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S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	COP-28 CLIMATE SUMMIT
2.	ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR
3.	PRELIMS POINTERS

COP-28 CLIMATE SUMMIT

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- An inter-ministerial delegation from India attended the 28th Session of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28) held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 30th November'2023 to 13th December'2023.
- The major outcome from **COP 28 included the decision on Outcome of the First Global Stocktake, ratcheting up global climate ambition** before the end of the decade.
- These global efforts will be taken up by the countries in a **nationally determined** manner taking into account the Paris Agreement and their different national circumstances.
- Another major outcome of COP 28 is **the agreement on the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund and its funding arrangements.**

UNDERSTANDING OF COP:

- **Institutional Genesis:**
 - ✓ Originated from the **United Nations Earth Summit in Rio in 1992.**
 - ✓ Establishment of the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** provided a **legal foundation** for global collaboration against climate change.
- **COP Definition:**
 - ✓ COP signifies "**Conference of Parties.**"
 - ✓ Involves **high-level conferences uniting states, regional organizations, and non-state actors.**
 - ✓ **Encompasses 198 official Parties, including 197 countries and the European Union.**
- **Scope and Usage:**
 - ✓ Any meeting among the Convention's Parties officially adopts the term COP.
 - ✓ Commonly associated with the UN Climate Summit, an annual event recognized as the world's paramount decision-making body on climate issues.
 - ✓ COP is the governing body **overseeing the Paris Agreement**, a groundbreaking climate treaty established in 2015.
- **Paris Agreement Influence:**
 - ✓ The COP is entrusted with the implementation and progress monitoring of the Paris Agreement.
 - ✓ COP28 UAE marks the 28th session dedicated to discussions and decisions related to climate action.
- **Evolution of COPs:**
 - ✓ Originally confined to government negotiators, **COPs have transformed into global mega-events.**
 - ✓ Contemporary COPs **draw participants from diverse sectors**, including **political leaders, business figures, sectoral experts, climate activists**, and the general public.
 - ✓ Essential platforms for both **governmental and non-governmental entities** to deliberate, exchange ideas, form networks, and **strike deals pertaining to climate efforts.**





UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (UNFCCC COP 28):

➤ COP28 UAE Overview:

✓ COP28 UAE is scheduled from November 30 to December 12, 2023, at Expo City, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

✓ It will comprise:

- The **28th** meeting of the **Conference of the Parties (COP 28)**;
- The fifth meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the **Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 5)**;
- The **18th** meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the **Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 18)**;
- The **59th** meeting of the **Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 59)**; and
- The **59th** meeting of the **Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 59)**.



➤ Purpose and Framework:

- ✓ It is part of the United Nations Climate Change Conferences, convened yearly under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ✓ The conferences serve as a formal meeting of UNFCCC Parties (Conference of the Parties, COP) to negotiate and agree on climate action strategies.

➤ Decision-Making Authority:

- ✓ The UN Climate Change Conferences are the highest decision-making body globally for climate-related issues.
- ✓ They focus on negotiating actions to address climate change, limit emissions, and combat global warming.

UNSG	UNFCCC Global Climate Action	LGMA	COP28 Presidency & BP	Others
UN Climate Ambition Summit Accountability Checklist	High Level Champions/ Marrakech Partnership • Breakthrough/Adaptation Agenda • Race-To-Zero/Resilience • Thematic Pathways • Solutions Pathways Regional Climate Weeks Track2	COP28 Position COP/SB/ Intersessional Statements Multilevel Action Pavilion Stocktake4ClimateEmergency	2 Dec, Local Action Summit 6 Dec, Multilevel Action, Urbanization and Built Environment/Transport Day COP28 Presidency Teams on Subnationals, HLC, Youth and Mayor Abigail Binay at COP28 Advisory Committee	NDCP Dialogue UNH/UNDP/SDU NDC Urban Component G7 Subnational Roundtable with U7 Regional Urban Forums National /Regional/ Global Urban and Subnational Initiatives
SURGe/Urban-Climate Ministerial - UNFCCC Friends of Multilevel Action				

➤ Host Country:

- ✓ The 28th edition, COP28, will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

➤ Objectives and Paris Agreement Goals:

- ✓ COP28 UAE is seen as a milestone opportunity for global collaboration, course correction, and progress to align with the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- ✓ Aims to keep the 1.5°C temperature target within reach.

Conference Zones:

➤ Blue Zone (UNFCCC-Managed):

- ✓ Open to accredited parties, including country negotiators, observer delegates (NGOs, IGOs, UN Agencies), media, and world leaders.
- ✓ Hosts formal negotiations, official side events, panel discussions, speaking events, and cultural activities.

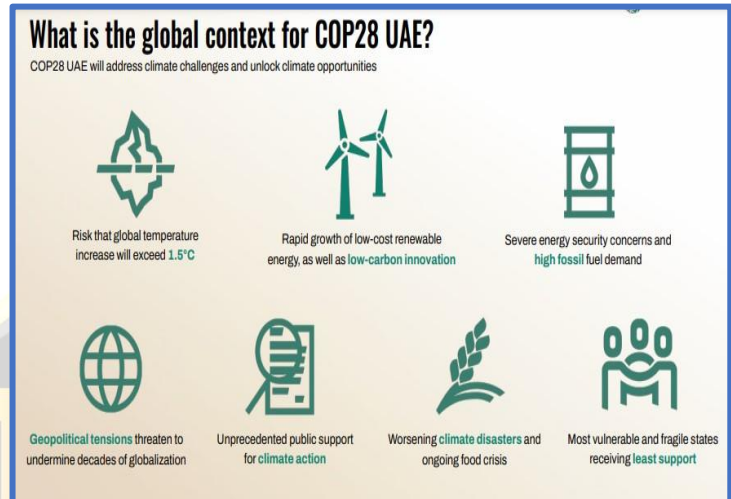
➤ Green Zone (COP28 UAE Presidency):



- ✓ Managed by the COP28 UAE Presidency, offering a platform to non-accredited delegates such as youth groups, civil society, private sector, and indigenous groups.
- ✓ Fosters dialogue, awareness about climate action, and showcases contributions and solutions from the private sector.
- ✓ Hosts technical conferences, panels, and activations focusing on climate change mitigation solutions.

COP28 ACTION AGENDA:

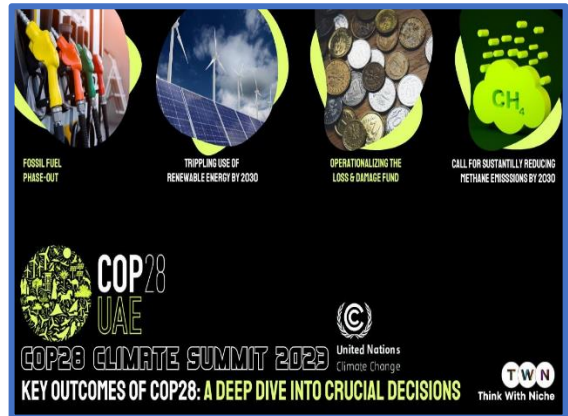
- **North Star Objective:**
 - ✓ Guided by achieving and **maintaining 1.5°C temperature limit.**
- **Emission Reduction Mandate:**
 - ✓ Global Stocktake indicates the need to **reduce 22 gigatons of emissions by 2030.**
- **Four Key Focus Areas:**
 - ✓ **Fast-tracking Transition:** Aiming for a just and orderly transition.
 - ✓ **Fixing Climate Finance:** Addressing financial aspects for **effective climate action.**
 - ✓ **Nature, Lives, and Livelihoods:** Prioritizing **nature-related initiatives** and community well-being.
 - ✓ **Inclusivity for All:** Ensuring participation and representation of diverse stakeholders.
- **World Climate Action Summit:**
 - ✓ Involves heads of state, civil society, businesses, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and more.
 - ✓ Showcases progress and discusses **forward-looking policies across Paris Agreement pillars.**
- **New Themes - Health/Relief, Recovery, and Peace:**
 - ✓ Integrating human perspectives to address climate impacts.
 - ✓ Focus on **health system response, adaptation, and loss and damage.**
- **Finance/Trade/Gender Equality/Accountability:**
 - ✓ Targets reform in **international financial structures for climate goals.**
 - ✓ Includes discussions on trade's role and ensuring gender-responsive policies.
- **Energy, Industry, and Just Transition:**
 - ✓ Aims for **rapid decarbonization** and just transition across sectors.
 - ✓ Focus on renewable energy, innovation, and job growth.
- **Multilevel Action, Urbanization, and Built Environment/Transport:**
 - ✓ Local leaders unite for climate action across various government levels.
 - ✓ Highlights solutions for **low-carbon infrastructure, circular waste systems,** and sustainable transport.
- **Youth, Children, Education, and Skills:**
 - ✓ Empowering youth in **climate decisions and policy-making.**
 - ✓ Emphasis on green jobs, skills training, and transformative education.
- **Nature, Land Use, and Oceans:**
 - ✓ Integration of **nature-positive initiatives in climate strategies.**
 - ✓ Focus on sustainable management of natural carbon sinks and biodiversity hotspots.





OUTCOMES OF COP28: EVALUATING KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- **Fossil Fuel Transition:**
 - ✓ Acknowledgment of **fossil fuels as the primary cause of climate change.**
 - ✓ **Disappointing language on transitioning away from**, rather than fully phasing out, **fossil fuels.**
 - ✓ **Intentional loophole allowing the use of carbon capture and storage**, justifying continued oil and gas burning.
- **Loss and Damage Fund:**
 - ✓ **Pledged US\$700 million for loss and damage**, falling significantly **short of the required US\$400 billion.**
 - ✓ Unclear fund operation, funding streams, and **potential for community-driven allocation.**
 - ✓ Controversial decision for the **World Bank to administer the fund with a 24% fee.**
- **Renewable Energy Commitments:**
 - ✓ Pledge by 118 countries to **triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030.**
 - ✓ Recognition of **transitional fuels' role** in maintaining energy security, accepting the **use of liquefied petroleum gas.**
- **Oil and Gas Decarbonisation Charter:**
 - ✓ **Over 50 oil companies, representing 40% of global production**, signed a charter.
 - ✓ **Aims to achieve net-zero emissions, near-zero methane leakage, and zero routine flaring by 2030.**
 - ✓ **Excludes 60% of global oil and gas production from the charter's coverage.**
- **Global Stocktake and 1.5°C Goal:**
 - ✓ The first global stocktake reveals **inadequate progress since the Paris Agreement, putting the 1.5°C limit at risk.**
 - ✓ **Discrepancy between COP28's call for fossil fuel transition** and the weak language in the official global stocktake.



India's Stand at COP-28: Evaluating Key Positions

- **UAE Declaration on Climate and Health:**
 - ✓ The UAE and WHO collaboration led to the **climate and health declaration at COP-28.**
 - ✓ Recognizes health impacts of climate change, endorsing climate action benefits.
 - ✓ **Signed by 123 nations committing \$1 billion; however, India abstained.**
- **Reasons Behind India's Non-Participation:**
 - ✓ India refrained due to **concerns that health-related emission reduction may compromise cooling gases.**
 - ✓ With a **growing healthcare system, emission reduction might impact healthcare accessibility**, especially in rural areas.
- **Green Credit Initiative:**
 - ✓ Encourage **pro-environment actions** to combat climate change.



- ✓ **Issues Green Credits for planting on degraded lands** and river catchment areas.
- ✓ Revitalize natural ecosystems through voluntary initiatives.
- **LeadIT 2.0 (Leadership Group for Industry Transition):**
 - ✓ Inclusive and fair industry transition.
 - ✓ **Co-development and transfer of low-carbon technology**, financial support for industry transition in emerging economies.
 - ✓ Phase II launch for **enhanced impact**.
- **Global River Cities Alliance (GRCA):**
 - ✓ Introduced at COP 28, led by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**.
 - ✓ Emphasizes **India's commitment to sustainable river-centric development** and climate resilience.
 - ✓ Facilitates knowledge exchange, **river-city twinning**, and **shares best practices**.
- **Quad Climate Working Group (QCWG) on Localised Climate Action:**
 - ✓ Acknowledging and amplifying the role of **local communities and regional governments**.
 - ✓ Emphasizes **supporting sustainable lifestyles**.
 - ✓ Recognizing grassroots **efforts for effective climate action**.
- **Global Methane Pledge:**
 - ✓ COP-26's **Global Methane Pledge** gains attention at COP-28 with renewed commitments.
 - ✓ **Climate and Clean Air Coalition takes over**, pledging over \$1 billion in grants for methane reduction projects.
 - ✓ Despite 150 countries signing, **India abstains due to a shift from CO2 to methane focus**.
- **India's Methane Emission Context:**
 - ✓ India's methane emissions primarily from **rice cultivation and livestock activities**.
 - ✓ These emissions are essential for the **livelihoods of small and marginal farmers**.



COP-28 TAKEAWAYS: ISSUES

- **Landmark Declarations:**
 - ✓ **Positive Aspect:** Acknowledgment of **critical issues such as climate and health, nature-based solutions**, and the commitment to sustainable food systems.
 - ✓ **Challenges:** Despite positive strides, **disparities between developed and developing nations persist**.
- **Fossil Fuel Subsidies:**
 - ✓ **Controversy:** Disagreements on phasing out fossil fuel subsidies.
 - ✓ **Developed vs. Developing:** Developed nations advocate for phase-out, **while developing countries, including India, resist due to economic growth concerns** and social implications.
- **Common and Differentiated Responsibilities:**



- ✓ **Principle Emphasis:** Developing countries stress the **principle of common and differentiated responsibilities**.
- ✓ **Calls for Action:** Urgent need for **increased climate finance and technology transfer** for just job transitions and inclusive development.
- **Contentious Issues:**
 - ✓ **Diverse Challenges:** Disputes on market mechanisms, financial resource allocation, World Bank's role in managing Loss and Damage (L&D) fund, and private sector engagement.
 - ✓ **Addressing Concerns:** Requires comprehensive strategies for **metric definition, fund management**, market mechanisms, technological risks, and continued fossil fuel use.
- **Mixed Bag of Outcomes:**
 - ✓ **Positive Step:** Commitment to **ramp up renewable energy targets**.
 - ✓ **Unresolved Issues:** Challenges in **L&D metrics, fund management and disbursement, market mechanisms, risky technologies**, continued fossil fuel use, and the role of natural gas.

WAY FORWARD:

- **Collaborative Solutions:**
 - ✓ Emphasize the need for collaborative solutions that **address both environmental concerns and socio-economic realities**.
- **Balanced Approach to Subsidies:**
 - ✓ Recognize the **economic implications of fossil fuel subsidy phase-out** and work towards a balanced approach that considers developmental needs.
- **Equitable Climate Finance:**
 - ✓ **Fulfill commitments to increase climate finance and technology transfer**, ensuring a fair distribution to facilitate inclusive development.
- **Holistic Metric Definition:**
 - ✓ Develop clear and **comprehensive metrics for Loss and Damage (L&D)**, ensuring a robust understanding of the impact and **effective fund allocation**.
- **Strategic Market Mechanisms:**
 - ✓ Address challenges in market mechanisms, **ensuring transparency, fairness, and effective participation by all stakeholders**.
- **Renewable Energy Transition:**
 - ✓ **Actively pursue the ramp-up of renewable energy targets**, encouraging innovation and adoption of sustainable practices.
- **Technological Innovation and Risks:**
 - ✓ Implement strategies for **managing risks associated with technologies**, fostering innovation while ensuring safety and sustainability.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:**
 - ✓ Enhance engagement with **diverse stakeholders, including private sectors**, to ensure comprehensive and effective climate action.
- **Natural Gas Transition Plan:**
 - ✓ Develop a **transparent and time-bound plan for transitioning away from natural gas**, aligning with the broader goal of reducing reliance on fossil fuels.



ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR

SOURCE: [INDIAN EXPRESS](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- A **parliamentary panel**, chaired by **BJD MP Bhartruhari Mahtab**, has recommended increasing fines up to **four times**, canceling licenses, and attaching property in cases where industries employ child laborers.
- The report highlights the **need for a uniform definition of 'child' under various laws** and suggests that the implementation of a policy to eliminate child labor is far from achieving its goal by 2025.

WHAT IS CHILD LABOUR?

➤ Understanding Child Labour:

- ✓ Child labour encompasses work that jeopardizes the well-being and development of children, **hindering their physical, mental, social, or moral growth.**
- ✓ It is crucial to distinguish positive activities from child labour:

- **Positive Engagement:** Children assisting in **family tasks, managing household responsibilities, supporting family businesses**, or earning pocket money without compromising health, education, or personal development are considered positive contributions.
- **Negative Characteristics of Child Labour:** Child labour is identified by its detrimental impact, **involving work that is mentally, physically, socially, or morally harmful to children.**

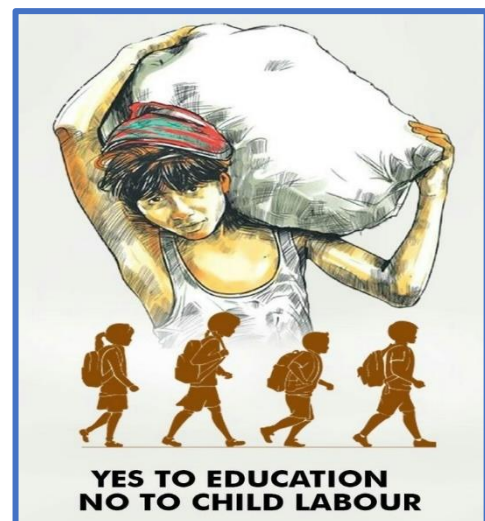
- ✓ It interferes with schooling by either preventing attendance, **forcing premature departure, or compelling children to juggle** excessively long and heavy work alongside education.

➤ Extreme Forms of Child Labour:

- ✓ Child labour extends to severe conditions such as **enslavement, separation from families, exposure to hazards, illnesses, and abandonment**, often occurring at a very young age.

➤ Deprivation and Harm:

- ✓ Child labour is a situation that **deprives children of their childhood, potential, and dignity.**
- ✓ It poses threats to both physical and mental development, hindering their overall well-being.



Defining and Regulating Child Labour:

➤ Minimum Age Standards:

- ✓ The International Labour Organization (ILO) has been at the forefront of establishing **minimum age standards for employment as a benchmark for defining and regulating child labour.**

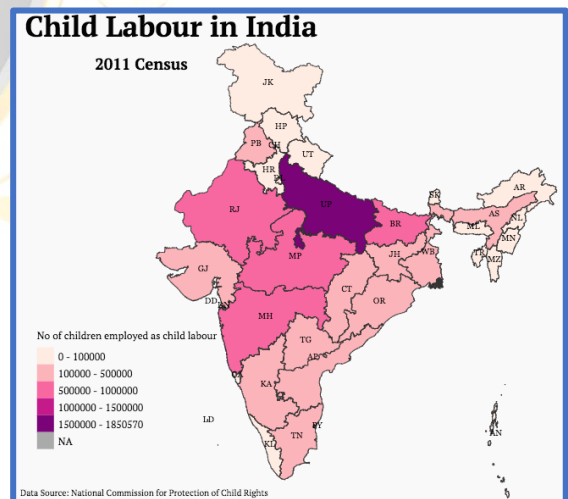
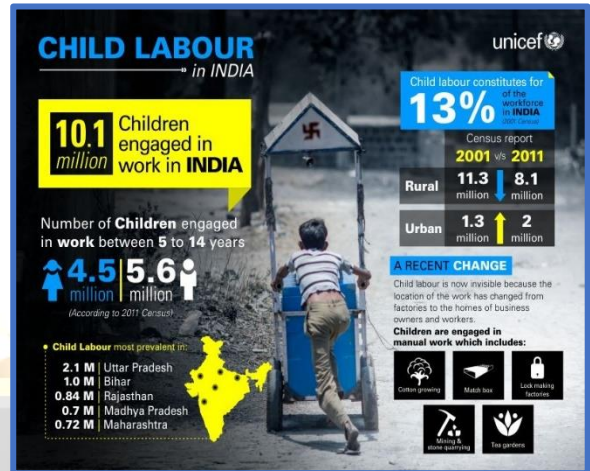
➤ Historical ILO Initiatives:



- ✓ Since 1919, the ILO has adopted various international conventions **addressing child labour, setting standards for minimum age across sectors such as industry, agriculture, maritime work, and more.**
- **Evolution of Definitions:**
 - ✓ The definition of child labour depends on factors like the **child's age, types of work performed, working conditions, and individual countries' objectives.**
 - ✓ Variations exist among countries and sectors.

CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA: MAGNITUDE AND CHALLENGES

- **Inclusive Criteria:**
 - ✓ Children involved in **work unsuitable for their developmental capacities**, posing risks to health, education, and **moral growth, with an age below 14 years.**
 - ✓ Encompasses economic activities, **whether part-time or full-time**, practiced by children.
 - ✓ Jeopardizes childhood, **impairs physical and mental development.**
- **Deprivation of Childhood and Harmful Practices:**
 - ✓ Child labour **deprives children of their childhood** and is detrimental to their physical and mental well-being.
 - ✓ Encompasses **socially, morally, mentally, and physically dangerous** activities.
 - ✓ Hinders normal development, **poses threats to social, psychological, and educational** aspects.
- **Hazardous Activities and the Vulnerable:**
 - ✓ Child labourers include those **either too young to work or engaged in hazardous activities**, potentially harmful to their development.
 - ✓ Targets work **with risks to physical, social, psychological, or educational** well-being.
 - ✓ Identifies a specific group of working children facing heightened vulnerabilities.
- **Declining Trends:**
 - ✓ India has witnessed a significant **decline in child labour over the last two decades**, with a notable reduction in workforce participation rates.
- **Magnitude in Numbers:**
 - ✓ Despite progress, **India still faces challenges**, with **millions of children engaged in various forms of labour.**
 - ✓ **Uttar Pradesh holds a substantial share**, requiring focused attention.



Child Labour Statistics: Census 2011

Year	Percentage of Working Children (5-14)	Total Working Children (5-14, in millions)
2001	5.9 (Rural), 2.1 (Urban), 5.0 (Total)	11.4 (Rural), 1.3 (Urban), 12.7 (Total)
2011	4.3 (Rural), 2.9 (Urban), 3.9 (Total)	8.1 (Rural), 2.0 (Urban), 10.1 (Total)

Distribution of Working Children by Type of Work in 2011



Area of Work	Percentage	Numbers (in millions)
Cultivators	26.0	2.63
Agricultural Labourers	32.9	3.33
Household Industry Workers	5.2	0.52
Other Workers	35.8	3.62

Major Sectors for Working Children in India (%): 2001 vs. 2011

Sectors	2001 (%)	2011 (%)
Cultivators	33.8	26.0
Agricultural Labourers	39.9	31.5
HHI Workers	4.9	6.4
Other Workers	22.0	36.1

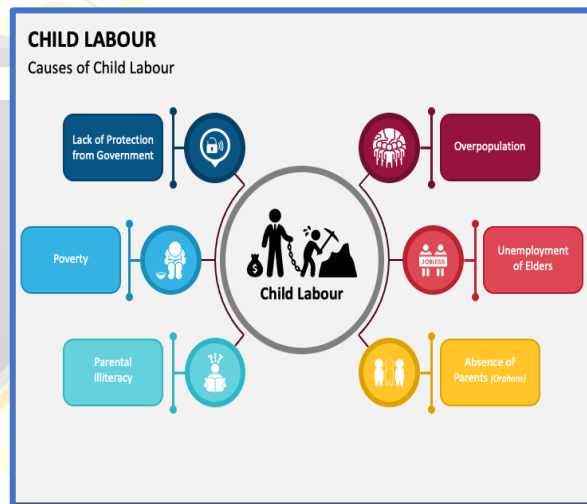
CAUSES OF CHILD LABOUR:

➤ **Poverty:**

- ✓ **Approximately 30 million people** in India live in **extreme poverty**.
- ✓ The intricate relationship between child labour and poverty highlights the **dire economic conditions in the country**.
- ✓ Extreme poverty forces parents to **view children as potential income sources**, hindering investment in their education and development.

➤ **Child Labour as a Cheap Commodity:**

- ✓ The shift toward industrialization fostered a **preference for child labour due to its cost-effectiveness**.
- ✓ Employers opt for child labour **not for competence** but for **affordability**.
- ✓ Children's inability to organize and unionize makes them convenient, **inexpensive, and easy to control for employers**.



➤ **Large Family Size:**

- ✓ **Larger families with low incomes struggle** to provide adequate education, health care, and developmental opportunities.
- ✓ Limited resources in large families may lead to a **lack of emphasis on education, contributing to child labour**.
- ✓ Smaller, well-planned families tend to **ensure better development opportunities** for their children.

➤ **Compulsory Education Challenges:**

- ✓ Education is a **crucial factor in human resource development**, yet limited access and affordability hinder widespread enrollment.
- ✓ Challenges such as **insufficient schools, clashes between school time and agricultural duties**, and financial constraints contribute to child labour.
- ✓ In rural areas, a **significant number of children remain unenrolled**, and the cost of education acts as a deterrent.

➤ **Backwardness and Economic Stagnation:**



- ✓ The majority of child labour is concentrated in underdeveloped regions, **emphasizing the socio-economic aspect**.
- ✓ **Illiteracy, ignorance, low wages, unemployment, and societal prejudices** collectively contribute to the persistence of child labour.
- **Compounding Factors:**
 - ✓ Deep-rooted traditional beliefs, lack of **schools, parental reluctance, urbanization, and industrialization contribute** to the prevalence of child labour.
 - ✓ Professor Gangrade emphasizes the **multifaceted nature of child labour**, citing factors like traditional attitudes, parental reluctance, and broader societal shifts.

RECENT CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHILD LABOUR ELIMINATION:

The issue of child labour and its elimination has come to the **forefront due to a recent report from the 52nd Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles, and Skill Development**.

The key reasons why this topic is in the news include:

- **Ambiguity in Definitions:**
 - ✓ The report highlights the ambiguity in **defining a 'child' under various legislations**, leading to confusion and challenges in implementing effective policies.
- **Implementation Challenges:**
 - ✓ Despite commitments to international conventions and **Sustainable Development Goal 8.7**, the report acknowledges the substantial distance remaining in **achieving the goal of eliminating child labour by 2025**.
- **Discrepancies in Acts:**
 - ✓ Variations in age definitions across different Acts, such as **CALPRA, Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, Minimum Wages Act, and Juvenile Justice Act**, have been noted, raising concerns about consistency.
- **Policy Recommendations:**
 - ✓ The report suggests crucial recommendations, including the **exclusion of hazardous occupations from the positive list, guidelines for fine utilization**, and the creation of district-level funds for child labourers' rehabilitation.
- **Legal Amendments for Zero Tolerance:**
 - ✓ Advocacy for legal amendments to **ensure zero tolerance on child labour**, incorporating stricter punishments and fixing accountability not only on employers but also on principal employers and traffickers.
- **Enhanced DPS Functions:**
 - ✓ Emphasis on **implementing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** to clarify the functions of District Project Societies (DPS) in handling rescued children, ensuring accountability and efficient reporting.
- **National Level Child Tracking Mechanism:**
 - ✓ The proposal for a **National Level Child Tracking Mechanism** aims to enhance coordination among states and the Centre, utilizing digital reporting for effective prevention, tracing, tracking, rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration.
- **Police Accountability and Reporting:**

LET'S NOT SCAR THEIR INNOCENCE	
43 lakh child labourers, aged 4 to 15 years, in India as per 2011 census	41 cases filed under Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act
➤ Sarva Siksha Abhiyan has taken up a survey to identify school dropouts and count child labourers	181 cases filed under section 20 of AP Shops & Establishment Act, 1988
222 children rescued and violations detected as per district labour dept data between 2014 and 2018	➤ Employers of any child worker, aged below 14 years, is punishable with imprisonment term from 6 months to 2 years for repeated offence



- ✓ Recommendations include **provisions for holding authorities accountable for not reporting instances of child labour** and collaborating with other ministries to establish child-friendly police stations and courts.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO ERADICATE CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA:

- **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (1986):**
 - ✓ **Prohibits engagement of children** in certain employments.
 - ✓ Regulates conditions of work for children in specified employments.
- **National Policy on Child Labour (1987):**
 - ✓ Focuses on the **rehabilitation of children working** in hazardous occupations.
 - ✓ Emphasizes rehabilitation alongside preventive measures.
- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act (2000) and Amendment (2006):**
 - ✓ Includes working children in the **category of children in need of care and protection**.
 - ✓ **Sections 23 and 26 address cruelty** to juveniles and exploitation of juvenile employees.
- **Pencil Platform:**
 - ✓ **Dedicated platform (pencil.gov.in)** for effective enforcement of child labour laws.
 - ✓ Aims to end **child labour through comprehensive measures** and enforcement.
- **Right to Education Act (2009):**
 - ✓ Mandates that **all children aged 6 to 14 years are in school and receive free education**.
 - ✓ Recognizes education as a **fundamental right**, offering a strategic opportunity to combat child labour.
- **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act (2016):**
 - ✓ **Completely prohibits the employment** of children **below 14 years**.
 - ✓ **Prohibits adolescents (14-18 years) from engaging in hazardous occupations** and processes.
 - ✓ Regulates working conditions for adolescents where not prohibited.
- **Ratification of International Labour Organization Conventions (2017):**
 - ✓ India ratified **two core conventions of the ILO on child labour**.
 - ✓ Demonstrates commitment to **global efforts against child labour**.
- **Amendments to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act:**
 - ✓ Prescribes severe punishment for **retaining bonded labour**.
 - ✓ Stipulates rigorous imprisonment for those forcing children into specific degrading activities.
- **Draft National Policy for Domestic Workers:**
 - ✓ Aims to ensure a minimum salary of **Rs. 9,000 for household helpers**.
 - ✓ Seeks to establish fair labour practices for **domestic workers**.
- **Police Measures:**
 - ✓ Every police station in the country has a dedicated cell for **juvenile, women, and child protection**.
 - ✓ Enhances focus on issues related to child rights and protection.
- **NGO Initiatives:**

WHAT THE AMENDMENTS MEAN

CHILDREN UP TO 14 YEARS

- Amendment prohibits employment of children up to 14 years, except in entertainment and sporting activities or home enterprises, but only in non-school hours and without a subordinate relationship of work and labour

- Current law prohibits employment of children up to 14 years in specified categories such as domestic work, automobile workshops, bidi-making, carpet weaving, handloom and power loom industry and mines and hazardous industries.



NEW TERM OF 'ADOLESCENTS'

- Amendment introduces term "adolescents" for children between 14 and 18 years of age, bars their employment in hazardous industries

- Current law allows employment of children above 14 years in hazardous occupations and processes.

PUNISHMENT FOR EMPLOYERS FOR VIOLATION

- Amendment calls for stricter punishment for employers violating law, with jail term of six months to two years and fine of Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 for the first offence. Jail of a year to three years for a second time offender.

- Current law penalises first time offender with jail of three months to one year and a fine between Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 and a subsequent offender to imprisonment of six months to two years.



- ✓ Various NGOs, including **Bachpan Bachao Andolan, CARE India, Child Rights and You, Global March Against Child Labour, RIDE India, and Childline**, actively work towards eradicating child labour in India.
- ✓ Highlights the collaborative effort involving **government and non-governmental organizations**.

WAY FORWARD: A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOUR (SOURCE ILO)

➤ **Integrated and Rights-Based Approach:**

- ✓ Recognizes the **need for an integrated and rights-based approach** to address child labour.
- ✓ Acknowledges the **importance of policy responses in key areas:** education, social protection, labour markets, and legal standards.

➤ **Four Pillars of Policy**

Response:

- ✓ **Education:** **Universal quality education** as a **fundamental right to break**



Holistic

We don't just analyse labour issues, we assess the broader economic environment and other factors that shape the potential for jobs creation



Human

As our focus is on quality jobs that enable people to work and live decently, we take into account human-centred development issues, such as human capital, poverty and inequality



Participatory

A critical feature of our analysis is that it involves national, tripartite stakeholders, providing deeper contextual insights, and local ownership

intergenerational cycles of poverty and child labour.

- ✓ **Social Protection:** Prevents households from **resorting to child labour as a negative coping strategy amidst poverty**.
- ✓ **Labour Markets:** Well-designed policies focusing on **rural and informal economies to curb demand for child labour**.
- ✓ **Legal Standards and Regulation:** International and national **laws formalize the state's duty** to protect children.
- **Root Cause Eradication:**
 - ✓ Focuses on **systemic change and root cause** eradication through coherent development policies.
- **Limits of Enforcement:**
 - ✓ Acknowledges enforcement limits, **especially in cases of unpaid family work**.
 - ✓ Caution against victimizing families already **suffering from poverty and inequality**.
- **Social Dialogue and Rights:**
 - ✓ Effective policy responses require **social dialogue and recognition of human rights**.
 - ✓ Freedom of association and collective bargaining empowerment affected communities.
- **Partnerships and Cooperation:**
 - ✓ Highlights the role of partnerships like **Alliance 8.7 for global collaboration**.
 - ✓ Emphasizes the need for international development cooperation due to resource challenges.
- **Resource Challenges:**
 - ✓ Recognizes the **financial constraints of governments**.
 - ✓ Stresses the importance of **international support from UN agencies, NGOs, and others**.



PRELIMS POINTERS:

TOPIC	DISCRIPTION
<p>Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Tamil author Rajasekaran (Devibharathi), Telugu writer T. Patanjali Sastry, and Malayalam writer E.V. Ramakrishnan are among the notable recipients. ❖ Awards span nine books of poetry, six novels, five short story collections, three essays, and one literary study. <p>ABOUT SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Establishment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Year: 1954 ☛ Conferred by: Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters. ❖ Annual Recognition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ 24 awards annually for literary works. ☛ Equal number of awards for literary translations. ❖ Languages Recognized: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Awards in languages enumerated in the Indian Constitution. ☛ Recognizes English and Rajasthani for program implementation. ❖ Significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Second-highest literary honour by the Government of India, after the Jnanpith award. ❖ Criteria for Awardees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Indian Nationality of the author. ☛ Outstanding contribution to the language and literature. ❖ Other Awards by Sahitya Akademi: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Bal Sahitya Puraskar: Recognizes outstanding contribution to children's literature. ☛ Yuva Puraskar: For authors aged 35 and below, encouraging young literary talent. <p>DIVERSE LITERARY WORKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Rajasekaran for the novel "Neervazhi Padooum," Sastry for the short story collection "Rameshwaram Kaakulu Marikonni Kathalu," and Ramakrishnan for the literary study "Malayala Novelinte Deshakalanga." <p>RECOGNITION IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Awards across languages such as Kannada, Bengali, Dogri, Gujarati, Kashmiri, Odia, and Sanskrit.





Kuki Zo Community in Manipur

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ The bodies of 87 members of the Kuki Zo communities laid to rest in **Manipur's Churachandpur district**.
- ❖ They were **victims of a prolonged ethnic conflict**.

ABOUT KUKIS

❖ **Ethnic Composition:**

- ☛ Kukis are an ethnic group comprising various tribes.
- ☛ Originally inhabited **North-Eastern states of India**, parts of Myanmar, and Bangladesh.

❖ **Term "Kuki":**

- ☛ Coined generically under colonial rule, **not by the ethnic group**.
- ☛ Used for tribes associated with it.

❖ **Geographical Presence:**

- ☛ Present in **all Northeast Indian states except Arunachal Pradesh**.

❖ **Recognition:**

- ☛ Around fifty Kuki tribes in India are **recognized as scheduled tribes**.
- ☛ Chin people of **Myanmar** and **Mizo people of Mizoram** are kindred tribes collectively known as the **Zo people**.

❖ **Population in Manipur:**

- ☛ In Manipur, **Kuki tribes constitute around 30% of the population**, residing mainly in the hills.

❖ **Historical Resistance:**

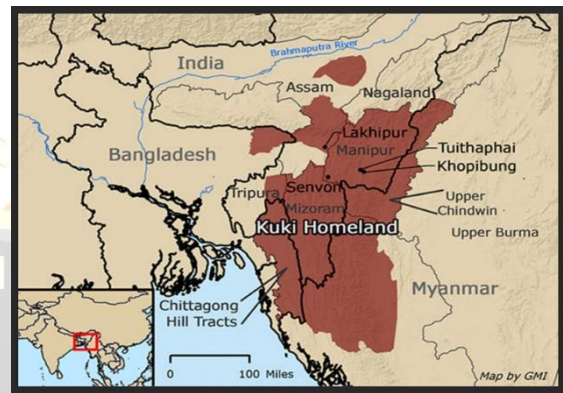
- ☛ First resistance to British hegemony was the **Kuki Rebellion of 1917-19**.
- ☛ After defeat, their territory was **divided between British India and British Burma**.

❖ **Religion and Culture:**

- ☛ Traditionally animist, worshiping various deities and spirits.
- ☛ Majority embraced **Christianity in the last 90 years**.
- ☛ Have customary laws and village councils.

❖ **Marriage and Social Structure:**

- ☛ Prefer intra-community marriage alliances.
- ☛ Village chiefs (LAL) handle social, religious, and marriage-related disputes.
- ☛ Village chiefs play a **crucial role in resolving various issues**, including those related to marriage and divorce.



Places in news- 'GRINDAVIK' in

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ A volcano in **southwestern Iceland** erupted after weeks of rumbling.
- ❖ Started on December 18, about **4 km from Grindavik town**.



'Reykjanes peninsula'

- ❖ **Evacuation and Earthquakes:**
 - ☛ Grindavik was evacuated in November due to thousands of earthquakes, raising eruption fears.
- ❖ **Eruption Scene:**
 - ☛ **Semi-molten rock spewed into the air** in a spectacular show.
 - ☛ Fountains of **orange lava shot** from a fissure in the ground.

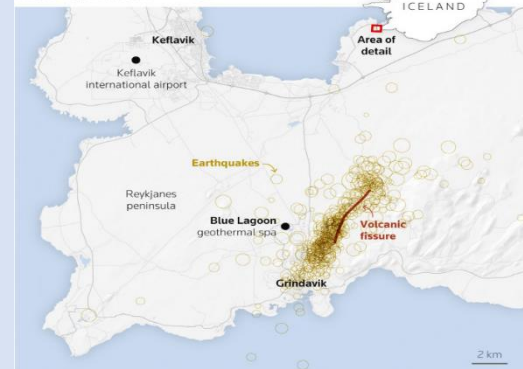
RECENT VOLCANIC SCENARIO IN ICELAND

- ❖ **Iceland's Geological Setting:**
 - ☛ Iceland sits above a volcanic **hotspot in the North Atlantic**.
 - ☛ Approximately 20 hours of **darkness a day in December**.
- ❖ **Frequency of Eruptions:**
 - ☛ Iceland experiences eruptions every four to five years on average.
- ❖ **Eyjafjallajokull Eruption (2010):**
 - ☛ Eyjafjallajokull volcano's 2010 eruption caused widespread airspace closures over Europe.
- ❖ **Reykjanes Peninsula Eruptions:**
 - ☛ Volcanic range on **Reykjanes Peninsula erupted thrice since 2021** after 800 years of dormancy.
 - ☛ Previous eruptions in remote valleys caused no significant damage.

Volcano erupts in Iceland

A volcano erupted late on Monday in southwest Iceland, spewing lava and smoke through a 4 km fissure, after weeks of intense earthquake activity. The volcano is about 30 km southwest of Iceland's capital Reykjavik.

Earthquakes by magnitude 0.1 to 4.2
24 hours ending Dec. 19, 6:20 GMT



Note: Approximate fissure location as of Dec. 19 3 AM GMT
Sources: Icelandic Meteorological Office; Maps4News; OpenStreetMap; The Polar Geospatial Center
Vijdan Mohammad Kawoosa • Dec. 19, 2023 | REUTERS

REYKJANES PENINSULA

- ❖ It is a volcanic and **seismic hot spot southwest of the capital Reykjavik**, Iceland.
- ❖ The Reykjanes Peninsula runs along the **Mid-Atlantic Rift**, where the Eurasian and the **North American tectonic plates are drifting apart**.
- ❖ Due to this geological setting, the whole peninsula is **extremely volcanically active**, covered with moss-coated lava fields and cone-shaped mountains.
- ❖ Despite its location between **two tectonic plates**, there were no recorded volcanic eruptions there for 800 years.
- ❖ However, that all changed in March of 2021 **when Fagradalsfjall volcano erupted**.
- ❖ With a glorious display of **fountaining red-hot lava**, the eruption **lasted for 6 months and drew thousands of people to the site**.