked first among 37 lower-middle-income economies and first in Central and Southern Asia.
6. Globally, India improved from 81st in 2015 to 40th today. It ranks 5th in ICT services exports, 6th in venture capital received, 11th in science and engineering graduates, and 13th in global corporate R&D investors.

What initiatives have contributed to India's innovation rise?

- 1. Robust Innovation Ecosystem:** India's rise is driven by a strong innovation ecosystem that includes vast knowledge capital, a dynamic start-up landscape, and collaborations between public and private research entities. The NIDHI (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations) programme by the Department of Science and Technology has set up technology business incubators and science parks across the country, fostering innovation commercialization.
- 2. Government-led Initiatives:** Government initiatives, including those by the Departments of Science and Technology, Biotechnology, and the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), have played crucial roles. AIM established 4,880 operational Atal Tinkering Labs in over 650 districts and 102 Atal Incubation Centres, nurturing more than 900 start-ups.
- 3. Policy-driven Innovation:** NITI Aayog has optimized efforts in strategic sectors like electric vehicles, biotechnology, nanotechnology, space, and alternative energy.
- 4. Progress in Key Indicators:** India has made significant progress in domestic industry diversification, patent origination, and exports of cultural and creative services.
- 5. Highest Innovation Quality:** Among lower-middle-income countries, India has the highest innovation quality. Its Global Innovation Index ranking improved from 81st in 2015 to 40th in the world today.

How have specific sectors benefited?

- 1. Railway Sector:** NITI Aayog partnered with the Ministry of Railways to fast-track railway station redevelopment through public-private partnerships, enhancing infrastructure.
- 2. Pharmaceutical Industry:** Indian pharmaceutical firms adopted contract manufacturing and clinical trials for multinational companies. This allowed them to integrate into global innovation chains.

What is the broader cultural impact of innovation?

A culture of innovation is now seen across the country, from schools to top sectors. This national movement is creating millions of young innovators and entrepreneurs. The growth is driven by a strong vision, notably from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Question for practice:

Evaluate how government-led initiatives and policy-driven innovation have contributed to India's rise as a global innovation leader.

How can businesses worldwide promote inclusive growth and development?

Source: The post how businesses worldwide can promote inclusive growth and development has been created, based on the article “**Essential business priorities in a changing world**” published in “**The Hindu**” on 21st October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3 - Economy-growth and development And Inclusive growth

Context: The article highlights how businesses worldwide can promote inclusive growth and development. It focuses on priorities like equitable development, food security, digital innovation, sustainability, and corporate governance. Businesses must collaborate and lead efforts for a better global economy.

For detailed information on **Inclusive Growth** read this article here

What role do businesses play in fostering growth and spreading developmental gains?

- Promoting Inclusive Development:** Businesses must prioritize equitable growth by offering tailored programs for skilling and upskilling workers. This is crucial, especially for women, to help them adapt to evolving industrial needs. On-the-job training and partnerships with academic institutions can enhance this.
- Supporting Financial Inclusion:** Brazil's B-20 emphasized the need for diverse credit solutions. India's Jan Dhan Yojana successfully opened over 530 million bank accounts, transforming financial transactions and serving as a model for global financial inclusion.
- Expanding in Africa:** Africa's inclusion in the G-20 under India's presidency presents new opportunities. Businesses can leverage Africa's young population and rapid growth, integrating the continent into global value chains.
- Ensuring Food Security:** Businesses play a key role in promoting sustainable agriculture. Investments in precision farming and collaboration with governments help tackle food crises caused by extreme weather.
- Advancing Digital Transformation:** Businesses should harness AI in healthcare and climate change, while investing in STEM education and mentoring social tech startups for innovation and societal impact.
- Prioritizing Sustainability:** Businesses should aim for carbon mitigation and support the net-zero transition. This includes financing for small and medium enterprises, developing renewable energy, and adopting circular economy practices.

Why Is Corporate Governance Important?

1. Businesses must maintain high standards of corporate governance by adhering to ethical practices.
2. This builds trust with communities and governments, making it easier to operate globally.
3. Strong governance is essential for driving long-term growth and ensuring compliance with regulations.

What Role Does the B20 Global Institute Play?

1. The B20 Global Institute was initiated during India's B20 leadership.
2. It aims to align policy suggestions for businesses across G-20 countries.
3. The institute will drive action agendas that enhance business competitiveness.
4. It will monitor outcomes on priorities like inclusive growth, food security, and sustainability.
5. The Institute ensures businesses contribute to achieving global aspirations, including integrating technology and promoting renewable energy to meet net-zero targets.

Question for practice:

Discuss how businesses can promote inclusive growth and development, focusing on priorities such as equitable development, financial inclusion, food security, and sustainability.

Need for climate finance is especially critical for developing countries

Source: The post need for climate finance is especially critical for developing countries has been created, based on the article “On climate finance to developing nations” published in “The Hindu” on 21st October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3 - Environment — Conservation.

Context: The article discusses the need for climate finance, especially for developing countries. It highlights the challenges they face due to climate change and their need for external financial help. A new global target for climate finance will be set at COP29.

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

What Are the Key Issues at COP29?

COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, is focused on climate finance. This means leaders will discuss money related to climate change, particularly helping developing countries that are vulnerable but have less money to cope with climate effects.

What Is Climate Finance?

1. Climate finance refers to funding aimed at supporting climate action, such as mitigation and adaptation projects.

2. It can come from public or private sources and be used domestically or internationally.
3. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) tracks climate finance from developed to developing countries.
4. In 2022, loans made up 69.4% of international public climate finance, with grants accounting for 28%.
5. Critics argue climate finance should be based on actual disbursements, not just commitments, and focus on new and additional funding, not reclassified aid.

Why Are Developing States More at Risk?

- 1. Geographical Location:** Developing countries are often located in areas prone to extreme weather events, such as floods and droughts, making them highly vulnerable to climate change effects.
- 2. Economic Dependency:** Developing countries' economies heavily rely on sectors like agriculture, which are highly sensitive to climate changes. Agriculture is directly impacted by shifting weather patterns.
- 3. Financial Constraints:** Developing countries face higher costs of capital for climate technologies. According to the IEA, the cost of capital for solar photovoltaic and storage technologies is about twice as high in developing economies than in developed ones.
- 4. Other Factors:** Competing developmental needs, such as providing electricity to 675 million people who lacked access in 2021 (IEA), limit their ability to invest in climate action.

How Much Does India Need for Its Climate Goals?

1. India has ambitious climate targets for 2030, including installing 500 GW of capacity from non-fossil fuels, producing five million metric tonnes of green hydrogen, and expanding electric vehicle use.
2. To meet these goals, India needs an estimated ₹40.8 lakh crore by 2030.
3. For renewable energy (450 GW by 2030), an additional ₹16.8 lakh crore is required.
4. The National Green Hydrogen Mission needs ₹8 lakh crore in investments.
5. Consumers must spend about ₹16 lakh crore to adopt electric vehicles.
6. Long-term, India needs ₹850 lakh crore from 2020 to 2070 to achieve net-zero emissions.

What Is the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)?

1. The NCQG aims to establish a new annual climate finance target for developing countries.
2. It must focus on actual disbursements, not just commitments or promises of funding.
3. It should be new and additional, not reclassified from existing aid programs.
4. Public capital should include direct grants, mobilizing private finance through public funds.

5. Organically flowing private finance should not count.
6. An expert group estimates developing countries, excluding China, will need \$1 trillion annually by 2030 to meet climate goals.
7. This target is crucial for balancing development and climate action in vulnerable nations.

Question for practice:

Examine the challenges developing countries face in accessing climate finance and how the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) aims to address these challenges.

The unveiling of a new statue of 'Lady Justice' in India and its significance

Source: The post the unveiling of a new statue of 'Lady Justice' in India and its significance has been created, based on the article "What does the new 'lady justice' statue signify?" published in "The Hindu" on 21st October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Judiciary

Context: The article discusses the unveiling of a new statue of 'Lady Justice' in India, which symbolizes a move towards decolonization and represents Indian traditions. It emphasizes urgent reforms needed in the judiciary, including timely appointments and better representation to ensure fair justice.

For detailed information on **new statue of Lady Justice** [read this article here](#)

What is the new 'Lady Justice' statue and what does it represent?

1. The new 'Lady Justice' statue was unveiled at the Supreme Court of India, symbolizing a **shift towards decoloniality**.
2. It is dressed in a saree, replacing the western attire of the original statue, **aligning with Indian traditions**.
3. The statue's eyes are open, replacing the blindfold, to represent that **justice in India is not blind but sees everyone equally**.
4. It holds the Indian Constitution in one hand, symbolizing the **supremacy of the Constitution in Indian jurisprudence**, replacing the traditional sword.
5. The scales of justice are retained, symbolizing **impartiality in delivering judgments**.
6. This change emphasizes that the law should consider India's social diversity and the upliftment of underprivileged sections.
7. The move reflects India's effort to shed colonial symbols and build a justice system more relevant to its own cultural and constitutional values.

What is the historical significance of 'Lady Justice'?

1. The 'Lady Justice' symbol originates from Roman mythology, representing Justitia, the goddess of justice.
2. She is typically depicted with a blindfold, scales, and a sword.
3. The blindfold, added during the Renaissance (14th century), was initially a satire on legal corruption but later symbolized impartiality during the Enlightenment (17th-18th century).
4. The **scales signify fairness**, requiring courts to weigh both sides of an argument.
5. The **sword symbolizes the law's authority, representing its power to protect or punish.**
6. This symbol became prominent in India during British rule and was placed outside courtrooms.

What are the challenges faced by India's judiciary?

India's justice system faces challenges like high case pendency, with over five crore cases pending in various courts. The Supreme Court has recognized the problem but says resolving all cases within three years is unrealistic. Around 4.4 crore cases are pending in lower courts, while 60 lakh cases await judgment in High Courts.

For detailed information on **Issues faced by the Indian judicial system** [read this article here](#)

What urgent actions are needed for the judiciary?

1. **Appointment of Judges:** The process for appointing judges through the collegium is delayed, and the Memorandum of Procedure has not been finalized for eight years.
2. **Representation Issues:** Backward classes, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and religious minorities represent less than 25% of higher judiciary, and women less than 15%. Improving representation is needed.
3. **Judicial Strength:** High Courts operate at 60-70% capacity, contributing to delays. Filling vacancies quickly is crucial to reduce the backlog.
4. **Priority Cases:** Cases related to constitutional amendments and individual liberty should be prioritized for faster hearings.

Question for practice:

Discuss the symbolism of the new 'Lady Justice' statue and the reforms needed in India's judiciary system.

Global Water Crisis Warning

Source: The post Global Water Crisis Warning has been created, based on the article "A major new report makes the case for water as a global common good?" published in "Indian Express" on 21st October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3- Environment — Conservation.

Context: The article discusses a report by the Global Commission on the Economics of Water, warning of a looming global water crisis. It highlights the urgent need for better water management to prevent severe food production losses and economic impacts, especially in poorer countries.

What is the Global Water Crisis Warning?

1. The Global Commission on the Economics of Water, set up by the Netherlands in 2022, released a report warning that the global water crisis could worsen if no action is taken.
2. The report predicts that demand for freshwater will exceed supply by 40% by 2030.
3. The report states that over half of the world's food production could be threatened if water management does not improve.
4. It also warns that the global GDP could drop by 8% by 2050, with poorer countries losing up to 15%.
5. The report highlights that many developing countries already suffer from water stress. More than 1,000 children die daily, primarily in poor nations, due to the lack of safe water access.
6. The report points out that subsidies in agriculture lead to wasteful water use, and industries are rarely punished for water pollution.
7. Globally, 80% of industrial wastewater is not recycled.

What is the Solution Proposed by the Commission?

- 1. Global Pact for Water Conservation:** The Commission recommends a worldwide agreement to better manage and conserve water resources.
- 2. Adaptation to Local Contexts:** Countries should tailor the global recommendations to their specific situations. For example, resolving internal water disputes is crucial for a country like India before it can commit to international agreements.
- 3. View Water as a Global Common Good:** This shift in perspective is crucial for sustainable water management and encourages collective responsibility.

What are the Challenges in India?

1. India faces **significant groundwater depletion**, as noted in a 2018 NITI Aayog report.
2. **Internal water disputes** are a major challenge that needs to be addressed before participating in global efforts to conserve water.

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

Question for practice:

Discuss the key warnings and proposed solutions from the Global Commission on the Economics of Water regarding the looming global water crisis.

Adoption of the Global Digital Compact and the importance of DPI for global cooperation

Source: The post adoption of the Global Digital Compact and the importance of DPI for global cooperation has been created, based on the article “**How to realise the full potential of Digital Public Infrastructure**” published in “**Indian Express**” on 21st October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 2- International Relations-Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests.

Context: The article discusses the Global Digital Compact's adoption and the importance of digital public infrastructure (DPI) for global cooperation. It highlights India's leadership in DPIs, the need for impact assessments, and the significance of data for understanding how these systems affect people's lives and economies.

What is the Global Digital Compact?

1. The Global Digital Compact (GDC) was adopted on September 22, 2024, at a UN summit. It aims to ensure that technology benefits everyone globally.
2. It builds on the Universal Safeguards for Digital Public Infrastructure initiative started in 2023.
3. For detailed information on The Global Digital Compact (GDC) read this article here

How has India contributed to digital public infrastructures?

1. India, holding the G20 presidency, promoted digital public infrastructures (DPIs) to boost economic growth, especially in the Global South.
2. India leads with the world's largest digital identity program, Aadhaar, and the most real-time digital payments, reaching 14.96 billion transactions in August.

What are the global impacts of DPIs?

1. The World Bank’s ID4D (**Identity for Development**) initiative supports digital identity systems in nearly 60 countries, enhancing global digital public infrastructure (DPI) adoption.
2. G2Px (**Digitising government-to-person payments**), a program for digitizing government-to-person payments, is active in 35 countries, improving financial accessibility.
3. **India’s Modular Open Source Identity Platform (MOSIP)** is assisting 11 countries in building secure digital identity systems.

What are the challenges and benefits of DPIs in India?

1. DPIs have significantly increased financial inclusion in India, raising the percentage of adults with bank accounts from 25% in 2008 to over 80% recently, with women owning 56% of these accounts.
2. Digital transactions comprised nearly 50% of India’s GDP in 2022-23, facilitating access to credit through pre-approved loans via UPI.

3. However, understanding the exact impact of DPIs on income and social status is difficult due to limited data.

How Can India Improve Impact Assessments?

1. India can improve impact assessments by focusing on three areas: design, data, and dialogue.
2. DPIs should include built-in assessment mechanisms.
3. Reliable data collection and management are crucial, as is fostering dialogue among stakeholders like government, private sector, and civil society.

Question for practice:

Discuss how India's leadership in digital public infrastructures (DPIs) has contributed to economic growth and financial inclusion.

Significance of the 75th anniversary of the Constitution of India

Source: The post significance of the 75th anniversary of the Constitution of India has been created, based on the article “**An approaching milestone in constitutional governance**” published in “**The Hindu**” on 22nd October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 2 - Constitution of India —historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

Context: The article commemorates the 75th anniversary of India's Constitution, highlighting its importance in shaping democratic values. It emphasizes respect for institutions, smooth power transitions, protection of rights, federalism, and the role of media and civil society in strengthening democracy.

What is the significance of the 75th anniversary of the Constitution of India?

1. November 26 marks the 75th anniversary of the Constitution of India.
2. This milestone is a chance for all stakeholders in Indian democracy to celebrate and reflect on constitutional governance.
3. It is about instilling a strong constitutional culture among Indians, regardless of their backgrounds.

For detailed information on **Significance of the Constitution Museum** [read this article here](#)

What Are the Core Constitutional Values of India?

1. Respect for Democratic Institutions: Since the Constitution's adoption in 1949, India's life expectancy has increased from 32 to 70 years. This development has fostered respect for democratic institutions. The 2024 general election saw a voter turnout of 65.79%, demonstrating faith in democracy.

2. Smooth Transition of Power: Over seven decades, India has seen peaceful transitions of power across various political parties. Despite intense election campaigns, results reflect the will of the people. This commitment to democratic processes is a key value.

3 Protection of Rights and Freedoms: The Constitution safeguards fundamental rights through courts. The framers, many of whom were part of the freedom movement, prioritized protecting individual rights from state power. This principle remains robust in India.

4. Federalism: India's federal system respects its diversity. State-level political parties have grown in strength, contributing to coalition governments. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments strengthened local governance through panchayati raj institutions and nagarpalikas.

5. Role of Media and Civil Society: Media and civil society contribute to democracy by providing diverse perspectives and access to information. While challenges exist, media transparency has fostered an informed electorate, strengthening India's democratic framework.

How Has India Proved Skeptics Wrong?

1. Post-independence, skeptics doubted the unity of India's diverse regions. General Claude Auchinleck (last British commander in chief of the Indian Army) doubted India's ability to stay united.

2. However, India has successfully forged a national identity rooted in constitutional ideals, using the Constitution to foster social and political consciousness across its subcontinent-sized diversity.

Question for practice:

Examine how the Constitution of India has contributed to fostering democratic values and national unity over the past 75 years.

India needs a Nature Restoration Law

Source: The post India needs a Nature Restoration Law has been created, based on the article "**The case for a nature restoration law in India**" published in "**The Hindu**" on 22nd October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3-Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

Context: The article suggests India needs a Nature Restoration Law, inspired by the European Union's model, to restore its degraded ecosystems. It highlights the environmental, economic, and social benefits of restoring land, wetlands, rivers, and urban green spaces.

What is the Nature Restoration Law (NRL)?

The Nature Restoration Law was adopted by the European Union on June 17, 2024. It requires that 20% of the EU's land and sea areas be restored by 2030, with a goal to fully restore all ecosystems by 2050. This law is part of efforts to reverse the loss of biodiversity, with measures like restoring rivers and planting trees.

For detailed information on **EU Nature Restoration Law** [read this article here](#)

Why does India need a Nature Restoration Law?

1. Land Degradation: India has nearly 97.85 million hectares (29.7%), as per ISRO's report, of its total geographical area affected by land degradation, showing a notable increase from 94.53 million hectares between 2003-05.

2. Desertification: A significant portion, 83.69 million hectares, is experiencing desertification, notably in major states like Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.

3. Environmental Challenges: The existing initiatives like the Green India Mission and the Integrated Watershed Management Programme, though substantial, are insufficient given the scale of degradation.

4. Legal Framework: A specific law mandating ecosystem restoration could emulate the EU's Nature Restoration Law, setting clear, legally binding restoration targets and timelines to ensure sustained environmental recovery and compliance.

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

What could a Nature Restoration Law in India include?

1. Restoration Targets: Aim to restore 20% of degraded land by 2030 and all ecosystems by 2050, similar to the EU's approach.

2. Wetland Restoration: Target restoring 30% of degraded wetlands, focusing on crucial wetlands like the Sundarbans and Chilika Lake.

3. Biodiversity in Agriculture: Promote agroforestry and sustainable agricultural practices, using biodiversity indicators like the butterfly and bird index to track progress.

4. River Restoration: Restore free-flowing rivers such as the Ganga and Yamuna, addressing pollution and obstructions.

5. Urban Green Spaces: Prevent further degradation of urban areas by ensuring no net loss of green spaces and promoting urban forests to combat heat islands.

What are the benefits of ecosystem restoration?

1. Restoring ecosystems can generate significant economic returns, potentially up to \$10 trillion globally by 2030 (World Economic Forum).

2. For India, this would mean improved agricultural yields, better water security, and job creation.

3. It would also strengthen India's ability to meet its climate goals (Paris Agreement commitments) by increasing carbon absorption and combating desertification.

4. Restoration helps India meet Sustainable Development Goal 15, which focuses on managing forests and combating desertification.

Question for practice:

Examine the reasons why India needs a Nature Restoration Law and what potential benefits it could bring.

How is India adopting High-Performance Buildings (HPBs)?

Source: The post how is India adopting HPBs has been created, based on the article “**How policies shape high-performance building standards and climate goals**” published in “**The Hindu**” on 22nd October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3- Infrastructures

Context: The article discusses High-Performance Buildings (HPBs), which reduce energy use and emissions while improving occupant well-being. HPBs offer financial benefits, including lower costs and higher property values. Governments promote HPBs through energy efficiency policies, financing, and carbon credits.

What are High-Performance Buildings (HPBs)?

1. HPBs are buildings designed to reduce energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and operational costs while improving occupant well-being.
2. These buildings minimize energy and water consumption through climate-adaptive designs, contributing to climate mitigation and adaptation.
3. HPBs address urban and climate challenges as the construction industry contributes 39% of energy-related CO2 emissions globally.

For detailed information on **Importance of high-performance buildings (HPBs)** [read article here](#)

How are governments supporting HPBs?

1. The **European Union's Green Deal** mandates energy-efficient building designs and retrofits, aiming for climate neutrality by 2050.
2. **Germany's KfW Bank** provides low-interest loans for energy-efficient projects.
3. **Denmark's BR18 building codes** encourage sustainable construction by offering incentives.
4. The **U.S. programmes Energy Star and LEED** promote energy-efficient buildings and offer tax credits for green building initiatives.

How is India adopting HPBs?

1. India promotes High-Performance Buildings (HPBs) through its **National Action Plan on Climate Change**, focusing on energy-efficient construction.
2. **The Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC)** aims to reduce energy demands by up to 30% in buildings.
3. **India's Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA)** has registered over 3,000 projects that prioritize sustainable practices and reducing carbon emissions.

4. **The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)** has certified more than 14,000 projects, covering 12.5 billion square feet of green building space.

5. Cities like Hyderabad, Noida, and Pune offer higher floor area ratios and incentives for buildings that meet ECBC standards. Examples include ITC's Green Centre in Gurugram, TCS Siruseri IT Park in Chennai, and the Embassy's commercial developments in Bengaluru, which command premium rents and higher occupancy rates due to their green certifications.

How are HPBs financed?

1. **Carbon financing** supports HPBs by converting carbon savings into financial value. Carbon credits are tradable permits earned by reducing emissions.

2. **Carbon pricing regions**, like the European Union and China, allow HPBs to generate credits, providing developers with financial incentives.

3. **Green bonds** finance HPBs; in 2020, \$269.5 billion in green bonds were issued globally.

4. **Climate funds** like the World Bank and Green Climate Fund provide financial backing.

Question for practice:

Evaluate how High-Performance Buildings (HPBs) contribute to financial and environmental benefits, as well as government climate goals.

Significance of Scholz's visit to India

Source: The post significance of Scholz's visit to India has been created, based on the article "**C Raja Mohan writes: In German chancellor's India visit, a chance for deeper ties with Berlin**" published in "**Indian Express**" on 22nd October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Bilateral groupings and agreements

Context: The article discusses the importance of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's visit to India. It highlights how Germany's cooperation with India, particularly in economic, defence, and strategic areas, could strengthen India's global position and enhance its relationship with Europe.

For detailed information on **India-Germany relationship** read [Article 1](#), [Article 2](#)

What is the significance of Scholz's visit to India?

1. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's visit to India is seen as important for strengthening the Indo-German partnership.

2. Although less glamorous than meetings with the US or Russia, it could be crucial for India's ties with collective Europe.

3. India and Germany have had a formal strategic partnership since 2000. However, translating intentions into outcomes has been difficult. Scholz aims to improve this by enhancing cooperation across multiple areas, despite differences, such as India's stance on the Ukraine war.

What is Germany's new approach toward India?

1. Recognition of India's Global Role: Germany acknowledges India as a crucial international player, highlighting its stable democracy and significant population.

2. Focus on Dialogue and Peace: Despite divergences, particularly regarding the Ukraine conflict, Germany is keen on dialogue and welcomes India's efforts toward a peaceful resolution.

3. Economic Partnership in the Indo-Pacific: Moving away from a China-centric approach, Germany aims to deepen economic ties with India, viewing it as a key partner in the volatile Indo-Pacific region.

4. Enhancing Defence Cooperation: Germany proposes to expand defence relations with India, improving arms export reliability and supporting joint projects, like submarine acquisitions, to modernize India's defence industry.

How does Germany plan to support India's defence sector?

1. Germany aims to be a strong defence partner for India, expanding arms cooperation and defence diplomacy.

2. Scholz's visit includes discussions on enhancing military exchanges and reciprocal access arrangements between Indian and German armed forces.

3. Germany offers to help India modernize its defence manufacturing sector by collaborating with Indian arms companies.

4. Berlin promises to improve the reliability and predictability of arms export control procedures to facilitate smoother cooperation.

5. Negotiations on acquiring submarines from Germany demonstrate its commitment to strengthening India's defence capabilities.

6. Germany sees this partnership as vital for raising its profile in the Indo-Pacific, an increasingly strategic region.

7. This cooperation aligns with India's goal to boost domestic manufacturing under initiatives like "Make in India," making Germany a valuable defence partner.

What broader geopolitical shifts support Germany's engagement with India?

1. Germany is reassessing its global stance due to various challenges, including Russian aggression in Europe and China's assertiveness.

2. These changes make a strong relationship with India more critical, especially as India seeks to balance its international relations amid challenges from China, Russia, and the U.S.

Question for practice:

Discuss how Germany's evolving approach toward India is shaping their partnership in economic, defence, and strategic areas.

Role of the UN in maintaining peace

Source: The post role of the UN in maintaining peace has been created, based on the article “**The world needs blue helmets who act as blue helmets**” published in “**The Hindu**” on 23rd October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2 International Relations – Important International institutions, agencies and fora – their structure, mandate.

Context: The article discusses the role of the UN in maintaining peace. It criticizes the UN for often being a bystander in conflicts, failing to protect civilians. It calls for reform in the Security Council to allow quicker action and better support for peacekeeping missions.

For detailed information on **shortcomings of UN** [read this article here](#)

How does the UN Charter address peacekeeping?

1. The UN aims to prevent wars and protect civilians through its Charter and peacekeeping forces. It has over 100,000 peacekeepers deployed worldwide.
2. The UN Charter’s Chapter VI promotes peaceful settlements of disputes. Chapter VII allows the use of armed force, with Security Council authorization, in cases of aggression. Chapter VIII also allows regional forces to enforce peace if authorized by the Security Council.

Where has the UN succeeded and failed?

UN Successes:

1. **Peacekeeping Operations:** The UN successfully restored peace in countries like Cambodia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Angola, Timor Leste, Liberia, and Kosovo.
2. **Notable Examples:** In Kosovo, only 6,000 peacekeepers helped stabilize the region between 1999-2008. Similarly, 3,000 UN police and Australian infantry restored order in Timor Leste during the same period.
3. **Impact:** These missions helped in re-establishing rule of law and forming elected governments.

UN Failures:

1. **Rwanda and Bosnia:** In 1994 and 1995, the UN failed to protect civilians, leading to mass casualties, such as the Rwanda genocide, where nearly 1 million Tutsis were killed.
2. **Current conflicts:** In Ukraine and Gaza, the UN has been criticized for inaction, despite having 100,000 peacekeepers that could have been redeployed to prevent massive civilian casualties.

What changes are needed for the UN Security Council?

1. Expand Permanent Membership: Include countries like India and South Africa to better represent the global South and Africa. India is a major global voice, and South Africa's inclusion would address long-overdue representation for Africa.

2. Reform the Veto Power: Limit the veto power of the P5 members, which often prevents decisive action. For instance, the U.S. and Russia would veto interventions in West Asia and Ukraine, respectively.

3. Division of Votes: In an expanded P7, a vote should decide interventions instead of relying on a single country's veto. This would enable faster deployment of UN troops under Chapters VII and VIII.

For detailed information on [UNSC Reforms](#) read this article here

Question for practice:

Examine how the proposed reforms to the UN Security Council could improve its effectiveness in peacekeeping missions?

Issue with India's job market

Source: The post issue with India's job market has been created, based on the article “**The job crisis undermines state legitimacy**” published in “**The Hindu**” on 23rd October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3– Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

Context: The article discusses India's lack of good-quality jobs, especially for the youth. It argues that the failure to address unemployment and inequality could lead to political instability and criticizes solutions like UBI for ignoring dignity and social participation.

For detailed information on **Issues in Indian Labor Market** [read this article here](#)

What is the main issue with India's job market?

1. Lack of Good-Quality Jobs: Many jobs in India are informal, unpaid, or have no opportunities for growth. The unemployment rate seems low, but this is misleading because working just one month in a year counts as being employed.

2. Youth Unemployment: The shortage of quality jobs, especially for the youth, can lead to frustration and economic problems. This is a significant issue as young people need meaningful work to feel included in society.

3. Impact of Technology and Capital: Technological advances and the concentration of capital are displacing many workers. This increases inequality, as only the elite benefit from these changes, leaving a large part of the population without dignity or financial security.

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

How Are Political Parties Responding?

1. Political responses have been inadequate, relying on market forces or short-term solutions.

2. The idea of 'creative destruction' assumes old jobs will naturally be replaced by better ones, which isn't always true.
3. Universal Basic Income (UBI) has also been suggested, but it doesn't address people's need for dignity or contribution to society.
4. Political parties focus too much on winning elections and fail to address long-term structural problems like unemployment.
5. This makes people feel neglected and lose trust in democratic institutions. Globally, we see this through the rise of populism and authoritarianism.

Way forward

Political parties must lead by addressing structural issues such as unemployment, inequality, and dignity. The future of India's democracy depends on restoring a sense of purpose and participation to all citizens. Without this, political parties may become irrelevant.

Question for practice:

Discuss how the lack of good-quality jobs in India contributes to political instability and the potential consequences for democratic institutions.

Government's efforts to tackle Naxalite violence in Chhattisgarh

Source: The post government's efforts to tackle Naxalite violence in Chhattisgarh has been created, based on the article "**Working toward a meaningful 'victims' register' in Bastar**" published in "**The Hindu**" on 23rd October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3-Security Issues

Context: The article discusses the government's efforts to tackle Naxalite violence in Chhattisgarh. It highlights the importance of supporting victims, improving governance, and using a holistic approach, while cautioning against creating further societal divides during conflict resolution efforts.

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

How is the government addressing left-wing extremism?

1. The government is tackling Naxalite violence in Chhattisgarh by addressing security and development together.
2. They aim to ensure local community rights and improve governance. This approach has shown some success in decreasing violence in areas like Bastar division, which includes districts such as Bastar, Narayanpur, and Dantewada.
3. The government plans to improve how victims of violence are registered and supported, as stated by Chhattisgarh's Deputy Chief Minister, Vijay Sharma.

4. The victims' register aims to document all affected individuals impartially, which can aid in conflict resolution, similar to successful efforts in countries like Colombia.

5. This should build trust among tribals and strengthen the state's position against Maoists, especially now when Maoist influence is waning.

What challenges do the victims face?

1. Displacement and Insecurity: Around 55,000 tribals fled to Andhra Pradesh during the peak years of Salwa Judum (mid-2000s) and have not been able to return home. They continue to seek redress and the opportunity to return to their communities in Chhattisgarh.

2. Historical Neglect: The tribal communities have been victims of structural violence and neglect since colonial times, which has persisted post-independence. This ongoing neglect allowed Maoists to gain support by filling governance gaps in regions like Dandakaranya, covering parts of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

3. Dual Victimization: Tribals are often caught between violence from Maoist groups and state forces, complicating their identification and support through governmental initiatives like the victims' register.

Way forward

The victim identification process must be fair and unbiased. If not, it could create further divides in society. Trust and reconciliation are key to making this effort successful, ensuring that all victims are heard and supported.

Question for practice:

Discuss the challenges faced by tribal victims of Naxalite violence in Chhattisgarh and the government's efforts to support them.

UN's urgent call for action against antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

Source: The post UN's urgent call for action against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been created, based on the article "UN recognition of antibiotic abuse offers India an opportunity" published in "Indian Express" on 23rd October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2 -Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health

Context: The article discusses the UN's urgent call for action against antimicrobial resistance (AMR). It highlights AMR as a global health threat, outlines key targets, and emphasizes sustainable use of antimicrobials across sectors, especially healthcare and agriculture, by 2030.

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

What is AMR and why is it a global threat?

AMR stands for antimicrobial resistance, where bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites no longer respond to medicines. This makes infections harder to treat. It threatens human, animal, and plant health. Misuse of antibiotics in humans and animals since the 1950s has worsened this problem. WHO warned about phasing out antibiotics in food production in 2000.

What are the consequences of AMR?

- 1. Health Setbacks:** AMR could reverse progress in treating infectious diseases like tuberculosis and malaria due to drug-resistant strains. Common surgeries and cancer treatments become riskier and more expensive.
- 2. Disproportionate Impact:** Low- and middle-income countries are hit hardest due to poverty and inequality, worsening global health inequality.
- 3. Economic Losses:** The World Bank estimates AMR could result in up to \$1 trillion in healthcare costs by 2050 and annual GDP losses between \$1-3.4 trillion by 2030, comparable to the 2008 global financial crisis.
- 4. Death Toll:** AMR is linked to 4.95 million human deaths annually. The UN aims to reduce this by 10% by 2030.
- 5. Agricultural Impact:** Misuse of antimicrobials in industrial food production since the 1950s exacerbates AMR in animals and plants.

What is the UN's strategy to fight AMR?

- 1. Reducing AMR-related deaths:** The UN aims to lower bacterial AMR-related deaths by 10% by 2030, currently estimated at 4.95 million annually.
- 2. Funding and support:** The UN advocates for sustainable national financing, including \$100 million in catalytic funding, to ensure 60% of countries have funded national action plans by 2030.
- 3. Antimicrobial usage:** At least 70% of antimicrobials used in human healthcare should belong to WHO's Access Group, known for fewer side effects and a lower risk of causing AMR.
- 4. Healthcare facility standards:** All countries must have basic water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management in healthcare facilities, and 90% should meet WHO's Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) standards by 2030.
- 5. Agriculture sector:** The agri-food sector must prioritize responsible antimicrobial use, ensuring evidence-based practices for animal health.

Question for practice:

Discuss the consequences of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the UN's strategy to combat it.

UN Biodiversity Conference- COP16

Source: The post UN Biodiversity Conference- COP16 has been created, based on the article “**Biodiversity COP16: What is it, what is on agenda this year**” published in “**Indian Express**” on 23rd October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3-Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Context: The article discusses the **UN Biodiversity Conference in Cali, Colombia**, focusing on the Convention on Biological Diversity. It highlights goals to protect biodiversity, including the 30 x 30 targets. Financial support for conservation and fair sharing of genetic resources are key topics at COP16.

What is the UN Biodiversity Conference and its purpose?

1. The UN Biodiversity Conference, held every two years, is currently taking place in Cali, Colombia.
2. It focuses on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), established at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, which aims to protect global biodiversity, restore ecosystems, and equitably share biological resources.
3. This year’s event is the 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) under the CBD.
4. The main goal is to implement the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (COP15)**, which includes four goals and 23 targets to be achieved by 2030.

For detailed information on **COP15 of Convention on Biodiversity** [read this article here](#)

Why are biodiversity discussions gaining attention?

Biodiversity discussions are gaining attention due to their strong link with climate change. Both crises are caused by resource extraction and unsustainable practices. Climate change accelerates biodiversity loss, while degraded ecosystems contribute to global warming. This has led to a convergence in the goals of biodiversity and climate negotiations.

What are the expected discussions of CO16?

- 1. Progress on 30 x 30 Targets:** Countries will push forward on the goal to conserve 30% of land and oceans and restore 30% of degraded areas by 2030. Countries need to submit **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)**, similar to climate-related Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). So far, only 32 out of 196 countries have submitted their NBSAPs.
- 2. High Seas Treaty:** It is also known as the agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions or BBNJ, which was finalised last year as a separate international agreement to maintain the ecological health of oceans. At COP16, the focus will be on protecting biodiversity-rich ocean areas and ensuring fair distribution of genetic resources.
- 3. Sharing Genetic Resources:** The Nagoya Protocol, agreed upon in 2010, set rules for sharing benefits from bio-resources. At COP16, discussions will include how to share profits from digital genetic sequences of plants and organisms. This is especially important for indigenous populations.

4. Financial Mobilization: The Kunming-Montreal Framework calls for \$200 billion per year by 2030 to be spent on conservation, with developed countries providing \$20-30 billion annually to developing countries. Ways and means to mobilise these financial resources is one of the main items on the agenda at COP16.

5. Eliminating Harmful Subsidies: Countries are expected to phase out \$500 billion worth of harmful subsidies by 2030.

Question for practice:

Discuss the main goals and expected discussions at COP16 of the UN Biodiversity Conference in Cali, Colombia.

India's progress in eliminating kala-azar and trachoma as public health issues

Source: The post India's progress in eliminating kala-azar and trachoma as public health issues has been created, based on the article "**Celebration and vigil: India must not let its guard down on kala-azar**" published in "**The Hindu**" on 24th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Governance-Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health

Context: The article talks about India's progress in eliminating kala-azar and trachoma as public health issues. It highlights India's achievements, the difference between elimination and eradication, and emphasizes the need for continued efforts and vigilance to prevent future outbreaks.

For detailed information on **India to seek certification from WHO for eliminating Kala-azar** [read this article here](#)

What is the recent achievement of India in disease control?

1. India has made significant progress in eliminating kala-azar and trachoma. Kala-azar cases have dropped to less than one in 10,000 for two consecutive years.
2. Trachoma, which once caused 5% of blindness in the 1970s, has also been eliminated as a public health problem.
3. In 2023, India had 595 cases of kala-azar with four deaths, and in 2024, 339 cases with one death. India needs to maintain low numbers for another year to receive WHO certification for eliminating kala-azar.

For detailed information on **India Eliminates Trachoma as a Public Health Problem** [read this article here](#)

What is the difference between elimination and eradication?

1. Elimination means reducing the number of disease cases to a specific limit within a country, so it's no longer a public health problem.
2. Eradication, however, means completely stopping any new cases globally.
3. Only smallpox has been eradicated so far. Eliminating a disease like kala-azar or trachoma, which has no vaccine, is a significant challenge.

What challenges does India face in eliminating kala-azar and trachoma?

- 1. Lack of vaccines:** Neither kala-azar nor trachoma has a vaccine, making elimination harder. Kala-azar is spread by sandflies carrying *Leishmania donovani*, and trachoma is caused by *Chlamydia trachomatis*.
- 2. Socio-economic conditions:** Both diseases are linked to poverty and poor sanitation. India's success required a government-run health campaign to tackle these factors.

For detailed information on **India achieves target to eliminate 'Kala-Azar'** [read this article here](#)

Question for practice:

Discuss the recent achievements of India in eliminating kala-azar and trachoma as public health issues, and the challenges faced in maintaining this progress.

Constitution's role in managing diversity through special provisions for various states

Source: The post Constitution's role in managing diversity through special provisions for various states has been created, based on the article "**The Manipur crisis, the issue of managing diversity**" published in "The Hindu" on 24th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Polity- issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.

Context: The article discusses the violence in Manipur and the Chief Minister's demands for more control over security. It highlights the Constitution's role in managing diversity through special provisions for various states, aiming to ensure political stability and represent different cultural identities effectively.

What is the situation in Manipur?

There has been an escalation of violence in Manipur. The Chief Minister is demanding greater control over security. Media reports suggest the constitutional machinery in Manipur is breaking down, with Article 355 invoked to manage internal disturbances.

For detailed information on **analyses on Manipur** [read this article here](#)

How does the Constitution handle diversity?

- The Indian Constitution uses "**special provisions**" to manage diversity across states. These provisions aim to maintain political stability and address cultural or developmental concerns.
- States like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and Karnataka have been granted such provisions.
- Article 371F, for example, was introduced when Sikkim joined India in 1975.** It protected different sections of Sikkim's population and ensured power sharing to promote stability.
- In *R.C. Poudyal* (1993), the Supreme Court upheld Article 371F, allowing greater representation for the **Bhutia-Lepcha community due to Sikkim's** historical background.

5. **Tripura's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule in 1984** resolved insurgency issues by reserving a third of its legislative seats for Scheduled Tribes.

6. The Constitution's flexibility helps reconcile competing identities while preserving political stability.

For detailed information on **Article 371 of Indian Constitution** [read this article here](#)

What is the current legal framework in Manipur?

1. Article 371C: Manipur is governed by Article 371C, which mandates the creation of a Hill Area Committee to represent tribal areas. However, its approval is not required for decisions affecting governance.

2. Autonomous District Council: The Manipur Hill Areas Autonomous District Council Act, 2000 governs district councils for Scheduled Tribes but lacks veto power, unlike states like Nagaland and Sikkim.

3. No Sixth Schedule Protections: Unlike Tripura, Manipur is not governed by the Sixth Schedule, which devolves more power to local tribal councils.

4. Challenges in Representation: The lack of strong representation for tribal areas has fueled tensions, contributing to ongoing violence.

What should Manipur consider?

The Court in *R.C. Poudyal* emphasized that pluralist societies are part of history. The Constitution has shown it can adapt to different challenges. Manipur should look to constitutional solutions to manage its internal conflicts and achieve peace.

Question for practice:

Examine how the Indian Constitution's special provisions, particularly Article 371C, impact the governance and representation of tribal areas in Manipur, and how these provisions compare to those in other states.

Supreme Court judgment addressing CSEAM in India

Source: The post Supreme Court judgment addressing CSEAM in India has been created, based on the article "**Supreme Court's child sexual abuse verdict is a step forward**" published in "**Indian Express**" on 24th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Governance-mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

Context: The article discusses the Supreme Court's recent judgment on child sexual exploitative and abuse material (CSEAM). It emphasizes the seriousness of the issue, India's alarming involvement, and the need for strict action against both viewing and producing such content.

For detailed information on **Supreme Court's Verdict on CSEAM** read [Article 1](#), [Article 2](#)

What is the Supreme Court's judgment on CSEAM?

The Supreme Court ruled that viewing child sexual exploitative and abuse material (CSEAM) is a serious offense. Even watching it once is a crime. The Court stated that demand for such material fuels its production, making the crime more heinous.

How widespread is CSEAM in India?

1. India leads the world in uploading Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material (CSEAM), according to reports.
2. The National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children reported 46,99,515 CSEAM videos uploaded in India.
3. Cases of child pornography rose significantly, from 44 in 2018 to 1,171 in 2022, as per National Crime Records Bureau data.
4. Local children, aged 5 to 16, are frequently involved, with covert videos taken using spy cameras.
5. Kerala Police seized over 200 devices containing illegal content, revealing growing CSEAM activity on platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram.

What actions have been taken to combat CSEAM?

1. **MoU with NCMEC:** India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), U.S. This agreement facilitates the receipt and analysis of Cyber Tipline Reports (CTR) related to CSEAM activities, which are shared with respective states for further action.
2. Kerala Police seized over 200 devices containing illegal content, revealing growing CSEAM activity on platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram.

How does CSEAM impact children?

CSEAM victims often don't realize they've been exploited until much later. The knowledge that their abuse is being viewed repeatedly causes lifelong trauma. This exploitation affects all of society, as it perpetuates a culture of treating children as objects.

Way forward

While prosecuting offenders is essential, long-term prevention through sex education and awareness is crucial. Schools, governments, and law enforcement must work together to create safe environments for children online and offline.

Question for practice:

Examine the Supreme Court's stance on viewing Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material (CSEAM) and its impact on the production of such content.

Importance of educating students about the Constitution

Source: The post importance of educating students about the Constitution has been created, based on the article “**Almost 75 years after Constitution was adopted, what does education mean for nation-building?**” published in “**Indian Express**” on 24th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Governance-Governance-Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to education

Context: The article emphasizes the importance of educating students about the Constitution. It highlights its role in shaping collective consciousness, fostering national identity, celebrating diversity, promoting social justice, and empowering people, especially as India marks 75 years of its adoption.

For detailed information on **Significance of the 75th anniversary of the Constitution of India** [read this article here](#)

What is the Current State of Higher Education in India?

1. India has over 40 million students in higher education and 1.5 million faculty members.
2. There are more than 1,100 universities and nearly 50,000 colleges.
3. In 1947, India had only 20 universities and 500 colleges, with 2.5 lakh students and 20,000 faculty members.
4. Higher education is now accessible to more than just the elite.
5. Universities play a vital role in shaping India's identity, diversity, and social justice.

For detailed information on **Quality Education for All** [read this article here](#)

What are the challenges of education in India?

- 1. Quality of Education:** A focus on STEM subjects alone cannot drive the necessary transformation in society's value system. Broader education on the Constitution is essential.
- 2. Lack of Constitutional Awareness:** Schools and universities often fail to teach the values and importance of the Indian Constitution, which is crucial for nation-building and social transformation.
- 3. Diversity and Inclusion:** While the Constitution promotes equality, higher education must better incorporate lived experiences of diversity to build informed citizens.

Why should universities educate students about the Constitution?

- 1. Promoting Collective Consciousness:** The Constitution binds India's diverse population. With over 80% illiteracy at independence, universities now must shape this consciousness to build a progressive, unified nation.

2. Identity Creation: The Constitution fosters an Indian identity that respects socio-cultural diversity. It promotes "constitutional patriotism" through education, reflecting values like equality and freedom, as seen in India's pluralistic identity.

3. Celebrating Diversity: Universities must promote diversity through lived experiences. This builds an enlightened citizenry by allowing students to engage with diverse perspectives.

4. Empowering Citizens: The Constitution abolished untouchability (Article 17), emphasizing liberty, equality, and fraternity. Universities are ideal places to teach these values, shaping a socially aware and empowered population.

5. Advancing Social Justice: Social justice is a core theme of the Constitution. Universities, by embedding constitutional values, can drive societal transformation and create a new generation committed to equality, aligning with India's evolving educational ecosystem of over 40 million students.

Question for practice:

Discuss how universities in India can promote constitutional values to foster social justice and empower citizens.

UK transfer the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius

Source: The post UK transfer the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius has been created, based on the article "UK-Mauritius Chagos Deal: Crossroads for India's strategic autonomy" published in "Indian Express" on 9th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- International Relations-Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests,

Context: The article discusses the UK's decision to transfer the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius. This move affects Indian Ocean geopolitics. It also discusses India's role, the strategic importance of Diego Garcia, and balancing ties with the US while countering China's influence.

For detailed information on **Why Mauritius is calling UK an 'illegal colonial occupier' over a tiny set of islands** [read this article here](#)

Why did the UK transfer the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius?

1. International Pressure: The UK transferred the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius due to mounting international pressure from the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the UN General Assembly, and several regional states, including India.

2. UK's Strategic Interests: while the UK transferred sovereignty of the archipelago, it ensured US-UK control over Diego Garcia for 99 years, maintaining strategic interests.

3. Pragmatic Move: UK viewed the transfer as a **pragmatic move** to align with international consensus and avoid diplomatic challenges.

How does this affect India's role in the Indian Ocean?

1. Diego Garcia Access: India could potentially gain access to Diego Garcia's military facilities, supporting its naval patrols, anti-piracy operations, and intelligence gathering.

2. Countering China: With China's increasing presence in the Indian Ocean, including bases in Djibouti and Pakistan, India can leverage closer cooperation with the US to counterbalance Beijing's influence.

3. Strategic Autonomy: India's access to Diego Garcia raises concerns about maintaining strategic autonomy, as deeper cooperation with the US may complicate India's foreign policy, especially with non-Western nations like Russia and Iran.

4. Mauritius Partnership: India can help Mauritius safeguard its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) against illegal fishing, particularly by China, enhancing regional security without direct intervention.

5. Middle East Relations: India needs to manage relations in the Middle East, especially with growing tensions between Israel (a US ally) and Iran, a key Indian partner.

What is the Future of India's Regional Strategy?

1. India aims to maintain its role as an independent regional power. This involves balancing its relationships with Western countries and other global partners.
2. The agreement with Mauritius offers an opportunity for India to enhance its maritime security collaboration and assert its presence in the Indian Ocean, countering China's growing influence without aligning too closely with Western political strategies in the Middle East.

Question for practice:

Examine how the transfer of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius impacts India's role in the Indian Ocean region.