



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**15th April 2026**



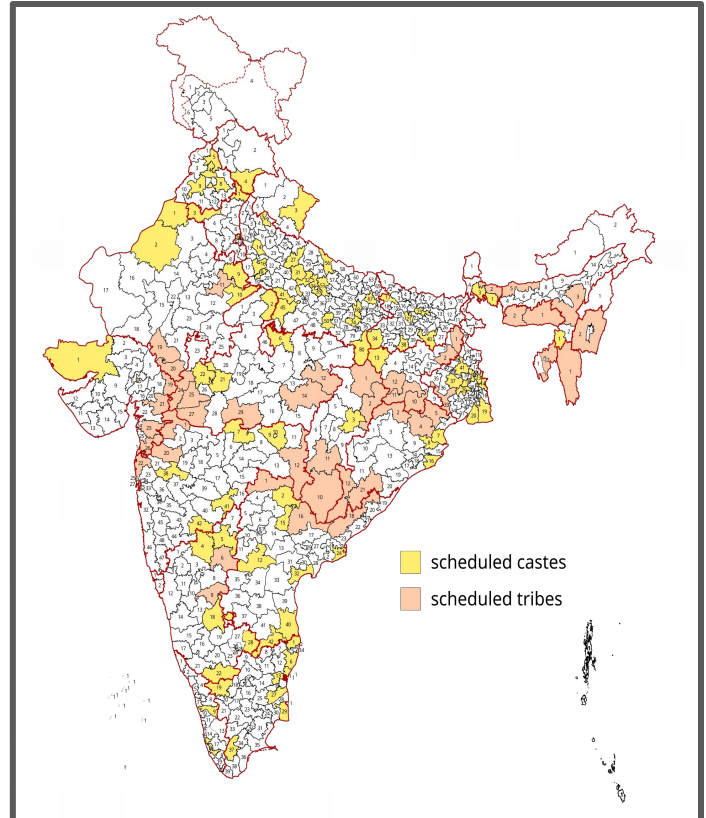
**CONTEXT:** Centre moots inter-State redistribution of Lok Sabha seats based on 2011 Census.

## What is Delimitation?

- **Constituency** - Particular Area - Representative
- Process of fixing **'the number of seats' & 'boundaries'** of territorial constituencies - each State for the LS and LAs
- Article 82 & 170(3)
- Reserved Seats - STs & SCs - 330; 332

## Who Performs Delimitation?

- Delimitation Commission - Act of the Parliament
- 4 times - 1952, 1962, 1972, 2002
- Article 81 - **Principles**
- Disincentivised - Population Control Measures
- 42nd CAA - FROZE - till 2000, 1971 Census
- 84th CAA - till 2026; H/e
  - 'Readjustment & Rationalisation' - 1991 Census
- 87th CAA - 'R & R' - 2001 Census



(2) For the purposes of sub-clause (a) of clause (1)--

- (a) there shall be allotted to each State a number of seats in the House of the People in such manner that the ratio between that number and the population of the state is, so far as practicable, the same for all States; and
- (b) each State shall be divided into territorial constituencies in such manner that the ratio between the population of each constituency and number of seats allotted to it is, so far as practicable, the same throughout the State:

Amendment of  
article 81.

3. In article 81 of the Constitution,—

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(a) for clause (1), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) The House of the People shall consist of—

(a) not more than eight hundred and fifteen members chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the States; and

(b) not more than thirty-five members to represent the Union territories, chosen in such manner as Parliament may by law provide.”;

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(b) for clause (3), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(3) In this article, the expression “population” means the population as ascertained at such census, as Parliament may by law determine, of which the relevant figures have been published.’.

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# 131st Amendment Bill & Delimitation: The Real Debate?



**CONTEXT:** Centre moots inter-State redistribution of Lok Sabha seats based on 2011 Census.

## What Changed Recently?

- 106th CAA – Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam
- CRITICISM –
- What is the Government Now Proposing?
- **131st CAB & Delimitation Bill**
- Critical Shifts?
  - Article 81
  - Article 82
  - Article 334A
    - Delimitation Bill –

## Significance of Delimitation?

- Fair Representation
- Equity
- Reserved Seats for SC/ST
- Federalism

4. In article 82 of the Constitution,—

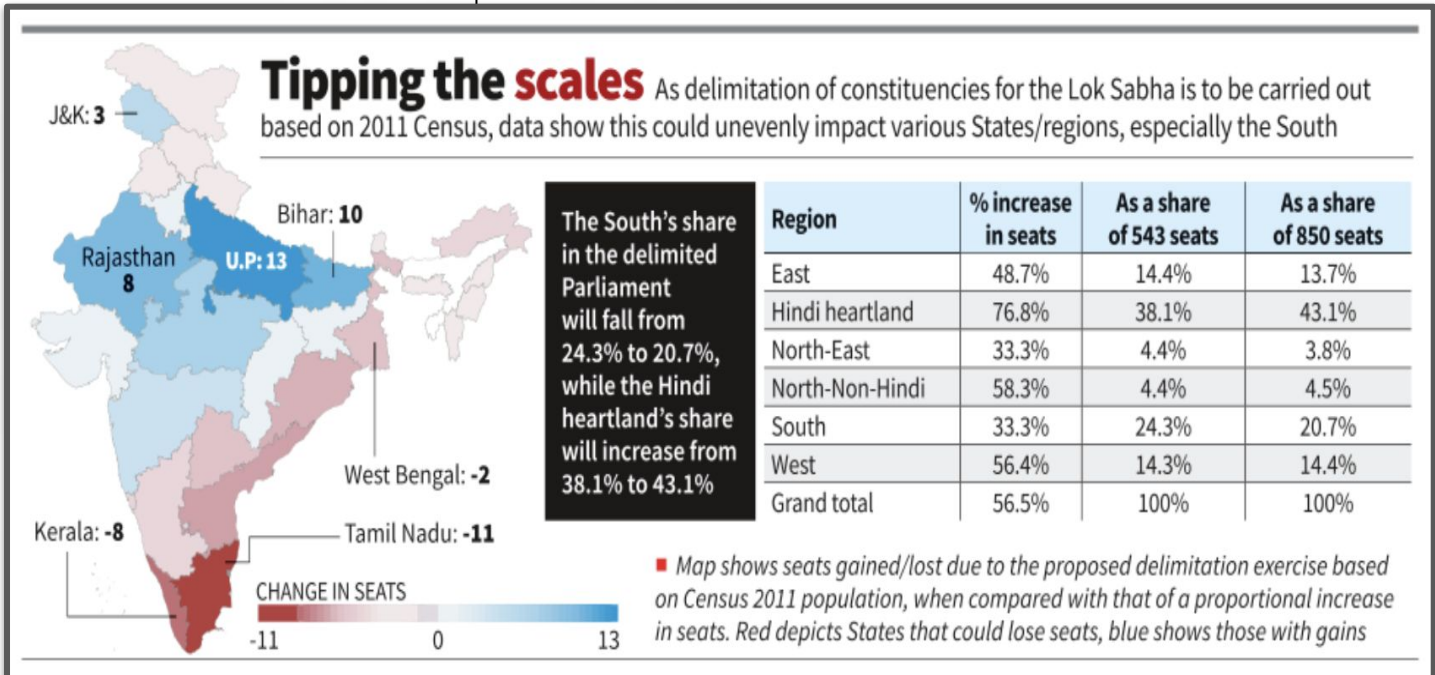
(a) in the marginal heading, for the words “after each census”, the words “of constituencies” shall be substituted;

(b) for the words “Upon the completion of each census, the allocation of seats”, the words “The allocation of seats” shall be substituted;

(c) for the words “by such authority and in such manner”, the words “in such manner and on the basis of such census, by the Delimitation Commission,” shall be substituted;

(d) the third proviso shall be omitted.

“334A. (1) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this Part or Part VIII, the provisions of this Constitution relating to the reservation of seats for women in the House of the People, the Legislative Assembly of a State, the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Legislative Assembly of the Union territory of Puducherry and the Legislative Assembly of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir shall come into effect after an exercise of delimitation is undertaken for this purpose.



# 131st Amendment Bill & Delimitation: The Real Debate?



**CONTEXT:** Centre moots inter-State redistribution of Lok Sabha seats based on 2011 Census.

## Critical Issues?

- Census & Timing Controversy
  - 2021 Census delayed → now expected 2026-27
  - 2011 Census - Political Gain
- Seat Redistribution Effect - SOUTH & NE
- Core Federal Concern
  - Southern States - Penalised?
- Issue with Govt's Assurance - "Proportions will remain same" - ?
- Democratic Concerns - Public debate?
- Larger Implication - *Pure majoritarian population logic!*

## What should be the Way Forward?

- Decouple Women's Reservation from Delimitation - 2011 Census
- Maintain Federal Balance - Proportionate Increase
- Use - 'FAIR' Formula - Telangana CM - Hybrid Model
- Build Political Consensus - PCs
- Global Models - EU; US - HoR -Capped at 435

## Mains Practise Question

*The proposed Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 has reignited the debate between population-based representation and federal equity in India. Critically examine.*

**(15 Marks, 250 words)**

## How the EU's population is represented in the European Parliament

720 seats

To ensure political diversity, a country can have a **minimum of 6 MEPs** and a **maximum of 96**

96	DE	17	BG
81	FR	15	DK
76	IT	15	FI
61	ES	15	SK
53	PL	14	IE
33	RO	12	HR
31	NL	11	LT
22	BE	9	SI
21	CZ	9	LV
21	SE	7	EE
21	PT	6	CY
21	EL	6	LU
21	HU	6	MT
20	AT		

Each circle corresponds to a seat in the European Parliament.



**CONTEXT:** The coexistence of a billion tonnes of wasted food and a billion hungry stomachs .

## Context: International Day of Zero Waste

- March 30 - Theme: **Food Waste**
- Major Contradiction -
- **Massive Food Wastage vs Widespread Hunger**

## Global Scenario of Food Waste

- **United Nations Environment Programme Report 2024**
  - 1.05 billion tonnes of food wasted annually
  - Sector-wise contribution:
    - Households → **60%**
    - Food services → **28%**
    - Retail → **12%**
- **Core Issue?** - SC Inefficiencies; Consumption Patterns

## Hunger vs Waste: A Global Paradox

- 783 million people
- 3.1 billion
- INSIGHT? - Food waste coexisting with hunger = **systemic failure**

## India's Position: A Dual Challenge

- India ranks **2nd globally** - food waste
- **78-80 million tonnes; ₹1.55 lakh crore**
- Around **194 million people** - Undernourished
- Per Capita - India → **55 kg/year**

## Case Study: Punjab

- 8,200 tonnes of Foodgrain Wasted (2019-24)
- NITI Aayog Findings -

## Environmental Impact of Food Waste

- 8-10% of global GHGs emissions

## Resource Loss & Sustainability

- Wasted Food - Water, Land & Energy

## Structural Causes of Food Waste

- Poor post-harvest management
- Inadequate cold-chain infrastructure
- Weak supply chain logistics
- Lack of data & monitoring
- Cultural acceptance of food wastage

## Solutions & Way Forward

- Strengthen Cold Chain Infrastructure - ~8% of Produce
  - Cold Chain Mission
- Legal Framework for Food Redistribution - Ban destruction of edible food
- Empower Farmers (First Mile Reform) - Hermetic Storage, MCUs, etc.
- Data & Accountability - Mandatory measurement & reporting
- Behavioural & Cultural Change - *Anna Brahma*

## Mains Practise Question

*"Food waste in India reflects a paradox of abundance amid deprivation." Discuss the causes and suggest measures to address the issue.*

**(10 Marks, 150 words)**



**SYLLABUS: GS 3 :: Environment**

**Newspaper : The Hindu Page Number : 08**

Sacred

## Story so far:

**A** 21-day religious ceremony at the Pataleshwar Mahadev Temple in Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district, guided by Sant Shivanand Maharaj, culminated in a controversial ritual where 11,000 litres of milk were poured into the Narmada River in what devotees described as a "sacred offering" on April 8.

Organisers aimed at purifying the river and bless Narmada Parikrama pilgrims. The incident, where a tanker was seen pouring milk, sparked a debate between religious faith and environmental concerns regarding pollution.

No official action has been taken yet by the Madhya Pradesh pollution control board or National Green Tribunal. Malnutrition in Madhya Pradesh has prompted the ₹700-crore Yashoda Milk Supply Scheme (2026-27), targeting 1.3 crore children through schools and Anganwadis.

Experts and activists argue that the 11,000 litres poured into Narmada could provide 44,000 glasses (250ml each), feeding 2,200 kids daily for 20 days or supplementing 10,000+ for a week at school programmes.

## What are the impacts of ritual offerings on aquatic ecosystems?

Though culturally viewed as pure, environmental studies show dairy effluents can have biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) levels far exceeding domestic sewage, leading to rapid depletion of dissolved oxygen and ecological stress in aquatic environments.

It is observed by experts that ritual offerings further accelerate microbial activity, adding to cumulative pollution loads. This reduces dissolved oxygen, suffocating aquatic life, while nutrient enrichment can trigger algal blooms, further degrading water quality and disrupting biodiversity.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)'s 2025 assessment identified 296 polluted river stretches across 271 rivers, with water quality at over 800 locations exceeding safe limits for bathing (BOD > 3 mg/l). The CPCB also observed that the Yamuna in Delhi records BOD levels as high as 83 mg/l, nearly 27 times the safe limit, effectively rendering stretches ecologically "dead."

A monitoring committee appointed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in 2018 observed an "unacceptable rise" in pollution levels in the Yamuna after idol

immersion, noting sharp increases in heavy metals from paints and synthetic materials.

Empirical evidence from CPCB monitoring and peer-reviewed studies shows that events like Kumbh Mela, Chhath Puja, Durga Puja, and Ganesh Utsav raise BOD and solid waste levels. Rapid population growth has pushed river degradation to the forefront of public concern, intensifying pressures on already fragile ecosystems.

Traditions that evolved in an era of sparse populations are now practiced at a vastly larger scale, amplifying their ecological impact. In the context, it is worth asking if age-old practises need to be revisited and reimagined to ensure that devotion does not come at the cost of the very rivers it seeks to honour?

## What does India's environmental laws entail?

At the apex level, the Supreme Court of India has reviewed cases involving the weakening of environmental safeguards for religious practices. Petitions rely on three legal foundations: The precautionary principle, the Water Act (Prevention and Control of Pollution), 1974, and Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees a clean environment.

Together, these establish that environmental protection is a binding legal obligation, even when balanced against religious freedoms. The NGT has enforced the CPCB's 2020 idol immersion guidelines, mandating artificial tanks or regulated zones for immersions. However, experts observe that no single law explicitly regulates offerings such as milk, flowers, oil, or mass bathing as a distinct category. Indian constitutional jurisprudence is clear that religious freedom under Article 25 is not absolute and can be restricted on grounds of public health. Yet, enforcement remains uneven due to political sensitivities and lack of uniform guidelines on everyday ritual practices. The NGT has applied principles such as "polluter pays" and precaution, reinforcing that faith cannot override ecological limits.

## Is a per capita limit on offerings plausible and effective ?

Even minimal practices create a significant, continuous pollution load, say experts.

An analyses of offerings at Varanasi ghats with an average daily footfall of 2.5 lakh, shows minimal offerings of 5 ml milk, 5 ml oil (for lamps), and one flower per person, translating into 1,250 litres each of milk and oil, and 5 tonnes of flowers daily, excluding ashes, public offerings, and other waste. On peak days, this rises to 3,500 litres and 14 tonnes of waste. It is argued that per capita limits alone are insufficient. Effective regulation must combine site-specific caps, waste collection, and diversion to ensure sustainable river management.

The debate is not about curbing faith, but about recognising ecological limits.



**SYLLABUS: GS 3: Intellectual Property Rights**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 08**

## The story so far:

In a blow to the movie's producers, Vijay-starrer *Jana Nayagan*, directed by H. Vinoth, was recently leaked online in its entirety in high quality while its theatrical release has been stuck in a limbo following issues with censor certificate.

The leak indicates that someone with legitimate access to the movie mishandled or intentionally spread it further. Six people have been held by authorities in connection with the leak. Film piracy through illegal downloads is rampant, but it is less common for content to become available in the first place in such high quality.

## What are the laws on piracy? How well are they enforced?

The Copyright Act, 1957, deals extensively with infringement of intellectual property such as movies, TV shows, books, articles, and other creative work. Section 63 and Section 63A of the Copyright Act provide for fines of up to ₹2 lakh and three years of imprisonment. Repeat offenders can receive those same penalties again for each subsequent violation.

The Cinematograph Act, 1952, since its amendment in 2023, provides for a much larger fine: 5% of the audited gross budget of a film. While the minimum fine is decidedly smaller, judges may not look too kindly on the *Jana Nayagan* case in particular.

This is because unlike practically every other film, the Vijay starrer was leaked before it had a chance to release in theatres, denting both its theatrical value

and home video rights valuation.

It is uncommon for film piracy cases to be investigated and pursued with vigour. India is consistently listed as a "notorious market" by U.S. authorities, for instance, for anemic responses to piracy.

However, considering the vast spectrum of voices within the film industry and political circles that has come out in support of KVN Productions, which bankrolled *Jana Nayagan*, this case may be the subject of a more serious investigation.

Judges have tended to focus more on distributors in piracy and intellectual rights cases than on individual infringers. But depending on an individual infringer's behaviour, punishments can end up hitting not just the original leaker of the film, but anyone who shares a link forward.

To boot, Tamil Nadu Police's State Cyber Crime Wing said in a press release

that those among the six arrested were sharing cloud storage links to the film.

## How did this movie get leaked? How do studios protect against leaks?

Ordinarily, movies are only leaked to pirates in high quality when they appear on OTT streaming platforms. This is because once this happens, in spite of copy-resistant technologies employed by these platforms, pirates have found ways to defeat Digital Rights Management (DRM) protections on such content, and extract a video file that is close to the original stream in quality and fidelity.

As such, withholding content access from audiences at large altogether is the current gold standard. If only theatre projectionists have the movie – and that too only in an encrypted hard drive – it is much harder to copy. Invisible and barely visible watermarking enables studios to instantly identify the perpetrator if a copy

is made from a legitimate theatrical print. That makes leaking an incredibly unattractive prospect to people with access to a movie.

It is common for full videos in a film's supply chain to be visibly watermarked for the intended recipient, or to indicate a versioning. There is such a watermark for *Jana Nayagan*, but it is not yet clear if the version circulating online has enough forensic clues for investigators to zero in on a specific individual. If carelessness was involved, the harshest punishments may go to the first few people who received and distributed the film.

## What happens if a movie has already been leaked?

It is incredibly challenging for a leaked film to be completely wiped from the Internet. For one, there are several sites, constantly changing their domain names to evade judicial website blocking orders. For another, private groups on messaging apps like Telegram and protocols like torrents, make the distribution of pirated content harder to stem.

However, there still remains an industry of so-called "anti-piracy" firms like AiPlex who work with filmmakers, sports broadcasters, and so on, to quickly send copyright takedown notices to social media platforms (who generally act quickly on such alerts), and torrent sites (some of whom accept and act on it).

It is also common for filmmakers to approach courts for so-called "dynamic injunctions" that allow them to constantly provide High Courts with links to non-compliant sites' URLs, after which they are blocked online. Some "John Doe" orders can be passed even before a film is leaked, in anticipation of a film becoming available on such platforms were a leak to happen.



**SYLLABUS: Prelims** PRELIMS: Institutions  
**Newspaper** : The Hindu **Page Number** : 14

International Monetary Fund (IMF) was established during the Bretton Woods Conference held in New Hampshire, USA, in July 1944. Formally constituted on December 27, 1945, it was founded by 29 nations that signed the Articles of Agreement, which serve as its foundational document. The IMF commenced its financial activities on March 1, 1947.

The primary **objectives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)** include promoting global monetary cooperation, fostering trade and economic growth, and discouraging policies that could hinder prosperity. To achieve these objectives, member countries work together and engage with other international organisations.

## Functions of International Monetary Fund

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF) functions** to promote global monetary cooperation, ensure exchange rate stability, facilitate balanced growth of international trade, provide financial assistance to members, and offer policy advice to foster economic stability.

- **Financial Assistance:** International Monetary Fund (IMF) provides financial support to countries hit by financial crises. Unlike development banks, the IMF does not lend to individual projects.
- IMF provides various lending instruments tailored to countries' needs and circumstances. These include:
  - Stand-By Arrangement (SBA)
  - Standby Credit Facility (SCF)
  - Extended Fund Facility (EFF)
  - Rapid Credit Facility (RCF)
  - Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI)
  - Flexible Credit Line (FCL)
  - Precautionary and Liquidity Line (PLL)
  - Extended Credit Facility (ECF)



**SYLLABUS: Prelims** PRELIMS: Institutions  
**Newspaper** : The Hindu **Page Number** : 14

- **Policy Advice:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) provides policy advice by monitoring the economic and financial policies of member countries, identifying risks, and recommending adjustments to sustain growth and promote stability through surveillance activities.
- **Capacity Development:** The IMF provides technical assistance and training, known as capacity development, to member countries to strengthen their economic institutions, improve tax collection, modernise monetary and exchange rate policies, develop legal systems, and strengthen governance.

## International Monetary Fund Governance Structure

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) operates under a governance structure comprising the Board of Governors, the Executive Board, and the Managing Director. The Board of Governors, representing each of the 191 member countries, serves as the highest decision-making body, while the Executive Board conducts the institution's day-to-day operations under the leadership of the Managing Director.

- **Board of Governors:** The highest decision-making body of the IMF, meeting annually to approve quota increases and SDR allocations, admit new members, and compel member withdrawals. Each member country has one governor and one alternate governor.
  - The Finance Minister of India is an ex-officio Governor, with the RBI Governor as the Alternate Governor.
- **International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC):** IMFC advises the Board of Governors on matters related to the management of the international monetary and financial system. It has 24 members drawn from the governors.
- **Executive Board:** They are responsible for conducting the day-to-day business and work closely with the **Managing Director**.

## Reports Published by IMF

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) publishes a variety of reports to provide insights into global economic trends and policy analyses. These reports serve as essential resources for policymakers, economists, and researchers worldwide.

- **World Economic Outlook Report:** It is published twice a year. It analyses global economic developments.
- **Global Financial Stability Report:** It assesses the global financial system and markets.
- **Fiscal Monitor Report:** It is prepared twice a year by the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department. It provides an overview of the latest public finance developments.
- **External Sector Report:** It evaluates global external developments.



**SYLLABUS : Prelims** : Organisations  
**Newspaper** : The Hindu **Page Number** : 15

## United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was formed on 22 November 1965 and continues to serve as a key international actor in development cooperation. It provides technical expertise, financial assistance, and policy support to developing nations. Its mandate covers poverty reduction, crisis prevention, democratic governance, environmental sustainability, and development financing. UNDP works closely with governments, civil society, international institutions, and private partners to deliver development results. Its programmes ensure that development is inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is headquartered in New York City and operates through a network of country offices. It is led by an Administrator who holds the rank of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Administrator oversees a global workforce and supervises regional bureaus that manage development programmes across continents. As of 2025, Haoliang Xu is serving as the Acting Administrator. UNDP employs 7,394 staff worldwide (2022).

## United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Budget

UNDP is financed entirely through voluntary contributions from UN member states. It does not receive funding through compulsory UN assessments. Funding includes core contributions and earmarked resources for specific programmes. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s total budget in 2022 was US\$6.73 billion. UNDP has been rated highly for financial transparency and ranked first in the Aid Transparency Index (2015, 2016) with a score of 93.3%.

## United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Initiatives

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) runs several global programmes to drive innovation and collaboration:

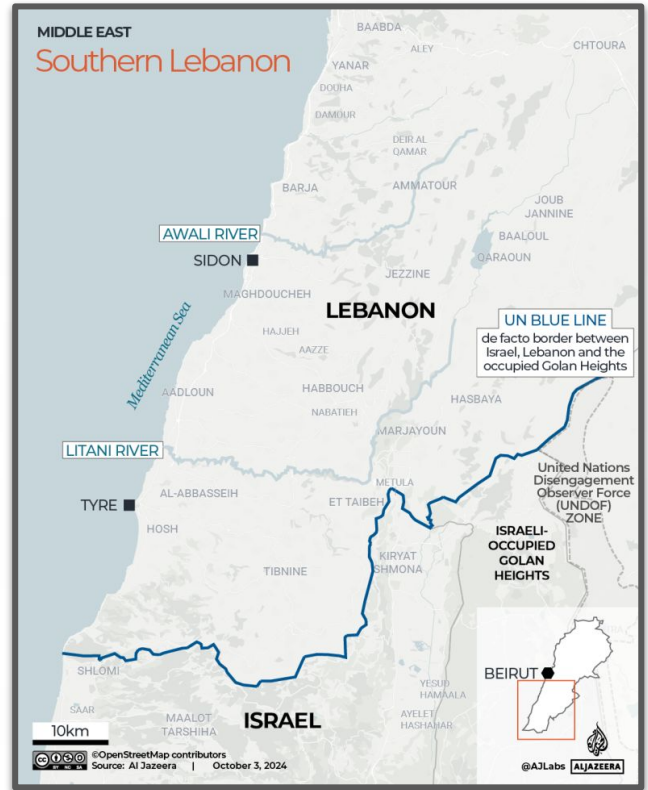
- Human Development Report (since 1991)- Introduced the **Human Development Index (HDI)** which measures development beyond income.
- World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty
- ART Global Initiative
- Territorial Approach to Climate Change
- Global Policy Centres in Seoul, Nairobi, Oslo, Singapore, and Istanbul



# Israel - Lebanon Talks



**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Mapping  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number:** 15



**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD):**

1. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) is the amount of dissolved oxygen required by microorganisms to decompose organic matter in water.
2. A higher value of BOD indicates better water quality and lower levels of organic pollution.
3. BOD is commonly used as an indicator to assess the level of organic pollution in water bodies.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding laws on piracy in India:**

1. The Copyright Act, 1957, provides for imprisonment of 6 months to 3 years for copyright infringement.
2. The Cinematograph Act, 1952 prescribes a minimum fine of ₹3 lakh, extendable up to 5% of a film's audited gross production cost, for piracy.

**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**

**Q3. Consider the following reports published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) :**

1. World Economic Outlook
2. Global Financial Stability Report
3. Fiscal Monitor
4. World Economic Prospects

**Which of the above reports are released by the IMF?**

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: b**

**Q4. With reference to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), consider the following statements:**

1. It is the UN's principal agency for promoting sustainable development and poverty reduction.
2. It is headed by an Administrator who holds the rank of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations.
3. It functions under the direct control of the UN Security Council.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Q5. Which one of the following groups of countries shares a land border with Israel?**

- a) Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt
- b) Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Jordan
- c) Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey
- d) Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt

**Answer: a**





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