



TATHASTU
Institute of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



25th January, 2024



S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	IMPACT OF ISRAEL – HAMAS WAR ON INDIA'S ENERGY SECURITY
2.	INDIA – MYANMAR FREE MOVEMENT REGIME
3.	PRELIMS POINTERS

IMPACT OF ISRAEL – HAMAS WAR ON INDIA'S ENERGY SECURITY

SOURCE: HW NEWSPAPER, INDIAN EXPRESS

TAG: GS Paper II- Government Policies & Interventions, India and its Neighborhood – Relations, Bilateral, Regional & Global Groupings & Agreements Involving India and/or Affecting India's Interests

Mains Practice Question:

Q. Examine the factors contributing to the reconsideration of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar. How have security concerns and regional conflicts influenced the decision?

Q. Evaluate the reasons behind the opposition of Mizoram and Nagaland to the decision to fence the India-Myanmar border and terminate the Free Movement Regime (FMR). How might these oppositions impact the overall dynamics in the region? (15 marks)

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas is affecting the safety of commercial shipping in the Indian Ocean, especially near India. This directly influences the country's energy and economic interests.

INDIA'S STANCE IN ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

- ❖ **Historical Alignment with the Palestinian Cause:** India has a historical connection with the Palestinian cause, initially supporting Palestinian nationalists during Independence. Despite recognizing Israel in 1950, India maintained reserved relations with the Jewish state.
- ❖ **PM Modi's Approach and Pragmatism:** Prime Minister Modi has taken a pragmatic approach, balancing support for Palestine with improved relations with Israel. His support for Israel stems from a shared need to combat Islamic militants.
- ❖ **Strategic Partnership with Israel:** Israel is a crucial ally for India in countering terrorism and is the second-largest weapons provider. The relationship is rooted in a common objective to combat Islamic militants.
- ❖ **Global Perspective and Multipolar World Vision:** India approaches the conflict from a global perspective, positioning itself as a dominant actor on the international stage. This aligns with New Delhi's overarching strategic vision of a multipolar world.
- ❖ **India's Role in Russia-Ukraine Crisis:** Despite historic ties with Russia, India has maintained neutrality in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. While abstaining from condemning the invasion at the UN, India has not voted with Russia on any occasion.
- ❖ **Balancing Act as a Global Statesman:** India's role as an arbiter between conflicting nations showcases its foreign policy heading into 2024. By maintaining ties with both Israel and Palestine, India positions itself as a global statesman.
- ❖ **Foreign Policy Flexibility:** India's ability to balance neutrality effectively, engage with conflicting nations, and mediate in crises demonstrates its foreign policy flexibility and independence.
- ❖ **Global Recognition and Mediation Efforts:** External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar highlights India's valuable mediation role, emphasizing that India's independent stance has contributed to easing the situation.

IMPACT OF ISRAEL – HAMAS WAR ON INDIA

- ❖ **Economic Corridor Disruptions:**
 - The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC), crucial for connecting India and Europe through West Asian countries, may encounter delays or obstacles due to the ongoing conflict.
 - Alignment of Arab countries against Israel could impede the progress of this strategic economic project.



❖ Rupee Depreciation and Inflation:

- **Vulnerability to Crude Oil Prices:** A key risk is the potential supply disruption in crude oil prices due to the escalation in the war, leading to a spike in crude oil prices.
- **Currency Stability and Imports:** High crude oil prices can impact currency stability, making imports more expensive.
- The Indian rupee has depreciated, driven partly by increasing oil prices. Further escalation in oil prices could continue to pressure the rupee.
- A weakened rupee may result in higher inflation and potentially hinder the Reserve Bank of India's plans to reduce interest rates.

❖ Stock Market Volatility:

- Initial volatility in Indian stock markets in response to the Israel-Hamas conflict saw fund withdrawals by investors, but subsequent recovery occurred.
- Ongoing uncertainty in the situation keeps market sentiments fragile, impacting investor confidence.

❖ Trade Challenges:

- India and Israel share a significant bilateral trade relationship, extending beyond diamonds.
- Immediate impacts on trade between the two countries might be limited. However, the conflict's regional escalation, especially involving the UAE as a crucial trading partner, could pose challenges.
- **Security Concerns:** Attacks in the vicinity of India raise security concerns, particularly in the maritime domain, impacting the safe passage of goods and vessels.
- **Maritime Commercial Traffic Disruption:** The ongoing conflict directly impacts the safety of maritime commercial traffic in the Indian Ocean, affecting trade routes near India.

❖ Energy Security at Stake:

The conflict poses a threat to India's energy security as disruptions in maritime routes may impact the smooth transportation of oil and other vital resources.

❖ Economic Implications:

Disruptions in maritime traffic have a direct bearing on India's economic interests, potentially affecting trade, imports, and exports.

- **Government Fiscal Deficit:** Higher crude oil prices may worsen the government's fiscal deficit, as the government might absorb the increase by cutting excise duty.
- **Current Account Deficit (CAD) Widening:** The impact of higher crude oil prices could widen the Current Account Deficit, adversely affecting the currency.
- **Sectoral Profit Margins:** Sectors like aviation, paints, tyres, and chemicals may experience reduced profit margins due to increased input costs.
- **Disposable Incomes and Discretionary Spending:** Negative implications on disposable incomes and discretionary spending can result from high inflation and low sectoral profitability.
- **Potential Supply-Side Issues:** If the conflict escalates, supply-side issues may arise, affecting India's merchandise exports to Israel, primarily in petroleum products.
- **Composition of Exports and Imports:** India exports \$8.4 billion to Israel, with 1.8% being merchandise exports, mainly in petroleum products. India imports equipment, pearls, diamonds, and other precious and semi-precious stones worth \$2.3 billion from Israel.

INDIA'S RESPONSE

- ❖ **Diplomatic Response:** India, through its Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, has highlighted the impact on its interests and emphasized the need to prevent escalation for the continued delivery of humanitarian aid.
- ❖ **International Engagement:** India supports the UN's efforts and the international community's initiatives to address the conflict and mitigate its impact on global and regional stability.



- ❖ **Humanitarian Aid and Diplomacy:** India has actively participated in humanitarian efforts, delivering relief material to the Palestinian people in Gaza and contributing financial support to the **UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)**.
- ❖ **Advocacy for Two-State Solution:** India reiterates its longstanding support for a "two-state solution," emphasizing the need for Palestinians to live freely in an independent country alongside secure borders for Israel.
- ❖ **Global Perspectives:** Various nations, including the United States and France, have expressed their viewpoints on the conflict, emphasizing the importance of a two-state solution and addressing the security threats in the Middle East.
- ❖ **Diplomatic Challenges:** The conflict presents diplomatic challenges for India, requiring a balanced approach to safeguard its interests while contributing to international efforts for peace and stability.

WAY FORWARD

- ❖ **Diplomatic Engagement:**
 - Engage in diplomatic efforts to promote dialogue and resolution in the Israel-Hamas conflict.
 - Strengthen ties with key regional players to influence a peaceful resolution.
- ❖ **Energy Security Diversification:**
 - Diversify energy sources and reduce dependency on West Asian oil to mitigate the impact of oil price fluctuations.
 - Explore alternative energy options and partnerships to enhance energy security.
- ❖ **Economic Corridor Mitigation:**
 - Mitigate risks to the IMEEC by actively participating in conflict resolution efforts.
 - Strengthen diplomatic ties with West Asian countries involved in the economic corridor to ensure project continuity.
- ❖ **Trade Relationship Management:**
 - Strengthen ties with Israel and regional partners to safeguard and diversify trade relationships.
 - Explore alternative trade routes and markets to minimize disruptions caused by regional conflicts.
- ❖ **Continued Monitoring:**
 - Maintain vigilant monitoring of geopolitical developments and their impact on India's interests.
 - Adapt strategies dynamically based on evolving situations to safeguard national interests.



INDIA – MYANMAR FREE MOVEMENT REGIME

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

TAG: GS Paper II- **Government Policies & Interventions, Human Resource**
GS Paper III- **Growth**

Mains Practice Question:

Q. Discuss the role of vocational education in addressing the skills gap and fostering employment opportunities in the current job market.

WHY IN NEWS?

- During a passing out parade of Assam police commandos in Guwahati on January 20, **Home Minister Amit Shah announced plans to erect a fence along the 1,643 km India-Myanmar border.**
- Additionally, he mentioned the **reconsideration of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) agreement with Myanmar to restrict border residents from crossing into each other's countries without proper documentation.**

WHAT IS FREE MOVEMENT REGIME (FMR)?

- **The Free Movement Regime (FMR) is an agreement between India and Myanmar that facilitates cross-border movement for residents living along the India-Myanmar border.** The historical context of the border traces back to the **Treaty of Yandaboo in 1826**, following the British pushing the Burmese out of much of India's northeast. This demarcation, later renamed Myanmar, **divided communities of the same ethnicity and culture, such as the Nagas in Nagaland and Manipur, and the Kuki-Chin-Mizo communities in Manipur and Mizoram, without their consent.** In some instances, the border splits villages or houses between the two countries.
- The FMR, initiated in 2018 under the Indian government's Act East policy, was subject to a year's delay due to the **Rohingya refugee crisis in 2017.**
- The agreement allows individuals residing on either side of the border to travel up to 16 km inside each other's country without requiring a visa. To stay for approximately two weeks per visit, a **border resident must possess a border pass, valid for a year.**
- The FMR not only facilitates cross-border movement but also aims to promote localized border trade through **customs stations and designated markets.** Additionally, it envisions enhancing access to better education and healthcare facilities on the Indian side of the border for the people of Myanmar.
- The FMR serves as a **diplomatic tool, strengthening ties between India and Myanmar while addressing historical challenges created by the colonial legacy and fostering regional cooperation.**

REASONS FOR RECONSIDERING FMR

- ❖ **Security Concerns:**
 - A significant portion of the India-Myanmar border remains unfenced, particularly in hilly and jungle regions.
 - Security forces have long grappled with extremist groups operating from clandestine bases in Myanmar, leading to hit-and-run operations.
- ❖ **Historical Issues:**
 - Cross-border movement, even before the implementation of the FMR, was associated with challenges like inward trafficking of drugs and outward trafficking of wildlife body parts.
- ❖ **Regional Conflict Trigger:**
 - The **conflict between the majority Meitei and tribal Kuki-Zo communities in Manipur on May 3, 2023, triggered a reassessment of the FMR.**



- Manipur authorities expressed concern over the perceived "influx" of Myanmar nationals, particularly Kuki-Chins, leading to calls for a National Register of Citizens similar to Assam.
- ❖ **Civil War Impact:**
 - The conflict coincided with Myanmar nationals seeking refuge in Manipur to escape a civil war in their home country.
- ❖ **Political and Ethnic Tensions:**
 - **Manipur Chief Minister** Nongthombam Biren Singh **attributed ethnic violence to the free movement of Myanmar** nationals into India.
 - **Calls to end the FMR gained momentum**, especially after its suspension on April 1, 2020, during the COVID-19 lockdown, and its subsequent extension following the military coup in Myanmar in February 2021.
- ❖ **Community Accusations:**
 - Kuki-Zo organizations accused the Chief Minister of labelling their community as "illegal immigrants" and "narco-terrorists" as a justification for what they perceive as "ethnic cleansing."

SCALE OF MIGRATION IN INDIA FROM MYANMAR

- During the **civil war in Myanmar**, there was a **significant increase** in the **number of individuals seeking refuge in India**.
- In September 2022, Manipur authorities repatriated around 4,300 out of approximately 5,500 Myanmar nationals from the Moreh area along the border after biometric recording. A committee established by the State government estimated the number of migrants in 2023 at 2,187.
- Additionally, around 40,000 people displaced by the civil war sought refuge in Mizoram, primarily due to their ethnic affiliation. Unlike Manipur, Mizoram has been supportive of the displaced individuals and seeks financial assistance from the Centre to care for them until the situation in Myanmar stabilizes.

OPPOSITION IN MIZORAM AND NAGALAND TO ENDING THE FMR:

- ❖ **Mizoram's Stand:**
 - Chief Minister Lalduhoma expressed opposition to the Centre's move to fence the India-Myanmar border and end the Free Movement Regime (FMR).
 - He highlighted the historical imposition of the border by the British to divide people of the Zo ethnic stock, emphasizing the ethnic ties shared between Mizos and Chin people across the border.
- ❖ **Nagaland's Perspective:**
 - The Nagaland government, where the BJP is a stakeholder, has not officially responded.
 - The Naga Students' Federation, however, condemned the decision to fence the border and terminate the FMR, considering it a regressive step that could escalate conflicts in the region.
- ❖ **Ethnic Ties and Historical Perspective:**
 - Mizoram emphasizes its right to live together with the Chin people across the border due to shared ethnic ties.
 - The Naga Students' Federation urges India to recognize the historical truth that the territories between the Chindwin River in Myanmar and the Saramati mountain in Nagaland belong to the Nagas.



TOPIC

CABINET APPROVAL FOR COAL/LIGNITE GASIFICATION PROMOTION SCHEME

DISCRIPTION

WHY IN NEWS?

The Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a significant scheme for the promotion of Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects, encompassing both Government PSUs and the Private Sector.

ABOUT THE SCHEME

❖ **Objective:**

- ☛ The scheme's primary objective is to encourage coal gasification projects, fostering innovation and development in both the public and private sectors.

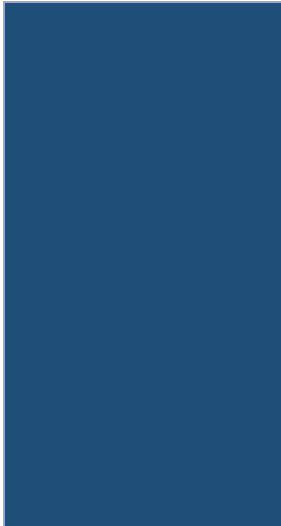
❖ **Scheme Categories and Outlay:**

- ☛ Three categories are defined under the scheme, with a total outlay of Rs.8,500 crore.
 - ☛ Category I allocates Rs.4,050 crore for Government PSUs, supporting up to 3 projects with a lump-sum grant of Rs.1,350 crore or 15% of capex, whichever is lower.
 - ☛ Category II designates Rs.3,850 crore for both private sector and Government PSUs.
 - ☛ Each project is eligible for a lump-sum grant of Rs.1,000 crore or 15% of capex, whichever is lower.
 - ☛ At least one project in this category will be bid out through a tariff-based process.
 - ☛ Category III allocates Rs.600 crore for demonstration projects (indigenous technology) and small-scale product-based Gasification Plants.
 - ☛ Selected entities in this category will receive a lump-sum grant of Rs.100 crore or 15% of capex, whichever is lower, provided they have a minimum Capex of Rs.100 crore and a minimum production of 1500 Nm³/hr Syn gas.
- ❖ **Selection Process:**
- ☛ Entities in Categories II and III will undergo a competitive and transparent bidding process.
 - ☛ The **Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS)** chaired by the **Secretary Coal** is granted **full empowerment to make necessary modalities changes**, ensuring the overall financial outlay remains within the **Rs.8,500 crore budget**.

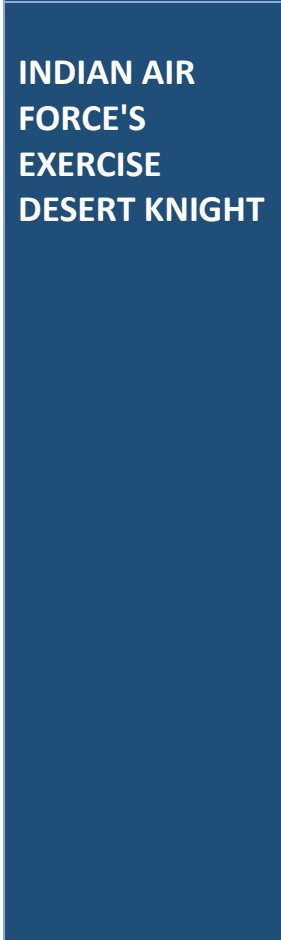


COAL GASIFICATION PROCESS

- ❖ Coal gasification is a process where coal is partially oxidized to create a fuel gas.



- ❖ The gas produced is used as an **energy source, replacing natural gas and methane.**
- ❖ UCG **converts coal into gas within the coal seam and extracts it through wells.**
- ❖ The **process yields Syngas, a mixture of methane, carbon monoxide, hydrogen, carbon dioxide, and water vapor.**
- ❖ Syngas is used to **produce fertilizers, fuels, solvents, and synthetic materials.**
- ❖ The gas generated through **coal gasification serves as an alternative and versatile energy source.**



INDIAN AIR FORCE'S EXERCISE DESERT KNIGHT

WHY IN NEWS?

The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted **Exercise Desert Knight**, in collaboration with the **French Air and Space Force (FASF)** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE) Air Force.**

ABOUT THE EXERCISE

- ❖ **Participants:**
 - ☛ French participation included **Rafale fighter aircraft** and a **Multi-Role Tanker Transport**, while the **UAE Air Force contributed the F-16.**
 - ☛ **IAF's contingent featured Su-30 MKI, MiG-29, Jaguar, AWACS, C-130-J, and Air to Air Refueler aircraft.**
- ❖ **Location:**
 - ☛ Aircraft operated from the **Al Dhafra air base in the UAE**, and the exercise took place in the **Indian Flight Information Region (FIR) over the Arabian Sea.**
 - ☛ **IAF aircraft operated from bases within India.**
- ❖ **Focus of Exercise:**
 - ☛ The primary focus of Exercise Desert Knight **was to enhance synergy and interoperability among the three Air Forces**, fostering the exchange of operational knowledge, experiences, and best practices.



ARAMBAI TENGGOL

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ **Arambai Tenggol, a Meitei radical group, gained attention as Manipur's Meitei MLAs and MPs, including Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha representatives, convened at Kangla Fort in Imphal following "summons" by the group.**

ARAMBAI TENGGOL BACKGROUND:

- ❖ Arambai Tenggol, **initially a cultural outfit in 2020, has evolved into a radical Meitei group.**
- ❖ Suspected involvement in **Meitei-Kuki clashes in May 2023**, alongside another hardline group, **Meitei Leepun.**



- ❖ Accused of arming members and playing a leading role in the clashes, causing tensions in Manipur.

ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ARAMBAI TENGGOL:

- ❖ **Linked to Meitei-Kuki clashes**, accused by **Kuki groups** and security establishments.
- ❖ Allegedly **targeted Naga community members**, resulting in fatalities.
- ❖ **Suspected involvement in a gunfight with Assam Rifles** before Home Minister Amit Shah's visit in **June 2023**.



ARAMBAI TENGGOL'S DEMANDS:

- ❖ **Demands include delisting Kukis from Scheduled Tribes list**, deportation of refugees to Mizoram camps, border fencing, **replacing Assam Rifles**, and revoking **Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with Kuki militant groups**.

PIR PANJAL RANGE

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The Army is **launching Operation Sarvashakti** involving **security forces from both sides of the Pir Panjal range** in Jammu and Kashmir to flush out terrorists who have **been involved in a series of ambushes on Indian troops** carried out in **areas of Rajouri and Poonch**.*

OPERATION SARVASHAKTI LAUNCH:

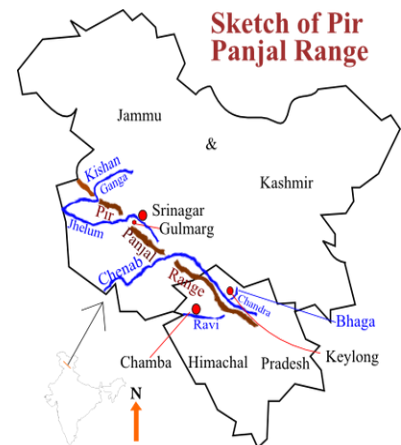
- ❖ **Indian Army initiates Operation Sarvashakti** involving security forces from both sides of the Pir Panjal range.
- ❖ **Aims to flush out terrorists responsible for recent ambushes**, with the Srinagar-based 15 Corps and Nagrota-based 16 Corps operating jointly.

OBJECTIVES OF SARVASHAKTI:

- ❖ Focus on **locating terrorists' hideouts in dense jungles, mountains, and caves** in the Rajouri-Poonch area.
- ❖ **Suspected terrorists responsible for 2023 ambushes** believed to be hiding in these areas.

PIR PANJAL RANGE OVERVIEW:

- ❖ **Location and Extension:**
 - ☛ **Inner Himalayan mountains**, largest in the lower group.
 - ☛ **South of the main outer Himalayan chain**.
 - ☛ Extends from **Nilam River in Azad Kashmir** to **upper Beas River in Himachal Pradesh**.
 - ☛ Spans over **200 miles (320 km)**.
- ❖ **Elevation:**
 - ☛ Gradual rise from **Dhauladhar to an average altitude of 4,000 meters**.
 - ☛ **Notable peaks: Deo Tibba (6,001 meters), Indrasan (6,221 meters)**.





- ☛ **Gulmarg**, a famous hill station, located in the range.
- ❖ **Passes:**
 - ☛ **Major passes:** Pir Panjal pass (3,494 meters), Banihal Pass (2,800 meters), Sinthan Pass, Rohtang La (3,978 meters).
- ❖ **Major Tunnels:**
 - ☛ **Banihal Road Tunnel:** Existing Jawahar Tunnel (2.5 km), new twin-tube tunnel (8.45 km).
 - ☛ **Rohtang Road Tunnel:** Under Rohtang Pass, 8.8 km, India's longest road tunnel.
 - ☛ **Pir Panjal Railway Tunnel:** Asia's third-longest (11.25 km), connecting Banihal and Qazigund.
- ❖ **Geographical Significance:**
 - ☛ **Detaches** from the Himalayas near Sutlej River.
 - ☛ **Segregates** Beas and Ravi rivers from Chenab River.
 - ☛ Crucial for all-weather connectivity, **reducing distances, and preventing disruptions** from snow avalanches.

LEPROSY

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The Union government **approved of a new three-drug regimen for leprosy to halt transmission at the sub-national level by 2027**, replacing the existing two-drug medication for a more effective approach.*

LEPROSY

- ❖ According to WHO, Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease, curable with Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT).

SYMPTOMS OF LEPROSY:

- ❖ Skin lesions, nodules, and patches.
- ❖ Loss of sensation in affected areas.
- ❖ Muscle weakness and numbness.

CAUSES OF LEPROSY:

- ❖ Caused by **Mycobacterium leprae** bacteria, transmitted through respiratory droplets, prolonged, close contact with untreated cases.



TREATMENT FOR LEPROSY:

- ❖ WHO-recommended **Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT)**.
- ❖ Combination of **dapsone, rifampicin, and clofazimine(MDT)**
- ❖ '**Uniform MDT**' simplifies administration with a single three-pack kit.
- ❖ Concerns raised about side effects, including **skin color changes, with clofazimine**.
- ❖ **Duration:** 6 months for Pauci-Bacillary (PB) cases, 12 months for Multi-Bacillary (MB) cases.

INITIATIVES:

- ❖ **National Leprosy Eradication Programme** aims to stop transmission by 2027.
- ❖ **New three-drug regimen for Pauci-Bacillary (PB) cases** approved.
- ❖ World Health Organization (WHO) to supply drugs from April 1, 2025.

WORLD LEPROSY DAY



❖ **Observance date:**

- ☛ Every year, the last Sunday in January is observed as World Leprosy Day.

❖ **History:**

- ☛ Established in 1954 by French philanthropist Raoul Follereau, World Leprosy Day serves as a global awareness day for leprosy.

❖ **Objective:**

- ☛ The main objective is to raise awareness about leprosy, an ancient disease that is now easily curable.
- ☛ The day aims to educate people about the disease, especially considering the lack of awareness, limited access to basic medical care, and the persistent stigma associated with leprosy worldwide.

PLACES IN NEWS: MALI

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ Over 70 people were killed in a **Mali gold mining tunnel collapse**, exposing the risks in one of **Africa's leading gold-producing countries**.
- ❖ Mali faces challenges controlling **artisanal mining**, and the tragedy highlights safety concerns, emphasizing the delicate balance between economic benefits and mining safety.

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES:

- ❖ **Landlocked country in interior Western Africa.**
- ❖ **Shares border with 7 countries** : Algeria, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal and Mauritania.
- ❖ The **Niger River**, one of Africa's major rivers, flows through Mali.

ETHNIC GROUPS AND TRADITIONS:

- ❖ Diverse **sub-Saharan ethnic groups**.
- ❖ **Tuaregs and Maurs (desert nomads)** as exceptions.
- ❖ Good interethnic relations facilitated by mobility and historic ties.

OCCUPATIONS OF ETHNIC GROUPS:

- ❖ Farmers: **Bambara, Malinke, Dogon.**
- ❖ Herders: **Fulani, Maur, Tuareg.**
- ❖ Traders: **Soninkes or Saracoles.**
- ❖ Fishers: **Bozo.**

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- ❖ **Gold, phosphates, kaolin, salt, limestone, uranium, gypsum, granite, and hydropower.**



NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ The **Election Commission of India** is set to observe the **14th National Voters' Day (NVD) on January 25, 2024**, with Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu as the Chief Guest. The celebration marks the **ECI's 75th year of service**,



coinciding with the release of a commemorative postage stamp on "Inclusive Elections."

NATIONAL VOTERS DAY

❖ **Historical Significance:**

- ☛ ECI celebrates its **75th year of service to the Nation on January 25, 2024.**
- ☛ National Voters' Day marks the **foundation day of ECI since January 25, 1950.**

❖ **Purpose of National Voters' Day:**

- ☛ Create electoral **awareness among citizens.**
- ☛ Encourage **participation in the electoral process.**
- ☛ **Facilitate the enrolment of new voters**, especially the youth.

❖ **Theme and Awards:**

- ☛ **Theme for NVD 2024: 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure.'**
- ☛ Hon'ble President will present **Best Electoral Practices Awards** for outstanding performance in the **conduct of 2023 elections.**
- ☛ Awards to state and district level officers, **government departments, and media organizations.**

❖ **Commemorative Initiatives:**

- ☛ Release of a commemorative postage stamp on **"Inclusive Elections"** to mark ECI's **75th year of service.**
- ☛ Launch of an **innovative multimedia campaign for Voter Education and Awareness** for the 2024 Parliamentary Elections.

