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S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	INDIA – SOUTH KOREA RELATIONS
2.	INDIA'S TRANSITION IN SLUM DEFINITIONS
3.	PRELIMS POINTERS

INDIA – SOUTH KOREA RELATIONS

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

TAG: GS Paper II- Look East to Act East, Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests

UPSC PYQs

Mains

Q. "The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised nations has disappeared on account of its newfound role in the emerging global order.' Elaborate. (2019)

Q. Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India's Look East Policy in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario. (2016)

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ **India-Korea defence cooperation** has gained attention due to the recent visit of General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff of India, to the **Republic of Korea in November 2023**.
- ❖ This visit marked a **crucial point in India-Korea relations**, emphasizing the need for **enhanced defence collaboration**.
- ❖ The challenges and opportunities in this cooperation have come to the forefront, highlighting the **importance of overcoming obstacles** and fostering a more **profound understanding between the two nations**.
- ❖ The absence of a shared vision, **evolving global dynamics**, and **strategic considerations in weapons acquisition** are key aspects shaping this bilateral relationship.
- ❖ As both countries **aim to leverage their technological capabilities** and **navigate geopolitical challenges**, the focus on a **balanced, strategic approach becomes paramount** for creating a resilient and enduring partnership.

INDIA-REPUBLIC OF KOREA RELATIONS:

- ❖ **Establishment of Diplomatic Relations:**
 - ☛ India and the Republic of Korea established **diplomatic relations on December 10, 1973**.
 - ☛ Consular relations were **established in 1962**.
 - ☛ The relationship was upgraded to a **"Strategic Partnership" in 2010** and further elevated to a **"Special Strategic Partnership" in 2015** during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State Visit to Seoul.
- ❖ **Historical Connect:**
 - ☛ According to the 13th century Korean historical text **"Samguk Yusa," Princess Suriratna from Ayodhya, India, married King Kim-Suro of the Gaya Confederacy in ancient Korea, becoming Queen Heo Hwang-ok.**





- India's role in the Korean War is significant, with India playing a crucial part in the **UN Commission and sending medical aid** during the war.
- ❖ **High-Level Exchanges:**
 - **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State Visit in 2015** upgraded bilateral relations to a '**Special Strategic Partnership.**'
 - **President Moon Jae-in's State Visit** to India in 2018 outlined a "**Vision for People, Prosperity, Peace, and our Future.**"
 - **PM Modi's State Visit to the Republic of Korea in 2019** included unveiling a bust of **Mahatma Gandhi at Yonsei University.**
 - Bilateral talks between **PM Modi and President Yoon Suk Yeol at the G7 Summit in 2023** reaffirmed commitment to **strengthening ties in various sectors.**
- ❖ **Diplomatic Conversations:**
 - Foreign Ministers of both countries held discussions on **political contacts, trade & investments, defence, S&T, energy, space, semiconductors, emerging technologies, and cultural exchanges.**
 - The **5th Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue (FPSD) in 2023** emphasized enhancing the Special Strategic Partnership through regular high-level engagements.
- ❖ **Defence and Security Cooperation:**
 - **DyNSA-level Strategic Dialogue** focused on enhancing cooperation in **defence industry and technology, economic security, supply chain resilience**, critical and emerging technologies, and S&T issues.
- ❖ **Bilateral Mechanisms:**
 - Various bilateral dialogue mechanisms, including **Joint Commission Meeting, Joint Steering Committee meeting on S&T, Strategic Dialogue, Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue, and Policy Planning Dialogue**, ensure functional engagements.
 - The **2nd Policy Planning Dialogue** discussed **long-term trends & emerging opportunities in India-Korea relations**, regional & global issues, and bilateral civil nuclear cooperation.
- ❖ **Parliamentary Exchanges:**
 - ROK Deputy Speaker and Parliamentary delegations from both countries engaged in **exchanges, fostering stronger parliamentary ties.**
- ❖ **Recent Visits:**
 - **Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman's visit to ROK in May 2023** and visits by Governors of Gyeongsangbuk-do and Gyeonggi-do show-cased continuing high-level interactions.
- ❖ **Overall Cooperation:**
 - Bilateral relations cover **trade & investments, high technology, IT hardware manufacturing, defence industry, semiconductors, and cultural and people-to-people ties.**



INDIA-REPUBLIC OF KOREA BILATERAL TIES:

- ❖ **Economic Relations:**
 - India and the Republic of Korea (ROK) witnessed a surge in trade and economic ties after the implementation of the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2010.**
 - **By 2022, bilateral trade had reached an all-time high of US\$ 27.8 billion.**
 - **India's imports amounted to US\$ 18.8 billion, with exports totaling US\$ 9 billion.**
 - Key exports from India to Korea included **mineral fuels, cereals, and iron and steel**, while Korea predominantly exported automobile parts, telecommunication equipment, and petroleum products.



❖ **Investment Initiatives and FDI:**

- ☛ To foster Korean investments in India, the 'Korea Plus' initiative was launched, alongside the establishment of the Korea India SME and Start-up Centre in Gurugram in 2019.
- ☛ Korea's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India, according to Korea Exim Bank, reached USD 7.77 billion by December 2022.
- ☛ Simultaneously, Indian investments in Korea, led by Tata Daewoo and Aditya Birla Group (Novelis), totaled approximately USD 5.2 billion.
- ☛ Notably, more than 600 Korean firms, ranging from large corporations to small enterprises, operate in India.

❖ **Defence Relations:**

- ☛ India and ROK have witnessed a strengthening of their defence relations in recent years.
- ☛ Regular interactions between Defence Ministers, joint committee meetings, and annual talks across the military branches have become the norm since 2015.
- ☛ Naval and Coast Guard ships engage in reciprocal port visits and joint exercises, exemplifying the deepening collaboration.
- ☛ The signing of a Roadmap for Defence Industries Cooperation in September 2019 further solidified their commitment.

❖ **Cultural Relations:**

- ☛ Cultural ties between India and ROK are nurtured through various initiatives.
- ☛ The establishment of the Swami Vivekananda Culture Centre (SVCC) in 2011, the India Centre at Busan University of Foreign Studies in 2022, and the annual SARANG festival since 2015 exemplify the commitment to showcasing India's rich cultural heritage in Korea.
- ☛ Additionally, the unveiling of statues of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi, along with the establishment of India-Korea Friendship Park, underscores the cultural exchange between the two nations.

❖ **Indian Community:**

- ☛ The Indian community in ROK is estimated to be around 15,000, comprising scholars, professionals, and students.
- ☛ A significant number of Indian scholars pursue post-graduate and Ph.D. programs, particularly in pure sciences.
- ☛ Professionals in sectors such as IT, shipping, and automobile, employed by companies like Samsung, LG, and Hyundai TATA Daewoo, contribute to the bilateral relationship.
- ☛ Diaspora associations play an active role in fostering ties between the Indian community and South Korea.

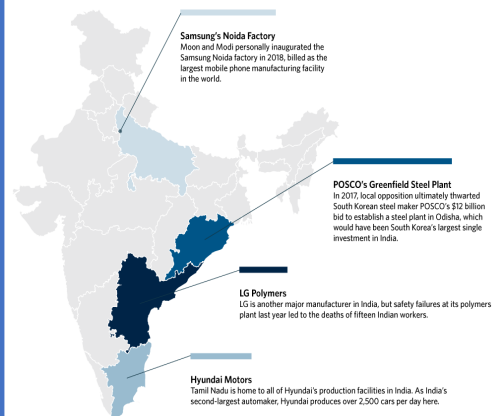
2023 Korea-India Diplomatic Relations 50th Anniversary



2023 marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Korea and India!

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, a cultural event featuring artists from Korea and India will be held.

FIGURE 5
South Korean Industrial Engagement in India



SOURCE: Various media reports (see endnote)

NOTE: These investment figures were calculated based on data acquired by the author from the VERAC Company; these figures are based on Vietnamese provincial government statistics.

CHALLENGES IN BILATERAL RELATIONS:

❖ **Trade Imbalance:**

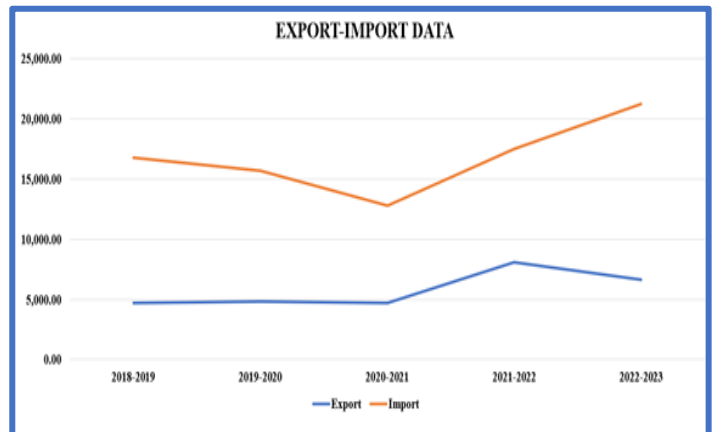
- ☛ While trade volumes are substantial, there exists a trade imbalance with India importing more (US\$ 18.8 billion) than it exports (US\$ 9 billion) to South Korea.



Addressing this imbalance is crucial for sustainable economic relations.

❖ Diversification of Trade:

- Addressing this imbalance is crucial for sustainable economic relations.
- The dependence on **specific sectors for trade, such as automobile parts and oil distillates**, calls for efforts to diversify the trade basket.
- Both countries **need to explore opportunities** in emerging sectors for a **more resilient economic relationship**.



❖ Defence Challenges:

❖ *Absence of Shared Vision for Defence Framework:*

- Need for a **comprehensive defence framework** for robust collaboration.
- Transcend bilateral cooperation** for a sustainable regional order.

❖ Korean Resistance to Reassessing India's Role:

- Recognition of India as a **regional power beyond a defence product consumer**.
- Shift from Cold War mentalities** crucial for meaningful partnership.
- Overemphasis on Weapons Acquisition:**
 - Balance needed between weapons acquisition and broader strategic considerations.**
 - Avoid **overshadowing long-term strategic goals** with a focus on short-term gains.

❖ Cultural Awareness:

- Despite cultural initiatives, **maintaining and deepening cultural understanding** requires continuous efforts.
- Bridging the gap between diverse societies** is essential for fostering lasting people-to-people connections.

❖ Global Geopolitical Dynamics:

- The evolving geopolitical landscape, including changes in **alliances and global power dynamics**, poses challenges in **crafting a unified approach to regional and global issues**.
- Both countries need to navigate these dynamics effectively for shared interests.

❖ Challenge of Coalition Involving North Korea, China, and Russia:

- Divergent stances may arise, **requiring nuanced appraisal of strategic imperatives**.
- Influence of powerful arms lobbies** in both nations necessitates prioritizing strategic goals.

WAY FORWARD: REINFORCING INDIA-ROK TIES

❖ Institutionalizing Trilateral Dialogue:

- Prioritize the **India-ASEAN-ROK dialogue** for regional stability.
- Emphasis on **maritime cooperation and enhanced connectivity**.

❖ Economic and Technological Cooperation:

- Shift cooperation approach to economic and technology security**.
- Foster economic and technological ties** to align with global developments.

❖ Defence Technology Alliance:

- Strengthen defence relations through a **technology alliance**.
- Support ROK's ambition to be the **fourth-largest defence exporter globally**.

❖ Indo-Pacific Leadership:

- Leverage shared **security connection with the US** for regional leadership.
- Play key roles in **Indo-Pacific region** for sustainable development.

❖ Global Governance Reforms:



- Contribute jointly to a **more equitable global governance system**.
- Advance interests of the **Global South through cooperation** and reforms.
- ❖ **Cultivating Local Constituency:**
 - ROK needs to build a **local constituency for sustained bilateral ties**.
 - Minimize differences, **support reforms, and advance Global South interests**.
- ❖ **Bilateral Trade and Economic Goals:**
 - **Strive for the \$50 Bn bilateral trade target by 2030**.
 - Focus on **infrastructure, clean energy, and supply chain** resilience partnerships.

CONCLUSION:

*The 50 years of India-ROK diplomatic ties symbolizes a deep-rooted relationship characterized by shared history and values. The alliance **spans politics, economics, and culture, with defense cooperation, trade, and cultural exchanges reaching new heights**. The future holds prospects for **greater collaboration**, emphasizing strengthened **strategic partnership**. Policies like **CEPA, Act East Policy, New Southern Policy, and Indo-Pacific Strategy**, along with reciprocal **high-level visits, showcase the commitment to fortifying ties**. India and the ROK look forward to **aligning capabilities, fostering closer collaboration, and ushering in a new era of mutual growth and shared success**.*





INDIA'S TRANSITION IN SLUM DEFINITIONS

SOURCE: THE HINDU

TAG: GS Paper I & GS Paper III- **Infrastructure, Urbanization, Poverty and Developmental Issues**

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Mains

Q. Discuss the role of socio-economic factors, technological solutions, and the dangers associated with using slums as a driving force for anti-poverty policies.

Q. Evaluate the significance of this historical analysis in understanding urban dynamics and socio-economic inequalities.

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ The research paper titled "*The Making of Slums: An Analysis of Indian Parliamentary Debates from 1953 to 2014*" by Nipesh Narayanan has gained prominence due to its insightful exploration of the historical discourses on slums in the Indian Parliament.
- ❖ The study sheds light on the changing perspectives, definitions, and policy implications surrounding slums over the decades, offering a comprehensive understanding of how this critical urban issue has been addressed at the parliamentary level.
- ❖ As urbanization and socio-economic inequalities continue to be pressing challenges in India, this research contributes valuable insights into the evolution of government perceptions and actions towards slums, making it relevant for policymakers, urban planners, and scholars focusing on urban dynamics and social disparities.

SLUM DEFINITIONS:

- ❖ **Evolution of Slum Definitions:**
 - ☛ The term "slum" has evolved from early broad definitions to more recent narrowed ones, emphasizing inadequate housing and basic services.
- ❖ **Slum Definition Variations:**
 - ☛ **UN Definition:**
 - ✓ The UN defines a slum as a **contiguous settlement with inadequate housing, living space, water, sanitation, and secure tenure**, not recognized by authorities as an integral part of the city.
- ❖ **Country-Specific Definitions:**
 - ☛ Different countries, like Uganda, define slums based on criteria like **density, crime, environmental fragility, reflecting varied local perspectives.**
- ❖ **India's Context:**
 - ☛ In India, slum notification is **crucial for government recognition**, but many slum-like areas are not notified.
 - ☛ **Discrepancies exist between UN and local definitions**, influencing priorities.





EVOLUTION OF SLUM DISCOURSES IN INDIA: A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

❖ Research Scope and Methodology:

- Nipesh Narayanan's research analyzes discourses on slums in the Rajya Sabha from 1953 to 2014.
- The study encompasses 1,228 debates and various policy documents, including Five-Year Plans.

❖ Era Division and Changing Perspectives:

- Five decades are divided into four eras to explore consequences of changing slum definitions.

❖ 1950s-1960s: Slums as Aftermath:

- Slums perceived as aftermath of partition and population influx into cramped areas like Old Delhi Katras.
- Discussions focus on health issues and spatial constraints, sidelining socio-economic factors.
- Introduction of the Slum Areas Act in 1956 marks a pivotal moment allowing government intervention.

❖ 1970s-1980s: Shifting Narrative - Slums as a Necessary Evil:

- Narrative transitions from considering slums for eradication to viewing them as a necessary evil that needs development.
- Government faces challenges in funding large land shifts, leading to emphasis on town planning and slum improvement.
- Rajya Sabha discussions revolve around town planning and management strategies.

❖ 1980s-1990s: Economic Perspective on Slums

- National Commission on Urbanisation's 1985 report portrays cities, including slums, as economic assets for states.
- Economic reasoning replaces social perspectives, and housing policies undergo significant changes.
- Introduction of National Housing Policies and the 1996 National Slum Development Programme emphasize economic growth and targeted funding for slum redevelopment.
- Focus shifts to a broad approach covering land, finance, and infrastructure based on data-driven interventions.

❖ From 2000 to 2014:

- The government allocated funds for city improvement, emphasizing parliamentary discussions on effective fund utilization.
- The launch of the 2001 Census provided a data-driven understanding of slums, leading to targeted schemes and shifting the focus from social concerns to technical and economic aspects.
- Census data demystified slum formation complexities, attributing causes to urban planning deficiencies and housing affordability issues.
- Discussions in this period addressed socio-economic problems beyond slum confines, transforming solutions from eradication to upgradation and legal rights for slum dwellers, reflecting a shift toward technocratic urban issue management.



Figure 2: Map of eight cities in India where data include slum designation

Development Phases of Indian Slums

- I. Initial migration and sequestering of land and other resources
- II. Continuous waves of influx in the established centres
- III. Simultaneous concentration and expansion
- IV. Establishment of socio-economic and political viability
- V. Survival from destruction by government or commercial forces
- VI. Continuous growth through adaptation



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SLUM DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA:

❖ Poverty Alleviation:

- Improving living conditions, services, and economic opportunities within slums contributes to reducing poverty and enhancing living standards for the economically disadvantaged.

❖ Social Equity and Inclusion:

- Slum development fosters social equity by ensuring marginalized populations have access to essential elements like decent housing, clean water, sanitation, education, and healthcare, minimizing social disparities.

❖ Health and Well-being:

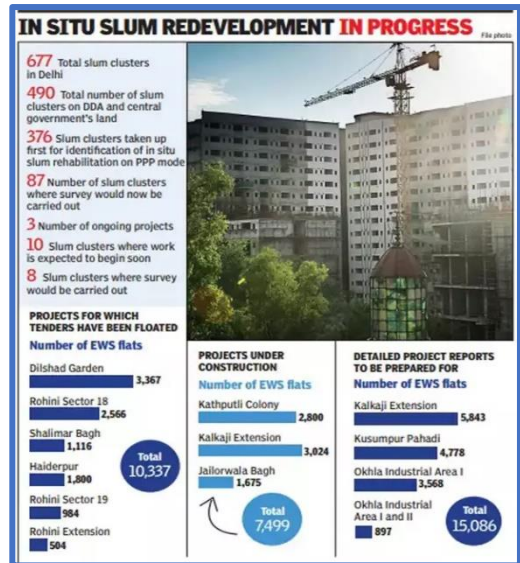
- Enhanced slum development positively impacts health outcomes through improved access to clean water, sanitation, hygiene facilities, and healthcare services, enhancing overall resident well-being.

❖ Education Opportunities:

- Slum development initiatives include measures to enhance educational facilities, breaking the cycle of poverty by providing quality education and offering a brighter future for children in slum areas.

❖ Urban Development and Sustainability:

- Addressing slum development is crucial for broader urban development, ensuring access to adequate housing and services for all residents as cities expand.
- Long-term sustainability involves creating economic opportunities and social services to support lasting development.



CHALLENGES OF URBANIZATION OF SLUM:

❖ Mass Migration:

- India faces a massive wave of urbanization due to economic changes, with 160 million people moving to cities in the last two decades and 230 million more projected by 2044.

❖ Infrastructure Strain:

- Major cities, dealing with poor infrastructure, witness the growth of informal settlements (slums), lacking essential services like sanitation and healthcare.

❖ Inefficient Land Use:

- Slums, despite entrepreneurial activity, represent an inefficient use of human resources and land.

❖ Need for Urban Transformation:

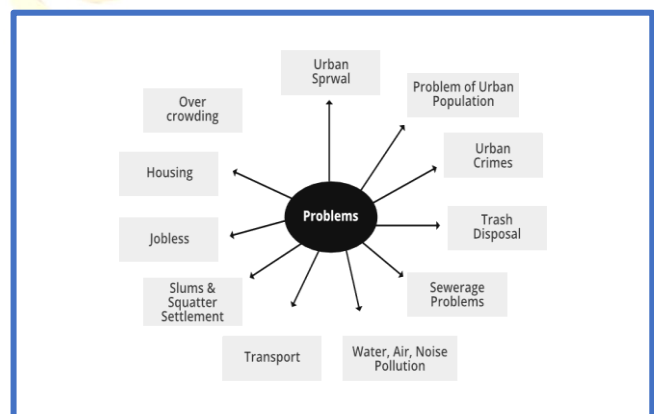
Scalable Urban Systems:

- To harness the potential of the urban population, India needs scalable urban systems capable of accommodating and integrating the increasing number of inhabitants.

Global Urbanization Challenge:

- The global trend indicates that 70% of the world's population will live in urban centers by 2050, demanding a rethinking of city design and rural-urban dynamics.

❖ Unlocking Productive Potential:



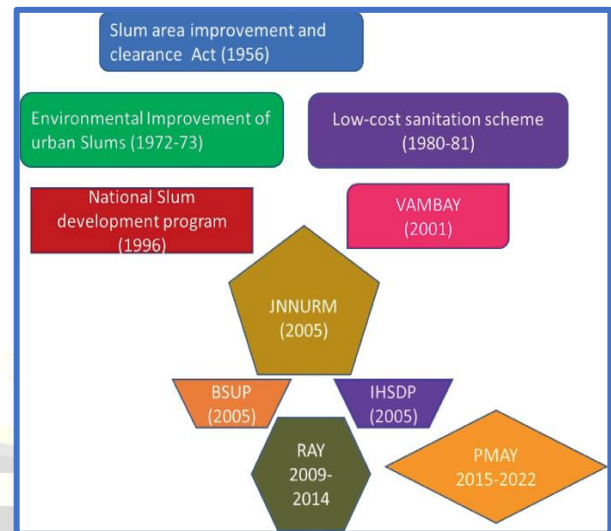


- **Strategic Approach Needed:**
 - ✓ Addressing slums requires a strategic approach involving city design, rural development, and economic opportunities.
- **Political Will and Stakeholder Efforts:**
 - ✓ Transforming slums into assets demands political will and concerted efforts from various stakeholders.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR SLUM AREA DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA:

❖ Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM):

- **Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP):**
 - ✓ Covers 65 select cities, with 527 projects approved and a total cost of Rs. 30188.69 crores for constructing 1017252 Dwelling Units.
- **Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programmes (IHSDP):**
 - ✓ Encompasses 928 cities with 1084 projects approved, totaling Rs. 12048.50 crores for constructing 570951 Dwelling Units.



❖ Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY):

- Aims at providing gainful employment through skills training and self-employment ventures.
- In 2011-12, 353,803 beneficiaries received skills training, and 79,804 beneficiaries were covered under the urban self-employment program.

❖ Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY):

- Launched to create a Slum-free India, RAY provides financial assistance to states for slum redevelopment and affordable housing.
- It aims to cover 250 cities by the end of the 12th plan (2017).
- Funds have been released to 34 States/UTs, and 8 pilot projects have been approved under RAY.

❖ State Responsibility: Land and Colonisation:

- 'Land' and 'Colonisation' fall under State subjects, and schemes for slum improvement and civic amenities in respective areas are implemented by States/Union Territories (UTs).
- States/UTs maintain details of slum areas and allocated funds for civic amenities.

❖ Central Assistance under PMAY-U:

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs supports States/UTs under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) since 25.06.2015.
- **Implemented through four verticals:**
 - ✓ Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), In-Situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR), and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS).
- Over 1.18 crore houses sanctioned as of 20.11.2023, with 78.15 lakh completed, including 20.64 lakh for slum dwellers.

❖ Supplementary Initiatives by Ministry:

- Ministry supplements State efforts through missions like Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0) and Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0).



- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare supports healthcare in slum areas **under National Health Mission, Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**, and establishment of **Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)**.
- Central Government initiatives include **SAUBHAGYA, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), UJALA**, and education schemes targeting slums.

WAY FORWARD:


- ❖ **Mission-Focused Outreach:**
 - **Coverage Expansion:**
 - ✓ Extend campaigns to inform and enroll in **schemes like LPG, banking, insurance, and healthcare.**
 - **Comprehensive Approach:**
 - ✓ Integrate various programs, **including employment and infrastructure projects.**
- ❖ **Empowering through Skills and Jobs:**
 - **Skill Development:**
 - ✓ Offer accessible **skilling and upskilling** programs for urban poor.
 - **Apprenticeships:**
 - ✓ Provide **opportunities for practical training** and employment guarantee.
- ❖ **Empowering Urban Local Bodies (ULBs):**
 - **Financial Strengthening:**
 - ✓ Enable ULBs with measures like **municipal bonds** for better funding.
 - **Autonomy:**
 - ✓ Grant functional autonomy to **ULBs for effective poverty alleviation initiatives.**
- ❖ **Infrastructure Enhancement:**
 - **Housing Improvement:**
 - ✓ Prioritize upgrading **urban living conditions for the deprived.**
 - **Education and Healthcare:**
 - ✓ Expand **schools and healthcare facilities** to meet human development needs.
- ❖ **Balanced Regional Growth:**
 - **Preventing Urban Pressure:**
 - ✓ **Address migration impact** by promoting balanced development across regions.
 - **Resource Allocation:**
 - ✓ Ensure resources are **distributed evenly, curbing urban poverty inflation.**

CONCLUSION:

*The research by Nipesh Narayanan delves into the **dynamic discourses around slums in Indian parliamentary debates from 1953 to 2014.** It highlights the **evolving perspectives on slums, from considering them an epidemic in need of eradication to recognizing them as an asset for economic growth.** The study underscores the influence of **changing definitions on policies and governance, emphasizing the need to challenge simplistic categorizations and comprehend slum dynamics beyond numerical data.** Overall, it provides a **significant contribution to understanding the historical evolution of government perceptions and actions towards slum development in India.***



PRELIMS POINTERS:

TOPIC	DISCRIPTION
HIT-AND-RUN LAW	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Nationwide Strike:<ul style="list-style-type: none">☛ <i>Truck, bus, and tanker drivers across states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh have launched a three-day strike, causing road blockades and disrupting fuel supply.</i>❖ Protest Against Stringent Laws:<ul style="list-style-type: none">☛ <i>The strike is in protest against the stringent provisions in the newly implemented Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) for hit-and-run cases, which replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code.</i> <p>ABOUT THE LAWS: BHARATIYA NYAY SANHITA (BNS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Penalties:<ul style="list-style-type: none">☛ Drivers causing a serious road accident by negligent driving, who flee without informing authorities, may face up to 10 years in prison or a fine of Rs 7 lakh.❖ Legal Change:<ul style="list-style-type: none">☛ The law replaced the Indian Penal Code and aims to address hit-and-run cases more effectively.  <p>PROTEST REASONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Discouragement of Drivers:<ul style="list-style-type: none">☛ Private transport operators argue that the law may discourage drivers and result in unjust punishments.❖ Mob Violence Concerns:<ul style="list-style-type: none">☛ Drivers fear potential mob violence when transporting the injured to hospitals, demanding a repeal of the law.❖ Lack of Consultation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">☛ Protesters criticize the government for not consulting stakeholders before implementing the law, emphasizing the need for prior discussions. <p>IMPACT OF STRIKE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Road Blockades:<ul style="list-style-type: none">☛ Protestors have blocked roads and highways in several states, including Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh.❖ Fuel Supply Disruption:<ul style="list-style-type: none">☛ The strike has led to lengthy queues at petrol pumps, impacting fuel supply across the country.❖ Vehicle Movement Affected:<ul style="list-style-type: none">☛ Transporters claim that nearly five lakh vehicles' movement has been affected in Madhya Pradesh alone due to the strike.



West Asian nations hold the highest number of Indians in jails abroad

❖ **Key Demand:**

- **Consultative Decision:** Protesters, led by the **All India Motor & Goods Transport Association**, demand that decisions affecting them should be made after **consultations with stakeholders**, emphasizing the lack of prior discussion on the new law.

RECENT HIT-AND-RUN CASE SOLUTION:

❖ **Government Assurance:**

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** assured **transporters, particularly the All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC)**, that a decision on **enforcing the stringent provisions of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS)** in hit-and-run cases will be taken **only after consultations with AIMTC**.

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ A **Qatar court recently commuted the death sentences of eight former Indian Navy personnel who were arrested in August 2022 on charges of espionage. The decision garnered attention due to the severity of the charges and potential life-threatening consequences.**

ABOUT THE REPORT: INDIAN PRISONERS ABROAD

❖ **Rare Cases of Undisclosed Charges:**

- Cases like the one in Qatar, where **charges have not been disclosed, are rare.**
- Privacy laws in **countries like Canada and the U.K.** often prevent the disclosure of arrest details.

❖ **Public Domain Information:**

- Most cases involving Indian prisoners **abroad are in the public domain.**
- These often include **fishermen crossing maritime borders unintentionally.**

❖ **Data on Indian Prisoners:**

- As of the latest data, **approximately 9,500 Indians** are incarcerated **across 89 nations.**
- A significant number, **especially in West Asia**, includes **Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain.**

❖ **Offenses and States:**

- The offenses for which Indians are **arrested abroad range** from crossing borders to serious crimes like **murders, drug-related offenses, and human trafficking.**

Chart 1 | The chart shows the countries where most Indian prisoners are currently incarcerated. Saudi Arabia, UAE and Nepal hold most of them



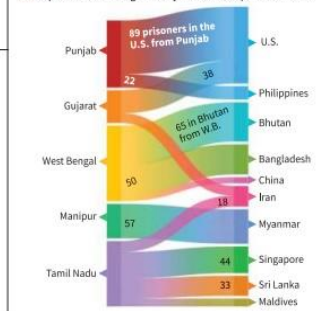
Chart 2 | The word cloud shows the offences for which most Indian prisoners were arrested in foreign countries



Chart 3 | The chart shows the State of residence of prisoners in foreign jails in cases where such data was available



Chart 4 | The chart shows specific instances where a large number of Indian prisoners in a foreign country hailed from a particular State





- ☛ States like Punjab, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Manipur contribute significantly to the Indian prisoner population.
- ❖ Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons:
 - ☛ India has agreements with **31 countries**, including Qatar, allowing the transfer of sentenced persons.
 - ☛ From 2006 to January 2022, **86 prisoners** were transferred under this agreement.
- ❖ Indian Missions' Support:
 - ☛ Indian Missions in countries with a sizable Indian population maintain panels of lawyers to assist citizens.
 - ☛ The **Indian Community Welfare Fund** is also established to aid Indians in crisis situations, including imprisonment.

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT (CAA), 2019

WHY IN NEWS?

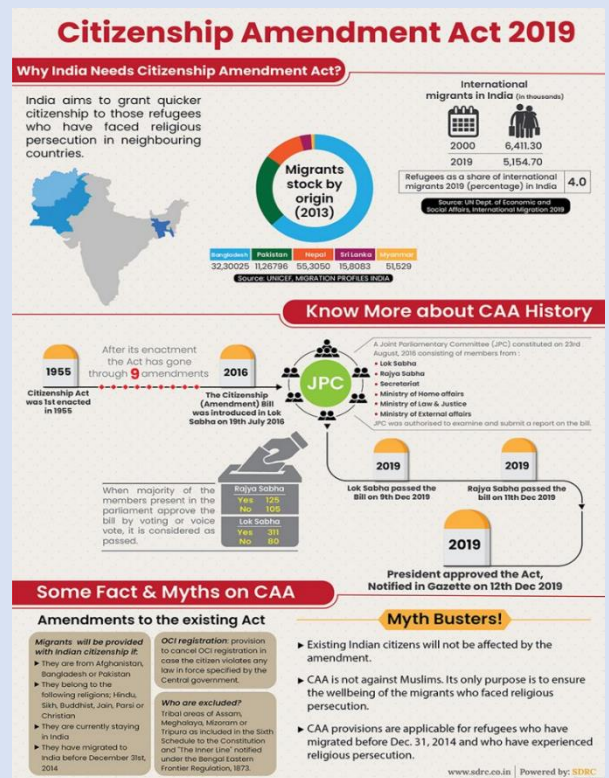
- ❖ *The rules of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) are expected to be notified soon, possibly before the announcement of the next Lok Sabha election, according to a senior government official.*

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT (CAA): OVERVIEW AND CONCERNS

- ❖ Overview of CAA:
 - ☛ Provides citizenship based on religion to six non-Muslim communities (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians) from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh.
 - ☛ Eligibility for those who entered India on or before **December 31, 2014**.
 - ☛ Exempts specified communities from criminal cases under the **Foreigners Act, 1946**, and the **Passport Act, 1920**, related to illegal entry and overstaying on expired visas.

CONCERNS REGARDING CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT (CAA)

- ❖ Differentiation Violating Article 14:
 - ☛ **Country of Origin Differentiation:**
 - ☛ Inclusion of only **Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh** raises questions, especially as countries like **Sri Lanka and Myanmar** with a history of persecution are excluded.
 - ☛ **Lack of clarity** on why **Afghanistan** is included.





PLACES IN NEWS - INDONESIA'S MARAPI VOLCANO

- ❖ **Religious Persecution Classification:**
 - ☛ Exclusion of persecuted minorities like **Ahmadiyya Muslims in Pakistan** and **atheists in Bangladesh** raises concerns about **selective inclusion**.
- ❖ **Date of Entry Differentiation:**
 - ☛ Lack of clarity on the **rationale for differentiating migrants** based on their entry date into India (**before or after December 31, 2014**).
- ❖ **Exclusion of Certain Areas:**
 - ☛ Unclear why **illegal migrants in areas covered by the Sixth Schedule and Inner Line Permit** are **excluded**.
 - ☛ Contradiction **with the purpose of the Sixth Schedule** in protecting tribal areas.
- ❖ **Wide Discretion in OCI Registration Cancellation:**
 - ☛ **Granting central government the authority to notify laws for OCI registration cancellation** may be seen as an excessive delegation of legislative powers.
 - ☛ Lack of guidelines on the **nature of laws** for notification raises concerns about arbitrary discretion.

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *Indonesia's Marapi volcano recently erupted, killing 22 climbers who perished near the crater.*
- ❖ *Marapi is one of the most active volcanoes on Sumatra.*

MOUNT MARAPI SPECIFICS:

- ❖ **Location:**
 - ☛ West Sumatra, dominating the local landscape and culture.
- ❖ **Height:**
 - ☛ Peaks at 2,891 meters (9,484 feet).
- ❖ **Population Impact:**
 - ☛ Approximately 250,000 people reside within its 10-kilometer radius

Indonesia's Marapi volcano erupts

The 2,891-metre high volcano in West Sumatra erupted on Sunday, spewing gray clouds of ash as high as 3 kilometres (1.9 miles) into the sky.



GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT:

- ❖ **Global Tectonic Belt:**
 - ☛ Indonesia, including Mount Marapi, is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, known for high volcanic activity.
- ❖ **Total Active Volcanoes:**
 - ☛ Indonesia has nearly 130 active volcanoes, with Marapi being one of the most active on Sumatra.

DISTINGUISHING FROM MOUNT MERAPI:

- ❖ **Common Confusion:**
 - ☛ Often confused **with Mount Merapi**, Indonesia's **most active volcano**.
- ❖ **Different Locations:**



INOPERATIVE ACCOUNT

- ☛ **Mount Marapi in West Sumatra vs. Mount Merapi** located between Central Java and Yogyakarta.
- ❖ **Distinct Characteristics:**
 - ☛ Mount Merapi known for **regular eruptions since 1548**, producing dangerous ash avalanches and pyroclastic flows.

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced revised guidelines for categorizing accounts as inoperative and managing unclaimed deposits by banks.*

INOPERATIVE ACCOUNTS DEFINITION

- ❖ **Criteria:**
 - ☛ A savings or current account is deemed inoperative if no 'customer induced transactions' occur for a period exceeding two years.
- ❖ **Customer Induced Transactions:**
 - ☛ Transactions initiated by the account holder, including financial/non-financial activities or KYC updates through various channels.

UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS DEFINITION:

- ❖ **Timeframe:**
 - ☛ Balances in savings/current accounts inactive for 10 years or term deposits unclaimed for a decade from maturity are labeled as 'unclaimed deposits.'

RBI GUIDELINES

- ❖ **Annual Review:**
 - ☛ Banks mandated to conduct an annual review for accounts lacking customer transactions for over a year.
- ❖ **Term Deposits:**
 - ☛ Emphasis on reviewing term deposits to prevent them from becoming unclaimed if not explicitly renewed.
- ❖ **Communication Protocol:**
 - ☛ **Alerts:** Banks to notify account holders through letters, email, or SMS regarding no operations in the past year.
- ❖ **Inoperative Warning:**
 - ☛ Clear communication that the account could turn 'inoperative,' necessitating fresh KYC documents for reactivation.
- ❖ **Classification Criteria:**
 - ☛ **Customer vs. Bank Induced:** Only customer-induced transactions considered for classifying an account as inoperative.
 - ☛ Bank-induced transactions excluded.

HOW TO ACTIVATE AN INOPERATIVE BANK ACCOUNT?





EXEMPTIONS FROM INOPERATIVE STATUS:

❖ Zero Balance Accounts:

- ☛ Accounts opened for government scheme beneficiaries and students exempted from inoperative classification.
- ☛ Such accounts to be segregated based on their purpose in the Core Banking Solution (CBS).

WHAT IS DORMANT ACCOUNT?

❖ Definition:

- ☛ **Inactive Status:** A dormant account refers to a customer's account at a bank or financial institution that has remained inactive for an extended period, usually with no transactions except for occasional interest deposits.

❖ Causes of Dormancy:

- ☛ **Owner's Forgetfulness:** Owners may forget about the account's existence.
- ☛ **Relocation:** Individuals might move without providing a new address.
- ☛ **Deceased Owners:** In some cases, the account holder may have passed away.

