



# TARGET PRELIMS 2024

## BOOKLET-33

### INTERNATIONAL BODIES-3

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## 1. UN BODIES – CONTINUE

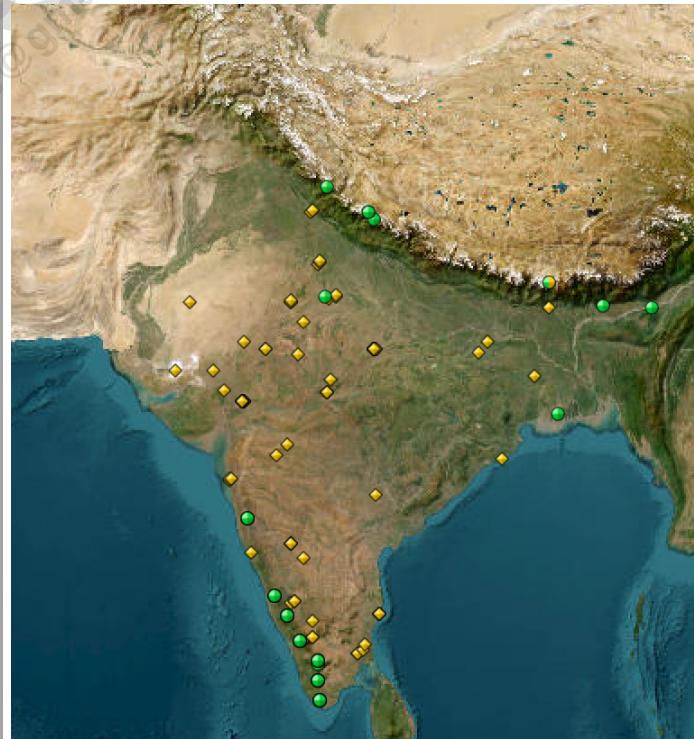
### 1) UNESCO

#### A) WORLD HERITAGE SITES

- The UNESCO seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is embodied in an international treaty called the **Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.
  - » The Convention also established the **World Heritage Committee** within UNESCO. It is composed of 21 state parties elected by UNGA.
    - **Note:** India is currently a member of the World Heritage Committee for its fourth term (2021-25).
- **10 Criteria for inclusion in World Heritage list.**
  - » Up to 2004 there were six criteria for cultural heritage site and four criteria for the natural heritage site.
  - » In 2005 this was modified so that, now only one set of ten criteria.
  - » Nominated sites must be of "outstanding universal value" and meet atleast one of the ten criteria.
- **World Heritage sites in India**
  - There are 42 (34 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed) world heritage sites in India as of March 2024.

##### Cultural (34)

- Agra Fort (1983)
- Ajanta Caves (1983)
- Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar (2016)
- Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989)
- Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park (2004)
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) (2004)
- Churches and Convents of Goa (1986)
- Dholavira: a Harappan City (2021)
- Elephanta Caves (1987)
- Ellora Caves (1983)
- Fatehpur Sikri (1986)
- Great Living Chola Temples (1987, 2004)
- Group of Monuments at Hampi (1986)
- Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984)
- Group of Monuments at Pattadakal (1987)
- Hill Forts of Rajasthan (2013)
- Historic City of Ahmadabad (2017)



- Humayun's Tomb, Delhi (1993)
- Jaipur City, Rajasthan (2019)
- Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana (2021)
- Khajuraho Group of Monuments (1986)
- Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya (2002)
- Mountain Railways of India (1999, 2005, 2008)
- Qutb Minar and its Monuments, Delhi (1993)
- Rani-ki-Vav (the Queen's Stepwell) at Patan, Gujarat (2014)
- Red Fort Complex (2007)
- Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003)
- Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas (2023)
- Santiniketan (2023)
- Sun Temple, Konârak (1984)
- Taj Mahal (1983)
- The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement (2016)
- The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur (2010)

- Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai (2018)

#### Natural 7

- Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (2014)
- Kaziranga National Park (1985)
- Keoladeo National Park (1985)
- Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (1985)
- Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (1988, 2005)
- Sundarbans National Park (1987)
- Western Ghats (2012)

#### Mixed 1

- Khangchendzonga National Park (2016)

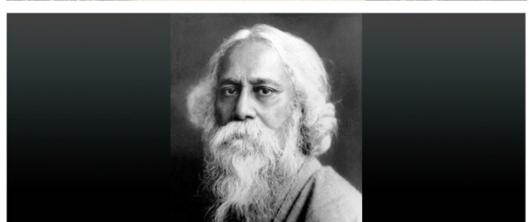
- Santiniketan in WB has been declared India's 41st World Heritage Site (Sep 2023)

Santiniketan is situated in a rural location in WB, and is associated with the work and philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore, a world famous poet, artist, musician, and philosopher and a recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature (1913).

The site was established as an Ashram and was given its name in 1863 by Tagore's father Debendranath Tagore. In 1901, Rabindranath Tagore began its transformation to a residential school and centre for art, based on the ancient Indian tradition of gurukul.

His vision was oriented at the unity of humanity, or "Visva Bharati". Distinct from the prevailing British colonial architectural orientations of the early 20th century and of European modernism, Santiniketan represents orientations toward a Pan-Asian modernity, drawing on ancient, medieval and folk traditions from across the region

#### SANTINIKETAN



**The Sacred Ensembles of Hoyasalas** has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. This is the 42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site of India (Sep 2023)

Hoysalesvara Temple, Helebidu, Channakeshava Temple, Belur, and Keshava Temple, Somenathapuram in Karnataka reflect the marvellous architectural and artistic creativity.



- These decision to include the above two sites in the World Heritage List was taken by the 21 nation World Heritage Committee.
- **Sites on the tentative List:**
  - A tentative list is an inventory of those properties which each state party intends to consider for nomination. Currently, there are 57 sites from India on the list.

## B) WORLD HERITAGE DAY/ INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MONUMENTS AND SITES

- 18th April is celebrated as the World Heritage Day. This day is dedicated to promoting the importance of cultural heritage and raising awareness about the need to preserve historical sites and monuments across the globe.
- **History:**
  - » The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) proposed the idea of World Heritage Day in 1982, and it was approved by UNESCO's General Conference that year.
  - » The first World Heritage Day was celebrated in 1983 and since then, it has become an important event for promoting awareness about cultural heritage.
- **2023 Theme:** "Heritage Changes"
  - » The theme is focused on the crucial issue of climate action and its relation to cultural heritage.

## C) ASSAM'S MOIDAMS MEET UNESCO TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HERITAGE CENTRE (MARCH 2023)

Moidams (or Maidams) represent the late medieval (13th - 19th century CE) mound-burial tradition of Tai Ahoms in Assam, which lasted almost 600 years.

Out of 386 Moidams explored so far, 90 royal burials at Charaideo are the best preserved, representative, and most complete examples of this tradition.

Charaideo Moidams enshrine the mortal remains of Ahom royalty among the objects they cherished.

After 18th century, the Ahom rulers adopted the Hindu method of cremation, later entombing the cremated bones and ashes in a Moidam at Charaideo.

The Moidams are highly venerated.



**Note:** Charaideo in Eastern Assam has more than 90 Moidams, the mound-burial system of the Ahoms who ruled large swathes of the present-day state and beyond for some 600 years until the advent of the British in the 1820s.

- Assam's Moidams have met all the technical requirements of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre. (March 2023)
  - » The nomination of *Moidams* – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty met all of the technical requirements outlined in the Operational Guidelines concerning completeness check of nominations to the World Heritage List. It is important to recall that the technical completeness of a nomination does not imply that the site concerned is of Outstanding Universal Value and would necessarily be inscribed on the World Heritage List.
  - » Earlier, in Jan 2023, Centre picked Assam's Charaideo Maidams from 52 sites across the country to be nominated for World Heritage site status.

#### D) UNESCO REPORTS: GENDER PARITY INDEX

- It is a socioeconomic index usually designed to measure relative access to education of males and females. It is released by UNESCO.
  - » It compares number of females with number of males enrolled in a given stage of education (primary, secondary etc.)

#### E) UNESCO LAUNCHES LIST DOCUMENTING 50 ICONIC INDIAN HERITAGE TEXTILES

- ***Handmade for 21st Century: Safeguarding Traditional Indian Textiles*** lists the histories and legends behind the textiles, describes the complicated and secret processes behind their making, mentions the causes for their dwindling popularity, and provides strategies for their preservation.
  - » The publication aims to document these intangible cultural heritages.
  - » It acts as a sample of endangered textile crafts.
  - » It also gives recommendations for the protection and revitalization of these textile crafts.
- **Important Textiles**
  - » Toda Embroidery and Sungadi from Tamil Nadu
  - » Sikalnayakanpet Kalamkari from Thanjavur, TN
  - » Ilkal and Lambadi or Banjara embroidery from Karnataka
  - » Kunbi weaves from Goa
  - » Himroo weaves from Hyderabad and Maharashtra
  - » Bandha Tie and dye weaving from Sambalpur in Odisha were some of the textiles that made the cut.
  - » Garad-Koirial from West Bengal
  - » Mashru weaves and Patola from Gujarat
  - » Khes from Panipat
  - » Chamba Rumals from Arunachal
  - » Thigma or wool tie and dye from Ladakh
  - » Awadh Jamdani from Varanasi
- **Note:**
  - » No textile practices from India have been included in the list so far and an inscription in the list would be due recognition of the talent and diversity of the country's extraordinary weaving traditions.

#### 2) UNITED NATION HUMAN SETTLEMENT PROGRAM (UN-HABITAT)

- It is the UN agency for **human settlements and sustainable urban development**. It works towards a **better urban future**.
  - » Its mission is to promote **transformative changes in cities and human settlements, through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action to leave no one and no place behind**.
- It was established in 1978 as an outcome of the **First UN conference on Human Settlement and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat-1), 1976**.
  - » Note: Habitat-3 was held at Quito, Ecuador in 2016.
- It is a member of United Nation Development Group.
- **Headquarter:** Nairobi, Kenya.

### 3) WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

- WHO is an UN Specialized Agency which was created in 1948 to **coordinate and direct the UN's global health efforts**. It is headquartered in **Geneva** and have six regional office (one of them in Delhi)
- It has no authority over its 194 member countries and like most other UN agencies, **depends on member contributions** to carry out its activities.

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#### A) REPORT: GLOBAL TB REPORT, 2023

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#### B) REPORT: THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD, 2023

- **About the Report:** The report provides an update on global progress towards the target of ending hunger (SDG Target 2.1) and all forms of malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2) and estimates on the number of people who are unable to afford a healthy diet.
- **Authors:**
  - » FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO

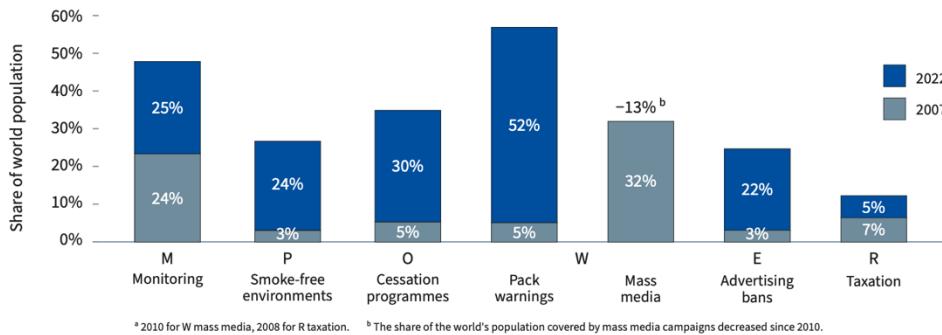
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#### C) REPORT ON GLOBAL TOBACCO EPIDEMIC

- This is the ninth WHO report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic and the fifteenth year since MPOWER was introduced as a technical package designed to help countries implement the demand reduction measures of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
  - » **M: Monitor** tobacco use and prevention policies
  - » **P: Protect** people from tobacco smoke
  - » **O: Offer** help to quit tobacco use
  - » **W: Warn** about the dangers of tobacco
  - » **E: Enforce** bans on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship
  - » **R: Raise** tax on tobacco
- **Key Highlights:**

- » Over 8 million tobacco related deaths take place a year. This makes tobacco the biggest public health threat and tobacco control remains a global health priority.
- » In 2022, more than 5.6 billion people - 71% of the world's population was covered by atleast one MPOWER measure implemented at the highest level.
- » Number of countries with one or more MPOWER measure in place has tripled since 2007 - from 44 to 151 countries.
- » 2 billion people are still unprotected by any regulatory restrictions on electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS).
  - 74 countries still have no ENDS ban on regulation in place, leaving over 2 billion people particularly vulnerable to the activities of tobacco and related industries.
- » **15 years of MPOWER have made a major impact on global tobacco control.**

**Fig. 4. Increase in the world population covered by selected tobacco control policies, 2007<sup>a</sup> to 2022**



#### D) WHO GLOBAL CENTRE FOR TRADITIONAL MEDICINE (WHO-GCTM)

- **What is Traditional Medicine?**
  - » The term traditional medicine describes the total sum of the knowledge, skills and practices indigenous and different cultures have used over time to maintain health and prevent, diagnose and treat physical and mental illness. Its reach encompasses ancient practices such as acupuncture, ayurvedic medicine and herbal mixture as well as modern medicines.
- **Details of Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM)**
  - » This Global Centre for Traditional Medicine is supported by an investment of USD 250 million from the Government of India.
  - » Ministry of AYUSH and WHO have signed an agreement to establish WHO GCTM at Jamnagar, Gujarat.
    - In April 2022, PM Modi laid foundation stone of WHO-GCTM at Jamnagar.
  - » It is an outpost centre of WHO-HQ (Geneva) funded by the GoI.
  - » It aims to harness the potential of traditional medicine from across the world through modern science and technology to improve the health of people and the planet.
  - » Around 80% of the world's population is estimated to use traditional medicine.

#### E) WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL AND THE PROTOCOL TO ELIMINATE ILLICIT TRADE IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS

- These are evidence based, legally binding international instruments.
- As of June 2023, there are 182 and 67 parties to this convention and protocol.
- These treaties act as unifying framework for inter-governmental cooperation.
- These are fundamental to combating the global tobacco epidemic and upholding the right of all people to the highest attainable standard of health.

- It came into force in 2005 and includes a core set of mutually reinforcing obligations to reduce the demand for, and supply of, tobacco products.

<b>Demand-reduction measures</b>	<b>Article 6:</b> Price and tax measures to reduce the demand for tobacco <b>Article 8:</b> Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke <b>Article 9:</b> Regulation of the contents of tobacco products <b>Article 10:</b> Regulation of tobacco product disclosures <b>Article 11:</b> Packaging and labelling of tobacco products <b>Article 12:</b> Education, communication, training and public awareness <b>Article 13:</b> Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship <b>Article 14:</b> Demand-reduction measures concerning tobacco dependence and cessation
<b>Supply-reduction measures</b>	<b>Article 15:</b> Illicit trade in tobacco products <b>Article 16:</b> Sales to and by minors <b>Article 17:</b> Provision of support for economically viable alternative activities
<b>General obligations</b>	<b>Article 4:</b> Guiding principles <b>Article 5:</b> General obligations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>5.1:</b> Comprehensive multisectoral, national tobacco control strategies, plans and programmes</li> <li>■ <b>5.2:</b> National coordinating mechanism or tobacco control focal point</li> <li>■ <b>5.3:</b> Protecting tobacco control policies from the tobacco industry's commercial and vested interests</li> </ul>
<b>Other measures</b>	<b>Article 18:</b> Protection of the environment and the health of persons <b>Article 19:</b> Liability <b>Article 20:</b> Research, surveillance and exchange of information <b>Article 21:</b> Reporting and exchange of information <b>Article 22:</b> Cooperation in the scientific, technical and legal fields and provisions of related expertise

#### A) REPORT: TRACKING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE: 2023 GLOBAL MONITORING REPORT

- Released jointly by WHO and World Bank.
- The report studies the progress towards Universal Health Coverage using two sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Indicators:
  - » **UHC Service Coverage Index (SCI)** that covers essential health services (SDG 3.8.1)
  - » **Out of Pocket Health Expenditure (OOPE)** measuring catastrophic health spending (SDG 3.8.2)
- **Key Highlights:**
  - » The World is off track to make significant progress towards **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** (SDG target 3.8) by 2030 as improvement to health services coverage have stagnated since 2015.
  - » The Proportion of Population that faced **catastrophic OOPE** has increased.

#### B) GLOBAL REPORT ON HYPERTENSION: THE RACE AGAINST A SILENT KILLER (2023)

- The number of people living with hypertension (blood pressure of  $\geq 140$  mmHg systolic or  $\geq 90$  mmHg diastolic or on medication) doubled between 1990 and 2019, from 650 million to 1.3 billion.

- Hypertension causes - Stroke, heart attack, heart failure, kidney damage and many other health problems.
- **How to address hypertension?**
  - » **Risk Factor Strategies** include ensuring that people eat a healthy diet low in sodium, maintain a healthy weight, avoid alcohol and tobacco and take regular physical activity.
  - » **Policies and practices to support these strategies** are most effective when implemented across entire populations or within specific settings, such as in schools and at workplaces.

#### 4) WORLD BANK GROUP (WBG)

- **Introduction**
  - WBG is a family of five international organizations that make **leveraged loans to developing countries** and work towards sustainable solutions to reduce poverty and build shared prosperity in developing countries.
  - It is the largest developmental bank in the world and is also an observer at the United Nations Development Group (UNDG).
  - **History:**
    - It was founded in 1944 at the **United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference or the Bretton Woods Conference**, which was convened to establish a new, post-World War II international economic system.
    - It officially became operational in 1946.
    - **IMF and WB are called Bretton woods twins** as they were formed as a result of Bretton Woods Agreement.
- HQ: Washington D.C.
- **Goals/ Mission**
  - Ending extreme poverty and building shared prosperity
- The five organizations which form part of WBG are:
  - 1. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**
    - Provides debts financing on the basis of sovereign guarantees.
  - 2. International Development Association (IDA)**
    - Provides concessional financing (interest free loans or grants), usually with sovereign guarantees.
      - » ('Soft loan Window' -> as it gives concessional loans)
      - » It is one of the largest sources of credit for the world's poorest countries.
  - 3. International Finance Cooperation (IFC)**
    - Provides various forms of financing without sovereign guarantees, primarily to the private sector.
  - 4. Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)**
    - Provides insurance against certain types of risk, including political risk, primarily to the private sector.
      - » It thus encourages private sector to invest in foreign developing countries.

## 5. International Centre for settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

- It helps private investors and foreign countries to work out differences when they don't agree.
- Many Bilateral Investment Treaties also provide ICSID mechanism for dispute resolution.
- Note:
  - » India is not a member of ICSID and considers the convention biased in favor of developed countries.
  - » For e.g. the Chairman of ICSID is the Chairman of World Bank. The chairman appoints the arbitrators too.

### - Membership:

- To become a member of the Bank, under the **IBRD Articles of Agreement**, a country must join the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Presently, IBRD has 189 members.
  - Note: Currently, all member of IMF are also members of IBRD.
- Membership of **IDA, IFC and MIGA** are conditional on membership in IBRD.

### - World Bank: The term "world bank" generally refers to just the IBRD and IDA, whereas the term WBG refers to all five institutions collectively.

- **IBRD and IDA focuses on developing countries** in areas such as human development, infrastructure, environment protection, large industrial construction project, and governance.
- They provide **loans at preferential rates to member countries**, as well as grants to the poorest countries.

### - Decisions Making Process:

- » The bank runs like a **giant cooperative**, where its members are shareholders and is operated for the benefit of those using its service. The **number of shares of each country** is based on roughly the **size of its economy**.
  - The US, Japan, Germany, UK and France are the largest shareholders.
- » **A Board of Governors** represents the Bank's government shareholders.
  - Generally, these governors are country ministers. The governors are the ultimate policy makers in the World Bank. They meet once a year in the Bank's Annual Meeting.
- » **24 Executive directors** deal with the daily functions of the bank including approving loans and guarantees, new policies, the administrative budget, country assistance strategy and borrowing and financial decisions.
  - 5 Executive director are from the five largest donors (US, Japan, Germany, UK and France)
  - Remaining 19 executive directors represent the other member countries.

### - President of the World Bank Group (WBG)

- How is President selected?
  - The President is selected through an open, merit-based, and transparent selection process.
    - **Step1: Candidate Nominations** must be made by Executive Directors, or by Governors through their Executive Directors.
      - i. **Candidates** must be nationals of the Bank's member countries.

- **Step2:** Following the close of nomination period, the Executive Directors will decide on a shortlist of upto three candidates and publish the names of shortlisted candidates with their consent. Formal interviews of all shortlisted candidates is conducted by executive directors.
  - **Step3:** Board of Governors of the World Bank Group elects the president of the World Bank.
- Candidates should have the track record of leadership and accomplishment; experience of managing large organization with international exposure, and a familiarity with the public sector; The ability to articulate a clear vision of the WBG's development mission.
- **The President** of the World Bank is ex officio chair of the Board of the Executive Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA).
- The President is also ex officio chair of the Board of Directors of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the Administrative Council of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).
- **Current President:**
  - **Ajay Banga** began his five year term as WBG President on 2nd June, 2023.
  - He is the first ever Indian American to be appointed as the WBG President.
- **Need of Reforms:**  
Domination by a few developed countries; Anachronistic i.e., don't represent the current economic picture of the world; Impose "Free Market Economic Policies"; Need of more capital;
- **World Bank Group and India**
  - India is the largest client of the WBG.
  - India is member of 4/5 organs of WBG.

### C) REPORT: GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPECT (GEP) REPORT

- Since its inception in 1991, The Global Economic Prospect report has examined international economic developments and the outlook for growth, with a special focus on emerging markets and developing economies.

### D) REPORT: WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PROSPECTS REPORT

- The report paints a sobering picture of the global economic landscape.
- The report forecasts a deceleration in global GDP growth, from an estimated 2.7% in 2023 to 2.4% in 2024.
  - » Developing countries in particular are struggling to recover from pandemic induced losses.
- **India** is projected to grow by 6.2% in 2024, supported by domestic demand and growth in manufacturing and services.

### A) REPORT: LOGISTIC PERFORMANCE INDEX OF WORLD BANK

- Why in news?

- » LPI 2023 released (2023)
- **Intro**
  - » **Logistics** comprise of a network of services that support the physical movement of goods within and across the borders. Logistics are the backbone of trade. Good logistics can lower trade costs and help countries compete globally.
  - » LPI scores countries on how efficiently they move goods across or within borders.
- LPI analyzes countries across **six parameters**
  - » **Customs** efficiency and border management clearance.
  - » **Infrastructure** Quality for trade and transport
  - » **Tracking and Tracing** of consignments.
  - » **Ease of International shipment** (competitive price)
  - » **Logistic Service Quality**
  - » **Timeliness:** Frequency with which shipments reach consignees within the scheduled expected delivery times.
- **The 2023 LPI:**
  - » **Transitioning from survey to Big Data:**
    - LPI 2023 with 2 tracks: (1) traditional survey based (2) new indicator based on actual supply chain tracking data
    - **New Features:** New Set of Key performance Indicators
      - Derived from Big Data source on actual trade movements
      - Cover containers, air freight and parcels by trade lanes and gateways
      - Complements the information carried by the survey-based LPI.
    - **Main LPI** is still based on survey: 6 components and one overall score
      - **Perception based:** respondents evaluate 6 indicators of logistics performance in upto 8 parameters.
      - 4090 currently assessments by 652 logistics professionals from 115 countries and from all World Bank regions (survey data Sep to Nov 2022)
  - » **Key Highlights:**
    - Level of Logistic Performance have risen over time.
  - » **India Ranks 38/139 countries** (an improvement from 44 rank of 2018 and 54 rank in 2014)



### C) REPORT: EASE OF DOING BUSINESS: WORLD BANK REPORT

In Sep 2021, WBG cancelled the release of its flagship report - "**Ease of Doing Business**" Report due to allegations of data irregularities. It was alleged that the report was manipulating China's rank.

### D) BUSINESS READY (B-READY)

- It is the World Bank's new flagship report benchmarking the business environment and investment climate in most economies worldwide. The report assesses the regulatory framework and public services

directed at firms, and the efficiency with which regulatory framework and public services are combined in practice.

- With data that are comparable across economy and overtime, **B-READY** provides actionable evidence to promote reforms for a stronger private sector.

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#### E) INTERNATIONAL DEBT REPORT, 2023

- It's an annual report by WB.
- **Key Highlights of the 2023 report:**
  - » Among the biggest surge in global interest rates in four decades, developing countries spent a record \$443.5 billion to service their external and public guaranteed debt in 2022. This leads to shifting of resources from critical areas like health, education, and the environment.
  - » **Debt Service Payments** (which includes principal and interest payments) - increased by 5% over the previous year for all developing countries.

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#### F) REPORT: WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT, 2023

- **About World Development Report**
  - » It is an invaluable guide to economic, social and environmental state of world. It has been published annually since 1978 by IBRD.
- **Key Highlights of the 2023 Report**
  - » **Theme:** Migrants Refugees and Society

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#### G) WOMEN, BUSINESS AND LAW (WBL) INDEX 2023: WORLD BANK

- **Why in news?**
  - » Released in March 2023
  - » It is 9th in the series of annual reports.
- **Key Highlights**
  - » It **analyses laws and regulations affecting Women's economic inclusion** in 190 economies. It **only measures formal laws and regulations** governing women's ability to work or own businesses - it didn't cover a country's norms and practices. It uses **eight parameters**:
    - workplace, pay, mobility, marriage, parenthood, pensions, assets and entrepreneurship
  - » It also analyses the work still to be done to ensure economic empowerment for all.
  - » The study also observed that **giving women equal opportunities** in the workplace leads to more successful economies.
- **India's situation.**
  - » **World Bank Index on Life Cycle of Working Women** (March 2023: Source - TH)
    - Out of the 190 economies covered in the Index, only 14 scored a perfect 100: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.
    - **India** scores 74.4/100.
      - A score of 100 would mean that women are on equal standing with men on all the eight indicators being measured.

- India scored higher than the South Asian average of 63.7 though lower than Nepal which had the region's highest score.
- For India, the index used data the laws and regulations applicable in Mumbai, viewed as the country's main business city.

▪ **Reasons:**

- Laws affecting pay, pension, inheritance and property rights are among the areas where India lags behind in terms of gender equality at workplace.

## 5) INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)

- **Beginning**
  - » The IMF also known as the Fund, was conceived at a UN conference in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States, in July 1944. It formally came into existence in 1945, the IMF is governed by and accountable to 189 countries that make up its near-global membership.
    - **Note:** IMF and World Bank are two Bretton woods organizations.
  - » **Headquarter:** Washington DC
- The **primary goal** of the IMF was to bring about International Economic Coordination to prevent competing currency devaluation by countries trying to promote their own exports.
  - » Eventually, **IMF evolved to be a lender of last resort** to governments of countries that had to deal with severe currency crisis.
- The **Organization's Objectives stated in the Articles of Agreement are:**
  - » To promote international Economic Cooperation, International Trade, Employment and Exchange rate stability, including by making financial resources available to member countries to meet balance of payment needs.
- **How IMF promotes global Economic Stability**
  - » The IMF helps countries to implement sound and appropriate policies through its key functions of surveillance, technical assistance, and lending.
    - **Surveillance**
      - » IMF's mandate is to oversee the international monetary system and monitor the economic and financial policies of its 189 member countries. This surveillance takes place at the global level and in individual countries and regions.
      - » **Consulting with member countries**
        - IMF monitors members' economies through regular - usually annual - consultation with each member country.
      - » **Closely monitors global and regional trends.**
        - Periodic reports: **The World Economic Outlook**, its regional overviews, **the Fiscal Monitor**, and the **Global Financial Stability Report**, analyze global and regional macroeconomic and financial developments.
    - **Technical Assistance**

- » IMF provides advice and training on a range of issues within its mandate, including fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies, regulation and supervision of financial systems; statistics systems; and legal framework.

- **Lending**

- » Financial assistance to a member country which is experiencing financial difficulty. It can also support crisis prevention.
- » A core responsibility of IMF is to provide loans to member countries experiencing actual or potential balance of payments problems.
  - This financial assistance enables countries to rebuild their international reserves, stabilize their currencies, continue paying for imports, and restore conditions for strong economic growth, while undertaking policies to correct underlying problems. Unlike development banks, **the IMF does not lend for specific projects**.
- » **The Process of IMF lending**
  - Upon request from a member country, IMF resources are usually made available under a lending "arrangement", which may, depending on the lending instrument used, stipulate specific economic policies and measures a country has agreed to implement to resolve its balance of payment problems.

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## A) IMF BAILOUTS

- **Why do nations seek IMF bailout?**
  - » To deal with major macro-economic risks.
    - For e.g., in case of both Sri Lanka and Pakistan, both countries have witnessed domestic price rise rapidly and steep depreciation in their currency.
- **How does the IMF help countries?**
  - » It lends money, often in the form of special drawing rights (SDRs), to troubled economies that seek the lender's assistance.
  - » IMF carries out its lending to troubled economies through a number of lending programs such as Extended Credit Facility; the flexible credit facility; the standby agreement etc.
- **Criticisms of IMF Bailouts**
  - » IMF usually imposes conditions on countries before it lends any money to them. For e.g., a country may have to implement certain structural reforms as a condition to receive IMF loans. The IMF's conditional lending has been controversial as many believe that these reforms are too tough on the public. Sometimes IMF is also accused of influencing international politics.
- **Supporters** argue that without structural reforms bailout will not be successful.

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IMF GRANTED A \$ 3 BILLION SHORT-TERM STAND-BY ARRANGEMENT (SBA) TO PAKISTAN (JULY 2023)

- India abstained from voting when the SBA was approved.
- In March 2024, Pakistani PM Minister Shehbaz Sharif, is pursuing "immediate talks" with the IMF to seek additional funding support, including the \$1.2 billion residual balance under the SBA which expires next month.

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#### IMF CLEARS SECOND TRANCHE OF \$337 MILLION FOR SL (DEC 2023)

- The IMF has cleared the second tranche - of about \$337 million - of the Extended Fund Facility to Sri Lanka, based on the debt treatment plan drawn up by the crisis-battered island nation and its bilateral creditors.
- With the second tranche coming in, SL has received about \$670 million of the \$ 3 billion it hopes to receive from the fund.

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### B) WHERE THE IMF GETS ITS MONEY

- Most resources for IMF loans are provided by member countries, primarily through their payment of quotas.
- Borrowings provides a temporary supplement to quota resources and has played a critical role in enabling the fund to meet member's need for financial support during the global economic crisis.
- Concessional lending and debt relief for low-income countries are financed through separate contribution-based trust funds.

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### C) GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATION

- » The IMF is accountable to the government of its member countries.
  - At the top of its organization structure is the **Board of Governors**, which consists of one governor and one alternate governor from each member country.
    - The Board of governor meets once each year at the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings. Twenty-four of the governors sit on the **International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC)** and normally meet twice each year.
- » The day-to-day work of IMF is overseen by its 24-member **Executive Board**, which represents the entire membership; this work is guided by the IMFC and supported by the IMF staff. From 2016, all members of the board are elected.
- » The **Managing Director** is the head of the IMF staff and Chairman of the Executive Board and is assisted by four Deputy Managing Directors.

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### D) IMF QUOTAS

- » Quota subscriptions are a central component of the IMF's financial resources. Each member country of IMF is assigned a quota, based broadly on its relative position in the world economy.
  - A member country's quota determines its-
    - Maximum financial commitment to the IMF
    - Its voting powers.
    - Access to Finance: The amount of financing a member can obtain from the IMF (its access limit) is based on its quota.

- » The current Quota formula is a **weighted average of GDP (weight 50%), openness (30 percent), economic variability (15%), and international reserves (5 percent)**.
  - **GDP** is measured as a blend of GDP - based on market exchange rates (weight of 60%) and PPP exchange rates (40 percent).
- » Quotas are denominated in **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)**, the IMF's unit of account.
  - **India's quota is 2.76% and China's is 6.41%, while the U.S.'s quota is 17.46 % (translates to a vote share of 16.52%)** giving it a unique veto power over crucial decisions at the IMF, many of which require a supermajority of 85%.
- » **How Quota Review works**
  - The IMF's ***Board of Governors conducts general quota reviews*** at regular intervals (usually every five years) Any changes in quotas **must be approved by 85 percent majority** of total voting power, and a member's quota cannot be changed without its consent.
    - There are two main issues addressed in a general quota review:
      1. the **size of an overall increase**
      2. the **distribution** of the increase among the members.
- » **Why periodic reviews are done?**
  - **Maintaining adequacy of resource:**
    - In terms of member's balance of payment financing needs
    - IMF's ability to help meet those needs.
  - **Reflect changes in the global economic status.**
- » **Ad hoc increases** outside general reviews **do not occur often**, but the **increases in quotas for 54 member countries approved under the 2008 reforms** are a recent example.
- » **The 2010 Review and it's coming into effect in Jan 2016**
  - The **2010 Quota and Governance reform** were **approved by the IMF's Board of Governors in Dec 2010** and built on an earlier set of reforms that were approved by the Governors in April 2008.
  - This was the **14th General Review of Quotas**
    - **Reform package came into force in Jan 2016**
  - **Key outcomes of the 2010 reform**
    - **Quota Reforms -> Doubling of Quota to SDR 477 billion; Shifting of quota to under-represented member countries and EMDCs.**
      - This has **made China the 3rd largest shareholder in IMF and (India, Brazil and Russia) have also come among the largest shareholders.**
    - **Governance Reform**
      - **All elected IMF's Executive Board** (Board Reform Amendment)

## E) IMF QUOTA AND GOVERNANCE: NEED FOR REFORMS

- **Need for Reform**

- Given the unequal voting power mechanism, IMF doesn't always serve the interests of poor and developing countries, hence require two sets of reforms:
  - **Need for Quota Reforms**
    1. To give more say to developing nations in the activities of the multi-lateral organizations.
    2. To reflect the changes in economic realities, especially with regard to increasing prowess of the developing nations.
    3. To increase the financial capability of IMF.
  - **Need for governance Reform.**
    1. To make it more representative

## F) KEY CHANGES AGREED TO IN 2019 AGREEMENT

- **The 15th Quota Review** is currently underway.
- IMF has agreed to maintain its funding at \$1 trillion but has **postponed changes to its voting structure**.
  - This deal is a compromise with the U.S., the fund's largest shareholder, which has resisted changes to the organization's voting structure as well as increase in its permanent resource base.
  - The IMF quotas will now be reviewed before the end of 2023.

## G) SOME KEY TERMS: SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS

- The SDR is an international reserve asset, created by IMF in 1969. It operates as a **supplement to the existing money reserves of member countries**.
 

- **What is Reserve Asset:** Reserve assets are currencies or other assets, such as gold, that can be readily transferable and are used to balance international transactions and payments.
  - A reserve asset must be readily available, physical, controlled by policymakers, and easily transferable.
- **Why was SDR needed?** Under Bretton Woods, the international supply of two key reserve assets - gold and US dollar - proved inadequate for supporting the expansion of world trade and financial development that was taking place. Therefore, international community decided to create a new international reserve under the auspices of IMF.
- **The IMF uses SDRs for internal accounting purposes.**
- The **value of SDR** is calculated from a weighted basket of major currencies, including the U.S. dollar, the euro, Japanese Yen, Chinese Yuan and British Pound.
  - The makeup of SDR is re-evaluated five years. The current makeup of the SDR is represented by the following table:

Currency	Weights Determined in the 2015 Review	Fixed Number of Units of Currency for a 5-Year Period Starting Oct. 1, 2016
U.S. Dollar	41.73	0.58252
Euro	30.93	0.38671
Chinese Yuan	10.92	1.0174
Japanese Yen	8.33	11.900
Pound Sterling	8.09	0.085946

- Which currencies can be included in SDR baskets?
  - Currencies of "members or monetary unions whose exports had the largest value over a five-year period, and have been determined by the IMF to be freely usable."
- The **SDR interest rate** (SDRi) provides the basis for calculating the interest rate charged to member countries when they borrow from the IMF and paid to members for their remunerated creditors position in the IMF.
- The IMF member countries are entitled to get a loan from IMF's SDR Account. This loan amount is upto 200% of the member's quota with the IMF. It is also known as **Paper Gold**.
  - In this arrangement IMF doesn't lend directly. It is the member countries, who are in a strong position, lend their SDR holdings to member countries who are in problems for balance of payment.

## H) REPORTS: WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

- Why in news?
  - » World Economic Outlook (WEO): A *Rocky* report (April 2023: Source: TH)
- Details
  - » IMF comes out with the report twice every year (April and October) and also provides regular updates to it on other occasions.
  - » Key highlights of April 2023 Report
    - The IMF has projected that India's economy will grow by 5.9% for the current fiscal year April 2023-March 2024, a downward revision of 0.2% points since the January forecast.
    - Global output growth is projected by the IMF to slow to 2.8% in 2023 (Calendar year), picking up to 3% in 2024.

## 6) INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)

- Introduction
  - The IMO is a specialized agency of UN responsible for regulating shipping. It plays an important role towards safe, secure, and efficient shipping on clean ocean and plays an important role to create fair, effective and universally accepted regulatory framework.

- Headquarter: **London**
- Membership: 174 Members + 3 Associate Members
  - » Members have to ratify Convention on the International Maritime Organization.
  - » Most UN members that are not members of IMO are landlocked. (AF, Bhutan, Burundi etc.)
  - » India has been a member since 1959.
- Till 1982, it was known as the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) until 1982.
- **Key Function**
  - Develop and maintain comprehensive regulatory function for shipping.
  - It focuses on safety, environment protection, maritime security, efficiency of shipping, legal and technical cooperation.
- **Structure**
  - IMO consists of an Assembly (highest body), a Council and five main committees.
    - » Council consists of 40 Member States elected by the Assembly and act as the governing body.
    - » Technical work of IMO is carried by the five committees.
- **India re-elected at IMO Council**, with the highest tally at elections held for the 2024-25 biennium (2-year term) (Dec 2023)
  - **Members are divided into three categories:**
    - » **Category (a):** States with interest in providing International Shipping Services.
    - » **Category (b):** States with interest in international sea-borne trade
      - **India** was re-elected in this category.
    - » **Category (C):** States with special interest in maritime transport or navigation and whose election will ensure the representation of all major geographical areas.
- **India and IMO**
  - **Important conventions under IMO Framework that India have ratified:**
    - » **International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974**
      - Focuses on safety of Merchant ships.
      - Specify minimum standards for construction, equipment and operation of ships, compatible with their safety.
    - » **International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC)**
      - It establishes measures to deal with marine oil pollution incidents nationally and in cooperation with other countries.
        - It was adopted in 1990 and entered into force in 1995.
  - India also played an important role in anti-piracy operation in cooperation with IMO and Contact Group on Piracy on the Coast of Somalia.

## 7) WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)

- **Introduction**
  - **WMO** is a specialized body of UN which is an authoritative voice on behavior of earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, the climate it produces and the resulting distribution of water resources.

- **Headquarter:** Geneva
- It originated from the **International Meteorological Organization**, which was founded in 1873. It was established in 1950 and became the specialized agency of UN in 1951 for Meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
  - » It currently operates under the aegis of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- **Reports:** Already covered in Environment

## 8) UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON LAW OF THE SEAS

### - Details of UNCLOS

- UNCLOS lays down a **comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas** establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources. It enshrines the notion that **all problems of the ocean space are closely inter-related and need to be addressed as a whole**.
- It is a convention that was the result of third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III) which ended in 1982.
- Came into force in 1994, a year after Guyana became 60th nation to sign it.

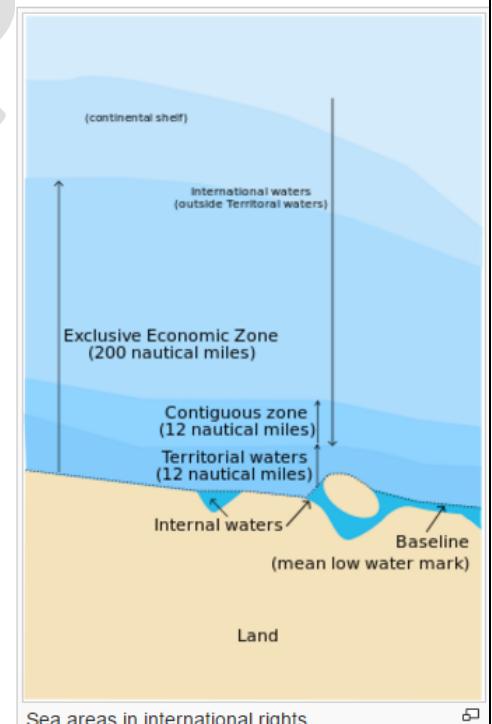
### - Key functions of the convention

1. Defines rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the World's Ocean.
2. Establishes guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources.
3. It sets the basic rules/principles for:
  - Navigation; Transit Regimes; Archipelagic status
  - EEZ
  - Continental shelf jurisdiction
  - Deep seabed mining; Exploitation regime
  - Marine Environment Protection
  - Scientific research
  - **Dispute settlement.**

### - Sea Areas in International Rights

#### 1. Internal Water

- Covers all water and waterways on the landward side of the baseline.
- The coastal state is free to set laws, regulate use and use any resource.
- Foreign vessels have no right of passage within internal water.
- Air Space is also under full national jurisdiction.



#### 2. Territorial Water

- It extends at most 12 nautical miles from the baseline.
- Territorial sea is regarded as the **sovereign territory** of the coastal state.
- Foreign ships (civilian) are allowed innocent passage through it or transit passage (even for foreign vessels and aircrafts) through straits.
- Air Space is under national jurisdiction (but some restrictions exist)

### 3. Contiguous zone

- To 24 nautical miles from baseline (12 nautical miles from territorial waters)
- State can continue to enforce law in for specific purpose: Customs, Taxation, immigration, and pollution, if the infringement started within the state territory or territorial waters, or if this infringement is about to occur within the state's territory or territorial waters. This makes contiguous zone a **hot pursuit area**.

### 4. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

- 200 nautical miles from the baseline.
- Coastal nation has sole exploitation right over all the natural resources.
- Foreign nations have freedom of navigation and overflight, subject to regulation of the coastal states.
  - Foreign states can also lay submarine pipes and cables.

### 5. Continental Shelf

- Natural prolongation of the land territory to the continental margin's outer edge, or 200 nautical miles (370 km) from the coastal state's baseline, whichever is greater.
- Coastal states have the right to harvest mineral and non-living material in the sub-soil of its continental shelf, to the exclusion of others.
- Coastal states also have exclusive right over the living resources "attached" to the continental shelf, but not to creatures living in the water column beyond EEZ

### 6. Other limits mentioned in UNCLOS.

#### 1. Archipelagic Waters

- A baseline is drawn between the outermost points of the outermost islands, subject to these points being sufficiently close to one another. All waters inside baseline are designated as Archipelagic waters.
- The state has sovereignty over these waters (like internal waters), but subject to existing rights including traditional fishing rights of the immediately adjacent state.
- Foreign vessels have right of innocent passage through archipelagic waters (like territorial waters)

#### 2. Extended Continental Shelf :

- When a continental shelf extends beyond 200 nautical miles a state is required by UNCLOS (article 76) to make a submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and is accompanied by technical and scientific data to support the claim.
- The commission assesses the limit and data submitted by coastal state and make recommendations.
- The outer limits of continental shelf established by a coastal state based on these recommendations are final and binding.

### Important bodies established under UNCLOS

#### A) INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL ON LAW OF SEAS

- Introduction
  - It is an intergovernmental organization created by the mandate of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea.

- It was established by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), signed in 1982.
- Based in Hamburg, Germany.
- The tribunal has the power to settle disputes between party states of UNCLOS.
- Composition: The tribunal consist of 21 serving judges, elected from among persons enjoying the highest reputation for fairness and integrity and of recognized competence in the field of the law of the sea.
- India is a signatory to the convention.
- USA is not a signatory of the convention.

## B) ITALIAN MARINE CASE

- Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) have given final ruling in the Italian marines' case (May 2020)
  - **Background:**
    - » In 2012, two Italian Marines had shot dead two Indian fishermen aboard an Indian vessel, St. Antony. This vessel was in **contiguous zone**.
    - » On the arrest of the marines, Italy invoked the compulsory dispute resolution provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in order to initiate proceedings against India through Annex VII arbitration. Italy moved to **International Tribunal on the Law of Sea (ITLOS)**
  - **Final Judgement on 31st May 2020**
    - » **Judgement in favor of Italy**
      - The two Italian Marines accused of killing two unarmed Indian fisherman off the coast of Kerala "are entitled to immunity" **on the acts they committed during the incident** as they were acting as "State Officials" and that India is "precluded from exercising its jurisdiction over the marines".
        - The PAC also decided by three votes to two that "India must take the necessary steps to cease to exercise its criminal jurisdiction over the marine".
    - » **Judgement in favor of India**
      - **Italian Marine officers breached India's Freedom of Navigation** under UNCLOS Article 87(1)(a) and 90.
        - **India is entitled to payment of compensation** in connection with loss of life, physical harm, material damage to property (including to the Indian vessel named St Antony) and moral harm suffered by the captain and other crew members of the St. Antony.
      - **The PCA verdict has been accepted by India.**
    - » **Both India and Italy** would reach an agreement on amount of compensation Italy would pay to India. The Arbitration Tribunal will retain jurisdiction over the case if either India or Italy, or both, approach it to determine the quantum of compensation.

## C) INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY (ISA)

- Part IX of the UNCLOS provides for a regime relating to minerals on the seabed outside any state's territorial waters or EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone).

- It establishes an International Seabed Authority (ISA) to authorize seabed exploration and mining and collect and distribute the seabed mining royalty.
- ISA is an intergovernmental organization based in Kingston, Jamaica, that was established to organize, regulate, and control all-mineral related activities in the international seabed area beyond the limit of national jurisdiction, an area underlying most of the world's oceans.

#### D) COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF CONTINENTAL SHELF (CLCS)

- The purpose of the CLCS is to facilitate implementation of UNCLOS in respect of the outer limit of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles (M) from the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.
- Under the UNCLOS (the convention), the coastal state shall establish the outer limits of its continental shelf where it extends beyond 200 M on the basis of the recommendation of CLCS.
- The commission shall make recommendations to the coastal states on the matters related to the establishment of those limits; its recommendations and actions shall not prejudice matters relating to the delimitation of boundaries between states with opposite or adjacent coast

#### 9) INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO)

- **Introduction**
  - » The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a specialized agency of UN which deals with administration and governance of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).
  - » It was established in 1944 and is headquartered at Montreal Canada.
  - » It works with 192 Member states of convention and other industry groups to come to a consensus on International Civil Aviation Standards and Recommendation Practices (SARPs) and Policies to ensure safe, efficient, secure, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible civil aviation.
  - » It also assists member states in capacity building towards various aviation development objectives.
- **Conventions, Protocols, Agreements**

#### CARBON OFFSETTING AND REDUCTION SCHEME FOR INTERNATIONAL AVIATION (CORSIA)

#### 10) UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)

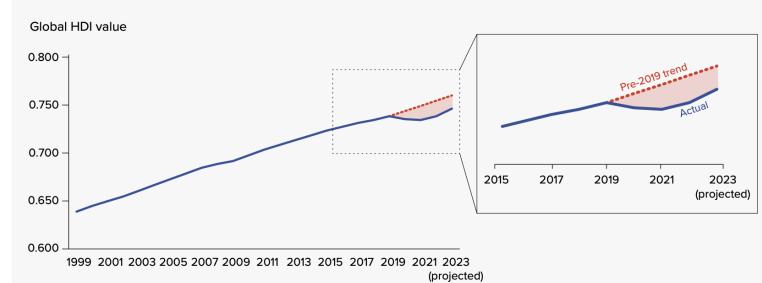
- **About UNDP**

- UNDP is UN's global development network. Headquartered in New York city, it is the largest multilateral source of development assistance in the world. It is funded entirely by voluntary contribution from member states.
- Status within UN:** An executive board within the United Nations General Assembly. The UNDP administrator is the third highest ranking official of the UN after the UN Secretary General and Deputy Secretary general.
- Functions of UNDP**
  - UNDP help governments and local communities to find **solutions to global and national development challenges**. It has offices and staff in around 180 countries of the world.
  - It **coordinates** various global and national efforts to achieve the goals and national developmental priorities.
  - UNDP focuses primarily on **5 Development Challenges**
    - Democratic Governance**
    - Poverty Reduction**
    - Crisis Prevention and Recovery**
    - Environment and Energy**
    - HIV/AIDS**
      - It helps countries to prevent further spreading and reduce its impact.**
- UNDP also encourages protection of human rights, and the empowerment of women in all its programs.
- Towards achieving its aims and objectives, UNDP has been annually publishing **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT** since 1990.

## I) HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2023-24: BREAKING THE GRIDLOCK (MARCH 2024)

- Human Development Index (HDI)** measures countries progress in three basic social dimensions - a long and healthy life (**Health**), access to knowledge (**Education**) and a decent standard of living (**income**).
  - These are measured by four parameters - life expectancy at birth, means years of schooling, expected years of schooling, and the Gross National Income (GNI) per Capita.
- The report also calculates **Gender Inequality Index (GII)** which can be interpreted as the loss in human development due to inequality between female and male achievements.
- Key Highlights of the Report:**
  - The Global HDI are projected to exceed their pre-2019 values.
    - Despite reaching a new high, it will still be below trend.

Figure S.1 A permanent shift in the Human Development Index (HDI) trajectory?



Note: The global HDI value for 2023 is a projection. The pre-2019 trend is based on the evolution of the global HDI value in the previous 20 years.  
Source: Human Development Report Office calculations based on data from Barro and Lee (2018), IMF (2023d), UNDESA (2022, 2023), UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2023), United Nations Statistics Division (2023) and World Bank (2023).

- India attained a HDI score of 0.644 in 2022, positioning it at 134 out of 193 countries in the 2023-24 report.
  - Note: In 1990, India's HDI stood at 0.434. the 2022 score reflects a positive change of 48.4%.

## 11) UNITED NATION HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (ALSO KNOWN AS THE UN REFUGEE AGENCY)

- Headquarters: Geneva
- Status in UN: An office in UN Secretariat
- Function:
  - To protect and support the refugees at the request of a government or the UN itself and assists in their voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement to a third country.
  - It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another state.
- Definition of Refugees (according to 1951 Refugee Convention of UNHCR)
  - Any person owing to fear of being persecuted because of race, nationality, membership of a social group is outside his country or unable to avail the protection of that country. Involuntary.
  - The above definition was expanded to cover people who have fled due to armed conflicts and turmoil: Humanitarian refugees.
  - Protection offered to refugees.
    - » Non-discrimination
    - » Non-penalization
    - » **Non-refoulement:** mandates that no one can return a refugee against his will to a territory where he or she feels his life is threatened.
    - » **Some other basic rights**
      - Refugees entitled to basic rights = access to courts, primary education, work and travel docs.
  - Signed by 140 countries.
  - Thus, **refugees enjoy a distinct unique protection under international law**.
    - » Safety from deportation in the country where they face prosecution
    - » Protection of basic human rights w/o discrimination on different grounds
    - » Access to fair and efficient asylum procedure
    - » Provision of administrative assistance
  - Note: India is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee convention or its 1967 Protocol and doesn't have a national refugee protection framework.

## 12) UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP (UNSDG)

- Previously known as United Nation Development Group (UNDG)
- It is a consortium of UN entities that aims to fulfill the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It serves as a high-level forum for joint policy formulations and decision making. It unites 32 UN funds, programs, agencies, departments, and offices that play a role in development.

- UNSDG entities include FAO, ILO, UNDESA, UN-Habitat, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP, WHO, WMO etc.

### 13) UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)

- UNODC is an UN office that was established in 1997 as the Office for Drugs Control and Crime Prevention. It was renamed to UNODC in 2002.
  - It is a member of the **United Nations Development Group**.
- **Function/Role**
  - It assists UN in providing coordinated, comprehensive response to interrelated issues of **illicit drug trafficking, drug abuse, international terrorism, political corruption** etc.

### REPORT: WORLD DRUG REPORT

### 14) UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL FOR ASIA PACIFIC (UNESCAP)

- UNESCAP is a regional developmental arm of the UN for the **Asia Pacific Region**.
- It has a membership of 53 countries and there are 9 associate members, with a geographical scope that stretches from Turkey in the west to the Pacific Island nation of Kiribati in the east. From Russia in the North to New Zealand in the south.
  - » It is the most comprehensive of the UN's five regional commissions.
- Established in 1947, headquartered in Bangkok.
- **Functions**
  - » Deal with regional challenges by providing results-oriented projects, technical assistance and capacity building to member states.
- **About Regional Commissions:** Regional Commissions act as regional outposts of UN in their respective region. The five regional commissions are:
  1. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
  2. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (UNESCAP)
  3. Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC)
  4. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
  5. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)

### 15) UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (UNHRC)

- The **UN Human Rights Council** is the **main intergovernmental body** for human rights in the UN system. It was established to promote the effective coordination and mainstreaming of human rights in the UN system. It was created by UNGA on 15th March 2006.
- **Where does UNHRC fit in within the UN system?**
  - » The UN Human Rights Council is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, which makes it directly accountable to the full membership of UN.

- » In 2011, the General assembly decided to maintain the status of the Human Rights Council as a subsidiary body of General Assembly and to consider again the question of whether to maintain this status at an appropriate moment and at a time no sooner than 2021 and no later than 2026.
- About UNHRC members:
  - » The council has 47 members.
  - » The membership is open to all Member states of the UN. Members are elected by General Assembly through individual or direct votes by absolute majority (97 votes). Ballots are secret and elections are held every year.
- Term of Membership:
  - » Members have 3 years term and are not eligible for re-election after serving a two consecutive terms.
- How are seats distributed?
  - » Equitable Geographical Representation: (13 from the Group of African states; 13 from the Group of Asia Pacific states; 6 from the Group of Eastern European States; 8 from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and 7 from the Group of Western European and Other States)
- What are expectations of Council Members?
  - » When electing members of the Council, Member states are to consider the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights and their voluntary pledges and commitment made in this regard.
  - » Upon election, new members commit themselves to cooperating with the Council and to uphold the highest standards in promotion and protection of human rights.
- Can a member have its rights and privileges suspended in the council?
  - » The General Assembly has the right to suspend the rights of membership in the council of any member that commits gross and systematic violation of human rights. This process requires 2/3rd Majority vote by the General Assembly.
  - » In April 2022, Russia was suspended from UNHRC by UNGA

## ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO UNHRC

- Under the Human Rights Council's rule, seats are allocated to regions to ensure geographical representation.
  - The seats are allocated to UN's regional groups as follows: 13 for Africa, 13 for Asia-Pacific, 6 for Eastern Europe, 8 for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Seven for Western Europe and Others (WEOG).
  - Generally, countries may get elected unopposed. But, if voting is required, it takes place through secret ballot. A country needs minimum 97 votes to get elected in the council.
  - The resolution establishing UNHRC states that "when electing members of the Council, Member States shall take into account the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights and their voluntary pledges and commitments made thereto", and that

"members elected to the Council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights."

- **Note:**

- In Oct 2021, India was re-elected to the UNHRC for a 6th term (2022-24)

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### A) UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)

- The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 UN member states.
- It is a significant innovation of the UNHRC which is based on equal treatment for all countries. It provides an opportunity for all States to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome the challenges to the enjoyment of human rights.



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*Starts 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2024*



2nd Floor, 45 Pusa Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 128, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

 **08045248491**  
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