Kerala's paradox can spark its global vision

> **Prelims:** General Studies Paper - 1
> Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

> **Mains:** General Studies - 3
> Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

1. Kerala's Global Legacy & Economic Shift

- Kerala has a long history of **global trade and cultural exchange** (Muziris, Romans, Arabs, Chinese, Europeans).

- This created a **cosmopolitan and syncretic society**.

- Today, **Malayalees working abroad** send back a large amount of money to Kerala, creating a **remittance-based economy worth about ₹1.3 lakh crore every year**.

- The challenge is to shift from the Remittance **Economy to the Innovation Economy**.

- Kerala cannot replicate **heavy industrial models** like Tamil Nadu or Maharashtra due to:

  - ➡ **High population density**

  - ➡ **Ecological fragility**

  - ➡ **Limited land availability**

- Future growth must focus on **knowledge-based, outward-looking sectors**.

2. Health, Biotechnology & Aging as Opportunity

- Kerala is the **nursing capital of the world** and can become a global **health innovation hub**.

- Use its **diverse genetic mix** to develop **precision medicine** (like Iceland).

- Like **Iceland** used its population data to grow biotech, Kerala can create a **"Gene Valley"** to **study disease risks and medicine responses**, turning its diverse genetic background into a **scientific advantage.**

- Promote **medical device manufacturing** (stents, heart valves, surgical robots).

- Convert aging population into an opportunity by:

  - ➡ Creating **retirement villages**

  - ➡ Developing **assisted living services**

- Upgrade **Ayurveda** from "wellness" to **scientifically validated treatment**.

- Position Kerala as the **"Sanatorium of the East."**

3. Sustainable Agriculture, Marine & Port-led Growth

- Adopt **Dutch-style high-tech agriculture** (glasshouse farming).

- Focus on **high-value crops & spice extraction**.

- Promote climate-resilient varieties like **Pokkali rice**.

- Shift from fishing to **scientific marine farming** (salmon, shrimp, algae pharma).

- Develop **deep-sea fishing fleets & cold storage infrastructure**.

- Use **Vizhinjam Port** for:

  - ➡ **Logistics city development**

  - ➡ **Value addition** (refining, assembling, repackaging)

- Invest in **green ammonia production** to fuel ships.

- Become a sustainable **Indian Ocean maritime hub**.

4. Weightless Economy, Culture & Global Positioning

- Focus on **knowledge-intensive sectors** with low environmental impact:

  - ➡ **Space technology startups**

  - ➡ **Defence manufacturing**

- ➲ **Graphene & rare earth minerals**
- Develop a **FinTech & crypto regulatory sandbox**.
- Upgrade tourism from scenic to **experiential & immersive**.
- Promote Kerala as a **film, VFX & gaming production hub**.
- Transform traditional products (Kasavu saree, Aranmula Kannadi) into **global luxury brands**.
- Build expertise in **climate-resilient infrastructure** and export solutions globally.
- Change the focus from trying to match other Indian cities to **working with leading innovation centres around the world**.

International law is not dead, its rules stay resilient

> **Prelims:** General Studies Paper - 1
> Current events of national and international importance

> **Mains:** General Studies - 2
> Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate

1.Context

- **Recent conflicts like U.S.-Iran tensions and the Russia-Ukraine war** have **led many to say international law is breaking down**.
- Countries **leaving global institutions and the rise of authoritarian politics** have added to this concern.
- However, the international law is still strong and not collapsing, despite these challenges.

2. Article 2(4) and the Norm Against Force

- **Article 2(4) of the UN Charter** prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of states.
- Though violated in conflicts like the Soviet-Afghan War, Gulf War, Iraq (2003), and others, the rule itself has not collapsed.
- These violations show the law is not properly enforced, but it still exists.
- Powerful states often **attempt to justify military interventions by invoking Article 51 of the UN Charter**, which allows the use of force in self-defence.

- The real danger is when countries use force without any legal reason.

3. International Law Beyond the UN Charter

- International law **extends far beyond the United Nations Charter** and is not confined to rules on the use of force.
- It **governs diverse areas** such as trade, investment, civil aviation, maritime resources, outer space, human rights, climate change, and weapons control.
- This **expansion shows that international law continues to grow** and remain active in global affairs.

4. International Law Works Silently

- **International agreements are still being negotiated and concluded**, such as the High Seas Treaty and the Pandemic Agreement.
- Many global and regional courts have been created, including the **International Criminal Court and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights**.
- International disputes are **increasingly settled through legal institutions rather than force**.
- **International law quietly supports trade, travel, and communication** between countries.
- Declaring international law "dead" weakens it; instead, it must be defended against rising authoritarian pressures.

Up in the air: On non-scheduled operators, aviation safety

> **Prelims:** General Studies Paper - 1
> Current events of national and international importance

> **Mains:** General Studies - 3
> Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

1.Context

- Recent **aircraft and helicopter accidents in Baramati, Simaria, and the Andamans** have raised serious safety concerns in India's charter aviation sector.

Charter aviation refers to air services where an aircraft is hired privately for a specific trip, instead of operating on fixed schedules like regular commercial airlines.

- With **133 Non-Scheduled Operators (NSOs) operating in India** and the sector expanding, stronger regulatory oversight has become urgent.

2. DGCA's Regulatory Response

- The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation plans to rank charter operators** based on their safety performance.
- **Operators must publicly share key safety details** like aircraft age, maintenance records, and pilot experience to improve transparency.
- The DGCA is **increasing checks on flight data, fuel records, duty hours, and maintenance standards.**
- It has made **regular training on weather and decision-making compulsory** for pilots.
- It has clearly stated that business or VIP pressures must not compromise flight safety.

3. Structural Challenges in the Sector

- Some operators **continue to have poor safety records.**
- There are **gaps in pilot training and limited aircraft-specific experience**.
- India faces a **shortage of simulator centres and quality instructors.**
- **Weak audits and staff shortages** within the regulator affect proper safety enforcement.

4. Need for Sustained Enforcement and Reform

- **Real reform** requires **consistent enforcement of safety rules.**
- **Strong institutional accountability** and genuine transparency are essential.
- The **regulator must have adequate staff and capacity** to ensure effective oversight.
- Lasting improvement in India's charter aviation sector depends on strict monitoring, better training infrastructure, and accountability at all levels.

KEYWORDS

Article 51 of the UN Charter

- **Article 51 of the UN Charter permits the use of force in self-defence** only if an armed attack occurs.
- It is **an exception to Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity** or political independence of any state.
- Military Action under Article 51 must satisfy two critical principles:
- Necessity (Force must be the only option left)
- Proportionality (the response should not exceed the scale of the attack).
- It **imposes a procedural obligation on member states** to immediately report to the UNSC any military measures taken in self-defence.
- UNSC then assumes the authority to undertake action to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Meningococcal disease

- **Meningococcal disease** includes two serious conditions: **meningococcal meningitis** and **meningococcaemia**.
  - ➡ **Meningococcal meningitis** is a severe **bacterial infection of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord**.
  - ➡ **Meningococcaemia** is a serious **bloodstream infection**.
- Both are caused by the bacterium **Neisseria meningitidis (N. meningitidis)**, also called the **meningococcus**, which infects **humans only**.
- The bacteria commonly live in the **nose and throat** without causing illness.
- Most people who carry the bacteria **do not become sick**.
- Only a small number develop disease, possibly due to **genetic, immune, social, or physical factors**.
- In severe cases, the disease can lead to **brain damage, hearing loss, kidney failure, limb loss, or long-term nervous system problems**.
- Even with prompt treatment, the **fatality rate is about 10–15%**.