



OAS HUB

IDEAL FOR
UPSC, OPSC and Other
Competitive Examinations

English

DAILY CHRONICLE CURRENT AFFAIRS

NEWS CREDIT

PIB/ PTI/ News On Air/ The Hindu/ IANS/ Business Standard/ Times Of India/ Deccan Herald/ Hindustan Times/ BBC News/ Aljazeera/ Mirror.Uk/ Times Now/ Economic Times/ Financial Express/ Indian Express...

NEWS COVERED

Business News, financial news, economy news, company news, politics news, India news, breaking news, Indian economy, International News, Sports News, and many more topics...



Tuesday, August 18, 2026



TABLE OF CONTENT

- **NITI Aayog's Manufacturing Roadmap: Building Competitive, Profitable and Globally Integrated Industrial Value Chains for India's 2047 Vision:** *Manufacturing / Industrial Policy / Global Value Chains / Economic Growth / Viksit Bharat 2047 (GS-III)*
- **Parliamentary Disruptions in India: Declining Legislative Scrutiny, Accountability and Deliberative Capacity of Parliament:** *Parliamentary Functioning / Legislative Scrutiny / Accountability / Parliamentary Reforms / Democratic Governance (GS-II)*
- **Supreme Court Strengthens Constitutional Safeguards Against Arbitrary Arrest, Protecting Personal Liberty, Dignity and Due Process:** *Personal Liberty / Arrest and Detention / Due Process / Constitutional Safeguards / Fundamental Rights (GS-II)*
- **India's Ease of Doing Business reforms are shifting from procedural simplification towards predictable, digital and enterprise-friendly governance:** *Ease of Doing Business / Regulatory Reforms / Digital Governance / Business Environment / Economic Reforms (GS-II & GS-III)*
- **Vaishya Tekri in Ujjain: Proposed Fresh Excavation May Reveal New Evidence on Mauryan-Era Buddhist Architecture:** *Archaeology / Mauryan Period / Buddhist Architecture / Ancient Indian History / Cultural Heritage (GS-I)*

IMPORTANT INSIGHTS

NITI Aayog's Manufacturing Roadmap: Building Competitive, Profitable and Globally Integrated Industrial Value Chains for India's 2047 Vision

Recent Development: NITI Aayog's Global Manufacturing Hub Roadmap:

- NITI Aayog has released the opening volume of its study, “**Key Sectors to Position India as a Global Manufacturing Hub**”, which identifies high-potential sectors and proposes a focused strategy for strengthening India's manufacturing competitiveness and integration into **Global Value Chains (GVCs)**. The study builds on NITI Aayog's earlier research initiative to identify sectors with high growth potential, global demand, manufacturing efficiency and value-addition opportunities.
- The broader study identifies sectors including **electronics, automobiles, defence and drones, textiles, solar PV manufacturing, capital goods, steel, food processing, leather and footwear, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and telecom equipment**; NITI Aayog's earlier study documentation also considered **aircraft manufacturing**, so the precise sector count depends on the stage and scope of the study being referred to.
- The opening volume focuses particularly on **chemicals, textiles, telecom and network equipment, and solar photovoltaic manufacturing**, highlighting common constraints such as high costs, inadequate domestic value addition, skill gaps, infrastructure bottlenecks and concentrated export markets.
- The central policy message is a shift from merely increasing manufacturing's **share in GDP** towards creating **profitable, productive, scalable and globally competitive manufacturing capacity**.

Manufacturing Sector in India: Economic and Strategic Significance:

Meaning and Industrial Scope:

- **Manufacturing** refers to the transformation of raw materials and intermediate goods into finished or semi-finished products through labour, capital, technology and industrial processes.
- Major manufacturing activities include **automobiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, textiles, electronics, machinery, food processing, metals, defence equipment and renewable-energy equipment**.
- Manufacturing has strong linkages with **agriculture, mining, logistics, energy, infrastructure, services and exports**, making it a critical component of structural economic transformation.

Contribution to the Indian Economy:

- The **Economic Survey 2025–26** notes that manufacturing's share in **real GVA** has remained broadly stable at around **17–18%**, while its **Gross Value of Output (GVO)** has remained around **38%**, indicating the sector's substantial role in overall economic activity.
- The apparently lower manufacturing share in **current-price GVA** reflects, among other factors, relative price effects and the sector's weaker terms of trade rather than simply a decline in physical manufacturing activity.
- The latest MoSPI SDG framework reports manufacturing's share of **Manufacturing Value Added in GDP** at **14.30% at constant prices in 2024–25**, while the corresponding current-price share was **13.14%**.
- Manufacturing accounted for **11.44% of total employment in 2023–24**, compared with **12.13% in 2017–18**, highlighting the continuing challenge of expanding labour-intensive industrial employment.

- The broader **secondary sector** remains important because it combines manufacturing with construction, electricity, gas, water supply and related utilities, thereby linking industrial production with infrastructure and urbanisation.

Why Manufacturing Matters for India's Development:

- **Employment generation:** Labour-intensive manufacturing can absorb workers shifting out of agriculture and create large-scale non-farm employment.
- **Export competitiveness:** Manufacturing enables India to move from low-value activities towards higher-value products within GVCs.
- **Productivity growth:** Technology adoption, scale economies and industrial learning can raise labour and total factor productivity.
- **Import resilience:** Domestic production of critical inputs can reduce vulnerabilities arising from global supply disruptions.
- **Technological capability:** Advanced manufacturing strengthens domestic **R&D, engineering, design and innovation ecosystems**.
- **Regional development:** Industrial clusters can promote infrastructure, logistics, urbanisation and employment beyond major metropolitan centres.

NITI Aayog Study: Methodology and Sector Selection:

Four-Phase Methodology:

- **Phase 1 – Sector shortlisting:** Sectors were assessed on the basis of domestic and global market size, future growth prospects and strategic opportunities.
- **Phase 2 – Strategic assessment:** Shortlisted sectors were evaluated through **market potential, competitiveness and strategic relevance**.
- **Phase 3 – Global benchmarking:** International manufacturing leaders were examined to identify transferable **policy, technology, cluster and value-chain practices**.
- **Phase 4 – Action roadmap:** Sector-specific interventions were developed around infrastructure, technology, skills, investment, domestic value addition and export competitiveness.

Major Assessment Parameters:

- The framework considers **market potential, infrastructure readiness, policy support, raw-material availability, technology readiness, employment potential and India's position within the value chain**.
- The approach seeks to avoid indiscriminate industrial subsidies by prioritising sectors where India can develop sustainable **comparative and competitive advantages**.

Sector-Wise Findings: Four Priority Areas:

1. Chemicals:

- India's chemical industry is a major industrial input provider for **pharmaceuticals, textiles, automobiles, agriculture and other manufacturing sectors**.
- The sector includes **petrochemicals and organic chemicals, specialty chemicals and inorganic chemicals**, with petrochemicals and organic chemicals forming the largest segment.
- NITI Aayog identifies a major opportunity in shifting from relatively basic outputs towards **higher-value downstream chemicals** and better utilisation of available feedstocks.
- Priority products for import substitution include **phenol, methanol and acetic acid**, where greater domestic production can reduce foreign-exchange outflows and exposure to international price volatility.

- India's chemical industry was valued at approximately **USD 220 billion in 2023** and has substantial potential for expansion, but its global participation remains constrained by feedstock availability, infrastructure gaps, import dependence and regulatory complexity.

2. Textiles and Apparel:

- The textile and apparel industry is strategically important because it combines **large employment potential, export orientation and relatively labour-intensive production**.
- India was the **sixth-largest exporter of textiles and apparel globally**, with a **4.1% share of global exports in 2024**.
- Textile and apparel exports, including handicrafts, were valued at approximately **USD 37.7 billion in 2024–25**, accounting for around **8.63% of India's merchandise exports**.
- The sector has substantial employment potential, but **labour productivity remains below the overall manufacturing average**, limiting competitiveness in global markets.
- NITI Aayog recommends a stronger shift towards **man-made fibres (MMF)** and higher-value segments to support the ambition of reaching approximately **USD 100 billion in textile and apparel exports**.
- Productivity can be improved through **apprenticeships, industry-academia partnerships, technology adoption and targeted skilling**.
- Affordable and safe accommodation for **migrant workers near industrial clusters** can reduce labour-market frictions and improve workforce stability.
- Voluntary certification** for firms meeting ethical labour standards can improve workplace practices and strengthen international market credibility.

3. Telecom and Network Equipment:

- India possesses a large domestic telecommunications market, creating a strong demand base for **telecom equipment, network infrastructure and digital technologies**.
- The manufacturing opportunity lies in moving beyond assembly towards **domestic components, product design, R&D, testing and export-oriented production**.
- NITI Aayog emphasises **localisation, domestic component manufacturing, joint ventures, technology transfer, integrated industrial clusters, testing infrastructure and skill development**.
- The Department of Telecommunications is also supporting indigenous telecom innovation through the **Technology Development & Investment Promotion Scheme**, which has an outlay of **₹203 crore for 2026–27 to 2030–31** and aims to strengthen innovation, standardisation, testing and exports.
- A stronger domestic telecom-equipment ecosystem can reduce import dependence while supporting India's ambitions in **5G, 6G, optical networks and digital infrastructure**.

4. Solar Photovoltaic Manufacturing:

- India's rapid expansion of solar power creates a large domestic market for **solar cells, modules, wafers, polysilicon and associated equipment**.
- The major structural challenge is that domestic manufacturing remains concentrated towards **downstream stages**, while upstream capabilities such as wafers and polysilicon remain comparatively weak.
- NITI Aayog therefore recommends moving **upstream in the solar value chain** and developing integrated manufacturing capabilities.
- Export concentration is another vulnerability because excessive dependence on a single overseas market can expose Indian manufacturers to **trade-policy changes, tariffs and geopolitical disruptions**.
- Diversifying export destinations and strengthening upstream manufacturing can improve India's **strategic resilience and global competitiveness**.
- The Economic Survey 2025–26 also highlights solar PV as one of the PLI-linked sectors where strong production expansion has been accompanied by substantial growth in imports of intermediate inputs, underlining the need for deeper **domestic value addition**.

Cross-Cutting Manufacturing Strategy: Common Policy Priorities:

Cluster-Based Industrialisation:

- India should promote **integrated manufacturing clusters** with common infrastructure, utilities, logistics, testing facilities, worker accommodation and streamlined approvals.
- Cluster-based production can generate **economies of scale and scope**, reduce transaction costs and enable MSMEs to integrate into larger value chains.
- The model can also facilitate collaboration between **industry, research institutions, skill providers and government agencies**.

Domestic Value Addition:

- Manufacturing growth should not be measured only by the value of final products assembled in India; it should also be assessed through the **domestic value added across the production chain**.
- Greater domestic production of components, intermediate goods, machinery and specialised inputs can improve resilience and reduce excessive dependence on imports.
- The objective should therefore be to move from **assembly-led manufacturing towards deeper value-chain participation**.

Technology and Global Value Chains:

- **Joint ventures and technology transfer** can accelerate access to advanced manufacturing capabilities.
- Indian firms need stronger capabilities in **design, engineering, R&D, process innovation, quality control and intellectual property**.
- Integration into GVCs should be accompanied by gradual movement towards **higher-value activities**, rather than remaining concentrated in low-value assembly.

Skills and Labour Productivity:

- Industrial competitiveness depends not only on capital and infrastructure but also on **worker productivity and technical skills**.
- Industry-linked apprenticeships, vocational training and **industry-academia collaboration** should be aligned with emerging manufacturing technologies.
- Skill development should focus on **advanced machinery, automation, electronics, robotics, digital manufacturing, quality management and green technologies**.

Export Diversification:

- India needs to diversify both its **product basket and geographical export markets**.
- Excessive dependence on a single market creates vulnerability to **tariff changes, geopolitical tensions, regulatory shifts and demand shocks**.
- Balanced and commercially meaningful **Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)** can improve market access when accompanied by domestic competitiveness.

Profitability and Private Investment: A Strategic Shift:

From Manufacturing Share to Manufacturing Competitiveness:

- NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman **Ashok Lahiri** has emphasised that India does not need to replicate China's manufacturing scale directly, but it must capture the benefits of **economies of scale and scope**.
- The government's role should increasingly focus on **removing structural impediments**, while private investment should drive productive capacity and commercial expansion.
- Investment ultimately depends on **profitability**, making cost competitiveness, market access, productivity and technological capability more important than manufacturing targets alone.
- This represents a shift from a narrow objective of raising manufacturing's **GDP share** towards creating commercially viable and globally competitive industrial capacity.

Key Challenges to India Becoming a Global Manufacturing Hub:

Structural and Cost Constraints:

- **High logistics costs, expensive industrial land, costly power and regulatory compliance** can reduce the competitiveness of Indian manufacturing.
- Fragmented supply chains and inadequate industrial infrastructure can prevent firms from achieving efficient production scale.
- Limited access to patient capital can constrain investment in **capital-intensive and technology-intensive industries**.

Import Dependence and Shallow Value Chains:

- Several sectors continue to depend heavily on imported **components, machinery, intermediate goods and critical raw materials**.
- Excessive import dependence can weaken domestic value addition even when final-product exports increase.
- Protection of upstream industries must therefore be calibrated because high-cost domestic inputs can reduce the competitiveness of downstream exporters; the **Economic Survey 2025–26** specifically stresses the importance of maintaining downstream export competitiveness.

MSME Constraints:

- **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** often face constraints in finance, technology, quality certification, market access and managerial capability.
- Weak linkages between MSMEs and large manufacturers can prevent smaller firms from becoming reliable suppliers within **GVCs**.
- Industrial policy should therefore support **MSME scaling, technology upgrading and integration into formal supply chains**, rather than only increasing the number of small firms.

Employment Challenge:

- Manufacturing employment remains relatively modest despite the sector's importance, with its share of total employment at **11.44% in 2023–24**.
- Capital-intensive manufacturing can increase output without generating proportionate employment, creating a need for a balanced strategy combining **advanced manufacturing with labour-intensive sectors**.
- Textiles, food processing, footwear, electronics assembly and selected light-manufacturing activities can provide significant employment opportunities if productivity and export competitiveness improve.

Government Policy Ecosystem: Enabling Manufacturing Competitiveness:

Major Policy Instruments:

- **Make in India:** Promotes domestic manufacturing, investment and industrial capability.
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes:** Encourage investment, production, scale and competitiveness in selected strategic sectors.
- **PM Gati Shakti:** Supports integrated planning of transport and logistics infrastructure.
- **National Logistics Policy:** Seeks to improve logistics efficiency and reduce supply-chain costs.
- **Industrial Corridors:** Promote integrated industrial development around multimodal infrastructure.
- **National Industrial Corridor Development Programme:** Supports large-scale industrial clusters and manufacturing ecosystems.
- **India Semiconductor Mission:** Strengthens domestic semiconductor manufacturing and the wider electronics ecosystem.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission:** Creates future demand for electrolyzers, renewable-energy equipment and related green technologies.
- **Technology Development & Investment Promotion Scheme:** Supports telecom innovation, standardisation, testing and export capabilities.

Way Forward: Building a Competitive Manufacturing Ecosystem:

From Incentives to Competitiveness:

- Incentives should increasingly be linked to **productivity, technology adoption, exports, domestic value addition and global competitiveness.**
- Public support should correct genuine market failures without permanently insulating firms from international competition.

From Isolated Factories to Industrial Ecosystems:

- India should build **complete industrial ecosystems** containing suppliers, manufacturers, logistics providers, testing centres, research institutions, skilled workers and financial services.
- Such ecosystems can lower production costs and improve innovation through **industrial clustering and knowledge spillovers.**

From Assembly to Value-Chain Leadership:

- India should progressively move from **final assembly towards components, intermediate goods, design, engineering, R&D and intellectual-property-intensive activities.**
- Greater domestic value addition would strengthen both economic resilience and export competitiveness.

From Domestic Market Strength to Global Market Leadership:

- India's large domestic market should be used as a **scale-building platform**, but global competitiveness requires firms to meet international standards of price, quality, technology and reliability.
- Export strategies should focus on **market diversification, standards compliance, trade agreements and long-term integration with GVCs.**

From Quantity of Investment to Quality of Investment:

- Policy should prioritise investment that generates **technology transfer, productivity gains, skilled employment, exports and domestic supplier development**.
- Private investment should remain central, while government should concentrate on **infrastructure, regulatory certainty, skill development, R&D support and market access**.

UPSC Significance: GS Paper-Wise Relevance:*GS Paper III – Indian Economy and Industry:*

- **Manufacturing-led growth, industrialisation, employment generation, MSMEs, PLI, GVCs, exports, logistics, FDI, technology transfer and domestic value addition** are directly relevant to GS Paper III.
- The issue can be linked with India's objective of becoming a **developed economy by 2047**.

GS Paper II – Government Policies and Interventions:

- The role of **NITI Aayog, industrial policy, regulatory reforms, skilling, FTAs and Centre-State coordination** provides GS Paper II relevance.

GS Paper I – Geography and Economic Geography:

- **Industrial clusters, industrial corridors, location factors, logistics connectivity and regional industrialisation** provide linkages with economic geography.

Essay and Ethics:

- The manufacturing debate can be used to discuss **development versus sustainability, employment versus automation, self-reliance versus global integration, and state intervention versus market-led growth**.

Value Addition for UPSC: Ready-to-Use Concepts and Data:*Key Data Points:*

Best Institute for OAS/IAS

- **17–18%:** Approximate manufacturing share in **real GVA** according to the Economic Survey 2025–26.
- **38%:** Approximate manufacturing share in **Gross Value of Output**, indicating substantial production activity beyond its GVA share.
- **11.44%:** Manufacturing share in total employment in **2023–24**.
- **4.1%:** India's share of global textile and apparel exports in **2024**.
- **USD 37.7 billion:** India's textile and apparel exports, including handicrafts, in **2024–25**.
- **₹203 crore:** Outlay of the **Technology Development & Investment Promotion Scheme** for telecom innovation and standardisation during **2026–27 to 2030–31**.

Possible UPSC Mains Framing:

- “India's manufacturing challenge is no longer merely about increasing manufacturing capacity, but about creating globally competitive and profitable value chains.” Discuss.

Parliamentary Disruptions in India: Declining Legislative Scrutiny, Accountability and Deliberative Capacity of Parliament

Recent Development: Persistently Low Parliamentary Productivity:

- Following the **Monsoon Session 2026**, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister reported productivity of only **19% in Lok Sabha and 39% in Rajya Sabha**, highlighting renewed concerns over repeated disruptions and the declining effective utilisation of parliamentary time.
- The Monsoon Session 2026 was marked by repeated adjournments and Opposition protests, despite the passage of **12 Bills**, demonstrating the distinction between legislative output and meaningful parliamentary deliberation.
- An all-party meeting was convened before the session to seek cooperation from political parties and facilitate the smooth functioning of Parliament, reflecting the importance of **consensus-building** in parliamentary functioning.
- The issue is significant because parliamentary productivity measures not merely the number of Bills passed, but the extent to which Parliament performs its constitutional functions of **legislation, deliberation, financial control and executive accountability**.

Parliamentary Disruptions in India: Meaning and Constitutional Context:

Meaning of Parliamentary Disruption:

- **Parliamentary disruption** refers to repeated interruptions, adjournments, protests, sloganeering, demonstrations or other forms of disorder that prevent the Houses from conducting their scheduled business.
- Disruption can serve as a legitimate democratic instrument when the **Opposition seeks to draw attention to urgent public issues**, but prolonged disruption becomes problematic when it prevents debate and scrutiny altogether.
- Parliamentary democracy requires a balance between the **right to dissent** and the **duty to deliberate**, because neither unrestricted obstruction nor unrestricted majoritarianism is consistent with effective parliamentary government.

Constitutional Role of Parliament: Best Institute for OAS/IAS

- Parliament performs four interconnected functions: **legislation, executive accountability, financial control and representation of citizens and States**.
- **Article 105** provides parliamentary privileges, including freedom of speech in Parliament, subject to the Constitution and the rules and standing orders regulating parliamentary proceedings.
- **Article 118** empowers each House to make rules for regulating its procedure and conduct of business.
- The **Presiding Officers** therefore possess an important institutional responsibility to maintain order while ensuring adequate opportunities for legitimate debate.
- The constitutional objective is not merely to pass legislation but to ensure that laws emerge through **deliberation, scrutiny and accountability**.

Historical Pattern of Parliamentary Disruptions: Major Examples:

Major Disruption Episodes:

- **Winter Session 2010:** Protests over the **2G spectrum allocation controversy** and demands for a Joint Parliamentary Committee resulted in an almost complete washout; Lok Sabha functioned for only **5.5%** and Rajya Sabha for **2.4%** of available time.
- **Winter Session 2013:** Disruptions relating primarily to the **bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh**, along with other political issues, reduced productivity to **6% in Lok Sabha and 19% in Rajya Sabha**.
- **Monsoon Session 2015:** Repeated disruptions made the session one of the least productive in the preceding 15 years; Lok Sabha functioned for approximately **48%** and Rajya Sabha for only **9%** of available time.
- **Winter Session 2016:** Protests over **demonetisation** reduced productivity to **15% in Lok Sabha and 18% in Rajya Sabha**, making it the least productive Lok Sabha session of the 16th Lok Sabha at that point.
- **Budget Session 2018:** Disruptions relating to issues including the **Cauvery dispute, Andhra Pradesh's special-category-state demand and banking-related controversies** contributed to low parliamentary productivity.
- **Monsoon Session 2021:** Protests over the **Pegasus surveillance allegations and farm laws** reduced productivity to **21% in Lok Sabha and 29% in Rajya Sabha**; Lok Sabha worked for only 21 hours during the session.
- **Budget Session 2023:** The **Adani controversy, Rahul Gandhi's remarks abroad and his subsequent disqualification** were among the major political issues during a highly disrupted session; Lok Sabha functioned for **33%** and Rajya Sabha for **24%** of scheduled time.

Declining Legislative Productivity in India: Institutional Trends:

Fewer Parliamentary Sitzings:

- The **17th Lok Sabha** held only **274 sittings** across 15 sessions, the fewest sittings among all full-term Lok Sabhas.
- **11 of its 15 sessions were adjourned early**, resulting in **40 scheduled sittings** not taking place.
- Across its full term, Lok Sabha functioned for **88%** and Rajya Sabha for **73%** of their scheduled time, showing that overall productivity can conceal sharp disruptions during individual sessions.
- The average number of annual sittings has declined substantially over the decades, reducing the time available for detailed legislative and policy deliberation.

Declining Committee Scrutiny:

- The proportion of Bills referred to parliamentary committees declined from **71% during the 15th Lok Sabha to 25–27% during the 16th Lok Sabha** and approximately **16% during the 17th Lok Sabha**.
- Parliamentary committees provide specialised scrutiny, obtain stakeholder inputs and facilitate **cross-party deliberation**, making their reduced use a major concern for legislative quality.
- During the 17th Lok Sabha, only **16% of Bills** were referred to committees for detailed scrutiny.

Reduced Time for Legislative Debate:

- During the 17th Lok Sabha, **58% of Bills** were passed within two weeks of introduction, while **35% of Bills in Lok Sabha and 34% in Rajya Sabha** were passed with less than one hour of discussion.
- During the 17th Lok Sabha, only **9% of Bills** were passed with at least one instance of recorded voting, excluding Constitutional Amendment Bills where recorded voting is mandatory.
- These trends raise concerns about whether legislative speed is being achieved at the expense of **deliberative scrutiny and amendment-based improvement**.

Declining Scrutiny of Public Finance:

- Parliamentary disruption can reduce opportunities for detailed examination of **Demands for Grants, taxation proposals and government expenditure**.
- During the 17th Lok Sabha, the annual Budget was discussed for an average of only **35 hours in Lok Sabha**, while around **80% of the Budget was voted without discussion** between 2019 and 2023.
- Financial scrutiny is particularly important because Parliament exercises constitutional control over **public expenditure and taxation**.

Why Parliamentary Disruptions Matter: Democratic and Institutional Consequences:

Legislative Scrutiny Suffers:

- Disruptions reduce the time available for **Bill-by-Bill debate, clause-by-clause examination and consideration of amendments**.
- Reduced committee referral further limits opportunities for technical scrutiny and consultation with stakeholders.

Executive Accountability Weakens:

- **Question Hour** is one of Parliament's principal mechanisms for holding the executive accountable for policies, expenditure and administrative decisions.
- During the Monsoon Session 2025, Question Hour functioned for only **23% of scheduled time in Lok Sabha and 6% in Rajya Sabha**.
- When Question Hour is repeatedly disrupted, Members lose opportunities to ask supplementary questions and demand immediate explanations from Ministers. — —

Public Money Is Wasted:

- Parliamentary time is a **public resource** financed through taxpayer revenue.
- Persistent disruptions can result in substantial scheduled time being lost without equivalent legislative or deliberative output.

Federal Concerns Receive Limited Space:

- **Rajya Sabha** represents the States and therefore provides an important institutional forum for discussing State-specific concerns and federal issues.
- Disruptions in Rajya Sabha can consequently weaken the parliamentary expression of **cooperative federalism**.

Democratic Deliberation Declines:

- Parliament is intended to reconcile competing interests through **debate, negotiation, persuasion and voting**.
- Continuous disruption shifts political contestation from substantive deliberation towards procedural confrontation.

Key Causes and Structural Concerns: Why Disruptions Persist:

Political Polarisation:

- Increasing **political polarisation** can reduce the willingness of rival parties to negotiate on parliamentary business.
- High-intensity political competition can encourage parties to use disruption as a visible method of mobilising public opinion.

Disruption as a Political Strategy:

- Opposition parties may use disruption when they believe that normal parliamentary procedures provide insufficient political visibility for issues they consider urgent.
- However, when disruption becomes routine, it can weaken the very parliamentary mechanisms through which those issues could be debated.

Limited Institutional Space for Opposition:

- The Opposition requires predictable opportunities to raise **urgent public issues, short-duration discussions, motions and matters of public importance**.
- Inadequate accommodation of Opposition priorities can increase incentives for procedural confrontation.

Weak Committee-Based Scrutiny:

- Declining referral of Bills to committees reduces opportunities for **non-partisan technical examination and consensus-building**.
- Committees can absorb contentious issues away from the floor of the House and allow detailed examination without continuous political confrontation.

Inadequate Incentives for Maintaining Order:

- Political costs associated with disruption may be limited when disorder provides greater public visibility than substantive debate.
- Effective parliamentary reform therefore requires stronger institutional incentives for **constructive participation and orderly dissent**.

Executive-Legislative Imbalance:

- When legislative business is compressed into limited sitting periods, there can be greater pressure to pass Bills quickly after disruptions.
- This can create a cycle in which disruption reduces available time, reduced time increases legislative compression and legislative compression further weakens scrutiny.

Parliamentary Committees: An Important Solution:

Role of Parliamentary Committees:

- Parliamentary committees provide a relatively **less confrontational and more specialised forum** for examining legislation and government functioning.

- They can examine Bills, departmental budgets, policies, delegated legislation and government responses to previous recommendations.
- During the 17th Lok Sabha, parliamentary committees held approximately **1,700 meetings**, demonstrating their continuing institutional importance despite declining Bill referrals.

Why Committee Referral Should Increase:

- Committees enable detailed examination that is difficult to undertake on the floor of a House because of limited parliamentary time.
- They allow **stakeholder consultation, expert evidence, inter-party discussion and technical scrutiny**.
- Mandatory or convention-based referral of important Bills could improve legislative quality without preventing Parliament from responding quickly to genuine emergencies.

Way Forward: Strengthening Parliamentary Functioning:

Build Greater Political Consensus:

- The Government should provide adequate opportunities for Opposition concerns through the **Business Advisory Committee and other parliamentary mechanisms**.
- Regular all-party consultations before and during sessions can reduce avoidable confrontation and facilitate agreement on the legislative calendar.

Protect Question Hour:

- **Question Hour** should be protected as a core mechanism of executive accountability.
- Political parties should develop bipartisan norms against deliberately preventing Members from questioning Ministers.

Strengthen Parliamentary Committees:

- More important Bills should undergo detailed **standing committee or select committee scrutiny**, particularly when they involve complex economic, technological, constitutional or social questions.
- Committee reports should receive adequate time for consideration on the floor of the Houses.

Create Time-Bound Discussion Mechanisms:

- Dedicated parliamentary slots can be created for **major national issues, State-specific concerns and urgent matters of public importance**.
- Such mechanisms can reduce the incentive to use continuous disruption merely to secure discussion.

Enforce Rules Impartially:

- Presiding Officers should apply parliamentary disciplinary provisions **consistently and impartially**.
- Legitimate dissent should remain protected while conduct that prevents the House from functioning should attract proportionate consequences.

Increase Parliamentary Sitting Days:

- India should consider increasing the number of annual parliamentary sitting days to provide sufficient time for **legislation, budget scrutiny, questions and policy debates**.

- Greater sitting time can reduce pressure to complete large legislative agendas within short sessions.

Promote Parliamentary Ethics:

- Political parties should develop **bipartisan parliamentary norms** against persistent obstruction, personal attacks, sloganeering and deliberate disruption.
- Parliamentary privileges should be exercised alongside a strong commitment to **institutional responsibility and constitutional morality**.

Strengthen Institutional Accountability:

- Parliamentary productivity should be assessed through multiple indicators, including **functioning time, Question Hour performance, quality of legislative debate, committee scrutiny and financial oversight**, rather than merely the number of Bills passed.
- The objective should be to measure **effective parliamentary work**, not simply legislative throughput.

UPSC Perspective: GS-Wise Relevance:

GS Paper II – Indian Polity and Governance:

- The issue directly relates to **Parliament, parliamentary committees, executive accountability, parliamentary privileges, constitutional institutions, Opposition rights and democratic functioning**.
- Relevant constitutional provisions include **Articles 105, 118 and 93**, along with the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the two Houses.

GS Paper II – Federalism:

- The functioning of **Rajya Sabha** is particularly important because it represents the States and acts as an institutional component of India's federal structure.
- Parliamentary disruptions can reduce the effective representation of **State interests in national law-making**.

GS Paper II – Accountability and Transparency:

- Disruptions can weaken **Question Hour, discussions, committee scrutiny and financial oversight**, thereby reducing executive accountability.
- Parliamentary accountability complements other mechanisms such as **judicial review, the Comptroller and Auditor General, parliamentary committees and public scrutiny**.

Essay:

- The issue can be connected with themes such as **“Dissent as the strength of democracy”, “Majoritarianism versus deliberative democracy” and “Institutional efficiency versus democratic debate”**.
- A balanced essay should distinguish between **legitimate protest** and **persistent obstruction**.

Value Addition for UPSC: Data, Constitutional Provisions and Concepts:

Key Data Points:

- **19%:** Reported productivity of **Lok Sabha** during the Monsoon Session 2026.
- **39%:** Reported productivity of **Rajya Sabha** during the Monsoon Session 2026.
- **274 sittings:** Number of sittings held by the **17th Lok Sabha**, the lowest among full-term Lok Sabhas.
- **16%:** Share of Bills referred to parliamentary committees for detailed scrutiny during the **17th Lok Sabha**.
- **11.44%:** Not applicable to parliamentary productivity; this figure belongs to manufacturing employment and should not be confused with parliamentary data.
- **23% and 6%:** Question Hour functioned for these proportions of scheduled time in **Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**, respectively, during the Monsoon Session 2025.
- **21% and 29%:** Productivity of **Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**, respectively, during the Monsoon Session 2021.
- **33% and 24%:** Productivity of **Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**, respectively, during the Budget Session 2023.

Important Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 105:** Parliamentary privileges and freedom of speech in Parliament.
- **Article 118:** Power of each House to make rules regulating its procedure and conduct of business.
- **Article 93:** Election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha.
- **Article 75(3):** Collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers to Lok Sabha, forming an important basis for executive accountability.
- **Article 79:** Establishes Parliament as consisting of the **President, Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha**.

Supreme Court Strengthens Constitutional Safeguards Against Arbitrary Arrest, Protecting Personal Liberty, Dignity and Due Process

Recent Development: Vihaan Kumar Judgment, 2025:

- In **Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana (2025)**, the Supreme Court reaffirmed that informing an arrested person of the **grounds of arrest** is a mandatory constitutional requirement under **Article 22(1)**.
- The Court held that the grounds of arrest must be communicated **effectively, meaningfully and in a language understood by the arrested person**, so that the constitutional safeguard serves its actual purpose.
- Merely informing a relative about the arrest, mentioning arrest details in an arrest memo or remand report, or making vague diary entries does **not** amount to communicating the grounds of arrest to the arrested person.
- The Court clarified that non-compliance with **Article 22(1)** also violates the right to personal liberty under **Article 21**, thereby rendering the arrest illegal.
- The judgment also held that when an arrest is vitiated for violation of Article 22(1), subsequent **remand orders are also vitiated**, and the person cannot continue in custody merely because a court has subsequently authorised remand.
- The case also involved allegations of **handcuffing and chaining the appellant to a hospital bed**, highlighting the constitutional requirement of dignity in custody and the prohibition against degrading treatment.

Vihaan Kumar Judgment: Key Holdings:

Communication of Grounds of Arrest:

- **Article 22(1)** requires that a person arrested without a warrant must be informed of the grounds of arrest as soon as may be after the arrest.
- The requirement is **mandatory and substantive**, rather than a mere procedural formality.
- The information must provide sufficient knowledge of the **basic facts constituting the grounds of arrest** and must be communicated in a manner that the arrested person can effectively understand.
- The burden of proving compliance with Article 22(1) lies on the **Investigating Officer or investigating agency** when the arrested person alleges non-compliance.

Arrest and Remand:

- Failure to communicate the grounds of arrest violates **Articles 21 and 22(1)** and vitiates the arrest.
- A subsequent order of remand cannot retrospectively cure an **unconstitutional arrest**, thereby strengthening judicial scrutiny at the remand stage.
- The judgment therefore establishes that **judicial remand is not an automatic validation of an earlier illegal arrest**.

Arrest Memo and Time of Arrest:

- The Court examined the requirement that the **time of arrest** must be properly recorded, particularly in the context of the constitutional requirement of producing an arrested person before a magistrate within 24 hours.
- **Article 22(2)** requires every arrested person to be produced before the nearest magistrate within **24 hours**, excluding the time necessary for the journey from the place of arrest to the magistrate's court.
- The corresponding statutory safeguards are contained in **Section 58 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS)**.

Dignity of the Arrested Person:

- The Court's treatment of handcuffing and chaining in the case reinforces that **custodial control cannot override human dignity** protected under Article 21.
- Arrest therefore involves not merely physical custody but the State's continuing constitutional obligation to protect the **life, liberty and dignity** of the person in custody.

Arrest and Detention: Conceptual Distinction:

Arrest:

- **Arrest** involves the lawful taking of a person into custody by a competent authority in connection with an alleged offence.
- Arrest may be made with or without a warrant depending upon the nature of the offence and the applicable statutory provisions.
- Under the **BNSS, 2023**, the power of arrest remains subject to statutory conditions and constitutional safeguards.

Detention:

- **Detention** refers more broadly to the restraint of a person's liberty by lawful authority.

- Criminal detention generally follows arrest, while **preventive detention** operates through a distinct constitutional and statutory framework.
- The distinction is important because preventive detention is designed to prevent anticipated harmful conduct rather than punish a person for an offence already committed.

Cognisable and Non-Cognisable Offences:

- In a **cognisable offence**, the police may generally arrest without a warrant subject to the statutory conditions governing arrest.
- In a **non-cognisable offence**, the police generally cannot arrest without a warrant from a magistrate, subject to specific statutory exceptions.
- Therefore, the nature of the offence determines the extent of police power, but **constitutional safeguards apply irrespective of the category of offence**.

Constitutional Framework: Articles 21 and 22:

Article 21: Protection of Life and Personal Liberty:

- **Article 21** provides that no person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty except according to a procedure established by law.
- Judicial interpretation has transformed Article 21 from a narrow procedural guarantee into a broad protection of **fairness, dignity, liberty and substantive constitutional rights**.
- Arbitrary arrest can therefore violate Article 21 when the procedure adopted by the State fails to satisfy constitutional standards.

Article 22(1): Grounds of Arrest and Legal Representation:-

- **Article 22(1)** provides two fundamental safeguards: the arrested person must be informed of the grounds of arrest as soon as possible, and must not be denied the right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of their choice.
- These safeguards enable an arrested person to understand the basis of State action and seek appropriate **legal remedies**.

Article 22(2): Production Before Magistrate:

- **Article 22(2)** requires an arrested person to be produced before the nearest magistrate within **24 hours**, excluding necessary journey time.
- Continued detention beyond this period requires the authority of a magistrate, subject to the constitutional framework governing preventive detention.

Article 22 and Preventive Detention:

- The preventive detention provisions of **Article 22(3)–(7)** create a distinct constitutional framework in which some safeguards available to ordinary arrests do not operate in the same manner.
- Under **Article 22(4)**, preventive detention ordinarily cannot extend beyond **3 months** unless an Advisory Board reports before the expiry of that period that there is sufficient cause for continued detention, subject to the constitutional and statutory framework.
- Parliament may prescribe the circumstances and classes of cases in which detention may continue beyond 3 months and the maximum period of detention under **Article 22(7)**.
- Preventive detention therefore represents an exceptional constitutional mechanism that must be balanced against **personal liberty and procedural safeguards**.

Statutory Framework Under the BNSS, 2023:

Section 35: Arrest Without Warrant:

- **Section 35 of the BNSS** governs circumstances in which police officers may arrest a person without a warrant.
- The provision incorporates safeguards intended to prevent unnecessary arrests and requires the police to consider the **necessity and justification of arrest**.
- This represents the statutory evolution of the safeguards earlier contained in **Section 41 of the CrPC**.

Section 47: Information Regarding Grounds of Arrest:

- **Section 47 of the BNSS** requires the person arrested to be informed of the grounds of arrest and, in applicable cases, of the right to bail.
- This statutory protection operates alongside the fundamental right under **Article 22(1)**.

Section 58: Person Arrested Not to Be Detained More Than 24 Hours:

- **Section 58 of the BNSS** corresponds to the earlier **Section 57 of the CrPC** and reinforces the requirement concerning detention beyond 24 hours.
- It must be read with **Article 22(2)** and the requirement of production before a magistrate.

Judicial Safeguards Against Arbitrary Arrest: Important Cases:

Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar, 2014:

- In **Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar (2014)**, the Supreme Court sought to prevent unnecessary arrests, particularly in offences punishable with imprisonment of up to **7 years**.
- The Court emphasised that the existence of statutory power to arrest does not mean that arrest must automatically be made.
- Police officers must examine the **necessity of arrest** and record reasons showing why arrest is required.
- Magistrates must independently examine whether the statutory conditions for arrest and detention have been satisfied rather than mechanically authorising custody.
- The judgment therefore established the principle that **arrest is not the default consequence of registration of an offence**.

D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal, 1997:

- In **D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal (1997)**, the Supreme Court laid down safeguards against custodial violence and arbitrary arrest.
- The arresting police personnel must carry **clear identification and name tags**, and their particulars must be recorded.
- An **arrest memo** must be prepared at the time of arrest, attested by a witness and countersigned by the arrested person, with the **date and time of arrest** recorded.
- The judgment also strengthened safeguards relating to informing relatives or friends, medical examination, custody records and access to legal assistance.
- The case established that custodial safeguards are essential components of **Article 21 protection**.

Pankaj Bansal v. Union of India, 2023:

- In **Pankaj Bansal v. Union of India (2023)**, the Supreme Court held, in the context of arrests under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, that a copy of the **written grounds of arrest** must ordinarily be furnished to the arrested person.
- The Court rejected the idea that merely reading out lengthy grounds of arrest necessarily fulfils the constitutional purpose of Article 22(1).
- The judgment emphasised that the arrested person must have sufficient information to **effectively challenge the legality of the arrest and seek appropriate legal remedies**.
- The later **Vihaan Kumar** judgment developed this principle in the broader constitutional context by focusing on effective communication of the grounds of arrest.

Prabir Purkayastha v. State (NCT of Delhi), 2024:

- In **Prabir Purkayastha v. State (NCT of Delhi) (2024)**, the Supreme Court reiterated the importance of communicating the grounds of arrest in writing in the context of the statutory and constitutional safeguards governing arrest.
- The Court held that once the Supreme Court interprets statutory provisions consistently with the Constitution, that interpretation becomes binding law under **Article 141**.
- The case strengthened the judicial approach that procedural safeguards relating to arrest must have **real and effective content**, rather than being reduced to technical formalities.

Vihaan Kumar and the Evolution of Arrest Jurisprudence:***From Formal Compliance to Effective Compliance:***

- Earlier jurisprudence increasingly moved away from treating arrest safeguards as mere procedural checklists.
- **D.K. Basu** focused on safeguards against custodial abuse, **Arnesh Kumar** on the necessity of arrest, **Pankaj Bansal** on communication of written grounds and **Vihaan Kumar** on effective communication of those grounds.
- The combined jurisprudence establishes a broader constitutional principle: **State power to arrest must be necessary, reasoned, transparent and subject to judicial scrutiny**.

Burden on the Investigating Agency:

- **Vihaan Kumar** places the burden on the Investigating Officer or agency to establish compliance when the arrested person alleges violation of Article 22(1).
- This strengthens accountability because the State, rather than the detained individual, ordinarily possesses the records and institutional capacity necessary to demonstrate compliance.

The Golden Triangle and Natural Justice:***Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India, 1978:***

- In **Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)**, the Supreme Court transformed the interpretation of Article 21 by holding that the procedure depriving a person of liberty must satisfy constitutional standards of **fairness, justice and reasonableness**.
- The judgment established the close relationship among **Articles 14, 19 and 21**, often described as the Constitution's **Golden Triangle**.
- **Article 14** protects against arbitrariness and guarantees equality before law.

- **Article 19** protects specified freedoms subject to constitutionally permissible restrictions.
- **Article 21** protects life and personal liberty through a constitutionally valid and fair procedure.
- The combined framework means that State action affecting personal liberty cannot be assessed solely by asking whether a formal legal power exists; the **manner and fairness of its exercise** also matter.

Why Safeguards Against Arbitrary Arrest Matter: Constitutional Significance:

Protection of Personal Liberty:

- Arrest directly interferes with an individual's **personal liberty**, making constitutional safeguards essential.
- The State's legitimate interest in investigation and crime control must be balanced against the individual's right to liberty.

Prevention of Custodial Abuse:

- Clear arrest procedures reduce the possibility of **custodial violence, illegal detention, coercion and fabricated records**.
- Recording the time and circumstances of arrest creates an evidentiary trail for judicial review.

Access to Legal Remedies:

- Knowledge of the grounds of arrest enables the accused to consult a lawyer and challenge the legality of detention.
- Effective communication therefore supports the constitutional principle of **access to justice**.

Judicial Oversight:

- Production before a magistrate within 24 hours introduces an independent judicial check on police custody.
- The **Vihaan Kumar** judgment strengthens this check by making constitutional compliance relevant to the validity of subsequent remand.

Protection of Human Dignity:

- Article 21 protects more than physical existence; judicial interpretation recognises **dignity as an integral component of life and personal liberty**.
- Custodial practices that unnecessarily degrade or humiliate an arrested person can therefore raise serious constitutional concerns.

Key Issues and Challenges: Balancing State Power and Individual Liberty:

Investigative Necessity versus Liberty:

- Effective criminal investigation may sometimes require arrest, but **investigative convenience alone cannot justify unnecessary deprivation of liberty**.
- The State must establish a legitimate and legally sustainable reason for arrest.

Misuse of Arrest Powers:

- Arrest can be misused to intimidate, coerce, silence or pressure individuals during investigations.

- Judicial safeguards seek to ensure that arrest remains an **accountable legal power rather than an instrument of harassment**.

Preventive Detention versus Fundamental Rights:

- Preventive detention permits deprivation of liberty without a conventional criminal conviction because the objective is preventive rather than punitive.
- Its exceptional nature creates a continuing constitutional challenge of balancing **national security and public order with individual liberty**.

Implementation Gap:

- Constitutional and judicial safeguards are meaningful only when police officers, investigating agencies and magistrates implement them consistently.
- Weak documentation, mechanical remand orders and inadequate legal assistance can undermine safeguards even when the formal legal framework appears strong.

Way Forward: Strengthening Arrest and Detention Safeguards:

Ensure Effective Communication:

- Police authorities should communicate the **grounds of arrest clearly, promptly and in a language understood by the arrested person**.
- Written communication should be preferred wherever practicable to create a verifiable record and facilitate legal remedies.

Strengthen Magistrate-Level Scrutiny:

- Magistrates should independently verify compliance with **Articles 21 and 22** and the relevant BNSS provisions before authorising remand.
- Remand proceedings should not become a mechanical extension of police action.

Improve Police Training:

- Police personnel should receive regular training on **constitutional rights, arrest procedures, custodial dignity, documentation and judicial guidelines**.
- Digital arrest records can improve traceability and reduce disputes concerning the timing and circumstances of arrest.

Strengthen Legal Aid:

- Prompt access to legal assistance should be ensured for persons who cannot afford private representation.
- Effective legal aid is essential for converting constitutional rights into **practical remedies**.

Prevent Unnecessary Arrest:

- Police should apply the necessity test before arrest and record the reasons supporting the decision.
- Magistrates should scrutinise whether arrest was genuinely necessary rather than treating arrest as an automatic consequence of an allegation.

Ensure Custodial Dignity:

- Authorities should strictly prohibit **torture, degrading treatment, unnecessary restraint and custodial violence**.
- Independent monitoring and effective departmental and criminal accountability can strengthen compliance.

UPSC Perspective: GS-Wise Relevance:***GS Paper II – Indian Polity and Constitution:***

- The topic is directly relevant to **Fundamental Rights, constitutional safeguards, personal liberty, judicial review, separation of powers and constitutional governance**.
- Important provisions include **Articles 14, 19, 21, 22 and 141**.

GS Paper II – Governance:

- The issue concerns **police accountability, criminal justice administration, legal aid, custodial reforms and institutional accountability**.
- It also illustrates the importance of converting constitutional guarantees into effective administrative practices.

GS Paper II – Judiciary:

- The jurisprudence demonstrates how the Supreme Court uses **constitutional interpretation and judicial review** to impose substantive safeguards on the exercise of State power.
- The progression from **D.K. Basu to Arneesh Kumar, Pankaj Bansal, Prabir Purkayastha and Vihaan Kumar** demonstrates the evolving nature of constitutional protection of liberty.

GS Paper IV – Ethics:

- The topic can be connected with **dignity, accountability, integrity, compassion, fairness, rule of law and abuse of authority**.
- Police power must be exercised with **constitutional morality and proportionality**, particularly when individual liberty is at stake.

Value Addition for UPSC: Cases, Articles and Core Principles:***Important Supreme Court Cases:***

- **Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India, 1978:** Fair, just and reasonable procedure under Article 21; relationship among Articles 14, 19 and 21.
- **D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal, 1997:** Safeguards against **custodial violence and arbitrary arrest**.
- **Arneesh Kumar v. State of Bihar, 2014:** Arrest should not be routine; **necessity of arrest** must be assessed.
- **Pankaj Bansal v. Union of India, 2023:** Importance of furnishing **written grounds of arrest** in the relevant statutory context.
- **Prabir Purkayastha v. State, 2024:** Reinforcement of effective communication of grounds of arrest and binding force of Supreme Court interpretation under **Article 141**.
- **Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana, 2025:** Effective communication of grounds of arrest is a **mandatory Article 22(1) safeguard**, and its violation vitiates the arrest and subsequent remand.

Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 14:** Equality before law and protection against arbitrariness.
- **Article 19:** Protection of specified freedoms.
- **Article 21:** Protection of life and personal liberty.
- **Article 22(1):** Right to be informed of grounds of arrest and right to consult a legal practitioner.
- **Article 22(2):** Production before magistrate within **24 hours**.
- **Article 22(3)–(7):** Constitutional framework governing preventive detention.
- **Article 141:** Law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts within India.

Statutory Provisions Under BNSS:

- **Section 35:** Arrest without warrant and conditions governing its exercise.
- **Section 47:** Information regarding grounds of arrest and applicable right to bail.
- **Section 58:** Restriction on detention beyond **24 hours** without the requisite legal authority.

Mains-Ready Concept:

“The power to arrest is a statutory power, but the manner in which that power is exercised is constitutionally constrained.”

- The **Vihaan Kumar** judgment demonstrates that personal liberty is protected not merely by the existence of legal procedures but by their **effective, meaningful and accountable implementation**.
- India's constitutional criminal-justice framework therefore seeks to maintain a careful balance between **effective investigation and protection from arbitrary State action**.

Mains Conclusion:

- The Supreme Court's arrest jurisprudence establishes that **arrest is not merely a police procedure but an exercise of State power directly affecting constitutional liberty**.
- The combined principles emerging from **Articles 14, 21 and 22**, the **BNSS, 2023**, and landmark judgments such as **D.K. Basu, Arnesh Kumar, Pankaj Bansal, Prabir Purkayastha and Vihaan Kumar** require arrest to be **lawful, necessary, transparent, reasoned and respectful of human dignity**.
- A strong criminal justice system must therefore protect society from crime while ensuring that the State's power to investigate does not become a mechanism for **arbitrary deprivation of personal liberty**.

India's Ease of Doing Business reforms are shifting from procedural simplification towards predictable, digital and enterprise-friendly governance

Recent Developments:

- India has continued to shift from a **compliance-heavy regulatory framework** towards a **facilitation-driven, transparent and trust-based business environment**, with reforms aimed at reducing delays, compliance costs and regulatory friction.

- The **Doing Business Report** of the World Bank is no longer published; its final edition, **Doing Business 2020**, placed India at **63rd position**, compared with **142nd position in 2014**, representing a 79-position improvement.
- The World Bank has replaced the discontinued Doing Business framework with **Business Ready**, which evaluates the business and investment climate through **Regulatory Framework, Public Services and Operational Efficiency** across the firm life cycle.
- India was placed in **Group A** in the **GovTech Maturity Index 2025**, reflecting advanced performance in core government systems, digital public services, citizen engagement and GovTech enablers.
- India ranked **41st in the IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2025**, although it declined from 39th in 2024, indicating that competitiveness depends not only on regulatory reform but also on economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency and infrastructure.
- India ranked **38th among 139 economies in the World Bank Logistics Performance Index 2023**, improving by six positions from 2018; stronger logistics is important for reducing transaction costs and integrating Indian firms with global value chains.
- As of **27 March 2026**, the **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana** had sanctioned more than **57 crore loan accounts worth ₹40.07 lakh crore**, strengthening access to formal credit for micro-enterprises.

Ease of Doing Business: Concept and Significance:

Meaning:

- **Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)** refers to the extent to which the regulatory, institutional and administrative environment enables enterprises to **start, operate, expand and exit** efficiently.
- It depends on factors such as **business registration, taxation, access to finance, land and property systems, contract enforcement, insolvency resolution, logistics, infrastructure, regulatory compliance and government services**.
- A business-friendly environment does not mean absence of regulation; it means **predictable, proportionate, transparent and efficiently administered regulation**.

Evolution of the Approach:

- India's reform approach has increasingly moved from merely reducing the number of procedures towards improving the **quality, predictability and delivery of regulation**.
- The objective is therefore shifting from obtaining a better ranking to creating an ecosystem in which firms can **invest, innovate, formalise, scale and compete globally**.
- This approach is consistent with the World Bank's newer **B-READY framework**, which assesses both rules and the effectiveness with which public services are delivered in practice.

India's Progress in Business Environment: Key Indicators:

Historical World Bank Benchmark:

- India improved from **142nd position in 2014 to 63rd position in Doing Business 2020**.
- The improvement was supported by reforms in **starting a business, construction permits, cross-border trade and insolvency resolution**.
- India's **Doing Business 2020 score was 71.0**, compared with 54.05 in 2014.
- The final Doing Business assessment also identified continuing weaknesses in **enforcing contracts and registering property**, showing that reform progress was uneven across regulatory areas.

Competitiveness and Digital Governance:

- India ranked **41st in the IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2025**, reflecting improvements and continuing challenges in economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency and infrastructure.
- India remained in **Group A of the GovTech Maturity Index 2025**, demonstrating advanced digital-government capabilities across four broad dimensions: **core government systems, public service delivery, digital citizen engagement and GovTech enablers**.
- Digital governance can reduce transaction costs by enabling **online applications, electronic documentation, real-time tracking, automated verification and interoperable databases**.

Logistics Competitiveness:

- India ranked **38th in the World Bank Logistics Performance Index 2023**, highlighting substantial progress in logistics efficiency.
- Improved logistics reduces **inventory costs, transportation delays and supply-chain uncertainty**, thereby improving manufacturing competitiveness.
- Multimodal connectivity through highways, railways, ports, dedicated freight corridors and digital logistics platforms can strengthen India's integration with **global value chains**.

Major Reforms for Improving the Business Environment:

Startup India:

- **Startup India**, launched in **2016**, seeks to promote entrepreneurship, innovation and investment by reducing regulatory barriers and strengthening the startup ecosystem.
- It supports the broader objective of transforming India from an economy of **job seekers into an economy of job creators**.

Udyam Registration:

- The **Udyam Registration Portal**, launched in **2020**, provides MSMEs with a **free, paperless and self-declaration-based registration mechanism**.
- It reduces administrative friction and facilitates greater formalisation of enterprises.
- Since **1 April 2025**, the revised MSME classification thresholds have raised investment and turnover limits, allowing more enterprises to remain within the formal MSME framework.

National Single Window System:

- The **National Single Window System (NSWS)** provides a digital interface through which businesses can identify and apply for required approvals.
- Its **Know Your Approvals** module guides investors regarding applicable approvals across Central and State authorities.
- As of August 2026, NSWS facilitates applications involving **32 Central Departments and 34 State Governments**, with more than **67,000 approvals applied through the platform**.
- The platform also provides **real-time application tracking, document repositories, renewal facilities and query management**, reducing the need to interact separately with multiple authorities.

Business Reforms Action Plan:

- The **Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP)**, developed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, promotes **competitive federalism** by encouraging States and Union Territories to implement business reforms.
- BRAP focuses on reform implementation rather than merely prescribing reforms, thereby bringing the **State and local levels** into the EoDB agenda.

Reducing Compliance Burden:

- The Government has pursued the **Reducing Compliance Burden** initiative to simplify procedures, remove redundant requirements and reduce unnecessary regulatory obligations.
- The reform exercise has involved systematic simplification and rationalisation of more than **39,000 compliances** affecting businesses and citizens.
- **Simplification, rationalisation and technology-based process re-engineering** can reduce both compliance costs and opportunities for administrative discretion.

Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme:

- The **Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme** seeks to improve the accuracy, accessibility and integration of land records.
- Reliable land records can reduce **property disputes, transaction uncertainty and delays in land-related approvals**, thereby supporting investment.

National Generic Document Registration System:

- The **National Generic Document Registration System** seeks to digitise property registration and make property transactions more transparent and accessible.
- Digitised registration can improve information availability regarding **property valuation, applicable rates and land characteristics**, reducing information asymmetry.

SPICe+:

- **SPICe+** integrates multiple incorporation-related services into a common digital process.
- It reduces duplication in company registration and helps entrepreneurs complete several formalities through a **single integrated interface**.

MCA21:

- **MCA21** digitises corporate regulatory services under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- Its evolution towards technology-enabled services improves **transparency, filing efficiency and corporate compliance**.

Government e-Marketplace:

- **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** digitises public procurement and expands access to government markets.
- It creates opportunities for **startups, MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, artisans, self-help groups and other smaller suppliers** to participate in public procurement.

Open Network for Digital Commerce:

- **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** seeks to create an open and interoperable digital commerce ecosystem rather than restricting transactions to closed platform-based networks.
- It can reduce entry barriers for smaller sellers by enabling participation in a wider **digital market architecture**.

PM GatiShakti:

- **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan**, launched in **2021**, promotes integrated infrastructure planning through a common digital platform.
- It seeks to improve **multimodal connectivity, reduce logistics bottlenecks and coordinate infrastructure development** across ministries and jurisdictions.
- Such coordination is important because fragmented infrastructure planning can increase project delays and logistics costs.

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana:

- **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana**, launched in **2015**, provides collateral-free institutional credit to eligible micro and small enterprises.
- As of **27 March 2026**, more than **57 crore accounts** had received loans amounting to **₹40.07 lakh crore**.
- The scheme strengthens EoDB by addressing one of the major constraints faced by small enterprises: **timely and affordable access to formal finance**.

Goods and Services Tax:

- **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** replaced multiple indirect taxes with a more integrated tax framework.
- GST has contributed to the creation of a **common national market**, greater digitalisation of tax administration and improved formalisation.
- Its effectiveness for businesses depends on continued efforts to simplify compliance and reduce procedural friction.

Why Ease of Doing Business Matters: Economic and Governance Significance:***Investment and Foreign Direct Investment:***

- Predictable regulations, efficient approvals and reliable dispute-resolution mechanisms improve **investor confidence**.
- A transparent business environment can reduce the risk premium associated with investment and support greater **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**.

MSME Formalisation:

- Smaller enterprises are disproportionately affected by complex compliance because they have fewer financial and administrative resources.
- Simplified registration, taxation and compliance can encourage informal enterprises to **enter the formal economy**.
- Formalisation improves access to **institutional credit, government schemes, digital markets and public procurement**.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation:

- Lower entry barriers encourage individuals to establish new enterprises.
- Faster registration and digital approvals allow startups to redirect resources from administrative procedures towards **innovation and productive activity**.

Employment Generation:

- Easier business entry and expansion can increase the number of productive firms.
- A larger and more competitive enterprise base is essential for generating **formal, productive and non-farm employment**.

Manufacturing and Global Value Chains:

- Competitive logistics, reliable infrastructure and predictable regulations reduce production and transaction costs.
- These conditions help Indian firms participate more effectively in **global value chains**, particularly in manufacturing and export-oriented sectors.

Persistent Challenges: Why Reform Implementation Remains Uneven:***Regulatory Complexity:***

- Frequent amendments and overlapping regulations can increase **compliance uncertainty** even when individual regulations are simplified.
- Excessive compliance requirements disproportionately affect **MSMEs and startups**.

State and Local-Level Variation:

- Business conditions vary considerably across States and local jurisdictions.
- Central reforms may not produce the desired outcomes if **municipalities, district administrations and local regulatory institutions** lack adequate capacity.

Land and Construction Approvals:

- Land acquisition, conversion, title verification and construction permissions can remain time-consuming.
- Weak land records and fragmented approval systems increase transaction costs and project uncertainty.

Access to Finance:

- Small businesses may continue to face difficulties in obtaining **timely, affordable and appropriately structured credit** despite expansion of formal financial channels.
- Credit information gaps and limited collateral can constrain the growth of smaller enterprises.

Contract Enforcement:

- Effective business regulation requires not only clear rules but also **fast and predictable dispute resolution**.
- Delays in courts can increase the cost of enforcing contracts and discourage investment.

Infrastructure and Logistics:

- Deficiencies in transport, electricity, ports, warehousing, digital connectivity and urban infrastructure can increase the cost of conducting business.
- Better physical infrastructure must therefore accompany regulatory reform.

Policy Predictability:

- Businesses make investment decisions over long time horizons and therefore require **stable and predictable tax, trade, environmental and industrial policies**.
- Frequent policy changes can increase uncertainty even where the underlying regulatory objective is legitimate.

Way Forward: From Ease of Doing Business to Ease of Sustainable Enterprise:***Strengthen Local Governance Capacity:***

- Capacity-building should extend to **municipalities, district administrations and local regulatory bodies**, because many business-related interactions occur below the Union level.
- Digital systems should be accompanied by trained personnel and adequate institutional capacity.

Move Towards a Genuine Single Window:

- A true single-window system should eliminate duplication rather than merely providing a common interface for multiple departments.
- Approvals should increasingly follow **interoperability, risk-based regulation, common data standards and time-bound decision-making**.

Adopt Risk-Based Regulation:

- Low-risk businesses should face proportionately lower inspection and compliance burdens.
- Regulatory resources should be concentrated on **high-risk activities and genuine violations** rather than routine procedural scrutiny.

Improve Contract and Commercial Dispute Resolution:

- Faster commercial dispute resolution is essential for reducing uncertainty and improving investor confidence.
- Greater use of **commercial courts, mediation, arbitration and digital case management** can strengthen the business environment.

Deepen MSME-Focused Reform:

- Compliance requirements should be proportionate to the **size, risk and capacity of enterprises**.
- Access to formal credit, digital markets, skilled workers, technology and public procurement should accompany regulatory simplification.

Ensure Regulatory Stability:

- Major tax, trade and industrial policy changes should provide adequate transition periods and predictable implementation frameworks.

- Greater consultation with industry, workers, States and other stakeholders can improve **regulatory quality and legitimacy**.

Measure Outcomes, Not Only Reforms:

- EoDB should increasingly be evaluated through **time taken, cost incurred, user satisfaction, approval predictability and actual investment outcomes**.
- This approach is closer to the logic of the World Bank's **B-READY framework**, which assesses the interaction between regulations, public services and operational efficiency.

Conclusion:

- India's EoDB journey has evolved from **simplifying individual procedures** towards building a broader ecosystem based on digital governance, regulatory predictability, infrastructure, formal finance and competitive markets.
- The historical improvement from **142nd position in 2014 to 63rd in Doing Business 2020** demonstrates the scale of earlier reform efforts, but the discontinuation of the Doing Business rankings means that future assessment should focus on **actual business outcomes rather than ranking optimisation**.
- The next phase should therefore combine **regulatory quality, institutional capacity, logistics, access to finance, contract enforcement and cooperative federalism**.
- The ultimate objective should be an economy in which firms can **enter easily, operate predictably, scale efficiently, innovate continuously and exit responsibly**, thereby strengthening investment, productivity, employment and India's global competitiveness.

Value Addition for UPSC:

GS Paper III Linkages:

- **Economic Growth:** Better business conditions increase investment, productivity and productive capacity.
- **Employment:** Easier firm entry and expansion can support formal and non-farm employment.
- **MSMEs:** Simplified compliance and formal credit can accelerate MSME formalisation and scale.
- **Infrastructure:** PM GatiShakti and logistics reforms reduce connectivity and transaction costs.
- **Digital Economy:** NSWS, GeM, GST and digital corporate services demonstrate the role of **Digital Public Infrastructure** in economic governance.
- **FDI:** Regulatory predictability and efficient approvals strengthen India's attractiveness as an investment destination.
- **Competitive Federalism:** BRAP makes States and Union Territories important partners in improving the business environment.

Vaishya Tekri in Ujjain: Proposed Fresh Excavation May Reveal New Evidence on Mauryan-Era Buddhist Architecture

Recent Developments:

- The **Madhya Pradesh Government** is considering renewed archaeological work at **Vaishya Tekri**, an ancient mound near Ujjain associated with the remains of **brick stupas**. Recent reports indicate plans to



develop the site as a Buddhist heritage destination, with the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** involved in its conservation and development.

- The site was investigated during the **1938–39 excavations** at ancient Ujjain, and subsequent archaeological work at Vaishya Tekri and nearby mounds yielded evidence of **brick stupas and other antiquities**.
- The proposed renewed excavation is significant because much of the archaeological potential of **Vaishya Tekri remains unexplored**, while the site is associated with the ancient Buddhist landscape of Ujjain.
- Claims that the mound contains a stupa **larger than Sanchi** should presently be treated as **archaeological estimates or reports rather than an established fact**, because the complete structure has not been exposed and documented through modern excavation. Recent reports describe the proposed monument as potentially substantially larger than the Great Stupa at Sanchi.

Vaishya Tekri: Archaeological Context:

Location and Nature of the Site:

- **Vaishya Tekri** is an ancient archaeological mound located near **Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh**, within the broader archaeological landscape of ancient Ujjain.
- Historical archaeological records identify **Vaishya Tekri, Kumbhar Tekri and Palleva/Kankar Tekri** among the ancient mounds around Ujjain where excavations produced evidence of **brick stupas**.
- The site is therefore important for understanding the **urban, religious and cultural history of ancient Ujjain**, rather than being significant only because of the possible size of its stupa.
- Earlier archaeological investigations established the wider antiquity of Ujjain through finds including **coins, terracotta objects, beads and pottery**, while later excavations revealed cultural remains belonging to several historical periods.

Possible Mauryan and Buddhist Association:

- The site has been associated in recent reports with the **Mauryan period and Emperor Ashoka**, although the precise attribution, chronology and original form of the large structure require archaeological verification.
- Ujjain itself was an important centre of the **Malwa region** and had strong political and commercial significance during the ancient period.
- Archaeological evidence from the wider Ujjain region demonstrates cultural activity from the **early historic period** and continued occupation through later dynasties.

Earlier Excavations:

- Archaeologist **H. V. Trivedi and other investigators** contributed to the archaeological exploration of Ujjain, while the **1938–39 excavations under Garde** demonstrated the considerable archaeological potential of the ancient city.
- Subsequent excavations at different mounds around Ujjain produced **brick stupas and other archaeological remains**, establishing the presence of Buddhist architectural activity in the region.
- Later archaeological investigations were also undertaken during **1955–58 and 1964–65**, demonstrating that Ujjain possesses a complex archaeological sequence extending across several historical periods.

Why Vaishya Tekri Matters for Ancient Indian History:

Evidence of Buddhist Architecture:

- The identification of **brick stupas** at Vaishya Tekri and neighbouring mounds provides evidence of Buddhist architectural activity in the ancient Ujjain region.

- Further excavation may clarify the **chronology, architectural plan, construction techniques and cultural associations** of the surviving remains.
- Archaeological evidence from the site can contribute to the broader understanding of the spread of **Buddhist institutions beyond the major centres traditionally highlighted in textbooks.**

Ujjain as an Ancient Urban Centre:

- Ujjain was one of the important cities of ancient India and was strategically located within the **Malwa region**, which connected northern, western and central Indian cultural and commercial zones.
- Archaeological remains from Ujjain demonstrate successive cultural phases extending from the **early historic period to the medieval period.**
- The Buddhist remains at Vaishya Tekri therefore need to be studied within the wider context of **urbanisation, trade, political authority and religious interaction** in ancient Ujjain.

Archaeology and Historical Verification:

- Renewed excavation can help distinguish between **traditional associations, historical references and archaeologically demonstrable evidence.**
- Scientific excavation can establish chronology through **stratigraphy, pottery typology, inscriptions, coins, architectural remains and scientific dating techniques.**
- Such evidence is particularly important when monuments are traditionally attributed to major historical personalities such as **Ashoka.**

Buddhist Stupa: Concept and Architectural Features:

Meaning and Purpose:

- A **stupa** is a Buddhist commemorative monument traditionally associated with **relics, sacred memory and Buddhist worship.**
- Early stupas generally developed from funerary and commemorative mound traditions and gradually acquired a distinctive architectural vocabulary.
- The stupa became one of the most important architectural forms associated with the spread of **Buddhism across the Indian subcontinent and beyond.**

Major Architectural Elements:

- The principal elements of a mature Buddhist stupa include the **anda, harmika, yasti, chhatra, vedika and torana**, although their arrangement and elaboration vary across periods and regions.
- The **anda** is the hemispherical dome forming the principal mass of the stupa.
- The **harmika** is the small railing-like structure placed above the dome.
- The **yasti** is the central pillar rising above the dome and supporting the umbrella structure.
- The **chhatra** represents the umbrella or parasol element above the stupa.
- The **vedika** is the railing surrounding the sacred structure or its circumambulatory space.
- The **torana** is an ornamental gateway, particularly prominent at Sanchi.

Great Stupa at Sanchi: Comparison and Historical Significance:

Origin and Development:

- The **Great Stupa at Sanchi, Stupa 1**, originated during the reign of **Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE** as a brick stupa.
- The monument was subsequently enlarged and embellished, particularly during the **Shunga period**, while further architectural and decorative additions were made during the **Satavahana and Gupta periods**.
- Sanchi therefore represents not a single-period monument but a **long process of architectural expansion and artistic development** extending over several centuries.

Architectural Characteristics:

- The Great Stupa consists of a large **hemispherical dome**, a raised terrace, a harmika, a central yasti and chhatras, with circumambulatory arrangements.
- Its four **toranas** contain elaborate sculptural representations associated with Buddhist narratives, symbols, animals, plants and Jataka traditions.
- Sanchi is particularly important for the study of **aniconic Buddhist art**, in which the Buddha was represented through symbols rather than a direct anthropomorphic image in the earlier artistic phase.
- Important Buddhist relics associated with **Sariputra and Maudgalyayana**, two principal disciples of the Buddha, were preserved at Sanchi.

UNESCO World Heritage Status:

- The **Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi** were inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List in 1989** under criteria (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi).
- UNESCO recognises Sanchi as an exceptional ensemble of **stupas, temples, monasteries and pillars** documenting the development of Buddhist architecture and art from the **3rd century BCE to the 12th century CE**.
- The site is managed and conserved by the **Archaeological Survey of India** under the applicable heritage protection framework.

Vaishya Tekri and Sanchi: Comparative Perspective:

Parameter	Vaishya Tekri	Great Stupa at Sanchi
Location	Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh	Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh
Nature	Archaeological mound with evidence of brick stupas	Extant monumental Buddhist complex
Chronology	Ancient, with possible Mauryan association requiring further verification	Origin associated with Ashoka, 3rd century BCE
Archaeological status	Much remains to be investigated	Extensively excavated, conserved and documented
Architecture	Large stupa remains are reported; complete plan requires further excavation	Mature stupa architecture with dome, harmika, chhatras, vedika and toranas
Heritage status	Protected archaeological site	UNESCO World Heritage Site
UPSC relevance	Mauryan history, Buddhism, archaeology, urban history of Ujjain	Ashokan architecture, Buddhist art, heritage conservation and UNESCO

Broader Historical Context: Buddhism under the Mauryas:

Ashoka and Buddhist Expansion:

- Emperor **Ashoka** played a major role in the expansion and institutional consolidation of Buddhism during the **3rd century BCE**.
- His reign is associated with the construction and patronage of Buddhist monuments, pillars and other forms of religious architecture.
- The **Ashokan inscriptions** provide important primary evidence for understanding his political ideas, ethical policy and relationship with Buddhism.
- The archaeological association of a monument with Ashoka should, however, be established through **material and epigraphic evidence**, rather than architectural size or later tradition alone.

Ujjain and the Mauryan Empire:

- Ujjain occupied an important position within the Mauryan imperial system and was strategically significant in the western and central Indian region.
- The city's location within the **Malwa region** contributed to its importance in trade, administration and cultural exchange.
- The archaeological study of Vaishya Tekri can therefore contribute to understanding the relationship between **Mauryan political integration, urban centres and religious institutions**.

Archaeological Significance of Renewed Excavation:

Scientific Importance:

- Fresh excavation can establish the **exact dimensions, construction phases and chronology** of the monument.
- Archaeologists may recover **pottery, coins, inscriptions, sculptures, architectural fragments and organic material**, which can help reconstruct the site's history.
- Modern archaeological techniques can provide more reliable evidence than earlier exploratory excavations.

Conservation Importance:

- Excavation must be accompanied by **structural conservation**, because exposing buried remains can increase their vulnerability to weathering and human interference.
- The National Monuments Authority has specifically required that work involving the protected **Ancient Mound Vaishya Tekri** avoid heavy machinery where structural safety is concerned and that archaeological finds be immediately handed over to the ASI under appropriate supervision.
- Heritage management should therefore balance **archaeological research, structural stability, local development and long-term conservation**.

Heritage Interpretation:

- If further excavation establishes the scale and chronology of the stupa, the site could significantly strengthen the understanding of **Buddhist heritage in central India**.
- Interpretation centres, scientific conservation and responsible heritage tourism could connect Vaishya Tekri with the wider Buddhist heritage circuit of Madhya Pradesh.

Issues and Challenges:

Archaeological Uncertainty:

- The exact **date, patronage, architectural dimensions and original function** of the reported large stupa require further archaeological confirmation.
- Comparisons with Sanchi should therefore remain **provisional until systematic excavation and documentation are completed.**

Conservation Risks:

- Excavation exposes previously protected archaeological layers to **weathering, biological growth, erosion and human interference.**
- Agricultural activity and encroachment can also threaten archaeological remains around ancient mounds; recent reporting has highlighted such concerns in the wider site area.

Balancing Development and Heritage:

- Infrastructure development around archaeological sites must comply with heritage regulations and avoid damaging **archaeological deposits and protected structures.**
- Sustainable heritage tourism should prioritise **carrying capacity, conservation and community participation** rather than uncontrolled commercialisation.

Way Forward:

- Conduct **systematic scientific excavation** under the supervision of competent archaeological authorities.
- Use **stratigraphy, epigraphy, archaeometry and scientific dating** to establish an evidence-based chronology.
- Prepare a comprehensive **site management and conservation plan** before large-scale excavation.
- Digitise the site through **geospatial mapping, photogrammetry and three-dimensional documentation** for research and conservation.
- Protect the surrounding archaeological landscape from **encroachment, unregulated construction and agricultural damage.**
- Develop heritage tourism only after ensuring **structural conservation, visitor management and local community participation.**
- Integrate Vaishya Tekri into broader research on **Ujjain, Mauryan archaeology, Buddhist expansion and ancient Indian urbanisation.**

Conclusion:

- **Vaishya Tekri** is important not merely because of reports that it may contain a stupa larger than Sanchi, but because it forms part of the wider archaeological landscape of **ancient Ujjain**, where excavations have already revealed evidence of brick stupas and successive cultural phases.
- Renewed archaeological investigation can potentially provide valuable evidence regarding **Mauryan-era political authority, Buddhist institutional expansion, ancient urbanisation and the evolution of stupa architecture.**
- The key requirement is to distinguish **archaeological evidence from traditional attribution and preliminary estimates**, ensuring that the historical significance of the site is established through scientific investigation.

- The case also illustrates the broader principle that India's archaeological heritage requires an integrated approach combining **excavation, conservation, scientific research, heritage management and responsible tourism.**

Value Addition for UPSC:

Prelims Pointers:

- **Vaishya Tekri:** Ancient archaeological mound near **Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh**, associated with evidence of brick stupas.
- **Sanchi:** Buddhist monument complex in **Madhya Pradesh**, inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1989.
- **Great Stupa at Sanchi:** Origin associated with **Ashoka, 3rd century BCE**, with subsequent enlargement and embellishment under later dynasties.
- **Important stupa elements:** **Anda, harmika, yasti, chhatra, vedika and torana.**
- **Sanchi art:** Important example of early **aniconic Buddhist art.**



Best Institute for OAS/IAS

QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following statements regarding the performance and structural attributes of India's manufacturing sector:

- (1) According to recent Economic Survey data, manufacturing's share in India's real Gross Value Added (GVA) stands at around 17-18%.
- (2) As per MoSPI's Sustainable Development Goals framework, manufacturing's share in total national employment has consistently increased between 2017-18 and 2023-24.
- (3) The overall secondary sector, including utilities and construction, accounted for over 25% of India's GVA in 2024-25.
- (4) India currently holds over 10% of global exports in the textiles and apparel market.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) Only three
- (D) All four

2. Consider the following statements regarding parliamentary sessions in India:

Statement I: A decline in total annual sitting days of Parliament intensifies legislative bottleneck and increases the frequency of passing bills with minimal floor debate.

Statement II: The Constitution of India prescribes a mandatory minimum threshold of 100 sitting days per calendar year for both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I.
- (B) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is NOT the correct explanation for Statement I.
- (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
- (D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

3. Consider the following statements regarding preventive detention under Article 22 of the Constitution of India:

Statement I: A person detained under a preventive detention law can be held in custody for a maximum period of three months without obtaining the approval of an Advisory Board.

Statement II: Constitutional protections under Article 22(1) regarding the right to be informed of grounds of arrest and the right to consult a legal practitioner do not extend to persons detained under preventive detention laws.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

- (B) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is NOT the correct explanation for Statement I.
- (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
- (D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

4. Consider the following statements regarding key economic and regulatory platforms in India:

- (1) The Udyam Registration Portal provides access to CBDT and GSTN databases for verification during MSME registration.
- (2) SPICe+ is an integrated web form that consolidates multiple central government services into a single interface for business incorporation.
- (3) MCA21 V3.0 is an artificial intelligence-driven initiative designed to enhance corporate transparency and compliance.
- (4) ONDC functions as a centralized proprietary e-commerce portal owned and operated by the Ministry of Commerce to sell MSME products directly to consumers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (B) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (C) 1 and 4 only
- (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

5. Consider the following structural elements of a traditional Buddhist Stupa:

- (1) Harmika
- (2) Chhatravali
- (3) Anda
- (4) Medhi
- (5) Torana

How many of the above structural features are explicitly designed to symbolize the 'Three Jewels' (Triratna) of Buddhism—the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha?

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) Only three
- (D) Only four

ANSWER KEY

1 – Answer (B), 2 – Answer (C), 3 – Answer (B), 4 – Answer (A), 5 – Answer (A)



OAS HUB

DAILY CHRONICLE CURRENT AFFAIRS

In today's fast-changing world, staying updated with current affairs is essential for both academic success and professional growth. Awareness of national and international events not only broadens general knowledge but also sharpens critical and analytical thinking skills. It enables individuals to form well-informed opinions, which are crucial for competitive examinations, group discussions, interviews, and impactful essay writing.

Being well-informed reflects adaptability, awareness, and intellectual curiosity—qualities that are highly valued in a competitive environment. A strong grasp of contemporary issues enhances confidence, widens perspective, and prepares individuals to tackle real-world challenges effectively, ultimately opening the door to better opportunities and long-term personal and career advancement.

-  oashub19
-  oashub19
-  OASHUB22
-  oashub19@gmail.com
-  M5/17, Acharya Vihar Bhubaneswar 751022