



FORTUNE WEEKLY DIGEST



› Crowd Management

› Change in Monsoon Pattern

› Rise in Militancy in J&K

07th JULY - 13th JULY, 2024

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EDITOR'S NOTE

As UPSC aspirants, it is essential to stay updated on current affairs to excel in the examination. This **Fortune Weekly Digest (ForWarD)** brings you the latest news and developments from around the world, carefully curated and analyzed to help you prepare for the Civil Services (Main) Examination.

We understand that time is precious, and we have made sure to present the information in a concise and easy-to-understand manner.

The magazine is divided into different sections. Mains relevant topics have been covered in detail with a UPSC previous year question perspective. The jot downs are examples and interesting facts to enrich your answer writing. Cherrypicks has some key words from the week, helpful again in answer writing and essay. We have also included essay topics and sample questions to help you gauge your preparation.

We have designed this magazine to best supplement the daily current affairs notes we have launched by the name of **FIND (Fortune IAS News Daily)** and **FINDER (Fortune IAS News Daily Explainer)** and the **Fortune Prelims Precise** monthly compilation. This magazine will be explained in detail and your queries addressed in a live class we conduct.

At a time when there is no dearth of current affairs materials, our hope is help you get a one-stop solution for all your current affairs needs.

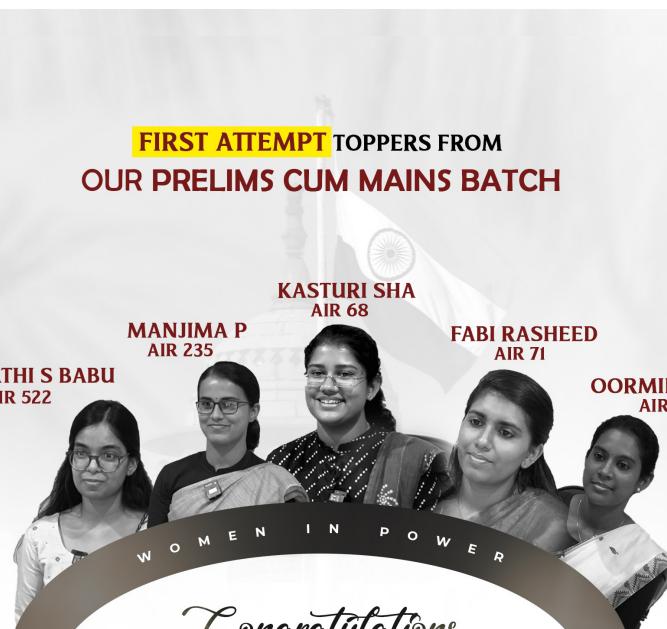
This magazine is a work in progress and your feedback will be appreciated.

We hope that this magazine will serve as a valuable resource for your exam preparation and contribute to your success in the UPSC examination.

INDEX

Crowd Management	1
Caste Census	5
Change in Monsoon Pattern	8
India - Russia	16
Rise in Militancy in Jammu & Kashmir	20
Muslim Women Right To Maintenance	25
Ethics - Case Study	29
Ethics - Examples	29
Model Essay	30
Mains Jot Down	31
Cherrypicks of the week	33

**FIRST ATTEMPT TOPPERS FROM
OUR PRELIMS CUM MAINS BATCH**



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AIR 68

MANJIMA P
AIR 235

SWATHI S BABU
AIR 522

FABI RASHEED
AIR 71

OORMILA J S
AIR 561

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CROWD MANAGEMENT

Syllabus: GS III - Disaster Management

PYQ MAPPING

Q) How important are vulnerability and risk assessment for pre-disaster management. As an administrator ,what are key areas that you would focus in a disaster management (2013)

Q) Discuss the recent measures initiated in disaster management by the Government of India departing from the earlier reactive approach.(2020)

SHORT TAKES

➤ **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):** Led by the Prime Minister of India, it is the apex body for disaster management, established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. NDMA's role includes formulating policies, plans, and guidelines to foster a culture of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and response.

WHY IN NEWS

The **stampede in Hathras on June 2**, which resulted in the **tragic loss of 121 lives**, highlights critical issues such as overcrowding, religious fervour, and event mismanagement. A **satsang organised by Suraj Pal alias Bhole Baba** turned deadly, reflecting broader concerns over safety and regulatory oversight at large gatherings. Reports indicate that the crowd at the venue, numbering around 2.5 lakh, far exceeded the permitted limit of 80,000.

INTRODUCTION

Effective crowd management is crucial for ensuring the safety and well-being of individuals at large public gatherings, such as religious events, concerts, and sporting events. Properly managing crowds involves a combination of strategic planning, real-time monitoring, and coordinated response efforts to prevent incidents like stampedes and ensure orderly movement.

ISSUES

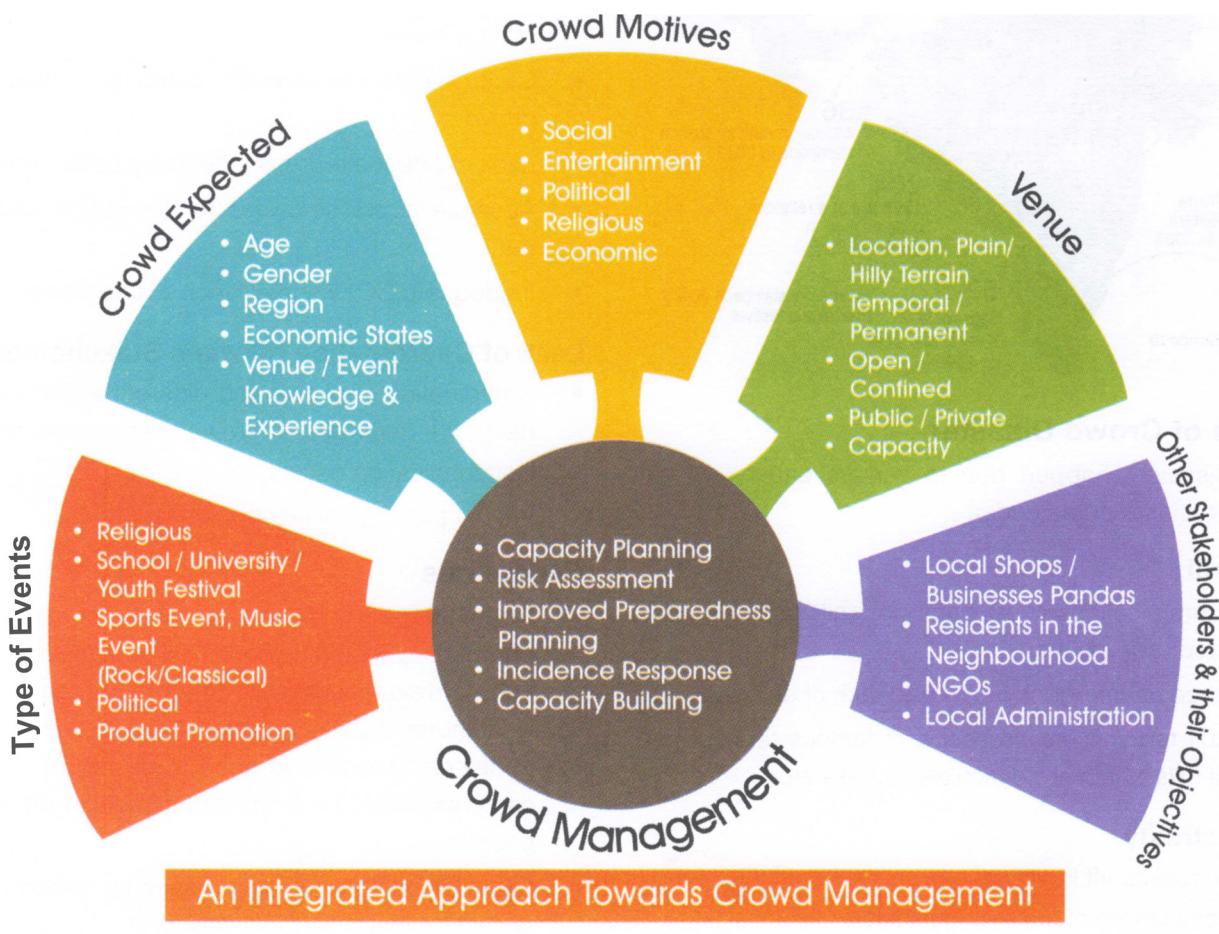
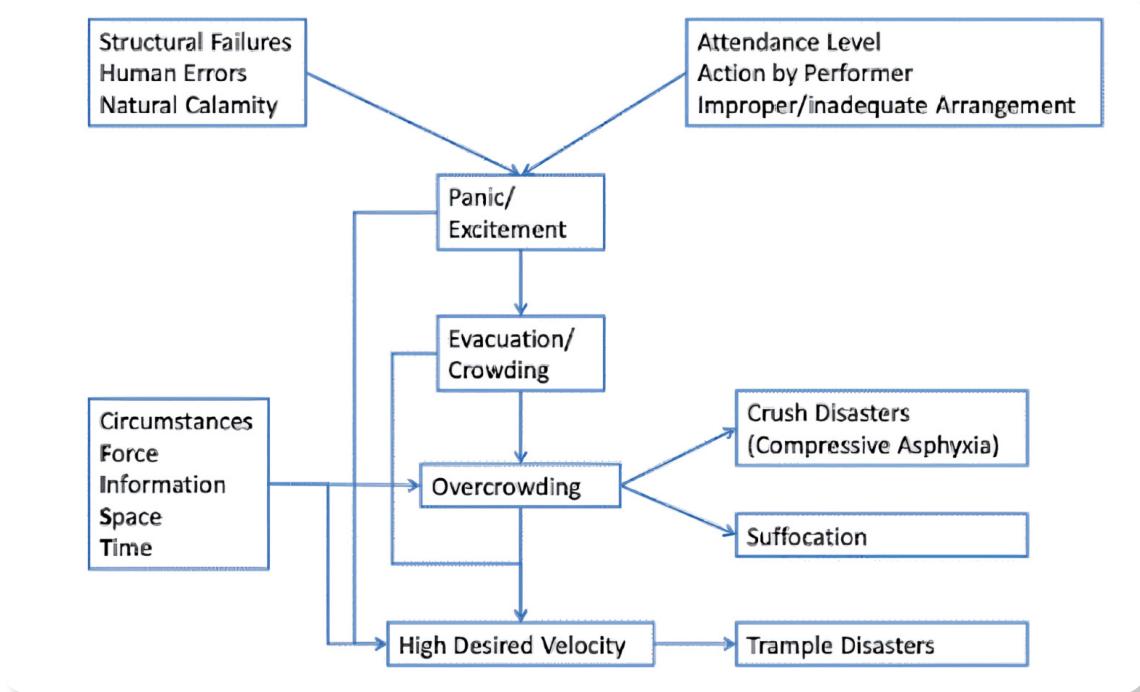
- ▼ **Faith Sensitivities:** Cultural sensitivities and resistance to regulation enforcement in religious matters.
- ▼ **Insufficient Local Intelligence:** Lack of effective local intelligence can result in inadequate preparedness for large crowds.
- ▼ **Poor Police Preparedness:** Without proper planning and resources, police forces can struggle to manage large gatherings effectively.
 - **Example:** The **Indian cricket team's victory parade at Marine Drive** resulted in chaos, with fans dancing on cars, damaging public property, causing traffic jams, while police struggled to manage the situation.
- ▼ **Failure to Anticipate Crowd Size:** Underestimating the potential size of a crowd can lead to inadequate infrastructure and safety measures.
- ▼ **Lack of Comprehensive Planning:** Absence of detailed, scenario-based planning for crowd management can result in chaos and insufficient emergency response.
 - **Example:** The stampede-like situation during the **Rath Yatra in Puri on July 7**, resulting in one death and hundreds of injuries, was caused by poor crowd control, mismanagement of cordons, and overcrowding despite security protocols in place.
- ▼ **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Insufficient facilities such as entry/exit points, medical aid stations, and sanitation can exacerbate crowd-related issues.
- ▼ **Poor Communication Channels:** Lack of clear communication between organisers, authorities, and attendees can lead to confusion and panic.
- ▼ **Insufficient Training:** Inadequate training for personnel involved in crowd management can lead to poor decision-making and crisis handling.
- ▼ **Inadequate Resource Allocation:** Failure to allocate necessary resources, such as barriers, surveillance, and crowd control personnel, can hinder effective crowd management.
- ▼ **Neglect of Emergency Protocols:** Ignoring or not establishing emergency protocols can result in delayed responses and increased risks during critical situations.

GUIDELINES

The National Disaster Management Authority(NDMA) released a comprehensive guide in 2014 titled **Managing Crowd at Events and Venues of Mass Gathering**.

Objective: The publication aims to guide state governments, local agencies, event organisers, and venue administrators in effective crowd management, emphasising that disaster management for crowd incidents is **primarily the responsibility of local organisers with support from state and national authorities.**

Q Crowd Disaster Process



- ⦿ Regardless of whether a gathering is private or public, certain protocols must be adhered to:
 - ⦿ **Mandatory Protocols:** Standard operating procedures (SOPs) must not be relaxed for any reason or any person.
 - ⦿ **Police Permission:** The organiser must approach the concerned police station for permission to hold the event.
 - ⦿ **Detailed Information:** The organiser must provide a multitude of details about the event to the police.
 - ⦿ **Police Assessment:** The police evaluate the application based on their assessment, which relies on credible information or "intelligence".
 - ⦿ Considerations for Approval:
 - » **Size and Nature of the Crowd:** The number of attendees and the type of event.
 - » **Density and Capacity:** The crowd density in relation to the capacity of the location.
 - » **Escape Routes:** Availability of possible escape routes in case of an emergency.
 - » **Emergency Response Mechanism:** Anticipation and planning for a response mechanism in case of an emergency.

WAY FORWARD

- ✿ **Strategic Placement:** Deploy officers in key locations such as entry/exit points, high-traffic areas, and potential trouble spots to maximise coverage and effectiveness.
- ✿ **Use of Technology:** Implement surveillance systems, including drones, to monitor crowd movements and identify potential issues in real-time.
 - ⦿ **Example:** When Uttar Pradesh inaugurated its **Integrated Command and Control Centre**, it implemented AI to predict crowd density and utilised CCTVs for enhanced monitoring
 - ⦿ For the upcoming **Kumbh Mela** in Prayagraj next year, the **Indian Railways** plans to use **Artificial Intelligence** to monitor and manage the crowd real-time
- ✿ **Crowd Flow Analysis:** Conduct thorough analysis and simulations of crowd flow to determine optimal placement and movement strategies for both attendees and security personnel.
- ✿ **Communication Systems:** Establish robust communication channels among security personnel, organisers, and attendees to quickly disseminate information and instructions.
- ✿ **Innovation:** Leveraging new technologies and data-driven solutions to address urban challenges effectively
 - ⦿ **Example:** Varanasi has initiated the **Sustainable Cities Challenge**, supported by the Toyota Mobility Foundation's USD 9 million fund, to seek data-driven solutions that improve safety in the city, especially for its millions of annual visitors, including older people and PwD.
- ✿ **Training and Drills:** Provide specialised training and conduct regular drills for officers on crowd management, emergency response, and strategic positioning.
- ✿ **Resource Allocation:** Ensure that the available resources, such as barriers, medical aid stations, and information booths, are strategically placed to aid in crowd control and management.
- ✿ **Emergency Protocols:** Develop and communicate clear emergency protocols to all involved parties, including attendees, to ensure a coordinated response to any incidents.
- ✿ **Real-Time Adjustments:** Utilise real-time data and intelligence to make on-the-fly adjustments to officer placement and resource allocation as the event progresses.
- ✿ **Community Engagement:** Involve community volunteers and local stakeholders in crowd management efforts to enhance situational awareness and foster cooperative crowd behaviour.

BEST PRACTICES

- ✿ **The Hajj in Mecca, Saudi Arabia:** Saudi Arabia utilises advanced technologies like **AI, 5G, and smart applications** to manage Hajj and Umrah pilgrimages, enhancing crowd control and communication
- ✿ **Tirupati Balaji Temple:** It accommodates up to 400,000 devotees daily through innovative techniques, including a **three-layered queue system, token distribution, and online booking for special darshan**, ensuring a smooth experience

- o The Tirupati Trust is **assisting the Ayodhya Ram Mandir Trust and other renowned temple trusts like Shirdi Sansthan and Vaishno Devi shrine** in adopting effective crowd management practices, including the successful implementation of Tirupati Model Queue system at **Sabarimala Ayyappa temple in 2023**.
- 💡 **Kumbh Mela:** It is the largest religious gathering in India held every 12 years in Prayagraj and has generally seen smooth crowd management. In 2019, a team of **10 information technology experts was employed to review** the most densely populated areas at the mela.
- o The upcoming Kumbh Mela in 2025 is being prepared with advanced technologies, including AI, and will deploy a significantly increased police force of 60,000 to 80,000 officials.

CONCLUSION

The importance of crowd management cannot be overstated, as failure to adequately control large groups can lead to chaos. Comprehensive disaster management strategies are essential to mitigate risks, prevent accidents, and ensure the safety of all participants. With the increasing frequency of large-scale events, a focus on crowd management is vital for protecting lives and maintaining order.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Q) Discuss the challenges and strategies for crowd management in India, with reference to recent incidents and initiatives aimed at ensuring public safety during large gatherings **(10 marks)(150 words)**



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- 06 PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**
- 07 SOCIOLOGY**

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CASTE CENSUS

Syllabus: GS I - Salient Features of Indian Society

PYQ MAPPING

Q) Caste system is assuming new identities and associational forms. Hence, the caste system cannot be eradicated in India." Comment. **(2018)**

Q) Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi-cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustrations. **(2020)**

WHY IN NEWS

The Opposition has reaffirmed the necessity of a caste census to ensure equal opportunities, emphasising the socio-economic realities of caste in India. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah remains non-committal about releasing Karnataka's caste census report, commissioned nearly a decade ago, citing the need for Cabinet discussion.

INTRODUCTION

The caste system, deeply ingrained in India's social fabric, continues to shape various facets of life, including socio-economic opportunities and political dynamics. The proposal for a caste census in India has sparked intense debate due to its potential to inform targeted policy interventions and enhance social justice efforts. However, proponents highlight its necessity for informed decision-making, while critics raise concerns over potential social divisions and logistical complexities.

SHORT TAKES

Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India(RGCC): Functions under Ministry of Home Affairs and is responsible for arranging, conducting and analysing the results of the demographic surveys of India including Census of India and Linguistic Survey of India. Shri Mritunjay Kumar Narayan is the current RGCCI.

CASTE ENUMERATION IN INDIAN CENSUS

- ➡ **Comprehensive Caste Data (British India):** All castes were recorded in censuses between 1881 and 1931 during British rule.
 - o The **1931 Census identified 4,147 castes in India**, excluding the depressed classes/untouchables.
- ➡ **Unpublished Caste Data:** In 1941, caste-based data was collected but remained unpublished. Census Commissioner M.W.M. Yeats remarked that producing an extensive and expensive all-India caste table was impractical amidst World War II,
- ➡ **Post-Independence Exclusion:** After independence in 1951, caste data was generally excluded from censuses, with **exceptions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**.
 - o The government prioritised data collection on SCs and STs for policy and affirmative action purposes.
- ➡ **State-Level OBC Identification:** In 1961, states were allowed to conduct their own surveys to identify Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- ➡ **Parliamentary Resolution:** In 2010, after lobbying by OBC leaders, Parliament passed a unanimous resolution for caste to be enumerated in the 2011 Census, referencing the 1931 Census which last included caste data.
- ➡ **Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC)-2011:** It was poorly executed, yielding an implausible figure of 46 lakh castes, leading to its results being withheld.
 - o **Cost and Conduct:** The SECC was a massive undertaking with a budget of Rs. 4893.60 crore. It was conducted jointly by the **Ministries of Rural Development and Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation**.
 - o **Data Collection and Publication:**
 - Non-caste related data was finalised and published in 2016.

- Caste data was separately handed to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and an expert group was formed under Arvind Pangaria to classify and categorise caste data. The status of this group's report is unclear.
- **Failure of SECC:** The failure was attributed to it not being conducted under the Census Act, 1948, and the ministries responsible lacked experience in sociological surveys.
 - The questionnaire design was flawed, leading to confusion among enumerators regarding genuine castes, sub-castes, surnames, and other classifications.
- ➔ **Successful Model-Bihar's 2023 Caste Survey:** It provided a list of 214 specific caste names, with a category for "Other Castes," resulting in more accurate data.
- ➔ **Government's Stance and Legal Implications**
 - The Central government announced in 2021 it would not include caste in the next Census.
 - The Supreme Court dismissed a plea from Maharashtra for OBC enumeration in the 2021 Census, a decision at odds with its past rulings

NEED FOR CASTE CENSUS

- ✓ **Social Imperative:** Caste remains a **foundational social construct** in India, influencing aspects like marriage, surnames, residential segregation, and political choices.
- ✓ **Legal Imperative:** Detailed caste-wise data is essential for **implementing Constitutionally-mandated social justice policies**, including reservations in education, employment, and electoral constituencies, as supported by various Supreme Court rulings.
- ✓ **Administrative Imperative:** Accurate caste data helps **prevent wrongful inclusions/exclusions, ensures fair distribution** within reserved categories, and assists in sub-categorizing castes and defining the creamy layer criteria.
- ✓ **Moral Imperative:** Lack of detailed caste data has allowed elites among upper castes and dominant OBCs to disproportionately control national resources, highlighting the need for **equitable distribution**.
- ✓ **Implementing Electoral Reservations for OBCs:** The Constitution allows reservations in electoral constituencies for panchayats and municipalities, extending to OBCs under **Articles 243D(6) and 243T(6)**.
 - However, the lack of comprehensive caste-wise and area-wise Census data on OBCs poses a critical obstacle to the effective implementation of these provisions, impacting policy and representation.
- ✓ **Empirical data for EWS Reservation:** The Supreme Court upheld the 10% EWS reservation for non-OBC, SC, and ST categories in 2022 without supporting empirical data, highlighting the need for comprehensive caste enumeration in the Census

ARGUMENT AGAINST CASTE CENSUS

- **Social Divisiveness:** Critics argue that enumerating caste will solidify caste identities, leading to further divisions and discrimination.
- **Administrative Challenges:** Conducting a caste census is seen as logically complex due to the vast number of castes and sub-castes across India. Critics argue that the government lacks the capacity to accurately and efficiently collect and process such data.
- **Data misuse:** There is a concern that caste data could be misused for political gain or discriminatory purposes.
- **Fueling Demands for Reservations:** Concern that caste-based data could lead to increased demands for reservations from various caste groups. This could potentially intensify competition for limited resources and exacerbate social tensions.

WAY FORWARD

- ✿ **Amendment of the Census Act, 1948:** The Census Act, 1948 should be amended to mandate caste enumeration, removing discretion from the Union executive.
 - Caste should be included in the regular Census conducted by the Census Commissioner
- ✿ **Expert Involvement and Draft List:** The government should engage sociological and anthropological experts to create a draft list of castes specific to each State.
 - This draft list should be published online for public suggestions and comments before finalising it.
- ✿ **Structured Questionnaire:** The Census questionnaire should include specific questions on sub-caste, caste, larger caste group, and caste surname.
 - Use of internet-enabled hand-held devices preloaded with caste details can streamline the process, allowing enumerators to select the correct options
- ✿ **Data Privacy and Security:** To mitigate concerns about social divisiveness, stringent data privacy and security protocols must be implemented.
 - The data collected should be anonymized and used solely for statistical purposes.
- ✿ **Judicial Review:** Interested States should petition the Supreme Court to review its 2021 judgement regarding caste enumeration.
- ✿ **Robust Policy Framework:** The collection of caste data should be accompanied by a well-defined policy framework outlining how the data will be used. Clear guidelines for data interpretation and utilisation can help prevent its misuse for political or discriminatory purposes.
- ✿ **Regular Review and Updates:** Establish a mechanism to regularly review and update caste data to ensure its relevance and accuracy. This will help in tracking changes in caste dynamics over time.

CONCLUSION

A caste census is crucial for addressing socio-economic disparities and ensuring equitable resource distribution in India. Accurate caste data aids in informed policy-making and effective implementation of social justice measures. A concerted government and judiciary effort is needed to conduct and utilise this data for the nation's benefit.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Q) Discuss the implications of a caste census on India's reservation policies and social justice initiatives. **(10 marks)(150 words)**

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MANJIMA P AIR 235	OORMILA J S AIR 561			

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CHANGE IN MONSOON PATTERN

Syllabus: GS I - Changes in critical geographical features and in flora and fauna and the effect of such changes.

PYQ MAPPING

Q) How far do you agree that the behaviour of the Indian monsoon has been changing due to humanising landscapes? Discuss. (2015)

Q) What characteristics can be assigned to the monsoon climate that succeeds in feeding more than 50 percent of the world population residing in Monsoon Asia? (2017)

SHORT TAKES

➤ Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)

- It is a low pressure region near the Earth's equator where the trade winds from the Northern and Southern Hemispheres converge.
- The ITCZ is typically found around the equator but can shift north or south depending on the season.
- Its position is influenced by the thermal equator, which is the latitude where the Earth's surface is the warmest.
- It forms due to the convergence of the northeast trade winds from the Northern Hemisphere and the southeast trade winds from the Southern Hemisphere.
- This convergence causes the air to rise, leading to the formation of clouds and precipitation.
- It is characterised by heavy rainfall and thunderstorms, making it a crucial region for tropical precipitation.

WHY IN NEWS

Recent studies have found that monsoon patterns in India have been fast-shifting and erratic in the past decade. This has been mainly driven by the accelerating rate of climate change

INTRODUCTION

The monsoons are crucial for the Indian economy, serving as the backbone of the agricultural sector, which employs over half of India's population. They are also vital for managing water resources and generating hydro-based clean energy. However, the variability of Indian monsoons, with their wet and dry spells, directly affects the country's socio-economic aspects, including its GDP.

What is Monsoon?

- 🌀 The monsoon is a seasonal change in wind direction that brings heavy rainfall to India and other South Asian countries.
- 🌀 The Indian summer monsoon typically lasts from June-September, with large areas of western and central India receiving more than 90% of their total annual precipitation during the period, and southern and northwestern India receiving 50%-75% of their total annual rainfall.

TYPES OF MONSOON IN INDIA

Southwest Monsoon

- ◆ **Timing:** Occurs from June to September.
- ◆ **Onset:**
 - » Hits Kerala on the southwestern coast around June.
 - » Proceeds across the country.
- ◆ **Significance:**
 - » Primary monsoon affecting India.
 - » Brings respite from the heat.
 - » Contributes significantly to the ecosystem and economy.
 - » Crucial for the growth of kharif crops.

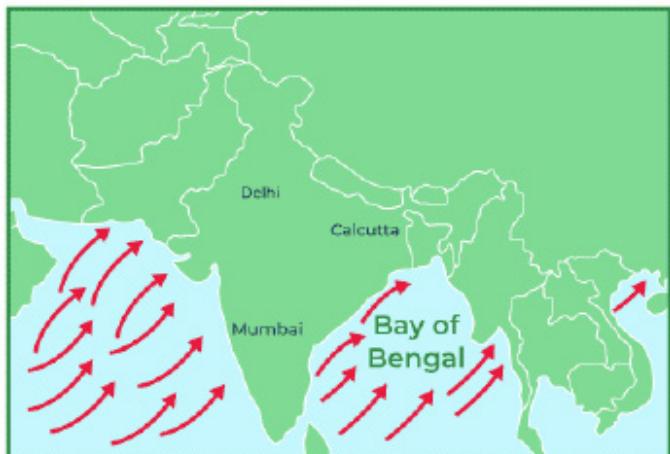
Northeast Monsoon (Retreating Monsoon)

- ◆ **Timing:** Occurs from October to December.
- ◆ **Region Affected:** Primarily affects peninsular India.
- ◆ **Intensity:** Not as intense as the southwest monsoon.
- ◆ **Significance:**
 - » Important for the growth of rabi crops.

Winter Monsoon



Summer Monsoon



FACTORS AFFECTING INDIAN MONSOON

👉 Differential Heating of Land and Sea:

- During summer, the Indian subcontinent heats up significantly.
- This creates low-pressure areas over the land.
- Surrounding oceans maintain relatively lower temperatures, creating high-pressure zones.

👉 Pressure Gradient:

- The difference in pressure between the heated land and cooler oceans creates a pressure gradient.
- This gradient triggers the southwest monsoon, drawing moist air from the Indian Ocean.

👉 El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO):

- **El Niño:** Leads to drier conditions in India.
- **La Niña:** Enhances the monsoon, bringing more rainfall.

👉 Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD):

- Positive IOD: Warmer sea surface temperatures in the western Indian Ocean lead to increased rainfall in India.
- Negative IOD: Cooler sea surface temperatures in the western Indian Ocean can result in reduced rainfall.

👉 Geographical Features:

- **Tibetan Plateau:** Acts as a heat source, influencing wind patterns.
- **Western Ghats:** Orographic effect causes heavy rainfall on the western side.
- **Himalayan Mountains:** Block cold winds from Central Asia, aiding the monsoon's progress.

Changing Rain Pattern of Indian Monsoon

- A new study “**Decoding India’s Changing Monsoon Patterns: A Tehsil-level Assessment**” has found that monsoon patterns in India have been fast-shifting and erratic in the past decade.
- Also the **experts opined** that the stalled southwest monsoon, which typically **experiences break periods every season, is different this time** because the monsoon trough has not even reached its normal position.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

- ⦿ The researchers examined high-resolution meteorological data spanning four decades, from **1982 to 2022**, which has been sourced from the **Indian Monsoon Data Assimilation and Analysis project (IMDAA)**.
- ⦿ The study also found that monsoon patterns in India have been fast-shifting and erratic in the past decade. This has been mainly driven by the **accelerating rate of climate change**.

⦿ The Findings:

- ⦿ **Rainfall increases in some of the traditionally drier regions and decreases in some of the high monsoon rainfall areas.**
 - In the past decade, traditionally drier areas such as **Rajasthan, Gujarat, the Konkan region, central Maharashtra**, and parts of **Tamil Nadu** have experienced a more than **30% increase** in southwest monsoon rainfall compared to the baseline of 1981–2011.
 - Meanwhile, traditionally high monsoon rainfall areas such as **Assam and Meghalaya saw a reduction in rainfall**, with the study indicating that tehsils in this area received **30% less rainfall** compared to the Long Period Average (LPA).
- ⦿ **Regions with heightened rainfall experience more frequent heavy rainfall events:**
 - Southwest monsoon rainfall increased in 55% of India's tehsils. The spike, however, has come from short-duration, heavy rainfall, which often results in flash floods, according to the study.
 - “This trend is of particular concern as it is related to the distribution of rainfall within a season and this could be one of the reasons behind the recent occurrences of flash floods, such as in Delhi, Uttarakhand, Himachal

Pradesh (in 2023), and Bangalore (in 2022),” the study added.

- ⦿ **Changes in monsoon patterns can affect agriculture output and ecosystems:**
 - The analysis revealed that southwest monsoon rainfall has decreased in only 11% of tehsils over the past decade; however, a concerning aspect is that a significant number of these tehsils are located in the Indo-Gangetic plain, northeast India, and the upper Himalayan region, which are vital for India's agricultural output.
 - Additionally, these regions contain fragile ecosystems that are particularly vulnerable to extreme climate events such as floods and droughts.
- ⦿ **Rainfall is not distributed evenly throughout the seasons and months:**
 - Most of the tehsils experiencing decreased southwest monsoon rainfall saw a decline during the initial monsoon months of June and July, which are critical for sowing kharif crops.
 - On the other hand, 48% of tehsils in India observed an increase in October rainfall by more than 10%, likely due to the delayed withdrawal of the southwest monsoon from the subcontinent, potentially affecting the sowing of rabi crops.
- ⦿ **Northeast monsoon rainfall also increased in some regions:**
 - In the past 10 years, the retreating monsoon rainfall spiked by more than 10% in approximately 80% of tehsils in Tamil Nadu, 44% in Telangana, and 39% in Andhra Pradesh.
 - Odisha, West Bengal, Maharashtra, and Goa are also seeing an increase in rainfall during this period.

IMD OPINION ON STALLED MONSOON PERIOD

- ♣ According to data from the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, the Bay of Bengal branch of the southwest monsoon has been stalled since May 31, a day after the onset of the monsoon.
- ⦿ That is a stalling period of **19 days** as of June 19, **one of the longest in recent time**.

The Arabian Sea branch of the monsoon has been stalled since June 10, which is a stalling period of nine days.

♣ IMPACT:

- o This Led to an all India deficit in monsoon rainfall of 20 per cent between June 1 and June 18, heralding a sluggish start to the season responsible for 70 per cent of the country's total rainfall.
- o It is also one of the reasons for the late heatwaves in most of **north India and many parts of west, central and eastern India** since the beginning of June.
 - In many places like Delhi, temperatures are also not reducing at night, leading to warm night conditions and no respite for people even at night.
- o The **east and Northeast India region** has received 14.7 percent less rainfall than normal, despite the region suffering from floods since the beginning of the season.
- o **Southern India** has been the only region with ample rainfall during the first three weeks of June.
 - It recorded an excess of 15.7 percent between June 1 and June 18.

BREAK IN MONSOON

☀ A "break" in the monsoon refers to a temporary cessation or reduction in rainfall activity during the monsoon season.

☀ It is characterised by a period of several days to weeks when the monsoon rains significantly reduce or stop altogether over a particular region or even larger areas of the country.

☀ 'Break periods' are a normal characteristic for the monsoon. But some of the recent breaks have been much longer than normal.

☀ Cause behind break in monsoon:

- o The season is usually said to be on a break when the **monsoon trough moves towards the foothills of the Himalayas**.
 - During this period, it starts raining heavily in the Himalayan and the northeastern states while the rest of the country remains dry, especially what the IMD defines as the '**core monsoon zone**'.
 - The core monsoon zone stretches **from Gujarat in the west to West Bengal and Odisha in the east**.
- o **Presence of Weather Systems:** The influence of weather systems such as cyclones, low-pressure areas, and atmospheric disturbances (western disturbances) can disrupt the monsoon circulation.
 - These systems may alter wind patterns, divert moisture flows, or suppress the development of rain-bearing clouds, contributing to a break in the monsoon.
- o **Oceanic Conditions:** Anomalies in sea surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean, such as **El Niño or La Niña events**, can influence monsoon dynamics.

▪ Warmer sea surface temperatures (El Niño) can weaken the monsoon by reducing moisture availability, while cooler temperatures (La Niña) can enhance it.

o **Intraseasonal Variability:** The monsoon exhibits intraseasonal variability with active and break phases. These phases are influenced by internal atmospheric processes, interactions between different atmospheric layers, and feedback mechanisms within the monsoon system itself.

o **Topographical Features:** Geographic features like mountain ranges (e.g., the Western Ghats) and desert regions (e.g., Thar Desert) can influence monsoon circulation patterns.

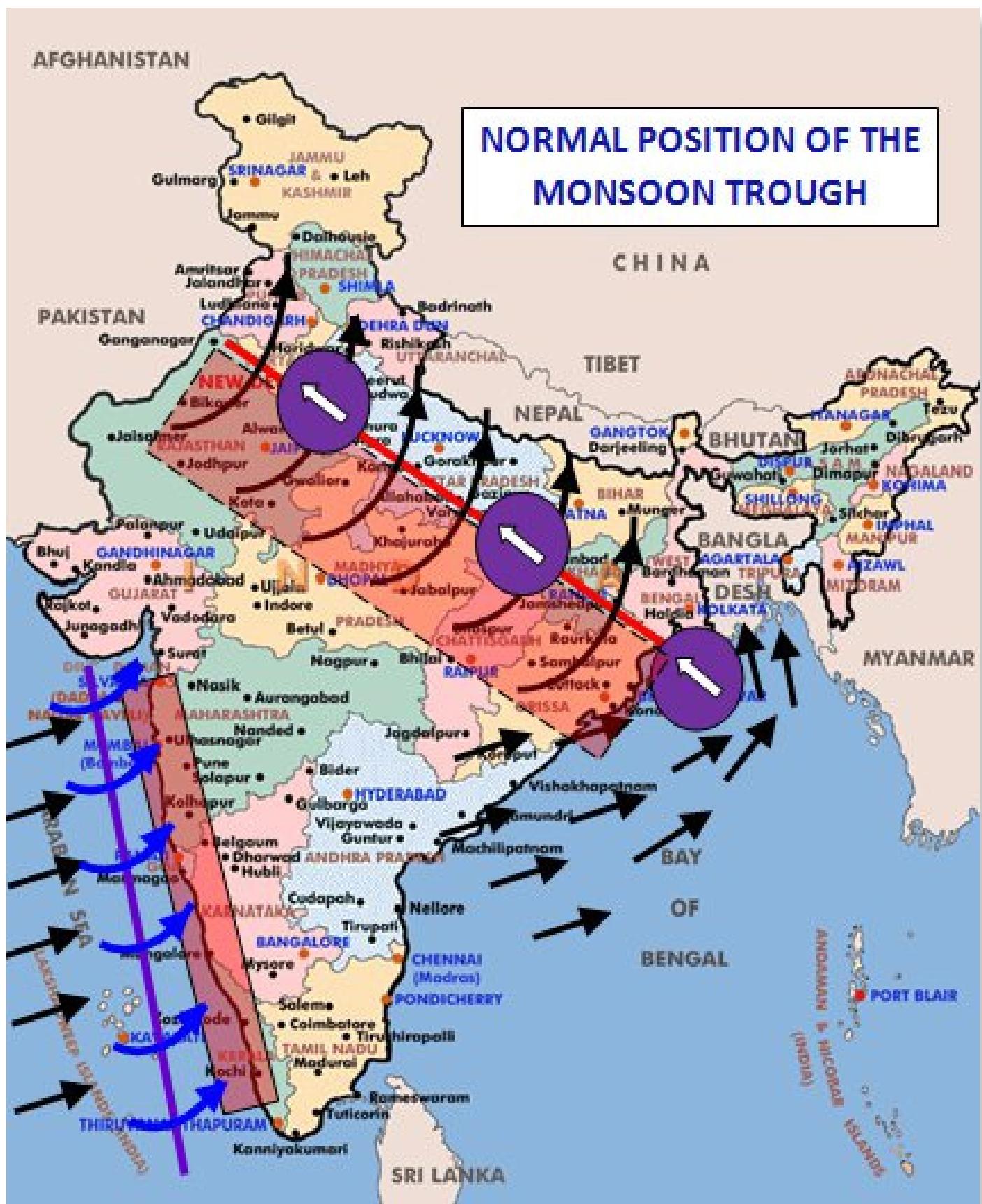
- They may act as barriers or triggers for weather systems, affecting the distribution and intensity of rainfall across different regions of India.

o **Offshore Trough:** It is typically found along the western side of India during the monsoon season.

- India's summer heat drives the formation of a low-pressure zone over land, attracting moisture-laden monsoon winds.
- As these warm winds encounter the cooler Arabian Sea, they sink and deflect due to the Coriolis effect, creating an offshore trough – a dip in atmospheric pressure.
- This trough acts like a magnet, drawing in winds and promoting their convergence, which fuels cloud formation and heavy rainfall along India's western coast during the monsoon season.

▪ If the offshore trough weakens or **shifts away** from the coast, it could **reduce the convergence of moisture** and contribute to a decrease in rainfall.

NORMAL POSITION OF THE MONSOON TROUGH



REASON FOR CHANGING PATTERN

◊ **Changing climate:**

- The entire northern hemisphere, including the oceans, has remained warm from January through October 2021, with the only exception of the Siberian High. This warming leads to the formation of local low-pressure systems, which are attributed to the delayed monsoon withdrawals.

◊ **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO):**

- La Niña conditions prevail over the equatorial Pacific Ocean, and neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions over the Indian Ocean.
- During La Niña conditions, rainfall is normal or below normal during the northeast Monsoon in southern Peninsular India. Nevertheless, this time, **rainfall is higher because of the favourable location of MJO.**

◊ **Arctic sea-ice loss:**

- This year's Arctic sea-ice loss led to high sea-level pressure over western Europe and northeastern China, which steered planetary waves southeastward instead of their eastward trajectory.
- These Waves, which produce circulation anomalies in the upper atmosphere, entered India late in the season and delayed the Monsoon.

IMPACT OF CHANGING MONSOON PATTERN

◊ **Depletion of Water Table:**

- In India, a little over 50% of India's net sown area is under rainfed farming, and a large part of the irrigated area depends on groundwater extraction through borewells, which needs to be recharged with the groundwater.
- These aquifers may need to be adequately recharged in a poor monsoon, leading to a water crisis.
- Further, according to a NITI Aayog's report, nearly 21 Indian cities — including New Delhi, Hyderabad and Chennai — could run out of groundwater by 2020.

◊ **Fiscal Burden:**

- Multiple crop failures may require the government to support farmers actively. It likely prompts the government to raise minimum support prices for the current season's crops to help support farmers' incomes.
- This will have a diminishing effect on investments into agricultural investments.

◊ **Impacting Electricity Generation:**

- Monsoon rains can be harnessed as hydro power, a valuable energy resource. Hydropower currently provides 25% of India's electricity.
- Reservoirs are filled during the southwest monsoon rains, and then the water is gradually released through dams, turning turbines to create electricity year-round.
- During years when there is little monsoon rainfall, the reservoirs are not replenished, limiting the amount of hydroelectric power produced during the year.

◊ **La-Niña:**

- During which the sea surface temperatures over the eastern and central Pacific Ocean remain cooler than average, affecting the trade winds which carry this weather disturbance across the world.
- In India, La-Niña generally triggers the formation of low-pressure areas, contributing to increased rainfall.
- The atmosphere combined with La Niña conditions will likely create conducive conditions for forming more low-pressure areas and rainfall events.

◊ **Warming Arabian Sea:**

- The other reason for the unusual rains is the warming up of the Arabian Sea over the past decade. This causes higher evaporation which increases the chances of forming a low-pressure area.
- On some occasions, the pairing of these low-pressure systems resulted in the formation of troughs (elongated regions carrying winds and rain) over the Indian landmass, and it resulted in widespread rainfall.

🌀 Impacting Inflation:

- Normal monsoon rains keep a check on food inflation due to the availability of food products. However, in a situation of drought, prices soar significantly.
- Also, if poor monsoon results in less crop output, the country may need to import.
- It also impacts as many as a dozen sectors that depend on Monsoons directly or indirectly.

🌀 Increase in natural disasters:

- **Erratic Rainfall and Floods:**
 - Example- **2018 Kerala floods**
- **Droughts and Water Scarcity:**
 - Example- States like Maharashtra and Karnataka have faced severe drought conditions in recent years due to erratic monsoon patterns.
- **Landslides and Soil Erosion:**
 - Example: Increases the risk of landslides in hilly and mountainous regions, such as in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and parts of Northeast India.

HOW CAN INDIA ADAPT TO CHANGE IN MONSOON PATTERN?

இ Water Management and Conservation:

- **Rainwater Harvesting:** Promote and incentivize rainwater harvesting at individual, community, and institutional levels to recharge groundwater and mitigate water scarcity during dry spells.
- **Efficient Irrigation Practices:** Encourage the adoption of drip irrigation and other water-efficient technologies to optimise water use in agriculture, reducing dependency on monsoon rainfall.

to enhance agricultural resilience against erratic monsoons.

- **Insurance Schemes:** Expand crop insurance schemes to provide financial protection to farmers against crop losses due to monsoon variability.

இ Ecosystem Restoration and Conservation:

- **Watershed Management:** Implement watershed management practices to conserve soil moisture, prevent erosion, and enhance natural water storage capacity.
- **Forest Conservation:** Protect and restore forest ecosystems, which play a crucial role in regulating water cycles and mitigating the impacts of floods and droughts.

இ Community Engagement and Capacity Building:

- **Public Awareness:** Increase awareness among communities about climate change impacts and adaptation measures through education and outreach programs.
- **Capacity Building:** Provide training and technical support to local governments, NGOs, and communities to implement climate adaptation strategies effectively.

இ Policy and Governance:

- **Integrated Planning:** Integrate climate adaptation considerations into national, state, and local development plans and policies, ensuring coherence and synergy across sectors.
- **Incentive Mechanisms:** Establish incentives and subsidies for businesses and industries adopting

இ Infrastructure Development:

- **Climate-Resilient Infrastructure:** Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and buildings, that can withstand extreme weather events associated with changing monsoon patterns.
- **Green Infrastructure:** Develop green infrastructure projects like urban parks and green roofs that can absorb excess rainfall and mitigate urban heat island effects.

இ Agricultural Adaptation:

- **Crop Diversification:** Promote crop diversification and the cultivation of drought-resistant varieties

climate-resilient practices and technologies.

Research and Innovation:

- o **Climate Research:** Support research and innovation in climate science, forecasting, and modelling to improve understanding of changing

monsoon patterns and inform adaptive strategies.

- o **Technology Transfer:** Facilitate the transfer of climate adaptation technologies and knowledge from research institutions to end-users, including farmers and local communities.

How will the Indian Monsoon change in the future?

- Projections anticipate an increase in both southwest and northeast monsoon rainfall across India.
 - This increase is expected to be accompanied by more frequent heavy rainfall days.
- Climate change projections suggest a substantial 10-14% rise in southwest monsoon rainfall in India by the end of the twenty-first century.
- Increased rainfall can impact various regions differently, potentially affecting agriculture, water resources, and infrastructure planning.

CONCLUSION

The Indian monsoons, which inherently show high variability, are now seeing even more rapid changes across seasons and geographies due to climate change. This poses significant risks to critical sectors such as agriculture, water, and energy. To build resilience against these evolving rainfall patterns, there is a need to mainstream local-level decision-making based on granular climate risk assessments.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Q) In light of the new study "Decoding India's Changing Monsoon Patterns: A Tehsil-level Assessment," how has the rain pattern of the Indian monsoon changed, and what strategies can India implement to adapt to these changes? **(15 marks)(250 words)**

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INDIA - RUSSIA

Syllabus: GS II - Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests

PYQ MAPPING

Q) What is the significance of Indo-US defence deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region. **(2020)**

SHORT TAKES

The India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC): A bilateral forum established by India and Russia to enhance collaboration in defence and military technology between the two countries. It oversees joint development, production, and procurement of defence equipment, and facilitates strategic dialogue on military issues.



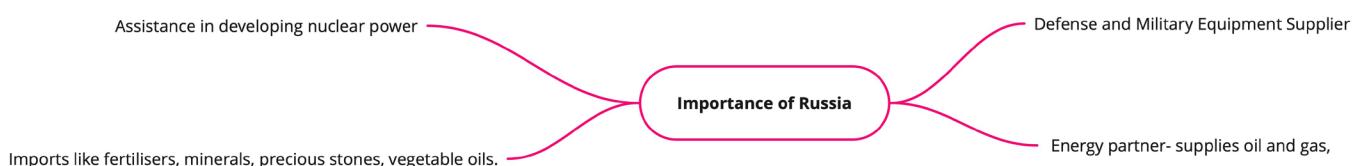
WHY IN NEWS?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India arrived in Moscow on July 8, to meet with President Vladimir Putin of Russia, demonstrating India's resolve to pursue its own diplomatic course, despite the West's ongoing isolation of Moscow due to its war on Ukraine.

INTRODUCTION

Russia has long been a steadfast ally of India, with bilateral relations forming a cornerstone of India's foreign policy. Since the landmark '**Declaration on the India-Russia Strategic Partnership**' in **2000**, signed during President Putin's visit, the ties have significantly deepened across multiple domains such as politics, security, defence, trade, science & technology, culture, and people-to-people exchanges. The elevation of this partnership to a '**Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership**' during President Medvedev's visit in **2010** underscores the enduring and multifaceted nature of their collaboration.

IMPORTANCE OF RUSSIA FOR INDIA AND VICE-VERSA



AREAS OF COOPERATION

- 👉 **Annual Summit:** The Annual Summit between the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation represents the highest institutionalised dialogue mechanism within the strategic partnership between India and Russia.
 - The latest summit was on December 6, 2021, in New Delhi, where 28 MoUs and agreements were signed.
 - The last in-person meeting between the leaders occurred in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, during the SCO Summit in September 2022.
- 👉 **Multilateral Organisation:** India and Russia collaborate closely on numerous multilateral platforms, including the **UN, G20, BRICS, and SCO.**
 - The two nations have a long history of cooperation at the UN, with Russia consistently supporting India's bid for a permanent seat on the UNSC.
- 👉 **Bilateral Trade:** Both countries have prioritised strengthening economic relations, aiming for \$50 billion in bilateral investment and \$30 billion in trade by 2025.
 - Bilateral trade reached a record **\$65.70 billion in FY 2023-24.**
- 👉 **Defence Cooperation:** India and Russia share a deep-rooted defence relationship spanning decades guided by the **India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC).**
 - **Military Exercises:** Regular joint exercises like INDRA and participation in multilateral exercises like Vostok strengthen military ties.
 - **Major Defence Projects:** Significant collaborations include the supply of advanced weapon systems like **S-400**, production of tanks, **Sukhoi Su-30 MKI** aircraft, and helicopters, and joint ventures like the **AK-203 rifle and BrahMos missile.**
 - **Evolving Partnership:** The relationship has progressed from a simple buyer-seller model to a comprehensive cooperation encompassing research, development, and production of cutting-edge defence technologies.
- 👉 **Inter-Parliamentary Commission:** The Inter-Parliamentary Commission between India's Lok Sabha and Russia's State Duma has fostered parliamentary cooperation, meeting five times since its inception.
 - Russia's parliament, comprising the State Duma (Lower House) and the Federation Council (Upper House), has a "Group of Deputies for Asia" with a sub-group focused on India.
 - Similarly, the Indian parliament has an India-Russia Friendship Group.
- 👉 **Science and Technology:** The two nations collaborate on a wide range of scientific fields, including basic sciences, materials science, mathematics, and advanced areas like spaceflight (Gaganyaan), nanotechnology, and quantum computing.
 - **Nuclear Energy Partnership:** Russia has been a crucial partner in India's nuclear energy sector. The **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu** is the only Indian nuclear power plant established with foreign assistance.
 - **New Roadmap for Cooperation:** A new roadmap for Science, Technology, and Innovation was signed in 2021 to enhance innovation-related engagements, commercialise technologies, and support joint projects with economic and societal impact.
 - **Regular Bilateral Dialogue:** The 12th meeting of the Russia-India Working Group on Science and Technology took place in January 2023, involving representatives from government, academia, and scientific communities of both countries.
- 👉 **Educational Cooperation:** A significant number of Indian students pursue higher education in Russia, with a particular focus on medicine, engineering, economics, and sciences.
 - **Language and Culture:** Russian universities offer courses in Indology and Indian languages like Hindi, Sanskrit, and Pali.
 - **Innovation Collaboration:** The Atal Innovation Mission and the SIRIUS Center are collaborating on innovation projects in areas such as smart mobility, agriculture, clean energy, space, and healthcare.
- 👉 **Cultural Ties:** India and Russia share deep and historic cultural ties

- o **Literary Influence:** Russian literary giants like Leo Tolstoy and Alexander Pushkin have significantly shaped Indian literature and thought.
- o **Cultural Diplomacy:** The Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre in Moscow plays a pivotal role in fostering cultural exchange, collaborating with Russian institutions to teach Indian languages.
- o **Yoga:** Widely embraced, with the 10th International Day of Yoga in 2024 celebrated in over 60 regions of Russia.
- 📍 **Diaspora:** People-to-people connections between India and Russia are strengthening, with a gradual increase in bilateral tourism facilitated by the convenience of e-visas.
- o **Highest Honor for Prime Minister Modi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received Russia's highest state award, the Order of the Holy Apostle Andrew the First, a testament to the strong bilateral relationship.

AREAS OF CONCERN

- ☒ **Changing Geopolitical Landscape:** Russia's growing isolation from Western countries and its closer alignment with China has significantly impacted its longstanding partnership with India.
 - o Russia and China signed a strategic partnership agreement in 2022 just before the Russian 'special operations' in Ukraine.
 - o China is Russia's biggest trading partner and largest investor.
- ☒ **Western Pressure on India:** The United States and its allies have strengthened ties with India, viewing it as a counterbalance to China's influence. They have also urged India to reduce its dependence on Russia.
- ☒ **Russia - Ukraine war:** India holds a different opinion on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and has stated that the solution lies beyond the battleground. This perspective is shared by the Global South, emphasising the need for both parties to resolve the conflict through **dialogue and diplomacy**
- ☒ **Trade Imbalance:** A significant trade imbalance exists, with India's exports to Russia constituting less than \$5 billion of the total \$65 billion trade.
- ☒ **Issues with rupee-ruble trade mechanism:** Limited currency convertibility and a **non-market-driven exchange rate** for the rupee-ruble trade restrict their utility in international transactions.
 - o Additionally, the **complex and costly conversion processes** involved further diminish the appeal of bilateral trade between India and Russia.
- ☒ **Reduced defence dependency:** India's defence procurement strategy has shifted significantly, with Russian arms' share in its imports **declining sharply from 76% to 36% between the periods of 2009-2013 and 2019-2023**, reflecting a diversified approach to counter tensions with Pakistan and China.
 - o **Western sanctions** on Russia, particularly affecting semiconductor supply, raise concerns about Russia's ability to fulfil its defence commitments to India.

WAY FORWARD

- ✳ **Deepening Defence Cooperation:** India and Russia should expand joint production of military hardware beyond BrahMos, establish joint ventures and facilitate technology transfer in critical areas like jet engines and avionics..
- ✳ **Expanding Economic Ties:** Increasing investments in joint oil and gas exploration, diversifying trade beyond commodities, and **promoting rupee-ruble trade**
- ✳ **Strengthening Strategic Convergence:** Intensified cooperation in counterterrorism, coordinated stances on regional security challenges, and collaborative efforts in multilateral platforms like BRICS and SCO
- ✳ **Promoting People-to-People Contact:** Increase the number of scholarships and exchange programs for students and faculty and establish joint academic research centres and programs.
- ✳ **Cultural Cooperation:** Organise cultural festivals, exhibitions, and performances to showcase each other's heritage. Encourage tourism through joint marketing and promotional campaigns.
- ✳ **Global Health:** Cooperation in vaccine development, production, and distribution, exchange expertise in public health and disease prevention.

STRATEGIC AUTONOMY: BALANCING INDIA'S INTEREST

⦿ **Definition:** Strategic autonomy is the ability of a state to pursue its national interests and foreign policy without being constrained by other states. It's a balance between self-reliance and strategic partnerships.

⦿ **Aim:** By carefully navigating relationships with major powers, maintaining neutrality, and focusing on core interests, India aims to secure its position as a significant global player while fostering stability and development both domestically and internationally.

⦿ **Non-Alignment Legacy:** India's strategic autonomy has its roots in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), a Cold War-era bloc of states that didn't align with either the United States or the Soviet Union. This legacy has shaped India's approach to international relations, emphasising independence and multilateralism.

⦿ Counteracting China:

- ⦿ To counter China's growing influence, India aligns with Western powers, particularly the **United States**, while maintaining its strategic autonomy.
- ⦿ Collaborations with **QUAD members (U.S., Japan, and Australia)** exemplify India's approach to balancing regional power dynamics and securing its interests.

⦿ **Economic Development:** Economic growth remains

a top priority, necessitating a stable and affordable energy supply.

- ⦿ **Russia:** as a key supplier of hydrocarbons, plays a crucial role in India's energy security strategy.
- ⦿ Long-term contracts and investments in Russian energy projects ensure a steady supply of oil and gas, essential for India's industrial and economic activities.

⦿ **Leadership in the Global South:** India aims to position itself as a leader and representative of the Global South, advocating for the interests of developing countries.

- ⦿ This involves promoting South-South cooperation, enhancing trade ties, and providing development assistance.
- ⦿ By maintaining neutrality, India strengthens its credibility and leadership role among these nations, particularly in forums like BRICS and G20.

⦿ Relations with Gulf and ASEAN Countries:

- ⦿ Gulf countries are vital for India due to their energy resources, investments, and the large Indian diaspora.
- ⦿ ASEAN countries are strategic partners in enhancing trade, security cooperation, and countering China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

CONCLUSION

India and Russia have maintained a strong relationship for over 75 years, expanding beyond traditional cooperation in military and nuclear sectors. Bilateral trade has surged past the \$30 billion target set for 2025, with new models being explored to boost Indian exports. This robust relationship is poised for further growth through innovative cooperation and connectivity initiatives.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Q) Examine the evolution and significance of the India-Russia bilateral relationship over the past 75 years. Discuss how this partnership has adapted to changing global dynamics and identify potential areas for future cooperation **(10 marks)(150 words)**

RISE IN MILITANCY IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

Syllabus: GS III - Security

PYQ MAPPING

Q1 The banning of 'Jamaat-e – islaami' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWS in assisting terrorist organisations in insurgency affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize the influence of OGWS. (2019)

Q1 Analyse the complexity and intensity of terrorism, its causes, linkages and obnoxious nexus. Also, suggest measures required to be taken to eradicate the menace of terrorism. (2022)

Q1 Discuss the types of organised crimes. Describe the linkages between terrorists and organised crime that exist at the national and transnational levels (2022)

WHY IN NEWS

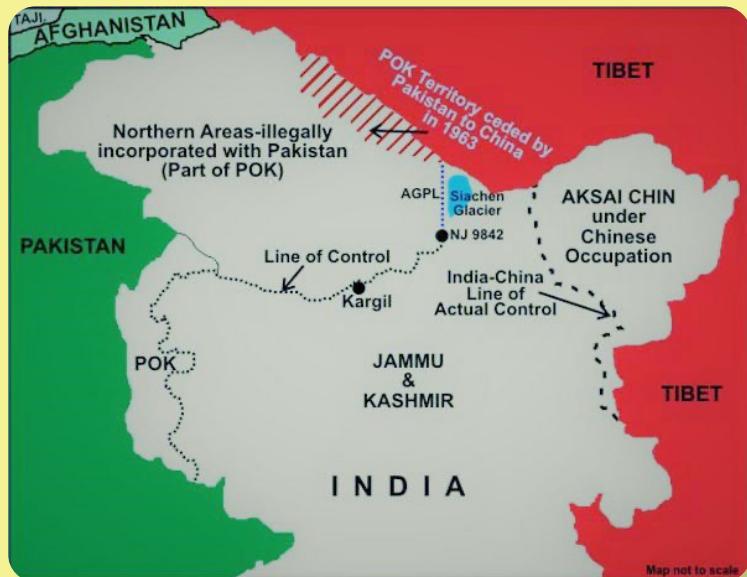
Recently, Five Indian Army personnel were killed after terrorists ambushed an Army convoy in Badnoti village, which is 124 km from Kathua town in Jammu.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past three years (2019-2022), there has been a significant increase in militant activities in the Jammu region, resulting in **40% of security personnel casualties**. This shift suggests that the focal point of these incidents has moved from the Kashmir Valley to the Jammu division.

LINE OF CONTROL (LOC)

- It is the military control line that **separates the Indian-administered and Pakistani-administered parts** of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The LoC stretches approximately **740 kilometres** (460 miles) across the region, from the northernmost point near the Siachen Glacier to the southernmost point in Jammu.
- **The Karachi Agreement**, signed in July 1949, following the **first India Pakistan war (1947-48)** formalised the Cease Fire Line (CFL) between Indian and Pakistan forces that had been in place since January 1st of that year.
- The intention was for the CFL to be a temporary measure until a **plebiscite could be held** to determine the future of Kashmir. However, disagreements over demilitarisation prevented the plebiscite from happening, and the CFL essentially became a more permanent dividing line.
- Following the 1971 war, the **Simla Agreement of 1972 established the Line of Control (LOC)** which replaced the CFL.
- However, the Agreement doesn't define it as a permanent border. It aimed to maintain peace and recognized the de facto control of each side. LOC reflects their current control, not a legal resolution.
- The **LOC is a de facto line of control, not a legally recognized border**. The status of Kashmir remains unresolved under international law



RECENT INCIDENTS

The resurgence of militant activity has primarily centred around two areas:

- **Chenab Valley:**

- o Includes the districts of Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Kathua, Udhampur, and Reasi.

- **South of Pir Panjal:**

- o Covers Rajouri and Poonch districts.

TERROR INCIDENTS

→ **Since 2021:**

- » Jammu region has witnessed 31 terror incidents.
- » Resulted in the deaths of 47 security personnel and 19 civilians.

→ **In 2021:**

- » At least 51 security personnel were killed in various incidents across districts like Poonch, Rajouri, Kathua, Reasi, Doda, and Udhampur.

→ **In 2022 and 2023:**

- » Jammu experienced six attacks.
- » Resulted in the deaths of 12 security personnel.

→ **In 2024**

- » Five Indian Army personnel were killed on July 8 after terrorists ambushed an Army convoy in **Badnota village**, which is 124 km from Kathua town in Jammu.
- » On June 9, terrorists attacked a bus in **Reasi** district killing nine pilgrims and leaving 33 injured, the day Prime Minister Narendra Modi was being sworn in for a third term in office.

→ **Comparison with Kashmir Valley:**

- » Kashmir Valley reported 263 terror incidents during the same period.
- » Led to the loss of 68 security forces and 75 civilians.

REASONS

♣ **Reduction in Security Grid:**

- o After the 2020 Galwan clashes in eastern Ladakh, a significant portion of the Army was redeployed to the China border.
- o This redeployment thinned the security grid in Jammu, leaving certain areas vulnerable.

challenges.

- o Foreign terrorists predominantly carry out attacks using Kathua and Samba for infiltration, exploiting dense forest cover.
- o This gap has made it harder to track and preempt militant activities.

♣ **Infiltration from Pakistan:**

- o An estimated 20-25 hardened militants have infiltrated from Pakistan.
- o They operate around 40-50 km from the border, with active groups in the Poonch-Rajouri and Kathua-Doda-Basantgarh regions.

♣ **China Factor:**

- o The incidents at Line of Actual control with China (Depsang 2013, Galwan 2020) has made the Indian force shift some personnel to that border. This reduced its strength at the Pakistan border.

♣ **Gap in ground level intelligence:**

- o Lack of ground-level intelligence and motivated terrorists with sophisticated planning are major

♣ **Trust issues with local population:**

- o The mishandling of security operations has diminished trust between locals and the state.
- o Instances where civilians are caught in conflicts

or experience human rights abuses weaken cooperation and breed resentment.

♣ Shift from foreign to local militants:

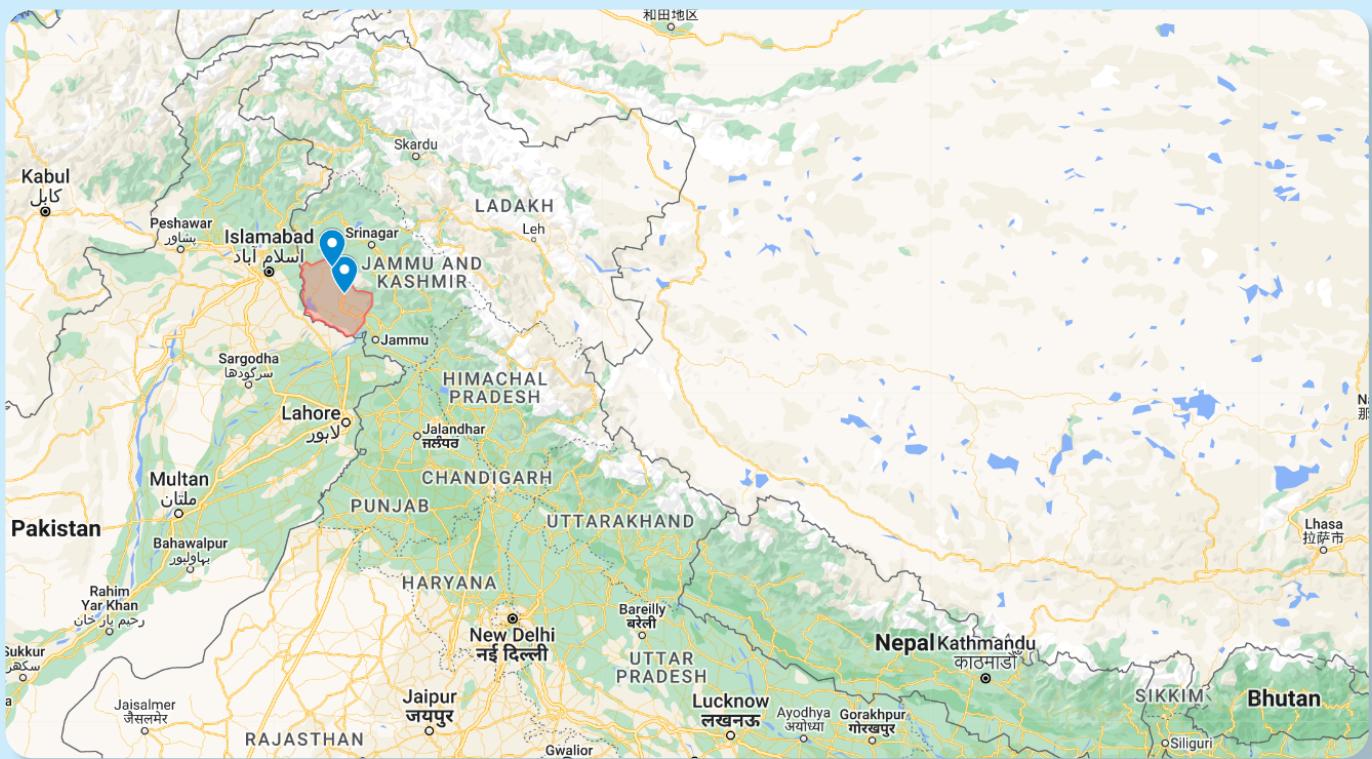
- Terrorist groups have adapted to modern technology, using encrypted communication channels, social media, and other digital tools to coordinate and spread propaganda.
- Increased instances of narco-terrorism using drones to transport drugs, explosives, weapons, and money.
- Sophisticated equipment like night-vision glasses and M4 rifles are being used by militants.
- The use of **YSMS technology**, which is hard to trace and detect, and **SIM-less phone activation**, where militants activate Bluetooth technology to connect with another group and across the Line of Control (LoC), has made it hard for the security forces to develop virtual intelligence

- There has been a transition from foreign to local militants taking a more prominent role in insurgency activities, aiming to portray the movement as domestically driven amidst increasing international pressure on Pakistan.
- This shift towards "**homegrown**" militancy complicates counterterrorism efforts and necessitates a nuanced approach.

♣ Geographical factors:

- The geographical proximity to the Line of Control (LoC) allows militants easier access from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, aiding infiltration and logistics.
- Recent incidents suggest a deliberate strategy to establish strongholds in mountainous and forested areas across districts such as Rajouri, Poonch, and Reasi.

Rajouri-Poonch area: New centre for Terrorist Attack



Terrorist groups are increasingly focusing on the Rajouri-Poonch area in Jammu and Kashmir for several strategic reasons:

- **Proximity to the Line of Control (LoC):** Rajouri and Poonch districts are located close to the Line of Control, making it easier for militants to infiltrate from across the border in Pakistan-administered Kashmir.
 - The rugged terrain and dense forests provide natural cover, facilitating their movements and operations.
- **Historical Significance:** These regions have witnessed sporadic insurgent activities in the past, and militants often exploit local vulnerabilities and historical ties to establish networks and operational bases.
- **Strategic Importance:** Militants perceive Rajouri and Poonch as strategically important due to their geographic

location.

- o These areas serve as potential launchpads for cross-border attacks into other parts of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as India.

● **Security Dynamics:** The redeployment of Indian security forces to other areas, such as the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China after the Galwan clashes, has created a security vacuum in some parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

- o This redeployment may have temporarily reduced the intensity of security presence in Rajouri-Poonch, allowing militants to exploit gaps in security arrangements.

● **Tactical Advantage:** Militants often target areas where they can garner media attention or create psychological impact.

- o Rajouri-Poonch, being relatively less fortified compared to other heavily militarised zones, may present softer targets for their operations.

● **Local Support Networks:** Over the years, militants have developed local support networks in these regions, including sympathisers and facilitators who provide logistical and intelligence support, aiding their operations and evasion from security forces.

WAY FORWARD

✳ Enhanced Intelligence Gathering:

- o Prioritise development of human intelligence networks to gather actionable information.
- o Strengthen ground-level intelligence capabilities through increased training and resources.

✳ Reevaluate Deployment Strategies:

- o Review troop deployments to ensure adequate coverage and response times across vulnerable areas.
- o Consider redeployment or reinforcement of forces based on current threat assessments and operational needs.

✳ Technological Integration:

- o Enhance integration of technology for surveillance and intelligence gathering, while ensuring it complements rather than replaces human intelligence.
- o Invest in advanced equipment and technologies to bolster operational capabilities and response effectiveness.

✳ Interagency Coordination:

- o Improve coordination between security agencies, including police, military, and intelligence services, to enhance information sharing and joint operational planning.
- o Foster collaboration with local communities to enhance trust and cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts.

✳ Capacity Building and Training:

- o Conduct regular training exercises to maintain operational readiness and proficiency in handling diverse security challenges.
- o Provide specialised training in counter-terrorism tactics, including urban warfare and handling sophisticated militant tactics.

✳ Community Engagement and Development:

- o Implement community-oriented programs to address socio-economic grievances and reduce local support for militant activities.
- o Promote initiatives that empower local communities to participate actively in maintaining security and reporting suspicious activities.

✳ Legal and Policy Frameworks:

- o Review and strengthen legal frameworks to facilitate effective prosecution of militants and collaborators.
- o Ensure policies support both security measures and respect for human rights, fostering a balanced approach in counter-insurgency operations.

✳ Regional and International Cooperation:

- o Strengthen cooperation with neighbouring countries, particularly Pakistan, to address cross-border infiltration and militant activities.

Engage with international partners to enhance capacity building, intelligence sharing, and strategic coordination in combating terrorism.

STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT

Enhanced Security Measures:

- o Security forces have intensified proactive operations against terrorists. These operations involve targeted strikes, raids, and neutralisation of terror modules.
- o Increased night patrolling and stringent checking at security checkpoints help prevent infiltration and monitor suspicious activities.

Intelligence Coordination and Vigilance:

- o Various intelligence agencies collaborate to share crucial information about terrorist activities, sleeper cells, and infiltration attempts.
- o Security forces maintain a high level of alertness to respond swiftly to emerging threats.

Zero Tolerance Policy:

- o The Indian government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy toward terrorism. This includes strict enforcement of laws against anti-national elements.
- o **Use of Anti-Terror Laws:** Authorities invoke the **Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act and other relevant laws** to conduct raids, detain suspects, and prevent terrorist activities.

Panchayat-Level Youth Clubs

- o Engage youth in development and recreation to reduce militancy.

Village Defence Guards

- o Formerly known as Village Defence Committees are a civilian militia first established in the mid-1990s Jammu and Kashmir for the self-defence of locals in remote hilly villages against militancy.
- o It consists of villagers as well as police officers.

CONCLUSION

The resurgence of militancy in Jammu demands a multifaceted approach, combining robust security measures with community outreach and socio-economic development, as the evolving security landscape shifts focus from the Valley to Jammu. Authorities must address challenges posed by dense forests, cross-border infiltration, and sophisticated terrorist networks, staying proactive and adaptive to ensure the safety of our security personnel remains paramount, regardless of the region they serve.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Q) Discuss the factors contributing to the resurgence of militancy in the Rajouri-Poonch region of Jammu and Kashmir? What are the implications of this resurgence on regional stability, and what measures can be suggested to address these challenges? **(15 M)(250 W)**

MUSLIM WOMEN RIGHT TO MAINTENANCE

Syllabus: GS II - Issues related to women

PYQ MAPPING

Q) "Though women in post-Independent India have excelled in various fields, the social attitude towards women and the feminist movement has been patriarchal." Apart from women education and women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this milieu? **(2021)**

WHY IN NEWS

Recently, the Supreme Court has upheld the divorced Muslim woman's rights to claim maintenance under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973.

INTRODUCTION

The Supreme Court judgement, ***Mohd Abdul Samad vs The State of Telangana***, has upheld the divorced Muslim woman's rights to claim maintenance under **Section 125** of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, which is a socially beneficial provision.



SHORT TAKES

➤ The Shah Bano case

- o It involved a Muslim woman seeking maintenance after being divorced by her husband of 43 years.
- o The Supreme Court ruled in her favour in 1985, granting her maintenance under secular law.
- o The main provisions of the Shah Bano case can be summarised as follows:
 - **Maintenance Rights:** The Supreme Court affirmed that Muslim women have the right to claim maintenance under Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), which applies to all Indian women, irrespective of their religion.
 - **Secular Law Application:** The court applied secular law (CrPC) to grant maintenance to Shah Bano, emphasising gender equality and the right of women to financial support after divorce.
 - **Controversy and Legislative Response:** The ruling led to controversy within Muslim communities and political circles. In response, the Indian Parliament passed the **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986**, which restricted the application of maintenance for Muslim women during the Iddat period after divorce.

MOHD. ABDUL SAMAD VS THE STATE OF TELANGANA CASE 2024

- ♣ A deserted wife approached the family court in Telangana for maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC.
- ♣ The family court awarded her Rs 20,000 as monthly maintenance.
- ♣ The husband divorced her and claimed she was not entitled to maintenance post-divorce.
 - o He argued that her rights now lie under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act (MWA) of 1986.
 - o It was argued on his behalf that the 1986 Act provides a more beneficial and efficacious remedy for divorced Muslim women compared to Section 125 of the CrPC 1973.
 - o Additionally, it was submitted that the 1986 Act, being a special law, prevails over the provisions of the CrPC 1973, which is a general law.
 - ♣ The Telangana High Court rejected these submissions

but reduced the maintenance amount to Rs 10,000 per month.

- ♣ The husband approached the Supreme Court against this order.
- ♣ On July 10, the bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih of the Supreme Court upheld the wife's right to claim maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC.

♣ The Supreme Court ruled that Section 125 of the CrPC is a socially beneficial provision.

♣ The Court held that the right to maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC is not extinguished by the enactment of the MWA.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT EXPLAINED

- ⌚ Muslim women **can seek remedy under Section 125 of the CrPC** even if they have already claimed the remedies provided under Section 3 of the Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986.
- ⌚ Muslim woman's right to claim maintenance under criminal law (CrPC) cannot be extinguished even if she has claimed her rights under personal law (Muslim Women's Protection of Rights on Divorce Act, 1986).
- ⌚ A parallel remedy in law that applies universally (CrPC) cannot be overridden by religious custom, even if the custom has been codified into legislation.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VERDICT

☀️ Affirmation of Social Justice:

- The verdict reaffirms the principle that maintenance provisions under Section 125 of the CrPC are designed as measures of social justice to protect the rights and dignity of women and children, regardless of their religious background.

☀️ Universal Applicability:

- It establishes that remedies provided under Section 125 of the CrPC are universally applicable, transcending personal laws.
- This ensures that Muslim women can claim maintenance under this provision, even if they are governed by the **Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986**.

☀️ Upholding the Constitutional Values:

- The verdict protects the spirit of the Constitution and its promise of equality, guaranteed by **Article 14**.
- It further protects and emboldens the value of social Justice for women provided by **Article 15 (1), Article 15 (3) and Article 39 (e) of the Constitution**.

☀️ Clarification on Legal Remedies:

- The judgement clarifies that a Muslim woman's right to maintenance under criminal law (CrPC) is not extinguished by claiming her rights under personal law (MWA).
- This **dual remedy strengthens their legal position** and ensures comprehensive protection.

☀️ Precedent Setting:

- By upholding the wife's right to maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC, the verdict sets a legal precedent that can influence future cases, ensuring consistent protection for divorced Muslim women across India.

☀️ Empowerment of Women:

- The ruling empowers Muslim women by providing them with multiple legal avenues to seek maintenance, enhancing their financial security and independence post-divorce.

☀️ Promotion of Equality:

- It underscores the importance of equality before the law, reinforcing that religious customs codified into legislation cannot override universal legal protections designed to ensure social justice.

MWPRD Act, 1896 vs Section 125 CrPC

The clash between Section 3 of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, and Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) primarily revolves around the application of maintenance rights for divorced Muslim women:

◆ **Scope of Application:**

- **Section 125 CrPC:** Provides maintenance to all Indian women, irrespective of religion, including divorced women.
- **Section 3 of MWPRD Act, 1986:** Specifically addresses the rights of Muslim women for maintenance during the **Iddat period (post-divorce waiting period)**, often seen as restricting the broader application of Section 125 CrPC.

◆ **Amount and Duration:**

- **Section 125 CrPC:** Allows for maintenance as long as the woman is unable to maintain herself.
- **Section 3 MWPRD Act, 1986:** Limits maintenance to the duration of the Iddat period, which is approximately three months after divorce.

◆ **Legal Interpretation and Conflict:**

- There is a legal tension between the secular provisions of Section 125 CrPC, which apply uniformly to all Indian women, and the specific provisions of the MWPRD Act, 1986, which focus on Muslim women during a particular period post-divorce.

◆ **Impact and Challenges:**

- The MWPRD Act, 1986, was enacted partly in response to the **Shah Bano case** to address concerns within Muslim communities about interference with personal laws.
- Critics argue that the Act's provisions may limit the broader rights guaranteed under Section 125 CrPC, particularly for Muslim women who may need maintenance beyond the Iddat period.

CHALLENGES

● **Implementation and Awareness:**

- Ensuring that Muslim women are aware of their rights under Section 125 of the CrPC and can access these remedies effectively.
- **Legal literacy and outreach** programs are essential but **often insufficient**.

● **Resistance from Personal Law Boards:**

- There might be resistance from certain conservative factions or personal law boards who may view this verdict as an infringement on religious laws and customs.

● **Legal Complexity:**

- Navigating the dual legal systems of personal law and criminal law can be complex.
- Lawyers and judges need to be well-versed in both to effectively advocate for and adjudicate such cases.

● **Economic Constraints:**

- Many women might face economic constraints in pursuing legal action for maintenance, including court fees, legal representation, and the time required for litigation.

● **Social Stigma and Pressure:**

- Divorced Muslim women seeking maintenance may face social stigma and pressure from their communities or families to settle disputes privately, potentially deterring them from utilising their legal rights.

● **Political and Legislative Backlash:**

- The verdict might provoke political backlash or attempts to amend laws to limit its impact, potentially undermining the progress made by this ruling.

WAY FORWARD

Legal Awareness Programs:

- o Conducting widespread legal literacy campaigns to inform Muslim women about their rights under Section 125 of the CrPC and other relevant laws.
- o This includes outreach through **community organisations, NGOs, and legal aid clinics**.
- o **Promoting public advocacy campaigns** to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality, social justice, and women's rights within the broader society.

Capacity Building:

- o Providing training and capacity-building programs for **lawyers, judges, and legal aid providers** to better understand and handle cases involving dual legal systems and the complexities of maintenance claims.
- o **Establishing support services such as legal aid centres** specifically focused on assisting Muslim women in accessing their rights to maintenance.

❖ **Community Engagement:**

- o Engaging with religious and community leaders to promote awareness and acceptance of legal rights for Muslim women, countering social stigma, and fostering support for women seeking maintenance.

★ Interagency Collaboration:

- o Facilitating collaboration between **government agencies, judiciary, civil society organisations, and community groups** to coordinate efforts, share resources, and monitor progress in addressing issues related to women's rights and access to justice.

Research and Data Collection:

- Conducting research and collecting data on the implementation of maintenance laws and their impact on Muslim women.
- This can inform evidence-based policy-making and identify areas for further improvement.

✳ Monitoring and Evaluation:

- o Establishing mechanisms for ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and review of initiatives aimed at improving access to maintenance for Muslim women. This ensures accountability and identifies areas needing adjustment or additional support.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Supreme Court's verdict affirming Muslim women's right to claim maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC marks a significant step towards gender justice and equality in India. This decision not only upholds the constitutional mandate of social justice but also ensures that women, regardless of their religious background, can access essential legal protections.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Q) How can India ensure effective implementation of the Supreme Court's verdict affirming Muslim women's right to claim maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC and the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, and what challenges must be overcome to achieve this? **(15 M)(250 W)**

ETHICS - CASE STUDY

Q) In the city, residents have been raising complaints about waste disposal in the canals and public spaces. As the canal passes through the railway station, part of it needs to be cleaned by the railway authority, while the remaining section falls under the responsibility of the municipal corporation. However, due to a conflict over jurisdiction, neither authority is taking responsibility. Recently, a man appointed by the municipal corporation died while cleaning the canal, leading to public outrage and increasing pressure on the government to act.

As the District Magistrate and head of the joint committee comprising railway and municipal corporation representatives to resolve the issue-

- a. What will be your course of action to resolve the conflicts?
- b. What steps will be taken to prevent the issue of further waste dumping?
- c. What are the ethical issues?

ETHICS - EXAMPLES

- 1. Inclusivity:** The new cafe, Sagar Express, opening at the Delhi High Court, will feature a diverse staff, including six neurodiverse individuals working on rotation to empower them financially. These employees will communicate with customers via Avaz, a picture-based communication and learning app for people with special needs.
- 2. Consumer Rights:** The Centre urged automobile companies to join the unified Right to Repair Portal India, launched by the Department of Consumer Affairs, to provide consumers with easy access to repair information and promote product reuse. The initiative aims to ensure consumers have complete ownership of the products they purchase.
- 3. AI Ethics:** The Hyodol dolls, designed in South Korea, use AI to interact with elderly suffering from dementia. They can recognize emotions and engage in conversation aiming to alleviate loneliness and provide companionship while reminding seniors to take medications.
- 4. Compassion:** A wild elephant was rescued after being washed away in the leading channel of Periyar dam in Theni district. Officials halted water release from the reservoir, allowing the elephant to swim back to safety into the forest the following morning.
- 5. Accessibility:** The Chhattisgarh government has launched an initiative to implement primary education in local languages and dialects in remote tribal regions, aligning with the NEP 2020's recommendation. This move aims to enhance educational accessibility and quality while preserving local culture and traditions.
- 6. Public Health:** The Karnataka food safety department has cracked down on street food vendors across the state for using artificial food colouring. Bans have been imposed on items like gobi manchurian and pani puri after tests revealed carcinogenic substances and harmful bacteria.
- 7. Human Rights:** The Supreme Court emphasized that terms like "cripple" and "spastic" perpetuate societal discrimination against persons with disabilities, asserting that filmmakers cannot justify their use even under the guise of creative freedom if they contribute to such negative perceptions.
- 8. Social Responsibility:** In the Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh, Padma Shri awardee Lama Thupten Phuntsok has transformed a small shed-like school into a thriving school and orphanage, providing food, shelter, and clothing to over 300 children. Founded in 1998, with just 17 students, the school now has alumni who have become lawyers, engineers, and IAS officers.
- 9. Integrity & Dedication:** Dwijendra Nath Ghosh, a retired teacher in West Bengal has been managing Basantapur Junior High School for over a decade without charging fees. His dedication has increased student enrollment and reduced dropout rates among underprivileged children, despite challenges like insufficient funding.



MODEL ESSAY

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others"

Introduction

- Quote by Mahatma Gandhi
- Briefly introduce the concept of self-discovery
- Meaning: By selflessly dedicating oneself to serving others, individuals can discover their true purpose, values, and identity.

Importance of Self-Discovery

- **Understanding Personal Values:** By engaging in activities that align with personal values, individuals gain clarity on their principles and beliefs.
- **Building Empathy and Compassion:** Understanding others' struggles cultivates compassion and a deeper connection with humanity.
- **Developing Self-Awareness:** Through service, individuals confront their strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. This leads to heightened self-awareness & understanding of personal motivations
- **Enhancing Fulfilment and Purpose:** Contributing to the well-being of others brings a sense of fulfilment and purpose -provides a deeper meaning to life beyond personal achievements and material pursuits.
- **Promoting Personal Growth:** Service challenges individuals to step outside their comfort zones, fostering resilience and personal growth. It encourages learning from setbacks, adapting to new situations, and acquiring valuable life skills.

Challenges of self-discovery

- **Internal Resistance:** This can include acknowledging weaknesses, past mistakes, or deeply held fears, which may create resistance
- **External Expectations:** External pressures from society, family, peers, or cultural norms
- **Fear of Change:** Uncertainty about the future,

or concerns about losing familiarity and stability can hinder new perspectives.

- **Social Comparison:** Constant comparison may lead to self-doubt, insecurity, and a lack of confidence in one's own journey.

Examples

- **National Service Scheme (NSS):** Government-sponsored program-community service like health camps and literacy drives - developing leadership and civic responsibility in students.
- **Gandhi Fellowship:** An initiative by the Kaivalya Education Foundation -young professionals in rural schools for two years-work on educational reforms & leadership
- **Doctors Without Borders (MSF):** Deploys medical professionals to conflict zones, where they provide vital care -demonstrating selflessness.
- **Greta Thunberg:** Her early activism for climate action- dedicated service to a cause can empower individuals and amplify their impact on a global scale.

Conclusion

- Self-discovery through service is a continuous journey of growth and learning
- Engaging in service not only benefits the individual but also creates positive ripple effects in society.

Sample Quotes

- *It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop- Confucius*
- *The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be - Ralph Waldo Emerson*
- *Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed-Martin Luther King Jr.*

MAINS JOT DOWN



GS- III - DEFENCE

- India recently launched indigenous light tank 'Zorawar' manufactured in joint collaboration between DRDO and Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
- This tank has been developed with the aim of enhancing military capabilities in high altitude environments.
- This indigenous light tank 'Zorawar' is planned to be deployed on the India-China border (LAC).



GS- III - DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- **25 Lakh people** were affected by the floods in Assam.
- With over 20 lakh people affected in 28 districts in Assam, 53,689 people have taken shelter, as the water level of rivers continues to flow above the danger mark, according to an official bulletin.



GS- II - JUDGEMENT & CASES

- The Supreme Court in **M K Ranjitsinh & Ors. vs Union of India & Ors.** ruled that people have a **right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change which should be recognised by Article 14 and Article 21 of the Constitution.**
- The ruling of the Supreme Court was rendered in response to a writ brought by conservationist and retired government official M K Ranjitsinh, who sought protection for two endangered species namely the **Lesser Florican and the Great Indian Bustard.**



GS- II - SOCIAL JUSTICE

- **National Human Rights Commission** has issued notices to Delhi govt and the police commissioner seeking a report within two weeks in a case involving 23 child labourers rescued from factories in the Saraswati Vihar area of northwest district in Delhi.
- NHRC has taken suo motu cognisance of a news report dated July 5 that highlighted the case involving **nine girls and 14 boys** who have been rescued and sent to a govt-run children's home.



GS- III - CONSERVATION

- **450 cubic kilometres of groundwater** lost in north India from 2002 to 2021.
- Further, using on-site observations, satellite data and models, it was found that across north India, rainfall in the monsoon season has reduced by 8.5% during 1951-2021.



GS- III - ECONOMICS

- **18 % Rise in import of vegetable oils** in India in June.
- Vegetable oil imports, comprising edible and non-edible oils, rose to 15.5 lakh tonnes in June on higher imports of crude palm oil and crude sunflower oil, according to Solvent Extractors' Association of India data.



GS- II - STATUTORY, REGULATORY & QUASI JUDICIAL BODIES

- **45.14 ₹ crores** of disproportionate assets unearthed by **Lokayukta in Karnataka**.
- Lokayukta sleuths found that 11 government officers and engineers had amassed assets that were disproportionate to their known sources of income.



GS- II - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- India donated digital equipment to **200 Srilankan schools**.
- India donated digital equipment, including 2,000 tabs, worth ₹300 million for use by schools in the southern province of Sri Lanka.
- **Mutual Recognition Agreement** between **India and Taiwan** for **Organic Products** has been implemented.
- It will ease the export of organic products by avoiding dual certifications; thus, reducing compliance cost.
- It will enhance trade opportunities in the organic sector such as export of major Indian organic products such as Rice, Processed Food, Green/ Black and Herbal Tea, Medicinal plant products etc to Taiwan.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited **Austria** to highlight **75 years of diplomatic relations**
- It was the first trip by an Indian Prime Minister to Austria in 41 years, last being in 1983.
- Both countries emphasised on future-oriented **bilateral sustainable economic and technology partnership**.
- Partnership will cover a range of new initiatives and joint projects, and business-to-business engagement in green and digital technologies, infrastructure, renewable energy, water management, life sciences, smart cities, mobility and transportation.



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CHERRYPICKS OF THE WEEK

BACKWARD ADVANTAGE

- Also called the **advantage of backwardness** or the **latecomer's advantage**.
- The advantage that a still-developing country has is because it can take advantage of the technology/industry gap with a developed country by implementing a new technology or venturing into an industry that is new to its economy but mature in the developed country.

BIFLATION

- Also called **mixflation**.
- A state of the economy in which the processes of inflation and deflation occur simultaneously in different parts of the economy.

21 CM LINE

- Also called the **Hydrogen Line**.
- It is a **spectral line emitted by atomic hydrogen**.
- It happens when an electron that orbits the nucleus of a hydrogen atom, jumps from a higher energy level to a lower one, this jump releases energy in the **form of light**, specifically with a wavelength of about **21 centimetres**.
- Applications in Radio Astrophysics:
 - Studying composition and evolution of the solar system & Universe.
 - Mapping of Hydrogen in the Milky way galaxy.

CLUB GOODS

- These are goods that are non-rivalrous (meaning their use doesn't cause them to be used up), but only to a point.
- Club goods are quite often underutilised due to their excludable nature.
- However, when overuse arises, they are then inaccessible or unusable until the congestion of use clears.
- They include things such as satellite TV, private parks, and movie theatres.

TRANSPOSON

- Also called **jumping genes**, are DNA sequences that can change their position within a genome.
- Discovered by the Noble Laureate **Barbara McClintock**.
- Transposons can reversibly alter gene expression depending on their insertion points.
 - Over 45% of the human genome consists of transposable elements.



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