

# Current Affairs – March 2024 – Lecture 04

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## MAINS MANIA

### 1. Navigating the global Waterscape, its challenges

- The 31st World Water Day is scheduled for March 22, 2024, with the theme "Leveraging water for peace."

#### Context-

- In light of the pressures brought on by climate change, the globe must also promote better collaboration over water-sharing.
- About two billion people worldwide still struggle to get clean water, and demand for it is only growing. This shortage jeopardizes not just our basic necessities as humans but also the prosperity and serenity of the entire community.

#### Using water diplomacy during an extreme period

- Impact of Climate Crisis: Extreme weather events such as heat waves and floods heighten worries about the impending climate catastrophe. The \$3 trillion Indian economy's agriculture is impacted by the unpredictable monsoons.
- Need for Greater collaboration: It is critical to promote collaboration over water sharing and adopt the universal principles of international water law in light of the difficulties posed by climate change.
- Water diplomacy: Better water diplomacy, which fosters regional and global peace and stability, depends on efficient shared water governance and sustainable water usage.
- Collaborative Governance: Promoting stability and peace in the region, collaborative governance makes sure that countries share water resources fairly.

- **Inclusive Approaches:** To prevent, reduce, and resolve water-related problems, water diplomacy should incorporate academic and civil society networks as well as the cross-border networks of indigenous and local people.
- **Lack of Global Data on Water Quality:** This underscores the need for improved access to basic drinking water services, especially in rural regions, and shows a stark disparity between urban and rural areas.

#### **Addressing rural India's needs-**

- The primary source of subsistence for 70% of India's rural population is agriculture, and water is necessary for household activities. Globally, 70% of freshwater use is attributed to agriculture.
- **Water Accessibility:** Health, education, employment, and the fulfillment of fundamental human needs and dignity can all benefit from improved water accessibility in rural areas.
- **Water Investments:** Increasing water investments in rural regions can have a favorable impact on a number of sectors and provide several benefits to communities.
- **AI Technology in Agriculture:** Water conservation initiatives can be supported by the effective application of cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI) technology in agriculture. Artificial Intelligence has the potential to address crop and food loss, reduce chemical and fertilizer use, and maximize water use for sustainable and fruitful results.

#### **The issue of transboundary waters**

- **Water Pollution:** Communities who depend on transboundary rivers for their water supplies face serious environmental and health threats due to the increasing levels of pollution in these rivers, including the Meghna, Brahmaputra, Ganga, and Indus.
- **Lack of Governance:** To address concerns with fair water distribution, pollution prevention, and sustainable management of shared water resources among adjacent countries, sophisticated cross-border water governance is required.
- **Cooperation Difficulties:** Even though cooperation on transboundary water resources is crucial, many nations struggle to come to agreements and put in place efficient systems for managing shared water resources. Cooperation efforts are hampered by disagreements over infrastructure development, water usage, and environmental effects.
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Achieving the SDGs, especially Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), requires transboundary water management. The SDG targets pertaining to poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, and water security are impeded by insufficient collaboration and governance frameworks.
- **Peace and Security:** Tensions and disputes between riparian governments can be intensified by a lack of freshwater in transboundary river basins. Stability in the region and the avoidance of conflicts over shared water resources depend on efficient management and collaboration.
- **Ecosystem Services:** Transboundary rivers sustain a variety of ecosystems and offer vital ecosystem services like water filtration, biodiversity habitat, and flow control. The integrity of ecosystems and the services they offer are under risk due to pollution and overexploitation of these waterways.

#### **Suggestive Measures to Resolve Transboundary Water Issues:**

- **Strengthen Governance Structures:** To promote fair water distribution, pollution prevention, and sustainable management of shared water resources, comprehensive frameworks for cross-border water governance should be established. These frameworks may include bilateral or multilateral agreements.
- **Boost Interaction Mechanisms:** Encourage communication and cooperation between riparian states via forums including joint commissions, organizations for river basins, and diplomatic discussions to resolve conflicts and enhance knowledge of the difficulties associated with water management.
- **Put integrated water resource management (IWRM) into practice by:** To ensure the effective use of transboundary water resources and to promote sustainable development while avoiding adverse effects on communities and ecosystems, adopt integrated water resources management (IWRM) approaches that take social, economic, and environmental concerns into account.
- **Enhance Monitoring and Data Sharing:** To evaluate water quality, quantity, and usage patterns in transboundary river basins, enhance monitoring systems and data-sharing procedures. Increased openness

and information sharing between riparian governments can support cooperative efforts and well-informed decision-making.

- Encourage Community Involvement: Involve civil society organizations, indigenous tribes, and local people in transboundary water management decision-making processes. Grassroots stakeholder empowerment has the potential to improve sustainability, encourage collaboration, and improve accountability.
- Strengthen legal frameworks To effectively govern transboundary water resources, strong legal frameworks must be developed and enforced at both the national and international levels. Laws that are unambiguous and upholdable can serve as a foundation for settling conflicts and guaranteeing adherence to established water management guidelines.

**The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods, and interrupted navigation. Critically examine. (2020)**

## 2. How to bring about White Revolution 2.0

- According to the government's most recent Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) for 2022–2023, milk is the food item that Indians spend the most money on, both in rural and urban areas.

### Key facts as per survey-

- At Rs 314 a month, the average rural Indian person's consumption of milk and dairy products was higher than that of vegetables (Rs 203), cereals (Rs 185), eggs, fish, and meat (Rs 185), fruits (Rs 140), edible oil (Rs 136), spices (Rs 113), and pulses (Rs 76).
- The HCES data for urban India shows the following: edible oil (Rs 153), spices (Rs 138), milk (Rs 466), fruits (Rs 246), vegetables (Rs 245), grains (Rs 235), eggs, fish & meat (Rs 231), and pulses (Rs 90).

### The challenges as per the latest Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)-

- Growing Milk Prices: The all-India modal price of milk has increased from Rs 42 to Rs 60 per litre during the last five years, with a significant increase from Rs 52 to Rs 60 in just the last year. The rising trend in milk costs is a financial problem for households.
- Inflationary pressures: These forces are thought to have affected consumer demand, which is why milk prices have increased. Increased costs could cause consumers to cut back on their use or switch to other goods, which would hurt the dairy industry's earnings.
- Increasing Input Costs: Feed, fodder, and raw materials/ingredients have become much more expensive. In order to offset these higher input costs, dairy companies are forced to boost the procurement prices they pay to farmers. Because milk and dairy products are now more expensive at retail, consumers are ultimately the ones who foot the bill for these cost increases.
- Transfer to Customers: Dairies pass on higher procurement prices to customers in an effort to offset the impact of growing input costs, which results in further price increases for milk products. This pass-through method makes things more expensive for customers who are already struggling with rising costs.
- Effect on Agriculture: Farmers may initially profit from higher procurement prices, but if input costs keep rising, they may find it difficult to maintain their dairy farming businesses.

### How can that be achieved?

- Utilizing technology for Sex-Sorted Semen (SS): The likelihood of female calves being produced is increased to over 90% when sex-sorted semen is used, as opposed to the 50:50 ratio when conventional semen is used. By guaranteeing a larger percentage of milk-producing cows in the future, this method raises dairy herd production.
- Increased Adoption: Farmers are being aggressively encouraged to utilize sex-sorted semen by dairy cooperatives such as Amul. Amul carried out 2.86 lakh artificial inseminations (AIs) utilizing sex-sorted semen in 2022–2023; this accounted for 20.5% of the total 13.91 lakh AIs performed. By 2024–2025, the cooperative wants to increase this share to 30%.

- **Enhanced Conception Rate:** About one-third of artificial inseminations with semen that has been sorted according to sex result in pregnancy. This high incidence of conception, along with the certainty of female calves, makes breeding more effective and produces a greater number of milk-producing cows.
- **Long-term Impact:** Dairy farmers can expect a larger output of milk-producing cows in subsequent generations by boosting the amount of female calves delivered through sex-sorted semen technology. By increasing the efficiency of milk production, this proactive strategy guarantees the dairy industry's growth and sustainability.
- **Cooperative Initiatives:** Farmers' adoption of cutting-edge breeding technology is greatly aided by dairy cooperatives. Cooperatives help to improve the genetic potential of dairy herds and increase total productivity through programs like Amul's targeted usage of sex-sorted semen.

#### **Taking to farmer/ significance of Breeding Centre-**

- **Creation of a Bovine Breeding Center:** In March 2020, Amul opened a Bovine Breeding Center in Mogar, Gujarat, with the goal of producing a superior nucleus herd of bulls and cows for the use of embryo transfer (ET) and artificial insemination (AI) technology.
- **The center's main goal** is to generate superior semen and in vitro-fertilized embryos that are kept at extremely low temperatures for use in artificial intelligence (AI) or to be injected into farm animals.
- **Breeds and Milk Yield:** The center has generated a range of breeds, with differing capacity for milk yield ranging from 3,000 to 12,000 liters per year. These include exotic breeds (such as Holstein-Friesian and Jersey), as well as crossbred HF-Gir and HF-Sahiwal.
- **Use of Male and Female Genetics:** The center makes use of sex-sorted semen and AI to capitalize on male genetics, while IVF-ET technology is mostly used to take use of donor cows' female genetics.
- **Farmers' Adoption:** Amul has made IVF-ET technology available to farmers, and the company has documented successful pregnancies and calvings. The Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation's member unions have welcomed these developments as well, and farmers such as Bhavnaben Chaudhary have benefited from improved milk outputs and financial gains due to the use of superior breeds obtained through IVF-ET.
- **Favoritism for Particular Breeds:** Despite lower yields, farmers such as Bhavnaben Chaudhary favour breeds like Kankrej due to their higher fat and solids-not-fat content, which guarantees better pricing and reduced expenses for feeding and upkeep.

#### **Animal nutrition/ lowering the cost of producing milk at the farm-gate**

- **Reduction of Feeding Expenses:** High-yielding, high-protein green fodder grasses must be cultivated in order to minimize animal feeding expenses. As a result, there is less need for costly compound cow feed and concentrates made of oil meal. Reducing the cost of milk production at the farm gate would undoubtedly have to be the main goal of White Revolution 2.0.
- **Total Mixed Ration (TMR) Plant Introduction:** At Sarsa in Anand, Amul is building a 30-tonne-per-day TMR factory. TMR will give animals ready-to-eat mashed nourishment in the form of concentrates, green and dry feed, vitamins, and mineral mixes.
- **Advantages of TMR:** Farmers will save money by not having to buy, store, or handle the labor-intensive task of mixing forage with cattle feed. It provides an easy-to-use and economical way to feed animals.
- **Obtaining Fodder:** According to the proposal, fodder will be obtained via farmer producer organizations (FPOs), whose members will grow silage for the TMR plant and cultivate oat grass, hybrid napier, maize, or jowar.
- **Focus on High-Yielding Grasses:** In order to preserve the wellbeing and output of dairy cattle, farmers will concentrate on growing high-yielding grass species that are high in protein.

### **3. RBI finalises Omnibus Framework for SROs in regulated entities**

- On Thursday, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that the Omnibus Framework for its Regulated Entities' recognition of Self-Regulatory Organizations (SRO) had been finalized.

### **The key features of the Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO)-**

- **Omnibus Framework:** To recognize Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs) for regulated entities, the RBI has completed the omnibus framework. This framework includes general guidelines including goals, roles, qualifications, rules of governance, application procedure, and other prerequisites for recognition.
- **Guidelines Particular to a Sector:** For every industry in which an SRO is to be established, sector-specific recommendations will be released independently by the Reserve Bank's corresponding departments. This guarantees that the SROs meet the particular demands and specifications of their corresponding industries.
- **Draft Framework and Public Consultation:** Following a public comment period on a draft framework for SROs, the omnibus framework was finalized after considering the feedback received. This suggests that the SRO structure was developed through consultation.
- **Credibility and Responsibilities:** Under the regulator's supervision, SROs are supposed to conduct themselves with impartiality, credibility, and responsibility. In order to support the wholesome and long-term growth of the industries they serve, they seek to enhance regulatory compliance.
- **Transparency and Independence:** To increase public trust in the industry's integrity, SROs are expected to conduct their business with independence, professionalism, and transparency. Adherence to the highest governance standards is a need for a successful SRO.

### **The significance of Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs)-**

- **Improved Regulatory Compliance:** By establishing and upholding industry best practices and standards, SROs help their member organizations comply with regulations more effectively. SROs assist regulated entities in maintaining compliance with pertinent laws and regulations by establishing clear rules and overseeing adherence to them.
- **sector Integrity and Public Confidence:** SROs are essential to preserving and strengthening public confidence in the sector. SROs aid in the development of trust among stakeholders, such as clients, investors, and regulatory bodies, by encouraging openness, professionalism, and moral behavior.
- **Tailored Regulation:** SROs are able to create industry-specific rules and guidelines that are adapted to the particular demands and features of their respective fields. Because of their versatility, SROs are able to efficiently address difficulties unique to each industry, which results in more efficient regulation.
- **Effective Self-Regulation:** By working together to create and implement norms and regulations, SROs empower industry players to engage in self-regulation. Traditional government regulation may not always be as responsive or flexible as this strategy since SROs are able to react swiftly to new threats and changes in the market.
- **Decreased Regulatory Burden:** By assuming some regulatory responsibilities, SROs can assist in reducing the regulatory load on government agencies. Regulators can concentrate their efforts on supervising wider market activity and managing systemic risks by assigning SROs duties including rule-making, monitoring, and enforcement.
- **Innovation and Growth:** By establishing a favorable regulatory environment, SROs can promote innovation and growth within their respective industries. SROs can promote innovation while making sure it complies with legal requirements and consumer protection standards by offering advice on cutting-edge technologies and business models.

## **4. Hate Speech: Interpreting Section 153A IPC**

- The Supreme Court reaffirmed that in order for an act to be considered criminal under Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), there must be animosity and discord between two or more communities or groups.
- Politicians are frequently arrested for allegedly using hate speech under section 153 A of the IPC.

### **The Indian Penal Code's (IPC) Section 153A**

- Promoting animosity between various groups on the basis of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc. is illegal and is covered by Section 153A of the IPC.
- The main goal is to stop the spread of discord or animosity, hostility, or malice among various social groupings.

- It wasn't included in the first penal code when it was passed in 1898.

#### **Prohibited Acts:**

##### **The section prohibits several acts:**

- Engaging in activities that promote or attempt to promote feelings of enmity or hatred between different religious, racial, linguistic, or regional groups.
- Committing acts prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony between different groups or communities.
- Doing anything that disturbs or disrupts public tranquillity or creates unrest among various groups.

#### **Essential Elements:**

##### **To constitute an offence under Section 153A, the following essential elements must be established:**

- Promotion of enmity or hatred between different groups.
- Such promotion must be based on religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc.
- The intention behind the act must be to disrupt public tranquillity or to create disharmony among groups.

#### **Penalties:**

- Jail Term: If found guilty of violating Section 153A, a person may face a maximum sentence of three years in jail, a fine, or both.
- Both cognizable and non-bailable: The offense is cognizable, and it carries a potential three-year sentence in addition to a fine or neither. Moreover, the offender is tried by a first-class magistrate and the offense is not subject to bail.
- The prosecution bears the burden of proving that the accused's words, deeds, or behavior were intended to incite animosity or hatred between various groups on the grounds mentioned.

**What do you understand by the concept "freedom of speech and expression"? Does it cover hate speech also? Why do the films in India stand on a slightly different plane from other forms of expression? Discuss. 2014**

**With reference to India, consider the following statements: 2022**

- 1. When a prisoner makes out a sufficient case, parole cannot be denied to such prisoner because it becomes a matter of his/her right.**
- 2. State Governments have their own Prisoners Release on Parole Rules.**

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

## **5. Why are Rohingya refugees risking their lives at sea?**

- The tragic circumstances that almost 150 Rohingya migrants were in when their wooden boat capsized off the coast of Indonesia last week have brought attention to this group's precarious predicament.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that last year over 4,500 Rohingya refugees embarked on perilous journeys across the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

#### **Who are the Rohingya refugees?**

- A Muslim ethnic group known as the Rohingya originates in Arakan, Myanmar (formerly known as Burma). The word "Arakan" is combined with the Rohingya word "ga" or "gya," which means "from." This is how the name "Rohingya" is formed.

### **On the Rohingya Crisis:**

- Tagged as "illegal immigrants": Although the Rohingya people say they have ancestral ties to the Rakhine State of Myanmar, several countries have denied this and have classified them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.
- Different from the majority: Because the Rohingya speak a Bengali dialect rather than the standard Burmese language, they are culturally and spiritually separate from the majority Buddhist population in Myanmar.
- Strict requirements for citizenship: Since 1982, Myanmar has refused to recognize the Rohingya as an ethnic group or grant them citizenship. The 1982 citizenship legislation of Myanmar sets stringent requirements for obtaining citizenship, including proving that one's ancestors lived in Myanmar before to 1823.
- The largest stateless population in the world: As a result, the Rohingya are regarded as the greatest group of stateless people on Earth, devoid of security and basic rights.

### **Why did the Rohingya people leave their country?**

- Military crackdown: Security personnel in Myanmar have persecuted, abused, and discriminated against people for decades. After a military campaign in 2012 in response to the rape and killing of a Rakhine lady in an area populated primarily by Rohingyas, tensions between the Rohingya community and the Rakhine Buddhist population resulted in a significant number of Rohingyas leaving Myanmar.
- biggest departure: The greatest migration took place in August 2017 as a result of a severe violent wave in Rakhine that forced over 750,000 people to flee to Bangladesh in search of safety.
- UN commission for fact-finding: The violence in 2017 was referred to by the UN as "ethnic cleansing," and the humanitarian situation was deemed "catastrophic." The UN fact-finding panel declared in 2018 that the government of Myanmar intended to commit "genocidal" acts against the Rohingya people.

### **Why they are choosing sea journeys?**

- Overcrowded Refugee Camp: There are an estimated 9,60,000 Rohingya living in camps for refugees in Bangladesh, especially in Cox's Bazar, which is close to the Myanmar border and has some of the biggest and densest populations of any refugee camp in the world.
- Susceptible to weather-related catastrophes and outbreaks: Because of the unhygienic circumstances, the camps are particularly vulnerable to weather-related disasters and disease outbreaks. There are also security risks, such as gang violence and arson assaults. For instance, in 2023, fighting in Bangladeshi camps claimed the lives of nearly 60 Rohingya.
- Returning to Myanmar is nearly impossible, and the circumstances in the relief camps in Bangladesh are getting worse. As a result, more and more Rohingya are risking their lives to traverse the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea by boat.

### **The Rohingya Population in India:**

- There exist communities of Rohingya in the states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Hyderabad, and Jammu-NCR.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs claims that more than 40,000 Rohingya people live in India. Of them, just 14,000 have refugee ID cards issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which shields them from arbitrary arrest or imprisonment.

### **Indian legal provisions pertaining to "Refugees":**

- No particular law: There isn't a law in India that was created expressly for refugees. As a result, the government routinely classifies Rohingya refugees with undocumented immigrants and deports them in accordance with the Foreigners Act of 1946 and the Foreigners Order of 1948.
- Deportation authority: The Central government is authorized to remove a foreign national under Section 3 of The Foreigners Act, 1946.

At the international level, the bilateral relations between most nations are governed on the policy of promoting one's own national interest without any regard for the interest of other nations. This leads to conflicts and tensions between the nations. How can ethical consideration help resolve such tensions? Discuss with specific examples. (150 words) 2015

## 6. Bangalore Water Crisis

- For the past two days, Bengaluru's severe drinking water issue has made headlines across the globe.

### Context:

- According to the chief minister of Karnataka, Bengaluru experiences a daily water scarcity of 500 million litres, or roughly one-fifth of the city's total daily demand.

### Causes of the current water crisis:

- Monsoon: Karnataka recorded rainfall during the monsoon of previous year that was 18% less than average. The state did not receive much rain, not even during the post-monsoon season. Karnataka receives the majority of its yearly rainfall during the monsoon, just like the majority of other regions in the nation. Water stress in the monsoon months is usually often the result of insufficient rainfall.
- The comparatively low amount of water in reservoirs has been another direct effect of the low rainfall.
- Only 26% of the water in the Karnataka reservoirs is now being held, according to the most recent statistics available from the Central Water Commission.
- Aquifers: The aquifer system in South India is extremely distinct. It's quite stony. There is not much water stored in the aquifers. Both their emptying and recharging processes happen swiftly. This means that in the event of a protracted dry season, groundwater supplies cannot be sustained for very long.
- The aquifers in northern India, on the other hand, have a far greater capacity to hold water. This explains why there hasn't been the same kind of water scarcity in Bihar or Uttar Pradesh, which received even less rainfall than Karnataka in 2017.

### Dealing with Shortage

- Climate change, systematic lake destruction, uncontrolled building, and obstructions to the natural subsurface water flow all have an impact on Bengaluru's water availability. However, these don't appear to be the direct causes of this specific persistent scarcity. This one is mostly related to the seasonal variations in rainfall and the state's incapacity to build resilience against these kinds of unpredictabilities.
- States must plan ahead and build the capacity to handle the interruptions.
- The secret is to value water. This resource isn't free. Wastage needs to be avoided while low or optimal consumption needs to be encouraged.

## PRELIMS PROSPECTIVE

### 1. Front-running

- On Wednesday, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) announced that one of its employees had been let go from a stock market front-running case that was being looked into by market regulator Sebi.

### Context:

- In a case involving front-running the state-owned insurer's trades, Sebi impounded unlawful gains of Rs 2.44 crore made by five entities, including an employee of Life Insurance Corporation, from the securities market in April 2023.

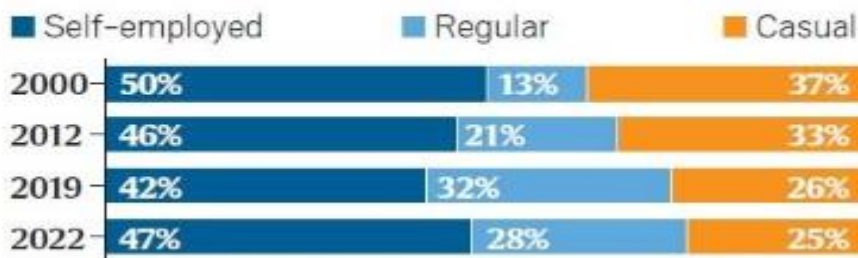


### About Front-running :

- Front-running is the use of confidential information to buy, sell, or enter into options or futures contracts directly or indirectly, ahead of a significant order on an upcoming transaction in the same or related securities, contracts for futures, or options, with the expectation that the price of those securities or contracts may change once the information is made public.
- For instance, a client might ask a broker to buy 50,000 shares of Company A. He holds onto the client's order until he places an order for the same item on his own account. The size of the customer's order causes the share price to rise at the time he puts the request. The broker benefits right away from the rise.

## 2. India Employment Landscape: Insights from the ILO-IHD Report 2024

### STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT OF YOUTHS



Source: IHD-ILO India Employment Report 2024

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Institute of Human Development (IHD) produced the India Employment Report 2024, which states that about 83% of India's unemployed workforce is young.

### Highlights of the India Employment Report 2024:

#### Dynamics of the Labor Market

- Long-Term Deterioration: Between 2000 and 2018, there was a long-term decline in the labor force participation rate (LFPR), worker population ratio (WPR), and unemployment rate (UR); however, following 2019, there was an improvement.
- Impact of Education: The percentage of youth without jobs who have completed secondary or higher education has nearly doubled, from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022. This suggests that there has been a substantial change in the educational backgrounds of job searchers.

#### Challenges and Insecurities

- Informal Workforce: While the percentage of workers doing regular labor fell after 2018, about 90% of workers are still doing so, which has resulted in widespread concerns about their means of subsistence.
- Contractualization: There has been an increase in contractualization, which exacerbates job insecurity because so few normal workers have long-term contracts.

#### Disparities in Gender and Skill Levels

- Skills Deficit: The report highlights a skills gap among India's youthful workers, noting that a considerable proportion lacks the ability to do fundamental arithmetic operations or digital jobs, even though there is a demographic dividend.
- Gender Gap: India's labor market exhibits significant gender gaps, with low rates of female involvement and high rates of unemployment among young, highly educated women.

**International Labour Organization's Conventions 138 and 182 are related to: 2018**

- a) Child labour
- b) Adaptation of agricultural practices to global climate change
- c) Regulation of food prices and food security
- d) Gender parity in the workplace

**3. UN WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2024**

- The UN World Happiness Report 2024 was just made available.

**Context:**

- One well-known publication that rates happiness levels across nations is the World Happiness Report. It is predicated on survey information gathered from participants who assess their own life.

**About UN WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2024:**

- The United Nations General Assembly launched the report in 2011 when it passed a resolution requesting that member nations gauge their citizens' level of happiness and use the results to inform public policy.
- 2012 saw the publication of the first World Happiness Report, which served as the basis for the UN High-Level Meeting on Happiness and Well-Being.

**Finland's Unwavering Contentment:**

- For seven years running, Finland has maintained its position as the happiest nation in the world.
- The top rankings are still dominated by Nordic countries, with Finland closely followed by Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden.
- Afghanistan continued to rank lowest among the 143 nations surveyed, with persistent humanitarian challenges resulting from the Taliban's 2020 takeover of the country.
- India remains at 126th place in the world happiness index, where it was ranked last year.

**4. MARITIME ANTI-PIRACY ACT**

- The Indian Navy's efficiency during its 100-day campaign, dubbed "Operation Sankalp," was greatly enhanced, in the opinion of Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar, by the Maritime Anti-Piracy Act.

**Context:**

- "Operation Sankalp" covered Somalia's east coast as well as the Gulf of Aden and the North Arabian Sea.

**About MARITIME ANTI-PIRACY ACT**

- One important piece of legislation that India passed to combat the threat of piracy on the high seas is the Maritime Anti-Piracy Act, 2022.
- On January 31, 2023, this Act was passed, and on February 22, 2023, it became operative.
- Its goal is to implement the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which addresses topics connected to the suppression of piracy on the high seas.
- Anyone found guilty of piracy, including those who attempt, abet, or collaborate to commit piracy, will be punished under the legislation.
- The Indian Navy and Coast Guard are able to board, apprehend, and detain pirates who are operating in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the high seas, and other areas thanks to the Maritime Anti Piracy Act.
- The offenders may be sentenced to life in jail, a fine, or both by Indian courts. Nevertheless, in cases where India has extraditable treaties with foreign nations, the Act also views the offense as extraditable. Since 2017, extradition of Somalian pirates has been permitted by an agreement between India and Somalia.

## MAPPING MASTER

### 1. GIBRALTAR ARC

- According to a modeling study, in roughly 20 million years, a dormant subduction zone beneath the Gibraltar Strait (the Gibraltar Arc) may become active and migrate into the Atlantic Ocean, perhaps generating the Atlantic "Ring of Fire."

#### Context:

- A possible waking of the Gibraltar arc might have a major effect on how the Atlantic Ocean is arranged over millions of years.



#### About GIBRALTAR ARC:

- Beneath the Gibraltar Strait is a geological feature called the Gibraltar Arc, sometimes referred to as the Gibraltar Subduction Zone.
- The Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea are separated by the narrow Strait of Gibraltar.
- It acts as Africa's and Europe's natural border.
- The Eurasian Plate and the African Plate tectonic plates converge in this region.
- In this region, the African Plate is presently subducting beneath the Eurasian Plate.
- Mountain ranges, seismic activity, and volcanic eruptions are all results of subduction—the sliding of one tectonic plate beneath another.

**Context:**

- An admirable attempt to protect the security and welfare of its inhabitants in the middle of the Haitian crisis is India's Operation Indravati.

**About OPERATION INDRAVATI:**

- India started Operation Indravati as a means of evacuating its citizens from Haiti during the unrest there.
- The operation has the name of India's Indravati River.
- Because of the increasing anarchy and violence in Haiti, the goal of this operation is to relocate Indians to the neighboring Dominican Republic.

**Haiti**

- Haiti, a Caribbean nation that shares the Dominican Republic's island of Hispaniola, has been struggling with political unrest and rampant gang violence.
- Since President Jovenel Moïse's killing in July 2021, Haiti has been experiencing a crisis.
- Following the void in leadership, Prime Minister Ariel Henry—who has garnered backing from other countries—took office.
- But efforts to create a political transition have fallen flat, and in an attempt to compel Henry's departure, a number of armed organizations have coordinated attacks on strategic locations.