



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

11th January 2025

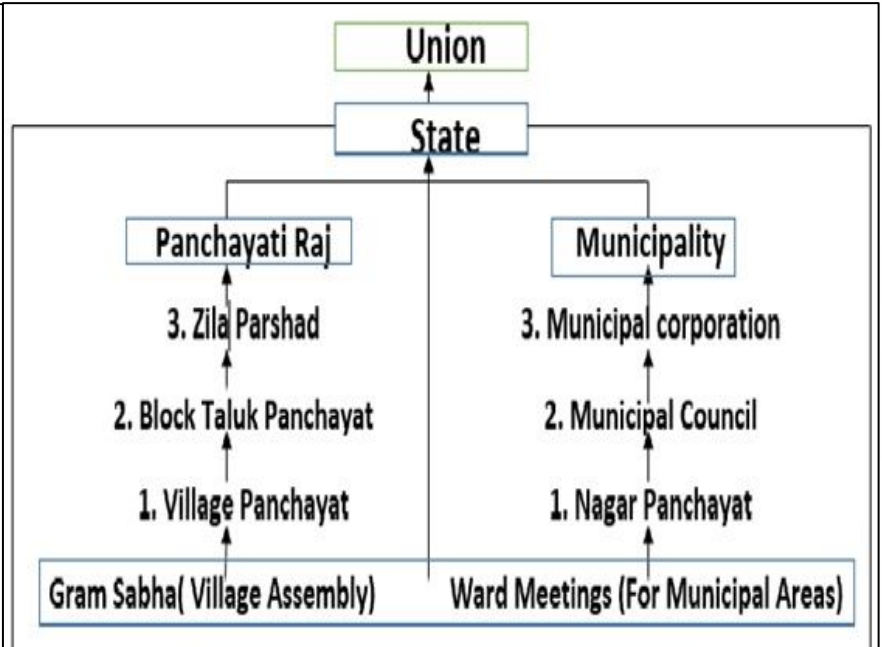


CONTEXT: There has been delay in conducting local body elections in Tamil Nadu.

- Tendency towards **designing political processes** that shift as much decision-making authority as practical to the organization's **lowest geographic or social level of organization.**
- **73rd & 74th Constitutional Amendment-1993**

73RS AND 74TH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACTS, 1992:

- The panchayats constitutional status (previously panchayat matters were considered as state subjects);
 - An institutionalised three tier system at village, block and district levels;
 - The amendment stipulated that all panchayat members be elected for five year term in the elections supervised by the state election commission.
- Reservation for Women, SCs and STs (not less than 33%)
 - Compulsory elections every five years
 - To levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees.
 - Preparation of plan for economic development and social justice.



Compulsory provisions of the act:

- Gram Sabha to be **constituted in a village or a group of villages**
- Establishment of panchayat at village, intermediate and district
- **Direct elections** to all the above
- **Chairperson of the panchayats** at the intermediate and district level to be elected by **Indirect Elections**

Committees on Panchayati Raj

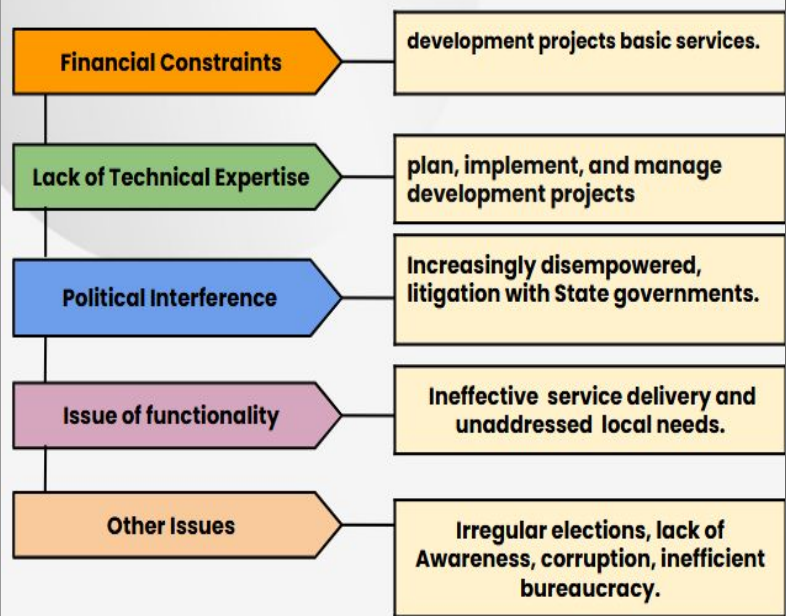
Committee	Year	Important Recommendations
1. Balwant Rai Mehta Committee	1957	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three – tier Panchayati Raj System – Gram Panchayat at Village level, Panchayat Samiti at Block level & Zila Parishad at district level.
2. Ashok Mehta Committee	1977	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two – tier PR System – Mandal Panchayats at Village level & Zila Panchayat at district level. • Official representation of Political Parties at all levels of Panchayat elections. • Seat for SCs & STs should be reserved. • Constitutional recognition to PRIs.
3. GVK Rao Committee	1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular elections to the PRIs.
4. LM Singhvi Committee	1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular, Free & fair elections to PRIs. • Establishment of Nyaya Panchayats. • More financial resources to village Panchayats.

CONTEXT: There has been delay in conducting local body elections in Tamil Nadu.

- Minimum age for **contesting elections is 21 years.**
- **Reservation of seats for SC and STs** in panchayats at all levels,
- 1/3rd seats for women in panchayats to be Reserved.
- **Fixing of tenure of 5 years and holding elections within six months** in any event of supersession of any panchayat
- **Establishment of state election commission**
- Constitution of **state finance commission after every 5 years** to review the financial position of the panchayats

Voluntary provisions of the act:

- Giving representation to **members of the Parliament and state legislature at various levels of the panchayats**
- Providing **reservation of seats for backward classes**
- Devolutions of **powers and representation**
- Granting **financial powers to the panchayats**

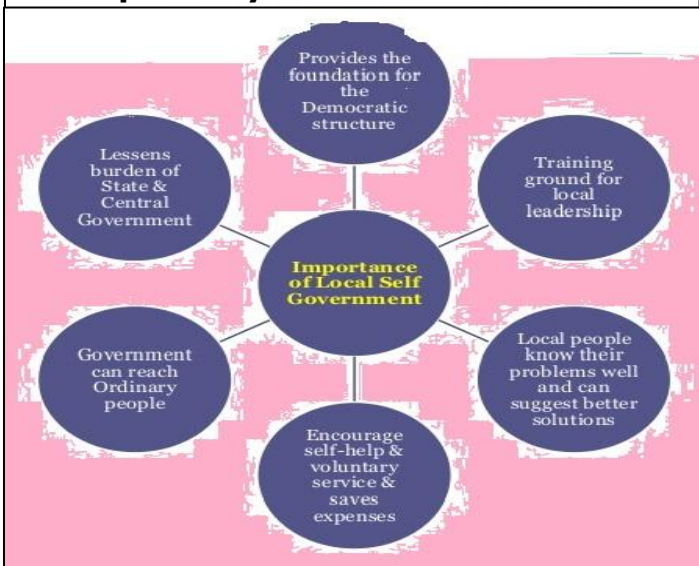


Average Revenue per Panchayat (₹ thousand per Panchayat)			
Revenue Receipts	2,117	2,320	2,123
A. Own Tax Revenue	24	26	21
B. Own Non-Tax Revenue	68	72	73
C. Grants-in-aid	2,026	2,221	2,029
(i) Grants from Central Government	1,640	1,846	1,694
(ii) Grants from State Government	377	366	327

Note: Grants-in-aid include grants from Centre, States, and other institutions.
Source: MoPR.

Case Study:

- **Hiware Village** - Ahmednagar District: turned itself into prosperous village
- **Used Funds from Government Schemes-** regenerate Natural Forests, water and soil management led by strong village body-Sarpanch



CONTEXT: There has been delay in conducting local body elections in Tamil Nadu.

Parameters speaks about success of Hiware Bazar



Due to water availability by watershed development, Cultivable land increased from 70 ha in 1993 to 260 ha in 2006.



In 2006 income from agriculture alone was 24784000. Grass production increased from 100 MT in 2000 to 1000 MT in 2004.



Due to high increase in fodder cultivation milk production increased from 150 lpd in 1990 to 4000 lpd in 2006



In 1995 year 168 out of 182 families were BPL. In 2010 only 3 families are BPL. By 2010 village income increased twenty fold. 50 families become *Millionaires*



Hiware Bazar was awarded 'National water award' by GOI in 2007. Hiware Bazar continues to inspire other villages and people.

Mains Practise Question:

Q- Discuss the challenges faced by local governments in India and suggest effective solutions to address these issues.

(10 Marks 150 Words)

What should be done?

Empowering SECs for Delimitation and Reservations: Improving Transparency and Independence SECs

Addressing Malpractices: Eg. election of the Mayor in the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation in 2024.

Financial Autonomy: FC devolution, revenue sharing, Empowerment

Accountability : mechanisms for public oversight. Capacity Building: Provide training and resources to local officials.

Public involvement in decision-making. Institutional Reforms: Modernize and streamline local governance structures.



Symptom of a Larger Malady



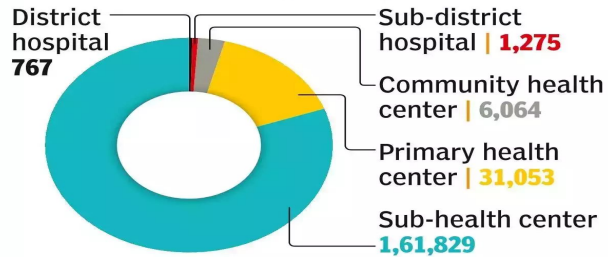
CONTEXT: A write up has appeared discussing the need for reforms in health sector.

Symptom of a Larger Malady:

- **Rising Demand:** Increased chronic diseases, accidents drive the need for emergency medical transport.
- **Evolving Services:** From hospital-based to NGO-led, government-funded, and now private sector involvement.
- **Focus on Patient Transfer:** most focus on basic transport, not critical care.
- **Lack of ALS Units:** small fraction of ambulances, Advanced Life Support capabilities.
- **Urban Challenges:** Rapid urbanization, traffic congestion pose significant hurdles, timely emergency response.
- **Private Sector Entry:** Increased access, concerns about driver pressure and cost.
- **4 out of 5 public health centers below par :** Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS)
- **Economic Survey 2022- 23-** Government Health Expenditure : 2.1 % of GDP

HEALTH REPORT CARD

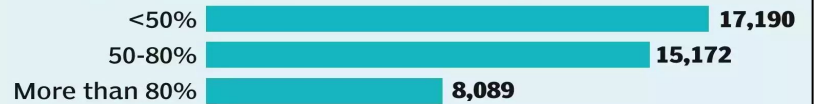
Total public health facilities in India **2,00,988**



No of health facilities assessed as per IPHS **40,451**



Score of assessed health facilities



Inadequate Healthcare Infrastructure

0.6 beds/1000 population vs. WHO recommendation of 3.5), NHP 2021 GoI

Shortage of Healthcare Professionals

1:834 vs WHO 1:1000

High Out-of-Pocket Expenditure

39.4% 2021-22 Health Ministry

Unequal Access to Quality Healthcare

disparities in access based on location (rural vs. urban), income, and social status.

Prevalence of Communicable, Non-Communicable Diseases

High burden of infectious diseases, rising incidence of chronic diseases.



Symptom of a Larger Malady



CONTEXT: A write up has appeared discussing the need for reforms in health sector.

Ayushman Bharat	Affordable and accessible healthcare to poor and vulnerable families through a comprehensive health insurance scheme (PM-JAY) and a network of Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs).
National Health Mission (NHM)	Improve rural healthcare infrastructure, strengthen primary healthcare, and reduce maternal and child mortality.
Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)	Provide financial protection to poor and vulnerable families for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
National AIDS Control Programme (NACP)	Prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India.
National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)	To eliminate tuberculosis in India.
Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)	To provide affordable generic medicines to the masses.

What should be done?

Strengthen Primary Healthcare:
Improve access & quality

Increase Healthcare Spending:
Adequate funding

Address Human Resource Shortage

Promote Preventive Care:
Focus on health education & wellness

Utilize Technology:
Telemedicine & digital health records



What breaching 1.5 deg C means?



SYLLABUS: GS3 Paper : Environment pollution and degradation
Newspaper: Indian Express **Page Number:** 14

THE YEAR 2024 has now been confirmed to have breached the 1.5 degree Celsius global warming threshold, becoming the first calendar year to do so.

The annual average temperature of Earth's surface in 2024 was 1.6 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times (average of the 1850-1900 period), according to data from the Copernicus Climate Change Service run by the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF).

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) used six datasets, including the one used by ECMWF, to conclude that 2024 was 1.55 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial levels. Each of the six datasets found 2024 to be the warmest year ever, but not all of them recorded the warming to be in excess of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The 2024 breach does not mean that the 1.5 degree target is over. This target, mentioned in the 2015 Paris Agreement, refers to long-term temperature trends, usually over two to three decades, not annual or monthly averages.

The breach does not come as a surprise. The WMO as been saying for more than two years now that this threshold was almost certain to be crossed before 2027.

As a result, this new data is unlikely to trigger any fresh response measures from countries to deal with the problem of climate change — something that has so far been severely inadequate.

Global emissions are still on the rise, and the 2030 emission cut targets are almost certain to be missed. Therefore, there is every likelihood that the breach that has happened in 2024 would become a norm within the next decade.

The year 2024 has now become the warmest year ever, taking over from 2023 which was 1.45 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial levels. Together, these two years were exceptionally warm, and

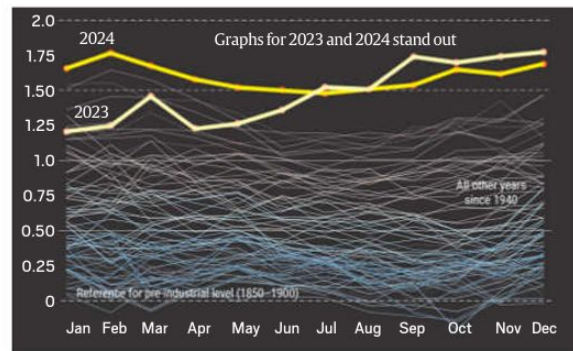
The years 2023 and 2024 stand out even in the rapidly warming trend witnessed in the last decade, ECMWF said. For instance, the previous warmest year, 2016, which was 1.29 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial levels, was influenced by a very strong El Niño — a periodic oceanic phenomenon in

the eastern Pacific Ocean that has a big impact on global weather. El Niño has a general warming effect, while its opposite phenomenon, called La Niña, has a cooling effect.

There was an El Niño prevailing during 2023 and 2024 as well, but it was mild compared to the 2015-2016 event. ECMWF said the unusual warming of 2023 and 2024 could be

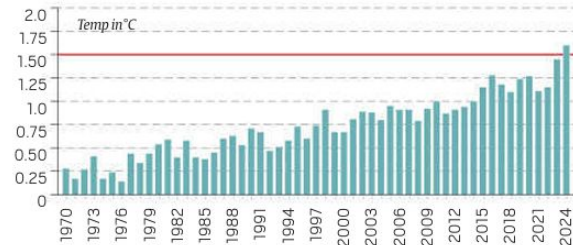
The unusual warming could also be because of the Sun, which was in its solar maximum phase in 2024 during its routine 11-year solar cycle. During the cycle, the magnetic poles of the Sun flip from one end to the other. ECMWF said an increase in the solar energy reaching the Earth during the solar maximum phase could have contributed to the warming.

MONTHLY GLOBAL TEMPS ABOVE PRE-INDUSTRIAL TIMES



Source: Copernicus

RIISING AVG ANNUAL TEMPS ABOVE PRE-INDUSTRIAL TIMES



Source: WMO



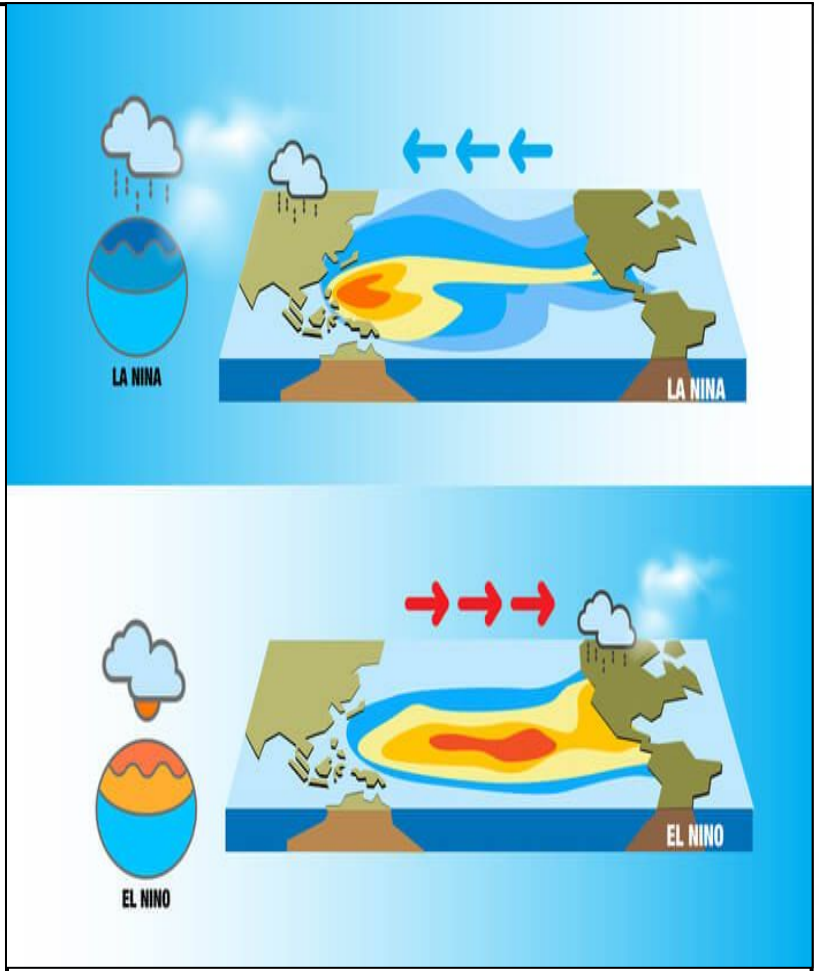
What breaching 1.5 deg C means?

SYLLABUS: GS3 Paper : Environment pollution and degradation
Newspaper: Indian Express **Page Number: 14**

The exceptional trends seen in 2023 and 2024 are unlikely to continue this year. As of now, 2025 is not expected to emerge as the warmest year. However, it is unlikely to be substantially cooler either. In the last decade, annual temperatures have been between 1.1 and 1.4 degrees Celsius higher than pre-industrial levels, and this year is expected to fall in the same bracket.

Incidentally, the UK Met Office, in a forecast issued last month, said 2025 could very well emerge as the third warmest year ever, after 2024 and 2023.

- **La Niña:** Cooling of **sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean**, also causing shifts in global weather patterns, often with opposite effects to El Niño.
- **El Niño:** Warming of **sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean**, leading to changes in global weather patterns, such as **increased rainfall in some regions and droughts in others.**



Factory Output Growth Hits 6 Months High



SYLLABUS: Prelims & GS 3 Paper : Indian Economy
Newspaper: Indian Express **Page Number:** 15

INDIA'S FACTORY output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), rose to a six-month high of 5.2 per cent in November from 3.7 per cent in October, mainly due to a favourable base effect along with a pickup in manufacturing, capital goods, and consumer durables.

It had grown by 2.5 per cent in November 2023. Cumulatively so far in the financial year 2024-25, industrial growth has been recorded at 4.1 per cent during April-November as against 6.5 per cent in the year-ago period.

Manufacturing, which accounts for 77.6 per cent of the weight of the IIP, surged to an eight-month high of 5.8 per cent in November from 4.4 per cent in October and 1.3 per cent in November 2023 primarily due to a pickup amid the festive season. "Quite clearly the needle

Mining output picked pace to 1.9 per cent in November from 0.9 per cent in October even though it was lower than 7.0 per cent growth in the year-ago period. Electricity output grew by 4.4 per cent in November from 2.0 per cent in October. It had

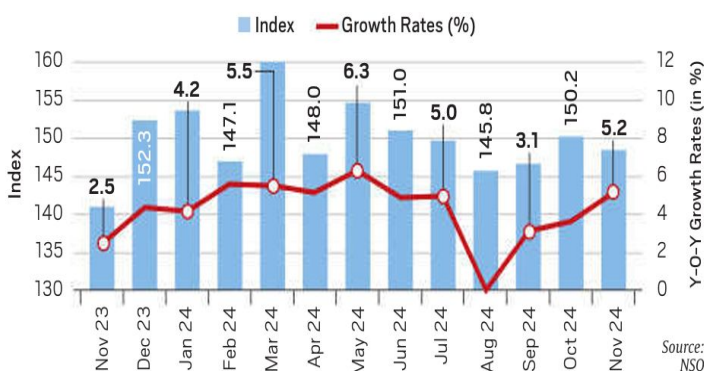
- An indicator that measures the **growth rate of various industry groups** in an economy over time.
- **Composite index**, meaning it combines the **output of various industries using weights** to reflect their relative importance.
- A key indicator of overall economic health.
- **Published by: National Statistical Office (NSO).**
- **Frequency:** Typically released on a monthly basis

Fig. 1: Industrial production at a glance

% y-o-y	Weight %	June 2019	July 2019	Aug 2019
Industrial output	100	1.2	4.6	-1.1
Use-based classification				
Primary goods	34.1	0.4	3.5	1.1
Capital goods	8.2	(6.8)	(7.2)	(21.0)
Intermediate goods	17.2	12.6	14.7	7.0
Infrastructure/ Construction	12.3	(1.9)	3.5	(4.5)
Consumer durables	12.8	(10.2)	(2.7)	(9.1)
Consumer nondurables	15.3	7.1	8.4	4.1
Sectoral classification				
Mining	14.4	1.5	4.8	0.1
Manufacturing	77.6	0.2	4.5	(1.2)
Electricity	8.0	8.2	4.8	(0.9)

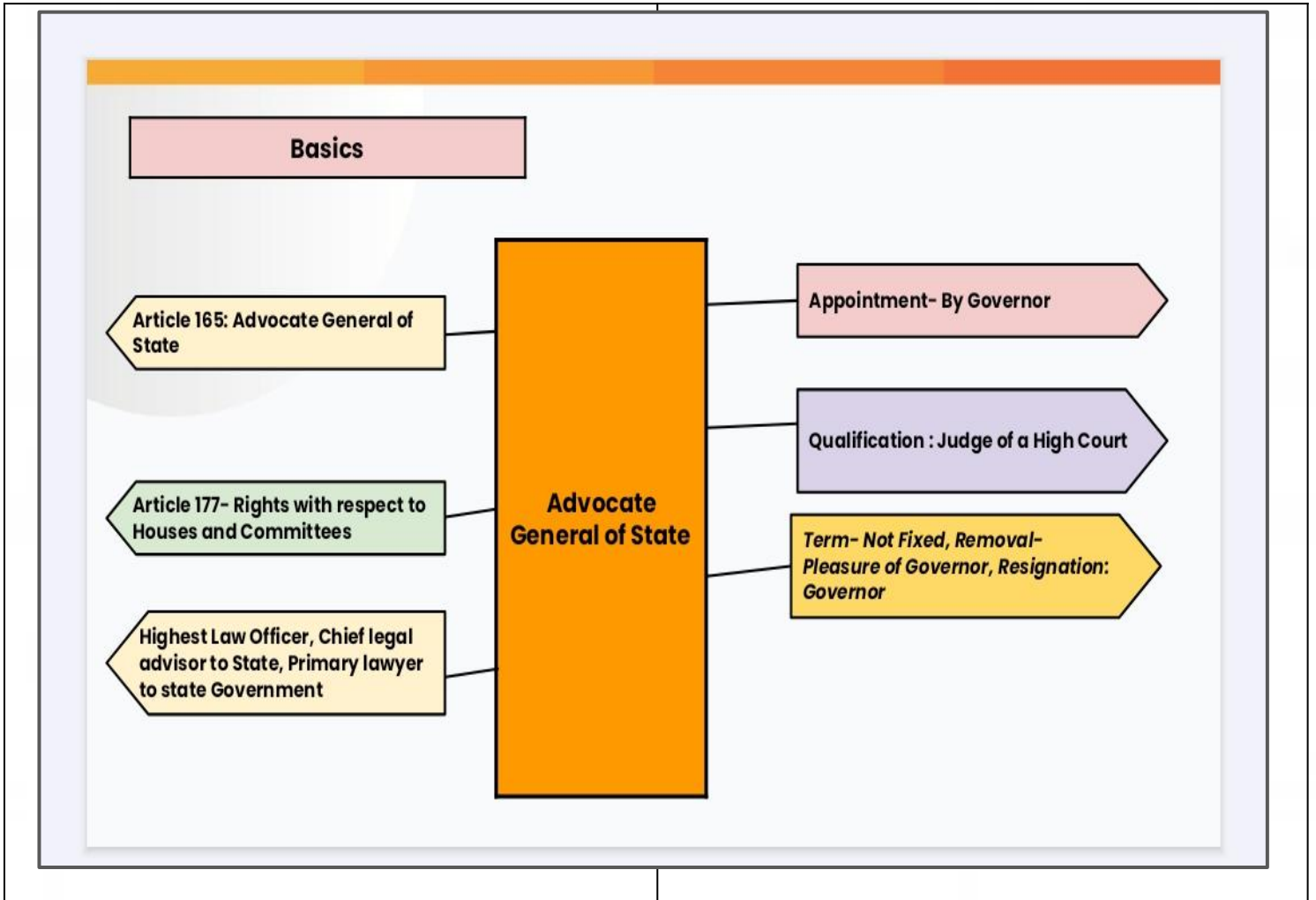
Source: CEIC and Nomura Global Economics

ALL INDIA INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION



SYLLABUS: GS2 Paper: Indian Constitution

Newspaper: Indian Express **Page Number: 01**



SYLLABUS: GS 2 Paper : Important International Institutions
Newspaper: Indian Express **Page Number: 16**

Differences between the ICJ and the ICC

	 ICJ International Court of Justice	 ICC International Criminal Court
Established	1945	2002
UN-relationship	Highest court of the UN	Not part of the UN
Location	The Hague, the Netherlands	The Hague, the Netherlands
Jurisdiction	UN member-states	Individuals
Types of cases	Legal disputes between states and requests for advisory opinions on legal questions	Prosecutes individuals for the most serious crimes as per the Rome Statute
Appeals	No	Yes
Enforcement power	None - relies on the UN Security Council to uphold judgements, with permanent members having veto power	None - relies on cooperation from member states to enforce its decisions

THE US House of Representatives voted on Thursday to sanction the International Criminal Court in protest at its arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense chief over the war in Gaza.



SYLLABUS: GS 2 Paper : Fundamnetal Rights & Judiciary
Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 4,5

- 'Bail' is originated from an old French verb 'bailer' which means 'to give' or 'to deliver'.
- CrPC empowers magistrates to grant bail for bailable offences as a matter of right.
- Non-bailable offences- magistrate would determine if the accused is fit to be released on bail.
- Non-bailable offences- cognisable, enables police officer to arrest without a warrant.

Types of Bail :

- **Regular Bail:** Court orders the release of a person who is under arrest, from Police custody after paying bail money.
 - a. Application for regular bail under **Section 437 and 439 of Crpc. (480 BNSS and 483 in BNS**

- **Interim Bail:** order by the court to provide **temporary** and **short-term bail** to the accused **until his regular or anticipatory bail application is pending before the court.**
- **Anticipatory Bail :** Person under apprehension of arrest for a non-bailable offence may apply for **anticipatory bail to the High Court or the Court of Session under Section 438 of CrPC. (482 of BNSS)**



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 1992:

1. It provides constitutional status to Panchayat bodies.
2. It states that all Panchayat members will be elected for 5 year terms.
3. It provides for reservation of 33% seats for Women only.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: a

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. La Nina is warming of sea surface temperatures in the Central & Eastern pacific ocean.
2. El Nino is the cooling of sea surface temperature in the Eastern & Western Pacific ocean.
3. During the 11 year solar cycle, the magnetic poles of the sun flips from one end to another.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: b

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Index of Industrial Production (IIP):

1. It is published by the Office of Economic Advisor (OEA).
2. It is always released on a quarterly basis.

3. It combines output of various industries to showcase the growth rate.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: a

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Advocate General of State:

1. S/He is the highest law officer in the state.
2. S/He is appointed by the President of India
3. S/He shall be qualified enough to become a Judge of a High Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1 and 2 only

Answer: c

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the International Criminal Court (ICC):

1. It was established in the year 2002 under the Rome Statute.
2. It acts as the highest court of the United Nations.
3. India has signed & ratified the Rome Statute.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: a





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