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FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

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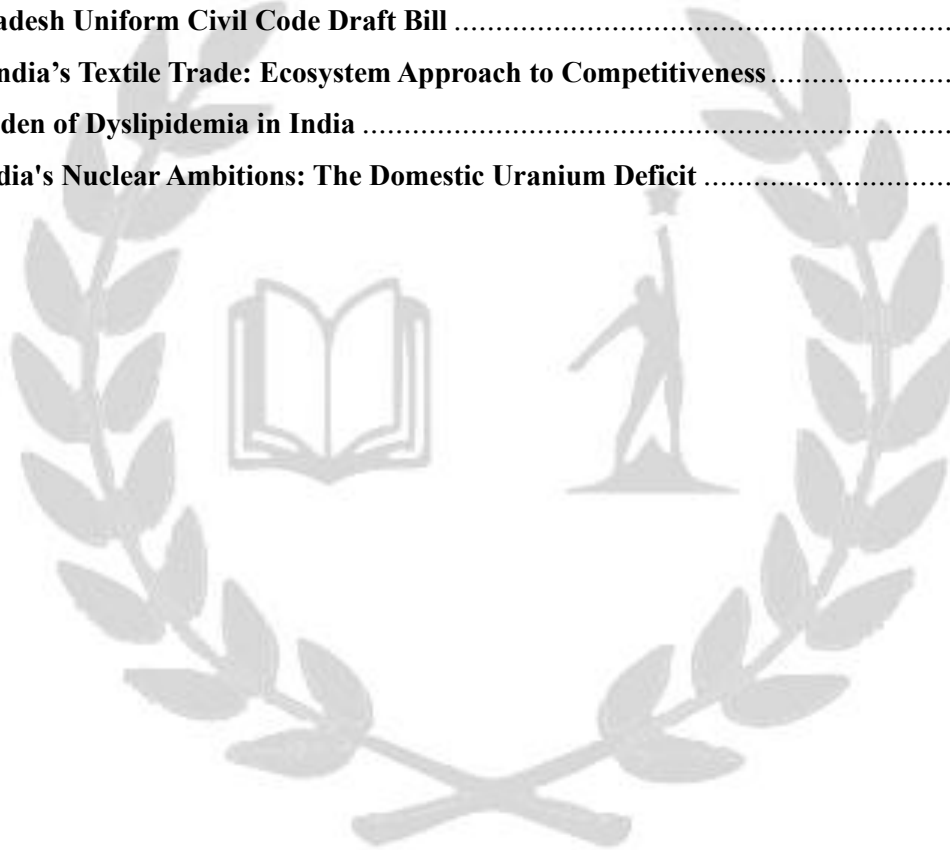
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1. Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Key Highlights & Summary

- The Union Government is set to introduce **The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026** in the Rajya Sabha on the opening day of the Monsoon Session.
- The central objective of the proposed legislation is to criminalise any intentional obstruction or insult directed toward India's national song, "**Vande Mataram**".
- The Bill seeks to place the national song on equal statutory footing with the national anthem, "**Jana Gana Mana**", regarding penal protections.
- The proposed amendment will modify the parent legislation, **The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**, to expand its punitive scope.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah is slated to introduce the legislative framework in the Upper House of Parliament.



Essential Definitions

- **National Song:** "Vande Mataram", composed in Sanskrit by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, was adopted by the Constituent Assembly in 1950, granting it equal status with the National Anthem.
- **National Honour:** The collective reverence, dignity, and constitutional sanctity accorded to sovereign symbols, including the National Flag, the Constitution, the National Anthem, and now proposedly, the National Song.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Parent Act (1971):** The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, strictly penalises desecration or disrespect to the Constitution, National Flag, and National Anthem, prescribing imprisonment up to 3 years, a fine, or both.
- **Article 51A(a):** Part IVA of the Constitution mandates it as a Fundamental Duty of every citizen to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals, institutions, the National Flag, and the National Anthem.
- **Judicial Precedents:** The Supreme Court (e.g., *Bijoe Emmanuel case*) has historically interpreted the scope of fundamental rights concerning mandatory respect to national symbols, emphasizing reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2).

Conclusion

The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, bridges a long-standing statutory differentiation between the national anthem and the national song. While it aims to reinforce national integration and emotional unity, judicial scrutiny will likely balance these penal measures against the fundamental freedoms guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution.



UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Indian Polity and Governance):** Important for questions on the Indian Constitution, Fundamental Duties (Article 51A), basic structure, and significant legislative bills seeking to alter existing penal mechanisms for national symbols.
- **GS Paper I (Modern Indian History):** Contextual understanding of the historical evolution of "Vande Mataram" during the Indian National Movement (Swadeshi Movement) and its role in fostering anti-colonial resistance.

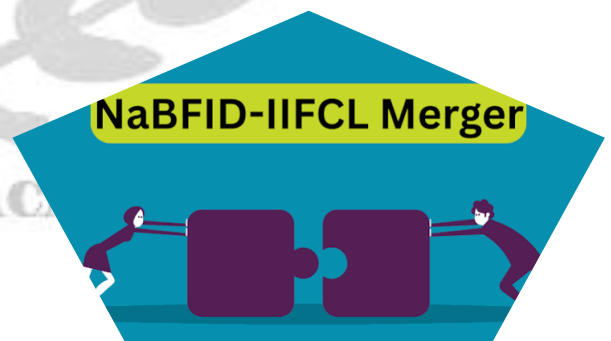
2. Proposal to Merge NaBFID with IIFCL

Key Highlights & Summary

- The Central Government is actively reviving a five-year-old proposal to merge the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) with the India Infrastructure Finance Co. Ltd (IIFCL).
- The proposed consolidation aims to eliminate operational overlaps between these two state-backed financial entities and significantly boost India's infrastructure financing capabilities.
- If successfully implemented, the merger will create an infrastructure lending powerhouse boasting a massive combined loan book valued at approximately ₹1.85 trillion.
- The renewed momentum for this integration stems from the parallel, ongoing consolidation of prominent power sector financiers, REC Ltd and Power Finance Corp. (PFC).
- The REC-PFC merger is projected to conclude by April 1, 2027, yielding a mega financial giant with a combined loan book exceeding ₹11 trillion.
- While NaBFID has operated as a dedicated Development Finance Institution (DFI) for long-term project finance, IIFCL has conventionally focused on direct lending, refinancing, and credit enhancement.

Essential Definitions

- **Development Finance Institution (DFI):** A specialized financial institution set up or supported by the government to provide long-term risk capital for high-priority economic sectors, such as infrastructure, where commercial banks hesitate to lend due to asset-liability mismatches.
- **Credit Enhancement:** A method whereby a borrower improves its creditworthiness through external financial guarantees or structural mechanisms, enabling them to secure better lending terms or attract conservative investors.



Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Statutory Foundation of NaBFID:** NaBFID was established as a corporate body under the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021, passed by Parliament to catalyze long-term infrastructure funding.



- **Enabling Tax Provisions:** The Finance Act, 2021, explicitly incorporated enabling tax-neutral provisions to facilitate a smooth, seamless merger between IIFCL and NaBFID should the government decide to consolidate them.
- **Executive Domain:** The structuring of state-owned financial institutions falls under the executive governance of the Ministry of Finance, specifically overseen by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) in line with parliamentary legislations.

Conclusion

The proposed consolidation of NaBFID and IIFCL underscores a strategic shift toward building large-scale, specialized public financial institutions. By pooling capital and distinct domain expertise, the merged entity will possess a robust balance sheet capable of mobilizing international and domestic long-term capital, thereby effectively fueling India's escalating infrastructure ambitions while minimizing fiscal fragmentation.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III (Indian Economy and Infrastructure):** Crucial for topics concerning mobilization of resources, growth, and development, alongside the evolving institutional framework for infrastructure financing, investment models, and the performance of DFIs.
- **GS Paper II (Statutory Bodies and Governance):** Vital for analyzing the legislative intent of the NaBFID Act, 2021, and evaluating executive strategies for public sector enterprise restructuring and corporate governance within state-backed institutions.

3. India Braces for Oil Market Volatility Amid US-Iran Escalation

Key Highlights & Summary

- The escalation of the US-Iran conflict threatens to heavily disrupt global energy markets, forcing Indian fuel refiners to brace for tighter supplies and elevated crude prices.
- Global benchmark Brent crude surged to a five-week high, with its September contract settling at \$88.10 a barrel on the Intercontinental Exchange following repeated military strikes.
- The conflict intensified after Iranian strikes killed two US soldiers in Jordan, triggering retaliatory strikes by the US Central Command (CENTCOM) against Iranian military, coastal surveillance, and air defence facilities.
- A fragile 60-day ceasefire agreement failed to sustain, with Iran's leadership accusing the US of repeated breaches, thereby threatening transit security through the vital Strait of Hormuz.
- To maintain energy security, Indian refiners continue to heavily rely on discounted Russian crude, which hit record import levels of 2.7 million barrels per day (bpd) in June and 2.6 million bpd in July.
- Geopolitical risks are further compounded by a proposed US Senate bill seeking to impose 100% tariffs on countries like India and China for continuing to import Russian oil.



Essential Definitions



- **Current Account Deficit (CAD):** A macroeconomic metric that occurs when the total value of goods and services a country imports exceeds the total value of goods and services it exports.
- **Choke Point:** A strategic, narrow geographical passage (such as the Strait of Hormuz) through which massive volumes of global trade or critical energy resources must pass, making it highly vulnerable to military blockades or disruptions.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 73:** The executive power of the Union of India extends to matters with respect to which Parliament has power to make laws, giving the Central Government total jurisdiction over international treaties, foreign trade, and strategic energy security decisions.
- **The Energy Conservation Act, 2001:** While primarily focused on domestic efficiency, it provides the statutory backdrop for the government to manage strategic energy storage and consumption policies during global supply-chain shocks.
- **International Sanctions Law Framework:** India maintains a strategic autonomy approach, adhering primarily to United Nations Security Council (UNSC) mandated sanctions rather than unilateral secondary sanctions imposed by individual foreign legislatures like the US Congress.

Conclusion

The breakdown of the US-Iran ceasefire underscores the extreme vulnerability of India's energy matrix to Middle Eastern geopolitical volatility. While diversifying imports via Russian crude has temporarily cushioned the domestic economy from severe shocks, the twin pressures of rising Brent crude benchmarks and looming threat of unilateral US tariffs necessitate a rapid acceleration of India's strategic petroleum reserves and green energy transition.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III (Indian Economy):** Crucial for understanding the impact of global crude oil price volatility on domestic inflation, the fiscal deficit, the widening of the Current Account Deficit (CAD), and India's overall energy security strategies.
- **GS Paper II (International Relations):** Vital for analyzing bilateral and multilateral dynamics in West Asia, the geopolitical significance of marine choke points, and the diplomatic challenges of maintaining strategic autonomy under the pressure of secondary unilateral sanctions.

4. PMJAY: National Health Authority Blocks Bogus Claims

Key Highlights & Summary

- The National Health Authority (NHA) has executed a major crackdown against 2,842 hospitals for engaging in fraudulent practices under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).



- Anti-fraud enforcement operations led by the National Anti-Fraud Unit (NAFU) successfully detected and blocked bogus insurance claims worth ₹678.47 crore.
- Comprehensive penal actions resulted in the strict de-empowerment of 2,003 hospitals and the suspension of 839 non-compliant healthcare facilities.
- A total monetary penalty amounting to ₹114.06 crore has been levied on the defaulting healthcare providers to deter systematic financial leakages.
- According to the NHA's annual report for 2025-26, the apex body has deployed an advanced technological framework featuring an auto-adjudication engine.
- The digital safety net uses system-generated validation alerts at the pre-authorization stage to catch anomalies like gender-package mismatches and repeat claims for once-in-a-lifetime medical procedures.

Essential Definitions

- **National Health Authority (NHA):** The apex autonomous body set up under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance scheme, PMJAY, at the national level.
- **Auto-Adjudication Engine:** An automated, algorithmic software system that evaluates insurance claims against pre-set rules and risk parameters to instantly approve legitimate claims or flag fraudulent anomalies without human intervention.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 47:** A Directive Principle of State Policy (DPSP) that mandates the State to regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties.
- **The Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010:** Provides the baseline statutory framework for registration and regulation of clinical establishments to ensure minimum standards of facilities and services, under which fraudulent entities face severe state-level licensing actions.
- **Information Technology Act, 2000:** Governs the legal framework for the secure data systems, biometric authentications, and AI-driven fraud-detection algorithms used by the NHA to validate public health data.

Conclusion

The NHA's decisive intervention against institutionalized fraud under PMJAY highlights the critical intersection of technology and governance in safeguarding public welfare resources. By transitioning to real-time, AI-driven auto-adjudication frameworks, the government protects fiscal allocations, ensuring that universal healthcare benefits reach the authentic, economically vulnerable segments of society rather than being siphoned off by non-compliant actors.

UPSC Relevance



- **GS Paper II (Governance and Social Justice):** Issues relating to the development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health; welfare schemes for vulnerable sections; and the role of e-governance applications, accountability, and institutional transparency.
- **GS Paper III (Internal Security and Technology):** Role of Artificial Intelligence, big data analytics, and digital public infrastructure (DPI) in preventing cyber-enabled financial fraud, strengthening statutory enforcement, and maximizing leak-proof direct benefit deliveries.

5. PLI Scheme Expansion for the Food Processing Sector

Key Highlights & Summary

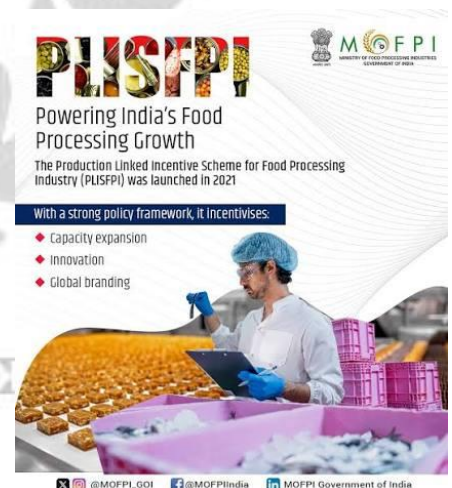
- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is exploring a new incentive framework to succeed the current Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, which expires on March 31, 2027.
- Rather than a simple PLI 2.0, the upcoming framework may differ from the existing incremental sales-based structure to address strategic, niche industry segments.
- The proposed expansion aims to prioritize high-growth and technical areas, including plant-based proteins, nutrition products, dairy by-products, and advanced food wastage reduction technologies.
- The existing six-year food processing PLI has been highly successful, adding 3.4 million tonnes per annum of processing capacity and generating an estimated 329,000 jobs, primarily in rural areas.
- Against a committed target of ₹7,722 crore, private enterprises have invested ₹9,207 crore across 22 states, helping drive a sales Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 10.58%.
- The broader PLI umbrella covers 14 strategic sectors with a total financial outlay of ₹1.91 trillion to enhance India's global manufacturing competitiveness.

Essential Definitions

- **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI):** A government policy mechanism that provides domestic manufacturers with direct financial rewards or subsidies calculated as a percentage of their incremental sales over a baseline year.
- **Value Addition:** The enhancement given to a raw agricultural product (like changing fresh milk into specialized whey proteins or fruits into pulp) before it reaches the final consumer, boosting economic returns and shelf-life.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 298:** Grants the executive power of the Union the authorization to carry on any trade or business and make financial contracts for public purposes, which forms the constitutional basis for fiscal incentive schemes.
- **Seventh Schedule (Concurrent Jurisdiction):** While agriculture falls under the State List (Entry 14), industries fall under the Union List (Entry 52) or Concurrent List (Entry 33), allowing the Center to frame overriding policies for agro-based processing industries.
- **Central Sector Scheme:** The PLI scheme is 100% funded by the Central Government, managed by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries alongside the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).



Conclusion



The potential shift from a sales-driven PLI to a targeted technology-and-sustainability model reflects the maturation of India's food processing ecosystem. By prioritizing innovation, plant proteins, and cold-chain reduction technologies, the upcoming framework will help transition Indian agriculture from a primary production model into a high-value, export-oriented manufacturing powerhouse that directly augments rural incomes.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III (Indian Economy & Agriculture):** Direct intersection with topics on Food processing and related industries in India (scope, significance, location, upstream-downstream requirements, and supply chain management).
- **GS Paper III (Government Budgeting & Manufacturing):** Crucial for evaluating public expenditure models, industrial growth patterns, employment generation capabilities, and Make in India initiatives through the analysis of the ₹1.91 trillion PLI layout.

6. NITI Aayog Comprehensive Review of Industrial Corridors

Key Highlights & Summary

- The Union Government has initiated a comprehensive review of the institutional and implementation frameworks governing industrial corridors, industrial parks, and integrated manufacturing ecosystems.
- The central objective of this extensive evaluation is to systematically identify structural bottlenecks, recommend targeted policy reforms, accelerate project delivery timelines, and improve the overall investor experience.
- The policy exercise is being driven under the strategic guidance of the High-Level Committee on Implementation of Viksit Bharat Goals (HLC-VB), chaired by NITI Aayog member Rajiv Gauba.
- To gather practical insights, NITI Aayog is hosting a stakeholder consultation bringing together government bodies, industry leaders, and technical experts.
- The consultative review actively targets five key priority areas: project planning and land development, regulatory and institutional reforms, project execution and delivery, logistics and connectivity, and future readiness.
- The expert panel is focusing on fixing delays in master planning, land allocation, statutory approvals, contract enforcement, and crucial last-mile logistics connectivity.



Essential Definitions

- **Industrial Corridor:** A holistic, multi-modal transport and manufacturing ecosystem running along major transport arteries, designed to integrate infrastructure, logistics, and smart urban clusters to facilitate high-speed industrial growth.



- **Cooperative Federalism:** A constitutional concept where the Central and State governments work collaboratively to resolve common governance, policy, and economic developmental challenges, which is a foundational mandate of NITI Aayog.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 246 (Seventh Schedule):** Industrial development spans across the Union List (Entry 52—industries under central control) and the State List (Entry 24—industries), necessitating close center-state coordination for smooth land acquisition and execution of large-scale industrial corridors.
- **Executive Resolution of 2015:** Unlike the statutory planning commission it replaced, NITI Aayog operates as a non-constitutional, non-statutory policy think tank established via a Union Cabinet resolution to provide directional and policy inputs.
- **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan:** The institutional backdrop supporting this review, backed by data-driven platforms to break ministerial silos, align logistics infrastructure, and optimize spatial planning across multi-state economic zones.

Conclusion

The NITI Aayog review represents a crucial step toward de-bottlenecking India's macro industrial infrastructure. By focusing on structural reforms rather than mere fiscal outlays, this initiative addresses systemic execution delays in master planning and contract enforcement. Streamlining these regulatory processes will enhance India's global manufacturing competitiveness, optimize supply chains, and act as a cornerstone for achieving the target of a developed economy by 2047.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III (Indian Economy & Infrastructure):** Highly relevant for topics concerning infrastructure development (energy, ports, roads, airports, railways), industrial growth, changes in industrial policy, and their effects on economic growth.
- **GS Paper II (Governance & Constitutional Bodies):** Important for questions analyzing the role of non-statutory bodies like NITI Aayog, mechanisms of cooperative federalism, and the performance of high-level administrative committees in driving governance reforms.

7. India Private Space Sector: The Flight of Vikram-1

Key Highlights & Summary

- Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace made global spaceflight history by successfully launching its four-stage Vikram-1 rocket into low Earth orbit (LEO) on its maiden attempt.
- This milestone, under the "Mission Aagaman", makes India only the third country in the world—after the United States and China—to possess private orbital launch capabilities.
- The 22-meter tall rocket, featuring an all-carbon composite airframe and a 3D-printed liquid engine, successfully deployed domestic and international customer payloads at an altitude of 450 kilometers.
- The Indian private space ecosystem has expanded rapidly from just one startup in 2014 to over 400 in 2026, driven by comprehensive sector reforms.





- India's space economy, valued at 8.4 billion dollars, is projected to reach 40-45 billion dollars by 2030 and touch 100 billion dollars by 2040.
- To support private growth, the government established a 1,000 crore venture-capital fund alongside a 500 crore Technology Adoption Fund.

Essential Definitions

- **Low Earth Orbit (LEO):** The atmospheric zone immediately surrounding Earth, between 160km and 2,000km, which offers lower signal latency and serves as crucial real estate for communication, observation, and commercial imaging satellites.
- **Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs):** Private sector enterprises, startups, or independent research bodies operating outside direct state control but integrated into the domestic industrial value chain.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Indian Space Policy 2023:** The overarching policy framework that officially dismantled the historical public monopoly, allowing private entrants to engage end-to-end across the space value chain.
- **IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre):** An autonomous, single-window nodal agency under the Department of Space designed to permit, regulate, and facilitate private players utilizing ISRO infrastructure.
- **Article 246 (Seventh Schedule):** Parliament holds exclusive jurisdiction over Entry 56 of the Union List (Space travel and astronomy), giving the central government complete legislative power to regulate cosmic enterprises.

Conclusion

The successful orbital debut of Vikram-1 marks a transition from state-monopolized space exploration to a highly competitive, market-driven ecosystem. While the achievement validates indigenous private manufacturing capability, the future success of the sector hinges on overcoming key challenges, namely talent retention, commercial scaling, global competition against established ride-share models, and creating viable capital exit strategies through public offers.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III (Science and Technology):** Highly critical for questions related to awareness in the fields of Space, indigenization of technology, developing private public partnerships (PPP), and the institutional utility of IN-SPACe.
- **GS Paper III (Indian Economy):** Important for analyzing industrial growth patterns, venture capital financing models, employment generation in high-tech rural and off-farm sectors, and the growth strategy for a 100 billion dollar space economy.

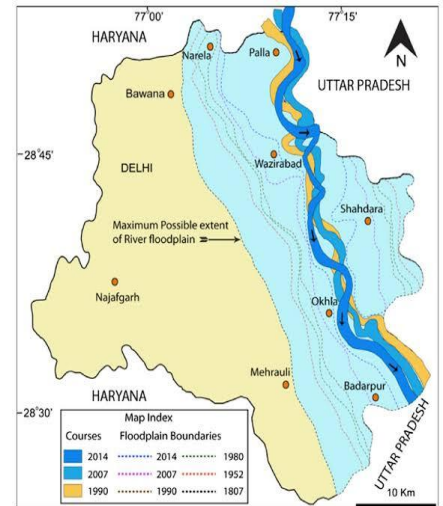
8. Anthropogenic Constriction of Yamuna Floodplains in Delhi

Key Highlights & Summary

- A comprehensive study published in the *Journal of the Geological Society of India* reveals that the Yamuna River stretch in Delhi has narrowed by approximately 68% over the past two centuries.
- The research, co-authored by scientists from Delhi University and IISER Bhopal, indicates that the long-term formative discharge or channel-maintaining water flow of the river has collapsed by nearly 89% since 1799.



- Artificial engineering interventions, including the construction of the Tajewala, Wazirabad, Okhla, and Hathnikund barrages, have diverted up to 90% of the river's upper stream water, forcing a permanent low-flow regime within Delhi.
- Man-made embankments and aggressive urban encroachment have completely disconnected one-third (around 45 square kilometers) of Delhi's natural floodplains over the last century.
- The river's natural sediment dynamics have disintegrated, causing sandy mid-channel islands and river bars to shrink from 20 square kilometers in 1985 to just 4 square kilometers by 2020.
- This loss of lateral buffer space caused the July 2023 floods to hit record-high water levels in Delhi despite carrying a lower peak water discharge than the historic 1978 floods.



Essential Definitions

- **Formative Discharge (Channel-Maintenance Discharge):** The long-term average geometric streamflow responsible for naturally sculpting a river channel, transporting heavy sediment loads, and maintaining the riverbed's structural capacity to safely hold seasonal rainfall.
- **Hydrogeomorphic Evolution:** The interactive process through which evolving structural landforms, geological parameters, and human-induced terrain modifications collectively dictate the flow, direction, and behavioral dynamics of water systems over time.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 48A:** A Directive Principle of State Policy (DPSP) that explicitly commands the State to protect, preserve, and improve the natural environment, specifically including the safeguarding of forests, wildlife, lakes, and vital river basins.
- **The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:** Provides the statutory mandate for regulating developmental and infrastructural zoning activities near ecologically fragile zones, including the declaration of active floodplains as Prohibited Eco-Sensitive Zones.
- **National Green Tribunal (NGT) Directives:** The principal judicial enforcement mechanism in India that monitors legal actions against unregulated urban construction, solid waste dumping, and illegal encroachments within the designated Yamuna zone.

Conclusion

The rapid structural degradation of the Yamuna highlights the ecological costs of uncontrolled urbanization. Treating dry floodplains as vacant real estate has compromised the river's natural buffer capacity, transforming an environmental concern into a direct disaster risk for Delhi. Future management must look beyond simple pollution control, integrating a long-term hydrogeomorphic perspective that ensures environmental flows and restores floodplain connectivity to mitigate extreme weather events.

UPSC Relevance



- **GS Paper III (Environment and Disaster Management):** Crucial for evaluating environmental degradation, river pollution, urban flooding mechanisms (e.g., the Delhi 2023 flood case study), and the restoration strategies for degraded riverine ecosystems.
- **GS Paper I & III (Geography and Water Resource Management):** Highly relevant for concepts dealing with changes in critical geographical features, hydrogeomorphic dynamics, spatial planning of drainage systems, and the impact of barrages on river morphology.

9. Madhya Pradesh Uniform Civil Code Draft Bill

Key Highlights & Summary

- The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has formally approved the draft Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, aimed at establishing a common civil law framework for all residents within the state.
- The proposed legislation enforces strict monogamy across all communities, sets the minimum age of marriage at 21 years for men and 18 years for women, and completely bans polygamy.
- It mandates that couples in live-in relationships register their status with a designated registrar within one month of cohabitation, making non-compliance a punishable offence with up to three months of imprisonment, a fine of Rs 10,000, or both.
- The draft Bill provides robust protection for women and children by granting full inheritance rights to children born out of live-in relationships, banning the term "illegitimate", and allowing deserted live-in partners to claim maintenance through a competent court.
- Practices such as triple talaq, nikah halala, and oral divorces decreed by informal panchayats are criminalised or declared entirely illegal under this new codification.
- In order to protect indigenous cultural identities, the Bill explicitly exempts Scheduled Tribes (STs) covered under Articles 342 and 366(25) of the Constitution.



Essential Definitions

- **Uniform Civil Code (UCC):** A formulated formulation of a common set of personal laws governing civil matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, and succession uniformly for all citizens, irrespective of their religion or community affiliation.
- **Live-in Relationship Registration:** A statutory requirement mandating cohabiting couples to submit a formal declaration of their relationship status to state authorities, establishing legal accountability and transparency.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 44:** A Directive Principle of State Policy (DPSP) in Part IV of the Constitution which explicitly mandates that the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India.
- **Article 25 to 28:** Guarantee the fundamental right to freedom of religion, which often intersects with personal laws, necessitating careful judicial balancing during the implementation of statutory civil codes.



- **Articles 342 and 366(25):** Provide constitutional safeguards and definitions for Scheduled Tribes, which forms the legal basis for their exclusion from the purview of this state-level code.

Conclusion

The approval of the draft UCC Bill by the Madhya Pradesh Cabinet represents a significant step toward the codification and modernization of personal laws at the provincial level. By addressing gender justice, regularizing live-in arrangements, and securing the rights of children, the framework seeks to eliminate discriminatory practices. However, the success of this sweeping legislative overhaul will depend on its ability to withstand constitutional tests regarding religious freedom and individual privacy while ensuring social harmony.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Indian Constitution and Polity):** Highly significant for analytical questions concerning Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 44), personal laws vs fundamental rights, federal dynamics of states enacting civil codes, and statutory protections for vulnerable groups.
- **GS Paper II (Social Justice):** Relevant for topics dealing with gender empowerment, protection of women from arbitrary divorce practices, rights of children, and welfare mechanisms designed for tribal populations.

10. Reviving India's Textile Trade: Ecosystem Approach to Competitiveness

- **Historical Dominance and Stagnation:** Indian fabrics once dominated global trade, accounting for one-fourth of global economic output in 1700, but India's current global apparel export share has stagnated at around 3% for over two decades.
- **High Employment Intensity:** The apparel sector generates substantial employment, creating 153 jobs for every ₹1 crore invested, compared to just 27 in automobiles and 14 in steel.
- **Fibre Mismatch & Structural Impediments:** India's textile industry is skewed towards cotton with a 60:40 cotton-to-non-cotton ratio, directly contrasting the global demand average of 25:75 which highly favours Man-Made Fibres (MMF).
- **Financial and Logistics Constraints:** Competitiveness is hampered by high real interest rates (6.2% to 8.2%), liquidity constraints from GST refund delays, and high labor attrition due to migration from states like Bihar and Odisha to production hubs.
- **Strategic Global Models:** Competitors like China leveraged vertically integrated clusters and concessional finance, Bangladesh utilized Least Developed Country (LDC) preferences, and Vietnam aligned Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with industrial parks.
- **Five Pillars of Competitiveness:** To achieve the \$100 billion export target by 2030, India must integrate the five pillars—scale, infrastructure, finance, skills, and market access—through institutional frameworks like PM-MITRA parks.



Essential Definitions



- **Missing Middle:** The structural absence of mid-sized, export-ready apparel firms capable of handling large-volume, fast-turnaround global orders.
- **Inverted Duty Structure:** A tax situation where import duties on raw materials are higher than on finished products, creating a disincentive for domestic manufacturing (e.g., in the MMF segment).

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 301:** Assures freedom of trade, commerce, and intercourse throughout India, crucial for establishing cross-state supply chains and shifting factories to labor-surplus states.
- **Seventh Schedule (Union and Concurrent Lists):** While "Industries" generally falls under the State List (List II), the Union List (List I) governs international trade, treaties, and major financial policies, necessitating center-state alignment for textile growth.
- **PM-MITRA Parks & Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP):** Statutory/executive mechanisms designed to provide plug-and-play infrastructure and unified regulatory approvals to achieve economies of scale.

Conclusion

Transitioning from an artisanal heritage to a modern, scale-driven industry requires India to rectify its structural fiber mismatch, lower its real interest costs, and shift production centers closer to labor-surplus regions. Fusing craftsmanship with robust institutional support and seamless integration will decide whether India reclaims its spot as a premier global apparel exporter.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Bilateral and global agreements involving India (FTAs like UK-CETA, EU-FTA), Government policies and interventions for development.
- **GS Paper III:** Indian Economy (Employment, Growth, and Development), Industrial Policy, Mobilization of Resources, and changes in industrial growth impacts.

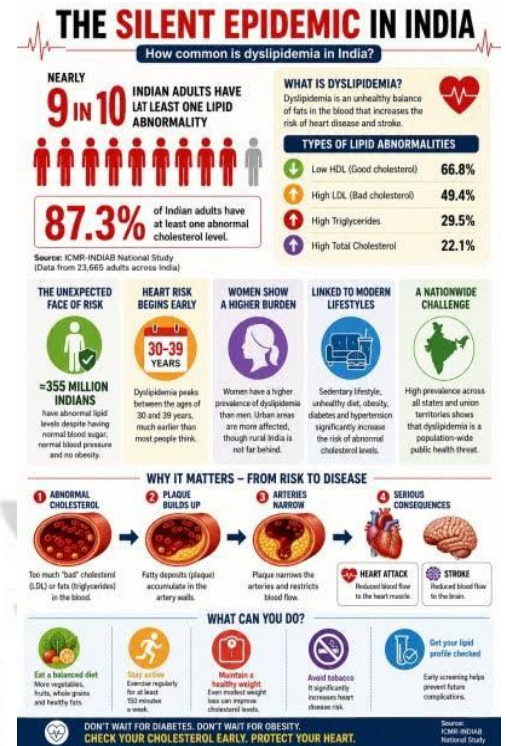
11. Rising Burden of Dyslipidemia in India

- **Widespread Prevalence:** According to the landmark ICMR-INDIAB national study, nearly 9 in 10 Indian adults (87.3%) have at least one abnormal lipid level, identifying dyslipidemia as a major public health issue.

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- **Low HDL as Prevalent Feature:** The most common abnormality is low High-Density Lipoprotein (HDL) or "good" cholesterol affecting 66.8% of individuals, followed by high LDL at 49.4%, high triglycerides at 29.5%, and high total cholesterol at 22.1%.
- **Early Onset Risk:** Unlike Western cohorts where risk rises predominantly with advanced age, lipid abnormalities in India peak early between 30 to 39 years, increasing lifetime exposure to cardiovascular damage.
- **The "Thin-Fat" Phenotype Paradox:** An estimated 355 million metabolically at-risk Indians have abnormal lipid profiles despite having normal body weight, blood sugar, and blood pressure, driven by a combination of genetic factors and carbohydrate-heavy diets.
- **Demographic Shift:** The study reveals that women exhibit a higher prevalence of dyslipidemia than men, and while urban areas remain highly affected, a narrowing urban-rural gap points to spreading sedentary habits.
- **Dietary and Lifestyle Drivers:** Excess carbohydrate consumption pushes up triglycerides and suppresses HDL, a critical dietary factor that alone drives up the risk of dyslipidemia in the Indian population by 90%.



Essential Definitions

- **Dyslipidemia:** An unhealthy imbalance or abnormal concentration of lipids (cholesterol, triglycerides, or both) in the blood, which accelerates the narrowing of arteries and elevates cardiovascular risks.
- **Insulin Resistance:** A metabolic state where body cells do not respond effectively to insulin, frequently linked in South Asians to low HDL and high triglycerides even at a normal body mass index.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 47 (Directive Principles):** Enjoins the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and to treat the improvement of public health as among its primary duties.
- **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD):** The key macro-level institutional framework tasked with integrating screening, diagnosis, and management of chronic risks like dyslipidemia, diabetes, and hypertension.
- **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM):** Provides the digital ecosystem necessary to scale early screening data, universalize electronic health records, and shift the national strategy from tertiary curative care to early community-level screening.

Conclusion

The ICMR-INDIAB study underscores that youth, low body weight, or the absence of diabetes do not grant immunity against cardiovascular threats in India. Addressing this hidden crisis demands a paradigm shift



from late-stage intervention to early, aggressive lipid screening starting in the third decade of life, paired with systemic nutritional awareness to alter carbohydrate-dominant dietary patterns.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health; Role of institutional bodies like ICMR in public policy.
- **GS Paper III:** Science and Technology- developments and their applications in daily life; public health challenges affecting demographic dividend and human capital economic growth.

12. Fueling India's Nuclear Ambitions: The Domestic Uranium Deficit

- **India-Australia Strategic Deal:** India recently finalized a long-term uranium supply agreement with Australia, realizing the tangible outcome of the civil nuclear cooperation pact signed nearly 12 years prior.
- **Ambitious Clean Energy Targets:** The procurement aligns with India's long-term plan to expand its civil nuclear power capacity to 100 gigawatt-electric (GWe) by 2047, up from its existing 8.7 GWe capacity.
- **Domestic Production Limitations:** While India possesses 4.3 lakh tonnes of domestic uranium oxide reserves across 47 deposits (mined by UCIL), these reserves only fuel 2.4 GWe of its operational indigenous pressurized heavy water reactors (PHWRs).
- **Import Dependency and Mismatch:** Out of 8.7 GWe of current capacity, the remaining deficit is covered via foreign imports; enriched uranium required for Light Water Reactors (LWRs) like Tarapur and Kudankulam is entirely imported.
- **Future Demand Projections:** A Ministry of Power roadmap estimates that to hit the 100 GWe milestone by 2047, India requires an additional 8,029 tonnes of natural uranium and 1,045 tonnes of enriched uranium annually.
- **Geopolitical Supplier Diversity:** New Delhi is actively diversifying supply by securing deals with global giants like Kazakhstan, Canada, Uzbekistan, Russia, and France, leveraging its historic 2008 Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) waiver.

India-Australia uranium deal: Why domestic reserves are not enough to fuel India's nuclear ambitions



Essential Definitions

- **Yellowcake:** A solid, coarse powder form of uranium oxide (U_3O_8) obtained during the milling stage of processing uranium ore, serving as the essential raw material for nuclear fuel fabrication.
- **NSG Waiver (2008):** A unique international clearance granted by the Nuclear Suppliers Group allowing India—a non-signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)—to engage in global civil nuclear trade.

Legal and Constitutional Framework



- **The Atomic Energy Act, 1962:** The core legal framework governing nuclear energy development, vesting state-owned entities like the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) with exclusive mandates for uranium mining and processing.
- **Seventh Schedule (Union List - Entry 6):** Constitutionally mandates that "Atomic energy and mineral resources necessary for its production" fall exclusively under the legislative domain of the Parliament of India.
- **IAEA Safeguards:** International legal agreements where India places specific civilian nuclear reactors under International Atomic Energy Agency monitoring to ensure imported fuel is strictly utilized for peaceful power generation.

Conclusion

Achieving a 100 GWe nuclear capacity is vital for India's net-zero transition, but domestic uranium limits make external resource diversification essential. Strategic diplomatic agreements, combined with the structural opening of the tightly regulated domestic nuclear sector to private participation, will dictate the pace and security of India's clean energy expansion.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests (e.g., Civil Nuclear Deals, NSG interactions).
- **GS Paper III:** Infrastructure (Energy), Science and Technology- developments and their applications in everyday life (Nuclear Power), Indigenization of technology.