




# MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE (UPSC)

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-  PRAYAAS UPSC
-  +91-9894998421
-  Ramashree, CTC No, 279, NC Kelkar Road, Narayan Peth Pune.

## PREFACE

Hello PRAYAAS' Students Community,

Fear of current affairs among UPSC students is justified due to the vastness of the current affairs, the dynamic nature of current events, the unpredictability of the exam, the need for a deep understanding, and the pressure to stay updated.

From above, we recognize that the UPSC examination demands a thorough understanding of current affairs and their implications on a broader scale. **Therefore, "PRAYAAS PRABHAV" is not merely a compilation of news headlines but a gateway to a deeper comprehension of the interconnected world we live in.**

Each article in this magazine is designed to foster critical thinking and analytical skills, essential for excelling in the UPSC examinations and becoming an astute civil servant.

As you delve into the pages of this magazine, we encourage you to engage actively with the content, ponder over the implications, and form your independent viewpoints.

At the end of Magazine, you will get **QR Code of weekly lectures by our faculty.** These lectures are available **Free of Cost** to all Sincere Aspirants. In that lectures you will thoroughly understand each topic of these Monthly Compilation. Make Most use of it to understand topic better.

Till, December, we are Specifically focusing on Mains perspective. Mains focus will be on how to develop that thinking abilities and how to decipher topics for mains.

Start from January till prelims, we will shift our focus specifically on Prelims Perspective here our special focus on linking Current with Static.

The UPSC examinations not only assess your factual knowledge but also value your ability to analyse, synthesize, and present coherent arguments. **Let "PRAYAAS PRABHAV" be your ally in honing these essential skills.**

We are hopeful that this efforts from PRAYAAS will bring more clarity in Your UPSC Journey. As in the name of our institute "PRAYAAS Institute of Excellence", it will bring excellence in your current affairs and over all journey of UPSC.

Your Thankful,

Team PRAYAAS

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## GS 1

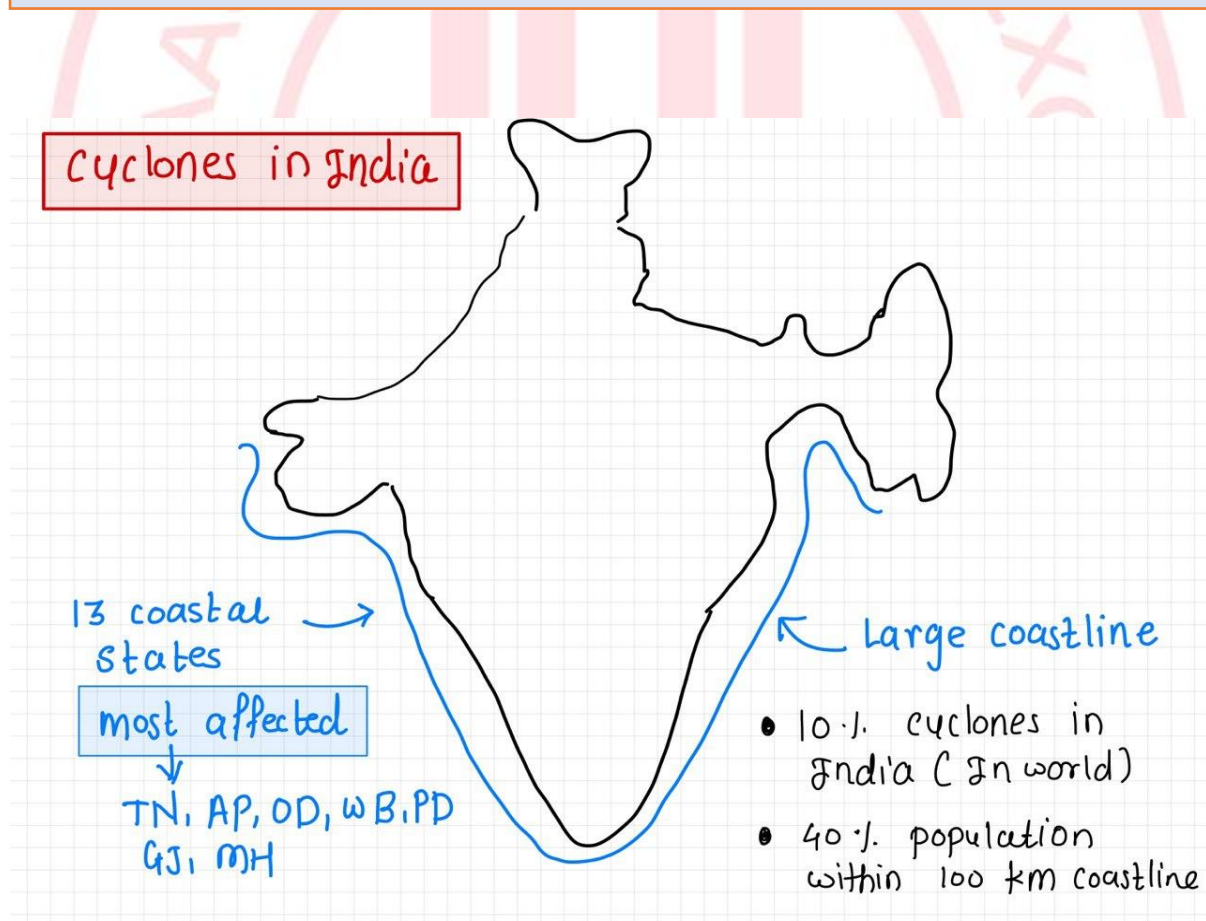
### Cyclone Preparedness

#### Context-

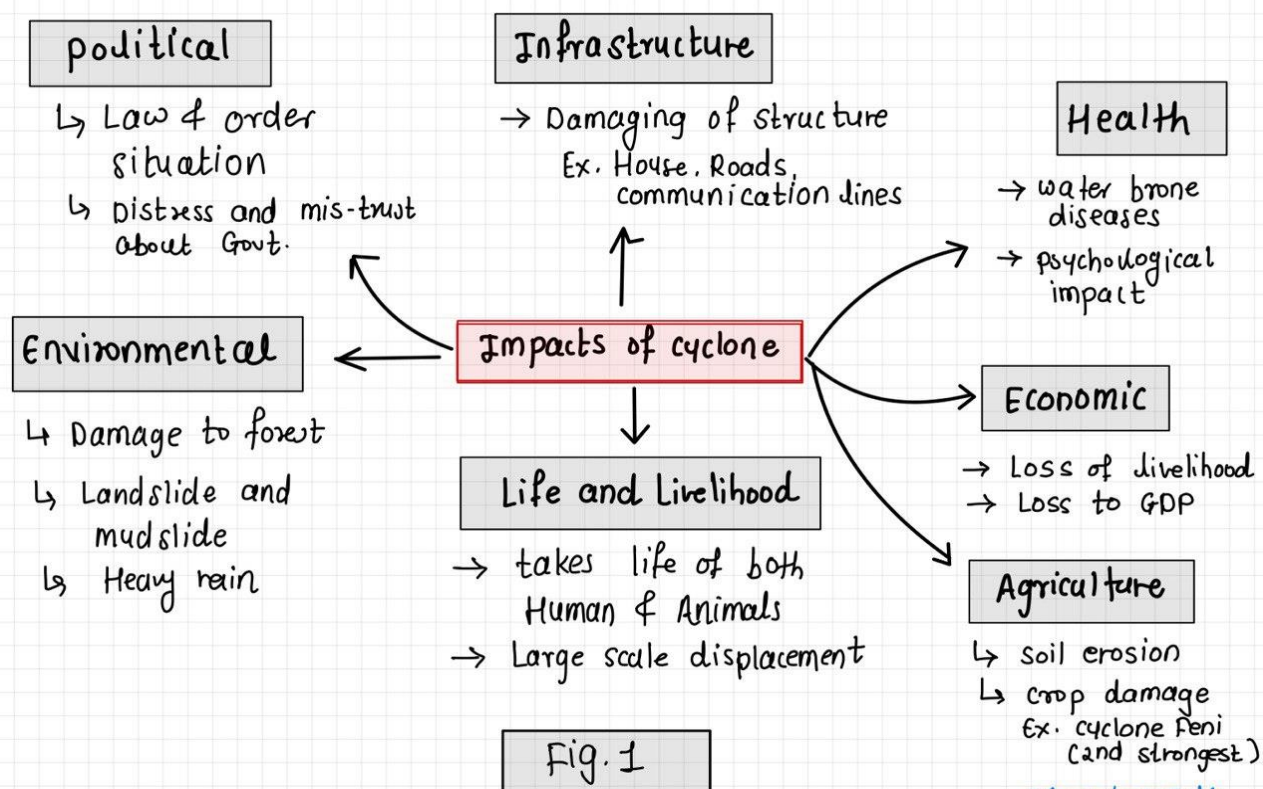
- Cyclone Biparjoy was a very severe cyclonic storm that hit Gujarat and parts of Rajasthan. It caused significant damage to infrastructure, injuries and cattle deaths, but only two human fatalities.
- India escaped the worst of the cyclone's fury due to early warnings from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and timely evacuation of people from coastal areas. India's disaster management system has improved over the years; however, the challenges remain for the future.

**Syllabus of Mains GS 3** - Disaster and disaster management.

**Syllabus of Mains GS 1**- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes,



## Impacts of Cyclone:



Telegram - CA made easy 14

## General Mitigation and Preparedness Measures Against Cyclone

### Mapping Hazards:

- The mapping of cyclone hazards displays the outcomes of evaluating cyclone risks on a map, indicating the frequency/probability of different intensities or durations.

### Regulating Land Use:

- Implementation of policies to control land use and enforce building codes.
- Vulnerable areas should be kept for parks, grazing grounds or flood diversion instead of human settlements.

### Engineered Structures:

- Some examples of general good construction practice include:
- Constructing buildings on stilts or on earthen mounds.
- Buildings should be wind and water resistant.



- Buildings storing food supplies should be protected against the winds and water.

### **Cyclone Shelters:**

- People who live in places that often face cyclones need cyclone shelters to protect them.
- Building cyclone shelters is expensive, so they usually depend on the government or outside donors for help.
- The best locations for cyclone shelters can be found using a system that maps the geography of the area.

### **Flood Management:**

- Cyclonic storms can cause flooding in different ways. The sea water can rise and cover the coastal lands. The rain can be too heavy and fast for the land to absorb.
- Building barriers along the rivers and the coasts can prevent the water from reaching the lands that are prone to flooding.
- The water flow can be controlled by creating places to store water, small dams to slow down water, and other ways to drain water.

### **Plantation of Mangroves:**

- Mangroves protect the coastal area from storm surge and wind accompanied with cyclones.
- Communities should participate in the mangrove plantation which could be organized by the local authorities, NGOs or the community itself.
- Mangroves also help in erosion-control and coastal conservation.

### **Public Awareness Generation:**

- Numerous lives can be saved by effectively disseminating information through public education. Research has consistently shown that a lack of public awareness and education contributes significantly to the damage incurred on lives and livelihoods.

### **Early Warning System:**

- Enhancing Early Warning Systems to Facilitate Rapid and Efficient Response
- Fostering Awareness and Accessibility of Cyclone Early Warning Signals
- Promoting Information Dissemination Channels for Cyclone Early Warnings

### **Community Participation:**

- Since the local people are the persons best aware of the strengths and weaknesses of their area, location, culture and customs, some mitigation measures should be developed by the community themselves.
- These community mitigation activities can be achieved with the support from government and other civil society organizations.

## Government Initiatives for Cyclone Preparedness

### **DM Act 2005:**

- Formation of **Statutory** National Disaster Management Authority and National Disaster Response Force

### **National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project:**

- India initiated this project to undertake structural and non-structural measures to mitigate the cyclone's effects.
- The aim of the project is to protect the vulnerable local communities from the impact of cyclones and other hydro-meteorological calamities.
- After the formation of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the management of the Project was transferred to NDMA in September, 2006.

### **Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Project:**

- ICZM aims to improve the livelihood of coastal communities and conserve the coastal ecosystem.
- The ICZM plan involves identification of infrastructure requirements and livelihood improvement means in coastal districts.
- Conservation of mangroves is among the components.
- The national component of the project includes mapping of the country's coastline and demarcation of the hazard line.

### **Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ):**

- The coastal areas of seas, bays, creeks, rivers, and backwaters which get influenced by tides up to 500 m from the high tide line (HTL) and the land between the low tide line (LTL) and the high tide line was declared as coastal regulation zone (CRZ) in 1991.
- The coastal regulation zones have been declared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change under the Environment Protection Act 1986.

### **Color Coding of Cyclones:**

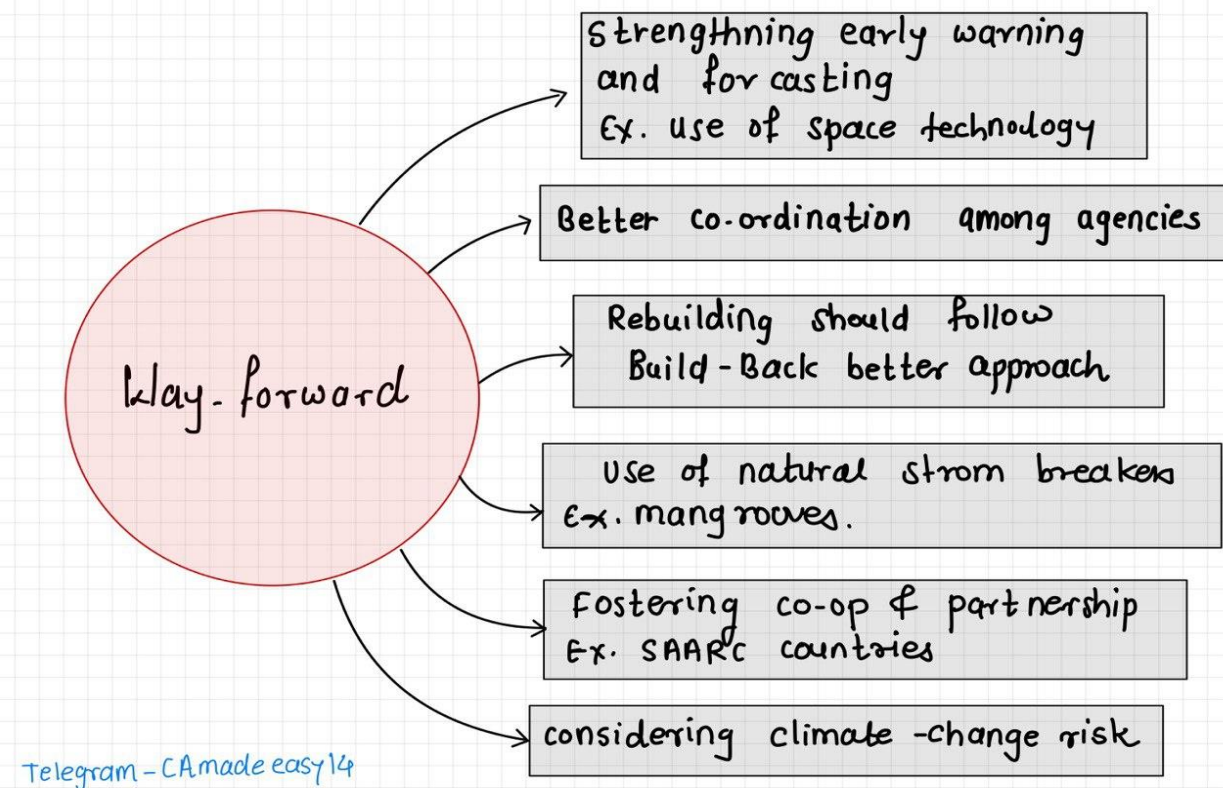
- It is a weather warning that is issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to alert people ahead of natural hazards.

- The colours used by IMD are Green, Yellow, Orange, and Red and Purple.

### Case Study-

- Odisha's success in handling cyclones
- IMD's Cyclone Tracking system- Success

### Way-Forward:



## New Parliament Building

### Why in News-

- In a significant milestone during the 75th year of Independence, Prime minister of India unveiled new Parliament building.

Syllabus of Mains GS 1 – Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times

### Introduction

- The recently inaugurated new Parliament building is a remarkable achievement and a symbol of the nation's progress. It stands alongside the old Parliament House, embodying the aspirations and pride of the Indian people.
- With increased seating capacity, advanced technology, and a blend of modernity and cultural heritage, the new building reflects India's commitment to democracy and sustainability.
- It showcases impressive artwork, green building practices, and accessibility for all. This architectural marvel signifies a new era in India's legislative journey.

### Need for the New Parliament building

#### Insufficient seating space for MPs:

- The current Parliament House was not designed to accommodate a bicameral legislature for a full-fledged democracy. The Central Hall can only seat 440 persons, which becomes a significant issue during Joint Sessions.
- Inadequate space for movement also poses a security risk.

#### Distressed infrastructure:

- Over time, modifications and additions to the existing building have led to issues such as water seepage, impacting aesthetics.
- The inclusion of services like water supply, sewer lines, air conditioning, fire safety equipment, and CCTV cameras has created challenges.
- Fire safety, in particular, is a major concern.

#### Outdated communication structures:

- The communication infrastructure and technology in the current Parliament House are outdated. Additionally, the acoustics of the halls require improvement.

#### Safety concerns:

- The current Parliament building was constructed when Delhi was in Seismic Zone-II. However, it is now located in Seismic Zone-IV, raising structural safety concerns.

#### Inadequate workspace for employees:

- Inner service corridors have been converted into offices over the years, resulting in poor-quality workspaces.
- Some of these workspaces have been further divided to accommodate additional workers, making them even smaller.

### Significant Features of the New Parliament Building

#### Optimum Space Utilization:



- The new Parliament building, standing alongside the existing one, encompasses a built-up area of approximately 65,000 sq m. Its triangular shape ensures efficient utilization of space, accommodating the evolving needs of a growing nation.

#### **Enhanced Seating Capacity:**

- The new building includes a larger Lok Sabha Hall with a capacity of up to 888 seats and a larger Rajya Sabha hall with up to 384 seats.
- Joint sessions of Parliament can now accommodate up to 1,272 seats, facilitating inclusive and robust democratic proceedings.

#### **State-of-the-Art Facilities:**

- A state-of-the-art Constitutional Hall serves as the heart of Indian democracy, placing citizens at the center of governance.
- The building also offers ultra-modern office spaces equipped with cutting-edge communication technology, promoting efficiency and security.

#### **Commitment to Sustainability:**

- The new Sansad Bhavan stands as a "Platinum-rated Green Building," reflecting India's dedication to environmental sustainability.

#### **Cultural Integration:**

- The new Parliament building seamlessly integrates the vibrance and diversity of modern India, incorporating regional arts, crafts, and cultural elements.

#### **Inclusivity for All:**

- Recognizing the importance of accessibility, the new Parliament building prioritizes divyang (differently-abled) individuals.
- It ensures that people with disabilities can move freely within the premises, fostering inclusivity and equal participation.

#### **Galleries and Exhibitions:**

- The public entrances lead to three galleries - the Sangeet Gallery which exhibits dance, song, and musical traditions of India; the **Sthapthya Gallery** depicts the architectural heritage of the country, and the Shilp Gallery showcases distinct handicraft traditions of different states.

#### **Enhanced Facilities and Access:**



- The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha chambers boast a digitised voting system, well-engineered acoustics, and state-of-the-art audiovisual systems to ensure effective legislative proceedings.
- The Ministers' chambers can be accessed through corridors running parallel to the triangular boundary of the building.

### **Symbolic Design:**

- The Lok Sabha hall's interior, inspired by India's national bird, the peacock, and the Rajya Sabha hall, representing the lotus, India's national flower, embody the rich symbolism of the nation.
- **Installation of Sengol**, the symbol of power transfer, is symbolic tribute to power transfer to India.

### **Central Vista Redevelopment Project**

- The Central Vista Redevelopment Project is a **project that aims to revamp the Central Vista, India's central administrative area located near Raisina Hill, New Delhi.**
- The area was originally designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker during British colonial rule and was retained by Government of India after independence. The redevelopment of the project is being overseen by Ar. Bimal Patel.
- Central Vista of New Delhi houses Rashtrapati Bhawan, Parliament House, North and South Block, India Gate, National Archives among others.
- In December 1911, King George V made an announcement in Delhi Durbar (a grand assembly) to shift the capital of India from Calcutta to Delhi.

### **The redevelopment project includes:**

- Constructing a triangular Parliament building next to the existing one.
- Constructing Common Central Secretariat.
- Revamping of the 3-km-long Rajpath (Kartavya Path) — from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.
- North and South Block to be repurposed as museums.

### **Conclusion**

- India's new Parliament building is a state-of-the-art facility that showcases India's rich cultural heritage while providing modern amenities for effective legislative proceedings. The government plans to use both the buildings in conjunction for smooth functioning of parliamentary affairs.
- It not only reflects India's cultural diversity but also paves the way for an inclusive and efficient democratic process. As the nation embarks on this new

chapter, the new Parliament building becomes a beacon of hope and unity, inspiring generations to come.

**Question for Practice**

Q) The new parliament building will take care of infrastructural hurdles in parliamentary functioning. Discuss. (150W-10M)



## GS 2

### Delimitation and Related Concerns

#### Why in News?

- The Election Commission of India has begun the process of delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies in Assam.
- Many politicians of the Southern States are raising voices over Delimitation of constituencies based on population, which they consider to be unfair.

Syllabus of Mains - Need for Delimitation in India and Related Concerns.

For Prelims: Delimitation, Delimitation Commission Act 1952,

#### What is Delimitation?

- Delimitation means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body.
- To identify seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, wherever their population is relatively large.
- Delimitation for LS (Lok Sabha) and LA (Legislative Assembly) is different from that of Local bodies.
- The Delimitation Commission is to work without any executive influence.
- The **Constitution mandates that the Commission's orders are final and cannot be questioned before any court as it would hold up an election indefinitely.**
- When the orders of the Delimitation Commission are laid before the Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly, they **cannot effect any modification in the orders.**
- In case of a difference of opinion among members of the Commission, the opinion of the majority prevails.
- The Delimitation Commission Act was enacted in 1952.
- The **Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India** and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.
- The first delimitation exercise was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51.

#### Constitutional Provisions:

- **Under Article 82,** the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.

History:

- The last delimitation exercise that changed the state-wise composition of the Lok Sabha was completed in 1976 and done on the basis of the 1971 census.
- The Constitution of India mandates that the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha should be based on the population of each state so that the ratio of seats to population is as close as possible to being equal across all states. It is intended to ensure that each person's vote carries roughly the same weight, regardless of which state they live in.
- However, this provision meant that states that took little interest in population control could end up with a greater number of seats in Parliament.
- To avoid these consequences, the Constitution was amended 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 froze the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha to the states and the division of each state into territorial constituencies till the year 2000 at the 1971 level.
- The **84th Amendment Act of 2001 empowered** the government to undertake readjustment and rationalisation of territorial constituencies in the states on the basis of the population figures of 1991 census.
- The 87th Amendment Act of 2003 provided for the delimitation of constituencies on the basis of 2001 census and not 1991 census.
- **However, this can be done without altering the number of seats allotted to each state in the Lok Sabha.**

**Composition of Delimitation commission:**

- The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
- **Retired Supreme Court judge**
- Chief Election Commissioner
- Respective State Election Commissioners

**Procedure for the delimitation process in India as per Delimitation Commission Act 2002:**

- According to Articles 82 and 170 of the Constitution, a Delimitation Commission that the President of India appointed performs delimitation.
- The Chief Election Commissioner, the appropriate State Election Commissioner, and a retired Supreme Court judge make up the Delimitation Commission.
- The Commission defines constituency borders by taking into account a number of variables, including population, geography, topography, etc.
- In the official gazette, the Commission publishes a draft plan for the delineation of constituencies and requests public comments and ideas.



- The Commission drafts a final proposal and submits it for publication in the official gazette after considering the objections and suggestions.
- After receiving the President's approval and being published in the official gazette, the final proposal is then made into law.
- According to Article 3 of the Indian Constitution, the delimitation process can also be **started if a State Reorganisation Commission approves it.**
- This process is generally carried out after every census as mentioned in Articles 82 and Article 170.

### Concerns Related to Delimitation

#### **Regional Disparity:**

- Disparity in representation between north and southern part of India in the Lok Sabha due to population as a deciding factor.
- The delimitation based solely on population disregards the progress made by the southern states in population control and may lead to disparities in the federal structure.
- Despite having only 18% of the country's population, the southern states contribute 35% to the country's GDP.
- The northern states, which did not prioritize population control, are expected to benefit in the delimitation process due to their higher population growth.

#### **Inadequate Funding:**

- After the 15th Finance Commission used the 2011 Census as a basis for its recommendation, concerns were raised about southern states losing funding and representation in parliament.

#### **Affecting the Reservations for SCs/ STs:**

- The exercise will also affect the division of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) in each state (under Articles 330 and 332).

#### **Increase in power for political parties with their base of support in the north.**

- Political parties in North will benefit from this.

#### **Destabilise the Nation**

- It can lead to communal and regional conflicts.

#### **More seats- more Disruption in Parliament**

- Disruptions will be a bigger challenge in a larger house & needs to be dealt with.



### Way Forward

- State Reorganisation Act should be enacted to split states into smaller ones based on the population recommendations made by the Delimitation Commission.
- There has been significant population growth in India since the last delimitation exercise, emphasizing the need to address the resulting asymmetry in political representation.
- Instead of relying solely on population as the criterion for delimitation, **other factors such as development indicators, human development indices, and efforts in implementing family planning programs could be considered.** This would provide a more comprehensive and equitable representation of states' needs and achievements.
- States that have effectively implemented family planning programs should be acknowledged and rewarded for their efforts.
- The guidelines for the devolution of funds should be reviewed to incorporate a more balanced approach.
- The growth potential of the localities proposed for the merger and their growth in population were taken as criteria for the delimitation exercise.

### Conclusion-

- The current process of delimitation has been successful in ensuring democratic representation in India though there are certain concerns.
- To address the concerns and further reform the process an independent committee should be set up to review the process involving all stakeholders and suggest reforms.
- Any reforms should ensure fair representation of people in the electoral process and promotion of democracy.

### Question for practice

Q. What is delimitation and why is it needed? Do you think Delimitation will affect southern state more than Northern States in India? Comment (250W)

## INDIA – USA

### Why in News?

- India and the United States have agreed to initiate negotiations for a '**Security of Supply' (SoS) arrangement** and a '**Reciprocal Defence Procurement' (RDP) agreement**, aiming to promote **long-term supply chain stability** and enhance security and defence cooperation between both countries.

Syllabus of Mains GS 2- Bilateral, regional, and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Prelims- 'Security of Supply' (SoS) arrangement and a 'Reciprocal Defence Procurement' (RDP) agreement.

### What are these agreement?

- A SoS agreement is a bilateral or multilateral agreement between countries **aimed at ensuring the availability and stability of critical supplies**, particularly in the field of defence and security.
- An **RDP agreement** is a bilateral agreement between countries in the field of defence procurement. It is **designed to facilitate reciprocal procurement of defence items and promote cooperation in research, development, and production** of defence equipment.

### **Key Highlights of the Agreement**

#### **Assembling Electric Jets in India:**

- Deal for assembling General Electric GE-414 jets in India, which is yet to be finalized.

#### **Defence Industrial Cooperation:**

- Roadmap for 'Defence Industrial Cooperation' has been concluded between India and the US, guiding their policy direction for the next few years.

#### **Capacity Building and Infrastructure Development:**

- Capacity building, including Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and strategic infrastructure development.

#### **US-India Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X):**

- US-India Business Council will launch the INDUS-X initiative to advance cutting-edge technology cooperation between US and Indian companies, investors, start-up accelerators, and academic research institutions.

### Introduction-

- **PM Modi said that** relations between India and US are **people-centric and people-driven** and are important for the most important relationship of the 21st century.
- U.S.-India strategic partnership is founded on shared values including a commitment to democracy and upholding the rules-based international system.
- Both have shared interests in promoting global security, stability, and economic prosperity through trade, investment, and connectivity.
- India-US relations have evolved over the last seven decades, **from being described as 'estranged democracies' to 'Natural Allies'.**
- **Barack Obama** has said that India- US relation is like Overcoming the hesitation of the Past, “ Most defining partnership of 21st Century.

### Aspects of Indo-Us Relations

#### **Political Relations:**

- The frequency of high-level visits and exchanges between India and the U.S. has gone up significantly of late.
- It is based on shared democratic values and increasing convergence of interests on bilateral, regional, and global issues.

#### **Trade Partnership-**

- Indian service sector dependence on US markets: Indian service sector and especially the IT sector is hugely dependent on US markets.
- Trade surplus: In 2022-23, India had a trade surplus with the United States of \$28 billion.
- Bilateral trade: According to the data of the commerce ministry, in 2022-23, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at \$119.42 billion as against \$80.51 billion in 2020-21.
- Defence trade: Apart from Oil, India-US defence trade is also increasing in recent years.

#### **Defence Cooperation:**

- It is known as the **'Brightest Spot' in Indo-US ties.** The India-US defense trade has increased tremendously in a short period of time and presently stands at \$119.42 billion.
- Defence relationship has emerged as a major pillar of India-U.S. strategic partnership with the signing of 'New Framework for India-U.S. Defense Relations' in 2005 and the resulting intensification in defence trade, joint exercises, personnel exchanges, collaboration and cooperation in maritime

security and counter-piracy, and exchanges between each of the three services.

- The **two countries now conduct more bilateral exercises with each other than they do with any other country.**
- Technology sharing agreement such as GSOMIA for security of each others military information, LEMOA for exchange of logistic support, COMCASA for encrypted communication, and BECA for sharing geo-spatial data.

#### **Civil Nuclear Cooperation:**

- The bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement was finalized in July 2007 and signed in October 2008.
- Culminating a decade of partnership on civil nuclear issues, the two sides have started the preparatory work on site in India for six AP 1000 reactors to be built by Westinghouse. Once completed, the project would be among the largest of its kind.

#### **Counter-terrorism and internal security:**

- Cooperation in counter-terrorism has seen considerable progress with intelligence sharing, information exchange, operational cooperation, counter-terrorism technology and equipment. India-U.S. Counter-Terrorism Cooperation Initiative was signed in 2010 to expand collaboration on counter-terrorism, information sharing and capacity building.

#### **Education:**

- Cooperation in education sector has been made an integral part of the strategic partnership between the two countries.
- The **Fulbright program** was renewed in 2008, with enhanced mandate and joint funding, to provide more student and scholar exchange grants.
- India is learning from the U.S. experience in community colleges in order to meet our demands for skill-development. It has been agreed to collaborate with U.S. institutions in the area of Technology Enabled Learning and Massive Open On-line Courses (MOOCs) to extend the reach of education in India.

#### **Strategic Partnership:**

- **Rise of China:** India-US strategic partnership has been strengthened in the context of the Rise of China and its aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific.
- **QUAD:** Both Countries have institutionalised 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue and are also working to strengthen QUAD with the aim to ensure peaceful, stable and rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.



### Space:

- A bilateral Joint Working Group on Civil Space Cooperation provides a forum for discussion on joint activities in space.
- NASA and ISRO are collaborating for India's Mars Orbiter Mission and for a dual-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR).
- In June 2016, ISRO successfully launched record 20 satellites onboard PSLV rocket, which included 13 satellites from the United States.

### People to people ties:

- The 3.5-million-plus strong Indian American community is an important ethnic group in the U.S., accounting for about 1% of the total population in the country.
- Indian American community includes a large number of professionals, business entrepreneurs and educationalists with increasing influence in the society.

### **India as a counterbalance to China**

- **China as the greatest strategic threat to the USA:** US's National Defence Strategy 2018 and the National Security Strategy 2017 identified revisionist China as the greatest strategic threat to the USA.
- **US views India as a geopolitical counterbalance to China:** The US views India as a geopolitical counterbalance, an economic alternative, and a democratic contrast to China. And for India, the US is crucial to its China policy not just in terms of internal balancing and capacity building, but also external balancing.
- **India as a net provider of security in the IOR region:** The USA's objective is to accelerate India's rise and capacity to serve as a net provider of security in the IOR region and a major defence partner of the USA.
- **Indo-Pacific Strategy Report:** US Department of Defence recently released 'Indo-Pacific Strategy Report.' at the Shangri-La Dialogue. It categorises India as a vital partner of the USA in the Indian Ocean region and in South Asia due to China's growing assertiveness in IOR.
- **Support India's Act East policy.**
- **Enhance defence cooperation and interoperability.**

### Way Forward

- **Maintain interest-oriented balancing:** India should realise its rising global power and rather than getting enmeshed in USA-China rivalry, it should prioritize its own interests and growth by maintaining peaceful mutual relationships.
- **Promote Multilateralism:** India can promote new multilateralism under the aegis of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam- which relies on restructuring both the



economic order and societal behaviour for equitable sustainable development.

### Issues In Indo-U.S Relationship

- **India-Russia friendship:** Russia is India's biggest arms supplier. This will hinder the increasing interoperability and communications between armed forces of 2 countries as American military hardware is not compatible with the Russian ones.
- **USA's Position on CAATSA:** The USA had threatened to sanction India under the S-400 missile defence system deal with Russia.
- **US-Pakistan Relationship:** Many democrats including President Biden, during his campaign have raised concerns over human rights in Kashmir. This can help Pakistan to internationalize the issue.
- **In WTO issue of North-South divide:** While the US and the other developed countries are trying to side-track the Doha Development Agenda and introduce 'New Issues', India is working with other developing countries to pressurize developed countries to fulfill their commitments under DDA.
- **In Trade: Pending Bilateral Investment Treaty:** The Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and USA is pending for a long time.
  - **India's Tariff Regime:** The United States has longstanding concerns over India's tariff regime, which has relatively high average tariff rates, especially in agriculture.
  - **U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP):** In 2019, the United States removed India from GSP, a U.S. trade and development program, due to market access issues.
  - **In-Services:** The two nations are competitive in some services industries. Limits on foreign ownership and local presence requirements in India are among the obstacles to US corporations' market access.
- **Intellectual Property (IP):** The United States 2021 "Special 301" report maintained India on its Priority Watch List.
- **Défense Trade:** India wants more technology-sharing and co-production projects, while the US wants additional reforms in India's defence offsets policy and higher FDI limitations in the defence sector.
- **Regional Integration:** The United States and India are each absent from the major regional trade agreement that they helped to negotiate: respectively, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). China is an RCEP member and seeks to join CPTPP.

- **Geostrategic:** In Afghanistan: USA's announcement to withdraw from Afghanistan can destabilize the country which can have a spill over effect in Kashmir.
  - **Indo Pacific:** While India's primary focus is on the Indian Ocean, the USA is more focused on the Pacific Ocean.
  - **Middle East:** Trump Administration's Maximum Pressure strategy for Iran has impacted India-Iran relations and Iran has moved closer to China.
  - **Russia-Ukraine war:** The US imposed sanctions against Russia while India seemed to be non-aligned on the issue.
- **On Climate Change:** Failure in meeting financial commitments: Failure of meeting financial and other commitments by the USA and other developed countries for the developing world.
- **On Data Sovereignty:** Osaka Track: India boycotted the Osaka Track on the Digital Economy in 2019. It advocated for the passage of legislation allowing for the free movement of data across countries. However, India opposed the free flow of data since it violated its sovereignty.

#### PYQs in Mains

- "The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of China, that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union." Explain. (2021)
- What is the significance of Indo-US defence deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region. (2020)
- What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's national self-esteem and ambitions. Explain with suitable examples. (2019)
- India and the USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenets on which the two political systems are based. (2018)

#### Conclusion

- The partnership between the two countries is critical for ensuring a free, open, and rules-bound Indo-Pacific region.
- The unparalleled Demographic Dividend provides enormous opportunities for the US and Indian firms for technology transfer, manufacturing, trade and investment.
- India is emerging as a leading player in an international system that is undergoing an unprecedented transformation. It shall use its present situation to explore opportunities to further its vital interests.

## Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

### In News

- The premier investigating police agency of India, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), completes its **60 years of service to the nation.**

**Syllabus of Mains-GS2** - Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

### What is Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

#### History of the CBI:

- The CBI came into being during **World War II**, when the colonial government felt the need to probe cases of corruption in the War and Supply Department. **A law came in 1941.** It became the **DSPE Act in 1946.**
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was established by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, dated April 1, 1963.
- The CBI is **not a statutory body** but derives its power to investigate from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.**
- **The CBI functions** under the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions of the central government**, and is exempted from the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

#### Functions:

- In 1963, the CBI was established by the **Government of India with a view to investigate serious crimes** related to the defence of India, corruption in high places, serious fraud, cheating, and embezzlement and social crime, particularly hoarding, black marketing, and profiteering in essential commodities, having all-India and inter-state ramifications.
- It is also the **nodal police agency in India that coordinates investigations on behalf of Interpol** member countries.

#### Jurisdiction:

- **Section 6 of the DPSE Act** authorises the central government to direct CBI to probe a case within the jurisdiction of any state on the recommendation of the concerned state government. The courts can also order a CBI probe, and even monitor the progress of investigation.
- **CBI can suo-moto** take up investigation of offences only in the Union Territories.

- The **Lokpal Act 2013** prescribed that the CBI director shall be appointed on the recommendation of a committee comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him

#### Conviction rate:

- According to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) annual report, its **conviction rate is as high as 65 to 70%**, which is comparable to the best investigation agencies in the world.

#### What are the Issues in functioning of CBI

- **Legislative Problems:** The conduct or continuance of investigation into offences committed within the territory of a state, consent of the state is required which most of the time is delayed or even denied.
- **Administrative issues:** Lack of infrastructure, sufficient manpower and modern equipment; in-human conditions, especially at the lowest rung; questionable methods of procuring evidence; officers failing to abide by the rule book; and lack of accountability of erring officers.
- **Political Issues:** In May 2013, as multiple corruption scandals dogged the UPA government, the Supreme Court made an observation about the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) that has stuck to the agency ever since.
  - A Bench headed by Justice R M Lodha described the CBI as **“a caged parrot speaking in its master’s voice” (Politicisation of CBI).**
  - The observation was made in the context of government interference in the functioning of the CBI in its investigation of the coal blocks allocation cases.
- **Transparency Issues:** The CBI is exempted from the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.
- **Overlapping Functions:** There is an overlap in jurisdictions of CVC, CBI and Lokpal in certain cases leading to problems.
- The **Parliamentary Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice**, in view of **withdrawal of general consent for CBI probe** by many states, has said that the **existing law governing the CBI has "many limitations"** and needs to be **replaced with a new legislation to define its status, functions, and powers.**



## What are the Findings and Recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee?

### Findings:

- **Withdrawal of General Consent:**
  - **9 states have withdrawn the general consent** required for any investigation by the CBI, making the existing law governing the CBI ineffective.
- **Vacancies:**
  - **Vacancies in the CBI are not being filled up** at the required pace, hampering the quality of investigation and ultimately impacting the effectiveness and efficiency of the agency.
  - A total of 1,709 posts are vacant in the CBI against its sanctioned strength of 7,295.
    - These vacancies in the cadres of executive ranks, law officers and technical officers will unquestionably increase the pendency of cases, hamper the quality of investigation and ultimately impact the effectiveness and efficiency of the agency.

### Recommendations:

- **Redefining the Status of CBI:**
  - The Committee recommends enacting a **new law to define the status, functions, and powers of the CBI** and to lay down safeguards to ensure objectivity and impartiality in its functioning.
- **Filling Up Vacancies on Quarterly Basis:**
  - The Committee recommends the Director of CBI to monitor the progress made in filling up vacancies on a quarterly basis and take necessary measures to ensure that the organisation is sufficiently staffed.
- **Reduce Dependence on Deputation:**
  - CBI should **reduce its dependence on deputationists** and strive to recruit permanent staff in the ranks of inspector of police and deputy superintendent of police.
- **Case Management System:** CBI should maintain a **case management system which would be a centralised database** containing details of cases registered with it and the progress made at their disposal.
  - CBI should also **publish case statistics** and annual reports on its website to ensure transparency and accountability.



- Details of cases registered with the CBI, the progress made in their investigation, and the final outcome should be made available in the **public domain**.

### Reasons for CBI's declining credibility:

- **Political involvement:** The current administration's political intervention and influence have harmed the integrity and independence of the CBI. For instance, concerns about political influence were raised in 2018 when CBI head Alok Verma was fired.
- **Lack of transparency:** It has been criticized for operating in an opaque manner and for lacking transparency in its inquiry process. For instance, the 2015 Vyapam scam investigation's management came under fire for its lack of transparency.
- **Efficiency: Slow in wrapping its investigations** and bringing charges against the accused. For instance, the inquiry into the 2020 AugustaWestland fraud was condemned for moving slowly and being ineffective.
- **Corruption:** The CBI has been the target of several charges of corruption, and its employees have been charged with accepting bribes. In May 2022, CBI arrested its four officials for corruption charges.
- **Lack of resources:** It lacks the facilities and staff necessary to conduct investigations efficiently. Lack of adequate housing discourages officers from states to join the CBI which is facing a staff crunch, a parliamentary panel report stated in 2017.
- **Legal issues:** The CBI has encountered legal issues that have questioned its integrity, including claims of prejudice and erroneous arrests. For instance, the CBI's probe into the Malegaon bombings in 2008 came under fire for making erroneous arrests.
- **Lack of accountability:** lack of oversight procedures, and employees being charged for acting outside the bounds of the law. For instance, the way the investigation into Sushant Singh Rajput's death in 2020 was handled was condemned for lacking accountability.
- **Poor coordination:** CBI's coordination with other law enforcement agencies is poor, which causes delays and inefficiency in investigations. For instance, the 2012 Nirbhaya gang rape case handling received criticism for lacking collaboration.
- **Concerns are raised about CBI due to its inconsistent approach to investigations and prosecution.** One instance of inconsistent handling was the disproportionate asset lawsuit against former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalithaa.

## Way Forward

- The role, jurisdiction and legal powers of the CBI need to be clearly laid down.
- It will give it goal clarity, role clarity, autonomy in all spheres and an image makeover as an independent autonomous statutory body.
- **2nd ARC:** New legislation should be there for CBI's governance structure.
- **Parliamentary standing committee (2007):** Strengthen Human & financial resources, better investments and more autonomy.

## Anti-defection law

### Context-

- The political crisis in Maharashtra, and many others before it, are grim reminders of what the Tenth Schedule can and cannot do.

### What is defection?

- Defection may be defined as the practice of floor-crossing by a member of one political outfit to another (also, commonly referred as Horse Trading). For instance, in Lok Sabha, if MPs of Party A join Party B, they are said to have defected and thus will face the prevalent anti-defection proceedings.

### What Do We Mean by Anti - Defection Law?

- The anti-defection law punishes individual Members of Parliament (MPs)/MLAs for leaving one party for another.
- Parliament added it to the Constitution as the Tenth Schedule in 1985. Its purpose was to bring stability to governments by discouraging legislators from changing parties.
- The Tenth Schedule - popularly known as the Anti-Defection Act - was included in the Constitution via the 52nd Amendment Act, 1985.
- It sets the provisions for disqualification of elected members on the grounds of defection to another political party.
- It was a response to the toppling of multiple state governments by party-hopping MLAs after the general elections of 1967.
- **However,** it allows a group of MP/MLAs to join (i.e., merge with) another political party without inviting the penalty for defection. And it does not penalize political parties for encouraging or accepting defecting legislators.
- As per the 1985 Act, a 'defection' by one-third of the elected members of a political party was considered a 'merger'.

- But **the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003, changed this and now at least two-thirds of the members of a party must be in Favour of a "merger" for it to have validity in the eyes of the law.**
- The members disqualified under the law can stand for elections from any political party for a seat in the same House.
- The decision on questions as to disqualification on ground of defection are referred to the Chairman or the Speaker of such House, which is subject to 'Judicial review'.
- However, the **law does not provide a timeframe** within which the presiding officer has to decide a defection case.

## Grounds for Defection

### Voluntary Give Up:

- If an elected member voluntarily gives up his membership of a political party.

### Violation of Instructions:

- If he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party or anyone authorized to do so, **without obtaining prior permission.**
- **As a pre-condition** for his disqualification, his abstention from voting should not be condoned by his party or the authorized person within 15 days of such incident.

### Elected Member:

- If any independently elected member joins any political party.

### Nominated Member:

- If any nominated member joins any political party after the expiry of six months.

## How Defection Affects the Political System?

### Subversion of Electoral Mandates:

- Defection is the subversion of electoral mandates by legislators who get elected on the ticket of one party but then find it convenient to shift to another, due to the lure of ministerial berths or financial gains.

### Affects the Normal Functioning of Government:

- The **infamous "Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram" slogan** was coined against the background of continuous defections by the legislators in the 1960s.

- The defection leads to instability in the government and affects the administration.

### **Promote Horse Trading:**

- Defection also promotes horse-trading of legislators which clearly go against the mandate of a democratic setup.

## **Need for an anti-defection law**

### **Political stability:**

- It provides for greater stability in the body politic by checking the propensity of legislators to change parties. Uncontrolled Horse-Trading and corruption negatively influences the working of the legislature and executive and ultimately affects the progress of the country as a whole.
- Considering nascent nature of our democracy and the political defections indiscriminately taking place in India, the anti-defection law is an inevitability to ensure smooth functioning of parliamentary system.

### **Ensuring loyalty of members:**

- It is an attempt to ensure that members selected in the name of the party and its support as well as the party manifesto remain loyal to the political party and its policies.

### **Upholds the will of people:**

- Floor changing after being elected as representative of people is almost a betrayal committed against the will of the people especially when the electorates hold their trust on the potential of any political parties.

### **Other advantages:**

- It facilitates democratic realignment of parties in the legislature by way of merger of parties.
- Further, it helps in reducing corruption at the political level as well as non developmental expenditure incurred on irregular elections.

## **Issues with Anti-defection law**

### **Issues in the prevalent idea of Anti-defection**

#### **Restricts freedom of speech and expression of legislators:**

- The law puts the members of the party into a bracket of obedience in accordance with the rules and policies of the party, restricting the legislator's freedom to oppose any acts, policies, leaders, or bills of the party.



- In essence, disqualification on grounds of defection, which may actually be a valid dissent, blurs the distinction between the defection and dissent.

#### **Reduces accountability of elected representatives:**

- In India's parliamentary democracy, the legislature's check on the executive remains weak due to reasons like absence of effective opposition and the executive being part of the legislature.
- By curbing dissent, anti-defection law **further undermines the executive's accountability to the legislature.**

#### **Undermines representative government:**

- In a bid to not attract the provisions of the Tenth Schedule, legislators can feel compelled to toe party lines even if that does not represent the will of their constituents.
- It restricts a legislator from voting in line with his conscience, judgement and interests of his electorate.

#### **Issues with the current law**

##### **Paragraph 4 of the law:**

- Paragraph 4 of the Anti - Defection Law creates an exception for mergers between political parties by introducing three crucial concepts:
  - 1) **Original Party:**
    - The political party to which a member belongs (this can refer to the party generally, outside of the House).
  - 2) **Legislature Party:**
    - Consisting of all elected members of a House for the time being belonging to one political party.
  - 3) **Deemed Merger**
    - Paragraph 4 does not clarify whether the original political party refers to the party at the national level or the regional level, ***despite the fact that that is how the Election Commission of India recognises political parties.***

##### **Paragraph 4 states that:**

- A merger can take place only when an original party merges with another political party, and at least two thirds of the members of the legislature party have agreed to this merger.
- Paragraph 4 seems to be **creating a "legal fiction" so as to indicate that a merger of two third members of a legislature party can be deemed to be a**

**merger of political parties**, even if there is no actual merger of the original political party with another party.

**No liability for political parties:**

- It only punishes legislators for switching parties. Political parties who are at the heart of the politics have no liability under the law. They benefit from defections and are often accused of enticing legislators of rival parties to switch loyalties.

**Problem with merger provision:**

- It safeguards the members of a political party where the original party merges with another party subject to the condition that at least two-third of the members have agreed to such merger.
- The exception is based on the number of members rather than the reason behind the defection.

**Power to the presiding officer:**

- The presiding officer has been given wide and absolute powers to decide the case related to disqualification of the members on the grounds of defection.
- However, Speaker still remains the member of the party which had nominated him/her for the post raising concerns regarding his/her impartiality.

**Undermining Representative & Parliamentary Democracy:**

- After enactment of the Anti-defection law, the MP or MLA has to follow the party's direction blindly and has no freedom to vote in their judgment.
- Due to Anti-Defection law, the chain of accountability has been broken by making legislators accountable primarily to the political party.

**Controversial Role of Speaker:**

- There is no clarity in the law about the timeframe for the action of the House Chairperson or Speaker in the anti-defection cases.
- Some cases take six months and some even three years. There are cases that are disposed - off after the term is over.

**No Recognition of Split:**

- Due to the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003, the anti-defection law created an exception for anti-defection rulings.
- However, the amendment does not recognize a 'split' in a legislature party and instead recognizes a 'merger'.

**Allows only Wholesale Defection:**

- It allows wholesale defection, but retail defection is not allowed. Amendments are required to plug the loopholes.
- He raised concern that if a politician is leaving a party, s/he may do so, but they should not be given a post in the new party.

**Affects the debate and discussion:**

- The Anti-Defection Law has created a democracy of parties and numbers in India, rather than a democracy of debate and discussion.
- In this way, it does not make a differentiation between dissent and defection and weaken the Parliamentary deliberations on any law.

**What can be done to overcome these issues?**

- **Narrowing the definition of defection:** Defining actions or conduct (on the part of legislators) which constitutes defection, in a manner that does not inhibit them to independently think and express their opinions.
- This will ensure that dissent among party members does not necessarily translate into instability and disagreement does not become a ground for disqualification.
  - Several experts have suggested that the law should be valid only for those votes that determine the stability of the government (passage of the annual budget or no-confidence motions).

**Intra party democracy:**

- Changes are required in the Representation of People Act and the current political culture to make political parties more democratic in the selection of their leadership. This will indirectly create more acceptance for divergence of opinion and stance within the party.

**Involvement of Ethics committee:**

- The active involvement of the Ethics Committee, as done in the Cash for Query scam, can help in curbing horse trading of legislators.
- If every incident of defection tainted with monetary factors is inquired into and dealt with by Ethics Committee, practice of floor crossing can be contained to a great extent.
- In cash for query incident (2005) Members of Parliament accepted money from stakeholders and raised questions in Parliament apparently to the benefit of money givers.

### **Deciding authority:**

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Administrative Reforms Commission's has recommended that the issue of disqualification of members on grounds of defection should be decided by the President/Governor on the advice of the Election Commission.**
- The Election Commission has suggested it should be the deciding authority in defection cases.
- Others have argued that the President and Governors should hear defection petitions.
- The **Supreme Court has suggested that Parliament should set up an independent tribunal headed by a retired judge of the higher judiciary** to decide defection cases swiftly and impartially.
- Some commentators have said the law has failed and recommended its removal. **Former Vice President Hamid Ansari has suggested that it applies only to save governments in no-confidence motions.**

### **Making defection an internal issue of party:**

- The imposition of sanctions can be watered down in India to only allow expulsion of a defecting member from his party without costing him his seat in the Parliament and by making it an internal issue of every political party.
- Bring more clarity: The law must explicitly set out what it means by the words 'voluntarily giving up Membership' in order to avoid any confusion.

### **Conclusion**

- The Parliament should recheck whether the anti-defection law in current form can achieve the goals for which it was enacted.
- If not, a discourse can be started for developing a consensus on why it has not been able to achieve its goals and moving ahead, where should we take this law.

## **Adoption in India**

### **Context:**

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has recently highlighted the significant backlog of adoption cases in Maharashtra, with the highest number of pending adoption cases in India (329 awaiting resolutions).
- In January 2023, the Bombay HC directed the state government not to transfer pending adoption proceedings to District Magistrates, (as mandated under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021), leading to confusion and hindering progress.



## Status of Child Adoption in India

- It is a legal and emotional process that involves accepting the responsibility of caring for a child who is not biologically related to the adoptive parents.
- The process of adoption in India is monitored and regulated by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), which is **part of the Ministry of Women and Child Care**.
- CARA is the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country adoptions.
- CARA is also designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption, 1993, ratified by Government of India in 2003.

## Laws Related to Adoption in India:

- **Adoptions in India are governed by two laws: the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 (HAMA) and the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.**
- Both laws have their separate eligibility criteria for adoptive parents.
- Those applying under the JJ Act have to register on CARA's portal after which a specialised adoption agency carries out a home study report.
  - After it finds the candidate eligible for adoption, a child declared legally free for adoption is referred to the applicant.
- The **Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act(HAMA), enacted in 1956**, applies to Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs. The adoption is irrevocable under this statute, and it grants the child complete status as a natural child born to the family, it also gives the right to inherit the property.
- The **Guardian and Wards Act of 1890, governs adoption for Muslims, Parsis, Christians, and Jews.** According to the GAWA, the connection formed upon adoption is merely that of guardian and ward. Adoption under GAWA does not bestow child status on the adopted child; this differs from HAMA.
- Under HAMA, a “dattaka hom” ceremony or an adoption deed or a court order is sufficient to obtain irrevocable adoption rights.

## Recent Development:

The Parliament passed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021 in order to amend the Juvenile Justice Act (JJ Act), 2015.

- The key changes include authorising District Magistrates and Additional District Magistrates to issue adoption orders under Section 61 of the JJ Act.
- Earlier in JJ Act 2015, adoption of a child is final on the issuance of an adoption order by the civil court.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has introduced the Adoption Regulations-2022, which has streamlined the adoption process.

- District Magistrates (DMs) and Child Welfare Committees have been directed to upload adoption orders and case status in real time.
- Since the implementation of the Adoption Regulations-2022, 2,297 adoption orders have been issued by DMs nationwide, resolving a significant portion of pending cases.

### Motivations behind Adoption:

- In order to overcome infertility.
- To become parents
- To assist a needy child.
- To avoid difficulties during pregnancy.
- To avoid the transmission of genetic abnormalities or diseases.
- Concern about children.
- To keep population increase in check.

### Challenges Related to Adoption in India:

- **Delays:** Parents, adoption agencies and activists are worried that this could lead to further delays in a long and arduous procedure.
- **Conflict:** There is anomaly on the legislature front as adoption is being governed by the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act of 1956 which has a nodal ministry as the Ministry of Law and Justice while the aspects of Orphans are dealt with by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- **Lengthy process:** Adoptions in India are infamous for being a lengthy process that takes up to three years to conclude, primarily because there are only 2,188 children available for adoption as per the latest figures while there are nearly 31,000 parents waiting to adopt a child.
- **Trafficking:** The trafficking of such children is a challenge, especially in the eastern part of the country like Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- **Emotional trauma:** Children, who have faced crisis such as a loss of family members or separation from their parents due to death and desertion, have emotional trauma.
- **Limited Adoption:** This means crores of children can't become legally adoptable because the Government has not applied adequate resources towards getting the children registered.
- **Inter-country adoption:** There are instances where none of the parents applied for his citizenship as a result he continued to be an Indian Citizen.
- **Inadequate Child Care:** Many child shelters do a good job of taking care of kids in need, but most of them will never assess the children under their care for adoption. There is an inherent disadvantage in the adoption process as children are not made aware of the situation and are kept in the dark.

- **Disabled Children:** Only forty children with disabilities were adopted between 2018 and 2019, accounting for about 1% of total children adopted in the year.

## Way Forward

### **Strengthening Adoption Laws:**

- There is a need to review and update adoption laws to streamline the process, make it more transparent, and ensure the best interests of the child.
- This includes simplifying paperwork, reducing delays, and addressing any loopholes or ambiguities in the existing legislation.

### **Post-Adoption Services:**

- There is a need to establish comprehensive post-adoption support services to assist both adoptive parents and adopted children.
- This can include counselling, educational support, access to healthcare, and guidance for managing any challenges that arise during the adoption journey.

### **Awareness and Education:**

- There is a need to promote awareness about adoption as a viable option for building families.
- It includes educating the public about the benefits, procedures, and legal aspects of adoption. Also, encouraging positive attitudes towards adoption and dispel misconceptions or stigma associated with it.

### **Other-**

- The fundamental goal of placing a **child for adoption is to ensure his or her welfare and to restore his or her right to family.**
- CARA and the ministry must pay attention to the vulnerable and invisible community of children who suffer in our institutions in silence.
- The adoption ecosystem **needs to transition from a parent-centric to a child-centric approach.**
- There is a need to adopt an inclusive strategy that focuses on a child's needs in order to provide an environment of acceptance, growth, and well-being, thereby recognizing children as equal stakeholders in the adoption process.
- The ministry can engage with relevant experts in this field to get feedback on the difficulties that prospective parents face.

## Conclusion-

- Adoption will become more common in India as the number of abandoned children and cases of infertility increase.

- Given this problem, India has implemented various preventative measures, however, several bottlenecks are impeding the adoption process and the comfort of a child after adoption.





## GS 3

### Ruralisation In India

#### Context-

- Because of Structural imbalance, India's 'ruralisation', a worrying sign ruralisation, a Workforce shift to rural India and low industrial growth point to rising poverty levels.
- There have been some claims that rise in urban unemployment is forcing a structural shift towards “ruralisation” in India.

**Syllabus of Mains GS 3** - Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

#### Introduction-

- In general, Ruralisation refers to opening of rural areas to renew rural generations, jobs, and farms.
- In a developing country like India, such trend is considered akin to de-industrialisation. It refers to a situation where the productive capacity of the economy is distorted.
- It is opposite to the **virtuous cycle of growth.**

#### Causes and Indications of ruralisation

- **Persistence of unemployment problems in Urban India:** As per NSO India's urban unemployment rate was 6.8% in the quarter ending March 2023, the lowest in at least five years.
- **Workforce shift towards agriculture:** India's workforce dependence on agriculture has risen from 42.5 per cent (2018-19) to 45.5 per cent in 2021-22 (PLFS).
- **Chronic lack of private investments:** Share of private fixed capital formation has continued to decline from 10.8 per cent in FY19 to estimated 8.4 per cent in FY22.
- **Fall in industrial production:** Industrial production (IP) growth in the US has improved but India's industrial growth fell to a 10-year average of 2.1 per cent, compared to 7.7 per cent during 2000-12.
- **Urban Pollution in Tier-1 Cities:** Many Big investors and Sole Business owners moving their business to Semi urban and Rural areas.
- **Start Up Culture-** In Farming sector many agro-tech start-ups are opening leading to shift in Rural areas. EX- Ninjacart: Solving the supply chain problems.

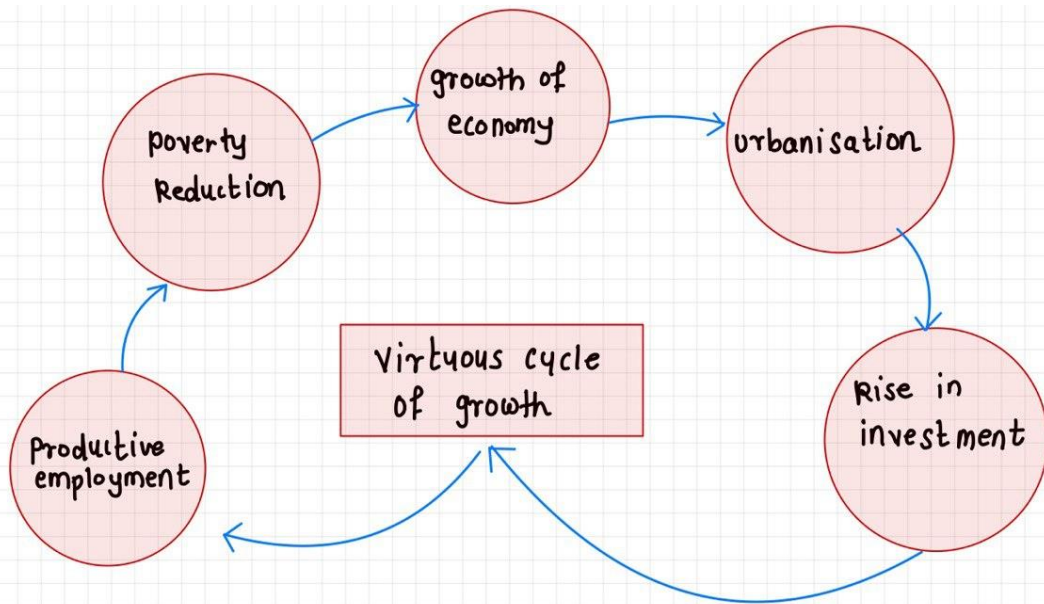
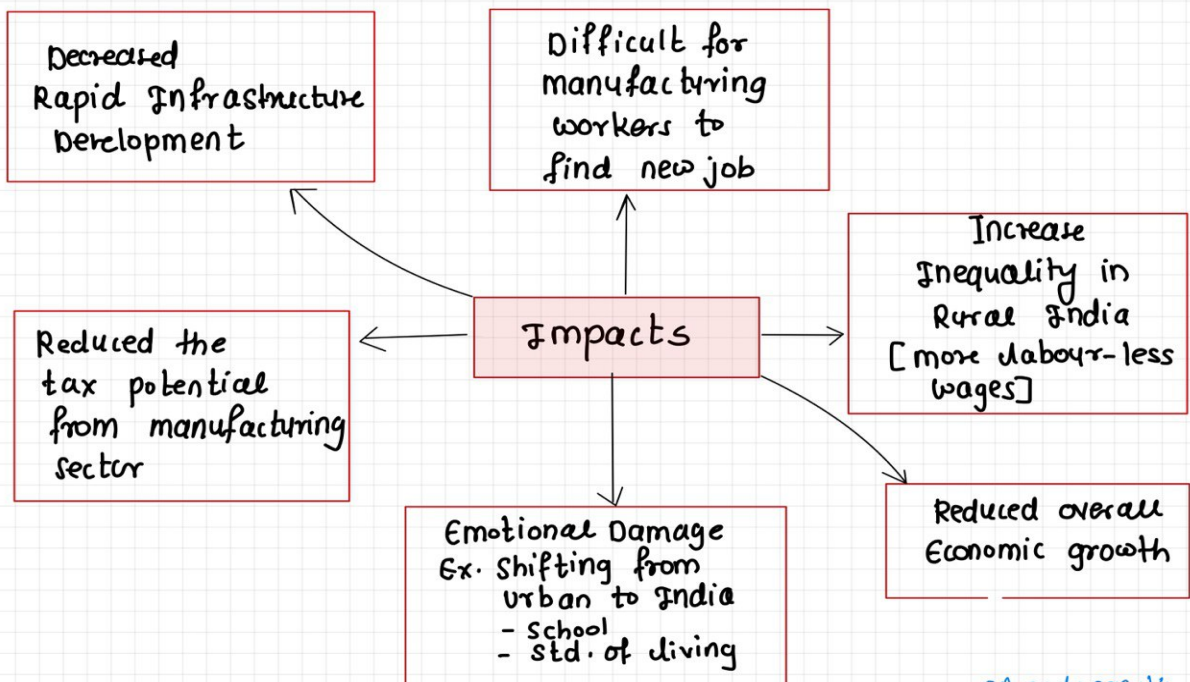


Fig.1

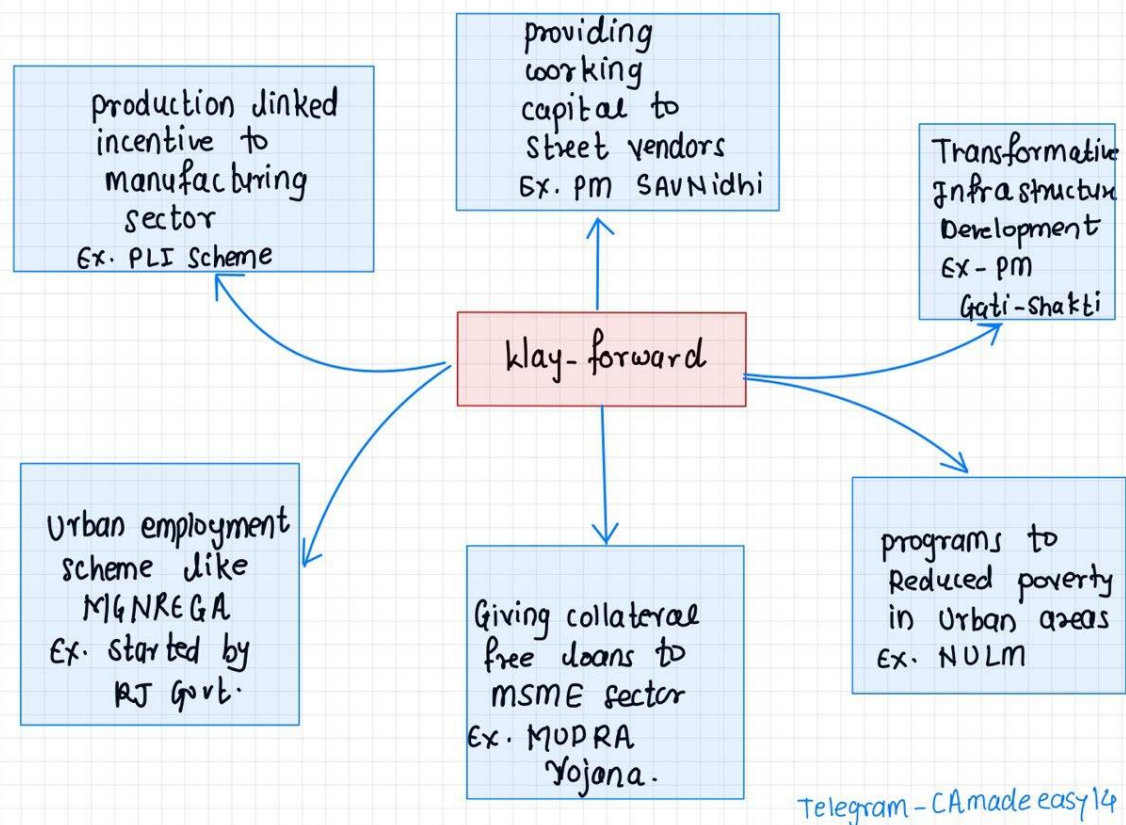
Telegram - CA made easy14

### Impact of Ruralisation



Telegram - CA made easy14

## Way Forward



## Conclusion

- India's lack of investments, prolonged private capex drags, rising ruralization, and increasing demand for cereals indicate the need to shun complacency and address the frail household situation and elusive private capex.
- Despite these trends, India remains the fastest-growing major economy. India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 7.2 per cent during the fiscal year 2022-2023 (FY23).
- Also, economic survey points that India's economic growth in FY23 has been principally led by private consumption and capital formation and they have helped generate employment.
- Moreover, growth is expected to be brisk in FY24. The government steps like PM GatiShakti, the National Logistics Policy, and the Production-Linked Incentive schemes will boost manufacturing output, enhance productivity, and generate employment.

## Railway Accidents in India

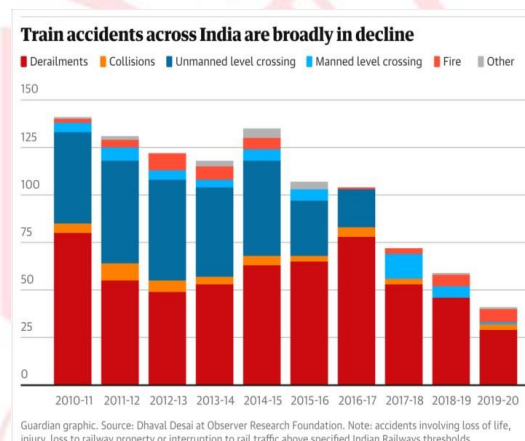
### Context-

- **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)’s 2022 report** on ‘Derailments in Indian Railways’ flagged multiple shortcomings on the causes of train accidents in the country.
- The **tragic train accident that occurred on June 2, 2023**, at Bahanaga Bazar railway station in Odisha's Balasore district, has highlighted the urgent need for effective safety measures to prevent such devastating incidents.

**Syllabus of Mains GS 3** - Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc

### Highlights of the Report

- The CAG report reveals that **nearly 75% of the consequential train accidents between 2017-18 and 2020-21 were caused by derailments.**
- **Derailments:** The Leading Cause of Train Accidents Out of 217 consequential train accidents, 163 (around 75%) were caused by derailments.
- **Other causes of train accidents include** fire in trains (20 accidents), accidents at unmanned level-crossings (13 accidents), collisions (11 accidents), accidents at manned level crossings (8 accidents), and miscellaneous incidents (2 accidents).



### Classification of Train Accidents:

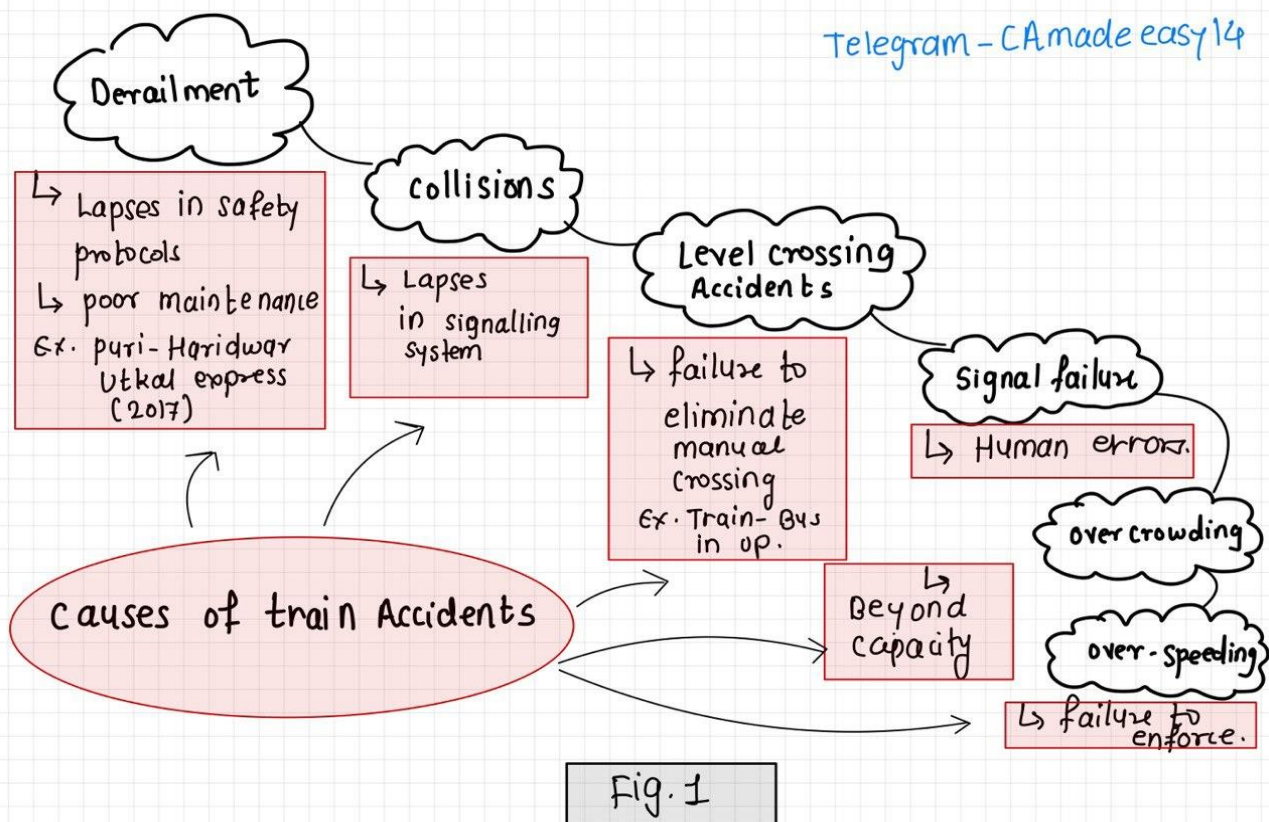
- The **Railway Board classifies train accidents** into two categories: **Consequential Train Accidents and Other Train Accidents.**
- **Consequential Train Accidents include accidents with significant repercussions,** such as loss of life, human injury, property damage, and interruption to railway traffic.
- **Other Train Accidents encompass all accidents that do not fall under the consequential category.**



## Why the safety of Indian Railways is important?

- **High volume of passengers:** India is the fourth-largest rail network in the world at 68,043 km and almost 3.5 billion people travel on this network annually.
- **Economic impact:** Indian Railways is a crucial component of the country's transportation infrastructure and plays a vital role in the economy.
- **Reputation and public trust:** The safety of Indian Railways is essential to maintain the public's trust and confidence in the system.
- **Lifeline for economic migrants:** Trains are the lifeline for a bulk of India's poorer economic migrants.
- **Connectivity:** Indian Railways is a lifeline for connectivity, ensuring people from various regions can travel and access opportunities for economic growth.
- **Regulatory compliance:** Safety is a regulatory requirement and a legal obligation for Indian Railways.

## Causes of Railway accidents in India:



## Government initiatives to address the Indian railway safety concerns:

- **Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK)**: A safety fund for critical assets. It was established in 2017-18 with a corpus of Rs 1 lakh crore over a period of five years for critical safety related works such as track renewals, signalling projects, bridge rehabilitation, etc.
- **Technological Upgradation**: Improved design and features of coaches and wagons. This includes Bogie Mounted Air Brake System (BMBS), provision of Automatic fire & smoke detection system in coaches.
- **Installing KAVACH** - an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP).
- **LHB Design Coaches**: Lighter and safer coaches for Mail/Express trains. These coaches are based on German technology and have better anti-climbing features, fire retardant materials, higher speed potential and longer service life than conventional ICF design coaches.
- **GPS based Fog Pass Device**: A device to help loco pilots navigate in foggy conditions.
- **Modern Track Structure**: Stronger and more durable tracks and bridges. This includes using Prestressed Concrete Sleeper (PSC), higher Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS) rails.
- **Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD)**: A technique to detect and remove faulty rails.
- **Mechanization of Track Maintenance**: A system to automate and optimize track maintenance. This reduces human errors and improves track quality and safety.
- **Interlocking System**: A system to control points and signals centrally. It is a system that uses electrical or electronic devices to operate the points and signals from a central location. It eliminates the need for manual operation of points and signals by staff on the ground. It also reduces the chances of human failure and enhances safety.
- **Elimination of Unmanned Level Crossings (UMLCs)**: UMLCs are being eliminated progressively by closing, merging, manning, or providing subways/road under bridges/road over bridges.

## Various Committees recommended to ensure Railways Safety

### **Kakodkar Committee (2012):**

- Creating a statutory Railway Safety Authority
- Setting up a non-lapsable Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) of Rs. 1 lakh crores over 5 years for safety works
- Adopting advanced technologies for track maintenance and inspection
- Improving human resource development and management

- Ensuring independent accident investigation

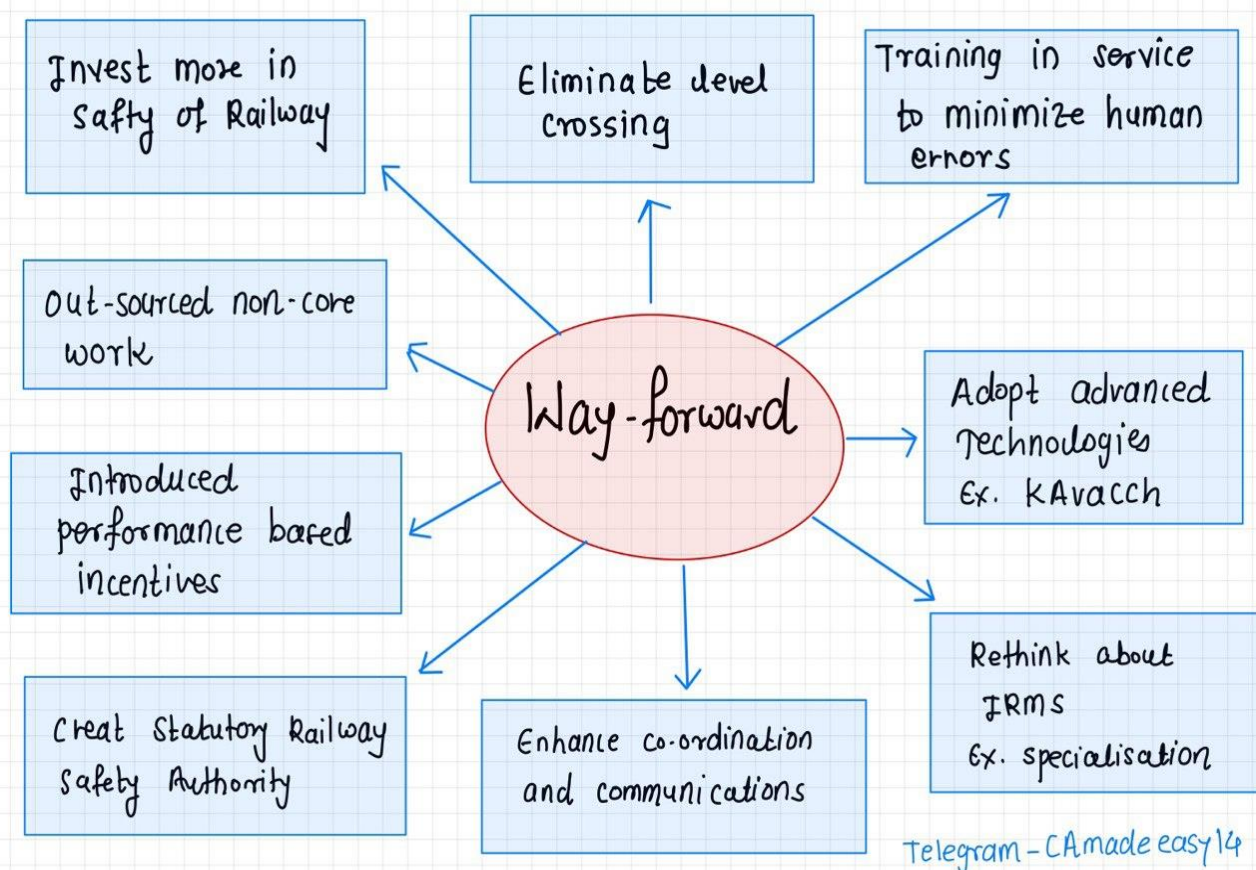
#### Bibek Debroy Committee (2014):

- Separating railway budget from general budget
- Outsourcing non-core activities
- Creating a Railway Infrastructure Authority of India

#### Vinod Rai Committee (2015)

- Establishing an independent Railway Safety Authority with statutory
- Setting up a Railway Accident Investigation Board to conduct independent and impartial inquiries.
- Creating a separate Railway Infrastructure Company to own and maintain railway assets
- Introducing a performance-linked incentive scheme for railway employees

#### Way-Forward





## Conclusion-

- We need to go for a generational change in our railway system and completely modernise it with latest technology. For this, the government needs a massive investment programme without relying on revenue from the railway's internal generation.
- Indian Railways has been taking a hit on its revenues on the one hand and on the other it has been losing out to both air travel and road transport. If lax safety standards are not addressed urgently, the Indian Railways will acquire an unsafe tag soon.

## Evergreening of Loans

Syllabus of Mains - Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

For Prelims: Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Stressed loans, NPA

### Why in News?

- Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), recently addressed bank boards and expressed concerns about banks adopting over-aggressive growth strategies and engaging in the evergreening of loans.
- The governor emphasized the need for robust corporate governance and highlighted instances of concealing the true status of stressed loans.

### What is the Evergreening of Loans?

- Evergreening loans, a form of zombie lending, is a practice of extending new or additional loans to a borrower who is unable to repay the existing loans, thereby concealing the true status of the non-performing assets (NPAs) or bad loans.

### Evergreening methods used by Banks: as highlighted by the RBI Governor

- Bringing two lenders together to evergreen each other's loans by sale and buyback of loans or debt instruments;
- Good borrowers being persuaded to enter into structured deals with a stressed borrower to conceal the stress;
- By involving creditworthy borrowers in such arrangements, it creates a façade of stability and financial health for the stressed borrower.
- Use of internal or office accounts to adjust borrower's repayment obligations;



- Renewal of loans or disbursement of new/additional loans to the stressed borrower or related entities closer to the repayment date of the earlier loans.

### Why do financial institutions engage in evergreening of loans?

- To **avoid recognizing non-performing assets (NPA)** on their balance sheets
- If an account turns into an NPA, banks are required to make higher provisions which will impact their profitability.
- To maintain a positive relationship with borrowers
- By providing additional credit, financial institutions can retain clients who might otherwise default on their loans.

### Risks associated with evergreening of loans

- 1) **Inflates the quality of the institution's loan portfolio**
  - Artificially inflates the quality of the institution's loan portfolio and can mislead investors, regulators, and the public about its financial health.
- 2) It can lead to a cycle of increasing debt and further financial instability for both borrowers and lenders in the long run.
- 3) Problematic for the overall stability of the financial system
- 4) It can mask the true extent of bad loans in an economy, creating systemic risks and distorting the assessment of creditworthiness.
- 5) **Sign of misgovernance**
  - It normally happens due to the unholy relationship between bankers and borrowers.
  - Example- CBI had detected several cases of fund diversion by promoters of companies from loans advanced again and again by banks in the last couple of years.
- 6) Contributes to the **crowding-out effects**
- 7) **Valuable resources are misallocated**, which contributes to the crowding-out effects typically associated with financially vulnerable companies.
- 8) It can create **cascading effect** in the economy.

### How can evergreening be stopped?

- 1) **Enhanced Risk Assessment:** Financial institutions should adopt robust risk assessment practices to evaluate the creditworthiness of borrowers accurately.
- 2) **Penalties should be levied** through cancellations of invested stock options
- 3) Chairman of the audit committee be asked to step down from the board.
- 4) **Transparent Reporting and Disclosure:** Lenders should provide accurate and timely information on their loan portfolios, including non-performing loans (NPLs) and loan restructuring.
- 5) **Asset-liability Management:** There is a need to lay emphasis on the importance of asset-liability management (ALM).

- 6) There is a need for **banks to comply with ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) norms** as they are becoming increasingly relevant for investors and stakeholders.
- ESG goals are a set of standards for a company's operations that force companies to follow better governance, ethical practices, environment-friendly measures and social responsibility.

*Recommendations of P J Nayak Committee:*

- According to the Committee to Review Governance of Boards of Banks in India, wherever significant evergreening in a bank is detected by the RBI, **penalties should be levied through cancellations** of unvested stock options and claw-back of monetary bonuses on officers concerned and on all whole-time directors, and the Chairman of the audit committee be asked to step down from the board.

**Initiatives by RBI:**

- RBI has cautioned banks against adopting over-aggressive growth strategies, underpricing or over-pricing of products, concentration or lack of diversification in deposit or credit profile, which can expose them to higher risks and vulnerabilities.
- RBI has also implemented various measures to support the banking sector, including providing liquidity support, regulatory forbearance, the establishment of an asset reconstruction company (ARC), and the resolution framework.
- Several banks have faced penalties imposed by the RBI for violating various norms related to KYC (Know Your Customer), customer grievance redressal, fraud reporting, etc.
- Supervisory action has also been initiated by the RBI against some large private sector banks for governance lapses.

**What is a Non-Performing Asset?**

- A loan becomes an NPA when the principal or interest payment remains overdue for 90 days.

*Types of NPA*

- **Sub Standard:** A sub-standard asset is one that is classified as an NPA for a period not exceeding twelve months.
- **Doubtful:** A doubtful asset is one that has remained as an NPA for a period exceeding twelve months.
- **Loss:** A loss asset is one where loss has already been identified by the bank or an external institution, but it is not yet completely written off, due to its recovery value, however little it may be.

## India's Toy Industry

### Why in News?

- India has recently turned a net exporter of toys, during 2020-21 and 2021-22, ending decades of import dominance. Over the past 3 years, **toy imports came down by 70% and exports went up 61%.**

Syllabus of Mains GS 3- Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.

### Introduction

- Achievement is widely credited to the 'Make in India' initiative launched in 2014, and related policies, official press releases claim.
- While it is true that India's dependency on Chinese toys reduced and the former's exports improved in the recent months, the scale of exports is still miniscule and close to 200 times smaller than that of China's.



### Toy Sector in India

- **Historical Linkages:** India has a rich history of toys. The invention of toys in India **took place during the Indus Valley Civilization, approximately 8,000 years ago.**
- The original toys comprised whistle-shaped parrots, toy monkeys with long hands to slide down a rope or stick, and miniature farm carts.
- All these toys were made from natural materials such as bamboo sticks, hay, natural clay-like soil, rocks, and fiber cloth.
- **Current Scenario:** Today, the advent of progressive technology and mechanism has stimulated companies to produce fresh and inventive toys.

### Factors driving growth of India's Toy Industry

- **Huge consumer base:** India's population stands at around 1.4 billion, with approximately 26.62% of the population falling into the 0-14 age category.
- **Rising disposable income:** India has experienced strong GDP growth rates for the last several years, and the middle-class population has experienced strong growth.

- **Rise in online purchases:** Online sales channels have witnessed a boom in India with the evolution of smartphones and other digital media.
- **Shifting preferences:** According to the Toy Association report in 2018, parents believe in STEM-focussed toys as their primary way to encourage science and math development in young children.
- **Disincentivising imported toys:** The Indian government has increased the basic customs duty on toys from 20% to 60%, reduced availability of imported toys and enhanced demand for the domestic toy industry.
- **Government Support:** The government of India has launched various initiatives to promote the domestic toy industry, such as vocal for local toys campaign, Toycathon, Aatmanirbhar Toys Innovation Challenge, etc. These initiatives aim to boost innovation, quality, safety, and competitiveness of Indian toys and reduce dependence on imports.

### Importance of Toy Industries

- **Child development:** Toys are not just a source of entertainment but also play a critical role in the cognitive, emotional, and physical development of children.
- **Cultural preservation:** Toys can be an important way to preserve cultural traditions and heritage.
- **Women centric:** India's toy industry employs 3 million workers, of which 70% are women. This indicates the significant role of women in the industry.
- **Lesser skill intensive:** Employment in the toy manufacturing sector offers avenues for socio-economic empowerment, financial security, and skill development for women.
- **Promotes gender equality at workplace:** Toy manufacturing promotes equal task division and partnerships between men and women artisans, promoting gender equality in the industry.
- **Import potential:** The toy industry has the potential to reduce imports and fulfill domestic demand, contributing to India's economic growth.
- **Local branding:** The promotion of indigenous toy manufacturing can preserve local cultural forms and traditions.
- **Allied industries:** The industry can contribute to the growth of related sectors such as plastics, textiles, and packaging.
- **Environmental impact:** The industry can also provide opportunities for social and environmental impact, such as creating sustainable and eco-friendly toys that contribute to the overall sustainability agenda.



### Steps by the Government to aid growth of Toy Industry

- **Promoting Start-ups:** The Government has called upon start-up entrepreneurs to explore the toy sector. The Government has also urged industry players to support local toys and reduce reliance on foreign goods. Educational institutions have been asked to organise hackathons for students to innovate in toy technology and design, including online games, to reflect Indian ethos and values.
- **Increasing Import Duty:** The government tripled the import duty on toys and its components from 20% to 60% 2020. It was further increased to 70% with a view to cut inbound shipments of these products and boost domestic manufacturing activities.
- **Mandatory Quality Certification:** The Government has made toy quality certification mandatory to revive the indigenous industry. The Government began enforcing quality control for imported toys from September 1, 2020, to ensure that only products conforming to standards enter the country.
- **National Action Plan for Toys:** An initiative by the Government of India to promote the domestic toy industry and make India a global toy hub. It involves 15 ministries and various interventions such as setting up toy production clusters, launching schemes to incentivise manufacturing and exports, strengthening R&D and quality standards, integrating toys with education, and organising toy fairs and exhibitions.
- **Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI):** The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) has approved 19 toy clusters under the scheme.

### Challenges facing India's Toy Industry

#### **Highly Fragmented:**

- The toy industry is still highly fragmented, dominated by local producers. 90% of the market is unorganized and 4000 toy industry units being from the MSME sector.
- They lack innovation, and resources to invest in equipment and technology.
- They do not have the capital to scale-up production.
- Supply chains are still highly fragmented.

#### **Impact of Import Duties and Quality Certification:**

- After the duty hike, customers started to cancel orders, some held their orders back in hope that the duties will be reduced. The 200% increase in duties led to price hikes, making toys more expensive.

- Quality Certification has increased challenges for traditional craftsmen. They cannot afford to get these certifications. It is better for the Government to step in and club units or allow distributors to get the certification.

#### **Lack of Technology:**

- It also seems to act as a barrier to the Indian toy industry. Most of the domestic toy manufacturers use outdated technology and machinery, which affects the quality and design of the toys.

#### **High Tax Rates:**

- High GST rates on toys are another challenge for the toy industry in India. At present, the GST rates on electronic toys are 18%, while non electronic toys attract 12% GST.

#### **Lack of Infrastructure:**

- Poor infrastructure and absence of end-to-end manufacturing facilities hinders the sector's growth. There is a lack of adequate testing labs, toy parks, clusters, and logistics support for the toy industry in India.

#### **Cheap Alternatives:**

- Competition from cheap and low-quality imports from countries like China is another challenge for the Indian toy industry. China accounts for 80% of the toy imports in India, which affects the domestic toy manufacturers adversely.

#### **Labour Laws:**

- Toy making is labour intensive.
- Indian laws do not permit recruitment or retrenchment based on demand if the organisation grows beyond a certain size in terms of employee strength.
- Hence, most units in the toy sector are very small and no major corporates have forayed into the industry despite the low capital investment needs.

#### **Foreign Dependence for Sourcing Raw Materials:**

- Indian manufacturers specialise in board games, soft and plastic toys and puzzles etc. Companies must import materials from South Korea and Japan to manufacture these toys.

#### **Fall in Free Trade amidst Geopolitical Uncertainties:**

- Many economies are imposing restrictions on free trade to boost their local economies.

### Conclusion and Way Forward

- To sum up, India's export surplus in toys during 2020-21 and 2021-22, is a welcome change.
- But Neither the reservation policy during the Planning era nor its abolition after the liberal reforms boosted the industry's performance.
- One should perhaps look beyond simplistic binaries — planning versus reforms — and examine the ground reality of industrial locations and clusters to tailor policies and institutions to nurture such industries.
- We need to support and promote the heritage of our traditional toys.

### Practice question for Mains

- The Indian toy industry and its craftspeople face survival challenges in today's market. Discuss(150 W-10 M)

## Minimum Support Price (MSP)

### Why In News?

- Indian government has approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for kharif crops for the 2023-24 season, aiming to provide fair remuneration to farmers.
- However, concerns have been raised by farmers' organisations regarding the increase not keeping up with rising input costs.

Syllabus of Mains-GS3 - Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices.

### What is MSP?

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is the **price at which the government purchases crops for the farmers, to insure farmers against any sharp fall in farm prices.**
- It is announced by the Government on the basis of the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), at the beginning of the sowing season.

### When did MSP Started?

- The idea of MSP was first proposed in 1966 and it was inspired by the Green Revolution.
- The government is in charge of maintaining the Minimum Support Price to keep a lid on important agricultural commodities each year, equally affecting both the Kharif and the Rabi crops.

- **MSP is a type of insurance that the government offers to farmers in the event that a price fluctuation could directly impact them and subsequent production.** In this manner, the market prices are constrained from falling below the fixed price, giving farmers the best possible situation.

**Crops covered:**

- 7 types of cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, bajra, jowar, ragi and barley)
- 5 types of pulses (chana, arhar/tur, urad, moong and masoor)
- 7 oilseeds (rapeseed-mustard, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, safflower, nigerseed)
- 4 commercial crops (cotton, sugarcane, copra, raw jute)

**What are the factors on which CACP recommending MSPs?**

- The demand and supply of a commodity
- Its cost of production
- The market price trends (both domestic and international)
- Inter-crop price parity
- The terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture (that is, the ratio of prices of farm inputs and farm outputs)
- A **minimum of 50 per cent as the margin** over the cost of production.
- The likely implications of an MSP on consumers of that product.

**What is the Importance of Minimum Support Price:**

- **Fixed Remunerations:** The farmers are financially secured against the vagaries of price instability in the market. It provides security to farmers from the risk of crop failure and less production.
- **Informed decision making:** MSP are announced **at the beginning of the sowing season**, this helps farmers make informed decisions on the crops they must plant. This advance information helps the farmer to make an informed decision about which crop to sow for maximum economic benefit within the limitations of his farm size, climate and irrigation facilities.
- **Diversification of crops:** The MSP announced by the Government of India for the first time in 1966-67 for wheat has been extended to around 24 crops at the present. This has encouraged the farmers to grow these diverse crops to maximise their income.
- **Benchmark for private buyers:** MSP sends a price-signal to market that if merchants don't offer higher than MSP prices the farmer may not sell them his produce. Thus it acts as an anchor or benchmark for the agro-



commodity It ensures the market prices will not be drastically lower than MSP.

- **Targeted crops:** MSP is used as a tool to incentivize production of specific food crops which is short in supply. MSP motivates farmers to grow targeted crops and increased production.
- **Enhance purchasing power:** Slow farm growth and increasing farmer's distress demand for more MSP for farmers. It helps in enhancing the purchasing capacity of farmers.

### Various Committees on Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- **The Agricultural Prices Commission (APC)** was founded in 1965 with the purpose of recommending MSPs for agricultural commodities. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) was later given its new name. For 23 different crops, including wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds, and cotton, the CACP suggests MSPs.
- **National Commission on Farmers (NCF):** The NCF was established in 2004 under the leadership of M.S Swaminatha, to address the problems of farmers and recommend policies for their welfare. The NCF recommended a minimum of 50% profit over the cost of production as MSP.
- **Shanta Kumar Committee:** The Shanta Kumar Committee was set up in 2014 to review the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and suggest reforms. The committee recommended a shift from price-based to income-based support for farmers.

### What are the Various issues associated with Minimum Support Price:

- **Non-proportional increase:** The support prices that are being provided do not increase at par with increase in cost of production. A rating agency, CRISIL pointed out that the increase in MSP has indeed fallen during 2014-17.
- **Reach:** The benefits of this scheme do not reach all farmers and for all crops. Not all farmers have been able to get the benefits of MSP because of lack of awareness. There are many regions of the country like the north-eastern region where the implementation is too weak.
- **Excess storage:** MSP without sufficient storage has resulted in huge piling of stocks in the warehouses. The stock has now become double the requirements under the schemes of PDS, Buffer stock etc.
- **Market distortion:** It distorts the free market by favouring some particular crops over other crops.

- **Fiscal burden:** Open-ended procurement of paddy and wheat at MSPs is completely out of sync with market prices and lead to fiscal burden.
- **Impact agricultural exports:** Hikes in MSP also adversely affect the exports by making Indian farm goods un-competitive especially when international market prices are lower.
- **Ecological problem:** MSP leads to non-scientific agricultural practices whereby the soil, water are stressed to an extent of degrading ground water table and salinization of soil.
- **Crop diversity:** MSP affects the crop diversity of india. With MSP cropping patterns get affected as it leads to production of MSP supported crops as it guarantee returns.

#### **Way forward:**

- **Alternate income models:** Instead of relying on MSP alone, the government needs to explore alternate models to boost farmer's income like horticulture.
- **Market Intervention Scheme:** A counterpart of the MSP is the Market Intervention Scheme under which the state government procures perishable commodities like vegetable items.
- **Price Deficiency Payment:** To solve the problem of MSP, Both NITI Ayog and Economic Survey recommend Price Deficiency Payment (PDP) in which the government pays the farmers the difference between modal rate (the average prices in major mandis) and the MSPs. Some states like Madhya Pradesh (Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana), Haryana government (Bhavantar Bharapai Yojana) have launched price deficit financing schemes.
- **Income support:** By moving from price to income support, all market-distorting input and output subsidies can be collapsed into the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi or PM-KISAN scheme.
- **Stock diversification:** The government should stock sufficient quantities of all essential food items— not only rice and wheat, that enable effective market intervention, with the interest of poor consumers better taken care of through targeted cash transfers.

#### **What are the challenges with the legalisation of MSP?**

- **Statutory MSP is unsustainable:** A policy paper by NITI Aayog's agricultural economist Ramesh Chand argued against legalising MSP.

- It reasoned that any fixed pre-determined price will push away private traders whenever production is more than demand, and there is a price slump in the market. This, in turn, will lead to government de-facto becoming the primary buyer of most farm produce for which MSP is declared, which is unsustainable.
  - **For instance:** In August 2018, the **Maharashtra government decided to amend the state APMC Act**, making it illegal for a private trader to purchase any agricultural produce below the government-fixed MSP. The decision led to strong objection from traders who withdrew from the market as open market rates were lower than the government fixed price. Govt finally withdrew the proposal.
  - In the sugar sector, private mills have failed to make full payments to farmers, resulting in an accumulation of thousands of crores worth of dues pending for years.
- Huge scope for corruption and recycling/leakage of wheat and rice, from godowns, ration shops or in transit.
- **Disposal problems:** While cereals and pulses can be sold through the public distribution system, disposal becomes complicated in the case of niger seed, sesamum or safflower.
- **Inflation:** Higher procurement cost would mean increase in prices of foodgrains, leading to inflation, which would eventually affect the poor.
- It will also impact India's farm exports, if the MSP is higher than the prevailing rates in the international market. Farm exports account for 11% of the total exports of commodities.
- India's price support measures have been continuously opposed by the developed countries at the WTO. India had invoked the **Bali Peace Clause in 2020 because India had exceeded the ceiling on support it can offer farmers for rice in the year 2018-19.** With a legally guaranteed higher MSP, India will face stiffer opposition at the WTO. The US had successfully won a case against China at the WTO in 2019 which was concerned with China's domestic support to agriculture in the form of Market Price Support (MPS).
- It would lead to a huge burden on the exchequer, since the government would have to procure all marketable surplus in the absence of private participation.
- **Demands from other sectors:** If the Centre makes a law to guarantee 100% procurement in all the 23 crops where MSP is announced, farmers cultivating fruits and vegetables, spices, and other crops will also demand the same.



### What is the way forward?

- **If MSP is to be implemented:**
  - **Taxing the rich farmers:** As per Rajalakshmi Nirmal (HinduBusinessline), Small and marginal farmers whose only source of income is agriculture can be exempt from taxes, but the blanket exemption on agriculture income should be stopped. This means, the exemption would continue for roughly 86 per cent of the peasants of the country. The 14 per cent rich farmers should come forward to help the rest get MSP support.
- **Alternative measures:**
  - **Price support measures:** Govt can look at some alternative means of price support to farmers, like Madhya Pradesh's Bhawantar Bhugtan Yojana (BBY).
  - For **alternatives suggested by the experts instead of MSP and for measures to protect farmers from price fluctuations**
  - Instead of bypassing the market by using MSPs, the government should make efforts to **enable farmer participation in the market.**
  - There is a growing consensus among economists for guaranteeing minimum "incomes", as against "prices", to farmers. That would require more direct cash transfers either on a flat per-acre (as in the Telangana government's Rythu Bandhu scheme) or per-farm household (the Centre's PM-Kisan) basis.

### Conclusion-

- The Minimum Support Price is an important policy of the Government to determine the floor price of major agricultural produce every year for protecting the farmers from fluctuating market conditions.
- Hence, the policy of Minimum Support Price should continue as it insulates the farmers from unfavorable market conditions by assuring them a minimum return for their produce.
- It is **important to note that while MSP has provided significant benefits, it is not a comprehensive solution to all the challenges faced by farmers.**
- Addressing **issues related to access to credit, technology, infrastructure, and market linkages, along with ensuring sustainable agricultural practices, are equally important for the long-term well-being of farmers** and the agricultural sector as a whole.
- It requires a multi-faceted approach that includes improving infrastructure, expanding the MSP coverage, and promoting market reforms among others.



## Question for Practice-

Q) Role of Minimum Support Price (MSP) in addressing the issue of farmers' income and agricultural distress in India has been immense. Discuss.(250W)

## World Food Safety Day

### In News

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** organised a session on June 7th, 2023, to celebrate **World Food Safety Day**.
- The **5<sup>th</sup> State Food Safety Index (SFSI)** was also unveiled at the event.

**Syllabus of Mains-GS3** - Revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security;

### World Food Safety Day

- **World Food Safety Day** is a global campaign that aims to draw attention and inspire action to help **prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks**.
  - It is celebrated on 7 June every year since 2019, following a resolution by the **United Nations General Assembly**.
- The campaign is led by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**, in collaboration with Member States and other relevant organisations.
- **Theme for 2023: Food standards save lives**

### Why is Food Safety Important?

- Food safety is a shared **responsibility between governments, producers and consumers**.
- According to **WHO**, an **estimated 600 million people – almost 1 in 10 people in the world** – fall ill after eating contaminated food and 420 000 die every year.
  - **Children under 5 years of age carry 40% of the foodborne disease burden**, with 1,25,000 deaths every year.
  - Foodborne diseases can also have long-term consequences, such as **malnutrition, stunting, cancer and chronic diseases**.

- Food safety is also essential for achieving several of the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**, such as ending hunger, improving health, reducing poverty and protecting the environment.

### What is the Significance of Food Safety?

- The UN believes that access to sufficient amounts of safe food is the key to sustaining life and **promoting good health**.
- Food safety is one of the determinants of a sound and cohesive healthcare system in a country. As **food chains become longer, complex and globalized**, contamination of food leading to foodborne diseases is a growing concern, costing us almost 15 billion USD annually.
  - By 2030, foodborne diseases are expected to rise to 150 to 177 million annually.”
  - The burden of foodborne diseases was affecting children under the age of 5 and persons living in **low-income counties**.
    - An estimated 420 000 people around the **world die every year** after eating **contaminated food and children under 5 years of age carry 40%** of the foodborne disease burden, with **125 000 deaths every year**.
- **Foodborne illnesses, caused by bacteria, viruses or parasites, are infectious and toxic.**
  - They can enter the body through contaminated food and water. It is, therefore, important to ensure the food stays safe at every step of the food chain, from production to consumption.
- Food safety must be integrated along the entire food chain, from farm to table, with the three sectors — **government, industry and consumers — with all the three sharing equal responsibility**.
- It is also necessary that food safety forms an essential component of health-based nutrition policies and nutrition education.

### What are the Major Challenges Related to Food Safety in India?

- **Lack of Infrastructure and Resources:** Insufficient infrastructure and resources pose significant challenges in ensuring food safety across the country.
  - **Limited laboratory facilities and testing capabilities** result in inadequate monitoring and detection of contaminants. Inadequate storage and transportation facilities can lead to improper handling of food, increasing the risk of contamination.

- **Contamination and Adulteration:**
  - Contamination of food with **pathogens, chemicals, and toxins** remains a major concern in India. **Adulteration of food products with substandard ingredients** or harmful substances is prevalent, compromising food safety and public health.
    - **Unregulated use of pesticides and chemical additives** in agriculture and food production contribute to the contamination of food.
- **Poor Hygiene and Sanitation Practices:**
  - Lack of proper handwashing, sanitation facilities, and clean water sources in food handling and processing establishments increase the **risk of microbial contamination**.
    - Unhygienic conditions in food markets, street food vendors, and restaurants contribute to the spread of foodborne illnesses.
- **Weak Regulatory Framework and Enforcement:** Inconsistencies in standards and regulations across different states and regions create challenges in maintaining uniform food safety practices.
  - **Limited resources and manpower for inspection** and enforcement result in inadequate monitoring and control of food safety standards.
- **Rapid Urbanization and Changing Food Habits:** Rapid **urbanisation** and changing food habits present challenges in ensuring food safety.
  - Increased demand for **processed and ready-to-eat foods**, as well as street foods, requires robust monitoring and regulation to address safety concerns.

## Initiative For Food Safety

### Globally

- **The Codex Alimentarius, or "Food Code":**
  - It is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
  - The Commission is a **joint intergovernmental body of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** and WHO with 188 Member Countries and one Member Organization (The European Union). Codex has worked since **1963 to create harmonized international**

**food standards to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair trade practices.**

**Indian Initiatives**

- **“Save Food, Share Food, Share Joy”** -It was launched by the FSSAI in December 2017.
  - It aims to **promote food sharing among consumers** and food businesses in India, while also targeting the coalition of food collection partners in the country to fight the issue of hunger and preventing food loss and food waste.
- **Eat Right India Movement:**
  - It was launched by FSSAI in July 2018.
  - Tagline: ‘Sahi Bhojan. Behtar Jeevan’.
  - It aims to **improve public health in India** and combat negative nutritional trends to fight lifestyle diseases.
  - It adopts a **judicious mix of regulatory, capacity building**, collaborative and empowerment approach to ensure that the food is good both for the people and the planet.
- **State Food Safety Index**
  - FSSAI has developed the **State Food Safety Index** to measure the performance of states on various parameters of Food Safety.
  - This **index is based on the performance of State/ UT** on five significant parameters, namely, Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing – Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training & Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment.
  - The Index is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model that provides an objective framework for evaluating food safety across all States/UTs.
- **Eat Right Mela**
  - The Eat Right Mela would be conducted annually by FSSAI headquarters in New Delhi.
- This is an infotainment model of a **street food festival to engage, excite and enable citizens to make the right food choices.**



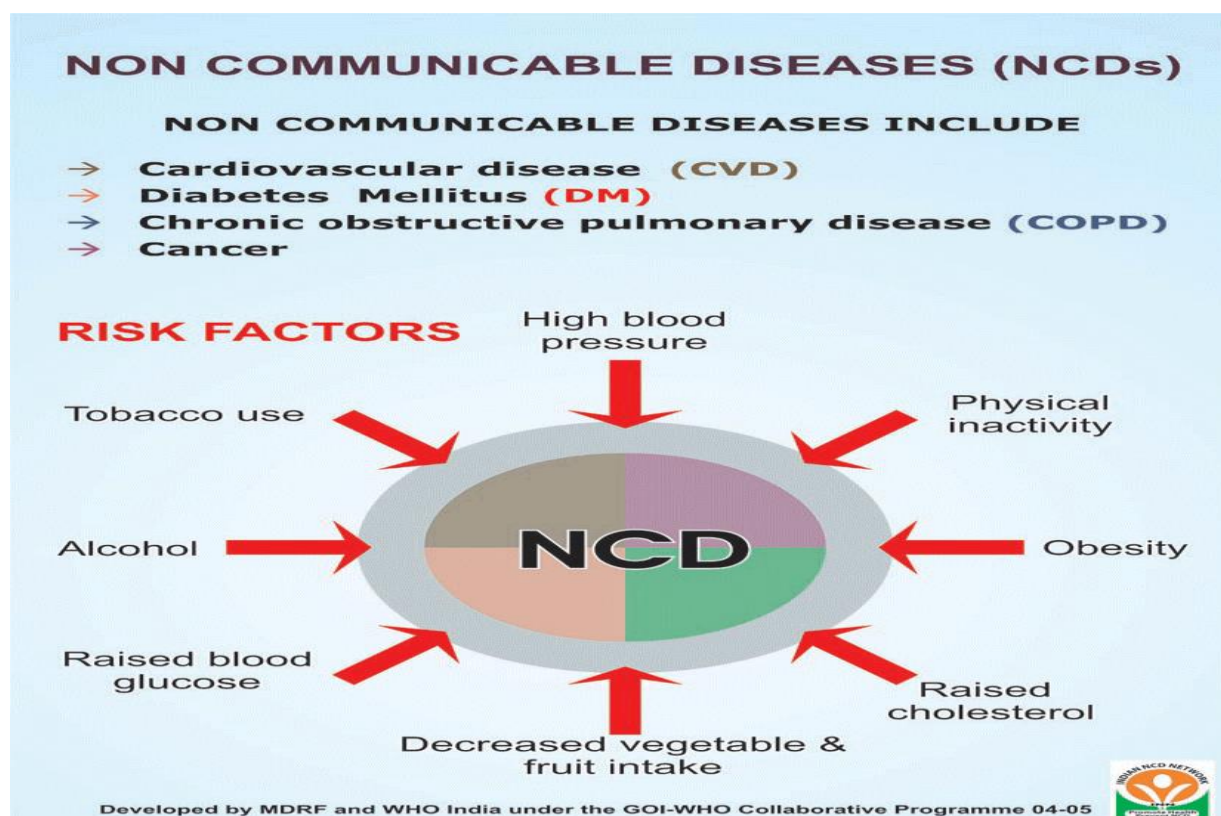
## Way Forward

- **Strengthening Food Testing Laboratories:** There is a need to Establish well-equipped and accredited **food testing laboratories across the country**, especially in rural areas.
  - These labs should be capable of conducting rapid and accurate tests for various contaminants, including pesticides, heavy metals, and pathogens, ensuring timely identification of unsafe food.
- **Empowering Local Communities:** There is a need to encourage community participation and awareness by organising workshops, seminars, and interactive sessions on food safety.
  - There is also a need to **empower local communities to take ownership of food safety issues and implement solutions at the grassroots level.**
- **Ensuring Transparency in Food Stock Holdings:** Using IT to improve communication channels with farmers can help them to get a better deal for their produce while **improving storage houses with the latest technology is equally important to deal with natural disasters and hoarding.**
  - Further, **foodgrain banks can be deployed at block/village level, from which people may get subsidised food grains against food coupons (that can be provided to Aadhar linked beneficiaries).**

## Alarming Rise of Non-Communicable Diseases in India

### Why in News?

- A recent study conducted by the **Madras Diabetes Research Foundation** in collaboration with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has shed light on the growing burden of **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** in India.
- The study marks the first comprehensive epidemiological research paper to include **participants from 31 states and Union Territories.** By including data from a wide range of regions, the study provides valuable insights into the prevalence and impact of NCDs, such as **diabetes**, in the country.



## What Were the Key Findings of the Study?

- **Findings:**
  - **Goa, Puducherry, and Kerala** have the **highest** prevalence of diabetes, with rates approaching 25-26.4%.
  - **Diabetes:** India now has 101 million individuals with diabetes.
  - **Prediabetes:** The study identified 136 million people with **prediabetes**.
  - **High blood pressure:** 315 million individuals were found to have **hypertension**.
  - **Obesity:** 254 million people were classified as generally obese, while 351 million had abdominal obesity.
    - The prevalence of generalised obesity stands at 28.6% across the population, while abdominal obesity affects 39.5% of Indians. Female abdominal obesity is particularly high, at 50%.
  - **Hypercholesterolemia:** 213 million individuals had **fat accumulation in arteries, increasing the risk of heart attacks and strokes**.
    - The study reveals that 24% of Indians suffer from hypercholesterolemia.
  - **High LDL Cholesterol:** 185 million individuals had elevated levels of **low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol**.

- LDL is the “**bad cholesterol**” because **too much of it in blood** can contribute to **plaque buildup in the arteries**.
- Cholesterol travels through the blood **on proteins called “lipoproteins**.
- **Significance of the Study:**
  - The study encompasses a large sample size of 1,13,043 individuals from diverse regions.
  - It reveals that diabetes and other metabolic NCDs are **more prevalent in India than previously estimated**.
  - While **urban areas currently have higher rates of metabolic NCDs, except for prediabetes**, rural regions are expected to experience a surge in diabetes cases in the next five years if left unregulated.
  - Interstate and inter-regional variations highlight the **need for state-specific policies and interventions**.

#### Urban vs rural

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)	National prevalence	Estimated number of people in India, in millions (Burden)	State with highest prevalence	State with lowest prevalence
Diabetes	11.4%	101.3	Goa (26.4%)	Uttar Pradesh (4.8%)
Pre-diabetes	15.3%	136.0	Sikkim (31.3%)	Mizoram (6.8%)
Hypertension	35.5%	315.5	Punjab (51.8%)	Meghalaya (24.3%)
Generalized Obesity	28.6%	254.2	Puducherry (53.3%)	Jharkhand (11.6%)
Abdominal Obesity	39.5%	351.1	Puducherry (61.2%)	Jharkhand (18.4%)
Hypercholesterolemia	24.0%	213.3	Kerala (50.3%)	Jharkhand (4.6%)
High LDL cholesterol	20.9%	185.7	Kerala (52.1%)	Jharkhand (3.2%)

**Urban vs rural difference:** Urban regions had higher rates of all metabolic NCDs than rural areas, with the exception of pre-diabetes.

**New National estimates for diabetes and other NCD's:** Our study estimates that in 2021, in India there are 101 million people with diabetes and 136 million people with prediabetes, 315 million people had high blood pressure, 254 million had generalized obesity, and 351 million had abdominal obesity. Additionally, 213 million people had hypercholesterolaemia and 185 million had high LDL cholesterol.

#### Impact of Study on India:

- The study serves as an **early warning for the population's increased vulnerability to NCDs** and life-altering medical conditions, including strokes.



- India faces the dual challenge of **malnutrition and obesity**, with exposure to **fast food, sedentary lifestyles, lack of sleep, exercise, and stress** contributing to NCD prevalence.

### Impact on Quality of Life and Life Expectancy:

- NCDs, such as diabetes, **cardiovascular** diseases, cancers, and chronic respiratory diseases, contribute to the **overall disease burden in the country**.
- NCDs often result in **disabilities, reducing individuals' functional abilities** and impairing their daily activities.
- The management of NCDs requires long-term medical care, medications, and **lifestyle modifications**, which can be challenging for individuals and their families.
- NCDs can lead to **increased healthcare expenses**, impacting the **financial well-being of individuals and households**.
- The burden of NCDs can hinder **individuals' productivity and socioeconomic development, affecting their employment opportunities and economic growth**.
- NCDs can significantly **reduce life expectancy if not properly managed** and controlled.

### What are Initiatives Related to NCDs?

#### Indian:

- **National Programme for Prevention & Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD)**, previously known as **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS)** is being implemented under the **National Health Mission (NHM)**.
- The Central Government is implementing the Strengthening of Tertiary Care Cancer facilities scheme to support the setting up of **State Cancer Institutes (SCI)** and **Tertiary Care Centres (TCCC)** in different parts of the country.
- Oncology in its various aspects has a focus in case of new AIIMS and many upgraded institutions under **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**.
- **Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT)** Deendayal outlets have been opened at 159 Institutions/Hospitals with an objective to **make available Cancer and Cardiovascular Diseases drugs and implants at discounted prices to the patients**.



- **Jan Aushadhi stores** are set up by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide generic medicines at affordable prices.

#### Global:

- **Agenda for Sustainable Development:** As part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, **heads of state and government committed to develop ambitious national responses, by 2030**, to reduce by one third premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment (SDG target 3.4).
  - **WHO** plays a key leadership role in the coordination and promotion of the global fight against NCDs.
- **Global Action Plan:** In 2019, the **World Health Assembly** extended the WHO Global action plan for the **prevention and control of NCDs 2013–2020 to 2030** and called for the **development of an Implementation Roadmap 2023 to 2030 to accelerate progress on preventing and controlling NCDs**.
  - It supports actions to achieve a set of nine global targets with the greatest impact towards prevention and management of NCDs.

#### Way Forward

- Wellness and a healthy lifestyle are essential in combating this growing pandemic.
- Emphasizing healthy diets and regular exercise is crucial.
- The Indian Health Ministry has identified cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes as major NCDs, addressing them through programs focusing on health infrastructure, human resource development, health promotion, awareness generation, prevention, early diagnosis, and appropriate healthcare referrals.
- State-specific policies allow tailored interventions to address the specific challenges and risk factors of each region, maximizing the effectiveness of efforts to combat NCDs.
  - By allocating resources according to the specific needs of each state, state-specific strategies optimize resource utilization, enhance healthcare infrastructure, and ensure maximum impact in the fight against NCDs.

## Forced Displacement in 2022

### In News:

- The number of people who were uprooted from their hometowns due to social and climate crises in 2022 was 21 percent higher than in 2021 — the largest increase ever, according to a new report.

### About

- According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) statistics on forced displacement, the number of people who were forced to flee their homes due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, and events seriously disturbing public order reached a record.

### Key Findings of the Report

#### **1. Unprecedented Increase in Forced Displacement:**

- In 2022, the number of forcibly displaced individuals experienced the sharpest rise. As per the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 19.1 million more people were pushed out of their homes last year over 2021.
- The surge in forced displacements surpassed previous years, indicating a concerning trend. As per the report more than 108.4 million people were forcibly displaced by the end of 2022, 30 per cent of them are children.

#### **2. Factors Driving Forced Displacement:**

- **Violence:** Widespread conflicts and escalating violence played a major role in driving people from their homes. Example Russia Ukraine war
- **Climate Crises:** The adverse effects of climate change emerged as a significant driver, leading to large-scale displacements. Climate disasters caused 32.6 million internal displacements throughout 2022 and 8.7 million of the people did not manage to return home by the end of the year.

#### **3. Impact of Climate Crises on Displacement:**

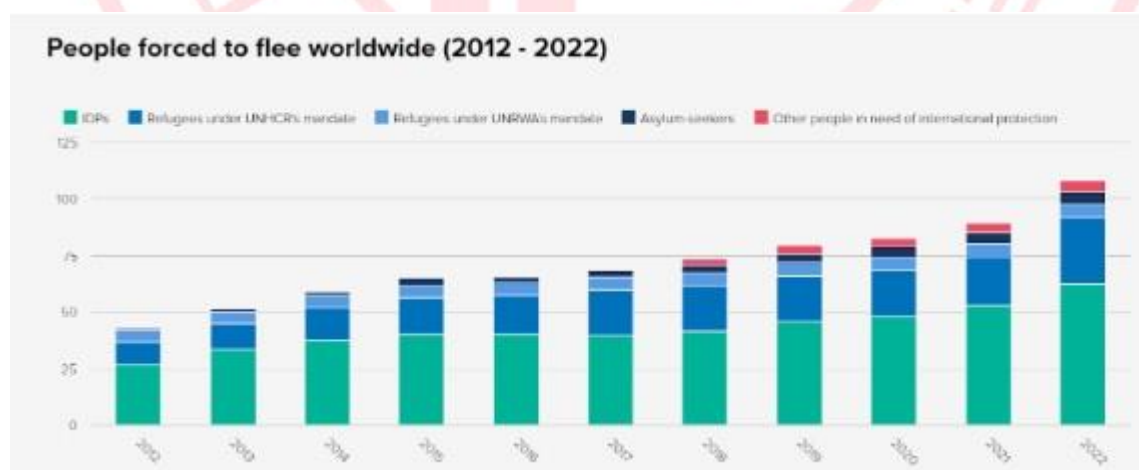
- **Rising Sea Levels:** Coastal regions faced substantial threats from rising sea levels, resulting in the displacement of vulnerable communities.
- **Extreme Weather Events:** Frequent and severe storms, floods, and wildfires displaced populations residing in affected areas.
- **Deteriorating Habitats:** Degradation of ecosystems and loss of livelihoods forced people to flee their homes.

#### 4. Regional Displacement Hotspots:

- **Geographical Variation:** Forced displacement was not uniformly distributed globally, with specific regions experiencing higher rates.
- **Developing Countries:** Many developing nations, particularly in Africa and Asia, witnessed significant displacement due to violence and climate crises. 90 percent of the displaced population come from low- and middle-income countries.

#### 5. Humanitarian Challenges and Implications:

- **Strain on Resources:** The surge in displaced populations strained available resources and humanitarian aid efforts. Low-income countries, which have **limited resources to adapt to the situation and account** for only 0.5 percent of the global gross domestic product, hosted 16 percent of the refugees. Examples are Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Uganda.
- **Health and Well-being:** Displaced individuals faced numerous challenges related to healthcare, sanitation, and access to basic necessities.
- **Social and Economic Disruption:** Forced displacement disrupted communities, livelihoods, and economic stability, exacerbating social inequalities.
- **Statelessness:** Stateless people are those who are not recognized as citizens by any government. As refugees, these people find it all the more difficult to avail the basic amenities like health, education, and employment in the countries they have sought asylum in because they lack nationality documents. 4.4 million people worldwide were stateless or of undetermined nationality — 2 percent more than at the end of 2021.



#### What are the Impacts of Forced Displacement?

- **Impacts on Refugees:**

- **Economic Hardships:** Many refugees lose their livelihoods and economic stability upon displacement. They often face barriers in accessing employment opportunities, education, and financial resources in host countries.
  - Economic hardships can result in **poverty, limited access to essential goods and services, and increased vulnerability.**
- **Education Disruption:** For refugee children and youth, access to education is often disrupted or entirely denied.
  - **Limited educational opportunities can hinder their long-term development** and prospects for a better future, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and dependency.
- **Trauma and Emotional Distress:** Refugees often experience traumatic events during their displacement, including **violence, loss of loved ones, and the destruction of their homes and communities.**
  - This can lead to **severe emotional distress, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression.**
- **Physical Health Challenges:** Displaced refugees may face numerous health challenges, including inadequate access to healthcare, malnutrition, and exposure to unsanitary conditions.
  - **Lack of proper sanitation and healthcare facilities** can lead to the spread of diseases, further compromising their well-being.
- **Social and Cultural Challenges:** Refugees often face challenges in integrating into the host society due to **language barriers, cultural differences, and discrimination.**
  - Social exclusion and marginalization can exacerbate their feelings of isolation and hinder their ability to rebuild their lives.
- **Impacts on Host Communities:**
  - **Strain on Resources and Services:** The sudden influx of refugees can place significant pressure on host communities' resources, **including housing, healthcare facilities, schools, and public services.**



- **The increased demand can overburden existing infrastructure**, leading to shortages and reduced access for both refugees and host community members.
- **Social Cohesion and Cultural Dynamics:** The arrival of refugees may create **social tensions and cultural dynamics within host communities**.
  - Differences in language, religion, and customs can generate misunderstandings and conflicts.
- **Increased Competition for Jobs:** The presence of refugees can lead to competition for employment opportunities in host communities.
  - Some host community members may **perceive refugees as taking away jobs or driving down wages, leading to tension and resentment**.

### What can be the Possible Solutions to Address Forced Displacement?

- **Humanitarian Assistance:** Providing immediate humanitarian aid such as food, shelter, healthcare, and clean water to displaced populations is crucial.
  - **International organisations, governments, and NGOs** should work together to ensure the **basic needs of displaced people are met**.
- **Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding:** Addressing the root causes of forced displacement requires efforts to resolve conflicts and promote peace.
  - **Diplomatic negotiations, mediation, and peacebuilding initiatives** can help prevent further displacement by resolving the underlying issues.
- **Protection of Human Rights:** Upholding and protecting the human rights of displaced individuals is essential.
  - Governments should enact and enforce laws that protect the **rights of displaced people, including their right to safety, dignity, and access to basic services**.

- **Empowering Local Communities:** Strengthening the capacity of host communities to accommodate and support displaced populations can help mitigate tensions and promote social cohesion.
  - This can be done through **investments in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities.**
- **Regional and International Cooperation:** Forced displacement often requires a coordinated response from multiple countries and international organisations.
  - Collaboration between governments, regional bodies, and humanitarian agencies is crucial **to share responsibilities, resources, and expertise in addressing displacement challenges.**
  - This includes framing a legislation that **recognizes the rights of displaced people, establishes procedures for their protection,** and provides avenues for durable solutions such as **voluntary return, resettlement, and local integration.**

## **Features Of the Module**

Thus, to help you in streamlining your current affairs preparation, we at PRAYAAS are introducing this CURRENT AFFAIRS module for you.

### **Features Of the Module**

- June to December 2023
- One lecture per week on Sunday
- The session will be of 3-4 hours.
- Weekly CA from newspaper - Specifically Mains Perspective

Mains focus will be on how to develop that thinking abilities and how to decipher topics for mains.

### **January to May 2024**

- One session per week- Specifically Prelims Perspective
- Special focus on linking Current with Static

## **Session will be open to all sincere aspirants.**

### **Venue For the Session**

- Latkar Office (Classroom)  
PRAYAAS Institute of Excellence, 1st Floor, Latkar Press, Pant Pratinidhi Road,  
Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak Rd, opp. New English School, Pune City, Pune,  
Maharashtra, 411001

QR Code of Lectures



**June First week**



**June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> week**



**June 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> week**

