



PAREEKSHA BAAZ
Institute for CSE Examination

CURRENT AFFAIRS

27th NOV 2024

For more exam related
videos and guidance,
scan the code to
join our YouTube Channel



For more exam related
material, scan the
code to join our
Telegram Channel



Scan the code
to join our
Instagram Channel





INDEX	
SN.	TOPIC
1	Socialist and Secular in Preamble
2	Ban on ULFA Under UAPA
3	State of the Rural Economy of India
4	Supreme Court upholds 'secular, socialist' in Preamble of the Constitution
5	U.N. Resolution on Crimes Against Humanity
6	Global Matchmaking Platform for Industrial Decarbonisation



Socialist and Secular in Preamble

Recently, the **Supreme Court** upheld the addition of **socialist and secular** to the **Preamble** inserted through the **42nd Amendment Act, 1976**.

- Under **Article 368**, Parliament can amend the Constitution, including the **Preamble**, and the **1976 additions** were valid despite the **26th November 1949 cut-off date**.
- The **Right to Freedom of Religion** (Articles 25 - 28) provides the right and liberty to **preach, practice and propagate** the religion of his choice.
- **Secularism** was upheld as India's unique interpretation, where the state respects all religions equally, referencing the **SR Bommai Case, 1994**.
 - **Articles 14, 15, and 16** of the Constitution **prohibit discrimination** against citizens on **religious grounds** while guaranteeing equal protection of laws and equal opportunity in public employment.
 - **Article 44** permits the govt to strive for a **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** and it is not restricted by the term Secular in the Preamble.
- **Socialism** practised in India aims to achieve the goal of **economic and social upliftment** of citizens.
 - It does not restrict **private entrepreneurship** and the right to do business, which is guaranteed as a fundamental right under **Article 19(1)(g)**.

Ban on ULFA Under UAPA

Recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) extended the ban on the **United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA)** for five more years under the **Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967 (UAPA)**.

- ULFA is an **armed militant organisation** operating in **Assam** that aims to **secede Assam** from India.
 - ULFA was formed in **1979** to seek the "**restoration of Assam's sovereignty**" through **armed struggle**.
 - **ULFA** was first banned in **1990** and the ban has been renewed periodically, with the last extension in **2019**.
- **Section 35** of the UAPA, 1967 empowers the government to declare an **organisation as unlawful or an individual as terrorist** if it engages in activities promoting **terrorism or secession**.



State of the Rural Economy of India

Why in News?

India's rural economy faces significant challenges, including **poverty, unemployment, and agrarian distress**. To address these issues, there is a need to focus on rural industrialisation, particularly through women-owned **non-agricultural enterprises**.

- Expanding such enterprises can enhance **GDP** growth and improve employment opportunities in rural areas, especially for women.

What is the State of India's Rural Economy?

▪ **Rural Demographics:**

- According to **Census 2011**, **68.85%** of India's population resides in **rural areas** and it is projected by **NITI Aayog** that it **will remain above 50% even in 2045**, indicating the sustained significance of rural India in the nation's socio-economic fabric.

▪ **Living Conditions:**

- According to Census 2011, around **39% of rural households** resided in **one-room accommodations**, with only **53.2% having access to electricity** compared to **92.7% in urban** areas.
- **Traditional fuels** like firewood were used for cooking by **86% of rural** households, and **only 30.8% had access to tap water**, highlighting challenges in basic infrastructure and amenities.

▪ **Rural Poverty:**

- The **Tendulkar methodology** shows rural poverty was alarmingly high at **41.8% in 2004-05**, declining to around **25% in 2011-12**.
 - However, 6 states still had poverty ratios exceeding 35% in 2011-12.
- The rural **Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE)** remains significantly lower than urban levels, indicating **limited consumption capacity** and **acute poverty**.

▪ **Employment:**

- The **PLFS Report 2023-24** highlights that rural employment is largely characterised by **self-employment (53.5%)** and **casual labour (25.6%)**.
 - A significant portion of **rural workers (58.4%) is engaged in agriculture** (offers **seasonal employment**).
 - **Salaried jobs** in rural areas comprise only **12%** of the workforce, with most of these positions lacking contracts, paid leave, and job security.

- The **India Employment Report 2024** by the **ILO** shows unemployment among educated youth has nearly doubled from **35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022**, with women (76.7%) facing higher unemployment than men (62.2%).
- From 2017–18 to 2023–24, India added **150 million jobs**, with **rural women** driving **54%** of this growth, particularly in **agriculture**.
 - **Rural female workforce participation** increased by 12.5% to **34.8%** in 2023–24.
- **Agricultural Distress:**
 - **Small and marginal** farmers, who constitute **86%** of the farming population, hold only **43% of agricultural land**, while larger farmers with economic holdings manage 53% of the land .
 - **Agricultural labourers** who make up a larger proportion of the rural workforce compared to landowners face **seasonal work, low wages**, and a **lack of social security measures**, including medical assistance and pensions.

What Steps Have Been Taken to Promote Rural Economy in India?

- **Infrastructure Development:**
 - **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**,
 - **BharatNet Project**
 - **Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)** has played a pivotal role in rural electrification, bringing electricity to over 18,000 villages and boosting economic activities.
- **Support for MSMEs:**
 - **Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd (MUDRA)**
 - **Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs (CGTMSE)**
 - **SFURTI (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries)**
- **Promoting Rural Entrepreneurship and Employment:**
 - **Start-up India Initiative**
 - **Stand-Up India Scheme**
 - **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana**
 - **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana**
 - **National Rural Livelihood Mission**
- **Strengthening Rural-Urban Linkages:**
 - **Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)**
 - **eNAM platform**
- **Policy Frameworks for Rural Manufacturing:**

- **One District One Product (ODOP)**

What are the Challenges to Rural Economy in India?

- **Stagnation of the Manufacturing Sector:** India's manufacturing sector has experienced stagnation, contributing only **15% to the GDP in 2023**, down from **16.1% in 2014-15**.
- **Spatial Planning Challenge:** India's shift from **agriculture to manufacturing** has been slow and uneven, with over **40%** of the workforce still employed in **agriculture**, compared to **20% in China** and **2% in the US**.
- **Infrastructural Issues:** De-urbanisation of manufacturing in India has **shifted organised manufacturing from urban to rural areas**, reducing costs but **hindering growth** due to **inadequate rural infrastructure**.
 - **Small towns** and **rural areas** are emerging as **engines of economic growth** in India, with over half of the urban population residing in these regions, projected to grow significantly by 2050.
- **Investment Challenges: Private investment in rural manufacturing is limited.** Factors such as **poor physical infrastructure, lack of reliable land records, and distorted capital markets** contribute to this underinvestment.
 - The **absence of efficient resource allocation mechanisms** has restricted the entry of new, more efficient enterprises.

What Measures Can Be Taken to Boost Rural Economic Growth in India?

- **Infrastructure Investments:** Significant **investments in rural infrastructure**, including **roads, electricity, and telecommunications**, are vital for creating a conducive environment for manufacturing growth and economic development.
- **Promoting MSMEs:** Policies should focus on empowering **micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** by ensuring easier access to **credit, land, and skill development programs**.
 - Supporting MSMEs, especially those addressing rural demands, will enhance entrepreneurship and generate employment.
 - A policy shift towards **developing small towns as industrial hubs** is crucial for balanced regional development and mitigating urban-rural disparities.
- **Focus on Skill Development: Skill development programs** must be aligned with industry needs to boost the employability of the rural workforce, particularly in non-agricultural sectors.
 - It will ensure they are ready for the opportunities arising from rural industrialization.

- **Promoting Women-Owned Non-Agricultural Enterprises:** These enterprises contribute to economic growth by **enhancing productivity, diversifying incomes, and promoting financial inclusion**.
 - **Women need to account for over half the new jobs created by 2030** for India to **achieve an 8% GDP growth rate**.
 - Formalising these enterprises, and providing targeted business and financial support through **priority sector lending**, is crucial.
- **Enhancing Digital Infrastructure:** Expanding digital infrastructure, including **internet access and mobile connectivity** in rural areas will facilitate women's participation in non-agricultural sectors.
 - This would enable women to **leverage fintech solutions** for better financial access and efficient business management.



Supreme Court upholds 'secular, socialist' in Preamble of the Constitution

Context

- The Supreme Court in an order, upheld the inclusion of 'socialist and secular' in the Preamble of the Constitution.

Background

- The order was based on a batch of petitions filed in 2020 challenging the validity of the inclusion of 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble through the **42nd Constitution Amendment in 1976**.
- The petition argued that the insertions were made with retrospective effect.

Supreme Court ruling

- The court interpreted that the word '**secular**' denotes a Republic that upholds equal respect for all religions.
 - '**Socialist**' represents a Republic dedicated to eliminating all forms of exploitation, whether social, political, or economic.
- The Supreme Court reaffirmed that the **Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution**.
- Also the Constitution is a "**living document**" and can evolve according to the needs of society.

Secular Ethos in India

- **Secularism is enshrined** not just in the Preamble but in various constitutional provisions that guarantee equal treatment of all religions (**Articles 15, 16, 25**).
- The principle of secularism ensures that the **Indian State remains impartial**, protecting the rights of citizens regardless of their religious affiliations.

Socialism in India

- Socialism in India finds its origins in the freedom movement, where leaders like **Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose** championed a state-driven economy for equitable growth.
- **Development in India;**
 - **Nehruvian Model:** Adoption of state-led industrialization and planned economic development, exemplified by the establishment of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
 - **Land Reforms:** Redistribution of land to address feudal inequalities.
 - **Social Justice Movements:** Enactment of affirmative action policies like reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes.

Concluding remarks

- The Supreme Court's ruling affirms the constitutionality of the 42nd Amendment and reinforces the vision of a secular and socialist India, reflecting the nation's commitment to equality, justice, and social welfare.
- This decision reiterates the dynamic nature of the Constitution, which can evolve to reflect the changing needs of society while preserving its core principles.



U.N. Resolution on Crimes Against Humanity

In News

- The U.N. The General Assembly's legal committee adopted a resolution to begin negotiations for a treaty on preventing and punishing crimes against humanity.

U.N. resolution on Crimes Against Humanity

– The resolution was supported by **98 countries, including Mexico and Gambia**, and is seen as necessary to address the gap in international law on crimes against humanity (a topic not covered by existing treaties on war crimes, genocide, and torture).

– While the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutes war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity, it lacks jurisdiction in many countries.

1. The new treaty would address crimes against humanity in countries outside the ICC's jurisdiction.

– **Importance** : The resolution is seen as a significant step in international law, addressing impunity for crimes against humanity in places like **Ethiopia, Sudan, Ukraine, Gaza, and Myanmar**.

Need for a Treaty on Crimes Against Humanity

- **Addressing a Legal Gap**: Existing international law, such as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, primarily addresses crimes committed during armed conflict. However, many heinous crimes against humanity occur outside the context of war, such as genocide, persecution, and apartheid.
- **Comprehensive Legal Framework**: Offers victims pathways for justice and assists countries in incorporating crimes against humanity into national legal systems.
- **Fostering Global Cooperation**: Enables international collaboration, such as through mutual legal assistance and extradition agreements.

Crimes Against Humanity

- **Brief**: These are crimes committed as part of a widespread attack against any civilian population.
 - **Examples**: Includes acts like murder, extermination, enslavement, torture, rape, sexual violence, sexual slavery, and other inhumane acts.
- **Elements**
 - **Physical**: The act must involve one of the following:
 - Murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, imprisonment, torture
 - Grave sexual violence, persecution, enforced disappearance, apartheid, or other inhumane acts.

- **Contextual:** The act must be part of a widespread or systematic attack on a civilian population, not just isolated incidents.
- **Mental:** The perpetrator must be aware that their actions are part of a larger attack against civilians.
- **No Need for Armed Conflict:** Crimes against humanity can occur during times of peace, unlike war crimes that are linked to armed conflict.
- **Target:** Unlike genocide, crimes against humanity are not aimed at a specific group but any civilian population.
- **Challenges in Prosecution**
 - Prosecuting crimes against humanity poses significant challenges.
 - These include **gathering sufficient evidence, ensuring witness protection, and navigating political complexities.**
 - Additionally, the principle of state sovereignty can sometimes hinder international intervention and justice.

Recent Examples

- Recent history has seen numerous instances of crimes against humanity.
- The conflict in Syria, the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar, and the situation in Darfur, Sudan, are notable examples where widespread and systematic attacks against civilian populations have been documented.

Role of the International Community

- The international community plays a crucial role in addressing crimes against humanity.
- Organizations like the United Nations and the International Criminal Court work to investigate, prosecute, and prevent these crimes.
 - **International Criminal Court (ICC):** The ICC is the permanent court responsible for prosecuting crimes against humanity.
- **National Courts:** Countries that incorporate crimes against humanity into their criminal law can also prosecute these crimes

Existing Mechanisms to Prevent Crimes Against Humanity

– International Humanitarian Laws:

1. **Geneva Conventions (1949):** Protects civilians and non-combatants in armed conflicts.
2. **Biological Weapons Convention (1972):** Prohibits biological weapons.
3. **Chemical Weapons Convention (1993):** Bans chemical weapons.



4. **Rome Statute (1998)**: Establishes the ICC to prosecute genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

– **Framework in India:**

1. **Article 51**: Promotes international peace and adherence to international law.



Global Matchmaking Platform for Industrial Decarbonisation

Context

- On the Energy Day at **COP29**, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Climate Club launched the **Global Matchmaking Platform (GMP)**.

Global Matchmaking Platform (GMP)

- **GMP aims to bridge the gap** between the demand for industrial decarbonisation solutions and the resources needed to implement them, particularly in heavy-emitting industries.
- The platform is designed to:
 - **Address Funding Challenges:** Aims to tackle the annual funding gap of **\$125 billion** required to meet net-zero goals.
 - **Provide Tailored Solutions:** Matches the unique industrial decarbonisation needs of various countries with technical and financial resources.
 - **Foster Collaboration:** Strengthens cooperation between governments, international organisations, and private entities.
- **Participants** include Germany, Chile (co-chairs of the Climate Club), Uruguay, Turkey, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and non-state actors like the World Bank and Climate Investment Funds (CIF).

Need for Industrial Decarbonisation

- **Heavy industries** like steel, cement, and chemicals **contribute 70% of CO₂** emissions from the industrial sector.
 - Decarbonisation is critical to meet global climate goals, including the **Paris Agreement targets**.
- **Sustainability:** Industrial decarbonisation reduces reliance on fossil fuels and encourages the adoption of renewable energy and circular economy practices.
- **Economic Growth:** Transitioning to green industrial methods fosters innovation, creates jobs in clean technology sectors, and ensures long-term economic resilience.

Challenges in Industrial Decarbonisation

- **Financial Constraints:** Annual investments in net-zero industrial technologies need to increase from \$15 billion to \$70 billion by 2030, reaching \$125 billion by 2050.
- **Emerging and Developing Economies (EMDEs)** face hurdles such as limited resources, outdated technology, and development priorities, making industrial decarbonisation challenging.
- **Policy and Regulatory Hurdles:** Inconsistent global standards and regulations for industrial decarbonisation impede progress.

Way Ahead

- **Enhanced Funding Mechanisms:** Encourage private sector participation through incentives and risk-sharing mechanisms to bridge the funding gap.
- **Capacity Building:** Promote research in clean industrial processes, and provide technical assistance for institutional capacity enhancement in EMDEs.
- **Policy Alignment:** Align industrial decarbonisation goals with national priorities, and foster inclusive global cooperation under the Climate Club.

Initiatives for Industrial Decarbonization

– Global:

1. **EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):** Prevents carbon leakage with tariffs on carbon-intensive imports.
2. **Green Hydrogen Initiatives:** Led by countries like Germany and Japan to decarbonize heavy industries.
3. **Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA):** Targets net-zero emissions by 2050 using alternative fuels and carbon capture.

– Indian:

1. **National Hydrogen Mission:** Pushes green hydrogen to decarbonize steel and cement.
2. **PAT Scheme:** Reduces energy consumption in energy-intensive industries.
3. **Zero Effect Zero Defect (ZED):** Encourages SMEs to adopt sustainable practices.
4. **Renewable Energy Targets:** Aims for 500 GW capacity by 2030 to green industrial energy.

– Climate Club

1. The Climate Club, is an international coalition that fosters **collaboration on decarbonising industrial sectors**.
2. It was established at **COP28** and has **38 member countries** including the European Union, Kenya, and Switzerland.
3. Its **2025–26** work programme focuses on three pillars:
 - (i) **Pillar 1:** Advancing ambitious and transparent climate change mitigation policies,
 - (ii) **Pillar 2:** Transforming industries,
 - (iii) **Pillar 3:** Boosting international climate cooperation and partnerships.