



PRAYAAS Times

September 2025 Week-4

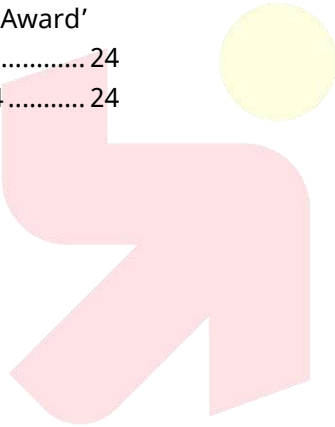
MPSC/UPSC- 2025-26

By PRAYAAS EDUCATION

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2. General Studies II

2.1 Chabahar Port

Context: -

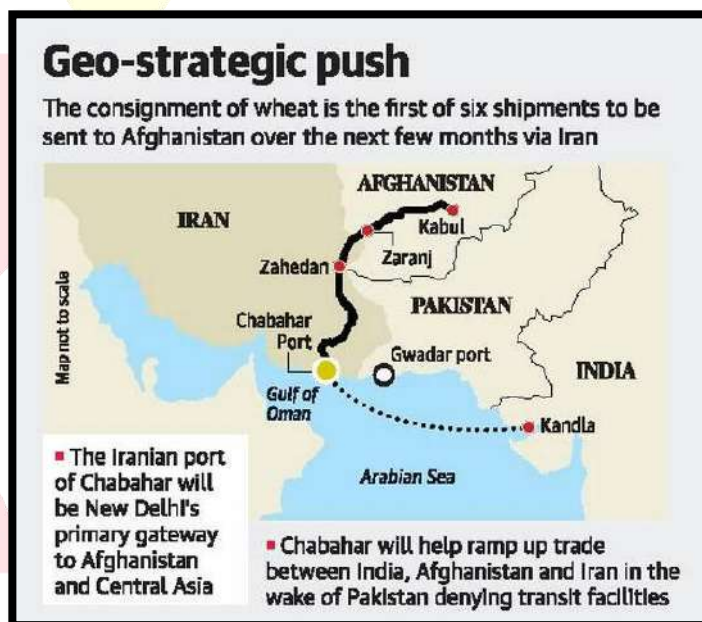
- United States has **revoked the sanctions waiver** for Iran's Chabahar Port, which India has been developing since 2002.

India's Role and Progress

- Cooperation began in 2002**, formalised during Khatami-Vajpayee talks (2003).
- 2016 **Trilateral Agreement** (India-Iran-Afghanistan) accelerated development.
- India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) operates** Shahid Beheshti terminal; full development planned in four phases with a capacity of 82 million tonnes annually.
- First wheat **consignment to Afghanistan** sent in 2017, Afghan exports followed in 2019.
- Despite allocations (₹100 crore in 2023), progress slowed due to sanctions and supply disruptions.

Why Has the Waiver Been Withdrawn?

- The withdrawal is part of the United States' **"maximum pressure"** policy aimed at further isolating Iran both economically and diplomatically.
- The **US intends to curb Iran's nuclear programme** and restrict its regional influence by re-imposing strict sanctions and limiting global cooperation.
- Recent escalation of tensions** — particularly the US strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities in June 2025 — has intensified hostilities between the two nations.
- In response to these developments, the **US administration decided to strengthen its stance against Tehran by removing the waiver**.
- The revocation was carried out under the **Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act (IFCA)**, signalling Washington's commitment to enforcing harsher sanctions.
- The **withdrawal became effective on September 29, 2025**, marking a significant shift in US policy towards Iran and reinforcing its broader strategic goal of maximum pressure.



Implications for India

- Connectivity Setback:** Disrupts India's access to Afghanistan and Central Asia via the Chabahar Port, undermining years of investment and limiting India's ability to counterbalance China's presence at Gwadar Port in Pakistan.
- Economic Impact:** India's planned wheat and humanitarian shipments to Afghanistan may face logistical hurdles, while projects under the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) could be delayed, increasing trade costs with Eurasian markets.
- Geopolitical Challenge:** The move complicates India's delicate balancing act between the US (a key strategic partner) and Iran (vital for energy and connectivity), potentially pushing Tehran closer to China and Russia.

- **Regional Security:** Weakens India's limited presence in Afghanistan—already reduced since 2021—and lowers its strategic influence in West and Central Asia.
- **Energy Security Concerns:** Renewed US sanctions could restrict India's ability to import crude oil from Iran, forcing dependence on costlier alternatives and affecting energy price stability.
- **Impact on Strategic Projects:** Could slow down progress on Chabahar-Zahedan railway and associated infrastructure, affecting India's long-term connectivity vision with Central Asia and Russia.
- **Diplomatic Tightrope:** Increases pressure on India to align more closely with US sanctions policy, risking strain in traditionally strong Indo-Iran ties.
- **Reduced Regional Leverage:** The weakening of India-Iran cooperation may allow China to expand its influence through the 25-year Iran-China strategic agreement and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- **Humanitarian Implications:** India's ability to deliver humanitarian aid and medical supplies to Afghanistan via Iran could be hampered, affecting regional goodwill.
- **Strategic Autonomy:** The episode tests India's policy of strategic autonomy, as it must balance relations without compromising national interests in connectivity and energy security.

Strategic Importance of Chabahar Port

- **Strategic Location:** Located on Iran's southeastern coast along the Gulf of Oman, Chabahar is Iran's first deep-water port. Its proximity to the Arabian Sea and location just west of Pakistan's Gwadar Port gives it immense geopolitical value.
- **Bypassing Pakistan:** Chabahar provides India direct access to Afghanistan and Central Asia without relying on transit through Pakistan. This enhances India's connectivity and trade options with landlocked regions like Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
- **Part of INSTC (International North-South Transport Corridor):** The port is a key node in the INSTC, a multimodal transport network connecting India with Iran, Central Asia, Russia, and Europe. It significantly reduces shipping time and costs compared to the traditional Suez Canal route.
- **Counterbalance to China's BRI:** Chabahar acts as India's strategic counterweight to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Gwadar Port developed by China in Pakistan under CPEC. It helps India maintain influence and balance China's growing footprint in the Indian Ocean and West Asia.
- **Economic and Trade Gateway:** The port opens new opportunities for trade, energy imports, and investment between India, Iran, and Central Asian nations, strengthening India's economic outreach and regional integration.
- **Support for Afghanistan's Stability:** By facilitating humanitarian aid, trade, and reconstruction supplies to Afghanistan, Chabahar supports India's development partnership and contributes to regional stability.
- **Strategic Autonomy and Connectivity Vision:** The project aligns with India's broader goal of enhancing strategic autonomy and connectivity in its extended neighbourhood while diversifying trade routes beyond traditional chokepoints.

Conclusion

- **"As C. Raja Mohan suggests,** India's engagement with Iran through Chabahar is anchored in civilisational ties and strategic geography — but for it to fulfil its promise, India must move beyond symbolic gestures to sustained, operational delivery. Furthermore, India must place this link within a broad-based West Asia strategy that does not overly bind it to one axis but preserves its room to manoeuvre across the region."
- **Kabir Taneja (Fellow at ORF) states** that the port "already forms a key part of the region's ongoing International North-South Trade Corridor (INSTC) project ... a sort of golden gate to more investment opportunities in West and Central Asia." (ORF Website)

2.2 Social Audit

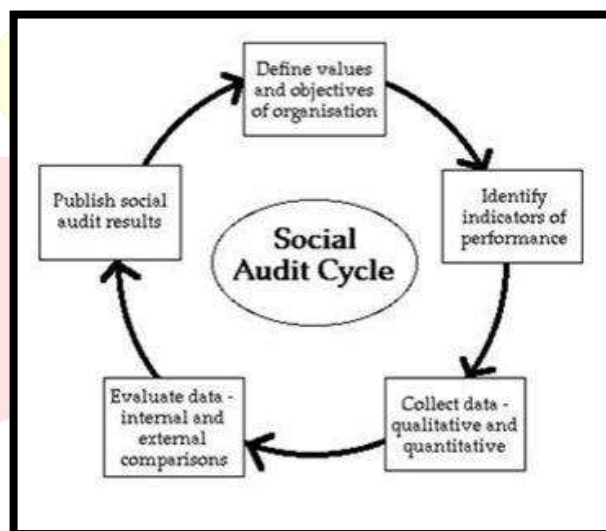
Context: -

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) faces recurring criticism due to alleged high corruption rates.
- The **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments.
- While the scheme incorporates an inbuilt mechanism of "social audit units" to detect malpractice, their effectiveness is hindered by inadequate measures for recovering embezzled funds.
- **MGNREGA Act's Section 17 mandates gram sabhas** to monitor work execution, with independent social audit units in each state.

Syllabus of Mains- GS 2- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures. Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector

Introduction: -

- A social audit serves **as a method for verifying if the expenditures reported by the government in official documents align with the actual spending** on the ground.
- It bridges the divide between the envisioned objectives and the tangible outcomes, as well as between operational efficiency and overall effectiveness.



Key Principles of a Social Audit: -

Transparency:

- Social audits demand transparency in operations and decision-making, ensuring all relevant data is openly accessible for ethical performance.

Engagement:

- Active participation of stakeholders, including employees, customers, communities, and NGOs, is integral.

Standards:

- Social audits assess adherence to laws, regulations, ethical standards, and industry best practices. This encompasses labour rights, environmental regulations, etc.

Continuous:

- Social audits are ongoing processes focusing on continuous enhancement. Findings are used to identify areas for improvement and guide action plans to address shortcomings.

Credibility:

- Independent third parties often conduct social audits to ensure credibility.

Impact Assessment:

- Beyond policies and processes, social audits evaluate the actual societal impact of an organisation's activities, including social, environmental, and economic dimensions.

Types of Social Audits

Compliance Audits:

- These audits ensure an organisation complies with relevant laws, regulations, and industry standards.

Performance Audits:

- These audits assess an organisation's effectiveness in achieving its social responsibility goals and objectives.

Environmental Audits:

- These audits concentrate on an organisation's environmental practices, such as waste management, energy consumption, and sustainability initiatives.

Social Impact Assessments:

- While not traditional audits, social impact assessments are a structured process used to evaluate the social consequences of a project, program, or policy.

Limitations of social audit: -

Limited Awareness:

- Many citizens, especially in marginalised communities, lack awareness of social auditing, hindering their active participation.

Accessibility Challenges:

- Accessibility issues persist, with some sections of society, including remote or resource-constrained areas, facing difficulty participating in social audits, limiting inclusivity.

Political Interference:

- Political interests often compromise the independence and impartiality of social audits, as local politicians may exert pressure on auditors.

Resource Constraints:

- Effective social audits require technical expertise and adequate funding, which grassroots organisations and communities may lack.

Limited Follow-up:

- Challenges exist in obtaining complete data, and there is often limited follow up and enforcement of audit recommendations, affecting overall accountability.

Challenges Associated with Social Audit: -

Rules not followed:

- In several states, Gram Panchayats are not required to provide Social Audit Units with records pertaining to work completion and expenditures, and Gram Sabhas are not provided with social audit reports in their native tongues.

Lack of Independency:

- Many governments do not adhere to the transparent selection procedure for the director of the Social Audit Units as specified in the requirements. Several Social Audit Units do not have enough personnel to cover all of the panchayats even once a year.

Not Institutionalised:

- Auditors are subject to implementing agencies that face resistance and intimidation and struggle to even get access to original data for verification because the government has not regulated the institutionalisation of Social Audit.

Lack of Stringent Penalty:

- Because there are no fines or legal repercussions for breaking rules and guidelines, Social Audit is a pointless endeavour.

Inadequate Knowledge:

- Due to unawareness, members of the Gram Sabha are unaware of their legal entitlement to social audits.

Lack of an Intelligent Information System:

- Government agencies rely on an ambiguous and imprecise system of referencing government accounts and government reporting methods to track the progress of a plan, making it challenging for auditors to take stock, accelerate, decelerate, or implement corrective actions.

No Incentive to Participate:

- The lack of participation in village activities is a result of people's worries about their livelihood.

Steps To Be Taken to Make Social Audit Effective: -

- Legal Clarity:** Improve the social audit legal framework to maximise effectiveness.
- Capacity Building and Technology Integration:** Invest in training and capacity-building programs for auditors, government officials, and community representatives to enhance their audit skills.
- Community Engagement and Awareness
- Timeliness and Accountability
- Independent Oversight and Feedback Mechanisms
- Utilizing Management Information System:** The planning, implementation, and feedback phases of a program's life cycle are streamlined by using MIS to track specifics of schemes at all levels.

Notable examples of social audits in India

MGNREGA: -

- MGNREGA has witnessed extensive use of social audits.
- Citizens, particularly in states like Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, actively participate in auditing the program's implementation to ensure wages are paid correctly, work is carried out as per guidelines, and funds are not misappropriated.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme and RTE (Right to Education) Act: -

- Social audits are conducted to assess the quality and delivery of meals and education in government schools. These audits focus on facilities, teacher attendance, the availability of textbooks, etc.

Forest Rights Act: -

- In states with a significant tribal population, like Chhattisgarh, social audits have been conducted to ensure that the Forest Rights Act is implemented properly.

Public Distribution System (PDS): -

- States like Tamil Nadu have used social audits to improve the PDS. Audits help identify ineligible beneficiaries, reduce leakages, and ensure that food grains reach the intended beneficiaries.

Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Campaign): -

- Social audits have been used to evaluate the progress of sanitation programs. These audits help monitor the behaviour change of communities towards open defecation.

Case Study: - Meghalaya's Exemplary Model

- Meghalaya **introduced social audits into law in 2017 by enacting the Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act**, making it the first Indian state to do so.
- This legislation mandated social audits across 21 schemes and 11 government departments.
- Meghalaya's approach was unique as it integrated traditional tribal institutions into the social audit process. This is a distinctive feature.
- Here, Social audits became an ongoing process where citizens actively participated in program planning, execution, and monitoring, and social audits emerged as a tool for promoting "good governance".

Conclusion:

- The social audit process is intended as a means for social engagement, transparency, and communication of information, leading to greater accountability of decision-makers, representatives, managers and officials. Thus, the application of social audit holds tremendous potential in bridging gaps between policy objectives and outcomes.
- The need for a social audit is essential. Due to its wider breadth and similarity to financial and operational audits, this is a useful tool for giving society and stakeholders assurance.
- Global experience with Social Audits is encouraging despite its shortcomings. The Andhra Pradesh Government's endeavour is a milestone in this field. Such inspections and comments are very helpful in identifying the gap between what people need and what they get through social programmes.

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2.3 Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act

Context: -

- SC recognised that women could not access the protection provided by the POSH Act because they had **not appointed officers in every district** as required by the law.
- In a recent judgment, the Supreme Court expressed concerns about the implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) (PoSH) Act, 2013.
- The court emphasized the serious lapses and uncertainties surrounding the Act, leading to many working women feeling compelled to leave their jobs.
- Study found that 75% of women living in London, 79% of women living in Indian cities, 86% in Thailand, and 89% in Brazil have been subjected to harassment or violence in public.

Syllabus of Mains – GS 2- Vulnerable Sections – Women, GS 1- Social empowerment

Basics: -

- The Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act or Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act was enacted in 2013 to **implement the Vishakha guideline.**
- It covers concepts of quid pro quo (a favour or advantage granted in return for something) harassment and hostile work environment as sexual harassment.
- A woman can file a written complaint to the internal or local complaints committee within three to six months of the sexual harassment incident.
- It also makes the employer duty-bound to organise regular workshops and awareness programmes to educate employees about the Act and conduct orientation and programmes for ICC members.
- If the employer fails to constitute an ICC or does not abide by any other provision, they must pay a fine of up to ₹50,000, which increases for a repeat offence.



Vishaka Guidelines

- Vishaka Guidelines were stipulated by the SC, in Vishaka and others v State of Rajasthan case in 1997, regarding sexual harassment at the workplace.
- SC stated that these guidelines would be implemented until legislation is passed.

SHe-Box

- It is an online platform to file complaints related to sexual harassment at the workplace, hence ensuring effective implementation of the PoSH Act.
- The Ministry of Women & Child Development has launched Sexual Harassment electronic Box (SHe-Box).

The PoSH Act defines sexual harassment to include: -

- Unwelcome acts such as physical contact and sexual advances,
- A demand or request for sexual favours,
- Making sexually coloured remarks,
- Showing pornography and
- Any other unwelcome physical, verbal, or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature.

Key Provisions of the Act

Wide Coverage

- The Act covers both organised and unorganised sectors, and applies to all women, irrespective of their age or employment status.
- Domestic workers, students, research scholars, patients, customers, clients, and tourists are also included.
- Offices, factories, stores, hotels, restaurants, educational institutions, hospitals, sports facilities, transportation services, entertainment venues, and houses are all covered by the Act.

Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)

- Every employer is required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at each office or branch with 10 or more employees.
- At least one-half of the members of the ICC should be **women**.
- The ICC is made up of a presiding officer (a senior woman employee), two other workers (ideally committed to women's rights), and one external member (from an NGO or legal background).
- The ICC oversees receiving and investigating complaints of sexual harassment from female employees and proposing appropriate action to the employer.

Local Complaints Committee (LCC)

- The Act also provides for the ***constitution of a Local Complaints Committee (LCC) by the District Officer*** for cases where the complaint is against the employer or where the ***workplace has less than 10 workers***.
- For a company having less than 10 employees, it is not mandatory to have ICC.
- Any woman who has been subjected to sexual harassment at the workplace can file a complaint within 3 months of the incident or series of incidents to the ICC or LCC, as applicable.
- The LCC has the same powers and functions as the ICC.

Responsibilities of the Employer

- To provide a safe working environment for women.
- Display the penal consequences of sexual harassment.
- Organize awareness programs and workshops.
- Assist the complainant if she chooses to file a criminal case against the respondent.

Investigation and Action

- The ICC or LCC is required to complete the inquiry into the complaint within 90 days and submit a report with its recommendations to the employer or district officer.
- The employer or district officer is required to act on the recommendations of the ICC or LCC within 60 days and inform the complainant and respondent about it.

Protection against false Complaints

- The Act provides for penalties for false or malicious complaints, non-compliance with the provisions of the Act by the employer or ICC or LCC members, and victimization or retaliation against the complainant or witness.

Lacunae of POSH Act: -

- **Gender Neutrality:** The PoSH act is not Gender Neutral. The safeguards under the POSH Act do not apply to 'men victims'.
- **Appointment of District Officers:** The SC directed appointing district officers in each district within their territorial jurisdiction, as contemplated under Section 5 of the POSH Act.
- **Awareness and Accessibility:** There is a need to spread awareness of the existence of local committees and make them approachable to the unorganised sector.

How can we improve the PoSH Act: -

Defining workplace:

- The PoSH policy should clearly define a 'workplace', which today extends to an employee's home and should cover employees, clients, vendors, and trainees of the organisation.

Inclusion of Both Genders:

- Companies should review the policy to include men and women.

Clear Articulation for Filing a Complaint:

- The policy should clearly articulate how the aggrieved can file a complaint (via e-mail or phone) and provide a strict timeframe to investigate the same.

Awareness Generation:

- Companies can generate awareness for preventing sexual harassment by conducting regular training and workshops.

Helpline Support:

- Providing helpline support via phone or e-mail to employees by a third-party counsellor can be beneficial.

Zero-tolerance policy:

- Advocating a zero-tolerance policy can give way to a safe working environment.

Setting up an Employment Tribunal:

- The Justice Verma committee recommended an employment tribunal under the PoSH Act instead of the ICC.
- The employment tribunal would work as a civil court but may choose its procedure to deal with each complaint to ensure faster disposal of cases.

Recommendations of the Justice Verma Committee on Sexual Harassment at Workplace: -

- Domestic workers should be included within the purview of the PoSH Act.
- It proposes a conciliation process where the complainant and the respondent are initially encouraged to resolve the issue through negotiation and agreement.
- The employer should pay compensation to the woman who has suffered sexual harassment.

- Setting up of an Employment tribunal instead of an internal complaints committee (ICC) in the PoSH Act.

Initiatives Related to Women's Safety: -

- One Stop Centre Scheme
- **UJJAWALA**: A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- SWADHAR Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances)
- Nari Shakti Puruskar

Conclusion: -

- Sexual harassment of women in the workplace is a violation of human rights and dignity. It affects not only the individual but also the organization and society at large. PoSH Act 2013 is a progressive law that aims to prevent and redress sexual harassment in the workplace.
- However, *many challenges hamper its effective implementation. These challenges need to be addressed urgently by all stakeholders through collective efforts and actions*. Only then can we create a safe, respectful, and equitable workplace for all.
- In era of feminist tradition "The stronger the woman, the more protection she deserves." "Respect woman and protect her always, she is greatest treasure of mankind."



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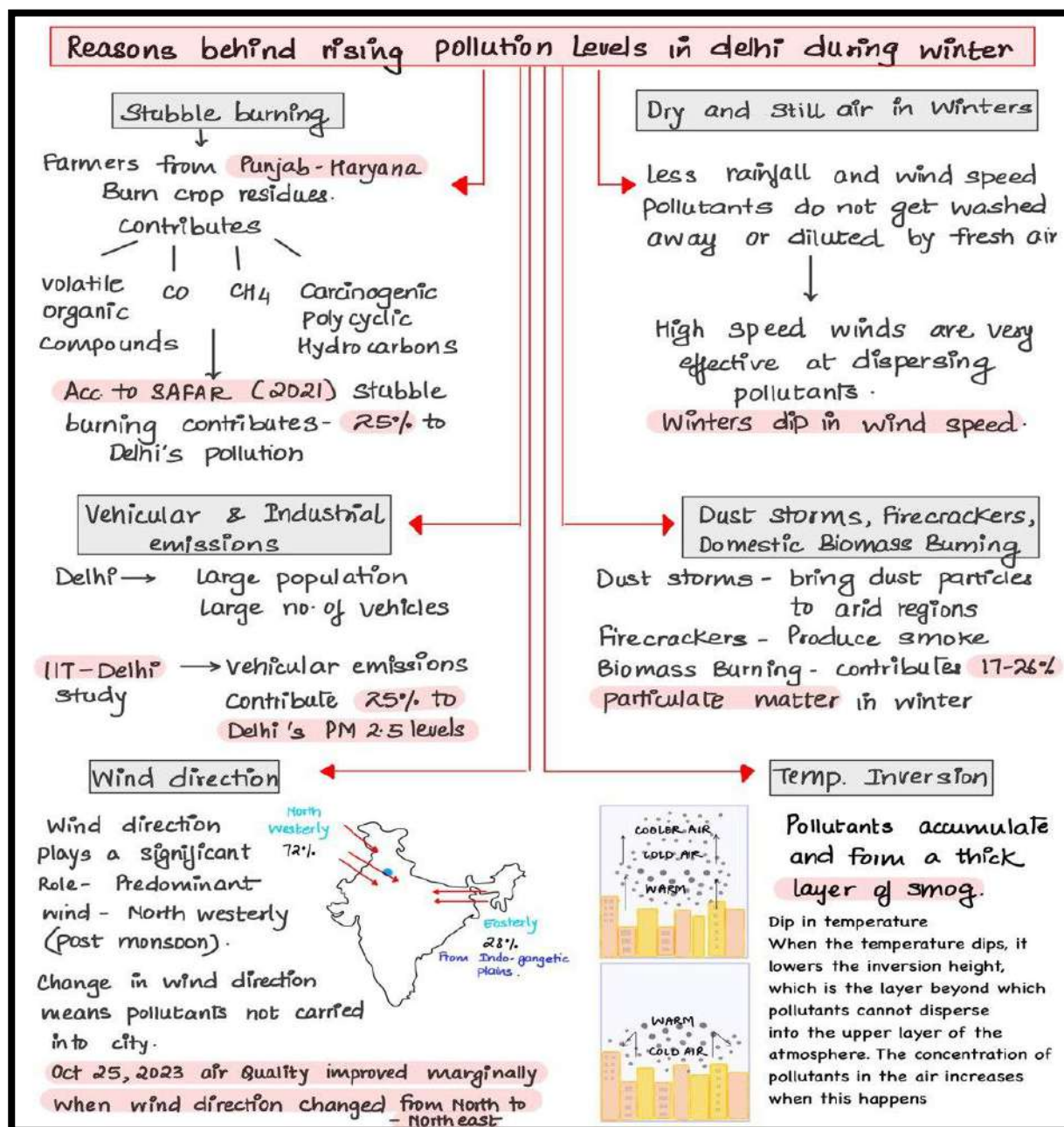
3. General Studies III

Delhi's Pollution

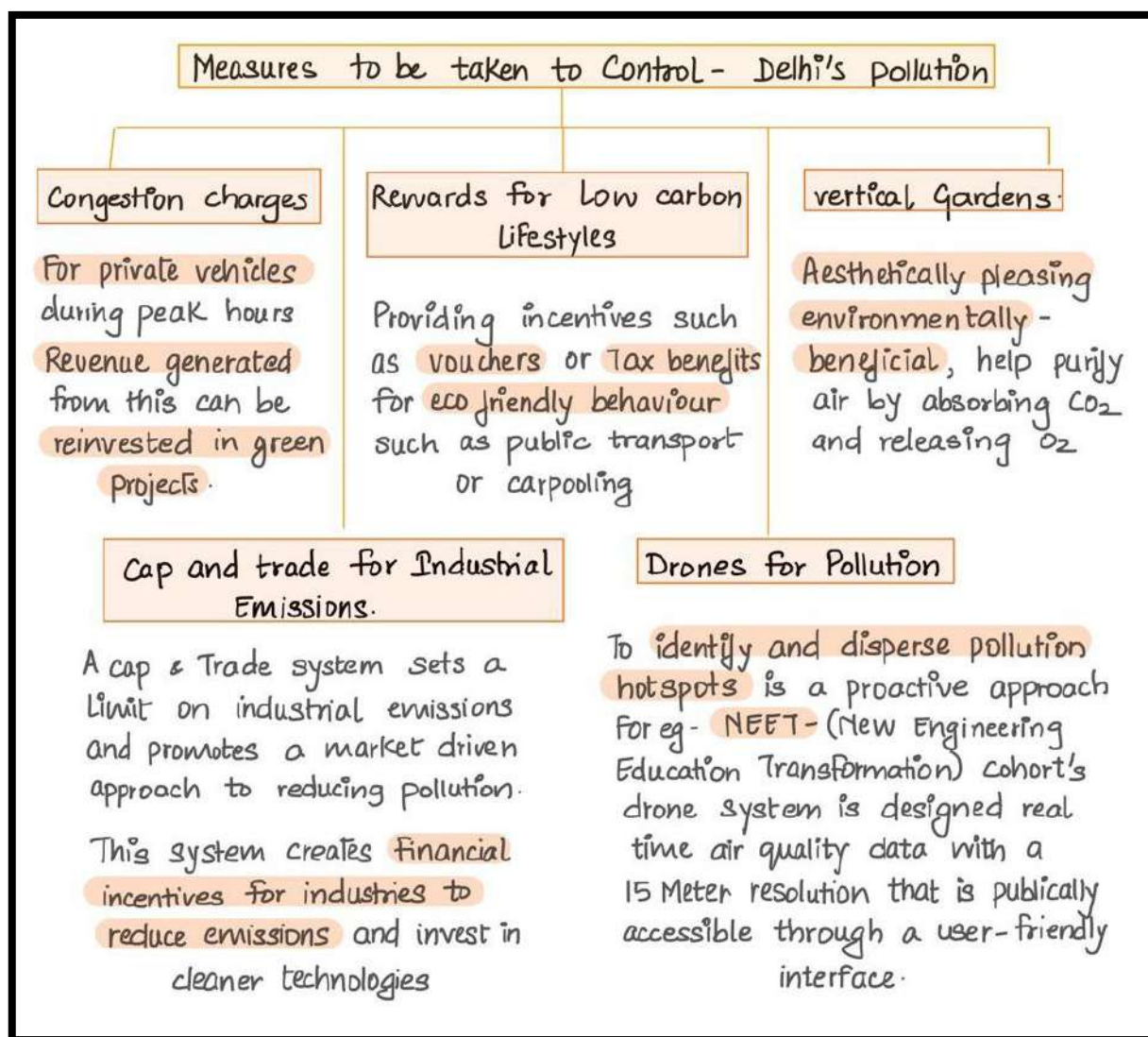
Context: -

- Delhi's pollution is a serious health hazard that affects millions of people every year. Recently, Delhi got a trailer of the inevitable environmental misery that awaits it in the coming months i.e., Air pollution.
- According to a study by the **Indian Council of Medical Research**, **air pollution was responsible for 1.67 million deaths in India in 2019**, and Delhi had the highest per capita mortality rate due to air pollution among all states.

Reasons behind Rising Pollution levels in Delhi during Winters: -



Measures should be taken to Control Delhi's Pollution: -



Government Initiatives to Control Delhi's Pollution: -

Green War Room:

- A nine-member team that monitors the actions taken by 20 government agencies against pollution on a real-time and daily basis.

Anti-Pollution Campaign:

- Delhi Government has recently launched a major anti-pollution campaign, Yuddh Pradushan Ke Viruddh, which includes a tree transplantation and other such initiatives.

Green Delhi App:

- A mobile app that allows citizens to report any instances of pollution such as garbage burning, industrial emissions, or traffic congestion.

Bio-Decomposer:

- A solution developed by PUSA institute that helps farmers decompose the crop residue in their fields without burning it. The government provides free spraying of bio-decomposer in Delhi's farmlands.

Water Sprinklers:

- The use of water sprinklers, mechanized road sweeping machines, anti-smog guns, and sprinkling facilities on high-rise buildings to reduce dust and particulate matter in the air.

Smog Towers:

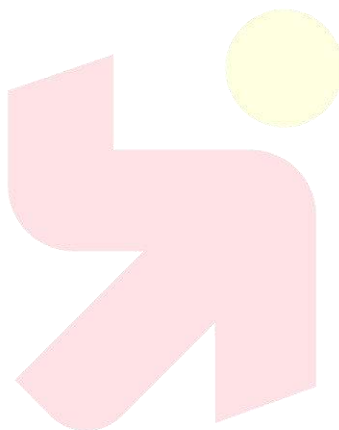
- The installation of smog towers that use large fans and filters to purify the air. The first smog tower has been set up at Connaught Place and has shown positive effects.

Pollution Hotspots:

- The identification of 21 pollution hotspots in Delhi and deploying special teams to monitor and mitigate the sources of pollution in these areas.

Conclusion: -

- Awareness and Proper planning, management and development strategies can help protect the environment.
- **What happened in Delhi is now much common sight in important cities in India, so we need to focus on root cause of this and need to work holistically.**



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PRAYAAS Shorts- UPSC & MPSC

1. Konkan Coast Geoglyphs

Context: -

- Prehistoric geoglyphs of the Konkan coast, nominated for UNESCO World Heritage status, may date back 24,000 years, ranking among the world's oldest rock art traditions.

About Geoglyphs:

- Geoglyphs are **large designs or motifs created on the ground by arranging, removing, or contrasting natural materials** such as stones, soil, or vegetation.
- They are **usually so vast that they are best viewed** from an elevated point or even from the air.
- They often hold cultural, ritualistic, or symbolic significance for the communities that created them.

Key Discoveries:

- Earlier **estimates dated them to 10,000 years**, but new evidence from Koloshi caves excavations indicates much older cultural layers, nearly 38,000 years.
- Evidence suggests geoglyphs span from the **late Pleistocene to the historical period**.
- Panels depict extinct **fauna such as rhinoceros and hippopotamus**, pointing to a very ancient timeline.
- The official report compares Konkan geoglyphs with Peru's Nazca Lines, Chile's Atacama Giant, and California's Blythe intaglios.
- Sites Identified:** Nine major sites, Kasheli, Barsu, Jambharun, Ukshi, Rundhye Tali, Devache Gothane, Devi Hasol, Kudopi (Maharashtra), and Phansaymal (Goa).

2. Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project

Context: -

- Following **the suspension of Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in 2025**, the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) is now reviewing environmental clearance for the Sawalkote Dam on the Chenab River.

About: -

- Sawalkote is an **1,856 MW run-of-river hydroelectric project** featuring a concrete gravity dam, poised to become the largest in Jammu & Kashmir.
- It is **under construction on the Chenab River in the Ramban district**, featuring a 550 MCM reservoir.
- The project is being carried out in two phases **by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)**.
- Originally conceived in the 1980s, it was delayed for years due to limitations imposed by the IWT.

3. International Criminal Court

Context: -

- Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, three West African countries**, announced withdrawal from the International Criminal Court (ICC), citing selective justice.

About: -

- Withdrawal Rule:** A country's withdrawal takes effect exactly one year after it formally notifies the United Nations Secretary-General.

3.1 About ICC

- The **International Criminal Court is a Permanent judicial body** based in The **Hague, Netherlands**, **established** under the 1998 Rome Statute and operational since 1 July 2002.
- **Purpose:** Court of last resort to prosecute crimes that would otherwise go unpunished.
- **Membership:** It has 125 member countries, with Ukraine becoming the 125th member in 2025.
- India is **not a member** of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- **Relationship with UN:** ICC has a separate agreement with the UN.
- **Structure:** The Court is organised into four main organs — the Presidency, the Judicial Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor, and the Registry. The Assembly of States Parties supervises its functioning.

4. Almatti Dam

Context: -

- **Karnataka's proposal to raise the height of the Almatti Dam** has reignited the long-standing **Krishna water disputes** & contradicts the Supreme Court's order setting its Full Reservoir Level.

About: -

- Karnataka claims the raise will utilise surplus water flowing to the sea under the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II awards, but the plan remains stayed by the Supreme Court.
- **Full Reservoir Level (FRL):** The maximum elevation a reservoir can safely hold during normal operations without requiring any spillway discharge. Spillways are safety channels that release excess water.

About Almatti Dam

- **Almatti Dam, also known as the Lal Bahadur Shastri Dam**, is located on the Krishna River in northern Karnataka. It is the main reservoir of the Upper Krishna Project.
- **Capped FRL:** It was initially designed with a Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 524.25 m, but its height was reduced to 519.6 m by the Supreme Court to prevent any further increases.
- **Multi-Purpose:** The twin powerhouses produce hydroelectricity before releasing water into the Narayanpur reservoir. It supports irrigation, drinking water supply, and helps control floods.

5. 80th Session of the UN General Assembly

Context:

- **80th session** of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 80) in New York focused on women's empowerment and gender equality.

About: -

- The UNGA 80 marks **30 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** (1995), 15 years of UN Women (2010), and 80 years of the establishment of the United Nations (1945).
- The recently appointed **General Assembly President Annalena Baerbock** highlighted the session's theme, stressing the **significance of multilateralism** in the face of global divisions.
- The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) is a landmark **global agreement that sets goals for gender equality in 12 key areas**, including health, education, and political participation and remains the most comprehensive international blueprint for promoting women's rights.

5.1 About UN80

- UN80 is a reform effort launched in 2025 to improve the UN's effectiveness, transparency, and accountability in addressing global issues.
- Reforms are categorised into three areas — reviewing existing mandates, restructuring United Nations institutions, and aligning operations across the global system.

5.2 United Nations

- The United Nations (UN) is an **international organization established** to promote peace, security, cooperation, and development among countries worldwide.
- It serves as a platform **where nations can resolve conflicts through dialogue**, work together on global issues like human rights, humanitarian aid, and sustainable development, and coordinate responses to crises.
- It was **founded October 24, 1945**.
- **Headquarters:** New York City, USA.
- **Founding members:** 51 countries (now 193 member states).
- **Objective:** To prevent wars, maintain international peace and security, promote human rights, and foster social and economic progress globally.
- **Main organs:** General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, International Court of Justice, Secretariat, and Trusteeship Council (inactive).

K Visa

Context: -

- **China has introduced the K visa** for young foreign science and technology talent, amid the USA's \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa applications.

About: -

- **Eligibility:** Foreign graduates **from reputable global or Chinese universities with STEM degrees**, as well as professionals involved in STEM research or education, are eligible to apply.
- The K visa offers **greater flexibility in entry and duration**, expands permitted activities, and **removes the requirement for local employer sponsorship** that is necessary with other Chinese visas.
- Unlike the capped and employer-sponsored H-1B, the K visa has no cap, is cheaper, and allows free movement across jobs and projects.

6. GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)

Context: -

- GSTAT was **formally launched** and is set to begin hearings from December 2025.

About: -

- Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) is a **quasi-judicial body created under Section 109 of the Central GST (CGST) Act, 2017**, to settle disputes between taxpayers and tax authorities.

Powers and Process: -

- It acts as a **second-tier forum for resolving conflicts between taxpayers** and tax authorities. It is also **the 'first common body'** for settling disputes between the Centre and the States.
- Appeals must be **filed within 3 months of receiving an order** from the First Appellate Authority.
- The GSTAT Rules, 2025, require **all appeals to be filed online through** the GSTAT portal.
- **Not bound by the Code of Civil Procedure**, it adheres to the **principles of natural justice** and can regulate its own procedures.
- The tribunal has **similar powers to a civil court**. It can summon witnesses and enforce its orders.

Structure and composition: -

- Principal Bench in New Delhi, **headed by a President** (former SC Judge/HC Chief Justice) to hear "place of supply" cases.
- 31 State Benches across 45 cities with 2 Judicial Members & 2 Technical Members (Centre & State);

- President and Judicial Members **appointed in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.**
- The **GSTAT e-Courts Portal, developed by GSTN in collaboration with NIC**, is a digital platform that enables taxpayers to file appeals, track case progress, and participate in online hearings.

7. Agni-Prime

Context: -

- India successfully **conducted a test launch of the Agni-Prime Missile from a rail-based mobile launcher** system.

About: -

- Agni Prime is a **nuclear-capable medium-range variant of the Agni class of Ballistic missiles.**
- It has a range of up to 2000 km.
- **Developed by** the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), it features a **two-stage solid propellant canisters missile** and is the lightest among all Agni variants.
- It uses **Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology**, allowing one missile to release several warheads. This enables it to strike multiple targets over a large area in a single launch.
- The **missile employs a cold launch system for quicker preparation** and supports launches in salvo mode.

NOTE: -

- **Canisters Missile:** A missile kept in a **hermetically sealed canister to prevent corrosion**, ensure long-term preparedness, and facilitate mobile launches.
- **Cold Launch:** A gas generator pushes the missile out of its canister, and the rocket motor ignites only after reaching a safe distance from the launcher.
- **Salvo Mode:** Multiple missiles are launched in **quick succession or simultaneously** to saturate defences and increase the probability of a successful strike.

8. Chief of Defence Staff

Context: -

- **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension** of General Anil Chauhan as Chief of Defence Staff & Secretary, Department of Military Affairs, extended till 2026.

About: -

- The CDS was **proposed by the Kargil Review Committee** (1999) and recommended by the 2001 Group of Ministers; **reaffirmed by the Shekatkar Committee** (2016), it was finally established in 2019.
- **First CDS:** General Bipin Rawat served as the first CDS appointed in 2019 until he died in 2021.
- **Appointment:** Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by the PM, appoints the CDS.
- **Tenure:** Serves until attaining the age of 65 years and has no fixed service term.
- The Army, Navy, and Air Force chiefs serve for three years or till age 62, whichever is earlier.

9. 49th Meeting of PRAGATI

Context: -

- PM Modi chaired the 49th meeting of **PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation).**

About: -

- PRAGATI was **launched in 2015 under the Digital India programme** to promote e-governance and e-accountability in inter-ministerial project coordination.
- It was **created by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the National Informatics Centre (NIC)** to accelerate project execution and address citizen grievances.
- Its **three-tier system includes** the PMO, Union Government Secretaries, and State Chief Secretaries, promoting centre-state coordination through cooperative federalism.
- The **platform integrates video conferencing, geo-tagged dashboards, and spatial tools** (e.g., Drones) for real-time project monitoring and administrative oversight.
- **Monthly PRAGATI Day sessions take place every fourth Wednesday** to review issues flagged by ministries and states. The Prime Minister presides over the sessions.

10. India Attracts \$11.11 bn FDI

Context: -

- Reserve Bank of India **reported \$11.11 billion gross** FDI inflow in July 2025, the highest since May 2021.

About: -

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) **refers to investment** by a non-resident acquiring 10% or more equity in a listed Indian company or any equity stake in an unlisted company.
- FDI is **governed by the Consolidated FDI Policy 2020** and the FEMA (Non-Debt Instruments) Rules 2019, framed under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.
- **Dual Regulation:** The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) formulates FDI policy, while the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) enforces compliance and reporting norms.
- **Prohibited Sectors:** FDI is barred in atomic energy, lotteries, gambling, chit funds, tobacco, Nidhi companies, and real estate (except for construction and development projects).

10.1 Two Routes of FDI

- **Automatic Route:** Permits foreign investment **without prior government or RBI approval**, provided sectoral caps and conditions are met; post-facto transaction reporting to the RBI is required.
- **Government Route:** Mandates prior **approval via the Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIFP)** for sensitive sectors like defence, multi-brand retail, broadcasting, and print media.

10.2 Investment Methods

- **Greenfield Investment:** Involves establishing **entirely new facilities** from scratch, e.g., Hyundai building its automobile plant in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.
- **Brownfield Investment:** Refers to **acquiring or merging with existing firms**, enabling immediate operations, e.g., Vodafone acquiring Hutchison Essar in India's telecom sector.

10.3 Categories of FDI

- **Category 1:** Provides **100% FDI under the Automatic Route** in non-sensitive sectors, e.g., civil aviation MRO, ports, and railway infrastructure.
- **Category 2:** Requires **Government Route for up to 100% FDI in sensitive sectors**, e.g., multi-brand retail and satellite operations.
- **Category 3:** Allows **FDI up to a cap under the Automatic Route**; beyond this, government approval is required, e.g., for private sector banks.
- **Category 4:** Permits FDI **only up to a fixed cap**, accessible through both Automatic and Government Routes, e.g., print media.

10.4 Recent Trend of FDI in India

- India received \$748.78 billion in FDI from 2014 to 2025, a 143% increase over 2003–2014. Cumulative inflows have exceeded \$1 trillion since 2000.
- Gross FDI rose to \$81 billion in FY 2024-25, which is 14% higher than FY 2023-24. However, inflows show signs of plateauing after a decade of growth.
- **Top Sources:** Singapore (30%), Mauritius (17%), and the United States (11%) were the leading FDI sources for FY 2024–25, with Singapore alone contributing nearly USD 15 billion.
- **Top Sectors:** Services (19%), Computer Software and Hardware (16%), Trading, Telecommunications, and Manufacturing were the top FDI recipients in FY 2024-25.
- **Regional Leaders:** Maharashtra attracted 39% of the inflows in FY 2024-25, followed by Karnataka (13%), and Delhi (12%).

11. Oju Hydroelectric Project

Context: -

- Union Environment Ministry has **recommended environmental clearance** for the Oju hydroelectric project in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

About: -

- **Location:** Subansiri River, 5 km downstream of Redi village, Taksing block, Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Capacity:** Total of 2,220 MW; 2,100 MW from the main plant and 120 MW from the dam-toe plant.

Subansiri River

- It is a **trans-Himalayan River** originating from the Tibetan Himalaya.
- It is also **known as the Gold River**, famous for the presence of gold dust in its riverbed.
- The river enters India through a gorge near **Gerukamukh** in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It is the **largest right-bank tributary of the Brahmaputra River**, joining it in Lakhimpur district of Assam.

12. Natural Gas in Andaman Basin

Context (PIB):

- Oil India Ltd (OIL) has reported the first **occurrence of hydrocarbons during its ongoing exploration in the Andaman Basin**, announced by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Geographical Importance of the Andaman Basin: -

- Andaman Basin lies at the **junction of the Andaman and Nicobar basins**, forming part of the wider Bengal-Arakan sedimentary system.
- Positioned at the **boundary of the Indian Plate and the Burma microplate**, the basin is shaped by active tectonics, subduction, and deformation.
- Its tectonic continuity connects it with hydrocarbon-rich basins of North Sumatra (Indonesia) and Irrawaddy-Margui (Myanmar).

13. Attorney General of India

Context: -

- **Senior advocate R. Venkataramani has been reappointed** as the Attorney General of India for a two-year term by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

About: -

- The **Attorney General (AG) of India is the highest legal officer** of the Union Government under **Article 76** of the Constitution.
- Appointed **by the President on the advice of the Government**; he must be qualified to serve as a judge of the Supreme Court.
- **No fixed term: he serves at the pleasure of the President** and can be dismissed at any time.
- **Functions:** Advises the Government of India on legal matters, represents the Union in the Supreme Court and High Courts, and performs legal duties assigned by the President.
- **Parliamentary Rights:** He has the right to participate in proceedings of both Houses of Parliament under Article 88 but does not have the right to vote.

14. Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve

Context: -

- India's Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve in **Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul-Spiti** has been **added to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)**.
- The decision was taken at the 37th session of UNESCO's Man & Biosphere (MAB) Programme in Paris.

About WNBR: -

- The WNBR, created under **UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme in 1971**, designates sites that integrate core, buffer, and transition zones to balance conservation with sustainable use.

Key Highlights

- With this, **India has 13 biosphere reserves joining a network** of 785 sites in 142 countries, which protect about 5% of the planet.
- **São Tomé and Príncipe became the first state** with its entire territory designated as a biosphere reserve.

About Reserve: -

- India's **first high-altitude cold desert biosphere reserve**, recognised as one of the coldest and driest ecosystems within UNESCO's WNBR.
- **Covers** Pin Valley National Park, Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary, and Chandratal Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Flora:** Willow-leaved **sea-buckthorn**, Himalayan birch, Persian juniper.
- **Fauna:** **Snow leopard**, Himalayan ibex, blue sheep, Himalayan wolf, and birds like the Himalayan snowcock and golden eagle.

15. Dugong Conservation Reserve

Context: -

- The **IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025** in Abu Dhabi **recognised India's first Dugong Reserve** in Palk Bay as a global model for marine biodiversity conservation.

About: -

- The Tamil **Nadu government notified the reserve in 2022** under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. This is **India's first sanctuary for protecting dugongs**.
- This area covers 448 sq. km in **northern Palk Bay and acts as a buffer between** the Gulf of Mannar and other coastal ecosystems in Tamil Nadu.
- **Seagrass Meadow:** Its 12,250 hectares of seagrass meadows serve as the primary feeding ground for dugongs, while also sequestering blue carbon and supporting artisanal fisheries.
- The reserve **pioneers a community-led seagrass restoration** project utilizing bamboo coir frames; recognised by the IUCN as a scalable, low-cost model suitable for South Asia.

15.1 Dugong: -

- Often called the "sea cow," is the **only marine mammal** that exclusively **feeds on plants**.
- Its cylindrical body, paddle-like flippers, rounded snout, and muscular upper lip are adapted for grazing on seagrass beds.
- Dugongs can live up to 70 years but **reproduce very slowly**. Calves are born only every 3 to 7 years.
- **Dietary Impact:** An adult dugong consumes 30 to 40 kilograms of seagrass daily, which helps keep seagrass meadows healthy and prevents sediment overgrowth.
- Dugongs **inhabit warm waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans**, with a major population in northern Australia and the Arabian Gulf.
- **Indian Range:** A small population is **found in Palk Bay, Gulf of Mannar, Andaman Nicobar Islands, and Gulf of Kutch**. **They are extinct in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh**.
- By grazing continuously, dugongs act as **"ecosystem engineers."** They support seagrass health, help fish nurseries, and maintain the coastal food web.
- **Primary Threats:** Gillnet entanglement, vessel collisions, habitat loss, and illegal hunting.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - IUCN: Vulnerable
 - CITES: Appendix I
 - WPA: Schedule I.

16. Crime in India 2023 Report

Context: -

- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) published its annual Crime in India report.

Overall Findings: -

- India **recorded 6.24 million crimes in 2023, a 7.2% increase** from 2022, indicating steadily expanding recorded caseloads.
- A **cognisable offence occurred every 4.9 seconds** in 2023, compared to 5.2 seconds in 2022.
- **Murders declined 2.8%**, while abductions and crimes against children increased 5.6% and 9.2% respectively, highlighting shifting risk hotspots.
- **Uttar Pradesh, followed by Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh**, reported the most crime cases, reflecting a population-driven scale.
- Kerala, Delhi, and Andaman and Nicobar reported the **highest crime rates** per lakh population.

16.1 Cybercrimes

- Cybercrime cases **increased by 31.2% to 86,420 in 2023**, highlighting digital adoption as a risk amplifier.
- Fraud accounted for 68.9% of cybercrime cases, followed by sexual exploitation and extortion.
- **Karnataka led in cybercrime case numbers**, followed by Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

16.2 Crime Against Women

- Crime against women observed a 0.7% increase, with the total touching 4,48,211 cases in 2023.
- **Uttar Pradesh (66,381) recorded the highest cases**, followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan.
- Registered crime **rate per lakh women declined slightly to 66.2** in 2023, signalling statistical plateauing.

16.3 National Crimes Records Bureau (NCRB)

- NCRB was **established in 1986 by executive order**, based on recommendations of the Tan-don Committee and the National Police Commission.
- Operating **under the Union Home Ministry**, it functions as India's national crime database to aid investigations and policymaking.

- **Annual Reports:** It publishes Crime in India, Accidental Deaths and Suicides, and Prison Statistics, providing comprehensive nationwide crime data annually.
- It **manages** the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems, Inter-operable Criminal Justice System, Digital Police Portal, and National Database of Sexual Offenders.
- It **supervises** the Central Fingerprint Bureau, Cybercrime Reporting Portal, and Crime Multi-Agency Centre (Cri-MAC) for inter-agency information exchange and coordination.

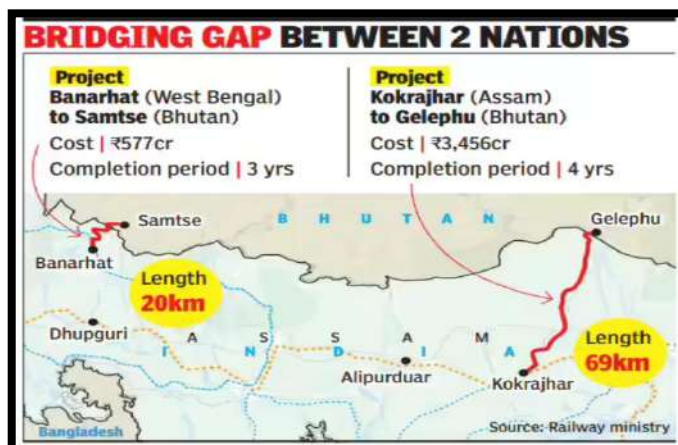
17. India and Bhutan to Get First Railway Links

Context: -

- India announced the **first two rail links with Bhutan, Kokrajhar-Gelephu (Assam) and Banarhat-Samtse (West Bengal)**, covering 89 km at a cost of ₹4,033 crore.

About: -

- The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has designated the proposed rail line as a Special Railway Project under the Railways Act, 1989.



18. Two More Ramsar Wetlands

Context: -

- Two wetlands in Bihar, **Gokul Jalashay in Buxar and Udaipur Jheel in West Champaran**, have been designated as Ramsar sites, taking India's **total count to 93**.

18.1 Gokul Jalashay, Buxar, Bihar

- Oxbow Lake of 448 hectares, located on the southern edge of the Ganga River.
- Supports over 50 bird species; pre-monsoon marshlands and shrubs provide food and breeding habitats.
- Supports both biodiversity and livelihoods, showcasing the human-nature interdependence.

18.2 Udaipur Jheel, West Champaran, Bihar

- Oxbow Lake of 319 hectares, bordered by dense forest of Udaipur Wildlife Sanctuary, surrounding a village.
- Home to over 280 plant species, including Alysicarpus roxburghianus (endemic).
- Jamun trees (Syzygium cumini) line the wetland; fallen fruits help purify water.
- **Threats:** Illegal fishing and intensive agriculture, including chemical fertilisers and pesticides.

18.3 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

- Ramsar Convention was **signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran**; 2 February is observed annually as World Wetlands Day.
- **India ratified the convention in 1982** & actively designates Ramsar sites for sustainable use.
- It provides a framework for the **conservation and sustainable use of wetlands** and their resources.
- A wetland must **meet at least 1 of 9 criteria**, such as supporting 20,000+ waterbirds or conserving biodiversity.

PRAYAAS Shorts- MPSC Specific

1. International

1.1 Palestinian statehood

- France Recognises Palestine.
- France, joined by Australia, Canada, the U.K., and Portugal, has formally recognised Palestinian statehood, defying U.S. and Israeli opposition and reviving calls for a two-state solution.

2. National

2.1 World Food India 2025

- The **4th edition of World Food India 2025** will be held from 25th to 28th September 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- **Objective** – To promote investments in India's food processing sector and showcase India's rich food culture to the world.
- **Partner Countries:** New Zealand and Saudi Arabia
- **Focus Countries:** Japan, Russia, UAE, and Vietnam

3. Economic

3.1 Ways and Means Advances

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **has established the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for the central government at ₹50,000 crore** for the second half of the 2025-26 fiscal year.
- This decision, **made in consultation with the Government of India**, aims to manage temporary mismatches in the government's receipts and payments.
- The WMA is a mechanism that provides **short-term funding to the government to bridge any cash flow gaps**.

4. State

4.1 T.N. is the first State to issue ID cards for women SHG members

- Tamil Nadu started giving Identity (ID) cards to women who are part of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). With this move, Tamil Nadu became the first state in India to do so.
- **Tamil Nadu was the first State to start Women SHG in 1989**, and now it is the first to issue identity cards to them.

4.2 Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana for Women

- Haryana Chief Minister (CM) Nayab Singh Saini **launched the Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana**, a welfare scheme **providing Rs 2,100 per month** to eligible women.
- **Scheme Details:** Beneficiaries: Around 20 lakh women (aged 23-60 years, married or unmarried) from families with annual income up to Rs 1 lakh.
- **Transfer Mode:** Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to bank accounts.
- **Budget Allocation:** Rs 5,000 crore sanctioned for Financial Year (FY) 2025-26.

4.3 International Literary Festival 'Unmesh' kicks off in Patna

- The **3rd edition of Unmesha:** International Literature Festival was held at the Samrat Ashok Convention Centre, Patna (Bihar) from 25 to 28 September 2025.
- It was **jointly organized** by the Sahitya Akademi, the Ministry of Culture (GoI), and the Government of Bihar.
- The **four-day festival brought** together over 550 participants from 16 countries, representing more than 100 languages.

5. Maharashtra

5.1 International Water Prize

- **Pune-based scientist Dr. Himanshu Kulkarni** has scripted history by becoming the first person from India to receive the prestigious International Water Prize.
- **Award Instituted:** 2009 by the WaTER Centre, University of Oklahoma, USA.
- **Award Details:** Biennial award, includes a trophy and USD 25,000, formally presented on 15 September 2025.

6. Awards

6.1 Booker Prize 2025

Context: -

- Kiran Desai, who previously won the Booker Prize in 2006, has been **shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2025 for her novel 'The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny'**.

About: -

- The Booker Prize is a **renowned global literary award given annually to writers** of any nationality for the best English fiction novel published in the UK or Ireland.
- It was **referred to as the "Man Booker Prize" until 2019**, when it was changed to "The Booker Prize."
- The **UK-based Booker Prize Foundation manages** and funds the award; they also present the International Booker Prize annually for the best fiction translated into English.
- **Prize Money:** The winner gets a £50,000 cash prize and international publishing recognition.
- **Notable Winners:** The first winner of Indian origin was V. S. Naipaul, while the first Indian citizen to win was Arundhati Roy.
- Recent laureates include **Samantha Harvey (UK, 2024) and Paul Lynch (Ireland, 2023)**.

6.2 Andhra Pradesh bags 'Best State Award' for silk development

- 76th **Central Silk Board Foundation Day**, held on 20 September 2025 at Bengaluru.
- **Award:** Andhra Pradesh was honoured with the 'Best State Award' under the 'Mera Resham – Mera Abhiman' programme.
- **Reason:** Outstanding efforts in promoting sericulture and supporting silk farmers and reelers.

6.3 National Geoscience Awards 2024

- President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu to confer NGA 2024 on 26th September 2025 at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi.
- **Instituted in 1966 by the Ministry of Mines** (formerly the National Mineral Awards until 2009).
- One of India's oldest and most prestigious geoscience honors.
- Recognizes individuals and teams for excellence.

6.4 Lata Mangeskar Award

- The Lata Mangeskar Award 2025 has been **announced for popular young singer Madhura Datar**.
- This is the **fourth edition of the award**, recognising contributions to Indian music.
- Previous awardees **include** Pt. Satyasheel Deshpande, Vibhavari Joshi-Apte, and Sanjeevani Bhelande.

6.4.1 Lifetime Achievement Award

- Prof. Shyam Sundar Rai – Senior Scientist, INSA; Visiting Professor, IISER Pune Young

6.4.2 Geoscientist Award

- Shri Susobhan Neogi – Senior Geologist, Geological Survey of India

7. Appointment

7.1 Mithun Manhas elected 37th BCCI president

- **Mithun Manhas becomes the first cricketer** from Jammu & Kashmir to hold the top post in Indian cricket administration.
- **Leadership Change:** He succeeds Roger Binny, who stepped down after reaching the BCCI retirement age limit of 70.
- **Shukla** continues as vice-president, with Devajit Saikia continuing as the board secretary.

8. Defence

8.1 India, Greece Hold First Bilateral Naval Exercise

- **Exercise was conducted in two phases** – Harbour phase (Salamis Naval Base) and Sea phase
- The Indian Navy was represented by INS Trikand (guided missile stealth frigate).

8.2 Agnikul Cosmos

- Agnikul Cosmos Pvt. Ltd., an **Indian aerospace startup**, launched the **first large format 3D printing facility for rocket systems in India**.
- **Location:** IIT-Madras Research Park, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- **Capability to 3D print** components up to 1 metre tall — first time in India.
- Enables production of complex, high precision parts that traditional methods struggle with.

9. Sport

9.1 India Clinches 9th Asia Cup Title

- The DP World Asia Cup 2025 was the **17th edition of the tournament**, played in the T20I format.
- It was organized by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), **headquartered** in the UAE.
- All matches, including the final, were played at the **Dubai International Cricket Stadium in the UAE**.
- India's **championship** victories came in 1984, 1988, 1991, 1995, 2010, 2016, 2018, 2023, and 2025.

10. Important Day

10.1 National Ayurveda Day

- 23 September 2025
- Ayurveda Day is a national observance dedicated to promoting the significance and relevance of Ayurveda, India's ancient system of holistic medicine.
- The **theme** for Ayurveda Divas 2025 is "Ayurveda for People and Planet."

11. Miscellaneous

11.1 Typhoon Ragasa

- Super Typhoon Ragasa, the strongest tropical cyclone of the year, has made landfall in the Philippines and is heading toward Taiwan, Hong Kong, & southern China.
- Super Typhoon: Wind speeds above 220 km/hour.