



TATHASTU
Institute of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



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S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	ROLE OF GENDER AND CASTE IN ACCESSING LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIA
2.	INDIA- MYANMAR RELATIONS
3.	PRELIMS POINTERS

ROLE OF GENDER AND CASTE IN ACCESSING LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIA

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

TAG: GS Paper – I *Issues related to Women in Indian Society* ,
Paper II- *Social justice: Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections of the population by the Centre and the State*

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Mains

Q. Q. "Empowering women is the key to control the population growth." Discuss. (2019)
(150 words)

Q. Discuss the interplay between caste, gender, and labor market choices in India. Examine its impact on the Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR).
(150 words)

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ A research paper in EPW titled "The Role of Gender and Caste in Accessing Livelihood Opportunities in India" investigates the decline in female labour force participation in India, emphasizing the role of gender and caste dynamics.
- ❖ The primary objective is to examine whether, in a scenario of depressed labour market participation, women from lower castes have higher possibilities of engaging in informal activities. The study utilizes data from the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 to shed light on the role of caste when women seek livelihood opportunities in the informal sector.
- ❖ The analysis is based on the **SECC 2011 data**, offering a comprehensive overview of households across India. The study focuses on selected states and extracts relevant tehsil-level data related to labour force participation, caste, and gender.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE PAPER

- ❖ **Employment Generation:**
 - ☛ The paper contextualizes employment generation as a fundamental goal of India's development planning. **The structural changes in the economy over the last three decades, driven by liberalization and global integration**, underscore the need to empower women for a demographic dividend and sustained economic growth.
- ❖ **Caste, Gender, and Labour Market Choices:**
 - ☛ The study delves into the influence of caste on women's participation in the labour force, recognizing the deep-rooted social hierarchies in India. **Caste, serving as a determinant of power, economic inequality, and discrimination**, intersects with gender, creating dual challenges for women in the workforce.
- ❖ **Impact of Lower-Caste Households:**



- The data suggests that as the proportion of lower-caste households increases in a tehsil, the participation of female heads of households in economic activities also rises. This is particularly significant in the context of the predominantly informal labour force and limited formal job opportunities.
- ❖ **Informality in India's Labour Market:**
 - The paper highlights the prevalence of informality in India's labour market, with **over 90% of the total workforce engaged in the informal economy**. It discusses the shift of surplus labour from the primary sector to informal employment, **driven by factors such as cost minimization and decentralization**.
- ❖ **Challenges in Structural Transformation:**
 - India's structural transformation faces challenges, resulting in "**jobless growth**." The shift from the primary sector to manufacturing and service sectors has been accompanied by a surge in informal labour. The study aims to understand the factors influencing **non-agricultural economic activity at the grassroots level, particularly for women**.
- ❖ **Interaction between high income and female-headed households:**
 - The results indicate that participation is higher in tehsils with more female-headed households and lower-caste households. **The interaction between high income and female-headed households is explored, revealing a nuanced relationship**.
- ❖ **Two critical findings:**
 - **The positive impact of a higher number of female-headed households on female labour force participation and the increased participation in lower-caste households**. The discussion explores potential reasons, including decision-making power, societal norms, and economic opportunities.



HEIRARCHICAL STRATIFICATIONS IN INDIA

- ❖ In Indian society, deeply entrenched hierarchical divisions based on caste, class, and gender significantly influence an individual's social standing, opportunities, and overall life outcomes.
- ❖ These identities collectively shape the socio-economic landscape, prompting ongoing debates about their intricate interactions.
- ❖ **Historical Role of Caste:**
 - Caste has historically played a pivotal role in shaping societal norms, particularly in restricting women's autonomy.
 - **Prescriptive rules dictating concepts of pollution and purity** have traditionally confined women, especially among high-status caste groups, within the domestic sphere.
- ❖ **Caste Dynamics and Gender Restrictions:**
 - **Stringent patriarchal codes have been more rigorously observed among high-status castes**, leading to heightened restrictions on women's freedom.
 - Economic advancement, often referred to as **Sanskritization**, witnessed lower castes emulating customs of higher castes to enhance their social status.

REASONS FOR PREVALENCE OF GENDER AND CASTE BASED DISPARITIES IN INDIA

- ❖ **Historical Legacy:**
 - Centuries-old social stratification has entrenched caste and gender hierarchies, influencing contemporary disparities.



- ❖ **Discriminatory Traditions:**
 - Deep-rooted customs and traditions perpetuate discriminatory practices, restricting access to opportunities based on caste and gender.
- ❖ **Educational Barriers:**
 - Unequal access to education, particularly for certain castes and females, **contributes to skill gaps and limited opportunities.**
- ❖ **Caste-Based Occupational Roles:**
 - Traditional occupation-based stratification limits individuals to specific roles, reinforcing economic disparities.
- ❖ **Patriarchal Social Structures:**
 - Embedded patriarchal norms reinforce gender inequality, restricting women's participation in decision-making processes.
- ❖ **Limited Land Ownership for Marginalized Castes:**
 - Historical injustices in land distribution disproportionately affect marginalized castes, limiting their economic prospects.
- ❖ **Caste Panchayats and Social Sanctions:**
 - Informal caste-based councils wield influence, enforcing social norms and restricting individuals from deviating from prescribed roles.
- ❖ **Urban-Rural Divide:**
 - Disparities between urban and rural areas perpetuate inequalities, with rural populations often facing greater challenges.
- ❖ **Lack of Legal Awareness:**
 - Limited awareness of legal rights, especially among marginalized groups, **hinders the ability to challenge discriminatory practices.**
- ❖ **Economic Disparities and Resource Allocation:**
 - Unequal distribution of resources and economic opportunities further entrench caste and gender disparities, creating cycles of disadvantage.

CONCEPT OF INTERSECTIONALITY

- ❖ The **concept of intersectionality** underscores that an individual's social identity plays a crucial role in shaping their perceptions and encounters with gender, highlighting the significance of contextualizing gender experiences within the dynamics of power relations.
- ❖ For example, **intersectionality could be the experience of a Dalit woman.** She may face distinct challenges arising from the intersection of her caste and gender, encountering discrimination and inequalities influenced by both factors. This shows how the intersectionality of caste and gender can significantly shape an individual's experiences in India.

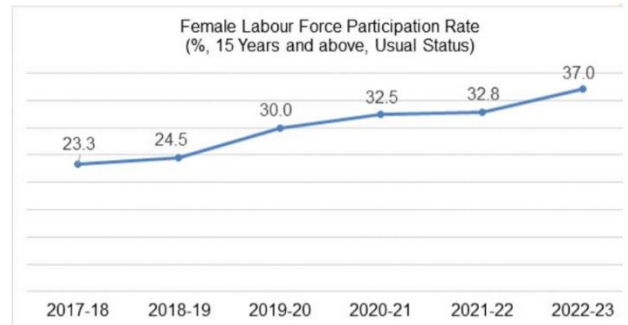
FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE (FLFPR)

- ❖ **The Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR)** is a metric representing the proportion of women actively engaged in the labor force relative to the total number of women within the working age, typically considered to be those **above 15 years. Women are categorized as part of the labor force if they are either employed or actively seeking employment.**
- ❖ **Trends in FLFPR in India:**
 - **Consistent Growth with Disparities:** The FLFPR in India has exhibited a **consistent upward trend. However, it remains substantially lower when compared to developed nations.**
 - **Regional Discrepancies Challenge Assumptions:** *The simple average of FLFPR across the five southern Indian states (Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala) is surprisingly 13% lower than that of the five northern states (Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh,*



Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand). This contradicts conventional expectations based on higher literacy and women empowerment indices in southern states.

- **Low FLFPR in Specific States:** Only four states, namely Assam, Bihar, Haryana, and Delhi, report an FLFPR of less than 25%. *Delhi records the lowest rate at 14.8%.*
- **Global Benchmarking:** *According to the World Bank*, India's standing in terms of female participation in the formal economy is among the lowest globally. *Only certain parts of the Arab world exhibit lower FLFPR figures than India.*



Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey 2022-23.

WAY FORWARD:

- ❖ **Inclusive Policies:** Implement conscious efforts in policy formulation for inclusive growth and development, focusing on long-term strategies rather than short-term activities.
- ❖ **Diversity Index:** Widespread adoption of diversity indices, such as the one introduced by the **Union Ministry of Minority Affairs**, to measure and enhance workforce diversity in organizations.
- ❖ **Educational Initiatives:** Devote more educational resources to prepare underrepresented groups, addressing the root causes of underrepresentation in higher education.
- ❖ **Conscious Corporate Culture:** Encourage companies to adopt a culture that promotes inclusivity and addresses caste-based discrimination through awareness programs and training.

CONCLUSION :

- ❖ In conclusion, **the study underscores the persistent challenges of caste-based discrimination in India, despite the existence of reservations. The complex interplay of caste, class, and gender requires a nuanced approach in policymaking. Rather than relying solely on broad caste categories, a deeper understanding of jati-level distinctions is crucial for effective poverty alleviation and women's empowerment.**
- ❖ The dynamic relationship between gender, caste, and jati emphasizes the **need for tailored strategies to address socio-economic disparities, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.**



INDIA MYANMAR RELATIONS

SOURCE: INDIAN EXPRESS

TAG: GS Paper II- *India and its Neighbourhood; Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests; Look East to Act East*

UPSC PYQs

Mains

Q. Analyze internal security threats and transborder crimes along Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan borders including Line of Control (LoC). Also discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard. (2020)

Q. Border management is a complex task due to difficult terrain and hostile relations with some countries. Elucidate the challenges and strategies for effective border management. (2016)

WHY IN NEWS?

While speaking at the **passing out parade of Assam Police commandos in Guwahati**, Home Minister Amit Shah **announced that the government will soon fence India's border along Myanmar in a bid to restrict free movement into the country.**

ABOUT INDIA-BANGLADESH RELATIONS

- ❖ Myanmar holds a strategic position as one of India's neighbouring countries, sharing a border of 1640 km with the northeastern states of Nagaland and Manipur.
- ❖ There exists a foundation of historical connections and traditional bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and Myanmar.
- ❖ The relationship between the two nations is rooted in the "**Five Bs**": **Buddhism, Business, Bollywood, Bharatnatyam, and Burma teak.**
- ❖ India aligns its collaboration with Myanmar in line with its '**Neighbourhood First**' and '**Act East**' policies, emphasizing the significance of strong ties with neighbouring nations and increased engagement with countries in the **Asia-Pacific region.**

SIGNIFICANCE OF MYANMAR TO INDIA

- ❖ **Economic Relations:**
 - ☛ Bilateral trade has historically hovered around \$2 billion.
 - ☛ Businesses from China, Singapore, Korea, Japan, Thailand, and Vietnam have actively pursued opportunities in Myanmar.
 - ☛ **Pulses constitute the primary export** item for Myanmar.
 - ☛ Indian investment prospects include sectors like power, steel, automobiles, and textiles.
- ❖ **Defence Relations:**
 - ☛ Efforts have been made to enhance defence ties between India and Myanmar.
 - ☛ Over 200 Myanmar military officers have received training in medical, air force, and navy fields in India.
 - ☛ Myanmar has procured various defence equipment, such as rocket launchers, night vision systems, radar, and torpedoes, worth \$37.9 million from India.
- ❖ **Cultural Relations:**



- ☛ India is assisting in the **renovation of the damaged Ananda Temple** in Myanmar.
- ☛ People-to-people ties are highlighted as a strength in India-Myanmar relations.
- ☛ India has provided substantial grant-in-aid for projects, including **the Kaladan multi-modal corridor** and the repair and construction of roads and bridges.
- ❖ **India's Assistance in Capacity Building:**
 - ☛ Priority is given to capacity building, with the establishment of institutions for agricultural education, information technology, and industrial training.
 - ☛ The Myanmar Institute of Information Technology, in collaboration with IIIT Bangalore, has been successful.
 - ☛ The **Advanced Centre for Agriculture Research and Education**, in collaboration with India's ICAR, focuses on research in pulses and oilseeds.
 - ☛ India has proposed the construction of a petroleum refinery in Myanmar, underscoring Myanmar's growing significance.
 - ☛ India has consistently strengthened defence ties through expanded training facilities and the supply of necessary defence equipment.
- ❖ **Humanitarian Assistance:**
 - ☛ India has provided timely support, including medicines and equipment, to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - ☛ Indian companies, such as **ONGC Videsh and GAIL, have established operations in Myanmar.**
 - ☛ Agreements have been made to **train Myanmar army officers** and facilitate their studies at Indian military academies.



CHALLENGES IN INDIA MYANMAR RELATIONS

- ❖ **Military Junta Coup:**
 - ☛ The recent coup by the military junta in Myanmar has posed a challenge for India in balancing its strategic and economic interests with its commitment to democratic values and human rights.
- ❖ **Weak Trade Relations:**
 - ☛ Bilateral trade at \$2 billion lags behind China, posing an economic challenge for India.
 - ☛ India's withdrawal from the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** may further widen the trade gap.
- ❖ **Rohingya Issue:**
 - ☛ The presence of Rohingya migrants in India raises concerns about internal security and the exploitation of national resources.
- ❖ **Northeast Insurgency:**
 - ☛ The Myanmar-China border serves as a hotspot for armed separatist groups, both local and Indian, contributing to instability in the region.
 - ☛ Insurgent groups such as **ULFA in Assam and NSCN (IM) in Nagaland** operate on Myanmar soil.
- ❖ **Internal Security:**
 - ☛ Porous and lightly policed sections of the Indo-Myanmar border create security challenges, allowing terrorist outfits and insurgent groups to exploit the situation.
 - ☛ Issues include the supply of trained cadres and arms trafficking.



- ❖ **Free Movement Regime:**
 - ☛ The Free Movement Regime is **exploited by militants and cross-border criminals for the illegal transportation of weapons**, contraband goods, and counterfeit Indian currency.
- ❖ **Trust Deficit:**
 - ☛ Delays in the implementation of various **projects have widened the trust deficit between India and Myanmar.**
- ❖ **Chinese Influence:**
 - ☛ China's assertiveness through soft power, trade, and economic relations, including large infrastructure projects and participation in the **Belt and Road Initiative**, poses a challenge to India's influence in the region.

WAY FORWARD

- ❖ **Handling the Rohingya Issue:**
 - ☛ India, with a Hindu majority, needs to delicately manage the Rohingya issue, balancing relationships with **Muslim-majority Bangladesh and Buddhist-majority Myanmar.**
 - ☛ A diplomatic approach is **essential to address humanitarian concerns** while respecting regional dynamics.
- ❖ **Cultural Diplomacy:**
 - ☛ **Utilize cultural diplomacy, particularly through India's Buddhist diplomacy,** to strengthen ties.
 - ☛ This can contribute to the **tourist industry and build goodwill with Buddhist-majority countries like Myanmar.**
- ❖ **Security Cooperation:**
 - ☛ Strengthen security cooperation at the **border to improve economic relations.**
 - ☛ Addressing common security concerns will foster trust and stability in the region.
- ❖ **Better Border Management:**
 - ☛ Collaborate on effective border management to counter the misuse of open borders by internal and external forces.
 - ☛ Shared responsibility in **border regulation is crucial for the security** and well-being of both nations.
- ❖ **Act East Policy:**
 - ☛ Leverage Myanmar's strategic position as **India's gateway to Southeast Asia to propel the realization of India's Act East Policy.**
 - ☛ Deepening **economic and strategic ties with Myanmar** is instrumental in enhancing India's influence in the region.
- ❖ **Myanmar as an Emerging Market:**
 - ☛ **Capitalize on Myanmar's emerging consumer market,** tapping into the demands of its 60 million people for various products.
 - ☛ India should strategically **position itself to meet these demands,** ranging from personal care items to beverages and smartphones.



TOPIC	DISCRIPTION
<p>DAVOS MEETING 2024- WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>The World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting, held from January 15 to January 19, 2024, brought together global leaders to address pressing challenges. Despite criticism for its elite nature, Davos remains a platform for influential discussions on various issues.</i> <p>KEY THEMES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Artificial Intelligence (AI): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Dominant topic; discussed AI's transformative potential and risks ☛ Emphasis on regulation, job concerns, misinformation, and inequality. ☛ Positive sentiment toward AI's overall benefits. ❖ War and Uncertainty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Concerns over fragile geopolitics, Middle East/Europe wars, global supply chain threats, and food security uncertainties. ☛ Lack of plans or peace roadmaps for the Israel-Gaza conflict. ☛ Calls for lasting peace in the region for reconstruction support. ❖ Climate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Focus on business adaptation to climate change. ☛ Urgency emphasized; "existential climate crisis" acknowledged. ☛ Call for unity despite differences; need for resource allocation in climate change fight. ❖ China's Economy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ China seeks Western investment amid economic slowdown. ☛ GDP growth at 5.2% in 2023; challenges noted. ☛ Attraction of Western investment despite challenges discussed. ❖ India's Role and Rise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ India launched the "Global Good Alliance for Gender Equity and Equality" at the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos. ☛ The initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Women-led Development" agenda. ☛ Over 10,000 businesses globally and WEF extended their support to the Alliance. ☛ The Alliance focuses on women's health, education, and enterprise. ☛ Industry leaders such as Mastercard, Uber, Tata, TVS, and others have endorsed the initiative. ☛ India's commitment to global gender equality is emphasized through this initiative.





- ☛ A women leadership lounge ("We Lead lounge") was established at Davos, hosting discussions on **women's participation in the economy, the digital gender gap, and health.**
- ☛ Union Minister Smriti Zubin Irani **led the initiative**, participating in various sessions at WEF and holding bilateral meetings with leaders from **Bahrain, the Netherlands, and Austria** to discuss common interests and possible collaborations.

GLOBAL GOOD ALLIANCE FOR GENDER EQUITY AND EQUALITY:

- ❖ **Aims to boost the global economy by \$1 trillion annually by 2040** through investment in women's health, education, and enterprise.
- ❖ **Emerged from the G20 Leaders' Declaration** and aligned with PM Modi's commitment to women-led development.

ABOUT WEF:

- ❖ International Organization for **Public-Private Cooperation.**
- ❖ Engages global leaders in shaping agendas.
- ❖ Headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland.**
- ❖ **Founded in 1971** as the European Management Forum **by Klaus Schwab.**
- ❖ Introduced the concept of "**stakeholder capitalism.**"

EVOLUTION:

- ❖ Expanded focus from management to **economic and social issues in 1973.**
- ❖ Introduced membership for **the world's leading companies in 1975.**
- ❖ Formally became the **World Economic Forum in 1987.**
- ❖ Recognized as an **international organization in 2015.**

NASA'S MARS HELICOPTER 'INGENUITY'

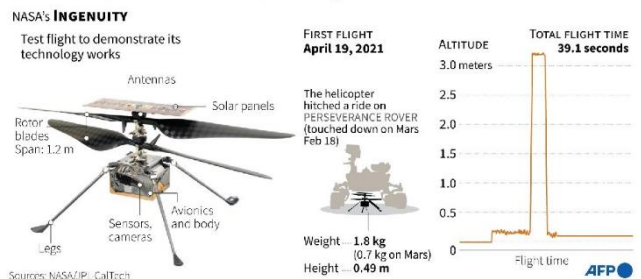
WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ **NASA's Mars Helicopter, Ingenuity, regains contact after a temporary loss during its 72nd flight, marking a significant moment in space exploration.**

INGENUITY: THE MARS HELICOPTER

- ❖ **Mission Background:**
 - ☛ Launched by **NASA on July 30, 2020**, alongside **the Perseverance rover.**
 - ☛ **Deployed on Mars on April 4, 2021**, from the Perseverance rover.
- ❖ **Purpose of Mission:**
 - ☛ Ingenuity's mission was experimental, **testing powered, controlled flight on another planet.**
 - ☛ Mars presents challenges with **lower gravity and an extremely thin atmosphere.**
- ❖ **Historical Achievement:**
 - ☛ Made its **first flight on Mars on April 19, 2021**, marking the **first powered, controlled flight on another planet.**

The first powered helicopter flight on Mars





**PRADHAN
MANTRI
SURYODAYA
YOJANA**

- ☛ **Successfully operated in Mars' thin atmosphere**, a notable achievement.

❖ **Mission Evolution:**

- ☛ Initially **planned for a few experimental flights**.
- ☛ Later **repurposed for scouting**, aiding Perseverance rover in exploring the Martian terrain.
- ☛ **Went on 72 flights, covering 17.7 kilometers** before communication loss.

❖ **Communication Loss and Recovery:**

- ☛ NASA lost contact towards **the end of the 72nd flight**.
- ☛ Regained contact on **January 21, 2024**, after communication issues earlier in the week.

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ❖ Ingenuity's success **demonstrates the feasibility of powered flight** in the challenging **Martian conditions**.
- ❖ Transitioned from an experimental **mission to a valuable tool for scientific exploration on Mars**.

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch the 'Pradhanmantri Suryodaya Yojana,' aiming to install rooftop solar on one crore households, has captured attention following the consecration of the Ram idol in Ayodhya.*

ABOUT THE SCHEME

OBJECTIVE

❖ **Rooftop Solar Installation:**

- ☛ 'Pradhanmantri Suryodaya Yojana' **targets the installation of rooftop solar on one crore houses** across India.

❖ **Benefits for Citizens:**

- ☛ Aims to **reduce electricity bills** for the poor and middle class. Promotes the **use of solar energy for household electricity needs**.

❖ **Government's Commitment to Renewable Energy:**

- ☛ Reflects the government's commitment to promoting **renewable energy sources**, particularly solar power.

❖ **Current Status of Rooftop Solar Installations:**

- ☛ **Despite increases in overall solar capacity**, the growth in the number of rooftop solar installations has been limited. As of **July 31, 2023, only 2.2 GW of rooftop installations** were reported to be installed in Indian homes.





WORLD'S BIGGEST ICEBERG- A23a

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The discovery of the world's largest iceberg, A23a, by expedition leader Ian Strachan in the Antarctic seas has garnered attention.*

ABOUT THE BIGGEST ICEBERG: A23a

- ❖ A23a, a tooth-shaped iceberg, is over **2x the size of Greater London at nearly 4,000 sq. km.**
- ❖ After **30 years stuck**, it's now on a northward journey, carrying one trillion tonnes of freshwater.
- ❖ Drifting between **Elephant Island and South Orkney Islands**, A23a is up to **400 meters thick.**
- ❖ **Originating in 1986**, A23a is the **world's oldest and largest iceberg.**
- ❖ Climate change's role in recent movement is uncertain.
- ❖ Part of a natural process, **A23a follows a path similar** to other massive icebergs.
- ❖ Anticipated breakup as it enters the **Southern Ocean due to warmer waters** and larger waves.
- ❖ Dr. Strachan, leading EYOS expedition, shared insights during a private Antarctic tour.
- ❖ Expedition altered plans due to a **bird flu outbreak on South Georgia Island.**



Source: Copernicus Sentinel-3



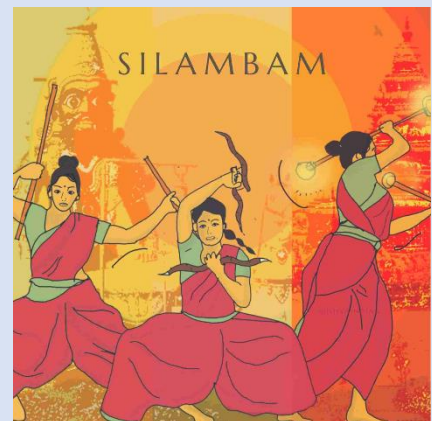
SILAMBAM

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *Silambam, a traditional sport of Tamil Nadu, is being introduced as a demo sport for the first time in the history of Khelo India Youth Games.*

ABOUT SILAMBAM:

- ❖ Silambam is an **Indian martial art originating in Tamil Nadu**, South India in the Indian subcontinent. This style is also **mentioned in Tamil Sangam literature.**
- ❖ References in the **Silappadikaram** and other **works of the Sangam literature show that Silambam has been practiced since at least the 4th century BC.**
- ❖ The term **silambambu** referred to a **particular type of bamboo** from the **Kurinjimala (kurinji hills) in present-day Kerala.**
- ❖ Thus **silambam** was **named after its primary weapon, the bamboo staff.** It may have earlier used for **self-defence** and to ward off animals in the **Kurinji hills** and **later evolved into the present-day martial art.**
- ❖ The **ancient city of Madurai** formed as the point of focus of **Silambam spreading.**
- ❖ The **Silambam staff** was acquired by the **Egyptians, Greeks and Romans** and was spread back to the **Middle East, Europe and North Africa.**





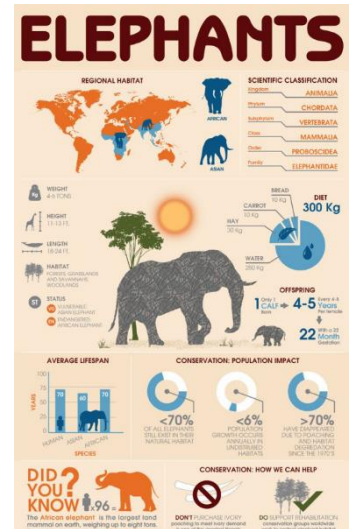
KUMKI ELEPHANTS

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *Odisha seeks Tamil Nadu's assistance to address a rising human-elephant conflict in the state. In a letter, Odisha's Additional Chief Secretary requests trained kumki elephants and mahouts from Tamil Nadu to manage conflicts.*

KUMKI ELEPHANTS IN INDIA

- ❖ **Kumki** - It is a term used in India, refers to captive Asian elephants trained for various operations, including trapping, rescue, and medical treatment of wild elephants.
- ❖ The Odisha government acknowledges Tamil Nadu's successful kumki elephant **program for wildlife conservation.**
- ❖ **At least four kumki elephants** are requested for deployment in conflict-prone areas.
- ❖ Kumki elephants can strategically **reduce damage to crops and human habitations and aid in forest patrolling.**
- ❖ The request includes deputing mahouts to support local mahouts in Odisha.



IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT ELEPHANTS

- ❖ The **Asian Elephant** is listed under **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, and faces major threats like habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation, as per the **IUCN Red List**.
- ❖ **IUCN Status: African elephants – Vulnerable, Asian elephants - Endangered**
- ❖ **Kumki** - It is a term used in India, refers to captive Asian elephants trained for various operations, including trapping, rescue, and medical treatment of wild elephants.
- ❖ **Tusker** - A Tusker is an adult male elephant with well-developed tusks.
- ❖ **Initiatives for elephant protection:**
 - **Project Elephant**, launched by the **Indian government in 1992**
 - **Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG)** under the **IUCN**
 - **Gaj Yatra** for nationwide awareness
 - **Monitoring the Killing of Elephants (MIKE) program** for international collaboration in tracking illegal killing of elephants to monitor conservation efforts.

TETRAHYDRO-CANNABIDIOL (THCBD)

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *Researchers at **CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu**, discover antibiotic properties in **phytocannabinoids, a cannabis plant compound.***

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE (AMR) WORLDWIDE:

- **Anti Microbial Resistance** is a global health concern, where microorganisms no longer respond to medicines.
- Bacteria develop sophisticated defenses, such as **biofilm formation** and **efflux pumps**, against antibiotics.

INDIA'S AMR BURDEN:

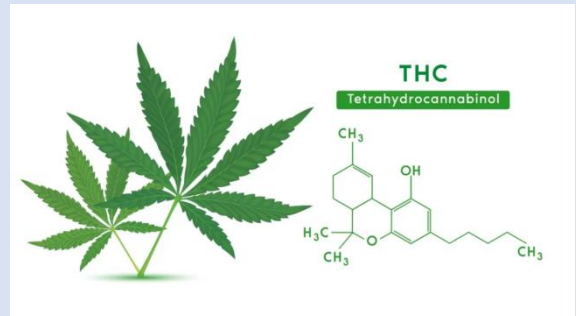
- India reports **significant deaths attributed to AMR.**



- Overuse of antibiotics, misuse in animal husbandry, and poor waste disposal contribute to AMR, **labelling India as a potential "AMR capital of the world."**

CSIR-IIIM STUDY ON TETRAHYDROCANNABIDIOL (THCBD):

- The study focuses on the antibacterial properties of THCBD against **Staphylococcus aureus, a major AMR pathogen.**
- **Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) strain of Staphylococcus aureus, resistant to last-line antibiotics,** necessitates alternative solutions.
- **Cannabinoids, including THCBD,** are compounds found in the cannabis plant.
- THCBD is produced through a **chemical process involving hydrogen and palladium catalyst.**
- Reduces viable microbial cells and complements other common antibiotics.



ABOUT GEN Z

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ **A Nasscom-Indeed report highlights that 77% of Generation Z students in India express a keen interest in the technology industry. Millennials and Generation Z together constitute around 90% of the tech workforce in India, bringing about higher generational diversity and influencing changing preferences in the sector.**

GENERATIONAL OVERVIEW

- ❖ **Generation Z (born 1995-2012) and Millennials (born 1981-1996) represent distinct age groups.**
- ❖ Millennials, **now in their 40s,** have been part of **adult life for a while,** while **Gen Z is maturing into young adulthood.**
- ❖ Oldest Gen Z members are in **their late twenties,** and most are **still teenagers or younger.**

Technology industry of choice for GenZ: Report

Organisations are capitalising on gig workers in areas such as software development, data annotation, and business analytics, as per Nasscom-Indeed report

90% Millennials and Gen Zs constitute tech workforce in India

84% Organisations are exploring or are open to gig models

■ **For the future** workforce, career progression, compensation, and learning opportunities are the primary factors

■ **There has been a rise in demand** for specialist roles such as Artificial intelligence/Machine learning scientist, quantum computing researcher, and blockchain

77%
Gen Z students interested in tech industry



Source: Nasscom/PTI

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GENERATIONS:

- ❖ **Gen Z is known for its entrepreneurial spirit,** preferring startups and independent work.
- ❖ **Millennials grew up with limited internet access,** while Gen Z is accustomed to a tech-savvy world.
- ❖ **Gen Z has higher expectations** due to the **fast-paced technological advancements.**
- ❖ **Companies employing Gen Z face challenges** in retaining them due to their preference for independent work environments.

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE REPORT:

- ❖ **Tech Attraction:**



PARAKRAM DIWAS

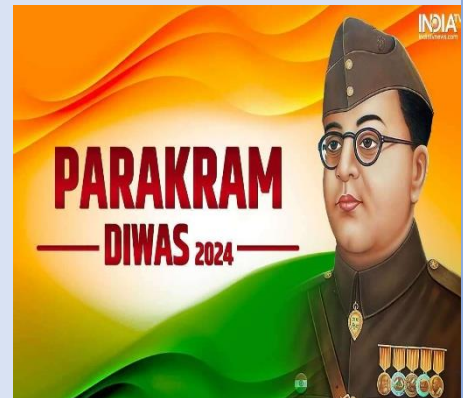
- 77% of Gen Z students prefer the technology industry.
- ❖ **Top Work Priorities:**
 - Learning, growth, culture, and ethics are crucial for Millennials and Gen Z.
- ❖ **Gig Economy Growth:**
 - Startups and BPM sectors lead in adopting gig models.
- ❖ **Consistent Work Criteria:**
 - Future workforce values **career growth, compensation, benefits, and learning.**
- ❖ **Gig Economy Impact:**
 - Traditional roles transform with diverse skills due to the gig economy.
 - AI, quantum computing, and blockchain roles witness increased demand.
 - Organizations explore **Tier-II and III cities** for untapped innovation.
 - Majority of organizations **embrace a flexible, hybrid work approach.**

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *India observes **Parakram Diwas 2024**, marking the **127th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**. The day, dedicated to **instilling fearlessness and patriotism, particularly among the youth**, pays homage to the iconic leader's unparalleled courage in India's struggle for independence.*

ABOUT PARAKRAM DIWAS

- ❖ **Celebrating Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 127th Birth Anniversary:**
 - India commemorates the **127th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**, observed as Parakram Diwas.
- ❖ **A Day of Tribute and Inspiration:**
 - Parakram Diwas **aims to instil fearlessness and patriotism**, particularly among the youth, drawing inspiration from Netaji's courage.
- ❖ **Legacy of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose:**
 - Remembering Netaji's iconic slogans such as 'Jai Hind,' 'Give me blood and I will give you freedom,' 'Chalo Dilli,' and his emphasis on 'Itmad (Faith), Ittefaq (Unity), and Kurban (Sacrifice).'
- ❖ **Role in India's Struggle for Freedom:**
 - Netaji played a crucial role in India's **fight for independence, resigning from the Indian Civil Service at 24** to actively contribute to the cause.



ABOUT SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

- ❖ Selected for **ICS in 1919 but resigned**, opposing British alignment.
- ❖ Influenced by Vivekananda; **C.R. Das was his political mentor.**
- ❖ **Travelled in Europe during mid-1930s**; Wrote '**The Indian Struggle.**'
- ❖ Elected **Congress President in 1938 (Haripur)**; Advocated **unqualified Swaraj.**
- ❖ **Re-elected in 1939 (Tripuri)**, resigned, formed **All-India Forward Bloc.**
- ❖ **Led INA (Azad Hind Fauj) from 1943**; Contributed to British exit.
- ❖ Advocated economic planning for India's development.



- ❖ Established **Rani Jhansi Regiment for women's empowerment.**
- ❖ Symbolized **unity and heroism**; Famous quote: "**Give me blood, and I shall give you freedom!**"

