



Nazool Land

For Prelims: [Demolition Drive](#), Nazool Lands (Transfer) Rules, 1956, Nazool Land, Demolition Drive, Encroachment.

For Mains: Nazool Land, Law Against Demolition Drives, Judgements & Cases.

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

Recently, violence erupted in Uttarakhand's Haldwani district after the administration **conducted a [Demolition Drive](#)** to remove **Encroachment** at the site of a mosque and madrasa, allegedly on **Nazool Land**.

- As per the Haldwani district administration, the property where the two structures are situated is registered as the **Municipal Council's Nazool land**.

What is Nazool Land?

▪ About:

- Nazool land is **owned by the government** but most often not directly administered as state property.
 - The state generally allots such land to any entity **on lease for a fixed period**, generally between **15 and 99 years**.
- In case the lease term is expiring, one can approach the authority to **renew the lease by submitting a written application** to the Revenue Department of the local development authority.
- The government is **free to either renew the lease or cancel it** — taking back Nazool land.
 - In almost all major cities of India, **Nazool land has been allotted to different entities** for a variety of different purposes.

▪ Emergence of Nazool Land:

- During British rule, kings and kingdoms which opposed the British frequently **revolted against them**, leading to **several battles between them** and the British Army. Upon defeating these kings in battle, the British would **often take their land away from them**.
- After India got Independence, the **British vacated these lands**. But with kings and royals often lacking proper documentation to prove prior ownership, these **lands were marked as Nazool land** — to be owned by the **respective state governments**.

▪ Purpose of Nazool Land:

- The government generally uses **Nazool land for public purposes** like building schools, hospitals, Gram Panchayat buildings, etc.
- Several cities in India have also seen **large tracts of land denoted as Nazool land** used for housing societies, generally on lease.
- While several states have brought in government orders for the purpose of framing rules

for Nazool land, **The Nazool Lands (Transfer) Rules, 1956** is the law mostly used for Nazool land adjudication.

What is an Encroachment?

▪ About:

- It is the **unauthorised use or occupation of someone else's property**. This can occur on abandoned or unused spaces if the legal owner is not actively involved in its upkeep. It is important for **property owners to be aware of the legal steps** to take and their rights in such cases.
- Urban encroachment refers to the **unauthorised occupation** or use of land or property within urban areas.
- This could include **illegal construction, squatting, or any other form of occupation** without proper permission or legal rights.
 - Land encroachment, as defined by **Section 441 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860**, is the act of unlawfully entering someone else's property without permission to commit an offence, threaten possession of the property, or stay on the land uninvited.

▪ Procedure for Removing Illegal Encroachments:

- Before taking any action, the **municipal authorities are usually required to issue notices** to the individuals or establishments involved in illegal encroachments.
- Courts, including the Supreme Court, have emphasised the importance of due process and have often ruled that **proper notice and opportunity to be heard are essential before any demolition is carried out**.
 - In the **1985 Olga Tellis case**, emphasising the right to livelihood and rights of slum dwellers, SC had noted that the right to livelihood is a part of right to life.
- If the individuals fail to respond or do not provide a satisfactory explanation, the municipal authorities **may proceed with the demolition process**.
- The authorities are generally expected to act proportionally, considering the nature of the violation and the response taken to adhere to principles of natural justice.

Lymphatic Filariasis

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare launched the first phase of the **Bi-annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign for Lymphatic filariasis (LF) elimination**.

Note:

- The campaign aims to check disease transmission by **providing free preventive medications** to the residents in areas affected by the disease. The campaign will cover 92 districts across 11 states.

What is Lymphatic Filariasis?

- **About:**
 - Lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as **elephantiasis**, is a [neglected tropical disease\(NTD\)](#) caused by infection with **filarial parasites** transmitted through mosquitoes.
- **Prevalence:**
 - In 2021, approximately 882.5 million people in 44 countries lived in areas requiring preventive chemotherapy to halt the spread of infection.
 - LF is a serious public health problem in India. Currently, there are **345 lymphatic filariasis endemic districts in 20 states** and union territories of the country.
 - 75% of MDA districts are from 5 states Bihar, Jharkhand, UP, Odisha and Telangana.
 - Lymphatic filariasis is more prevalent among the **urban poor and affects all segments of the rural population.**
- **Impact:**
 - The infection **starts in childhood and accumulates through adulthood**, resulting in irreversible chronic disease conditions.
 - The disease inflicts stigma, mental suffering, social deprivation and economic loss and is a major cause of poverty in the affected communities.
- **Cause and Transmission:**
 - **Parasitic Infection:**
 - Lymphatic filariasis is caused by infection with parasites classified as nematodes (roundworms) of the family Filariodidea. There are 3 types of these thread-like filarial worms:
 - **Wuchereria bancrofti** (responsible for 90% of the cases)
 - **Brugia malayi** (causes most of the remainder of the cases)
 - **Brugia timori** (which also causes the disease)
 - **Transmission Cycle:**
 - Adult worms reside in the **lymphatic vessels**, producing microfilariae that circulate in the blood.
 - Mosquitoes become infected by biting an infected host and transmit the larvae to humans, perpetuating the transmission cycle.
- **Symptoms and Complications:**
 - **Asymptomatic and Chronic Conditions:**
 - The majority of infections are asymptomatic, but chronic conditions can lead to **lymphoedema** (swelling of the limbs), **elephantiasis** (thickening of the skin and tissues), and hydrocele (swelling of the scrotum), causing **physical disfigurement and psychological distress.**
 - **Acute Episodes:**
 - Acute **inflammatory episodes** often accompany chronic conditions, leading to debilitating symptoms and loss of productivity among affected individuals.
- **Treatment and Prevention:**
 - **Preventive Chemotherapy:**
 - MDA with annual doses of medicines to the at-risk population is the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) recommended strategy for eliminating lymphatic filariasis.
 - **MDA Regimens:**
 - Different drug regimens are recommended based on co-endemicity with other filarial diseases, aiming to **reduce microfilariae density and interrupt transmission.**
 - **Morbidity Management:**
 - **Surgery, hygiene measures, and clinical care** are essential for managing chronic manifestations and preventing disease progression.
 - **Vector Control:**
 - Supplemental strategies such as **mosquito control help reduce transmission** and complement preventive chemotherapy efforts.
- **WHO Response and Goals:**
 - **Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GPELF):**
 - Launched in 2000, GPELF aims to **eliminate lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem** through preventive chemotherapy and morbidity management.
 - In 2020, GPELF set the following goals for the new NTD Road Map (2021–2030):
 - **Validation:** 80% of endemic countries (58) to validate elimination,

maintaining low infection rates post-MDA.

- **Surveillance:** All endemic countries (72) to implement surveillance to prevent disease resurgence.
- **MDA Reduction:** Targeting zero population needing mass drug administration.

▪ **India's Initiatives:**

- **Mission Mode India Multi-drug administration (MDA) Campaign** twice a year synchronized with **National Deworming Day (10th Feb and 10th August)**
- **India is committed to eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027**, three years before the global target.

LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS World Health Organization

DISEASE

Infection
Filarial parasites spread by mosquitoes

Disease
Impairs function of lymphatic vessels

Normal vessels | Dilated vessels

856 Million people
AT RISK

ELIMINATION

Large-scale treatment of all at-risk populations can stop spread of infection

Vector control can supplement impact of large-scale treatment

Morbidity management & disability prevention to alleviate suffering due to disease

- **6.7 billion** treatments delivered (2000-2016)
- **499 million** people no longer require treatment
- Prevented or cured more than **97 million cases**
- **US\$ 100 billion** averted lifetime economic loss

Lymphatic Filariasis eliminated as a public health problem in 10 countries

Global Biodiversity Framework Fund

The first council meeting of the **Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)** took place recently in Washington DC, US.

- The meeting, held as part of the **66th Council Meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)**, underscored the necessity of securing funds to fulfil the objectives outlined in the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** adopted at COP15.

- Guidelines were established for the execution of GBFF, initially proposed during **COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** in 2022.
- GEF, as the implementing agency for GBFF, serves as a "**financial mechanism**" to five conventions: CBD, [UNFCCC](#), [Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants](#), [UN Convention to Combat Desertification](#), and [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#).

Read more: [Global Environment Facility](#), [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), [Convention on Biological Diversity](#)

Odisha Government's SWAYAM and KHUSI Schemes

Source: [TH](#)

The Odisha government has recently announced a one-time livelihood cash assistance of ₹1,000 for the families covered by the **Public Distribution System (PDS)** in the state.

- A new scheme called '**Swayam**' was launched to provide interest-free bank loans of ₹1 lakh to rural unemployed youths aged 18-35 (18-40 for special category) to initiate new business ventures.
 - At national level, [Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana \(PMMY\)](#) was launched in April, 2015 for providing loans up to 10 lakh to the **non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises**.
- The government expanded the existing **KHUSI scheme, now called KHUSI+**, to distribute **belted sanitary napkins** for institutional deliveries and medical termination of pregnancy in government facilities, aiming to improve menstrual hygiene awareness and reduce maternal mortality and morbidity rates in the state.
 - Odisha boasts a high rate of 81.5% of women using hygienic menstrual protection, exceeding the national average, as per the **National Family Health Survey 5**.

Read more: [National Family Health Survey 5](#), [Public Distribution System \(PDS\)](#)

Potential of India's AVGC-XR Sector

For Prelims: [Animation](#), [Visual Effects](#), [Gaming & Comics and Extended Reality \(AVGC-XR\) sector](#), [Intellectual property](#), Potential of India's AVGC-XR Sector.

For Mains: Potential of India's AVGC-XR Sector, AVGC Sector, its importance and related issues, Government policies & interventions.

Source: [TH](#)

Why in News?

India's [Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics and Extended Reality \(AVGC-XR\) sector](#) is all set for a quantum leap in the next five to six years.

What is the Outlook of India's AVGC-XR Sector?

- **Industry Landscape:**
 - India boasts a robust ecosystem with over 4,000 studios, with key hubs in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune, Hyderabad, and Chennai. Additionally, smaller towns are witnessing a **surge in studio establishments**, highlighting the sector's widespread expansion.
 - India's rich cultural heritage, diverse art forms, and skilled artists serve as the foundation for its prowess in visual arts. The industry is now recognizing the immense potential for value creation and employment generation within this domain.
- **Employment:**
 - Most of the direct job positions will come for content developers, animators, pre- and post-production artists, pre-visualisation artists, composers, etc.
 - The industry is witnessing a high pace of growth with some segments within AVGC-XR already growing at 30 or 35% annually.
- **Projected Growth:**
 - The AVGC-XR sector, currently employing 2.6 lakh individuals, anticipates creating 23 lakh direct jobs by 2032, with revenues expected to soar to over USD 26 billion by 2030 from the current USD 3 billion.
 - India's contribution to the global AVGC-XR sector is a mere 0.5%, as per the government data, India has the potential **to capture 5% (USD 40 billion) of the global market share by the year 2025**, with an annual growth of **around 25-30% and creating over 1,60,000 new jobs annually**.

What are the Challenges Associated to AVGC Sector?

- **Lack of Authentic Data:**
 - Non-availability of data such as employment, industry size, education intuitions, etc. for the AVGC sector, makes decision-making tougher for entities.
- **Skill Gap in Education and Employment sector:**
 - Creation of the AVGC ecosystem within the country requires a workforce with specialised skills for various roles such as animators, developers, designers, localization experts, product managers, etc.
- **Infrastructure Constraints:**
 - In the absence of adequate training infrastructure, there is deterioration in the quality of training being delivered to students, thus impacting the quality of output and human resources for the AVGC industry.
- **Less focus on Research Development:**
 - There is also a need to develop research related narrative for the AVGC-XR sector, so that dedicated focus can be given to it.
- **Absence of an AVGC Academic Reference Point:**
 - There is no apex institute in India for the AVGC sector unlike other sectors such as engineering, design, management, packaging, etc.
- **Availability of Funds:**
 - At present there is no dedicated fund available for the promotion of the AVGC sector which acts as an obstacle for the growth of the sector in India.
- **Lack of Globally-Popular Indian IPs:**
 - The AVGC sector in general has suffered a lack of original Indian [intellectual property](#) as most work in this sector is outsourced.
 - Animation industry is dominated by services to other countries and thus it is important to incentivize local production with additional concessions to increase local IP.

What are the Government Initiatives to Promote the AVGC-XR Sector?

- **Educational Integration:**
 - The [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#) has integrated creative arts, design, and sports into the school curriculum from Class 6 onwards, fostering a conducive environment for nurturing talent in AVGC-XR.
 - Around 5,000 CBSE and state board schools have introduced AVGC-XR learning, with plans

for expansion nationwide. This initiative aims to redefine animation as a form of family entertainment suitable for all ages.

▪ **Policy Framework:**

- To unleash the scope of the AVGC sector, **Union Budget 2022-23** announced for setting up of an **AVGC Promotion Task Force** to recommend ways to realise and build domestic capacity for serving Indian markets and the global demand.
- Collaborative efforts between industry bodies like FICCI, ABAI (Association of Bangalore Animation Industry), SAIK (Society of AVGC Institutions in Kerala), and government entities are underway to formulate robust policies tailored to each state.
 - States like Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Telangana have already implemented proactive measures to support the sector's growth.



Way Forward

- Continued emphasis on skill development programs tailored to the AVGC-XR industry is essential. This includes both formal education initiatives integrated into school curriculums and vocational training programs to equip aspiring professionals with the necessary skills.
- Foster closer collaboration between industry players and educational institutions to ensure that curriculum and training programs are aligned with industry needs. Internship opportunities, guest lectures, and industry-sponsored projects can bridge the gap between academia and industry.

MGNREGA Unemployment Benefits Disbursement

Source: DTE

Why in News?

The **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**, 2005 has been a crucial lifeline for **rural workers in India**. However, a recent report by the **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj** has shed light on a concerning issue regarding the implementation of the scheme.

What are the Key Highlights of the Report?

▪ **Limited Distribution of Benefits:**

- The report reveals that out of 7,124 eligible workers in the last five years, only 258 received benefits, accounting for **approximately 3% of the total**.
 - According to Section 7(1) of MGNREGA, 2005, individuals **not employed within 15 days are entitled to a daily unemployment allowance**.

▪ **State-specific Data:**

- State governments are responsible for providing unemployment allowance based on their economic capacity.
- **Karnataka** reported the highest number of eligible workers (2,467) but **none received benefits**.
- Rajasthan ranked second, with 1,831 eligible workers, of which only nine received benefits.
 - Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh also showed poor distribution records.
- Despite eligibility, workers in these states either received inadequate benefits or none at all.

▪ **Pending Compensation for Delayed Wages:**

- The committee was informed that from the financial year 2018-19 until November 21, 2024, a total of over Rs 13 crores was sanctioned for compensation, and **only around Rs 10 crores were paid, leaving a significant amount pending**.
 - The responsibility of paying interest lies with the **state government**, according to the **Department of Rural Development**.
- The MGNREGA states that **if wages are not paid within 15 days** of the closure of the muster roll, workers are entitled to compensation for the delay. The **compensation is 0.05%** of the unpaid wages per day of delay beyond the sixteenth day of closure of the muster roll.

▪ **Recommendations by the Committee:**

- The committee recommended coordinated efforts between the **Central Rural Development Department and state governments** to ensure proper disbursement of benefits.
- Measures should be taken to address the non-payment of unemployment benefits.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

- MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programs in the world launched in **2005 by the Ministry of Rural Development**.
- MGNREGA is a **demand-based wage employment scheme** that provides at least **100 days of guaranteed wage employment** to each family per fiscal year to improve the livelihood security of families in rural areas of the country.
 - It provides livelihood security, which means that rural households have **alternative sources of income** when better employment opportunities are unavailable.
 - There are **14.32 crore registered Job Cards**, with 68.22% active Job Cards, and a total of 25.25 crore workers, of which 56.83% are active workers.
- **Achievements of MGNREGA in 2022-23:**
 - 11.37 crore households availed employment.
 - 289.24 crore person-days employment has been generated out of which:
 - 56.19% were for women
 - 19.75% were for Scheduled Castes (SCs)
 - 17.47% were for Scheduled Tribes (STs).

[Read more...](#)

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. Among the following who are eligible to benefit from the “Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act”? (2011)

- (a) Adult members of only the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe households
- (b) Adult members of below poverty line (BPL) households
- (c) Adult members of households of all backward communities
- (d) Adult members of any household

Ans: (d)

Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation

Source: DTE

Why in News?

The **Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)** is at risk of imminent collapse, with recent studies indicating that **anthropogenic emissions** could expedite this between **2025 and 2095**.

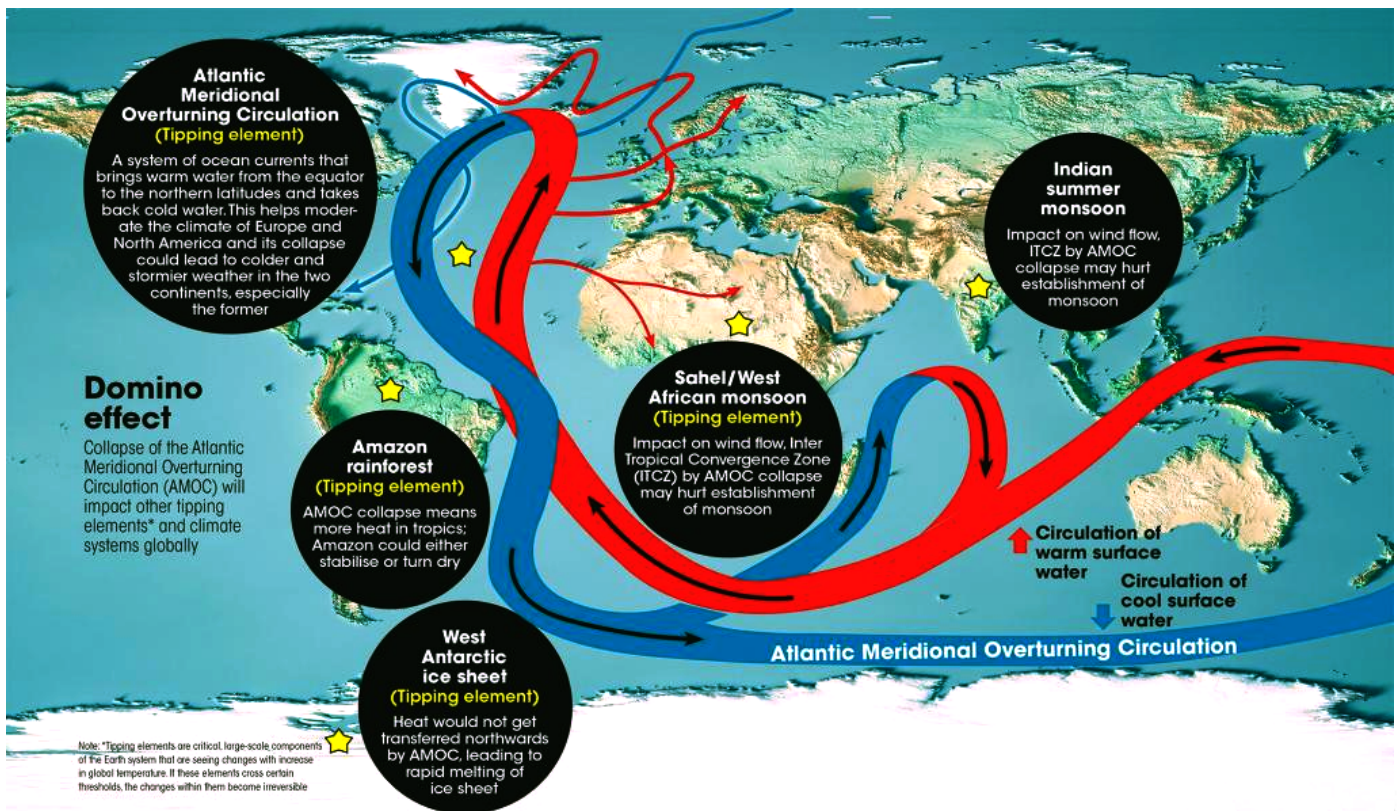
What is AMOC?

▪ About:

- AMOC is a large-scale oceanic circulation system that transports **warm surface waters from the tropics** to the northern latitudes and returns cold, deep waters from the **North Atlantic** back towards the equator.
 - It plays a crucial role in redistributing heat globally, influencing regional and global climates, especially moderating temperatures in Europe, North America, and near the Equator.

▪ Mechanism:

- **Warm Water Transport:** AMOC transports warm, salty surface waters from the tropics to the northern regions. These warm waters carry heat energy, contributing to the **warming** of regions like Europe.
- **Cooling and Density Increase:** As the warm surface waters move towards the poles, they gradually cool due to heat loss to the atmosphere. Also, cold, fresh water from the melting ice of the **Arctic** is added to the cooler ocean.
- **Downwelling:** Once cooled, the dense, cold water sinks to deeper layers of the ocean in a process known as downwelling.
 - This downwelling occurs primarily in the **North Atlantic Ocean**, where the dense water mass forms and begins its southward journey.
- **Southward Flow:** The cold, dense water flows southward along the ocean floor, traversing vast distances across the Atlantic basin.
 - This southward flow represents the **deep limb of the AMOC**, where cold, dense water mass redistributes heat and nutrients throughout the ocean.
 - As the water resurfaces, it begins to warm up again, completing the circulation cycle of the AMOC.



- **Role of Indian Ocean:** As the **Indian Ocean warms** faster and faster, it **generates additional precipitation**. This draws more air from other parts of the world to the Indian Ocean, including the Atlantic. With so much precipitation in the Indian Ocean, there will be **less precipitation in the Atlantic Ocean**.
 - Less precipitation will **lead to higher salinity in the waters of the tropical portion of the Atlantic** — because there won't be as much rainwater to dilute it.
 - This saltier water in the Atlantic, as it comes north via AMOC, will get cold much quicker than usual and sink faster.
 - This would act as a jump start for AMOC, intensifying the circulation.
- **Contribution to Global Climate:** This cycle acts like a **heat conveyor belt**, warming the northern latitudes and cooling the southern latitudes, contributing to the overall stability of the Earth's climate.
- **Threat:** Rising precipitation and accelerated melting of the **Greenland ice sheet** have introduced more cold freshwater into the North Atlantic.
 - This influx has lowered water salinity and density, causing the colder ocean layer to expand while the warmer layer contracts.
 - Consequently, the AMOC is slowing down, posing a risk of collapse.
 - Also, anthropogenic activities, such as **greenhouse gas emissions**, can influence ocean temperatures and circulation patterns, further affecting the AMOC.
- **Potential Cascading Effects:**
 - AMOC collapse may **alter precipitation patterns**, potentially destabilizing the **southern Amazon rainforest** and transforming it into a savannah-like ecosystem.
 - Increased ocean heat in the southern hemisphere could accelerate the melting of the **West Antarctic ice sheet**, exacerbating sea-level rise.
 - Weakening of monsoon circulation in regions like South Asia and Africa could have far-reaching consequences for **agriculture, water resources, and regional climates**.

