

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – A

1 Labour Laws Reforms

Why in News?

Various state governments have either made amendments or proposed changes to existing labour laws as part of larger efforts to help businesses that have been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic.

Also, amid concerns over changes in labour laws in various states, NitiAayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar on 24th may informed the nation that reforms do not mean complete abolition of labour laws and that the central government is committed to protecting the interests of workers.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay about Labour laws Reforms, Labour Welfare etc.

GS I: Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies; Effects of globalization on Indian society;

GS II: Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein; Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions; Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections; Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

GS III: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment; Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth; Investment models.

GS IV: Related laws and issues.

Article Links

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/are-indias-labour-law-reforms-only-a-gift-for-factories-or-will-workers-benefit-too-migrant-worker-up-coronavirus-lockdown-industry/1952368/>

<https://www.livemint.com/opinion/columns/india-needs-labour-law-reform-but-must-do-it-the-proper-way-11590929529779.html>

<https://labour.gov.in/labour-law-reforms>

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---inst/documents/presentation/wcms_459915.pdf

<https://theprint.in/opinion/labour-reforms-give-india-a-chance-to-compete-with-a-favourable-destination-like-vietnam/421041/>

<https://www.indiaspend.com/why-trade-unions-are-opposing-labour-law-reforms/>

https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/200554/1/chapter_1.pdf

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<https://www.etui.org/publications/working-papers/the-crisis-and-national-labour-law-reforms-a-mapping-exercise>

<https://www.epw.in/engage/article/changes-labour-laws-state-market-anarchy-labour-market>

<https://www.bloombergquint.com/coronavirus-outbreak/labour-reforms-in-the-age-of-covid-19-whats-the-right-balance>

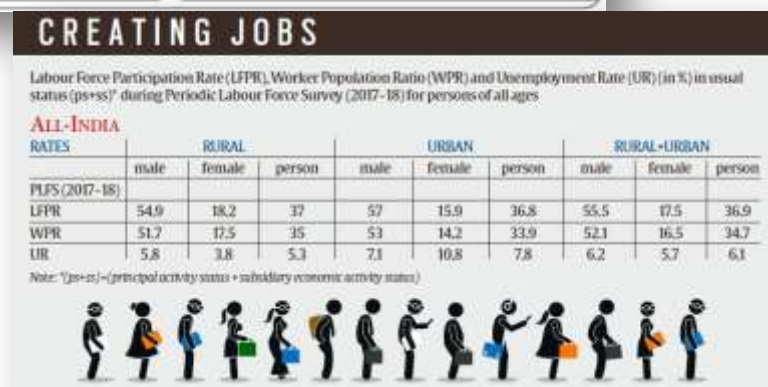
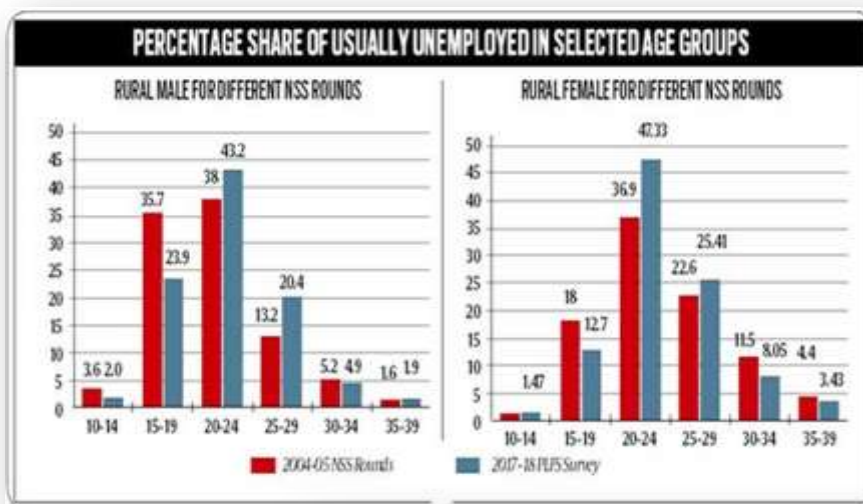
Video Links

RSTV: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOeyXLmTuQE>

RSTV: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wsk-fb4idgE>

CNN: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAaFYjkVklU>

Maps and Images



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Key Provisions

LABOUR CODE ON WAGES

Uniform minimum wage to be notified under the bill



This will be statutory; all states will have to follow



All 500 m workers will benefit; currently it is applicable to only **40% workers**

Payment of wages will be exclusively via digital mode

Minimum wage no longer based on employment

It will be based on geography and skills

Dignity of Labour

Labour ministry pushes ahead with labour reforms

Labour code on industrial relation gets Cabinet nod

Fixed-term employment allowed across sectors

Workers to get same wages and benefits as others

Employee threshold retained at 100 for seeking govt approval for retrenchment



Two-member tribunal set up for disputes

Govt officials will have the power to resolve disputes



FOUR LABOUR CODES IN WORK

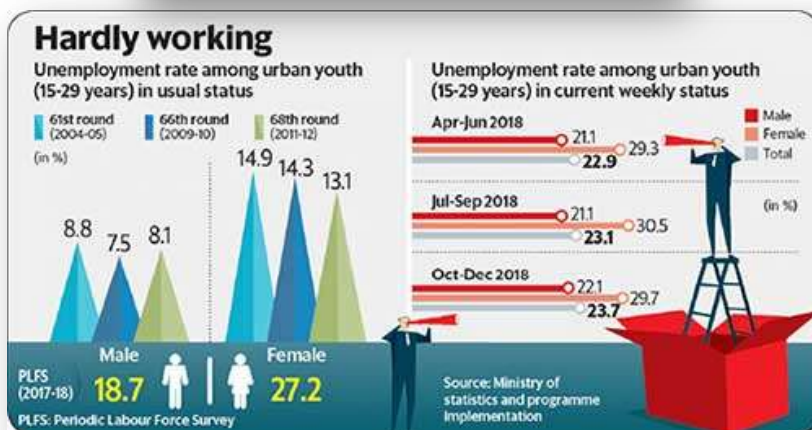
Labour code on wages notified

Labour code on occupational safety moved to standing committee

Labour code on social security is under consultation

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2 Sino Indian Border Dispute

Why in News?

The India-China border has been witnessing tensions, with incidents reported in at least four different locations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Chinese troops have bolstered their border control measures in the Galwan Valley in the Aksai Chin region of the Sino-India border.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the Sino Indian Border Dispute, India's neighbourhood first policy, etc.

GS I: Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues; Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country; Geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

GS II: India and its neighborhood- relations; Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests; Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora; Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

GS III: Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security; Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money laundering and its prevention; Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism; Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

Articles Links

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/galwan-valley-why-is-the-site-of-the-india-china-ladakh-standoff-important-know-more-about-it/1993581/>

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/indias-border-dispute-with-neighbors/1859854>

<https://www.nationalheraldindia.com/india/nirupama-rao-on-how-india-should-deal-with-an-insecure-china>

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1192629.shtml>

<https://hbr.org/2007/12/china-india-the-power-of-two>

<https://www.scmp.com/topics/china-india-border-dispute>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-52852509>

<https://www.mapsofindia.com/answers/india/brief-history-of-indo-china-border-dispute/>

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<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/the-strategic-importance-of-galwan-valley->

Video Links

Rajya Sabha: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_e07GlG72c

CNN: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ms9b2K0ezmY>

The Hindu: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSGpTXtxXp0>

BBC: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Y4joh_ebqM

PangongTso Lake and Its Significance

- ❖ PangongTso is a long narrow, deep, endorheic (landlocked) and brackish water lake situated at a height of more than 14,000 ft in the Ladakh Himalayas.
- ❖ The western end of Tso lies 54 km to the southeast of Leh. The 135 km-long lake sprawls over 604 sq. km in the shape of a boomerang and is 6 km wide at its broadest point.
- ❖ By itself, the lake does not have major tactical significance. But it lies in the path of the Chushul approach, one of the main approaches that China can use for an offensive into Indian-held territory.
- ❖ During 1999, Kargil conflict China built a 5 km road inside the Indian territory which added to the extensive network of roads built by the Chinese in the area.
- ❖ From one of these roads, Chinese positions physically overlook Indian positions on the northern tip of the PangongTsolake.

Fingers in the lake

- ❖ The barren mountains on the lake's northern bank, called the Chang Chenmo, are called "fingers". India claims that the LAC is coterminous with **Finger 8**, but it physically controls area only up to **Finger 4**.

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❖ Chinese border posts are at Finger 8, while it believes that the LAC passes through **Finger 2**.

- ❖ Chinese use light vehicles on the road to patrol up to Finger 2, which has a turning point for their vehicles. If they are confronted and stopped by an Indian patrol in between, asking them to return, it leads to confusion, as the vehicles can't turn back.
- ❖ The Indian side patrols on foot, and before the recent tensions, could go up to Finger 8. The fracas between Indian and Chinese soldiers earlier this month happened in this general area at Finger 5, which led to a “disengagement” between the two sides.
- ❖ The Chinese have now stopped the Indian soldiers moving beyond Finger 2. This is an eyeball-to-eyeball situation which is still developing.

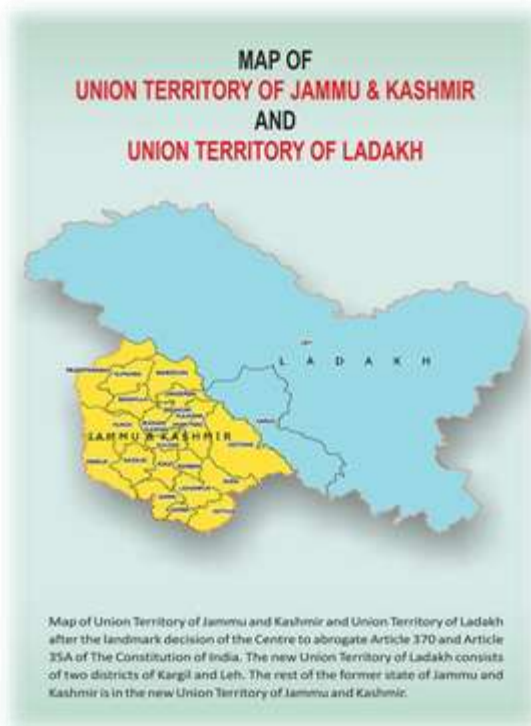


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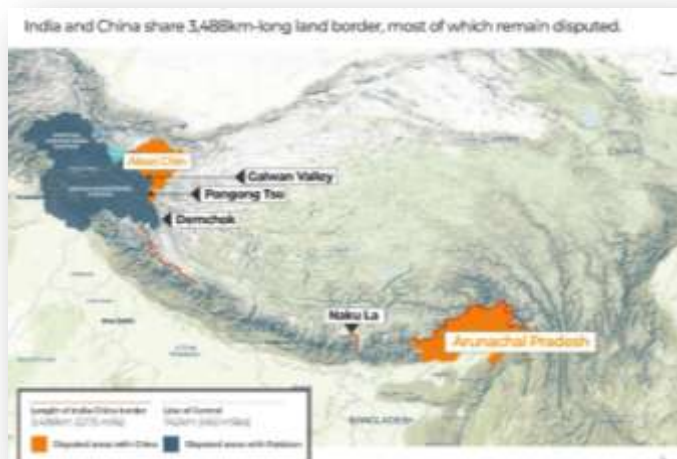
Maps and Images



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3 Locust Attack

Why in News?

Recently, eastern India was battered by one of the most powerful cyclones in decades and now, even as hundreds of lives are lost every day to the coronavirus, another danger lurks on the nation's west. A burgeoning locust swarm in the months of May and June in many parts of the nation threatens to amplify into an agrarian disaster.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on food fortification, Food security, Farmers in Distress etc.

GS I: Salient features of world's physical geography, Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India), Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.,

GS II: Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies; Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections; Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

GS III: Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, - different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers; Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing; Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment; Disaster and disaster management.

Article Links

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/in-a-first-drone-used-to-clear-locust-swarms-in-chomu/articleshow/76053417.cms>

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/delhi-issues-advisory-to-tackle-locust-threat-as-capital-braces-for-attack/story-DALd16JzhiVpref8gSAFjO.html>

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/locust-attack-in-india-economic-impact-crops-damaged-1682125-2020-05-26>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/why-locusts-are-being-sighted-in-urban-areas-what-it-can-mean-for-crops-6428703/>

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-swarm-the-hindu-editorial-on-locust-attack/article31689895.ece>

<https://scroll.in/latest/963965/locust-attacks-to-continue-in-india-till-july-seven-states-likely-to-be-affected-says-un-body>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/saratabin/2020/06/12/whats-up-with-those-locust-swarms/#1c048a0576e4>

<https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/india-news-locust-attack-this-was-just-residue-worst-is-yet-to-come-say-govt-authorities/353917>

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<https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Natural-disasters/India-and-Pakistan-brace-for-worst-locust-attack-in-27-years>

<https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2020/06/14/locust-swarm-gives-scare-to-bhopal-first-attack-in-almost-20-years.html>

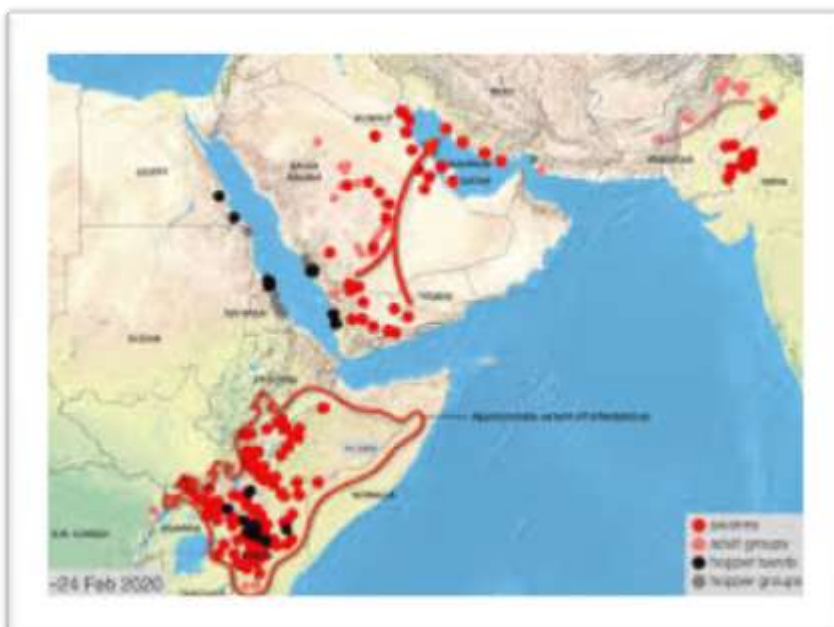
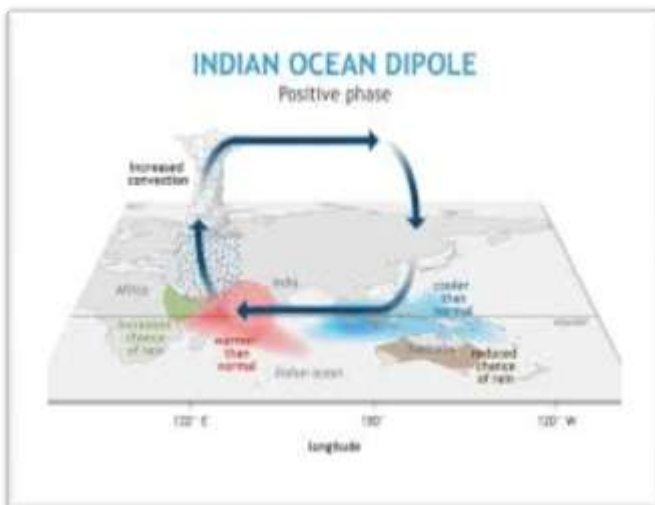
Video Links

RajyaSabha: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33bv9Wxbs9s>

The Quint: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6QptkxaE5Y>

The Hindu: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8dpFnTOeBk>

Al Jazeera: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ni12WIX2Wco>



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