



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

26th November 2025



AI, Deep Fakes & Personality Rights



CONTEXT : India needs legislation that explicitly defines personality rights and enforces AI watermarking, platform liability, and global collaboration

What are 'Deep Fakes'?

- *AI-generated synthetic media*
- **Deep Learning Techniques**
- *Realistically manipulate*
- **Deep Fakes relies on -**
 - Generative AI models (e.g. GANs)
 - Large datasets of human images/voices

What are Personality Rights?

- Legal Rights of an Individual
- Commercial and Non-Commercial use
- Identity Attributes
- **Components of Personality Rights -**
 - Right to Privacy
 - Right of Publicity
- **Constitutional Basis in India**
 - Article 21
 - Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)

Why 'Deep Fakes' a concern?

- Replicates features - w/o Consent
- Spreads 'Disinformation'
- Erodes Trust - genuine media
- Reputation Damage
- Enables extortion, fraud, etc.
- Threatens Public Order

Key Data:

- Europol (2023)
- MIT Study (2023)
- NCRB Cyber-crime data (2022 & 2023)

India's Legal Position: A Hybrid Model

India does not have a single statute on personality rights

HYBRID -

(A) Constitutional Protection

- Article 21, Article 19(1)(a) & Article 300A

(B) Statutory Laws Invoked -

- Information Technology Act, 2000: Section 66D, Section 66E, Section 67 & 67A & Intermediary Guidelines (2021, amended 2023-24)

(C) Criminal Law - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023

(D) Copyright and Trademark Law - unfair use claims.

(E) Judicial Precedents

- Titan Industries v. Ramkumar Jewellers (2012)
- ICC Development v. Arvee Enterprises (2003)
- Amitabh Bachchan v. Rajat Nagi (2022)
- Anil Kapoor v. Simply Life India (2023)
- Arijit Singh v. Codible Ventures (2024)

International Frameworks

(A) European Union - Dignity Model

- GDPR (2016)
- EU AI Act (2024)

(B) United States - Property Model

- Varies by state (California strongest)
- Tennessee ELVIS Act (2024)

(C) China - Strict Control Model

(D) UNESCO Ethical AI Guidelines (2021)



AI, Deep Fakes & Personality Rights



CONTEXT : India needs legislation that explicitly defines personality rights and enforces AI watermarking, platform liability, and global collaboration

Key Challenges in India

- **No Codified Law** – judge-made; Inconsistency
- **Cross-border Hosting** – foreign servers; slow down removal
- **Lack of AI-specific provisions** – No legal definition; Limits prosecution
- **Platform Liability Issues** – safe-harbour protection; Frequent Violations
- **Enforcement & Capacity Constraints** – Cyber forensics; Lack of Trained HR
- **Risk of Over-Regulation** – innovation ~ protection

Way Forward

- **National Legislation on Personality Rights** – Statutory definition; Civil and criminal remedies
- **AI Deepfake Regulation**– Mandatory watermarking
- for all AI-generated audiovisual content; Disclosure norms; Stricter penalties
- **Strengthen Intermediary Liability** – Time-bound removal
- **Dedicated AI & Deepfake Crime Units** – Expansion – I4C
- **International Collaboration** – Cross-border data sharing; G20 – DEWG
- **Public Awareness Campaigns** – IEC
- **Ethical AI Development** – UNESCO & OECD AI Principles; Robust Auditing

Mains Practise Question

With the rise of generative AI and deep fake technologies, traditional notions of personality rights are facing unprecedented stress. Discuss the challenges posed by deepfakes to personality rights and highlight the measures needed to balance innovation with protection against identity misuse.

(15 Marks, 250 words)



What does the draft Seeds Bill entail?



CONTEXT: The Union Agriculture Ministry released the draft Seeds Bill and has invited public comments.

Background and Rationale

- Seeds Act, 1966 & the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983
- draft Seeds Bill – Public Comments
- Seed Demand – 2023–24 – 462.31 lakh quintals

Key Provisions in the New Draft Bill

- Farmers' Rights – Retention of Right; Limited Restriction
- Classification of Key Actors – Farmer, Dealer, Distributor, Producer
- Institutional Mechanisms
 - Central Seed Committee
 - State Seed Committees
- Mandatory Registration – All SPUs; Central Accreditation System
- National Seed Register and Field Trials – VCU Field Trials
 - National Register of seed varieties
 - VCU Field Trials
- Seed Testing and Enforcement
 - Central and State Seed Testing Laboratories
 - Seed inspectors – BNSS
 - Penalties

Changes From the 2019 Draft

- Stricter Offences and Penalties – ₹25,000–₹5 lakh + up to 1 year jail
- Stronger Link to Farmers' Rights – PPVFR Act
- Tighter Quality Standards
- Liberalised Import Policy
- Seed Demand – 2023–24 – 462.31 lakh quintals

Farmers' Concerns and Criticisms

- Fear of Corporate Control and Pricing – SKM & AICS – 'corporate dominance'
- Threat to Seed Sovereignty – MNCs Monopoly
- Conflict with Existing Safeguards
 - PPVFR Act, 2001
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Centralisation and Bureaucratisation – Could weaken –
 - Community Seed Systems
 - Farmer Autonomy
 - Dilute biodiversity protection

Mains Practise Question

In the light of the recently tabled draft Seeds Bill for public comments, highlight the important provisions and also discuss the associated concerns.

(10 Marks, 150 words)



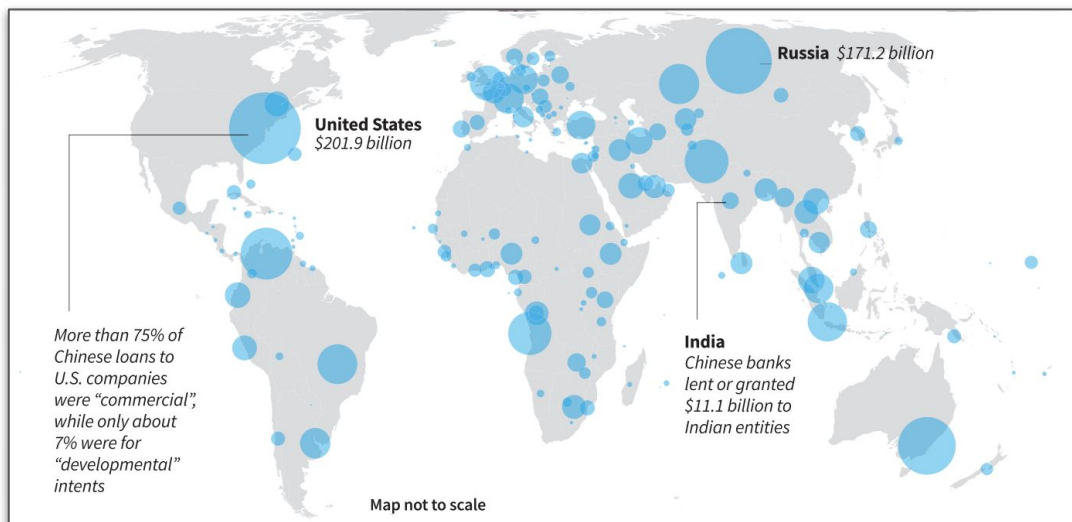
Decoding the News

China lent more than \$2 trillion in loans and grants to over 80% of countries and regions in the world between 2000 and 2023. The U.S. was the biggest beneficiary, according to data released by AidData, a research institute at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Over the years, Chinese state-owned entities have lent about \$200 billion for nearly 2,500 projects and initiatives – more than 9% of the total amount lent by China – to American companies. Over 95% of this amount was lent by Chinese state-owned banks, enterprises, and the central bank, while the rest was lent by non-state players.

Map 1 shows the amounts lent by China to various countries between 2000 and 2023. Across the world, during that period, 179 out of 217 countries and territories received at least one loan from a Chinese state-owned creditor. China was the world's largest creditor and debt collector in 2023, lending \$140 billion to various countries.

Entities in Russia and Australia were the second and the third biggest beneficiaries in the last two decades, receiving \$172 billion and \$130 billion, respectively, in the period. Firms in the 27 member states of the European Union received \$161 billion for 1,800 projects and activities.



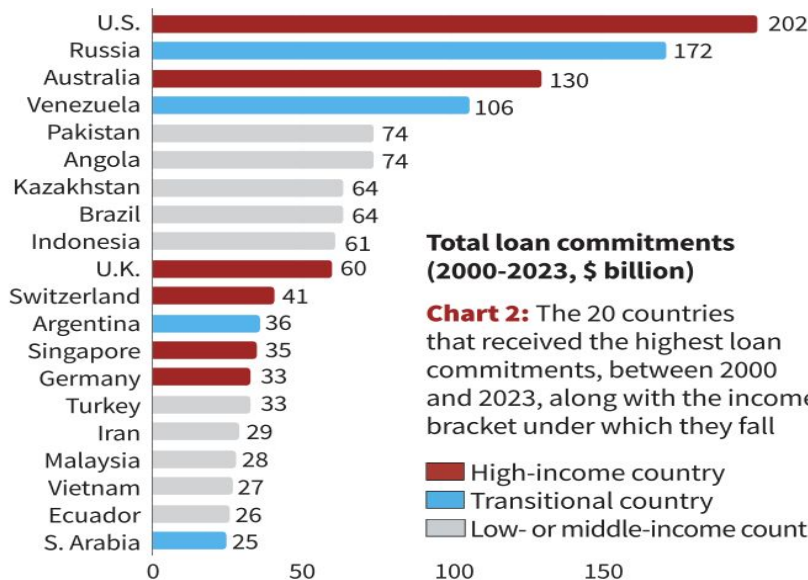
Map 1: Amounts lent/granted to entities in various countries by China, between 2000 and 2023. Over 80% of countries/territories have received at least one loan from China

Chart 2 shows the 20 countries that received the highest loan commitments between 2000 and 2023, along with the income bracket under which they fall. Of the countries shown in the chart, six are considered “high-income” countries, which together received more than 20% of the total amount lent by China in the period. About \$943 billion was lent to high-income countries overall.

Beijing is moving away from its

role as an aid provider to relatively poorer nations, as its focus has shifted towards commercial lending for developed countries. For instance, more than 75% of Chinese loan transactions with U.S. companies were “commercial” in nature, while only about 7% were for “developmental” intents, as per the data. China had lent about \$320 million to the U.S. in 2000; this surged to about \$19 billion in 2023, which hints at the “commercial” turn the investments took.

China's initial focus was on infrastructural development projects in economically disadvantaged nations. Chinese President Xi Jinping launched the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013, which helped develop energy, infrastructure, and connectivity projects in Europe and Asia. The AidData report details how China has scaled back on its lending to such projects; where BRI once made up 75% of China's lending operations, it now makes up about 25%.



Total loan commitments (2000-2023, \$ billion)

Chart 2: The 20 countries that received the highest loan commitments, between 2000 and 2023, along with the income bracket under which they fall

■ High-income country
■ Transitional country
■ Low- or middle-income country

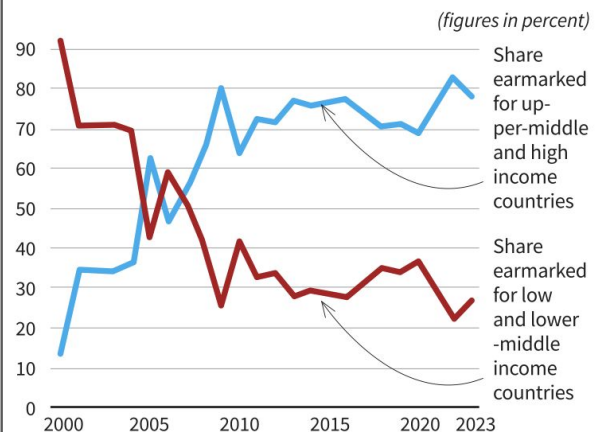
Decoding the News

Chart 3 shows the share of high-income and low-income countries in China's portfolio. The report finds that in a typical year, China spent about \$5.7 billion on what can be classified as aid for official development assistance. However, in 2023, China's global official development assistance commitments fell to \$1.9 billion.

According to the report, China has an 80% success rate for getting overseas mergers and acquisitions approved. This is because of the relatively weak screening mechanisms for foreign capital inflow in most countries that China invested in. The report also alleges that China managed this by channelling funds through off-shore shell companies and international bank syndicates.

As of 2023, Indian entities have borrowed or were granted \$11.1 billion from China, with a large amount of this dedicated to the energy sector and banking and financial services. Most of the funds were borrowed with a mix of commercial and developmental intent.

Chart 3: The share of high-income and low-income countries in China's portfolio. Where Belt and Road Initiative once made up 75% of China's lending operations, it now makes up 25%



SYLLABUS : Prelims International Relations **GS 2** International Relations
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number : 7**

Prelims Booster

What is the Belt and Road Initiative?

■ About:

- The BRI, represents a **multifaceted development strategy** aimed at enhancing **global connectivity and cooperation**.
- It was launched in 2013 and *aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe* with a network of land and sea routes.
 - The project was first named the **'One Belt, One Road'** but renamed as the BRI to convey a more open and inclusive initiative as opposed to a Chinese-dominated one.
- The initiative includes two principal components: the **Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road**.

■ Routes of BRI:

- **Silk Road Economic Belt:**
 - This segment of the BRI is dedicated to improving connectivity, infrastructure, and trade links across Eurasia through a network of **overland transportation routes**.
- **Maritime Silk Road:**
 - This component emphasizes maritime connections and cooperation in the form of ports, shipping routes, and maritime infrastructure projects.
 - It *begins via the SCS* going towards Indo-China, South-East Asia and then around the IO thus reaching Africa and Europe.

■ Objective:

- The primary goal of the BRI is to boost international connectivity by enhancing infrastructure, trade, and economic cooperation.
 - The initiative encompasses a wide range of projects, including railways, ports, highways, and energy infrastructure.

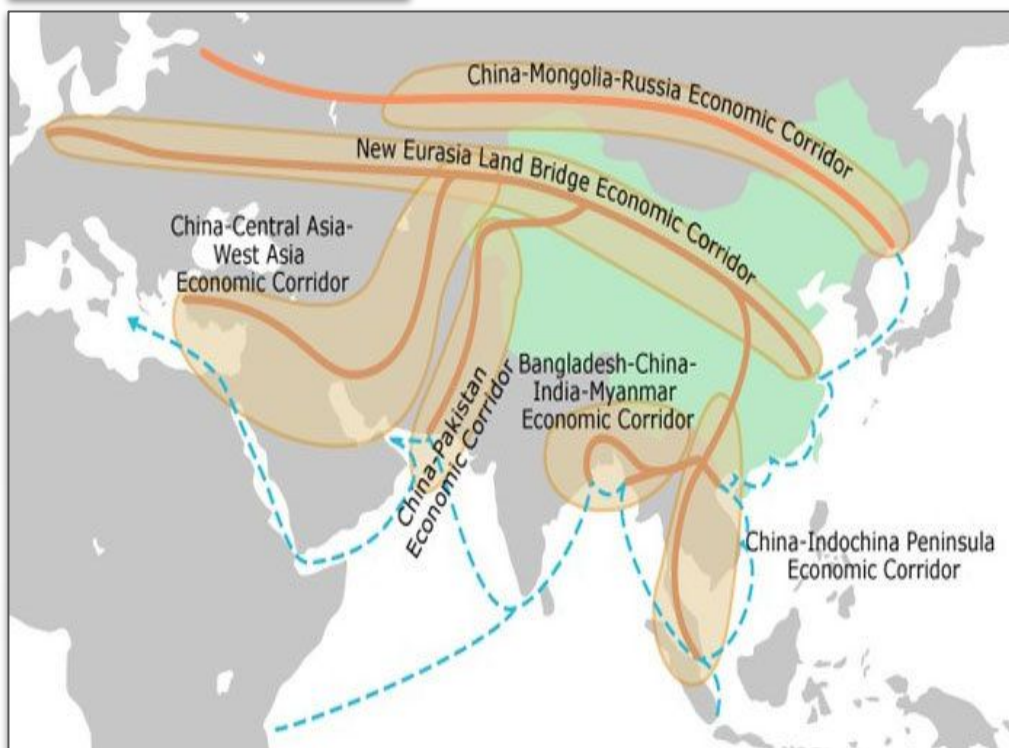
■ Geographic Corridors:

- The land-based Silk Road Economic Belt envisions six key corridors for development:
 - China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
 - New Eurasian Land Bridge Economic Corridor.
 - China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor.
 - China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor.
 - China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor.
 - China-Myanmar Economic Corridor.



SYLLABUS : Prelims International Relations **GS 2** International Relations
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number : 7**

Prelims Booster



What are the Issues Concerned with the BRI?

- **Debt Burden:** The debt sustainability and transparency of the BRI projects, especially in countries with weak governance, high corruption, and low credit ratings.
- **Multilateral Governance:** The BRI is not a multilateral initiative but rather a collection of mostly bilateral projects. This decentralized approach can lead to coordination and governance challenges.
- **Political Tensions:** Geopolitical rivalries and disputes, such as the India-China border dispute, have affected the implementation of BRI projects in certain regions. These political tensions can undermine the initiative's progress.
- **Environmental and Social Concerns:** Infrastructure development projects under the BRI have faced criticism for their potential environmental and social impacts.
- **Geostrategic Concerns:** The BRI has raised geopolitical concerns, particularly regarding China's growing influence and control over critical infrastructure in partner countries.



SYLLABUS : Prelims Environment GS 3: Environmental Pollution
Newspaper : The Hindu Page Number : 12

Toxic air is a year-round blight in nearly 60% of Indian districts: study

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

People in 60% of India's districts are exposed to polluted air all through the year, not just in winter, according to an analysis by a research body published on Tuesday. This means that 447 of 749 districts recorded concentrations of particulate matter (PM2.5) – toxic chemical and organic particles – that exceed the annual safe values prescribed by the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS).

Not a single district in the country reported concentrations within the World Health Organisation (WHO) guideline of 5 microgram per cubic metre, which is about eight times more stringent than India's standards (40 microgram per cubic metre), according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air analysis. The stu-



Left breathless: Delhi and Assam with 11 districts each accounted for nearly half of the top 50 most polluted districts. FILE PHOTO

dy underlines the fact that exposure to significant air pollution is not restricted to winter alone as is commonly believed.

The maximum number of polluted districts are concentrated in a few States. Delhi (11 districts) and Assam (11 districts) alone accounted for nearly half of the top 50 most polluted districts, followed by Bihar and Haryana with seven each. Other States with

significant numbers include Uttar Pradesh (four), Tripura (three), Rajasthan (two), and West Bengal (two).

Cleaner States

On the other hand, the majority of districts in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Sikkim, Goa, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu have population-exposure numbers within the NAAQS-prescribed limits. "These pat-

terns highlight the continued dominance of northern and eastern States in India's PM2.5 pollution hotspots, while southern and coastal regions remain relatively cleaner," the authors Manojkumar N. and Monish Raj say in their analysis, which is not a peer-reviewed paper. Population-exposure numbers can differ from ambient concentration numbers.

The winter months of December, January, and February are still the most polluted. About 82% (616 of 749 districts) of districts recorded values breaching the national standard during this season, as emissions increase and stagnant weather traps pollutants near the surface. The monsoon season (June-September) brings significant improvement, with 90% of districts (675 of 749) reporting concentrations within safe limits.

India's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

Ambient air quality refers to the condition or quality of air surrounding us in the outdoors.

Under the authority of the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1981**, India's **Central Pollution Control Board** sets national ambient air quality standards.

The current Standards include following 12 pollutants:

Pollutant	Time Weighted Average	Concentration in Ambient Air	
		Industrial, Residential, Rural, and Other Areas	Ecologically Sensitive Area (notified by Central Government)
Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), µg/m³	Annual 24 hours	50 80	20 80
Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), µg/m³	Annual 24 hours	40 80	30 80
Particulate matter (< 10 µm) or PM₁₀, µg/m³	Annual 24 hours	60 100	60 100
Particulate matter (< 2.5 µm) or PM_{2.5}, µg/m³	Annual 24 hours	40 60	40 60
Ozone (O₃), µg/m³	8 hours 1 hour	100 180	100 180
Lead (Pb), µg/m³	Annual 24 hours	0.50 1.0	0.50 1.0
Carbon monoxide (CO), mg/m³	8 hours 1 hour	02 04	02 04
Ammonia (NH₃), µg/m³	Annual 24 hours	100 400	100 400
Benzene (C₆H₆), µg/m³	Annual	05	05
Benzo(a)Pyrene (BaP) – particulate phase only, ng/m³	Annual	01	01
Arsenic (As), ng/m³	Annual	06	06
Nickel (Ni), ng/m³	Annual	20	20



SYLLABUS : Prelims Indian Polity **GS 2 : Fundamental Rights**
Newspaper : The Hindu Page Number : 12

SC upholds dismissal of Christian officer from Indian Army

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld the dismissal of a Christian Army officer who refused to enter the *sanctum sanctorum* of his regiment's temple to perform pooja, saying that he had used his "personal understanding" of what his religion permits to break military discipline and, in the process, insulted his troops.

"Leaders have to lead by example. You insulted your troops. When a pastor, a leader of your faith, counselled you that it was alright, you should have left it at that. You were cantankerous... You cannot have your private understanding of what your religion permits. That too, in uniform," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, accompanied by Justice Joymalya Bagchi on the Bench, remarked.

The Chief Justice described the refusal of Samuel Kamalesan, the petitioner, to participate in the regimental religious activity as the "grossest kind of indiscipline". "You may be outstanding in 100 things, but the Indian Army is known for its secular approach... You have failed to

respect the sentiments of your own soldiers," the Chief Justice said.

Fundamental rights

Justice Bagchi asked senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, who appeared for Mr. Kamalesan, to point out which Christian religious text barred a follower from entering a temple.

Mr. Sankaranarayanan argued that the fundamental right of his client to practise a religion under Article 25 of the Constitution cannot be taken away merely because he had joined the Armed Forces.

"Article 25 protects essential religious features, not every sentiment," Justice Bagchi responded.

The Army, represented by Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, submitted that Mr. Kamalesan had not attended mandatory regimental parades despite several attempts by officers to advise him. His conduct had weakened unit cohesion, he said.

The Delhi High Court had upheld the Army's action in a judgment in May, which held that Mr. Kamalesan "kept his religion above a lawful command from his superior. This clearly is an act of indiscipline".

Prelims Booster

The doctrine of essentiality was initially proposed by the **Supreme Court** in the **Shirur Mutt case in 1954**. The idea behind this doctrine is *to protect only such religious practices that are essential and integral to the religion*. **Non-essential practices** if found to be **violative of fundamental rights** could be **struck down by the judiciary**.

Relevance of essentiality doctrine:

- **Balance religious freedom with state regulation:** The doctrine ensures that only those practices that are non-essential to that religion get regulated by the state.
 - Example: In the **Dargah committee, Ajmer vs Syed Hussain Ali** the court declared that a clear difference must be made between essential religious practices and superstitious religious practices.
- **Prevent discriminatory practices:** Many religious practices are discriminating, often harmful, to any particular section. These must be regulated without affecting the spirit of the religion.
 - Example: In the **Sabarimala case, 2018** the Supreme Court declared the exclusion of women from the temple as violative of Article 14 and Article 25.

- **Preserve constitutional morality:** Essentiality doctrine enables the state to act against those practices that violate the core principles underlying the Constitution.
 - Example: In the **Triple Talaq case, 2017** the Supreme Court declared that triple talaq is not an essential practice and it violated the right of a person to lead a dignified life.
- **Maintain secularism:** The role of the state in ensuring that none of the religion or religious institutions holds unchecked power enhances India's secularism.
- **Protection of cultural practices:** Culture is often intertwined with religion and hence protecting these essential practices preserves the cultural heritage.



SYLLABUS : Prelims Important Events **GS 2 : International Relations**
Newspaper : The Hindu Page Number : 12



Army chief pays homage to Operation Pawan bravehearts

Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday paid homage to soldiers who laid down their lives during **Operation Pawan, the 1987 Indian Peace Keeping Force mission in Sri Lanka**. A senior official said that until now only the families of the fallen soldiers and veterans who served in the operation gathered at the National War Memorial to mark the anniversary. Along with General Dwivedi, Lieutenant-General Pushpendra Singh, Vice Chief of the Army, who himself participated in the operation as a young officer, participated in the ceremony. The Army chief laid a wreath honouring the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice.



Prelims Booster

- **Operation Pawan** was carried out by the IPKF to take control of Jaffna from the LTTE in late 1987.
- LTTE disarmament was a part of the **Indo-Sri Lanka Accord** in the aftermath of Sri Lankan civil war.
- IPKF was inducted on 30 July 1987. The first IPKF operation was launched on 9 October 1987.
- IPKF was successful in taking control of the **Jaffna Peninsula** from the LTTE after a two-week-long war.
- The operation was terminated on 24 March 1990.
- Though it achieved its stated objectives, it is often criticised. It does not receive "formal" commemoration at the National War Memorial, Delhi. However, Sri Lanka has built a memorial for it.



SYLLABUS : Prelims International Relation **GS 2 : International Institution**
Newspaper : The Hindu Page Number : 14

CAIRO

Amnesty International accuses RSF of committing war crimes



REUTERS

Amnesty International on Tuesday said that RSF atrocities in Sudan's El-Fasher, including executions, rape and hostage-taking, amount to war crimes in the ongoing war. The UAE is accused of facilitating RSF abuses, which it denies, as Sudan's devastating conflict continues to kill thousands and displace millions. AP

53. Amnesty International is

- (a) an agency of the United Nations to help refugees of civil wars
- (b) a global Human Rights Movement
- (c) a non-governmental voluntary organization to help very poor people
- (d) an inter-governmental agency to cater to medical emergencies in war-ravaged regions

Prelims Booster

Amnesty International

- Amnesty International is a London based **Non-Governmental Organisation** founded in 1961.
- The organization aims to create a world where every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** and other international human rights standards.
 - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948. It recognized the fundamental human rights universally for the first time.
- It also *conducts research, generates action to prevent grave abuses of human rights and demands justice* for those whose rights have been violated.
- The organization was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize in 1977** for its "Defence of human dignity against torture" and the United Nations Prize in the field of Human Rights in 1978.



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding China:

1. China has granted Loans to more than 80% of the countries of the world between the years 2000 and 2023.
2. The U.S.A. has been the largest beneficiary of these loans.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

Q2. How many of the following air pollutant/s is/are included in the list of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)?

1. Lead
2. Nickel
3. Carbon monoxide
4. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All four

Answer: c

Q3. Regarding the "Doctrine of Essentiality" as interpreted by the Supreme Court of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court first articulated the doctrine in the Shirur Mutt case (1954).
2. The doctrine allows the State to regulate only those religious practices that are considered essential and integral to a religion.
3. The Supreme Court in the Dargah Committee, Ajmer case, distinguished between essential religious practices and practices born out of superstition.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. Operation Pawan was carried out by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to capture Jaffna from the LTTE in 1987.
2. Operation Cactus involved India intervening in Sri Lanka to protect Tamil civilians during the civil war.
3. Operation Kaveri was launched to evacuate Indian nationals from Sudan in 2023.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Amnesty International:

1. It conducts independent research and mobilises public opinion to prevent grave violations of human rights.
2. It is an intergovernmental organisation under the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).
3. It works to ensure the protection of rights provided in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a





VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar,
New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,
Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121

Visit us at : www.vajiramandravi.com