

## Today's Prelims Topics

### India's first case of avian influenza among animals

#### Context

Three tigers and one leopard have died due to the **H5N1 virus (avian influenza)** at the Gorewada Rescue Centre in Nagpur, Maharashtra, in December 2024. **This is the first reported case of avian influenza among animals in India.**

#### About Avian Influenza

- **Avian influenza (AI) or Bird Flu** is a highly contagious viral disease that affects both domestic and wild birds.
- **Pathogen:** Caused by infection with avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A viruses.
- **Transmission:** Avian influenza viruses can be transmitted directly from wild birds to domestic poultry or indirectly e.g., through contaminated material.
- **Infection in humans:** Do not infect humans normally. However, sporadic human infections with bird flu viruses have occurred.
  - Human infections are usually the result of close contact with infected birds or contaminated surfaces.
- **Symptoms:** It may cause mild to severe illness or sudden death in birds.
- Presently, there is **no** commercially available **vaccine** for **high-pathogenic avian influenza**.
- **1st known transmission of avian influenza (AI)** to a human occurred **in Hong Kong in 1997**.

#### Types of Influenza Virus

- There are 4 types of influenza viruses: **A, B, C and D**
- **Influenza A and B:** These are the primary types responsible for epidemic seasonal infections that occur nearly every year.
- **Influenza C:** It is mainly found in humans, but it can also infect pigs, dogs, cattle, and dromedary camels
- **Influenza D:** It is mainly found in cattle, but it can infect humans and other animals.

#### Source:

- [The Hindu - Quarantine animals with bird flu symptoms](#)

## Income disparity reduced in FY23

### Context

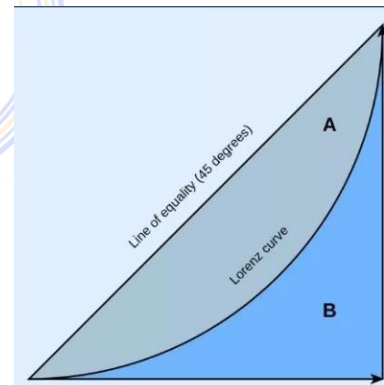
A working paper by the **People Research on India's Consumer Economy (PRICE)** indicates that income inequality in India decreased in 2022-23. PRICE is a Not for profit think tank based in Delhi.

### Key findings of the PRICE Working Paper

- **Post-Pandemic Recovery:**
  - Income inequality in India reduced in 2022-23, indicating effective recovery measures following the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - Despite this improvement, there remains a significant concentration of wealth among the top income earners.
- **Income Share Distribution (2022-23)**
  - **Bottom 50%:** Share increased to **22.82%** (from **15.84%** in 2020-21). Includes groups like labourers, traders, small business owners and farmers.
  - **Middle 40%:** Share rose to **46.6%** in 2022-23 (from **43.9%** in 2020-21).
  - **Top 10%:** Share dropped to **30.6%** in 2022-23 (from a peak of **38.6%** in 2020-21).
  - **Top 1%:** Income share declined slightly to **7.3%** in 2022-23 (from **9.0%** in 2020-21).

### Gini Index

- It is a Key Metric for Income Inequality. It measures the deviation of income distribution from perfect equality.
  - **Index of 0:** Perfect equality
  - **Index of 100:** Perfect inequality
- **Gini Coefficient:** It is a statistical measure of how unequal income is distributed in a population.
  - Gini coefficient is a value between 0 and 1, where **0 means there is no income inequality and 1 means income distribution is completely unequal.**
  - **Gini index is the Gini coefficient multiplied by 100,** which converts the coefficient into a percentage.
- A higher Gini coefficient means that the rich are benefiting more from government policies than the poor.
  - **Lorenz curve:** It is a graph that shows the distribution of income or wealth in a population.
    - The closer the curve is to the line of perfect equality, the more equal the distribution is.



### Source:

- [Indian Express - top 10% still holds large share of national income](#)

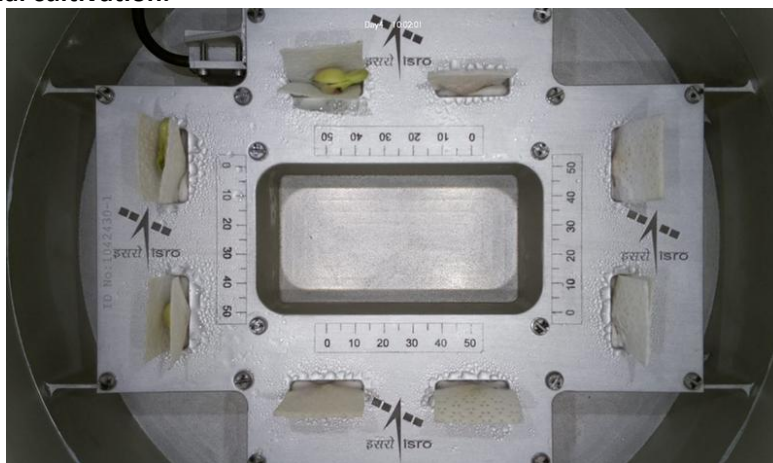
## Cowpea seeds sprout in space - Achievements of POEM-4 Mission

### Context

ISRO's PSLV-C60 POEM-4 mission achieved a milestone by germinating cowpea seeds in space and operating India's first space robotic arm.

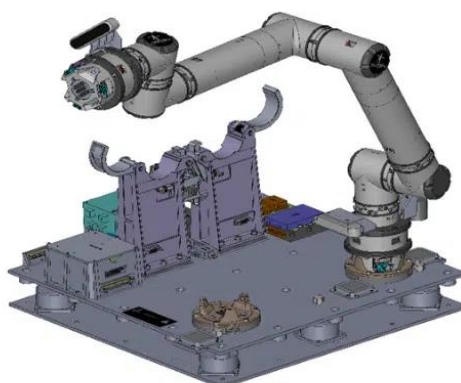
### About Cowpea Seed Germination

- **CROPS Payload:**
  - Developed by **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**.
  - Designed to study plant growth in microgravity as part of extraterrestrial agricultural research.
  - Fully automated system to germinate seeds and sustain them until the two-leaf stage.
- 8 cowpea seeds were placed in a closed-box environment with **active thermal regulation**.
- Seeds germinated within **4 days**; leaves are expected to sprout soon.
- This marks a significant achievement in space agriculture, paving the way for **future extraterrestrial cultivation**.



### India's First Space Robotic Arm - RRM-TD (Relocatable Robotic Manipulator)

- It is a **7 Degree of Freedom (DoF)** robotic arm.
- DoF robotic arm is an innovative technology demonstrator with the capability to perform **inch-worm walking** to relocate itself to defined targets on the PS4-Orbital Experiment Module (POEM)-4 platform.

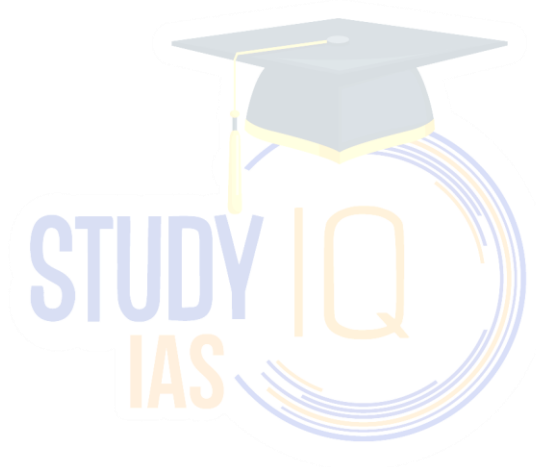


**PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM)**

- POEM is a space platform that allows the scientific community to perform experiments in microgravity conditions in orbit.
- It uses the spent fourth stage of the Polar Synchronous Launch Vehicle (PSLV) as an orbital platform.
- **Important Experiments conducted on POEM in past:** Electric propulsion systems, devices for releasing satellites, and technology for tracking stars

**Source:**

- [The Hindu - Cowpea seeds sprout in space](#)



## Cruise terminal proposed for Great Nicobar Island

### Context

The mega infrastructure project on Great Nicobar Island has been expanded to include an international cruise terminal and a shipbreaking yard.

### About Great Nicobar Project

- It is a **Mega Infrastructure Project** launched in 2021 to develop the **Southern tip of Great Nicobar Island in the Andaman Sea**. It consists of:
  - **International Airport:** For civilian and defence use
  - **Trans-shipment Port:** An international container transshipment terminal (ICTT) on the eastern side of Galathea Bay.
  - **Power Plant:** A 450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant.
  - **Township Development:** A 150 sq km township.
- **New Additions to the project**
  - **International Cruise Terminal:** Envisioned to transform Great Nicobar into a “global port-led city” and a high-end eco-tourism destination and to accommodate international and domestic tourists.
  - **Shipbuilding and Shipbreaking Yard:** Proposed on 100 acres of land with a 500-meter seafront in **Campbell Bay** to support repair and building activities.
  - **Export-Import Port:** Located in Campbell Bay for importing construction materials for the Galathea Bay terminal.
- **Implementing agency:** Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO).
  - It was established in **1988 (under the Companies Act 1956)**.
  - **Objective:** To develop and commercially exploit the natural resources for the balanced and environment friendly development of Andaman & Nicobar.

### Issues & Impact of Great Nicobar Project

- **Controversial Notifications:**
- **Displacement of Indigenous Communities:**
  - Indigenous communities, including the Shompen tribe will face displacement due to deforestation, infrastructure development, and land appropriation.
  - Settlements and traditional foraging/hunting grounds will be destroyed.
- **Neglect of Indigenous Rights:**
  - In May 2022, The Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) administration proposed 3 wildlife sanctuaries. No consultations were held with the tribes before granting clearances for the project.
    1. **Coral reefs at Meroë.**
    2. **Megapode birds at Menchal.**
    3. **Leatherback turtles on Little Nicobar Island.**
- **Loss of Livelihood and Culture:**
  - Indigenous peoples rely on forests and marine ecosystems for sustenance, such as cultivating coconuts and betel nuts, and fishing.
- **Deforestation and Habitat Loss:**
  - Around 8–10 lakh evergreen trees in pristine tropical forests will be cut down.
  - Wildlife habitats for species like the Nicobar Megapode, crocodiles etc. will be destroyed.
  - **Galathea Bay is a key nesting site for Leatherback turtles**, and its destruction endangers this globally significant species.

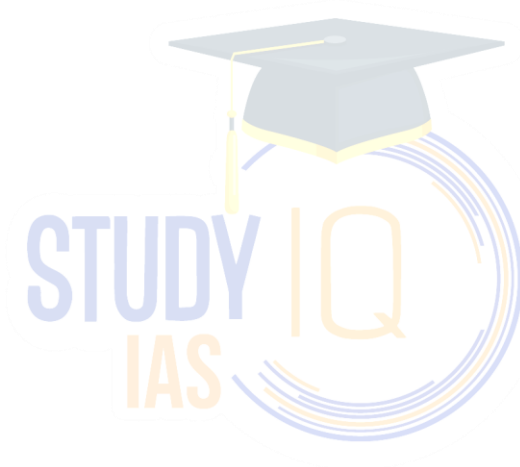
- **Damage to Coral Reefs:** Extensive coral reefs along Galathea Bay will be smothered out for port and construction activities.

#### Shompen Tribe

- Shompen are a semi-nomadic, hunter-gatherer tribe. They are classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- They live in the dense tropical rainforest of **Great Nicobar Island**, in areas such as **Galathea, Alexandria, Dagmar and Jubilee river basins**.
- They are one of the least studied PVTGs in India as they are very shy. They have a close relationship with the Nicobarese.
- Their main sources of livelihood are hunting, gathering, fishing and some horticultural activities.
- The exact population of the Shompen is unknown, but the **2011 census estimated it to be 229**.
- **Largest tribal group inhabiting A&N island:** Nicobarese (27,000)

#### Source:

- [The Hindu - Empower the guardians of the earth, do not rob them](#)
- [The Hindu - Cruise terminal proposed for Great Nicobar Island](#)



## News in Shorts

### Modweth Festival

- Modhweth is a **New Year festival celebrated by the Toda tribe** in the Nilgiris Hills of Tamil Nadu.
- The festival is held at the **Moonpo Temple in Muthanadu Mund (tribe's community headquarters)**. It is one of the oldest Toda temples still in existence.
- The festival marks the beginning of the next yearly cycle for the Todas.

### About Todas

- Todas are an **indigenous Dravidian ethnic group** living in the **Nilgiri Hills** of Tamil Nadu.
- They are known for their **barrel-vaulted houses and temples, long-horned buffalo and distinctive cloaks**
- They practice **polytheism** (multiple gods). Most important deities **Teikirzi and On**.
- Toda settlements are called **mund**, they are made up of 3 to 7 small thatched houses built on a wooden framework.

### Source:

- [The Hindu - Tribal Festival](#)

### Pravasi Bhartiya Divas - 9th January

- PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **18th edition** of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas in **Bhuvneshwar**.
- It is celebrated once in every **2 years** to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their cultural roots.
- 9 January commemorates the **return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915**. To mark this day, the tradition of celebrating Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) started in 2003.

### Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA)

- **Purpose:** Recognizes individuals and organizations for contributions in **Social work, Humanitarian efforts & Enhancing India's global reputation**.
- 27 individuals and organisations will be honoured this year.

### Indian Diaspora Statistics

- **Total Population:** Over 35.4 million, comprising:
  - **Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs):** 19.5 million
  - **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs):** 15.8 million
- **Major Countries:**
  - **USA:** Over 2 million PIOs
  - **UAE:** Over 3.5 million NRIs

### Source:

- [Indian Express - Pravasi Bhartiya Divas event in Bhubaneswar](#)

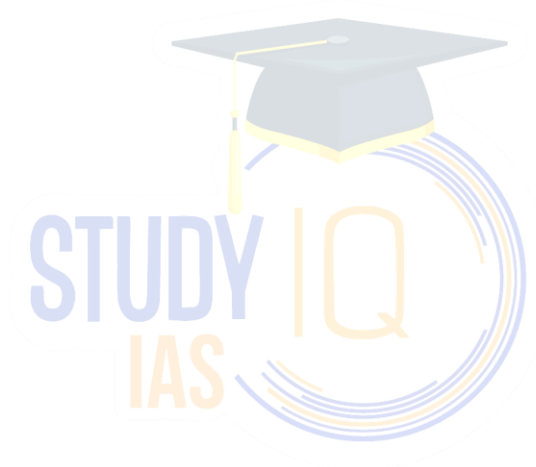
### Panchayat se Parliament 2.0 Initiative

- It is organised by the **National Commission for Women (NCW)**, in collaboration with the **Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
- The programme is organised in commemoration of the **150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda**.
- **Aim:** To empower women representatives from Panchayati Raj institutions by enhancing their

understanding of constitutional provisions, parliamentary procedures and governance.

**Source:**

- [The Hindu - 500 women representatives to get crash course in parliamentary procedures](#)





## Editorial Summary

### e-Shram Portal and the One-Stop Solution (OSS)

#### Context

- The e-Shram Portal, launched by the Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E) in May 2021, aims to create a comprehensive national database of unorganised workers in India, particularly focusing on migrant workers.
- This initiative was prompted by the challenges faced by these workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a Supreme Court directive for a national worker database.

#### Overview of e-Shram Portal

- **Largest Database:** The e-Shram portal is claimed to be the largest database of unorganised workers globally, with over 300 million registered workers.
- **Objectives:** The portal's primary goals include:
  - Creating a centralized database for various categories of unorganised workers (e.g., construction workers, gig workers, street vendors).
  - Enhancing the implementation of social security services and integrating various welfare schemes.
  - Facilitating the portability of benefits for migrant and construction workers.

#### Historical Context

- The need for a national database was recognized long before the e-Shram portal's inception:
  - **Interstate Migrant Workmen Act (1979):** Mandated licensing for labour contractors and required them to report details about interstate workers.
  - **National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (2007):** Advocated for a universal registration system for migrant workers.
  - **Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act (2008):** Included provisions for worker registration and identity cards.
- Despite these previous recommendations, implementation was lacking, leaving many migrant workers invisible and vulnerable.

#### Challenges Faced by Migrant Workers

- Migrants, particularly **seasonal and circular workers**, face:
  - **High mobility-driven distress**, disenfranchisement, and stigma.
  - Poor access to public services, lack of unionisation, and trafficking.
  - Exclusion from essential benefits like **ration cards and food security** (e.g., 80 million excluded in 2022 despite registration).

#### The Launch of One-Stop Solution (OSS)

- **Objective:** To provide seamless access to various **social security schemes** for e-Shram-registered workers.
- **Key Features:**
  - Integration of welfare schemes like **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)**, **MGNREGA**, **PM Shram Yogi Maandhan**, and **National Social Assistance Programme**.
  - Plans to link additional schemes like **PM Matru Vandana Yojana** and **Shramik Suraksha Yojana**.
  - Aims to ensure portability of benefits across states for migrant workers.
- **Achievements:**
  - Registration drive reached **286 million workers** by 2022.

- **Positive trend: 53.59% of registrants are women**, reflecting progress in gender inclusion in labour registration.

### Concerns and Limitations

- **Documentation Barriers:** Migrants often lack essential identity proofs like Aadhaar or ration cards.
  - Issues with mobile phone numbers (non-permanent or not linked to Aadhaar) exclude many from registration.
  - Absence of proper documentation continues to hinder universal social security access.
- **Lack of Comprehensive Data:** Migrant workers are a **heterogeneous category** with socio-cultural, regional, and economic diversity.
  - Absence of detailed data disaggregation hinders equitable policy design.
- **Portability Issues:** Inter-state migrants need **portable welfare entitlements**, which remain a work in progress under OSS.
- **Gender Sensitivity:** Although women comprise a majority of e-Shram registrations, **gender-sensitive policies** in social security schemes are still lacking.
- **Avoidance of “Freebie Culture”:** Migrants should be treated as **assets**, not burdens. Social protection schemes must focus on **human development outcomes** rather than subsidies.

### Future Outlook

- The government should view migrants as assets rather than merely recipients of subsidies, emphasizing human development outcomes.
- The MoL&E must ensure that welfare entitlements are transferable across states and locations.
- The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** warns that poorly managed migration can hinder development.
- Migrant workers contribute significantly to the Indian economy, necessitating better-designed social protection systems for their inclusion.

Source: [Indian Express: A journey to visibility](#)

## 7- Point Agenda For Employment Generation

### Context

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has proposed a 7-point agenda to boost employment generation in the country.

### Facts

- India, with a median age of 29, is projected to add 133 million individuals to its working-age population by 2050.
- According to the most recent Annual PLFS reports, the estimated unemployment rate (UR) for youth aged 15-29 years in the year 2023-24 stands at 10.2%.
- In the agriculture sector, which employs approximately 45% of the labor force, there is a significant issue of disguised unemployment, as this sector contributes only 16% to the Gross Value Added (GVA).

### Key Suggestions by CII

- **Integrated National Employment Policy:** CII advocates for the formulation of a comprehensive Integrated National Employment Policy that consolidates various employment-generating schemes across different ministries and states.
  - This approach aims to streamline efforts and maximize impact on job creation.
- **Data-Driven Employment Insights:** The establishment of a Universal Labour Information Management System (ULIMS) is recommended to provide crucial insights into job availability, skill demand, and training programs.
  - This data-driven approach would help align workforce skills with market needs.
- **Boosting Labour-Intensive Sectors:** CII emphasizes the importance of focusing on labour-intensive sectors such as construction, textiles, and tourism.
  - It suggests fostering national and international collaborations to enhance job creation in these industries.
- **Empowering Rural Youth:** Recognizing the challenges faced by rural youth amid declining job opportunities and stagnant agriculture, CII proposes launching a rural internship program for college graduates.
  - This initiative aims to strengthen government efforts in rural areas by engaging educated youth in local development projects.
- **Increasing Female Workforce Participation:** To improve female participation in the workforce, CII recommends establishing CSR-funded creches in industrial clusters and formalizing the care economy.
  - These initiatives, along with enhanced women safety laws and a supportive work culture, are expected to create a more inclusive job market for women.
- **Incentives for Hiring:** CII calls for the replacement of Section 80JJAA of tax provisions to provide employers with enhanced deductions for hiring new employees.
  - This change would incentivize businesses to expand their workforce.
- **Tapping Global Job Market:** The establishment of an International Mobility Authority under the Ministry of External Affairs is suggested to facilitate overseas employment opportunities for Indian youth.
  - The focus should be on leveraging international opportunities such as H1B visas in the US and collaborations like the CECP with Australia.

Source: [Indian Express: CII proposes 7- Point Agenda For Employment Generation](#)

## The outlook for India in the year ahead

### Context

India stands out globally due to **economic growth** and **political stability**, amidst a world witnessing profound economic and geopolitical shifts.

### Challenges for India in 2025

#### China Relations

- **Recent Developments:**
  - **Border Negotiations:** Apparent disengagement at the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in Ladakh.
  - **Resumption of Talks:** Special Representatives' discussions on border issues and meetings between **PM Modi** and **President Xi Jinping** after five years.
  - Despite these, the **border conflict remains unresolved**, necessitating vigilance.
- **Strategic Moves by China:**
  - Strengthened **Global South security cooperation:**
    - Facilitated **Palestinian reconciliation talks** in Beijing.
    - Advanced the **Global Security Initiative (GSI)** with African nations in counter-terrorism, disaster management, and public health.
  - During the **SCO Summit in Pakistan**, China muted India's voice, leveraging the absence of the Indian PM.
  - Strengthened ties with **Japan** during the **APEC Summit in Peru**, securing agreements for mutual strategic interests.

### South and West Asia: A Regional Churn

#### South Asia

- **Bangladesh:**
  - India faces hostility from the new **caretaker regime** after **Sheikh Hasina's ouster**.
  - Raises concerns over the effectiveness of India's **neighbourhood policy**.
- **Other Neighbours:**
  - **Nepal, Sri Lanka:** Appear to be **fair-weather friends**.
  - **Maldives:** Stance towards India remains uncertain.
  - **Bhutan:** Current regime displays greater inclination towards balancing ties with China.
  - **Pakistan:** Continues to maintain its inimical position.

#### West Asia

- **Syria:**
  - **Ouster of Assad Regime:** Likely to destabilize the region further.
  - **New Leadership:** Sunni group **Hayat Tahir al Shams (HTS)**, led by **Ahmed Hussain al Sharaa (formerly Abu Mohammed al Julani)**, is attempting to project a moderate stance.
  - **Implications:**
    - Decline in the **Shia axis** and Iran's influence in the region.
    - Potential weakening of militias like Hezbollah.
    - Israel emerges stronger despite criticism for Gaza pogroms.
  - **India's Position:**
    - Assad was viewed as a stabilizing force, especially during the **Arab Spring**.
    - The new Sunni leadership brings uncertainties in India's diplomatic stance.
- **Iran:**
  - Influence waning, impacting its revolutionary role in West Asia since 1979.
  - Potential internal turmoil in Iran, affecting Shia militias and the broader Shia community.

## Emerging Threats in 2025

### Cybersecurity

- **Rising Digital Threats:**
  - Convergence of technologies threatens **national infrastructure**.
  - Cyberattacks increased dramatically, targeting major companies and government institutions.
- **Data Points:**
  - **Denial of service and ransomware attacks** on the rise.
  - Trend expected to grow exponentially in 2025 and beyond.

### Conclusion

India stands at a crossroads with both opportunities and challenges ahead. While it has managed to maintain stability amidst global unrest, the evolving geopolitical dynamics require careful attention. The anticipated rise in digital threats further complicates this landscape, necessitating proactive measures to safeguard national interests.

**Source:** [The Hindu: The outlook for India in the year ahead](#)



## Detailed Coverage

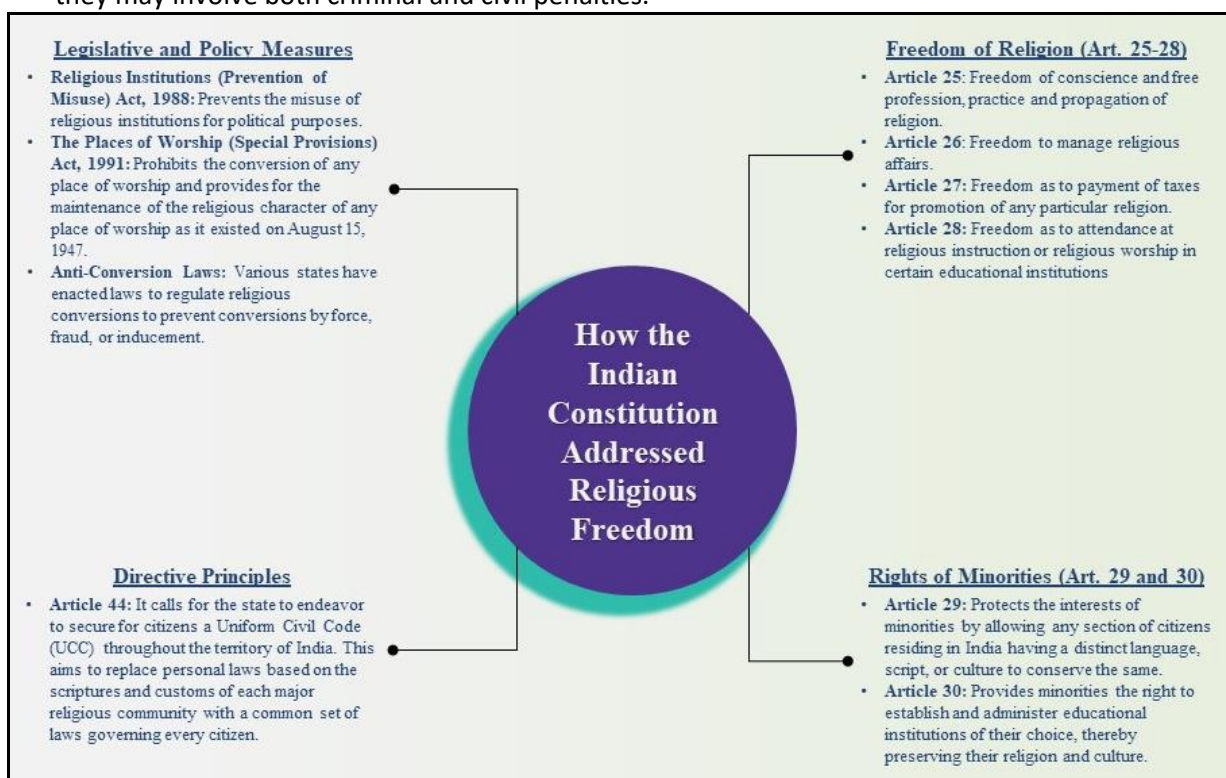
### Anti Conversion Law

#### Context

The Arunachal Pradesh government is working to bring a 1978 Act against “forceful” conversion out of cold storage by framing rules for its implementation.

#### What are Anti Conversion Laws?

- Anti-conversion laws are legislative measures aimed at preventing or prohibiting religious conversions.
- The specific provisions and enforcement of anti-conversion laws differ across jurisdictions, and they may involve both criminal and civil penalties.



#### Anti-Conversion Laws in India

- **Pre-Independence Era:** Before Independence, several Hindu princely states such as Raigarh, Bikaner, Kota, Jodhpur, Surguja, Patna, Udaipur, and Kalahandi implemented anti-conversion laws to curb missionary activities spreading Christianity.
- **Post-Independence Period:**
  - **Parliamentary Bills:** In 1954 and 1960, Parliament considered the Indian Conversion (Regulation and Registration) Bill and the Backward Communities (Religious Protection) Bill.
    - Both aimed to stop conversions but were abandoned due to lack of support.
  - **No Central Law:** Currently, there is no specific law framed by the central government specific to religious conversion.
  - The **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**, 2023, addresses offences related to religion under **Chapter XVI**.

- While it doesn't specifically mention "forceful religious conversion," it does cover various offences that could be related to religious sensitivities and actions.

### Anti-Conversion Laws in Various States

- Several states have enacted "Freedom of Religion" laws to restrict religious conversions carried out by force, fraud, or inducements.
- **These laws are currently in force in 8 states:** Odisha (1967), Madhya Pradesh (1968), Arunachal Pradesh (1978), Chhattisgarh (2000 and 2006), Gujarat (2003), Himachal Pradesh (2006 and 2019), Jharkhand (2017), and Uttarakhand (2018).
- **Examples of State Laws:**
  - Orissa Freedom of Religion Act, 1967.
  - Madhya Pradesh Dharma Swatantrya Adhiniyam, 1968.
  - Chhattisgarh Religion Freedom (Amendment) Act, 2006.
  - Jharkhand Freedom of Religion Act, 2017.
  - Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020.
  - Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act, 2022.
  - Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2022.
  - Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

### Need for Anti-Conversion Laws

- **Protection of Cultural and Social Cohesion:** Believed to be necessary to prevent conflicts and divisions within communities that may arise from religious conversions.
- **Preservation of Traditions and Beliefs:** The anti-conversion laws help protect the influence and power of a particular religion by preventing its erosion due to conversions.
- **Prevention of Coercion and Deception:** Essential to protect individuals from being forced or deceived into converting to another religion.
- **Concern of Fraudulent Marriages:** There have been cases where individuals were forced to convert after marrying someone from a different religion, raising concerns about deceitful practices.

### Arguments Against Anti Conversion Law

- **Violation of Religious Freedom:** Critics argue that anti-conversion laws infringe upon the fundamental right to freedom of religion guaranteed by Article 25 of the Indian Constitution.
  - These laws are seen as restricting an individual's right to choose and practice a religion of their choice.
- **Ambiguity and Misuse:** The vague terminology used in these laws, such as "force," "fraud," and "allurement," can be broadly interpreted, leading to potential misuse.
  - This ambiguity has resulted in harassment and legal challenges against individuals, particularly from minority communities, even in the absence of concrete evidence.
- **Encouragement of Vigilantism:** The existence of anti-conversion laws has, at times, emboldened non-state actors to engage in vigilante violence against individuals accused of unlawful conversions.
  - This has created a hostile environment for religious minorities and has led to incidents of violence and discrimination.
- **Impact on Social Services:** Religious organizations often provide essential social services, including education and healthcare.
  - Anti-conversion laws can hinder these activities, as any aid provided by religious groups might be misconstrued as an inducement for conversion, thereby affecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- **Constitutional Challenges:** There have been legal challenges to the constitutionality of anti-conversion laws.

- E.g., The Supreme Court of India has noted that certain aspects of these laws may violate the fundamental right to religion, indicating potential conflicts with constitutional provisions.
- **Lack of Convictions:** Despite the existence of these laws, there have been few arrests and even fewer convictions.
  - This raises questions about their effectiveness and suggests that they may be used more as tools for harassment rather than for prosecuting genuine cases of forced conversions.

#### Judicial Pronouncements on Conversion

- **Lata Singh vs. State of Uttar Pradesh:** The Supreme Court ruled that an individual has the right to **marry someone of their choice** regardless of their religion, caste, or social status, and any interference with this right is a violation of the right to freedom of choice.
- **Sarla Mudgal vs. Union of India:** The Supreme Court held that a person can **convert to another religion** for the purpose of marriage, but the conversion **should not be used as an excuse to evade** legal obligations or responsibilities.
- **S. Pushpabai vs. C.T. Selvaraj:** The Supreme Court ruled that an individual has the right to convert to another religion voluntarily, and any coercion or misrepresentation in connection with religious conversion is a violation of the right to freedom of religion.
- **Rev. Stainislaus vs. State of Madhya Pradesh & Ors (1977):** The Supreme Court concluded that the right to propagate does not include the right to convert.

Source: [Indian Express: Why Arunachal Pradesh is bringing back 1978 Act against 'forceful' religious conversion](#)

