



Yojna IAS

योजना है तो सफलता है

FEBRUARY 2024

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

YOJNA IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS
19/02/2024 TO 25/02/2024

Delhi Office

706 Ground Floor Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Near Batra Cinema Delhi – 110009
Contact No. : +91 8595390705

Noida Office

Basement C-32 Noida Sector-2
Uttar Pradesh 201301
website : www.yojnaias.com



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTENTS

S.No.	Topics	Pg No.
1.	MARINE HEAT WAVES	1 - 4
2.	THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) : VERSUS RECALIBRATING COMPETENCY	5 - 13
3.	JUTE INDUSTRY OF INDIA	13 - 16
4.	INDIA – GREECE BILATERAL RELATIONS	17 - 22
5.	CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES COP 14	22 - 25
6.	JUDICIAL CLARITY ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH	26 - 31
7.	ARTICLE 142	32 - 34
8.	REPORT ON PLASTIC WASTE POLLUTION	34 - 36
9.	REPORT ON LEGAL EDUCATION IN INDIA	37 - 39



CURRENT AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 2024

MARINE HEAT WAVES

THIS ARTICLE COVERS 'DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS' AND THE TOPIC DETAILS OF "ARCTIC MARINE HEAT WAVES". THIS TOPIC IS RELEVANT IN THE "ENVIRONMENT" SECTION OF THE UPSC CSE EXAM.

WHY IN THE NEWS?

A new study published in the journal Nature Communications, titled '**Arctic marine heatwaves forced by greenhouse gases and triggered by abrupt sea-ice melt**', demonstrates that unprecedented Marine Heat Waves (MHW) episodes have occurred throughout the Arctic Ocean since 2007.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

CHARACTERISTICS OF ARCTIC MARINE HEAT WAVES (MHWS):

Between 2007 and 2021, the Arctic experienced 11 MHW events, marked by extended periods of elevated Sea Surface Temperatures (SST). These occurrences coincided with notable declines in Arctic Sea ice. The State of the Global Climate 2022 report highlighted severe and extreme marine heat waves in the Laptev and Beaufort seas from spring to autumn in 2022.

LONG-TERM TRENDS:

A distinct long-term warming trend is evident in the Arctic, **with SST increasing at a rate of 1.2°C per decade from 1996 to 2021**. The eastern Arctic marginal seas have witnessed a rise in the frequency of extreme SST events over the past two decades.

REDUCTION IN ICE COVER:

The **perpetual sea ice cover in the Arctic, known for reflecting solar radiation, has significantly diminished since the mid-1990s**, both during summer and winter. A noticeable shift occurred since 2007 from a thicker and irregular ice cover to a thinner and more uniform one. This thinner ice is less resilient, leading to quicker melting and allowing incoming solar radiation to warm the water's

surface.

IMPACT OF GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG):

Marine heatwaves exceeding 1.5°C would not occur without GHGs. GHGs serve as a significant cause for moderate marine heatwaves, with a probability ranging from 66-99%.

DRIVERS BEHIND ARCTIC MHWS:

Arctic MHWs primarily manifest over marginal seas, including the Kara, Laptev, East Siberian, and Chukchi seas. These areas are characterised by shallow mixed-layer depths and predominantly first-year ice cover, conditions conducive to MHW development. **First-year ice refers to sea ice formed in a single winter season**, typically melting away entirely in the following summer melt season. The potential for abrupt sea ice retreat raises concerns as it could trigger marine heatwave events.

CONCERNS AND CONSEQUENCES:

The study issues a stark warning about the potential dramatic consequences of marine heatwaves, impacting food chains, fish stocks, and overall biodiversity.

STUDY TECHNIQUE:

The study uses the Extreme Event Attribution (EEA) technique to assess the effect of GHG forcing in Arctic MHWs. This method discerns the extent to which human-induced climate change influences the likelihood and severity of specific extreme weather events.

ABOUT MARINE HEAT WAVES

Marine Heat Waves, as per the **IPCC Sixth Assessment Report**, are characterised as periods when water temperature deviates significantly from historical temperatures for the given time of the year. This abnormal warmth persists for days to months. MHW occurs when the **sea surface temperature rises 3 or 4 degrees Celsius above the average temperature for a minimum of 5 consecutive days**. This phenomenon can occur in any oceanic location and can extend over scales of up to thousands of kilometres.

NATURAL AND ANTHROPOGENIC CAUSES OF MARINE HEAT WAVES (MHWS)

- **Climate Change:**
 1. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Increased levels of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, contribute to the greenhouse effect, trapping heat in the atmosphere and elevating sea surface temperatures.
 2. **Global Warming:** The overall rise in global temperatures amplifies heat waves, affecting oceanic regions and giving rise to MHWS.
- **Atmospheric Conditions:**
 1. **Persistent High-Pressure Systems:** Stagnant high-pressure systems can lead to prolonged periods of calm weather, allowing the sun to intensify its heat on the ocean surface.

2. **Weakening Winds:** Reduced wind speeds impede the ocean's ability to cool down, promoting the accumulation of heat.
- **Ocean Currents and Circulation:**
 1. **Ocean Current Anomalies:** Changes in ocean currents, driven by natural variability or climate change, can create pockets of warmer water or impede the natural cooling process.
 2. **Stalled Circulation Patterns:** Disruptions in typical ocean circulation patterns can result in the entrapment of warm water, fostering MHWs.
 - **Underwater Heatwaves:**
 1. **Underwater Geothermal Activity:** Submarine volcanic activity and geothermal vents release heat into the ocean, creating localised warm zones.
 2. **Deep Ocean Processes:** Natural processes deep within the ocean can influence temperature variations, contributing to the onset of MHWs.
 - **El Niño and La Niña Events:**
 1. **El Niño:** The periodic warming of central and eastern Pacific waters during El Niño events can have cascading effects on global weather patterns, leading to MHWs.
 2. **La Niña:** Conversely, La Niña events, characterised by cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures, can influence MHW occurrence in different ways.
 - **Feedback Loops:**
 1. **Ice-Albedo Feedback:** Melting ice reduces the Earth's albedo, allowing more sunlight to be absorbed by the ocean, further increasing temperatures.
 2. **Positive Feedback Mechanisms:** Interactions between warming ocean waters, atmospheric conditions, and other factors create self-reinforcing loops, sustaining MHWs.

IMPACT OF MARINE HEAT WAVES (MHWs):

- **Ecosystem Disruption:** MHWs disrupt marine ecosystems, causing species distribution and composition shifts. Sensitive species, including corals and kelps, face bleaching and mortality.
- **Fisheries and Aquaculture:** MHWs lead to altered fish migration patterns, affecting commercial and subsistence fisheries. Aquaculture operations face economic losses due to adverse conditions.
- **Biodiversity Loss:** Increased stress on marine life leads to biodiversity loss, impacting overall ecosystem health. Vulnerable species face heightened extinction risks.
- **Coral Reefs:** Coral bleaching occurs as elevated temperatures force symbiotic algae to leave coral tissues. Prolonged MHWs result in coral mortality and degradation of reef ecosystems.
- **Economic Ramifications:** Fisheries, tourism, and coastal economies suffer as MHWs disrupt traditional livelihoods. Losses in revenue and employment opportunities exacerbate economic

vulnerabilities.

- **Extreme Weather Events:** Intensified storms and hurricanes result from warmer ocean temperatures associated with MHWs. Increased risk of destructive weather events poses threats to coastal communities.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q1. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the 'methane hydrate' deposits? (UPSC Prelims-2019)

1. Global warming might trigger the release of methane gas from these deposits.
2. Large 'methane hydrate deposits are found in the Arctic Tundra and under the sea floor.
3. Methane in the atmosphere oxidises to carbon dioxide after a decade or two.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: (d)

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- Q1. What role do marine heat waves play in disrupting coastal tourism, and what strategies can be employed to manage and promote resilient tourism practices in affected regions sustainably?**
- Q2. In what ways do marine heat waves contribute to the increased intensity of extreme weather phenomena, and how can communities prepare for and adapt to the heightened risks associated with these events?**

THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) : VERSUS RECALIBRATING COMPETENCY

SOURCE - THE HINDU AND PIB.

GENERAL STUDIES - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, MERIT SYSTEM, IMPROVING THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, NITI AAYOG, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

WHY IN THE NEWS ?



- The concept of meritocracy, in which individuals are rewarded and promoted based on their abilities, achievements and hard work rather than on their social status or their family, ethnic, gender, racial or social background, has recently become popular among policy makers across the globe. It is extended, but there has been a very large and detailed debate. Proponents and critics of meritocracy have argued about its effects on society, highlighting its merits and shortcomings. Influenced by the criticisms and analyzes of thinkers such as British sociologists Michael Young, Michael Sandel and Adrian Wooldridge, significant changes are being seen in the development of meritocracy all over the world.
- British sociologist Michael Young in his satirical book '**The Rise of the Meritocracy (1958)**' predicted a dystopian meritocratic world.
- He envisioned a future by 2034, as a society where social class and mobility were determined entirely by intelligence and effort, as measured through standardized testing and educational achievement. This was a criticism of the then emerging trend towards a merit-based system, which he feared would lead to a new form of social stratification.
- Artificial intelligence technology is a special branch that studies giving machines the ability to function with intelligence.
- Under this branch, various techniques are studied to enable machines to learn on their own and develop the ability to solve problems.
- The main objective of artificial intelligence technology is to provide machines with the ability to take actions with the same intelligence as humans.

- Artificial intelligence technology includes many sub-branches which are adopted in different fields.
- Machine learning is a technology in which machines learn and take decisions on their own from the data fed into them.
- Deep learning provides machines with the ability to learn directly on their own rather than using a multi-system approach. In robotics technology, machines are given the ability to perform physical actions. Peripheral technology and the Internet of Things study devices embedded in the human body and the technologies to connect them to the Internet.
- By combining these techniques, artificial intelligence technology is finding application in many fields. These technologies are being used to make human life simpler and safer. For example – robots for sanitation, automated vehicles, and artificial intelligence are being used in health services.
- Thus, artificial intelligence technology is ushering in a new era in which machines are working together with humans to make human life even more convenient.

INTRODUCTION TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGY :

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a field that is bringing unprecedented changes in the areas of technological and scientific advancement. In this, machines are made to feel intelligent, so that they can perform assigned tasks independently. This, along with new technologies, is creating new challenging contexts that require new definitions and standards of competency.
- The main objective of the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence (AI) released by Niti Aayog is to ensure effective access of AI to all people and to empower them to develop technical capabilities. To be made capable.

OBJECTIVE OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY RELATED TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ANNOUNCED BY NITI AAYOG :

- This national strategy aims to address and promote the lack of skilled expertise in the field of artificial intelligence in India. NITI Aayog also believes that the disproportionate challenges in the field of artificial intelligence should be addressed to enhance and empower human capabilities.
- The main objective of this National Strategy of NITI Aayog is to effectively implement various initiatives in the field of Artificial Intelligence, develop solutions for emerging economies through their effective implementation, promote research and thereby accelerate economic development activities. have to give.
- The objective of this national strategy announced by NITI Aayog is to tackle not only national level challenges but also global level challenges through AI.
- Under this National Strategy, the objectives related to Artificial Intelligence in India include extending the technological benefits to all through mutual cooperation and partnerships in this field, so that all-round prosperity can be achieved.
- The objectives of the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence announced by NITI Aayog also include #AI for All (#AI for All) i.e. opening the doors of artificial intelligence to all people and

encouraging them to use it.

To promote artificial intelligence in India, NITI Aayog has set out three main components that will work towards the 'Greater Good'. These three components are as follows –

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR GREATER GOOD FOR SOCIAL AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT :

- Through this component, efforts are being made to rapidly promote the process of social development and inclusive growth. This includes improving the quality of life, equality of access for people, and social inclusion in prosperity.

USEFULNESS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE ECONOMIC SECTOR FOR INDIA :

- Under this component, high-growth technological and intelligence opportunities are being harnessed to promote the utility of Artificial Intelligence in the Indian economic sector.

'ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE GARAGE' FOR 40% OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE :

- Through this component, India is working to develop its artificial intelligence with an aim to share it with the people of the world and create an 'Artificial Intelligence Garage' globally.
- Through these three components, NITI Aayog has attempted to work in the most critical areas to enhance the country's artificial intelligence at the social, economic, and global levels. This will not only lead to development in India, but will also contribute to world prosperity.

This could provide an opportunity for India to use artificial intelligence in many ways in the economic sector. NITI Aayog has considered it a part of the national strategy and has accepted it as an important tool for economic development.



1. **Increase in production:** Increase in the area of production in India through artificial intelligence technology will lead to growth in the economic sector. This could provide an opportunity to innovate and produce at a faster pace, leading to entry of new products and services into the Indian market.
2. **Industrial Development:** Artificial intelligence technology can encourage innovations in the industrial sector. This will not only increase productivity, but will also promote economic growth.
3. **Improvement in the service sector:** Artificial intelligence can also improve the service sector. This will speed up delivery of services and improve quality.

4. **Accelerating economic growth:** The use of artificial intelligence can accelerate economic growth. According to NITI Aayog, this technology can increase India's growth rate.
5. **Solution to the problems of the world economy:** This use of India can provide an ideal arena for enterprises and institutions across the world to find scalable solutions to various problems. This can help in improving the world economy.
6. **Research towards factors of climate change:** With the help of artificial intelligence technology, factors of climate change can be researched, which are important in the field of agriculture. This can provide useful technical solutions for India as well as other developing countries of the world.

In the discussion of sectors selected by NITI Aayog under the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in India, NITI Aayog has chosen five sectors namely education and skills sector, agriculture sector, health sector, smart mobility and transportation, smart cities and infrastructure. The aim is to promote development in these areas through artificial intelligence technology.

- NITI Aayog has also taken many initiatives in this direction. For example – **Organization of 'Responsible Artificial Intelligence for Social Empowerment 2020' (RAISE 2020) Summit, launch of 'Responsible Artificial Intelligence Program for Youth', and launch of 'US India Artificial Intelligence Initiative' (USIAI) with the United States.** etc Apart from this, India has also made several plans at the global level by joining the 'Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence' (GPAI) group.
- Along with this, Indian institutions have also contributed in the discovery and development of various technological advancements in the field of 'Artificial Intelligence' in India. In this **Chatbot 'AskDisha' developed by a branch of Indian Railways, 'Artificial Leaf' developed by researchers at the Indian Institute of Science and Serpent robot developed by the Indian Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** Examples include. Through these initiatives, India is moving towards independence and social development and is playing an important role in the field of artificial intelligence.

The promotion of Artificial Intelligence is being guided by the National Strategy of five areas selected by NITI Aayog. These five areas are considered to have the highest potential for development, and artificial intelligence technology has an important place in it. The selection of these five areas is as follows –

1. **Education and Skills Sector:** It involves modernizing India's education system through applications of artificial intelligence technology in education and exposing students to new technologies.
2. **Agricultural sector :** artificial intelligence technology in indiaInvolves improving productivity and quality in the agricultural sector by using cutting edge technological measures.
3. **Health sector :** The medical or public health sector in India involves improving the diagnosis and treatment of diseases by using new techniques of artificial intelligence technology.
4. **Smart Mobility and Transportation:** By using artificial intelligence in the transport sector of India, the transport sector can be integrated and made smart.
5. **Smart cities and infrastructure:** Urban development in India involves improving the design of

smart cities by making maximum use of artificial intelligence technology and pursuing new and safer technologies in infrastructure.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INDIA :

- India is the second most populous country in the world. Therefore, in India, apart from having many types of problems, their quantity is also increasing and the complications related to it are also there. In such a situation, artificial intelligence technology can provide an important solution for India. Policy makers and experts believe that the development of artificial intelligence can transform India into a model region. Therefore, the Government of India should try to promote more and more research in this field.
- NITI Aayog has analyzed India's potential based on artificial intelligence technology and studied that if used properly, it can add about \$1 trillion to India's economy by 2035. According to this survey, India still has great potential for the development of artificial intelligence technology, but there are some shortcomings in its development at present.
- According to a report, if artificial intelligence technology is used properly in India, it can contribute about 3 percent to the country's economic growth by the year 2035. Therefore, NITI Aayog has stressed the need to encourage more research in this area.
- Artificial Intelligence technology can be helpful in bringing a positive change for India, and the government needs to take more steps in this direction.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS BEFORE INDIA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGY :



1. **Population and education :** Despite the large population in India, there is development in the education sector, but there is a need to integrate it in technical education in a better way. Artificial intelligence technology should be included as a major tool in education so that students have increased interest and understanding in it.
2. **Investment and Research:** The development of artificial intelligence technology requires more investment and research. The government and the private sector should be encouraged to invest together so that new technologies can be studied and developed.
3. **Social and Ethical Issues :** In India it is important to take into account ethical and social issues in the use of artificial intelligence technology. High ethical standards must be followed to support and ensure that this technological development is accompanied by social change.
4. **foreign investment :** India needs foreign investment in artificial intelligence technology.

India can also motivate foreign companies to invest in this sector so that the pace of India's technological development increases.

- 5. Solution to unemployment :** The development of artificial intelligence technology can also create new employment opportunities in India. It should work with the government and the private sector to help reduce unemployment.
- 6. Environmental effect :** Environmental impacts must be taken into account when developing artificial intelligence technology. It should lead to minimization of the impact of products and processes to make them compatible with the environment.

DISADVANTAGES OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGY IN INDIA :

- 1. Requirement of large amounts of data:** Using artificial intelligence technology requires large amounts of data, and if there is a lack of data, it can impact technical performance.
- 2. Increase in energy consumption:** Devices based on artificial intelligence technology can consume more energy, especially requiring more energy to cool them.
- 3. Environmental effect :** The increase in chemical waste and carbon footprint resulting from the use of artificial intelligence technology can be harmful to the environment.
- 4. Possibility of violation of privacy:** Big data collection arising from artificial intelligence technology may increase the risk to individual privacy. Which can also be seen as a violation of a person's privacy.
- 5. Possibility of cyber attacks and fraud:** The potential for cyber attacks and fraud through artificial intelligence technology may increase, leading to new challenges in cyber security.
- 6. Increase in economic inequality :** With the use of artificial intelligence technology, developed countries are becoming more capable, while developing and poor countries are lagging behind in it, which may increase economic inequality.
- 7. Data localization issue:** Data localization efforts can also be a challenge for artificial intelligence technology companies, causing higher costs and greater difficulty in controlling them.

Despite these disadvantages, it is important that ethics, security, and governance systems are strengthened when interpreting artificial intelligence technology so that it can be used for social and economic improvement.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ABILITY :

Artificial intelligence technology is developing rapidly and has rapidly increased the demand for unique abilities in many fields. Technologies like machine learning, neural networks, deep learning, and natural language processing are helping to increase efficiency. Through these techniques, artificial intelligence technology systems can learn on their own and even correct their errors. Additionally, artificial intelligence technologies can accept new information, thereby improving efficiency.

- Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO): DRDO has made many important efforts in the field of artificial intelligence technology for the Indian Army. This includes the super-computing systems developed by them, robotics, high security equipment, and security systems based on artificial intelligence.

- **National Strategy of NITI Aayog:** NITI Aayog has announced 'A National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence' in 2018, in which it outlines ways to use artificial intelligence to boost Indian potential.
- **Other Institutions:** Various institutions in India such as the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), and other research institutions are also studying and researching the latest technology in the field of artificial intelligence.
- **Liberalization:** NITI Aayog has also raised the issue of promoting global cooperation and liberalization in its strategy. With this, India can gain the ability to progress globally.

Through these efforts, India is moving ahead in the field of artificial intelligence technology and is also playing an important role at the global level.

WAYS TO REORGANIZE COMPETENCY IN THE ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:



1. **Following new systems in education:** In the age of artificial intelligence, it is important to pursue new systems in education. In this, Artificial Intelligence can be used to give individual attention to the students and develop their abilities.
2. **Development of human-machine companion:** To organize competence in the era of artificial intelligence, it is necessary to develop a human-machine partner. This can help the employees to utilize their abilities properly and improve their qualifications.
3. **Competency based learning :** Artificial intelligence can be used for competency based learning. This can ensure that training programs and learning processes firmly maintain competency.
4. **Focus on health and mental health :** Artificial intelligence can be used to enhance competency in the fields of health and mental health. It can help provide personalized health suggestions through neural networks, helping people stay healthy.
5. **Establishment of standards of qualification :** In the age of artificial intelligence, it is important to establish standards of competency in various fields. These standards will determine whether there is evidence of improvement in the competency of individuals and organizations and will provide a sustainable way of measuring competency.
6. **Ethical and safe use:** It is extremely important to use artificial intelligence in an ethical and safe manner. It should be ensured that it is used carefully for enhancing competency and does not give rise to any social or ethical problems.

CONCLUSION / PATH TO SOLUTION :

- Artificial Intelligence Reorganizing meritocracy in the age of 1980 is a socially, economically, and technologically important issue. By using it in the right direction and in the right way, we can move towards an advanced, powerful, excellent and prosperous society.
- The possibilities hidden in artificial intelligence technology can have more positive impacts than challenges. Therefore, all communities in the world should together strive to promote artificial intelligence technology and use it towards global well-being and human welfare.
- To move ahead in the field of artificial intelligence, a generous spirit and dedication is required, so that the challenges coming from this technology can be eliminated and human society can be helped in getting benefits from it.
- Looking at India's progress in the field of artificial intelligence, it appears that the country has taken significant steps in this field and is poised to take it forward. India should invest more in research and development, so that the real benefits of this technology can be reaped.
- India will also be able to achieve its sustainable development goals by getting real benefits from artificial intelligence technology and making maximum use of it, due to which artificial intelligence technology can play an important role in India's prosperity and progress.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR PRELIMINARY EXAM :

Q.1. Consider the following statements regarding measures to realign merit in the age of artificial intelligence.

1. In the age of artificial intelligence, it is important to pursue new systems in education.
2. To organize competence in the era of artificial intelligence, it is necessary to develop a human-machine partner.
3. Artificial intelligence can be used to enhance competency in the fields of health and mental health.
4. The use of artificial intelligence technology can also be seen as an invasion of an individual's privacy.

Which of the above statement / statements is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 3
- (B) Only 2 and 4
- (C) None of these.
- (D) All of these.

Answer - (D)

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAIN EXAM :

Q.1. What do you understand about artificial intelligence technology? In front of a developing country like India Discuss in detail the challenges arising in the development of artificial intelligence technology and its solutions.

JUTE INDUSTRY OF INDIA

THIS ARTICLE COVERS 'DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS' AND THE TOPIC DETAILS OF "JUTE INDUSTRY OF INDIA".THIS TOPIC IS RELEVANT IN THE "INDIAN ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE" SECTION OF THE UPSC CSE EXAM.

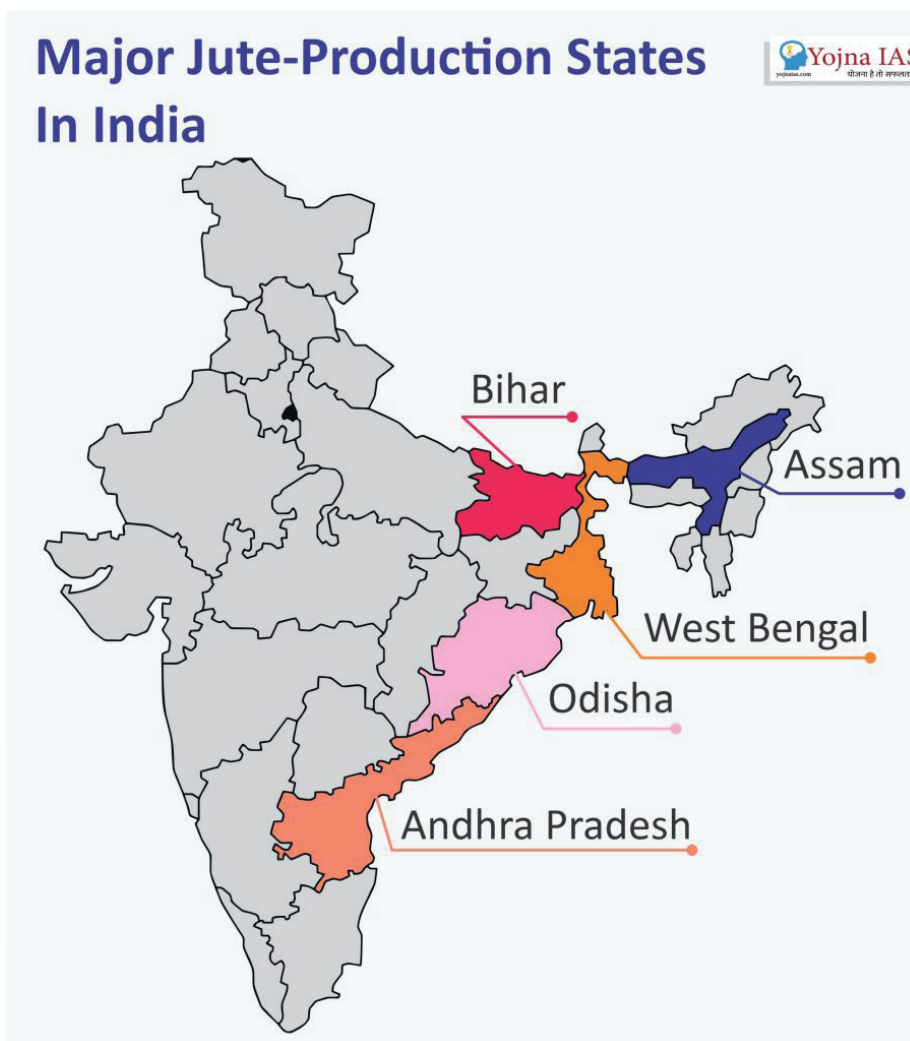
WHY IN THE NEWS?

The Fifty-Third Report on the 'Development and Promotion of Jute Industry' has been presented by the Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles, and Skill Development.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT:

- **Jute Industry Significance:**
 1. The jute industry holds a crucial position in India's national economy, particularly in West Bengal, serving as a major industry in the eastern region.
 2. Jute, referred to as the '**golden fibre**,' stands out as a natural, renewable, biodegradable, and eco-friendly material, meeting safe packaging standards.
- **Production and Export Data (2022-23):**
 1. In the fiscal year 2022-23, **jute goods production reached 1,246,500 metric tons (MT)**. Jute goods exports increased by 56% compared to 2019-20, reaching 177,270 MT, accounting for 14% of total production.
 2. Factors contributing to export growth also include heightened global demand for eco-friendly products.
 3. India imported 121.26 thousand MT of raw jute during the same period, primarily from Bangladesh for value-added product manufacturing.
 4. **Top export markets for jute goods** include the USA, France, Ghana, the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Australia, and Spain.
- **India's Global Jute Production Share:**

1. India plays a significant role in global jute production, contributing **70% of the world's output**.
2. Approximately 3.7 lakh workers are employed directly in the jute industry, with around 90% of the production meeting domestic demand.
3. **West Bengal houses about 73% of jute industries**, with 79 out of 108 composite jute mills located in the state.



SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES FACED BY THE JUTE INDUSTRY:

The Jute industry, a vital component of India's economy, grapples with multifaceted challenges hindering its growth and sustainability. These challenges pose significant hurdles to an industry deeply rooted in the economic fabric of the country.

High Procurement Costs:

Mills face the brunt of exorbitant procurement expenses, acquiring raw jute at prices surpassing their post-processing selling prices. This financial strain is compounded by a convoluted procurement process involving intermediaries or traders, escalating overall costs.

Insufficient Raw Material Supply:

Despite efforts to boost jute cultivation, the industry contends with an inadequate supply of raw materials. This scarcity exacerbates procurement issues and directly impacts the industry's production capacity, creating a bottleneck in its operational efficiency.

Obsolete Mills and Machinery:

The Jute Industry grapples with outdated mills and machinery, necessitating urgent technological upgrades. This outdated infrastructure hampers efficiency and competitiveness, hindering the industry's ability to meet evolving market demands.

Fierce Competition from Synthetics:

Jute faces relentless competition from synthetic materials offering more cost-effective packaging solutions. This intense rivalry negatively impacts the demand for jute products, compounded further by alternative fibres like Mesta, further diminishing the market share for jute.

Labour Issues and Infrastructure Hurdles:

Labor-related challenges, particularly in West Bengal, including frequent strikes, lockouts, and disputes, disrupt operations, creating instability. Additionally, infrastructural bottlenecks, such as inadequate power supply, transportation challenges, and limited access to capital, impede the industry's sustainability efforts, hindering growth and modernisation initiatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE:

- **Empowering Through Skill Enhancement:** Empower jute workers with comprehensive training programs to refine their expertise. Emphasise skill development in crucial areas like weaving, dyeing, and value-added processes.
- **Advancing Technology in the Jute Industry:** Encourage investments in cutting-edge machinery to boost productivity and enhance product quality. Foster collaborations with research institutions to drive innovation within the industry.
- **Promoting Research and Development:** Allocate resources for research endeavours aimed at advancing innovations in the jute sector. Encourage collaborative efforts between industry players and research entities to drive technological progress.
- **Elevating Quality Control and Standardization:** Strengthen quality control measures to uphold consistent excellence in jute products. Establish and enforce stringent standards for the production of high-quality jute goods.
- **Expanding Market Horizons:** Explore untapped global markets for jute products. Promote jute-based handicrafts and lifestyle commodities to broaden the industry's market reach.
- **Optimising Raw Material Procurement:** Streamline the acquisition of raw jute to minimise costs. Promote initiatives like contract farming and incentivise farmers to increase jute cultivation.
- **Creating Awareness for Jute Products:** Launch awareness campaigns highlighting the

eco-friendly attributes and sustainability of jute. Educate consumers on the benefits of choosing jute products for a greener lifestyle.

- **Advocating Pro-Jute Policies:** Formulate policies that incentivise jute cultivation and value addition. Extend financial assistance to jute mills for the adoption of cutting-edge technologies, ensuring the industry's sustainable development.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES RELATED TO JUTE INDUSTRY:

1. Export Market Development Assistance (**EMDA**) Scheme.
2. Jute Geotextiles (**JGT**) under the Technical Textiles Mission.
3. **Minimum Support Price** for Jute through the Jute Corporation of India (JCI).
4. Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act 1987.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. Jute is commonly referred to as Golden Fibre
2. The Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act 1987 makes it mandatory to use jute packaging material
3. Economic Affairs Committee presented the Fifty-Third Report on the 'Development and Promotion of Jute Industry'

How many of the above statements are *Incorrect*

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

ANSWER: A

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

- Q1. Explore the impact of climate change on Indian farmers and its consequences for agricultural exports. Discuss the challenges of unpredictable weather patterns and suggest strategies to mitigate these challenges.

INDIA - GREECE BILATERAL RELATIONS

SOURCE - THE HINDU AND PIB.

GENERAL STUDIES - PAPER-2 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, INDIA AND GREECE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP, TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER, THE GRAND CROSS OF THE ORDER OF HONOUR, BILATERAL GROUPS AND AGREEMENTS, GROUPS AND AGREEMENTS AFFECTING INDIA AND ITS INTERESTS.

WHY IN THE NEWS ?

- India -Greece Under bilateral relations, with the aim of further deepening the strategic partnership between the two countries, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis will visit India on a two-day (21-22 February 2024) state visit on 21 February 2024.
- This is the first visit of a Greek head of state to India after a gap of 15 years.
- During his state visit to India, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis will be the chief guest and keynote speaker at the Raisina Dialogue in the national capital.
- The Prime Minister of Greece will also be accompanied by senior officials and a high-level business delegation. Before returning to Athens he will also visit Mumbai.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Greece on 25 August 2023 was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Greece in the last 40 years.
- On this occasion, the President of Greece Katerina Sakellariopoulou addressed the Prime Minister of India **"The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour"** Honored with.
- Prime Minister of India in Athens **"Tomb of the Unknown Soldier"** But tribute was also paid.
- Before this visit of the Prime Minister of India in 2021, Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar had visited Greece. Following his visit, Greek Foreign Minister Nicos Dendias visited India in March 2022.
- The 13th bilateral Foreign Office Consultations were held in June 2023, further strengthening the relationship between the two countries under the India-Greece bilateral relationship.
- Prime Minister Modi's visit to Greece further strengthened the cultural, economic, and political relations between India and Greece under the bilateral strategic partnership and opened new possibilities for cooperation in various fields between the two countries.
- This visit of the Indian Prime Minister sets an example to help foster better understanding and



fraternal energy between the Indian and Greek citizens (people).

- Bilateral talks between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis India-Greece bilateral relations underpinned shared cultural values, commitment to promote economic growth, security and defense, maritime cooperation, bilateral trade, investment, energy The aim is to deepen cooperation in areas such as migration, infrastructure, tourism, connectivity, agriculture and regional and global issues.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND GREECE :

There are several major areas of cooperation under the strategic partnership between India and Greece, some of which are as follows –

DEFENSE AND SECURITY :

- India and Greece have agreed to cooperate in maritime security, counter-terrorism, cyber security, and defense industry. Furthermore, decisions have been taken in the India-Greece dialogue at the level of National Security Advisors (NSAs).

MARITIME SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL LAW :

- Both India and Greece have agreed to abide by the provisions of maritime law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), with both the countries having ancient and long-standing maritime perspectives on seafaring.

CULTURE AND TOURISM :

- Both India and Greece have attempted to cooperate in promoting all forms of art and preserving ancient sites. This also includes cooperation within UNESCO.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT :

- India and Greece aim to double bilateral trade by 2030 and have agreed to explore new opportunities to cooperate in various sectors such as new energy, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and innovation.

MOBILITY AND MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (MMPA) :

- The leaders of both India and Greece have exchanged views on the Mobility and Migration Part-

nership Agreement (MMPA) to enhance dialogue in areas such as digital payments, shipping, pharmaceuticals, and education.

- Through this partnership, India and Greece have opened the way for partnership and cooperation in various fields, which will help in empowerment and promotion of partnership between the two countries.

Important facts :

The 'Grand Cross of the Order of Honor' is the second highest civilian honor in Greece, after the 'Grand Cross of the Order of the Redeemer'. The award was established in 1975 and features the head of the goddess Athena, with the inscription "Only the righteous/just should be honored". The award is presented to individuals who have played a significant role in the fields of politics, diplomacy, culture, science, or social service in promoting the interests and values of Greece.

BEGINNING OF HISTORICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND GREECE :



- Historical relations between Greece and India began 2500 years ago, when Alexander the Great expanded his campaigns to the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent. Diplomatic, trade, and cultural relations between India and Greece are mentioned by the Greek traveler Megasthenes in the fourth century BC. Chanakya has also described the achievement of ambassadorship between India and Greece in his Arthashastra.
- Currently, trade between India and Greece is growing, and trade between the two countries is expected to reach US\$2 billion in the year 2022-23. India also sends aluminum, organic chemicals, fish, and crustaceans (crab and shrimp) to Greece, while Greece sends mineral fuels, mineral oils, and aluminum foil to India.
- India hosted Greece's largest commercial exhibition, '**Honored Country' at the 84th Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF), 2019** Participated as. Furthermore, both the countries are cooperating with each other in various fields such as education, cultural exchange, and economic development.

CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND GREECE :



- Dimitrios Galanos, a Greek Indologist, spent 47 years in India and translated many Hindu texts into Greek.
- A “Dimitrios Galanos” Chair for Hellenic Studies was established in September 2000 at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.
- Indian Council for Cultural Relations is offering annual scholarships for Greek students to study in India. Greek Indologist Professor Nicholas Kazanas was honored with the Padma Shri award in 2021.

POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND GREECE :

- Mutual diplomatic relations between India and Greece were established in May 1950. Greece opened its embassy in Delhi in 1950 and India opened its embassy in Athens in 1978. Greece is known to support each other on issues of core national interest such as Kashmir and Cyprus. Greece also supports India’s demand for permanent membership of the expanded United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

DEFENSE RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND GREECE :

- The year 1998 saw a spurt in defense cooperation between India and Greece, which envisages cooperation in areas such as military training, joint training, defense industry cooperation etc. The Indian Air Force participated in INIOCHOS-23. The exercise was conducted at Andravida Air Base, Greece from 24 April 2023 to 04 May 2023. Indian Air Force (IAF) with four Su-30 MKI and two C-17 aircraft organized by the Hellenic Air Force **A multinational air exercise INIOCHOS-23** participated in.

One of the main facts about Greece is that it is located in Southern Europe, bordered by Albania, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Turkey. Greece is one of the oldest civilizations in the world and is considered the birthplace of Western civilization. Its capital is Athens and the language is Greek. The longest river in Greece is the Aliakmon River and the highest mountain in Greece is Mount Olympus. It is the birthplace of democracy, philosophy, theater, and the Olympic Games, with a parliamentary republican form of government and dominated by the Pindus and Taurus mountains. Its currency is Euro.

CONCLUSION/ WAY FORWARD :



- Bilateral relations between India and Greece are extremely important from historical, cultural, and philosophical perspectives. There has been a mixture of cultures between these two countries, dialogue with each other, and exchange of abstract and abstract knowledge towards each other.
- Historically, relations between India and Greece began during the time of the Maurya dynasty emperor Chandragupta Maurya and the Greek emperor Alexander. Alexander fought with the Indian kingdoms and reached India with his army. In India, Chandragupta Maurya defeated him and created a great empire in the Indian subcontinent. Thus, relations between India and Greece continued even after the time of Alexander.
- Culturally, India and Greece have maintained their unique cultural heritage. Greek literature, art, and philosophical thought influenced Western cultural development in India, while Indian literature, scriptures, and art have retained their distinct identity. It is this diversity and richness that strengthens the ties between Indian and Greek cultures.
- Philosophically, there has been a parallel trend between Indian and Greek philosophers, although there have been differences between them at the ideological level. Greek philosophers made significant contributions in the field of logic and renaissance, while Indian philosophers have maintained their preference towards spirituality and enlightenment. Thus, both these cultural traditions have been learning from each other and contributing to each other's prosperity.
- From a social and materialistic point of view, there has been trade and cultural exchange between India and Greece. European travelers and traders came to India and thus Indian textiles, jewelry, and other goods reached Europe. After this, even though Greece's constitutional relations with India diminished, there has been continuity in trade and cultural relations.
- Thus, the relations between India and Greece have been a source of rich heritage and diversity. Studying these relationships and exploring their impact in detail is important in the field of history and cultural studies, as it allows us to understand our cultural heritage and learn from each other.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR PRELIMINARY EXAM :

Q.1. Consider the following statements in the context of India-Greek bilateral relations.

1. This is the first visit of a Greek head of state to India after a gap of 25 years.
2. India honored Greek Indologist Professor Nicholas Kazanas with the Padma Shri award in 2021.
3. The Grand Cross of the Order of Honor is Greece's highest civilian honour.
4. Greece opened its embassy in Delhi in 1950 and India opened its embassy in Athens in 1978.

Which of the above statement / statements is / are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 3
(B) Only 2 and 4
(C) Only 1, 2 and 4
(D) Only 1 and 4

Answer - (D)

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAIN EXAM :

Q.1. In the context of current Geo-political relations, discuss how Greece is the gateway to Asia and India is the gateway to Europe ?

CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES COP 14

THIS ARTICLE COVERS 'DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS' AND THE TOPIC DETAILS OF "CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES COP 14". THIS TOPIC IS RELEVANT IN THE "ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY" SECTION OF THE UPSC CSE EXAM.

WHY IN THE NEWS?

Samarkand, recently Uzbekistan, has served as the venue for the conclusion of the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS 14).

SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS OF CMS COP 14

ACCEPTANCE OF LISTING PROPOSALS:

1. All involved parties have reached an agreement to embrace the listing proposals for **14 migratory species**, which include the Eurasian lynx, Peruvian pelican, Pallas's cat, guanaco, Lahille's bottlenose dolphin, harbour porpoise, Magellanic plover, bearded vulture, Blackchin guitarfish,

Bull ray, Lusitanian cownose ray, Gilded catfish, and Laulao catfish.

2. The **primary objective of these listings is to strengthen protective measures and promote conservation initiatives for these species.**

FOCUS ON THREATS:

1. Various threats to migratory species were identified, including habitat degradation, fragmentation, illegal trade, bycatch, contaminants, and human activities like fencing, oil and gas development, mining, and underwater noise.
2. Incorporating these species into the **CMS appendices is aimed at mitigating these threats and advocating for their conservation.**

COLLABORATION AND CONSERVATION ENDEAVORS:

1. The proposals underscore the significance of collaborative efforts among a range of states to address challenges faced by migratory species, engage in research activities, and implement conservation projects.
2. Range states, denoting countries or territories within the natural geographical range of a particular species, play a direct role in managing, conserving, and protecting both the species and its habitat.
3. The **emphasis has been placed on preserving existing populations, enhancing connectivity, safeguarding habitats, and restoring population levels.**

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CONSERVATION INITIATIVES:

1. The acceptance of the proposals reflects a commitment to addressing conservation challenges at both regional and global levels.
2. Measures have been recommended to protect specific populations, such as the Baltic Proper population of the harbour porpoise and the Mediterranean Sea populations of various species, while also considering broader conservation strategies.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:

1. Range states collaborated to propose amendments to the listings and the adoption of conservation measures.
2. Countries such as North Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Chile, Argentina, Peru, Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Panama, and others supported the listing proposals and called for unified efforts to safeguard migratory species and their habitats.

RECOGNITION OF ENDANGERED STATUS:

1. A number of species have been listed in the IUCN Red List as “Vulnerable,” “Endangered,” or “Critically Endangered” because of population loss and other concerns. These species include the Peruvian pelican, Lahille’s bottlenose dolphin, and Magellanic plover.
2. Listing these species in CMS appendices is intended to elevate their conservation status and provide support for habitat protection.

Conservation of Migratory Species



ABOUT CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES

Introduction to CMS:

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, commonly known as the Bonn Convention, stands as a vital environmental treaty operating under the United Nations Environment Programme. Originating in Bonn, Germany, it was signed on 23 June 1979. This international accord serves as a global platform, addressing the conservation and sustainable utilisation of migratory animals and their habitats.

Global Conservation Mandate:

CMS holds the distinctive position of being the only global and UN-based intergovernmental organisation exclusively dedicated to the conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic, and avian migratory species across their entire range. Recognising the significance of conserving migratory species, the convention underscores the need for special attention to species facing unfavourable conservation statuses.

Diverse Conservation Instruments:

Participating CMS Parties engage in various activities, ranging from legally binding treaties, termed Agreements, to less formal instruments like Memoranda of Understanding. The decision-making body of the convention is the Conference of Parties (COP).

CMS Appendices: Key Components

Appendix I:

This section of CMS catalogues endangered migratory species and imposes prohibitions on activities

impacting these species. The focus is on stringent measures to protect and preserve these vulnerable populations.

Appendix II:

Appendix II features species with an 'unfavourable conservation status,' as defined by the Convention. It encourages range states to collaboratively formulate agreements for the conservation and management of these species, emphasising a cooperative approach.

- **India's Role in CMS**
- **Long-standing Partnership:** India has been a committed party to the CMS since 1983, reflecting its dedication to international conservation efforts.
- **Specific Collaborations:** India has further strengthened its commitment by signing non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with CMS. These agreements showcase India's specific efforts to contribute to the conservation and management of these migratory species.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. With reference to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which of the following statements is/are correct? (UPSC Prelims-2015)

1. IUCN is an organ of the United Nations, and CITES is an international agreement between governments.
2. IUCN runs thousands of field projects worldwide to manage natural environments better.
3. CITES is legally binding on the States that have joined it, but this Convention does not take the place of national laws.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: (b)

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. What are the primary challenges and threats faced by migratory species, and how do these impact their conservation status?

JUDICIAL CLARITY ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH

SOURCE- THE HINDU AND PIB.

GENERAL STUDIES – INDIAN CONSTITUTION AND POLITY, FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION, JUDICIAL REVIEW, SEDITION IN INDIA, CONCEPT OF TREASON, RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNANCE SYSTEM OF THE COUNTRY.

WHY IN THE NEWS ?



- Recently, a judicial decision given by Justice Gautam Patel of Bombay High Court in the Kunal Kamra case on 31 January 2024 has sparked a debate on the importance of constitutional fundamentals regarding the right to free speech on social media.
- The decision of the Bombay High Court in this case has recognized the rights of free speech from a constitutional point of view.
- It is being said that the protection of important rights of free speech recognizes the logic of judicial review as a safeguard. He has represented the convergence of constitutional principles and the sensibilities of the nation towards the vital rights of free speech.
- This decision validates the logic of judicial review as a safeguard against the excesses of majoritarian assemblies and arbitrary power.
- This judicial decision by Justice Gautam Patel of the Bombay High Court is based on the amended Rule 3(1)(B)(v) of the IT Rules 2021, which contains a legislation widely considered arbitrary and unjust. . This makes it clear that the judicial decision has recognized the argument being made by judicial review towards protecting important rights of free speech.
- The judgment also states that freedom should not be tampered with except under the restrictions provided for in Article 19(2), (6) and there should be clear protection against State encroachment against the Constitution. The decision reiterates the primacy of the important rights of free

speech and seeks to secure it from a constitutional perspective.

- The judge, while interpreting freedom of expression, has described the need for full protection of freedom except for reasonable restrictions as per Article 19(2) and (6). In this he has also said that there should not be any effective and effective restriction by the state to snatch away this freedom of the individual.
- This decision makes it clear that the judge supports allowing the curtailment or restriction of speech on social media, as long as it does not include objectionable and immoral content. In this, freedom of speech on social media is being significantly protected from a legal and judicial perspective.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION AND JUDICIAL CLARITY IN INDIA :

CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO CRITICIZE :

- Every Indian in India has the right to criticize the government and the then unconstitutional policies of the government, and this cannot be defined as sedition. It gives citizens the opportunity to express their opinions and ideas freely. This right is the fundamental basis of democracy and it is also necessary for social change in India.

DEFINITION OF TREASON IN INDIA :

- Every Indian as a citizen has the right to criticize the government and its current policies and such criticism cannot be defined as treason. If criticism is defined as sedition, India's democracy will turn into a police state.

SEDITION :



- In India, it is necessary to clearly define the laws related to sedition and treason by the Indian

Constitution, so that it is not misused by any citizen of India and the fundamental rights granted by the Indian Constitution to the citizens of India can be protected.

- Section 124 (A) of the Indian Penal Code defines sedition as any attempt to cause widespread damage to the unity and integrity of the country. Treason includes the following activities –

1. **Anti-government activity and its support.**
2. **Attempt to degrade the Constitution of the country.**
3. **Any direct or indirect, written or oral act which creates dissatisfaction with the system of the country at the social level.**

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION :

- Freedom of Expression: Under Article 19 of the Constitution of India, the citizens of India have been provided the right to freedom of expression to express their opinion in written and oral form.
- The right to freedom of expression is not absolute in India. Reasonable restrictions also apply on this. This right can be disrupted in the event of a threat to the unity, integrity and sovereignty of India, in the event of adverse impact on foreign relations, or in the event of contempt of court.
- All citizens of India have freedom of thought, speech and propagation of their own and others' views. Press/Journalism is also a means of propagating ideas, hence freedom of the press is also included in Article 19 of the Indian Constitution.
- It should be used in the interest of unity and strategic prosperity of the country.



TO ENCOURAGE INNOVATION AND CURIOSITY IN THE COUNTRY OR SOCIETY :

- According to the Indian Constitution, innovation and curiosity should be encouraged in the Indian society, because only these lead to the development of the society.
- The basis of progress of a society is the tendency of innovation present in that society. The decline in innovation and curiosity in society reflects its inertia. Due to lack of curiosity, the development of the society stops and it lags behind other immediate societies.

RIGHT OF DISSATISFACTION :

- In any country or state with a democratic system, the right to dissent given to its citizens is important for a healthy and mature democracy, it can bring many improvements in Indian society.
- Rights that are not clearly written in the Constitution such as the Right to Freedom of Opinion, the Right to Freedom of Conscience and the Right to Dissent are included in a healthy and mature democracy. Should be given an important place. Only after such arrangements, people's participation in democracy will increase.
- The situation of not keeping up with the changing times takes a frightening form one day and this type of dissatisfaction is destructive due to which the society has to suffer extensive and long-term losses.

ENFORCEMENT OF RIGHTS :

- Even though not clearly written rights should be given a place in the Indian Constitution, such as freedom of thought, freedom of conscience and right to dissent.

CHANGES IN SOCIAL RULES ACCORDING TO TIME :

- For progress in Indian society, there is a need to change the rules set with the changing times, so that the Indian society can accept new ideas and India's governance system can become more mature and democratic.
- Every society has some established rules. Changes in these rules are necessary with time. If the society remains bound by the inertia of these rules then the development of the society stops.
- New ideas in the society are born only on the basis of disagreement with the accepted norms of the immediate society. If everyone follows the old rules and ideas, there will be a lack of innovations in the society, for example, new ideas and religious practices are developed only when disagreement with the old practices is expressed.

SOCIAL DISCONTENTS :



- In India Social unrest should be seen as a solution and people's views should be supported in

political systems.

- Social dissatisfaction spread in large areas of India is due to lack of participation of their ideas in these political systems. In a country with a mixed culture like India, all citizens like theists, atheists and spiritual have the right to express themselves. It is the ultimate duty of democracy to listen to their views, it is the responsibility of the country's governance system to remove from their views those thoughts which are irrelevant to the society.

RIGHT TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM :

- Indian society should include all classes, religions, and ideologies, so that all citizens can express their views freely and share in prosperity.
- All citizens in India have the right to religious freedom, and listening to and supporting their views will only make the Indian democratic system more mature, inclusive and equitable for all.

CONCLUSION / PATH TO SOLUTION :



- Freedom of expression is the key to a prosperous and independent outlook coupled with judicial clarity in a society. This means that people have the right to freely express their thoughts, feelings, and expressions and the judicial structure in society should be in place to support this freedom.
- The Indian Constitution contains important subsections to ensure freedom of expression. Section 19(1)(a) clearly states that **“Every citizen has the right to express his views freely”**, This is an important norm that ensures that the foundation of prosperity and justice is based on freedom of expression.
- Judicial clarity plays an important role in India, as it ensures that the right to freedom of expression remains intact without any objections or objections. Judicial clarity refers to a situation in which free expression contributes to society and can be freely expressed without fear or restriction.
- Having judicial clarity in the society helps in ensuring freedom of expression. The judicial structure should be designed in such a way that any person has the right to express his views and expressions freely, if he is not causing harm to anyone and there is no attempt to prejudice social security or the process of justice. is unlikely.

- Judicial clarity is the foundation of a safe country/state or a safe society which commits itself to freedom of expression in the right direction. It ensures that without any restrictions or objections people can share their thoughts and ideas and move towards prosperity.
- Combined with social prosperity and judicial clarity, freedom of expression is protected and people can boldly express their views, leading to an exchange of prosperity and harmony. Thus, judicial clarity on freedom of expression creates a well-educated and vibrant society with prosperity and justice.

Through these key points, strong and structured steps should be taken to reform, democratize and develop the Indian society.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR PRELIMINARY EXAM :

Q.1. Consider the following statements in the context of judicial clarity on freedom of speech in India.

1. Section 124 (A) of the Indian Penal Code defines sedition as any attempt to cause widespread damage to the unity and integrity of the country.
2. In India, the right to freedom of expression is not absolute because reasonable restrictions also apply to it.
3. Criticism of the government in India is defined as treason, because in such a situation India's democracy would turn into a police state.
4. Judicial clarity on freedom of expression creates an uneducated and lifeless society with no prosperity and justice.

Which of the above statement / statements is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1, 2 and 3
- (B) Only 2 and 4
- (C) Only 1 and 3
- (D) Only 1 and 2

Answer – (D)

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAIN EXAM :

Q.1. Highlighting the Main provisions of treason/ Sedition in India, discuss how Sedition has current relevance in independent India in the context of judicial clarity on freedom of speech in India ?

ARTICLE 142

THIS ARTICLE COVERS 'DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS' AND THE TOPIC DETAILS OF "ARTICLE 142". THIS TOPIC IS RELEVANT IN THE "POLITY" SECTION OF THE UPSC CSE EXAM.

WHY IN THE NEWS?

The Chandigarh Municipal Corporation mayoral elections held on January 30 were nullified by the Supreme Court. Rather than the BJP candidate who had been proclaimed the winner, the AAP-Congress candidate was pronounced the victor by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court used the broad authority granted to it by **Article 142** of the Constitution to reverse the outcomes.

ABOUT ARTICLE 142 OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

- It addresses the authority of the Supreme Court to exercise its jurisdiction and issue a directive for the full administration of justice in any case that is pending before it.
- It gives the Supreme Court unique and extraordinary authority and is designed to give justice to litigants who have endured injustice or illegality during the legal process.

Article 142(1): The Supreme Court, in the exercise of its jurisdiction, may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it, and any decree so passed or order so made shall be enforceable throughout the territory of India in such manner as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament and, until provision in that behalf is so made, in such manner as the President may by order prescribe.

Article 142(2): Subject to the provisions of any law made on this behalf by Parliament, the Supreme Court shall, with respect to the whole of the territory of India, have all and every power to make any order for the purpose of securing the attendance of any person, the discovery or production of any documents, or the investigation or punishment of any contempt of itself.

CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS WHERE ARTICLE 142 WAS INVOKED

Prem Chand Garg case, 1962: In its decision, the Supreme Court ruled that a court order intended for achieving full justice between the parties must not just be consistent with the fundamental rights but also with the substantive provisions of the relevant statutory laws, which are state laws.

M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India, 1996: This case is notable for the court's use of Article 142 to tackle environmental concerns. Concerned about the degradation of the Taj Mahal due to environmental pollution, the Supreme Court invoked its inherent powers to issue directives for controlling vehicular pollution and safeguarding the iconic monument. The case exemplifies the court's proactive role in environmental protection through the invocation of Article 142.

Union of India v. Union Carbide Corporation case, 1991: The SC elevated itself above parliamentary laws in 1991 when it ordered UCC to compensate the tragedy's victims with \$470 million.

Vineet Narain vs. Union of India 1994: The Supreme Court used its authority under Article 142 to take up the topic of police reforms in this historic case. The court used its inherent authority to order

the creation of a National Police Commission after realising the shortcomings in the current law enforcement system. The objective of this ruling was to guarantee police independence, openness, and responsibility, demonstrating the broad application of Article 142 concerning institutional restructuring.

IMPORTANCE OF ARTICLE 142

Inherent Powers for Holistic Justice: Article 142 empowers the Supreme Court to pass decrees or orders necessary for complete justice. It allows the judiciary to fill legislative voids and address unique situations.

Dynamic Application: The provision's flexibility enables the court to adapt to evolving social, environmental, and legal challenges. Hence, ensuring its relevance in a changing society.

Addressing Institutional Reform: Landmark cases, such as *Vineet Narain vs. Union of India*, showcase Article 142's role in directing institutional reforms, exemplified by the establishment of the National Police Commission.

Environmental Safeguards: *M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India* highlights the court's proactive stance in environmental protection, utilising Article 142 to issue directives for controlling pollution and safeguarding national monuments.

Social Justice in Family Matters: In cases like *Jaya Prada vs. Rajesh Khanna*, the provision has been invoked to grant relief in family law matters, ensuring justice even in the absence of specific legal provisions.

CRITICISM OF ARTICLE 142

Potential for Judicial Overreach: While some judgments suggest that Article 142 should be utilised in the absence of specific statutes, its application extends beyond filling legal gaps. The concern is that the provision might be used to overstep legal boundaries, straying into the legislative realm.

Violation of Separation of Powers: Critics argue that Article 142 contradicts the doctrine of separation of powers. This constitutional principle asserts that the judiciary should refrain from entering legislative domains, fearing potential judicial overreach. The ambiguity surrounding the application of Article 142 raises concerns about the judiciary encroaching on legislative functions.

Ambiguity Challenges: Despite attempts by the Supreme Court to elucidate the concept of 'complete justice,' ambiguity persists. Judgments rendered by the Apex Court have engendered confusion, and the invocation of Article 142 lacks clarity, leaving room for varied interpretations.

Economic Ramifications: The impact of Article 142 decisions on the economy has been a subject of criticism. For instance, the ban on liquor sales near highways adversely affected the hospitality industry. It also leads to the closure of numerous establishments and the subsequent unemployment of a substantial workforce. This outcome raises questions about the proportionality and economic prudence of Article 142 interventions.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. What constitutional principle do Article 142 critics fear might be violated due to its

sweeping powers?

- A. Rule of law
- B. Judicial activism
- C. Separation of powers
- D. Due process

ANSWER: C

Q2. What guiding principle does the Supreme Court emphasise regarding the exercise of powers under Article 142?

- A. Legislative autonomy
- B. Executive discretion
- C. Judicial self-restraint
- D. Administrative efficiency

ANSWER: C

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. Critically analyse the criticism surrounding the ambiguity of the term 'complete justice' in Article 142. How have Supreme Court judgments contributed to the confusion, and what implications does this ambiguity pose for the legal system?

REPORT ON PLASTIC WASTE POLLUTION

THIS ARTICLE COVERS 'DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS' AND THE TOPIC DETAILS OF "REPORT ON PLASTIC WASTE POLLUTION". THIS TOPIC IS RELEVANT IN THE "ENVIRONMENT" SECTION OF THE UPSC CSE EXAM.

WHY IN THE NEWS?

A parliamentary panel has expressed worry over the country's inefficient plastic trash management, citing a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) study.

The panel chastised the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for its sluggish approach to addressing the issue and recommended the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change to enhance cooperation and take real action against plastic pollution.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE PAC REPORT

The Public Accounts Committee's (PAC) report paints a picture of a plastic waste crisis brewing in In-

dia. While acknowledging the Ministry's efforts since 2021, it urges stronger action to shield citizens from its harmful effects.

- **Plastic Proliferation:** The report paints a stark picture – plastic waste generation has ballooned nearly threefold since 2015, reaching a staggering 41.2 lakh tonnes annually. This plastic tide threatens our environment, with half of it remaining unutilized, choking our air, water, and soil, and posing a silent threat to human health.
- **Data Darkness:** The report sheds light on another worrying aspect – a data gap. Many state pollution boards failed to report plastic waste generation between 2016 and 2018, leaving the Central Pollution Control Board in the dark. Even the data received wasn't always reliable, with inconsistencies arising between various bodies. This lack of transparency hinders effective management and masks the true extent of the problem.
- **Breaking Free from Plastic's Grip:** The report underlines the crucial need for alternatives. Finding "cost-effective and dependable" solutions to replace plastic is seen as the cornerstone of tackling this crisis. This call for innovation paves the way for exploring biodegradable materials, reusable alternatives, and improved waste management systems.
- While the report highlights the challenges, it also recognizes the efforts underway and the critical need for stronger action. **It's a call to action for policymakers, industries, and individuals to work together in finding sustainable solutions and stemming the tide of plastic pollution before it engulfs us all.**

RECOMMENDATIONS GIVEN BY THE PAC REPORT

- **Data Deluge:** The report acknowledges the data gaps and demands a "reliable assessment" of plastic waste generation. Think of it as shining a light into the monster's lair, exposing its true size and scope.
- **Bottom-Up approach:** The report proposes a "bottom-up approach," where every block has a plastic waste recycling unit. Imagine a network of local heroes, each armed with a recycling unit, chipping away at the monster's mass, one plastic bottle at a time.
- **Digital Dashboard Defense:** Mandatory online reporting on a national dashboard is the report's proposed shield. Imagine a real-time map, constantly tracking the plastic beast's movements, leaving nowhere to hide.
- **Industry Allies:** The report encourages industry participation, incentivizing them to set up local recycling units. Imagine these units as fortresses, manned by industry and waste pickers working together, offering a safe haven for used plastic and preventing it from rejoining the monster's ranks.
- **Beyond the Banhammer:** The report recognizes the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy, but urges for more. Spreading awareness about eco-friendly alternatives and the dangers of single-use plastics are like shining a spotlight on the monster's weaknesses. Funding research for alternatives is like forging powerful weapons, while holding implementing agencies accountable ensures they're wielded effectively. Promoting recycled plastic and increasing recycling facilities are like building sturdy walls to contain the monster's spread.

- **Industrial Eye:** The report calls for close vigilance on industries, ensuring they're not making false claims about collection and recycling. Think of it as having watchful guards patrolling the monster's perimeter, preventing any sneaky escapes.

INITIATIVES BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT TO CURB PLASTIC POLLUTION

- **Ban on Single Use Plastic:** Numerous states in India have enforced a ban on the production, utilization, and trade of disposable plastics, encompassing items such as bags, cups, plates, cutlery, and straws.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** The Indian government has instituted the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), assigning the responsibility for the management and proper disposal of plastic waste generated by their products to plastic manufacturers.
- **Regulation of Plastic Waste:** In 2016, India introduced the **Plastic Waste Management Rules**, establishing a comprehensive framework for the effective management of plastic waste. The rules encompass various measures, including initiatives for recycling and converting waste to energy.
- **Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022:** It highlights the integration of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) guidelines with the prohibition of specific single-use plastic items. The amendment explicitly outlaws the manufacturing, importing, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of carry bags made of virgin or recycled plastic measuring less than seventy-five micrometers.
- **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:** In support of national cleanliness objectives, the Indian government initiated the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, a campaign dedicated to cleanliness, including the systematic collection and appropriate disposal of plastic waste.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q1. Which type of plastic is generally NOT recyclable?

- (a) PET (polyethylene terephthalate)
- (b) HDPE (high-density polyethylene)
- (c) PVC (polyvinyl chloride)
- (d) PP (polypropylene)

Answer: (c)

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q1. Discuss the environmental consequences of plastic pollution, emphasizing the impact on marine ecosystems and wildlife. How does plastic contamination affect the delicate balance of marine life?

REPORT ON LEGAL EDUCATION IN INDIA

THIS ARTICLE COVERS 'DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS' AND THE TOPIC DETAILS OF "REPORT ON LEGAL EDUCATION IN INDIA". THIS TOPIC IS RELEVANT IN THE "POLITY AND GOVERNANCE" SECTION OF THE UPSC CSE EXAM.

WHY IN THE NEWS?

In a recent report on legal education in India, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law, and Justice made some important recommendations.

SIGNIFICANT RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE

- **Restricting Authority:** The committee proposed limitations on the regulatory powers of the Bar Council of India (BCI) concerning legal education in India.
- **Cultivating a Research Culture:** Within law schools, complete academic freedom and autonomy are essential. The committee emphasises that the objectives of a law school or any academic institution can only be achieved if academicians are free to express their thoroughly researched perspectives without apprehension.
- **Global Competitiveness:** The committee suggested the development and implementation of a curriculum aligned with global standards, the encouragement of international exchange programs for students and faculty, the inclusion of additional international law courses, and heightened exposure of students to diverse legal systems
- **Concerning Litigation:** Various aspects of legal education, particularly at the postgraduate level, extend beyond litigation. The committee suggested the establishment of an autonomous entity named the **National Council for Legal Education and Research (NCLER)**.
 1. **Objective:** Its objective will be to formulate high-quality benchmarks for overseeing legal education.
 2. **Composition:** The NCLER is envisioned to comprise judges, practicing lawyers, and distinguished law professors with a commendable record of research and contributions to legal education.
- **Enhancing Research:** The committee underscores the importance of prioritising and fostering research, anticipating improved teaching outcomes and the cultivation of a critical perspective among students.
- **Government Funding:** Recognizing the significance of the research, the committee acknowledged the necessity for increased state funding to strengthen research initiatives..
- **Leadership Roles:** Leadership positions should be occupied by passionate, charismatic, and visionary academicians who inspire and foster an inclusive and supportive environment.

KEY CHALLENGES IN LEGAL EDUCATION IN INDIA

OUTDATED CURRICULUM:

One significant challenge is the outdated curriculum in many law schools. The legal education system often struggles to keep pace with the evolving legal landscape and the changing needs of the legal profession.

INSUFFICIENT PRACTICAL TRAINING:

Legal education often focuses more on theoretical aspects, leaving a gap in practical training. Students may lack adequate exposure to real-world legal scenarios, courtroom practices, and legal research skills.

OVERCROWDED CLASSROOMS:

Many law schools in India face issues of overcrowded classrooms, which can hinder the teacher-student interaction crucial for effective legal education. Large class sizes make it challenging for educators to provide personalised attention to students.

LIMITED INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH:

The legal curriculum tends to be siloed, with limited integration of interdisciplinary subjects. This lack of a holistic approach may hinder students from developing a comprehensive understanding of legal issues in their broader societal context.

QUALITY OF FACULTY:

The quality of faculty members varies across institutions. Some law schools struggle with a shortage of experienced and qualified faculty, impacting the delivery of high-quality legal education.

LACK OF RESEARCH CULTURE:

There is often a dearth of emphasis on research activities in legal education. Limited resources and inadequate support for research initiatives hinder the development of a robust research culture within law schools.

OVEREMPHASIS ON THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE:

The legal education system tends to place excessive emphasis on theoretical knowledge, sometimes at the expense of practical skills. This imbalance can leave graduates ill-prepared for the demands of legal practice.

LACK OF TECHNOLOGICAL INTEGRATION:

Many law schools face challenges in integrating technology into the education process. The digital divide and a lack of resources can impede the adoption of modern teaching tools and methodologies.

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY:

Legal education may not be easily accessible to all sections of society. Financial constraints, regional disparities, and a lack of inclusivity in the admissions process can contribute to underrepresentation of certain groups in legal education.

WAY FORWARD

- Allocate resources to cultivate a research-oriented culture in law schools by supporting research funding, enhancing infrastructure, and providing academic assistance.
- Promote academic leadership that nurtures an environment of creativity, distinction, and unrestricted academic expression.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q1. With reference to India, consider the following statements:

1. Government law officers and legal firms are recognised as advocates, but corporate lawyers and patent attorneys are excluded from recognition as advocates.
2. Bar Councils have the power to lay down the rules relating to legal education and recognition of law colleges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q1. How can legal education institutions address gender-based barriers to entry and create a more inclusive environment for women in the field of law?

