



# PLUTUS IAS

## Weekly Current Affairs

Weekly Current Affairs 25 March 2024 to 31 March 2024



*The Indian* **EXPRESS**



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# POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

## POWERS OF THE GOVERNOR : CHALLENGES AND VARIOUS REFORM PROPOSALS RELATED TO THE POWERS GIVEN BY THE CONSTITUTION

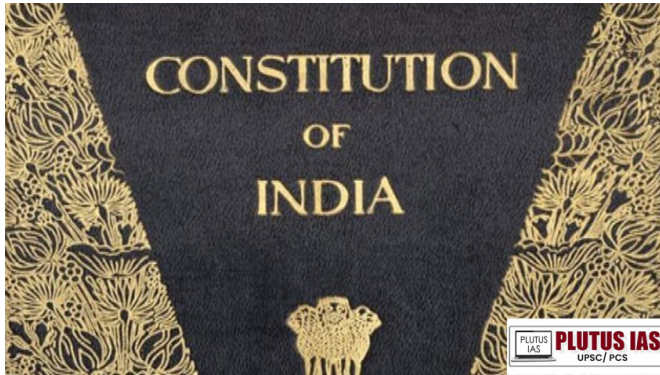
### WHY IN THE NEWS ?



- Recently, Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. By Ravi K. The refusal to allow Ponmudi to be re-inducted into the Tamil Nadu Cabinet is a completely inappropriate and unconstitutional example of the Governor's power.
- Following the decision of the Supreme Court of India, Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi administered the oath of office and secrecy to Ponmudi.
- Ponmudi's conviction in an alleged corruption case was recently stayed by the Supreme Court of India, resulting in his reinstatement of eligibility to be a member of the Legislative Assembly.
- Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi's stance that re-inducting Ponmudi into the Cabinet on the basis of a stay on conviction would be against 'constitutional morality' was not legally sustainable.
- Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi, the stay imposed by a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court on the verdict of conviction given by the Madras High Court was only a kind of interim relief and meant that the conviction 'remained intact, but unexecuted' and that It was not equivalent to being turned over.
- In India, the legal consequences of a criminal conviction in a corruption case (loss of eligibility to be an MLA and, therefore, to be a minister) are suspended as soon as the conviction is stayed.
- As soon as the conviction is stayed, Parliament and State Legislatures reinstate the convicted person's membership, even if their seats have been declared vacant.
- Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi's tampering with the validity of the principles of 'ethics' and good governance is being interpreted as an abuse of the Governor's powers conferred by the Constitution.
- The recent action by the Governor of Tamil Nadu is also being seen as an example of accepting the limits of the powers given to the Rajpal and the failure of the Central Government to act on the increasing cases of pulling up of Governors by the Supreme Court. .
- Recently the Supreme Court of India noted that Ravi disposed of the bills pending with him only after it raised questions over his long inactivity.
- The recent high-handedness of the Governor of Tamil Nadu has brought to the fore the debate that "If the Governor does not follow the Constitution, what should the State do except approach a constitutional court?"
- Given the multiplicity of litigations related to the conduct of Governors in India every day, the Center should have provided remedial measures but this recent incident has once again sparked a debate on the conduct of Governors in India. The style of working of the Governor is not governed by the constitutional provisions of India, but at present the style of working of the Governor is inspired by the vested interests of any political party and given to him by the President of India on the advice of his employers i.e. the Central Government. Is running as per.
- The issue related to the Governor of Tamil Nadu has once again highlighted the issue of maintaining the colonial institution called the Governor. The Supreme Court reminded him that he was not an elected authority and he should not have kept the decision of the elected government in abeyance.
- Recently, a special session was called by the Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly and in addition, the State Government's decisions regarding sanctioning prosecution of AIADMK ministers, appointments to the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission and pre-

mature release of prisoners were approved by the Governor. It was retained by the Government for no apparent reason.

### MAJOR CHALLENGES RELATED TO THE POST OF GOVERNOR IN INDIA :



### APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS :

- The Governor is appointed by the President on the advice of the Central Government in India.
- Since the Governor is appointed by the President on the advice of the Central Government, questions always arise on the political neutrality and impartiality of the Governor in India.
- In India, many times an example is seen where a member of the ruling party at the Center was appointed as the Governor or he was removed or transferred due to political reasons. Which shows the dignity of the post of Governor in India and his importance. This itself is seen as a weakness of stability in the state.

### POWERS AND ROLE OF THE GOVERNOR IN INDIA :



- The Constitution of India has provided various types of powers and various roles to the Governor.
- In India, the Governor has the powers to give assent to the bills passed by the state legislature, appoint

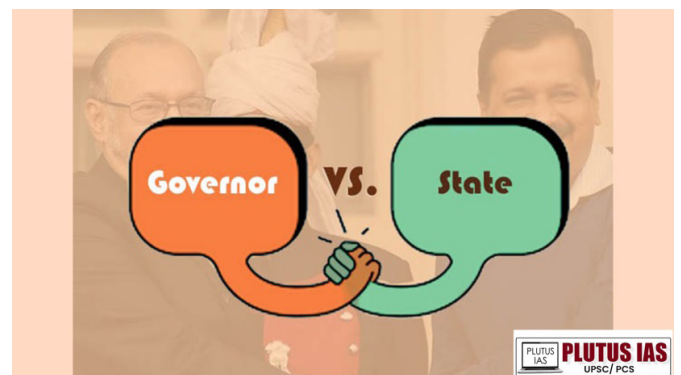
the Chief Minister and other ministers, send reports to the President on various subjects of the state and discharge special responsibilities in some states.

- The roles and powers given to the Governor by the Constitution are often at the discretion of the Governor, which sometimes leads to conflict between the elected state government and the Governor in many states in India.

### ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMMUNITY OF GOVERNORS :

- The Governor is considered equivalent to the President in the respective state government in India.
- In the context of the Governor, it has often been seen that he is seen acting as an agent of the Central Government.
- Governors in India are often appointed to check the power of the respective elected state governments.
- In India, the Governor can be removed from his post by the President with the consent of the Central Government.
- In reality, Governors in India are confident that as long as they continue to work in accordance with the Central Government, they will remain in office.
- According to Article 361 of the Constitution of India, the Governor of India is not answerable to the courts for his actions while in office as the head of the state.

### POWERS OF THE GOVERNOR GIVEN BY THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION :



The Constitution of India mentions the powers of the Governor which are defined by Article 200 and Article 201 of the Constitution with respect to passing of bills.

According to Article 200 and Article 201 of the Constitution, when a Bill is presented to the Governor by the State Legislature, **They have the following options:-**

- He can give assent to the bill, which means the bill becomes an act or law.
- He cannot give his assent to the bill or can stop the bill, which means that the said bill has been repealed.
- He may send back to the State Legislature any Bill other than a Money Bill or some provision of that Bill with a message requesting reconsideration of it.
- If the said bill is passed again by the state legislature with or without amendments, then the Governor has to give his assent to that bill.
- The Governor may reserve a Bill for the consideration of the President, who may either assent to the Bill or withhold his assent, or may direct the Governor to send the Bill back to the State Legislature for reconsideration. .
- If any bill of any state in India can jeopardize the position of the High Court of that state, then it is mandatory for the Governor to stop that bill.
- It is within the discretion of the Governor to decide whether any Bill is against the provisions of the Constitution of India, the Directive Principles of State Policy or the larger interest of the country or is of serious national importance, or relates to compulsory acquisition of property under Article 31A of the Constitution. It happens.

#### ARGUMENTS TO BE PRESENTED IN FAVOR AND AGAINST ABOLISHING THE POST OF GOVERNOR IN INDIA :

- In India, when Governors behave inappropriately and unconstitutionally, it is often said that the post of Governor should be completely abolished in India. However this argument is both imprudent and unnecessary.
- The reasoning behind this being called imprudent is that because Westminster parliamentary democracy requires the presence of both the head of state and the head of government and abolishing the post of Governor would be tantamount to abolishing that entire parliamentary system. .
- The logic behind calling it unnecessary is that viable alternatives like judicial intervention or constitutional reform already exist. Therefore, it is unnecessary to abolish the post of Governor in India.

#### VIEWS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSTITUENT AS-

#### SEMBLY REGARDING THE POST OF GOVERNOR IN INDIA :



- Some members of the Constituent Assembly in India, such as Dakshinayani Velayudhan, Vishwanath Das and H.V. Kamath was a strong critic of the provisions related to governors. His argument was that since the draft Constitution Government of India Act 1935 Where the center has been given too much power and the autonomy of the states has been reduced. Therefore, they also feared that the Governor would act as an agent of the Center and interfere in the work of the State Governments.
- Chief architect of the Constitution Dr.B.R. Ambedkar Had defended the existing provisions related to Governors. His argument was that there was little time to make changes to the Government of India Act 1935 and that governors were to act only in collaboration with state governments, not to rule or dominate them. The apprehension that the Governor would act according to the Centre, the possibility of which was highlighted by many members of the Constituent Assembly, was rejected by Dr. Ambedkar. He also did not say anything about why no reforms were made in the provisions related to the Governor, whereas many provisions of the Government of India Act 1935 were incorporated in the Constitution with necessary reforms.

#### IMPORTANT REFORMS RELATED TO THE GOVERNOR AT PRESENT :



### JUDICIAL INTERVENTION :

- The Supreme Court can continue to monitor the conduct of governors and issue directions or observations to ensure that they act in accordance with the Constitution and law. This can help in preventing arbitrary or partisan actions of Governors and maintaining the federal principle or federal form of Indian polity.

### TO IMPROVE THE CURRENT APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL PROCESS :

- The existing Constitution of India can also be amended to change the process of appointment and removal of Governors in India, as suggested by the authors of 'Heads Held High'. This could include a more transparent and consultative mechanism, such as a collegium or parliamentary committee, which could select candidates on the basis of merit and suitability. The removal of governors could also be facilitated by requiring a resolution of the state legislature or a judicial inquiry can be made difficult.

### MAKING THE GOVERNOR ACCOUNTABLE TO THE STATE BY GIVING HIM THE SAME STATUS AS THE PRESIDENT :

- The Governor can be made accountable to the State Legislature in the same way as the President is accountable to the Union Parliament. Arrangements like appointment by election and removal by impeachment can also be made for the Governor in India.

### MAKING THE GOVERNOR AN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE :

- The Governor may be an elected representative of the state rather than a person nominated by the Central Government. This can increase the accountability and legitimacy of this post and reduce the scope for interference or influence by the Centre. The Governor may be elected by the state legisla-

ture or by the people of the state, as in the case of the election of the President in India.

### TO IMPEACH AND REMOVE FROM OFFICE :

- The Governor can be removed from his office by impeachment by the State Legislature on the grounds of violation of the Constitution or misconduct. By which it can provide checks and balances on the power and authority of the Governor and prevent any misuse of the office of the Governor. The process of impeaching the Governor can be modeled on the same lines as the process of impeaching the President, where a majority of the total membership and a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting in both Houses of the State Legislature are required in India.

### CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS RELATED TO THE GOVERNOR SUGGESTED BY THE SUPREME COURT AND VARIOUS COMMITTEES IN INDIA :



Some constitutional reforms related to the post of Governor have been suggested from time to time by the Supreme Court and various committees in India. Which are as follows –

### RECOMMENDATIONS OF SARKARIA COMMISSION (1988) :

- The Governor should be appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Minister of the concerned state.
- The Governor must be a person of eminence in some field of public life and must not belong to the State to which he is appointed.
- Except in rare and compelling circumstances, the Governor should not be removed before the completion of his term.
- The Governor should act as a bridge between the Centre and the State and not as an agent of the Centre.

- The Governor should exercise his discretionary powers in a restrained and judicious manner and should not use them to weaken the democratic process but should use them to strengthen the democratic process of India.

#### **SUGGESTIONS OF VENKATACHALIAH COMMISSION (2002) :**

- The process of appointment of governors should be entrusted to a committee, consisting of the Prime Minister, Home Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chief Minister of the concerned state in India.
- The Governor in India should be allowed to serve a full term of five years unless he resigns or is removed by the President on the grounds of misbehavior or incompetence.
- The Central Government must consult the Chief Minister of the concerned state before taking any action related to the removal of the Governor in India,.
- The Governor should also not interfere in the daily administration of the state. He should act as a friend, philosopher and guide of the state government and use his discretionary powers sparingly.

#### **SUGGESTION OF PUNCHHI COMMISSION (2010) :**

- Punchhi Commission related to Governors in India recommended removing the phrase 'during the pleasure of the President' from the Constitution, according to which the Governor can be removed at the pleasure of the Central Government.
- The Punchhi Commission also suggested that the Governor should be removed from his post only by a resolution of the state legislature, which would ensure greater stability and autonomy for any state in India.

#### **B.P. JUDGMENT OF THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA IN SINGHAL V. UNION OF INDIA (2010) :**

- B.P. Supreme Court of India in Singhal v. Union of India (2010)The decision regarding the post of Governor said that the President can remove the Governor at any time and without assigning any reason. This process can happen in India because the Governor holds his office 'during the pleasure of the President' under Article 156(1) of the Constitution of India. However, the Supreme Court also said that the removal of any person from the post of Governor

nor should not be done in an arbitrary manner or on the basis of any improper reasons, but constitutional methods should be adopted for removing the Governor from the post in India.

#### **CONCLUSION / PATH TO SOLUTION :**



- The ongoing debate over the role of governors in India highlights the need for very subtle reforms, while complete abolition of the post is considered unwise. Therefore, transparent appointment of Governors in India, increase in their ex-officio accountability and limited discretionary powers will have to be used with restraint.
- It is extremely important to strike a balance between the interests of the State and the Center in India to ensure effective functioning of the office of the Governor without undermining the democratic principles or constitutional values, as the Governor in any State is merely a rubber stamp. Or Rajpal is not just an agent of the Central Government, rather the Rajpal often uses his wisdom and discretionary powers in collaboration with the State Government and the Chief Minister of the concerned State to ensure better administration in that State and to ensure a better, Develop sensible administrative system and also work towards making the state a developed state.
- Therefore, any position is relative to time. If with the changing times there is any attempt to transform the powers related to that post into a state with a better democratic system, then it is an indicator of India's democracy as well as its governance system imbued with constitutional values. Due to which the backbone of a stable, democratic, egalitarian state system in the state will be strengthened and the post of Governor in India will also be able to maintain its dignity, its constitutional values and its prestige. By coordinating with the Chief Minister and Cabinet of the concerned state, the Governor will be able to provide a transparent and just governance system

to that state. Because whenever a government is irrational and inclined towards dictatorship, the whip of justice sitting on the post of Governor plays an important role in making that elected government full of judicial character and rational.

## PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT (PMLA) 2002 AND ARREST OF CHIEF MINISTER IN INDIA

### Why in the News?



- Recently, on March 22, 2024, a Delhi court sent Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to the custody of India's central agency Enforcement Directorate (ED) till March 28, 2024 in the 'Delhi Liquor Policy' case.
- In the history of India's democratic system, Arvind Kejriwal has become the first Chief Minister of the country to be arrested by India's central agency Enforcement Directorate while holding the post of Chief Minister.
- India's central agency Enforcement Directorate told the court that "Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal is the mastermind of the Delhi liquor policy scam and the mastermind and main accused of this scam.
- Prior to this case, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren had resigned from the post of Chief Minister of Jharkhand before being arrested by the ED.

### BACKGROUND OF DELHI LIQUOR POLICY/ DELHI EXCISE POLICY SCAM :

- Two cases related to the Delhi Liquor Policy scam have been registered in India – one by the CBI, and the other by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a case of alleged money laundering.
- The Delhi Liquor Policy scam came to light following

a report submitted by Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to Lieutenant Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena in July 2022, which alleged procedural lapses in the formulation of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021 – 22.

- Delhi Excise Policy Case 2021 – 22 came into force in Delhi in November 2021, but this policy was abolished in July 2022.
- Under the Delhi Excise Policy Case 2021 – 22, it has been alleged that "the leaders of Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi government have sought exemption from license fee from liquor mafia and operators associated with the liquor business and also to extend its period – – Bribes were taken by the Delhi government in lieu of providing preferential treatment such as relief due to the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the bribe money was used to fund assembly elections in Punjab and Goa in early 2022 and these This was done to influence the elections".
- India's central agency Enforcement Directorate also alleged that the scam was dictated by a policy of 12% profit in lieu of 6% kickback to give the wholesale liquor business to private individuals and entities instead of government shops designated by the Delhi government.

### MEANING OF MONEY LAUNDERING :

- Money laundering is a process that transforms illegally earned money or black money in such a way that it appears to have been obtained from legitimate sources or it becomes legitimate money.
- Money laundering in India is not only an independent crime but also a process to cover up the crime of hiding black money already committed.
- **Money laundering'** The term originated from mafia groups in the United States. Mafia groups earned huge amounts of money from extortion, gambling, etc. and this money was disguised as legitimate sources (e.g. laundromats). Money laundering became a concern in the United States around the 1980s.
- **"Money Laundering"** Popularly known as hawala transactions in India. It was most popular in India during the 1990s when the names of many leaders were exposed in it.
- Money laundering refers to disguising black money earned illegally as legitimate money. Money laundering is a way of hiding money obtained illegally.



- The money obtained through money laundering is invested in such works or in such investments that even the investigating agencies are not able to trace the main source of the money.
- It is said that a person who misappropriated money in the process of laundering money obtained illegally is a “**launderer**”.
- In the process of money laundering, black money earned through illegal means turns white and returns to its rightful owner in the form of legal tender.

#### **MONEY LAUNDERING : AN ORGANIZED CRIME :**

- There is a very deep connection between money laundering and organized crime. Money launderers earn huge profits from drug trafficking, international counterfeiting, arms smuggling etc.
- The risk of criminals being caught is eliminated once these profits are converted into illegal assets through money laundering. In such situations, new crimes are committed.

#### **PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT (PMLA) 2002 IN INDIA :**

- The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) was passed in 2002. After that this Act was implemented on 1 July 2005.
- PMLA – 2002 was enacted in response to India’s global commitment (Vienna Convention) to combat money laundering.
- The Money Laundering Act in India was enacted in 2002, but has been amended 3 times (2005, 2009 and 2012). The last amendment made in it in the year 2012 got the assent of the President on January 3, 2013 and this law came into force across India from February 15, 2013.
- The PMLA (Amendment) Act, 2012 has included concealment, acquisition and possession of money and use of proceeds of crime in the list of offenses.
- PMLA, RBI, SEBI and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) were brought under PMLA in 2002 and hence all the provisions under this Act apply to all financial institutions, banks, mutual funds, insurance companies and their financial intermediaries. Are.
- According to PMLA – 2002 “Any person or entity who, directly or indirectly, attempts to engage or knowingly aids or knowingly is a party or is actually

involved in any process or activity involving the proceeds of crime , including concealing, possessing, acquiring or using it and presenting it as untainted property or claiming it to be untainted property, he shall be guilty of the offense of money laundering”.

- The main objective of this Act is to prevent money laundering. Its objective is to prevent the use of black money in economic crimes, to seize property involved in or derived from money laundering and to curb other crimes related to money laundering. The Enforcement Directorate is responsible for investigating crimes under this Act.
- The provision of punishment under PMLA is: Under PMLA, property earned through the crime of money laundering is confiscated. Under this, there is a provision for rigorous imprisonment for at least 3 years to 7 years.

#### **CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (CBI) :**

- **The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in India was established on 1 April 1963.**
- The Central Bureau of Investigation is a major investigating agency of the Government of India.
- It has been established to investigate various types of cases related to criminal and national security in India.
- The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) is governed by the Act this in India
- its establishment of anti-corruption **Santhanam Committee (1962-1964)** Was done on the suggestions of.
- Presently CBI works under the Department of Personnel, Ministry of Personnel, Pensions and Public Grievances, Government of India.

#### **MAIN FUNCTIONS OF CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (CBI):**

- The main function of the Central Bureau of Investigation in India is to investigate cases of corruption, bribery and misconduct by Central Government employees under the Prevention of Corruption Act against Indian officials, public sector undertakings, corporations and bodies owned or controlled by the Government of India.
- One of the main functions of the Central Bureau of Investigation in India is to investigate cases related to violation of fiscal and economic laws, i.e., cases

related to violation of laws related to export and import controls, customs and central excise, income tax and foreign exchange regulations. To do. For example – bank related fraud. Matters relating to Foreign Exchange Violation, Counterfeit Indian Currency Notes and Import-Export in India.

### ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE :

- The Enforcement Directorate was established by the Central Government in 1956 In India.
- It is a special financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, whose headquarters is located in New Delhi.
- The major functions of the Enforcement Directorate include; Involves investigating cases related to violations of FEMA, 1999, “Hawala” transactions and violations of foreign exchange rules and other types of violations under FEMA.
- The Enforcement Directorate is a multi-disciplinary organization set up to investigate the crimes of money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws.
- Money laundering in India was earlier dealt with under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 but later FERA was replaced by FEMA.

### MAIN FUNCTIONS OF ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE :

The main functions of the Enforcement Directorate are as follows –

The Enforcement Directorate in India investigates cases related to suspected violations under the provisions of FEMA. The following cases have been included in cases relating to suspected cases of violation of laws in India:–

- Overestimating the export price and underestimating the import price.
- Transactions done under Hawala.
- Buying property abroad outside India.
- Illegal collection of large amounts of foreign currency.
- Illegal trading in foreign currency.
- Matters relating to violation of foreign exchange rules and other types of violations under FEMA.
- The Enforcement Directorate (ED) in India first col-

lects intelligence regarding a case of violation under FEMA’s 1999 laws, and then shares it with case-related agencies in India. The Enforcement Directorate in India receives intelligence and secret information from complaints etc. through the intelligence agencies of the Center and the state concerned.

- The Enforcement Directorate in India has the power to attach or confiscate the property of those found guilty of violating FEMA.
- “Attachment of property” under Chapter III of the Money Laundering Act [Section 2 (1) (D)] means confiscation of property, includes transfer or conversion of property to another person and prohibition of sale of the said property; Is.
- Against those who violate this rule under the Money Laundering Act; It also includes carrying out search, seizure, arrest, and prosecution actions etc.
- The Money Laundering Act provides for the legal extradition of criminals from the respective states for the transfer of money laundering as well as completion of proceedings related to the transfer of criminals.
- The Enforcement Directorate in India is empowered to adjudicate cases of violation of the erstwhile FERA Act 1973 and subsequent FEMA, 1999 in India and decide the penalty imposed at the conclusion of settlement proceedings.
- Thus, the main objectives of setting up the Enforcement Directorate include taking legal action against those involved in money laundering in the country, which includes confiscating their assets.

### CONCLUSION :



- The arrest of Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal by the Enforcement Directorate in India raises questions about Indian democracy and the socialist nature of India.

- The arrest of a prominent opposition leader and a sitting Chief Minister of an Indian state just ahead of the Lok Sabha general elections to be held in 2024 was also seen as an attempt by the ruling government at the central level in India to harass its main opposition political party..
- At present, Kejriwal himself is trapped in the same argument which he had popularized among the general public of India during the Anna movement. But wrong with wrong is never right.
- Various states in India have been accused of misusing central investigative agencies, intimidating opposition political parties or being biased against states ruled by their political opponents by the government in power at the Centre. In such a situation, the Central Investigating Agencies also need to remain impartial, independent and neutral and need to implement the powers conferred by the Constitution of India under their jurisdiction without any bias and impartially so that in the future there is a need for Centre-State conflict in India. There should not be a situation of deadlock in relationships.

## FOOD WASTE INDEX REPORT 2024

### Why in the News?

Based on the most recent Food Waste Index Report from the UN Environment Programme, approximately 19% of the food generated worldwide in 2022, equivalent to around 1.05 billion metric tons, was wasted.

### SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

#### WASTING AWAY

In 2022, the **world wasted** a staggering **1.05 billion tonnes of food**. This equates to nearly **one-fifth (19%) of all food available to consumers being discarded** at the retail, restaurant, and household level. This is on top of the estimated 13% of food lost earlier in the supply chain, highlighting the extensive problem of food waste.

#### HOUSEHOLDS LEAD THE WASTE PARADE

The report identifies **households** as the **biggest contributor to food waste**. In 2022, households were **responsible for throwing away 631 million tonnes of food**, which translates to a whopping 60% of the total waste. The food service sector follows closely at 290 million tonnes (28%), and the **retail sector discards 131 million tonnes (13%)**.

### DAILY DOSE OF WASTE

Even more concerning is the daily amount of food wasted by households – at least **one billion meals are thrown away every single day**. This translates to an annual average of 79 kilograms of wasted food per person.

### CLIMATE CONNECTION: HOTTER COUNTRIES, MORE WASTE

The report also explores the link between temperature and food waste. **Countries with warmer climates seem to have higher per capita household food waste**, possibly due to greater consumption of fresh produce with inedible parts and a lack of efficient cold chain infrastructure.

### URBAN VS. RURAL DIVIDE

The study reveals disparities in food waste patterns between urban and rural areas in middle-income countries. **Rural communities generally waste less food, potentially due to practices like feeding scraps to pets or livestock or composting them at home**. This finding suggests a need to focus on food waste reduction efforts in urban centres.

### G20: LEADING THE WAY IN TRACKING WASTE

Unfortunately, **only four G20 nations** (Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States) **and the European Union have implemented food waste measurement systems** that allow them to track progress towards the 2030 goal of halving food waste. While Canada and Saudi Arabia have established methods to estimate household waste, and Brazil is expected to do so later in 2024, a significant gap remains.

### NEED FOR MULTI-PRONGED APPROACH

The report underscores the urgency of tackling food waste on both individual and systemic levels. This includes **targeted efforts to reduce waste in urban areas, international collaboration among countries, and improved coordination** across the entire food supply chain. Only through a comprehensive approach can we address this global challenge and ensure a more sustainable food system for the future.

### SOME PROMINENT REASONS BEHIND FOOD WASTE

- **Household Waste:** Homes are the biggest culprit, discarding a shocking amount of food due to factors like improper storage, poor planning, and confusion over labels and expiration dates.
- **Overproduction and Unrealistic Standards:** Some-

times, more food is produced than can be consumed, leading to waste. Additionally, cosmetic imperfections or sizing discrepancies can cause perfectly edible produce to be discarded.

- **Inefficient Infrastructure:** Lack of proper storage and transportation facilities, particularly in developing countries, can lead to spoilage before food even reaches consumers.
- **Confusing Labels and Miscommunication:** Unclear “use by” and “best before” labels, coupled with a lack of awareness, can lead to consumers throwing away food prematurely.
- **Oversized Portions:** Restaurants and supermarkets often offer portions larger than necessary, contributing to plate waste and leftover discards.

#### ABOUT FOOD WASTE INDEX REPORT

- It tracks food waste across retail, households, and food service (since 2021). A **joint effort by UNEP and WRAP** to support the UN’s SDG 12.3 on sustainable consumption.
- Focuses on reducing food waste **to achieve the SDG 12.3 target** of halving per capita global food waste by 2030.
- Defines food waste broadly to include inedible parts removed from the food supply chain.
- Highlights the need for global collaboration to improve food waste measurement, especially among G20 nations.

#### ABOUT UNEP

Founded in 1972 at the Stockholm Conference, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has become a leading voice for environmental action. Its mission is clear: to inspire, inform, and empower nations to care for our planet, ensuring a sustainable future for all.

UNEP approaches environmental challenges through six key areas:

- **Combating Climate Change:** UNEP addresses the pressing issue of climate change, providing leadership and solutions.
- **Restoring After Disaster:** In the aftermath of environmental disasters and conflicts, UNEP aids recovery efforts and promotes sustainable rebuilding.
- **Protecting Ecosystems:** From forests to oceans,

UNEP works to manage and restore vital ecosystems for the health of our planet.

- **Strengthening Environmental Governance:** UNEP helps countries implement environmental regulations and best practices.
- **Minimising Harmful Substances:** The fight against harmful substances and hazardous waste is a key focus of UNEP’s work.
- **Promoting Resource Efficiency:** Encouraging sustainable consumption and production patterns is another crucial area for UNEP.

### PRELIMS QUESTIONS

#### Q.1. Consider the following statements regarding the Governor in India.

1. According to the Punchhi Commission, the Governor should be appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Minister of the concerned state.
2. According to the Sarkaria Commission, the process of appointment of governors in India should be entrusted to a committee, which should include the Prime Minister, Home Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chief Minister of the concerned state.
3. The Governor is appointed by the President on the advice of the Central Government in India.
4. The Governor can send back to the State Legislature a Money Bill as well as any Bill or any Bill with a message requesting reconsideration of certain provisions of that Bill in India.

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

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

#### Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002.

1. The first Prevention of Money Laundering Act was passed in India in 2002. Which was implemented all over India from July 1, 2005.
2. Money laundering refers to disguising black money

earned illegally as legitimate money.

3. RBI, SEBI and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) are also included under PMLA, 2002 in India. Therefore, all the provisions of this Act apply to all financial institutions, banks, mutual funds, insurance companies and their financial intermediaries.
4. Under PMLA 2002, property earned through the offense of money laundering is confiscated and there is a provision for rigorous imprisonment of not less than 3 years to 7 years.

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

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

**Q3. The FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) work together on**

- (a) Climate change mitigation
- (b) Codex Alimentarius Commission
- (c) Refugee resettlement
- (d) Global economic development

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Trans Fat:**

1. These fats are of the unsaturated variety and are synthesised exclusively through artificial means.
2. India had set a goal to eradicate trans fats from food by the year 2022.
3. Consuming trans fats heightens the likelihood of developing type 2 diabetes.

**How many of the statements above are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

## ANSWERS

S. No.	Answers
1.	D
2.	D
3.	B
4.	A

## MAINS QUESTIONS

Q1. Outlining the process of appointment of Governor in India, discuss in detail the challenges related to the post of Governor in the light of the suggestions of various commissions related to the Governor and also present solutions to those challenges.

Q2. What do you understand about money laundering? Discuss what are the challenges before the Enforcement Directorate under the major provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002 in India and what are its solutions ?

Q3. Analyse the socio-economic factors that contribute to food waste in urban areas and rural communities and how addressing these factors could improve food security outcomes.

Q4. Share your insights on the potential benefits and drawbacks of processed foods in mitigating food waste and supporting food security goals.

# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## INDIA PRESENTED A MODEL FOR UNSC REFORM

### Why in the News?

India, as a member of the G4 nations, has presented a comprehensive proposal for United Nations Security Council Reform during the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the matter. This proposal advocates for the inclusion of new permanent members chosen through democratic processes by the UN General Assembly while also demonstrating a willingness to address concerns regarding the use of veto power. The G4 consists of Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan.

### KEY FEATURES OF THE G4 PROPOSED MODEL FOR SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM

The G4 nations (Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan) have proposed a significant reform of the UN Security Council structure to address concerns about representation and effectiveness. Here's a breakdown of their key proposals, along with some additional considerations:

**Addressing the Representation Gap:** The G4 proposal rightly highlights the under-representation of key regions, particularly Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and even Western Europe (excluding the current permanent members). This imbalance undermines the Council's claim to legitimacy and its ability to address global challenges that disproportionately affect these regions.

**Council Expansion:** The G4 model suggests increasing membership from 15 to 25-26, adding both permanent and non-permanent members. This could enhance the Council's responsiveness to a wider range of issues and perspectives. However, some argue that a larger Council could lead to slower decision-making.

**New Permanent Seats with Geographical Distribution:** The proposal for six new permanent seats distributed geographically (two each for Africa and Asia-Pacific, one each for Latin America and Western Europe/Others) aims to rectify the representation imbalance. This could lead to a more balanced and inclusive Council. However, the specific allocation criteria and selection process for these new members would need careful consideration to ensure fairness.

**Veto Reform with a Trial Period:** The G4's suggestion for a temporary restriction on veto power for new permanent members is an intriguing concept. This "trial period" would encourage new members to engage in constructive dialogue before resorting to a veto. However, the details of this limitation (duration, specific issues) and its enforceability would require further discussion.

**Democratic Elections for New Members:** The emphasis on democratic elections for new permanent members aligns with calls for greater transparency and accountability within the Security Council. This approach could enhance the Council's legitimacy in the eyes of the global community.

**Veto Power for Existing Permanent Members:** The G4 proposal doesn't directly address the veto power of the current P5 (China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US). Reform efforts might also consider potential limitations on their veto use.

**Regional Dynamics:** The G4 model doesn't specify how regional blocs would choose their candidates for permanent seats. This aspect would require careful negotiation to ensure a smooth selection process.

### WHY REFORM THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL?

The UN Security Council needs reform to ensure its effectiveness and legitimacy in today's world. Here's a concise breakdown:

**Representation Gap:** The Council's current makeup, based on 1945 realities, doesn't reflect the rise of new powers and regions like Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This undermines its legitimacy.

**Outdated Structure:** The Council's size and composition haven't kept pace with the UN's membership growth (142 new countries since 1945). Reform is needed to reflect this new reality.

**Veto Power Concerns:** The veto power of the permanent members (P5) is criticised for hindering action on critical issues and lacking democratic accountability. Reform could address this.

**Alternative Decision-Making:** A lack of reform risks decision-making shifting to other forums, weakening the Security Council's role.

**Enhancing Legitimacy:** Reform should ensure the Council reflects the current world order and operates with greater transparency and accountability. This will strengthen its ability to address global security challenges.

### THE G4 AND UN SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM

The G4 (India, Japan, Brazil, and Germany) is a coalition pushing for reform within the UN Security Council (UNSC). Formed in 2005, they advocate for a more inclusive and representative decision-making process at the UN.

#### Key Goals

- **UNSC Reform:** The G4 emphasises the need for significant reforms, particularly in the UNSC, which is crucial for maintaining global peace and security.
- **Permanent Membership:** All G4 members aspire to become permanent members of the UNSC, currently dominated by the five veto-wielding P5 countries (China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US).

#### Renewed Push for Reform

- The 2023 G4 Ministerial Summit highlighted the increasing pressure on multilateralism due to complex global crises.
- The ineffectiveness of the current UNSC in addressing these challenges underscores the urgency for reform.
- The G4 emphasises the need to revitalise discussions on this critical issue.

#### Enhancing UNSC Participation

- The G4 calls for increased participation of developing countries within the UNSC.
- They reaffirm their support for the Common African Position (CAP) on UNSC reform, which advocates for greater African representation.

## RELEVANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE CURRENT GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT

#### Why in the News ?

- Recently, on 25 March 2024, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has called for an 'immediate ceasefire' and the release of all hostages by Hamas,

five and a half months after Israel launched its attack on Gaza.

- About 32,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed and about 74,000 people have been injured in the Gaza-Israel war.
- In this war, more than 90 percent of Gaza's population has been displaced and almost all the population is in dire straits of starvation.
- America, which has vetoed every resolution in the United Nations for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, remained absent from this voting. This indicates a change in the policy of the Biden administration regarding this war.
- All UNSC members, including Britain, have voted in favor of the ceasefire proposal.
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has canceled a previously scheduled visit to Washington by two of his close Cabinet aides in anger over a ceasefire proposal, and by China and Russia in the context of the unconditional release of hostages pending a ceasefire. This supported proposal has also been strongly criticized.
- About 1,200 Israeli civilians were killed after Hamas declared a cross-border war on October 7, 2023.
- On the day of the attack on Israel by Hamas, the entire world was in sympathy and solidarity with Israel. But what Israel did in the next few months to punish the entire population of Gaza for the actions of Hamas has turned international opinion against it.
- In such a situation, if Israel makes an objective assessment of the situation on humanitarian grounds, then it should immediately follow the UNSC resolution and declare a cease – fire.



#### UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC):

- The United Nations Security Council is considered

the largest forum for managing the security of various countries at the global level.

- The responsibility of maintaining peace and order in the world and ensuring compliance with the principle of collective security rests with the United Nations Security Council.
- The temporary membership of the United Nations Security Council changes from time to time.

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL :



- The United Nations Security Council is the most important body of the United Nations, which was formed in the year 1945 during the Second World War.
- Headquarters of the United Nations Security Council located in New York City.
- The Security Council has five permanent members – the United States, China, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom (UK) – collectively known as the P5.
- The United Nations Security Council originally had only 11 member countries, which was expanded in the year 1965 into an international organization with members from 15 countries.
- The permanent member countries of the Security Council have the power of veto, while apart from these permanent member countries, 10 other countries who are included in the Security Council as temporary members for two years, have the power of veto. Is not provided.
- The membership of these countries on the Security Council was designed to reflect the post-World War II balance of power.

#### IMPORTANCE AND POWERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL :



**UNSC**  
UNITED NATIONS SECURITY  
COUNCIL



- The United Nations Security Council is the most powerful body of the United Nations whose primary responsibility is to maintain international peace and security of all countries.
- Its main powers also include contributing to peace-keeping operations, enforcing international sanctions and taking military action through Security Council resolutions.
- It is the only UN body with the authority to issue resolutions binding on UN Security Council member states.
- It was established through a Charter of the United Nations in which all member states are bound to follow the decisions of the Security Council.
- Currently the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council have the right to veto power. **Veto power means – ‘Prohibition power’.**
- If any one permanent member does not agree with the decision of the permanent members, then he can stop that decision by using veto power.

#### BENEFITS OF GETTING PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL :

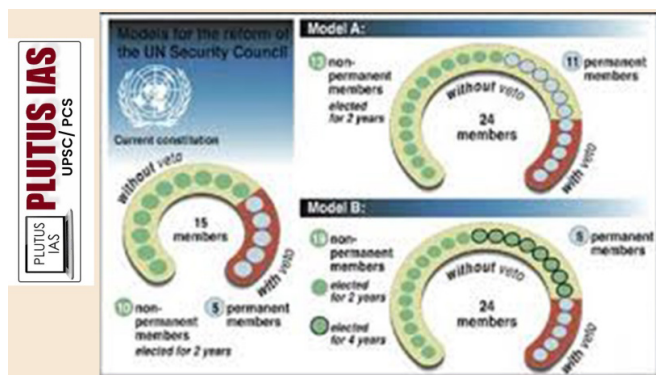


- The United Nations Security Council is a major decision-making body of the United Nations.



- To impose any sanctions on any country or to implement any decision of the International Court of Justice, member states require the support of the Security Council.
- By getting India permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council, India may be able to have a stronger say in global geopolitics.
- After getting permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council, India will also get the power of veto power.
- Permanent membership of the Security Council will help strengthen a mechanism to address external security threats and state-sponsored terrorism against India.

### NEED FOR CHANGE IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL IN PRESENT ERA :



- The United Nations Security Council is the principal global body for maintaining international peace and security, but it is in constant need of reform in order to better respond to the diverse challenges arising globally in the twenty-first century.
- In the twenty-first century, countries all over the world are facing global challenges like various types of cyber crimes, bio-crimes and the increasing spread of nuclear bombs. In such a situation, there is a need for comprehensive changes in the United Nations Security Council as per the trends of increasing crimes at present.
- The United Nations Security Council was established in 1945 according to geopolitics. Present-day geopolitics is now quite different in nature from the backdrop of the Second World War.
- The need for reform has been felt in the world since the end of the Cold War. It requires a number of reforms, the most important of which are organizational structure and procedural reforms.

- At present, Europe has the highest representation among the five permanent countries of the United Nations Security Council. Whereas only 5 percent of the total world population resides in Europe.
- No country from Africa and South America is a permanent member of the Security Council. Whereas more than 50 percent of the work of the United Nations is related to African countries alone.
- Despite playing an important role in peacekeeping operations at the global level, the stance of other countries like India is being ignored by the current members. India, the world's largest and emerging fifth economic superpower, needs permanent membership in it as per the present times. Is.
- There is a need to reform the structure of the United Nations because it is dominated by America, while at the global level other countries also stand as emerging economic superpowers in relation to America. America has also been ignoring the United Nations and other international organizations on the strength of its military and economic power, which no economic superpower country can tolerate at present. Therefore, there is an urgent need to make changes in this organization according to the global needs of the present time and the changing nature of crimes.

### ARGUMENTS GIVEN IN FAVOR OF INDIA GETTING PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL :



- India is the second most populous country in the world, with a population of about one billion and forty crore. Where about 1/5th of the total population of the world resides.
- At present, India is an emerging economic superpower of the world. India's growing status as an economic superpower on the global stage further strengthens India's claims for permanent member-

ship of the UN Security Council. At present India is the fifth largest economy in the world. Apart from this, India is also among the three largest economies of the world in terms of GDP based on PPP.

- India is now counted among the most influential countries in economic organizations like WTO, BRICS and G-20.
- India has also successfully hosted an economic organization like G-20 in the year 2023.
- India's foreign policy has historically been to promote world peace and brotherhood, and India has always believed in the concept of " **Vasudeva Kutumbkam**".
- India is also the country sending the largest number of troops to the United Nations.

#### CONCLUSION / PATH TO SOLUTION :



- India's temporary membership of the United Nations Security Council will certainly be an important effort to move towards permanent membership.
- Permanent membership will bring India at par with America, Britain, France, China and Russia at the level of global politics.
- Therefore, India also needs to make more serious efforts for permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council.
- The United States has historically used its veto power to shield Israel from Security Council decisions.
- Nearly a third of its negative votes since 1972 have been on resolutions critical of Israel.
- China has used the veto more frequently in recent years, although it has historically been more restrained than the United States or Russia, with Beijing now rejecting twenty resolutions.

- The full name of the Soviet Union was the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Russia was the principal republic of the USSR.
- Since the dissolution of the USSR in 1991, China and Russia have vetoed more than a quarter of the time. In contrast, France and the United Kingdom (Britain) have not used their veto power since 1989 and have also asked other P5 members to use it less.
- The ongoing war between Israel and Hamas is increasing tensions in Israel's relations with its closest allies, including the United States.
- If Israel continues this war, it will further increase its domestic and international challenges. In addition, many more lives will be lost in the unprotected, battered, besieged, bombed Gaza Strip.
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu now has only two options.
- It should seriously consider the appeal of the UNSC and stop this war, allow rapid humanitarian assistance to Gaza and continue dialogue and dialogue with Hamas through international mediators for the release of all hostages and withdrawal of its forces from the Gaza Strip. Keep. Or
- Benjamin Netanyahu should push his country Israel into the darkness of permanent war.
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should continue negotiations and dialogue with Hamas through international mediators for the withdrawal of its forces, following the UN Security Council's call for a ceasefire in Gaza, in order to save more lives. Can be saved and human sensibilities, human identities and humanity can be protected on this earth.

#### PRELIMS QUESTIONS

**Q1. How many votes are required to pass a resolution in the UN Security Council?**

- Simple majority
- Two-thirds majority
- Unanimous consent
- Four-fifths majority

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Security Council.**

1. Headquarters of the United Nations Security Council Washington D. C. located in a city in the United States.
2. The Security Council has five permanent members – the United States, China, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom (UK) – collectively known as the P5.
3. It was formed in the year 1943 during the Second World War.
4. The permanent member countries of the Security Council have the power of veto, while the non-permanent member countries do not have the power of veto.

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

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

### ANSWERS

S. No.	Answers
1.	C
2.	B

### MAINS QUESTIONS

Q1. Explore the challenges faced by the UN Security Council in responding to humanitarian crises caused by human rights violations. How do geopolitical considerations and divergent national interests hinder its ability to intervene effectively?

Q2. Explaining the 'Power of Veto', Discuss what is the relevance of the work and powers of the United Nations Security Council in the current geopolitical context ? Is there a need to change its current form ? Give a logical answer.

# ECONOMY

## BASMATI CONUNDRUM: INDIA-PAKISTAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DISPUTE

### Why in the News?

Lately, notable types of basmati rice from India, such as Pusa-1121 and 1509 Basmati, have been found in Pakistan but marketed under different names. This development has prompted Indian scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) to express apprehension, advocating for legal measures to protect the interests of Indian farmers and exporters. It underscores the immediate need for coordinated efforts to safeguard Indian farmers and uphold fair trade practices.

### INDIA'S BASMATI UNDER THREAT: UNAUTHORISED CULTIVATION IN PAKISTAN

#### PAKISTAN'S CULTIVATION OF INDIAN BASMATI VARIETIES

Pakistan's cultivation of Indian basmati rice varieties throws a wrench into India's long-held dominance in this prestigious grain. Popular IARI-developed varieties like **Pusa Basmati-1121 (PB-1121)** have been found **growing in Pakistan under a different name ('PK 1121 Aromatic')**. Even newer, disease-resistant strains like Pusa Basmati-1847 haven't escaped this trend, raising concerns about the control and protection of these intellectual properties.

#### INDIAN SAFEGUARDS FOR BASMATI CULTIVATION

- India has a **robust legal framework to safeguard its basmati varieties**. The **Seeds Act of 1966** restricts the cultivation of these specific, high-quality strains to designated regions within India, ensuring optimal growing conditions and maintaining the unique characteristics of the grain.
- The **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act (PPV & FR Act) of 2001** further strengthens this framework by protecting the rights of Indian farmers and breeders. **This act allows Indian farmers to cultivate, save, and exchange seeds within the designated areas** but prohibits them from selling branded basmati seeds without proper licensing.

### CHALLENGES POSED BY UNAUTHORISED CULTIVATION

Pakistan's unauthorised cultivation of these protected varieties poses a significant threat to the Indian basmati industry.

- **Firstly, it undermines the efforts and investments made by Indian farmers and breeders** who have spent years developing these superior strains.
- Secondly, the **potential for quality dilution exists if these basmati varieties are not cultivated** under the specific conditions outlined by IARI. This **could tarnish India's reputation as a premium supplier** of authentic basmati rice. Lastly, increased competition from Pakistan could lead to lower basmati prices in the global market, impacting Indian farmers' livelihoods.

### POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

- To address this challenge, India might consider **raising the issue in international forums like the World Trade Organization (WTO)**.
- By **highlighting the intellectual property rights (IPR) associated with these basmati varieties**, India can seek to curb unauthorised cultivation in Pakistan and protect its legitimate interests in the global basmati market.
- Additionally, India could explore **strengthening its seed security measures and collaborating with international bodies** to establish stricter regulations on the trade of protected agricultural varieties.

### IMPACT ON GLOBAL BASMATI MARKET

#### India's Basmati Exports Soar, But a Challenge Emerges

India's basmati rice exports are poised for record highs, with **projections exceeding 5 million tonnes in the current fiscal year**. However, a **growing concern threatens** this success: Pakistan's unauthorised cultivation of Indian-bred basmati varieties.

#### India's Advantage: Superior Quality and Established Reputation

India enjoys a dominant position in the global basmati market due to its focus on **high-quality, IARI-developed basmati strains**. These varieties are **renowned for their**

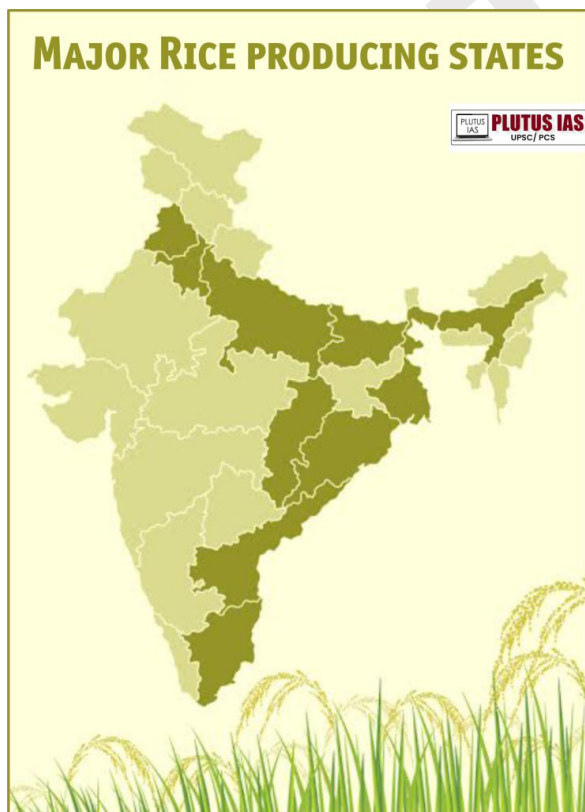
**distinct aroma, long grain structure, and optimal cooking characteristics.** This commitment to quality has **fostered a loyal customer base in markets like Iran and Saudi Arabia**, where discerning consumers prioritise taste and texture.

### Pakistan's Strategy: Competitive Pricing Through Currency Fluctuations

Pakistan's basmati exports have gained traction due to the **depreciation of the Pakistani rupee, enabling them to offer competitive pricing in international markets**, particularly the **EU and UK**. Here, Pakistan currently holds a **significant 85% market share**. However, **concerns exist regarding the quality of Pakistani basmati**. While these varieties may share names with their Indian counterparts, unauthorised cultivation outside designated growing areas with specific climate and soil conditions could compromise the delicate characteristics that define authentic basmati rice.

### Navigating the Future of Basmati Rice

To address the issue of unauthorised cultivation, India might consider **raising the matter at international forums like the WTO**, leveraging its strong case built on intellectual property rights and Geographical Indication (GI) status. Additionally, exploring collaborative efforts with Pakistan on seed regulations and basmati research could be a long-term solution.



### ABOUT PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES AND FARMERS' RIGHTS ACT, 2001

India's Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act (PPVFR Act) **strikes a balance between promoting innovation and protecting the rights of those who drive agricultural progress.**

- **Breeders** benefit from exclusive rights to control and profit from new varieties they develop.
- **Researchers** have the freedom to use registered varieties for research, but must seek permission for repeated use in developing new ones.
- **Farmers** can register their own varieties, save seeds, and sell produce, while also being acknowledged for their role in conserving plant diversity.

By safeguarding intellectual property and empowering all stakeholders, the PPVFR Act fosters a robust agricultural ecosystem in India

## INDIA EMPLOYMENT REPORT 2024 AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDIA

### Why in the News ?



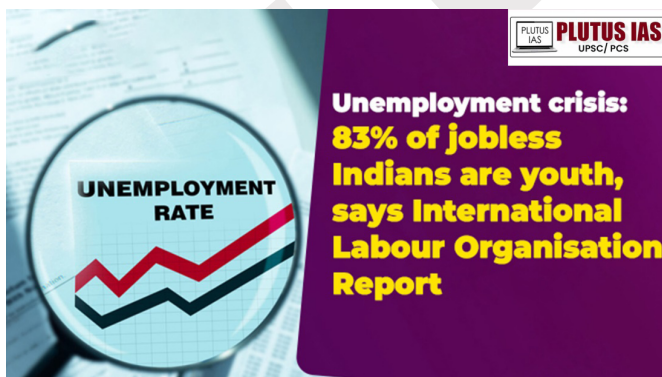
- Recently on 26 March 2024, the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Institute for Human Development (IHD) have jointly published a report named India Employment Report 2024.
- According to this report, a total of 83% of the unemployed youth looking for work in India are unemployed.
- According to the report, overall labor force participation, workforce participation and employment rates in India have improved in recent years after a long-term decline during 2000-2019.

- India’s youth population was 27% in 2021, which will reduce to 21% by 2036 and 70 to 80 lakh more youth will join the workforce every year.
- The report states that youth employment in India is largely of poor quality compared to adult employment.
- Youth in India are most likely to be employed in vulnerable occupations or informal sectors.
- According to this report, India has the highest youth unemployment rate among youth with graduate degrees and it is higher among women than men.
- The proportion of women who are not engaged in employment, education or training is almost 5 times higher than their male counterparts (48.4% vs. 9.8%).

**INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE :**

- The Institute of Human Development (IHD) was established in the year 1998 under the aegis of the Indian Society of Labor Economics (ISLE).
- Its objective is to contribute to the building of a society that promotes and values an inclusive social, economic and political system that is free from poverty and deprivation.
- It conducts research in the areas of labor and employment, livelihoods, gender, health, education and other aspects of human development.

**IMPORTANT FACTS OF INDIA EMPLOYMENT REPORT 2024:**



- The India Employment Report 2024 is the third edition in a series of regular publications by the Human Development Institute on labor and employment issues, jointly released in partnership with the International Labor Organization (ILO).
- This report examines the emerging economic labor

market, educational and skill scenarios in India and the challenges facing youth employment in the context of the changes witnessed over the last two decades.

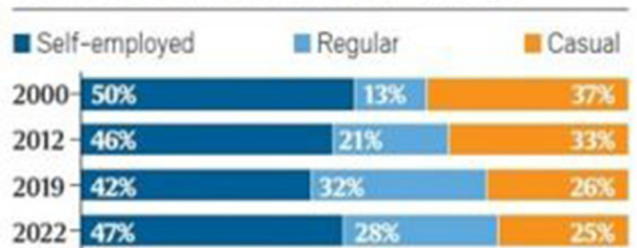
- The report also highlights recent trends in the Indian labor market, indicating the challenges that currently exist with respect to youth unemployment and new challenges that may arise in the future, as well as improvements in some outcomes, including COVID-19. Challenges arising from the 19 pandemic are also included.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF INDIA EMPLOYMENT REPORT 2024 :**

- The India Employment Report 2024 is based primarily on the analysis of data from the National Sample Survey and Periodic Labor Force Survey between the year 2000 and the year 2022..

**EMPLOYMENT SCENARIO AND CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIA :**

**STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT OF YOUTHS**



Source: IHD-ILO India Employment Report 2024



- The female labor market participation rate in India, especially in rural areas, has increased rapidly by 2019 after a significant decline in earlier years.
- One of the most important features of the Indian labor market is the slow and steady transition of the workforce from agricultural to non-agricultural sectors.
- The main areas of employment available in India are self-employment and casual employment.
- In India, about 90 percent of the workforce is employed informally while about 82 percent of the workforce is engaged in the informal sector.
- There was a slight upward trend in wages of casual workers during 2012–22, while real wages of regular workers either remained stable or declined.
- Migration levels in India have not been adequately

recorded through official surveys.

- Rates of urbanization and migration are expected to increase significantly in the future.
- The migration rate in India is expected to be around 40 percent in 2030 and the urban population will be around 607 million.

#### MAJOR CHALLENGES RELATED TO YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA :

- A large portion of India's population is of working age, which is expected to remain in the potential demographic dividend zone for at least another decade.
- Every year in India, about 7-8 million youth join the labor force whose productive utilization could yield a demographic dividend for India.
- Labor market participation of youth in India has been much lower than that of adults and was on a long-term (2000–19) declining trend, mainly due to greater participation in education.
- At present, youth unemployment in India has increased almost three times, from 5.7 percent in the year 2000 to 17.5 percent in 2019, but it is expected to reduce to 12.1 percent in the year 2022.

#### MAJOR SUGGESTIONS OF INDIA EMPLOYMENT REPORT 2024 TO IMPROVE THE EMPLOYMENT SECTOR :

The report recommends focusing on five key policy areas for action to tackle unemployment in India. Which is an important suggestion especially related to youth unemployment in India –

- To promote employment creation.
- To improve the quality of employment.
- Addressing labor market inequalities and making changes at the policy level.
- strengthening skills and active labor market policies, and
- Bridging the knowledge gap on labor market patterns and youth employment.

#### PATH TO SOLUTION :

- **'The India Employment Report 2024'** The employment sector in India presents a disappointing scenario.

- Focusing on the current state of youth employment in India, the report paints a sobering picture of the widely publicized 'demographic dividend' in the country, calling for prompt and targeted policy interventions to tackle it and for India's technologically growing economy. There is a need to give priority to the training of youth.
- A large number of educated youth are still unable to meet the job criteria due to unavailability of jobs and deficiencies in the quality of education relative to the participation of educated youth in better paying jobs in India. On which there is a great need to pay attention to the policy makers of India.
- India has high rates of youth deprived of employment, education or training, and working conditions among the majority of employed youth are poor, with large groups of youth taking advantage of broader socio-economic benefits. Wages in India have either stagnated or seen a decline due to inflation, even though India's economy is growing at a high rate.
- As the process of 2024 general elections to the Lok Sabha in India begins, politicians have focused on creating employment and improving the quality of education and training for a technologically growing economy, not only in their election campaigns but also in their policy making. There is an urgent need to consider the causes by giving priority.



### INDIA'S FISCAL DEFICIT TARGET

#### Why in the News ?

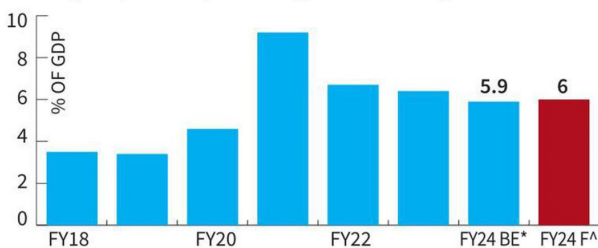
- India's central government has increased the fiscal deficit to Rs 15 lakh crore by the end of February 2024 from Rs 11 lakh crore in January 2024. This has led to an increase in the fiscal deficit by 86.5%, which has been significantly contributed by the increase in tax devolution and capital expenditure of

the states.

- The Finance Ministry has also lowered its target for gross domestic product (GDP), which will be reduced to 5.1% in 2024-25. It is an effort by the central government in India to address financial challenges.
- The central government still has the capacity to spend Rs 6 lakh crore in March, which can help the central government handle the current financial challenges. Because India is facing financial challenges in dealing with national debts.
- Therefore, the Union Finance Ministry in its Interim Budget 2024-25 has projected India's fiscal deficit as the GDP for the financial year 2024-25.. It has been decided to reduce the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 5.1%.

## Overshooting target

India's fiscal deficit could hit 6%, exceeding Budget Estimate of 5.9% by 10bp in FY24, according to India Ratings & Research



\*BE= Budget estimate | ^F=Forecast

## FISCAL DEFICIT AND NATIONAL DEBT :

- The total amount owed by the government of a country to its creditors at a given time is called national debt.
- Government debt comprises various liabilities including domestic and external debt along with obligations of schemes such as small savings, provident funds and special securities.
- These liabilities include both interest payments and repayment of the principal amount, placing a considerable financial burden on the government's finances.
- This is the amount of debt that the government has accumulated while borrowing to overcome fiscal deficit over several years.
- The higher the government's fiscal deficit as a share of GDP, the less likely it is to make payments to its creditors.
- The fiscal deficit of countries with large economies

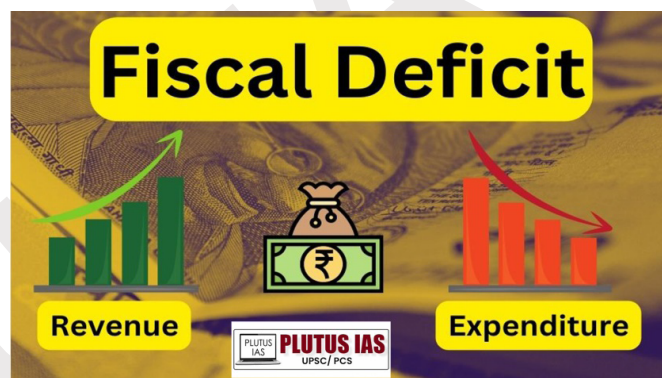
cannot be high.

- By 2022, major deficit countries include Italy -7.8%, Hungary -6.3%, South Africa -4.8%, Spain -4.7%, France -4.7%.

## IMPORTANCE OF FISCAL CONSOLIDATION IN AN EMERGING ECONOMY :

- Ways and means of reducing fiscal deficit is called fiscal consolidation.
- Any government can control its economy in re-inforcement Borrows to cover the losses. Due to which he has to allocate a part of his earnings to repay the loan. Therefore as the debt increases, the interest burden will also increase.

## MEANING OF FISCAL DEFICIT :



- The difference between the total expenditure of any government and its total revenue (except borrowing) is called fiscal deficit.
- It is an indicator of the extent to which a government must borrow to finance its operations.
- This country's Gross domestic product (GDP) is expressed as a percentage.
- from high fiscal deficit inflation , currency devaluation And the debt burden may increase, while the low fiscal deficit is seen as a positive sign of fiscal discipline and a healthy economy.

## POSITIVE ASPECTS OF FISCAL DEFICIT :

**Increase in government expenditure:** Fiscal deficit enables the government to increase spending on public services, infrastructure and other critical sectors that can stimulate economic growth.

**Financing of public investment :** The government can finance long-term investments such as infrastructure projects through fiscal deficit.



**Employment Creation :** Increasing government spending can lead to job creation, which can help reduce unemployment and raise standards of living.

#### NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF FISCAL DEFICIT :

**Balance of Payment Problems :** If a country is facing a large fiscal deficit, it may have to borrow from foreign sources, which may lead to a decrease in foreign exchange reserves and put pressure on the balance of payments.

**Inflationary Pressure :** Large fiscal deficits can lead to increased money supply and high inflation, which reduces the purchasing power of the general public.

**Increase in debt burden :** Persistently high fiscal deficits lead to increased government debt, putting pressure on future generations to repay the debt.

**Flow of private investment :** The government may have to borrow heavily to meet the fiscal deficit, causing interest rates to rise, and the private sector may find it difficult to obtain credit, leading to the exit of private investment.

#### OTHER TYPES OF FISCAL DEFICIT IN INDIA :

##### EFFECTIVE REVENUE DEFICIT :

- The difference between the revenue deficit and the grants given for creation of capital assets is called effective revenue deficit.
- The concept of effective revenue deficit on public expenditure was suggested by the Rangarajan Committee in India.

##### REVENUE LOSS :

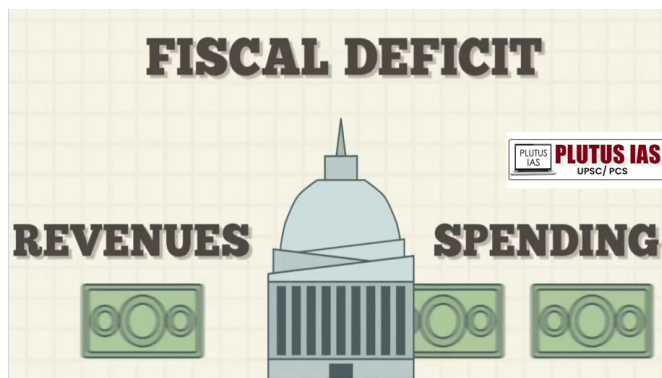
- It tells the excess of revenue expenditure of the government over revenue receipts.
- **So Revenue deficit = Revenue expenditure – Revenue receipts.**

##### PRIMARY DEFICIT :

- Primary deficit is equal to fiscal deficit plus interest payments.
- It states the difference between a government's expenditure requirements and its receipts, not taking into account the expenditure incurred on interest payments on loans taken by a government during previous years to fuel its economy.
- **Hence Primary Deficit = Fiscal Deficit – Interest**

#### Payments.

#### CONCLUSION :



- According to the data of the Central Government in India, despite the increase in fiscal deficit in February, this year's fiscal deficit target set by the government can be achieved.
- The priority of the Central Government of India is to bring the economy out of imbalance through capital expenditure (capex) in present time
- Increasing government investment in the infrastructure of the Indian economy will also increase private investment, which will boost economic (GDP) growth and result in reducing the fiscal deficit to GDP ratio.
- By implementing a combination of fiscal consolidation measures, India can effectively manage its national debt and fiscal deficit while ensuring fiscal stability, economic growth and long-term prosperity.
- Achieving fiscal sustainability in India requires a balance between short-term stabilization efforts and long-term structural reforms.
- It is quite commendable that some ministries, despite missing their targets, will still deliver positive results in terms of deficit figures for the full year.
- It is good for the government to tighten the reins for better economic outcomes at the macro level, but consistently missing spending targets compromises the desired results and indicates the need for better outlay planning and less borrowing in the coming years. There may be scope for taking.

#### PRELIMS QUESTIONS

**Q1. What is/are the advantages/advantages of zero tillage in agriculture?**

1. Sowing of wheat is possible without burning the residue of the previous crops.
2. Without the need for a nursery of rice saplings, direct planting of paddy seeds in the wet soil is possible.
3. Carbon sequestration in the soil is possible.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Q2. Which of the following is NOT a type of intellectual property covered under TRIPS?**

- (a) Copyrights
- (b) Trademarks
- (c) Patents
- (d) Sovereign rights

**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding India Employment Report 2024.**

1. According to this report, A total of 83% of youth in India are unemployed.
2. The Human Development Institute was established in the year 1998 by the Indian Society of Labor Economics.
3. This report is jointly published by the International Labor Organization and the Institute of Human Development.
4. There is a slow and steady transition of the workforce from agricultural to non-agricultural sectors in the Indian labor market.

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

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

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding re-**

**ducing India's fiscal deficit target.**

1. The Finance Ministry has decided to reduce India's fiscal deficit to 5.1% of GDP in the financial year 2024-25 in the interim Budget 2024-25.
2. Government debt comprises various liabilities including domestic and external debt along with obligations of schemes such as small savings, provident funds and special securities.
3. The Finance Ministry has set a target of reducing GDP growth to 5.1% in the financial year 2024-25.
4. The higher the fiscal deficit of the government, the less likely it is to make payments to its creditors.

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

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

## ANSWERS

S. No.	Answers
1.	C
2.	D
3.	D
4.	D

## MAINS QUESTIONS

Q1. The post-harvest value chain offers significant opportunities for income generation. Discuss the role of R&D in developing innovative food processing and storage technologies to enhance the value of agricultural produce in India.

Q2. Underlining the important facts of India Employment Report 2024, Discuss in detail the major challenges related to youth employment in India and its solutions.

Q3. Highlight the various aspects of the fiscal deficit in India and discuss in detail the importance of fiscal consolidation in an emerging economy and the important factors in meeting the fiscal deficit target set by the government.

## SOCIAL ISSUE

### DISRUPTED IMMUNISATION PROGRAMS DUE TO COVID-19

#### Why in the News?

A recent publication in The Lancet Global Health titled “Estimating the Health Effects of Covid-19-Related Immunisation Disruptions in 112 Countries During 2020–30: A Modelling Study” underscores the decline in global immunisation amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, leading to heightened disease burden and outbreak susceptibility.

#### IMPORTANT FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

##### COVID-19 DISRUPTS IMMUNISATION, LEAVING CHILDREN VULNERABLE

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly **disrupted global immunisation efforts**, leading to a **decline in vaccine coverage** and raising concerns about outbreaks and increased disease burden across various countries.

- **Measles Makes a Deadly Return: Disruptions to vaccinations for measles, rubella, HPV (Human Papillomavirus), Hepatitis B, meningitis A, and yellow fever** could lead to an estimated 49,119 additional deaths during the calendar years 2020-2030, with measles being the main contributor. This highlights the critical role that routine vaccinations play in preventing serious and potentially fatal illnesses.
- **Catch-Up Programs Offer Hope:** The study **emphasises the importance of catch-up vaccination programs, particularly for diseases like measles and yellow fever**, which experienced an immediate increase in cases following the pandemic. These programs have been shown to be effective in averting excess deaths, **with the potential to prevent approximately 79% of additional deaths related to these diseases**. Investing in catch-up programs can significantly improve public health outcomes.

##### MISSED VACCINATIONS AND MEASLES RESURGENCE

The pandemic’s impact went beyond just delaying vaccinations. Disruptions also affected routine vaccinations, resulting in an **additional 6 million children globally missing out on their DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis) vaccines in 2021**. This highlights the importance

of strengthening healthcare systems to ensure they can continue to deliver essential services even during crises.

- **A Global Measles Threat:** There has been a concerning **resurgence of measles cases reported in several countries**, including those where measles was previously considered eradicated, such as the United Kingdom and the United States. This resurgence is a direct consequence of declining vaccination rates.
- **2021 Delays, 2022 Outbreaks: COVID-19 disruptions led to a significant number of missed measles vaccine doses – nearly 61 million – in 18 countries in 2021.** This contributed to a rise in measles cases and deaths globally in 2022, particularly in countries with low vaccination rates, such as Nigeria, Pakistan, and India. This situation underscores the need for international collaboration to ensure equitable access to vaccines and strengthen Immunisation programs worldwide.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A HEALTHIER FUTURE

The study offers valuable recommendations to help us recover from the setbacks caused by the pandemic and ensure long-term public health benefits.

- **Prioritise Catch-Up Efforts:** The research suggests that implementing catch-up vaccination activities **could potentially avert 78.9% of excess deaths between calendar years 2023 and 2030**. However, for these programs to be most effective, they need to be implemented promptly and targeted towards the specific cohorts and regions most affected by disruptions. This targeted approach can significantly improve vaccine coverage and mitigate the adverse effects of under-immunisation.
- **Continued Immunisation Efforts Remain Crucial:** The importance of sustained Immunisation efforts, particularly for vaccines like HPV, which play a crucial role in preventing cervical cancer, cannot be overstated. The study **emphasises the necessity of ongoing vaccination campaigns even amidst disruptions to ensure long-term public health benefits**. By prioritising catch-up programs, targeted interventions, and continued Immunisation efforts, we can mitigate the negative effects of vaccine coverage decline and ensure a healthier future for all.

#### MAJOR INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE INDIAN GOVERN-

## MENT RELATED TO IMMUNISATION

- **Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP):** This is the backbone of India's Immunisation strategy, offering a range of vaccines to children and pregnant women.
- **Mission Indradhanush:** Launched in 2014, this special drive focuses on reaching unvaccinated or partially vaccinated children in high-focus districts to achieve at least 90% full Immunisation coverage.
- **Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN):** This digital system tracks vaccine stocks and temperature across all storage levels, ensuring smooth logistics and proper storage conditions.
- **Measles-Rubella (MR) Campaign:** Recent campaigns like the 2023 MR drive aim to bridge the gap in measles and rubella immunisation.

## WAY FORWARD

- **Community Engagement:** Public awareness campaigns promoting the importance of vaccination and addressing vaccine hesitancy are critical. Engaging community leaders and healthcare providers can build trust and encourage vaccine uptake.
- **Data-Driven Strategies:** Utilising real-time data to identify areas with low vaccination rates and track outbreaks allows for targeted interventions and resource allocation.
- **Innovation in Vaccine Delivery:** Exploring new vaccine delivery methods, such as mobile clinics and community outreach programs, can improve access to immunisation services, particularly in remote areas.

## INDIA TB REPORT 2024

### Why in the News?

As per the India TB Report 2024 published by the Union Health Ministry, the disparity between the projected and confirmed cases of tuberculosis (TB) is diminishing.

### SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

#### Closing the Gap on Missed Cases

A significant drop in undetected TB cases is a major victory. **In 2023, the number of missing cases fell to 2.3 lakh, compared to 3.2 lakh the year before.** This progress is attributed to **improved tracking through the Ni-**

**kshay portal**, a centralised platform for TB management.

#### Boosting Private Sector Involvement

Private healthcare providers are playing an increasingly important role in TB detection. **In 2023, nearly one-third (8.4 lakh) of reported cases came from the private sector**, compared to a mere 1.9 lakh in 2015. This collaboration strengthens India's overall detection capacity.

#### Refined Estimates for a Clearer Picture

India's new TB incidence estimates, accepted by the World Health Organization (WHO), offer a more precise understanding of the disease burden. While the **estimated incidence increased slightly to 27.8 lakh in 2023, the mortality rate remained stable at 3.2 lakh.** This new model led to a significant adjustment in global TB mortality figures reported by the WHO.

#### Treatment on Track

India successfully achieved its target of **initiating treatment in 95% of diagnosed TB patients in 2023.** This ensures timely access to life-saving medication.

#### Battling Drug Resistance

- The fight against drug-resistant TB is gaining ground. The **percentage of patients tested for medication resistance jumped from 25% in 2015 to 58% in 2023.** This allows for early detection and prompt administration of appropriate treatments.
- India's comprehensive approach towards TB detection, treatment, and drug resistance is yielding positive results. Continued efforts are crucial to further reduce the TB burden and ultimately eliminate the disease.

### ABOUT TUBERCULOSIS

- Tuberculosis (TB) casts a long shadow on global health. Caused by the **bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis**, TB is a major infectious disease with a concerning prevalence.
- While treatable and curable, TB remains the **world's leading infectious killer**, taking millions of lives annually. This highlights the critical need for continued efforts in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.
- In humans, TB **primarily targets the lungs** (pulmonary TB), **but it can spread and cause extra-pulmonary TB in other organs.** This versatility of the bacteria and the potential for severe illness make TB a global public health concern.

- The **history of TB stretches back millennia**, with **evidence** of the disease **documented in Egypt as early as 3000 BC**. This demonstrates the enduring nature of TB and the ongoing challenge it presents.
- The burden of TB is particularly **heavy in low- and middle-income countries**. **Eight nations** – Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, and South Africa – account for nearly half of all TB cases globally. This uneven distribution underscores the need for a global approach to combating TB.

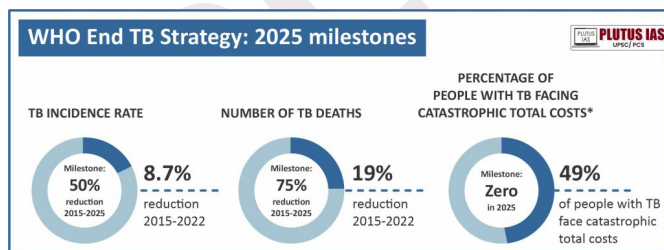
### COMBATING TUBERCULOSIS

- The first line of defence is a **6-month regimen of four antibiotics** combined with patient education and support. This approach improves completion rates and reduces resistance.

### The Challenge of Resistance

Decades of antibiotic use have led to resistant strains. These strains, documented worldwide, highlight the need for proper antibiotic use to minimise resistance.

- **MDR-TB**: Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is a serious form where **bacteria resist the two most powerful first-line drugs**. Thankfully, MDR-TB is treatable with alternative drugs, but this emphasises the need for new medications.
- **XDR-TB**: Extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) is **resistant to many effective drugs, limiting treatment options**. Stricter adherence to protocols, research into new antibiotics, and advocating for proper medication use are all crucial to combating drug resistance and ensuring effective TB treatment.



### INITIATIVES TAKEN TO COMBAT TUBERCULOSIS

- **Ni-kshay Portal**: This government platform acts as a central hub for TB notification, treatment management, and patient tracking. It facilitates better monitoring and reduces the number of missed cases.
- **Ni-kshay Poshan Portal**: It's a financial incentive program under India's National Health Mission. Regis-

tered TB patients receive a monthly **cash transfer of Rs. 500 to help them meet their nutritional needs during the 6-month treatment period**, improving treatment adherence and overall health outcomes.

- **TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyan**: It aims to raise public awareness about TB in order to reduce stigma and encourage people to seek diagnosis and treatment.

## PRELIMS QUESTION

### Q1. Consider the following statements

1. Adenoviruses have single-stranded DNA genomes, whereas retroviruses have double-stranded DNA genomes.
2. An adenovirus sometimes causes the common cold, whereas a retrovirus causes AIDS.

### 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

### Q2. How does the Nikshay portal contribute to national TB control programs?

- (a) By providing funding for TB treatment
- (b) By facilitating collaboration between healthcare providers
- (c) By monitoring progress and evaluating program effectiveness
- (d) By conducting TB research studies

### Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. HIV/AIDS increases the risk of drug-resistant TB
2. Levofloxacin is a second-line drug used to treat drug-resistant TB
3. Both healthcare providers and government officials can access the Nikshay portal

### How many of the statements above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

## ANSWERS

S. No.	Answers
1.	B
2.	C
3.	C

## MAINS QUESTIONS

Q1. How do disruptions in vaccination programs exacerbate existing inequalities within society, particularly in economically disadvantaged regions?

Q2. compare and contrast the transmission, symptoms, and treatment approaches for drug-sensitive TB and extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB). How does the prevalence of XDR-TB affect healthcare systems and patient outcomes?

Q3. Compare and contrast the transmission, symptoms, and treatment approaches for drug-sensitive TB and extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB). How does the prevalence of XDR-TB affect healthcare systems and patient outcomes?