

Preston Curve

Source: TH

The Preston curve refers to the **empirical relationship** between <u>life expectancy</u> and per **capita income** in a country, proposed by **American sociologist Samuel H. Preston** in 1975.

- The curve shows that **people in richer countries generally have longer life** spans compared to those in poorer countries, likely due to **better access to healthcare, education, nutrition,** etc.
- As a poor country's per capita income rises, its life expectancy increases significantly initially.
 - For example, India's per capita income rose from Rs 9,000 in 1947 to
- Rs 55,000 in 2011, while life expectancy increased from 32 to 66 years.
 However, the positive relationship between per capita income and life expectancy starts to flatten out beyond a certain point, as the human lifespan cannot be increased indefinitely.
- The positive relationship shown by the Preston curve applies can also be applied to other development indicators like infant/maternal mortality, education, healthcare, etc.

Read more...

Kenya-India Collaboration on Cheetah Conservation

Source: IE

Recently, a **Kenyan** delegation visited India to discuss collaboration on **wildlife conservation efforts**, with a particular emphasis on the ongoing Cheetah Reintroduction Project (<u>Project Cheetah</u>).

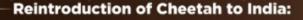
- The delegation presented a draft MoU to the <u>National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)</u> proposing collaboration.
 - It along with capacity building and knowledge sharing, also included provisions for supplying equipment to Kenyan forest rangers to enhance field patrolling and wildlife preservation efforts.
- Project Cheetah:
 - The **Phase-1** of the project started in **2022**, to restore the population of cheetahs, which were declared extinct in the country in 1952.
 - It involves the translocation of cheetahs from South Africa and Namibia to Kuno National Park.
 - The project is implemented by the <u>NTCA</u> in collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, and <u>Wildlife Institute of India (WII)</u>.
 - Under Phase-2 of the Project India is considering sourcing cheetahs from Kenya due to similar habitats.
 - Cheetahs will be translocated to Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh).

Cheetah

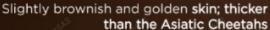
Common Name - Cheetah

Scientific Name - Acinonyx jubatus

- Acinonyx jubatus jubatus (African Cheetah)
- Acinonyx jubatus venaticus (Asiatic Cheetah)



- The "Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India" was released by MoEF&CC at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (January 2022).
 - Such a plan was first proposed in 2009.
- In September 2022, eight cheetahs landed in India from Namibia.
 - The 8 cheetahs have been relocated to the Kuno-Palpur National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
 - The relocation of cheetahs to India from Namibia is the world's first inter- continental large wild carnivore translocation project.



More prominent spots and lines on the face

Found all over the African continent

IUCN Red List Status - Vulnerable

African Cheetah

Slightly smaller than the African ones.

Pale yellowish fawn coloured skin - more fur under body, belly specifically.

Found only in Iran; the country claims there are only 12 of them left. **Year 1952** – Asiatic Cheetah officially declared extinct from India.

IUCN Red List Status - Critically Endangered

Asiatic Cheetah







Supreme Court Mandates Self-Declaration by Advertisers

Source: PIB

Recently, the <u>Supreme Court of India</u> has ordered that all advertisers/Advertising Agencies must submit a '**Self-Declaration Certificate'** before publishing or broadcasting any advertisement.

- This aims to ensure transparency, consumer protection, and responsible advertising practices.
- These will apply to all new advertisements from 18th June 2024.
- It will also ensure compliance with all relevant regulatory guidelines, including those given in Rule
 7 of the Cable Television Networks (CTN) Rules, 1994 and the Norms of Journalistic
 Conduct of the Press Council of India.
 - Rule 7 of CTN provides that advertisements must comply with Indian laws and avoid offending the morality, decency, and religious sensitivities of viewers.
- A certificate signed by an authorised representative of the advertiser can be submitted in Broadcast Seva Portal (For TV/Radio Advertisements) and Press Council of India portal (For Print and Digital Media Advertisements).
- Advertisers need to provide proof of uploading the Self-Declaration Certificate to the relevant broadcaster, printer, publisher, or electronic media platform for their records.

Read more: Regulating Misleading Advertisements in India, Changes in Cable Television Network Rules, Disclosure of Journalistic Sources

PraVaHa Software

Source: TH

Recently, the <u>Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)</u> has developed Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software named **Parallel RANS Solver for Aerospace Vehicle Aero-thermo-dynamic Analysis (PraVaHa).**

- PraVaHa is a software tool specifically designed to analyse the aerodynamics and thermodynamics of aerospace vehicles like launch vehicles and winged and non-winged re-entry vehicles.
- It simulates how air flows around aerospace vehicles and calculates the resulting forces and heat effects which is essential to design the shape, structure, and Thermal Protection System (TPS) required for these bodies.
- It has been extensively used in the <u>Gaganyaan program</u> for aerodynamic analysis of <u>human-rated</u> <u>launch vehicles</u>, such as HLVM3, <u>Crew Escape System (CES)</u>, and Crew Module (CM).
- Any aerospace vehicle while moving through the <u>Farth's atmosphere</u> during <u>launch or re-entry</u> is subjected to severe aerodynamic and aerothermal loads in terms of <u>external pressure and heat</u> <u>flux.</u>
 - Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) is one such tool to predict the aerodynamic and aerothermal loads which solve numerically the equations of conservation of mass, momentum, and energy along with the equation of state.

Colombo Process

Source: IE

Why in News?

Recently, India has **become chair of the regional grouping Colombo Process** for the **first time** since its inception in 2003.

India would lead the grouping for the period 2024-26.

What is the Colombo Process?

About:

- The Colombo Process comprises 12 Asian member states and serves as a regional
 consultative forum. It aims to promote the sharing of best practices related to overseas
 employment for countries in South and Southeast Asia that send migrant workers
 abroad.
- The 12 member states include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.
 - The founding states include Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.
 - In the past, it has been chaired by Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Bangladesh.
- The decisions under Colombo Process are made by consensus and are non-binding.

Objectives:

- Share experiences, lessons learned and best practices.
- Consult on issues faced by overseas workers, and offer practical solutions.
- Optimise development benefits from organised overseas employment.
- Review and monitor the implementation of the ministerial recommendations.
- **Secretariat:** The <u>International Organisation for Migration (IOM)</u> provides technical and administrative support to the Colombo Process.
 - The Colombo Process Technical Support Unit (CPTSU), based in Sri Lanka, provides technical support to the Colombo Process in its thematic areas of focus.

Five Thematic Priority Areas:

- Skills and Qualification Recognition Processes
- Fostering Ethical Recruitment Practices
- Pre-departure Orientation and Empowerment
- Promote Cheaper, Faster and Safer Transfer of Remittances
- Labor Market Analysis

Achievements:

- A **regional workshop for employment agencies** in Asia on placing workers in Europe and ethical recruitment was held in Manila (2006).
- A feasibility study to establish an Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) in one
 of the contractual labour destination countries in the <u>Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)</u> has
 been completed.
- Organised the first "Asia-EU Consultation on Labour Migration" held in Brussels in 2008 attended by Colombo Process countries and 16 EU member states.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

• It is part of the <u>United Nations System</u> as the leading inter-governmental organisation promoting since 1951 humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all, with 175 member states and a presence in 171 countries.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. India is a member of which of the following? (2008)

- 1. Asian Development Bank
- 2. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
- 3. Colombo Plan
- 4. Organization for Economic Cooperation and

Development (OECD)

Select the correct answer using the code given below Code:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (a)

Tonga Volcano Impacting Weather

For Prelims: <u>Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai</u>, Pinatubo, Krakatoa, Tambora, Samalas, Greenhouse Gases, <u>El - Nino, Paris Agreement</u>, IPCC, Cooling credits, Sun dimming.

For Mains: Effect Of Volcano On Global Warming, Types of volcano

Source: TH

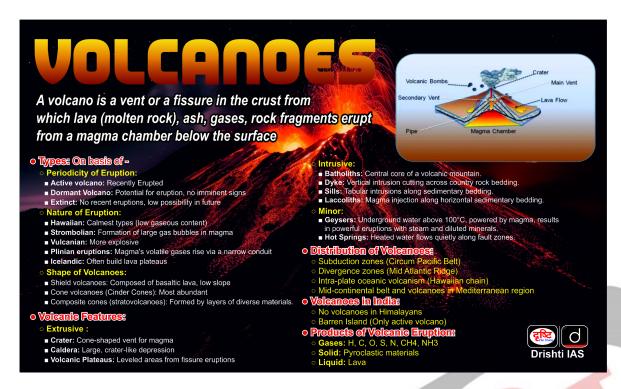
Why in News?

A recent study published in the Journal of Climate revealed that the eruption of the **Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai Volcano** in January 2022 has had significant implications for global weather patterns.

- It is an <u>Undersea Volcanic Eruption consisting</u> of two small uninhabited islands, **Hunga-Ha'apai** and **Hunga-Tonga**.
 - The volcano has **erupted regularly** over the past few decades.
- This is one of the massive explosions the volcano is capable of producing roughly every thousand years.
- One of the reasons for it being highly explosive is the **Fuel-Coolant interaction**.
- The Hunga Tonga eruption's unique characteristic of injecting massive water vapour into the stratosphere.
 - Usually, volcanic smoke, which mostly contains **sulphur dioxide**, leads to a **temporary cooling** of the Earth's surface.
 - The sulphur dioxide turns into **sulphate aerosols**, **which reflect sunlight into space**, causing the surface to cool down until the sulphate settles back on the surface or is washed out by rain.

What are the Effects of the Hunga-Tonga Volcano on the Climate?

- Extraordinary Ozone Hole in 2023:
 - Since, Hunga Tonga is an underwater volcano, it produced 100-150 million tonnes of water vapour during its eruption, raising the amount of water in the stratosphere by around 5%.
 - This water vapour in the stratosphere contributes to the destruction of the ozone layer and acts as a potent greenhouse gas.
 - The study found that the **large ozone hole** observed from August to December 2023 was at least partly due to the Tonga eruption.
 - This ozone hole was almost two years in advance, as the water vapour from the eruption had enough time to reach the polar stratosphere over Antarctica.
- Wet Summer of 2024 in Australia:
 - The model predicted a positive phase of the **Southern Annular Mode** during the summer of 2024, leading to a higher chance of a wet summer in Australia.
 - This was **contrary to the expected <u>Fl Niño</u> conditions**, and the model was able to forecast this two years in advance.
- Regional Weather Disruptions:
 - The study predicts colder and wetter than usual winters for the northern half of Australia up to around 2029.
 - North America may have warmer than usual winters, while Scandinavia can have colder than usual winters.
 - These regional weather patterns are attributed to the Tonga eruption's impact on the way atmospheric waves travel, which directly influences local weather conditions.
 - This emphasises the need for region-specific climate predictions and adaptation strategies.
- Minimal Impact on Global Temperatures:
 - The impact of the eruption on global mean temperatures was very small, around 0.015°C.
 - The **incredibly high temperatures observed for about a year** cannot be attributed to the Tonga eruption.

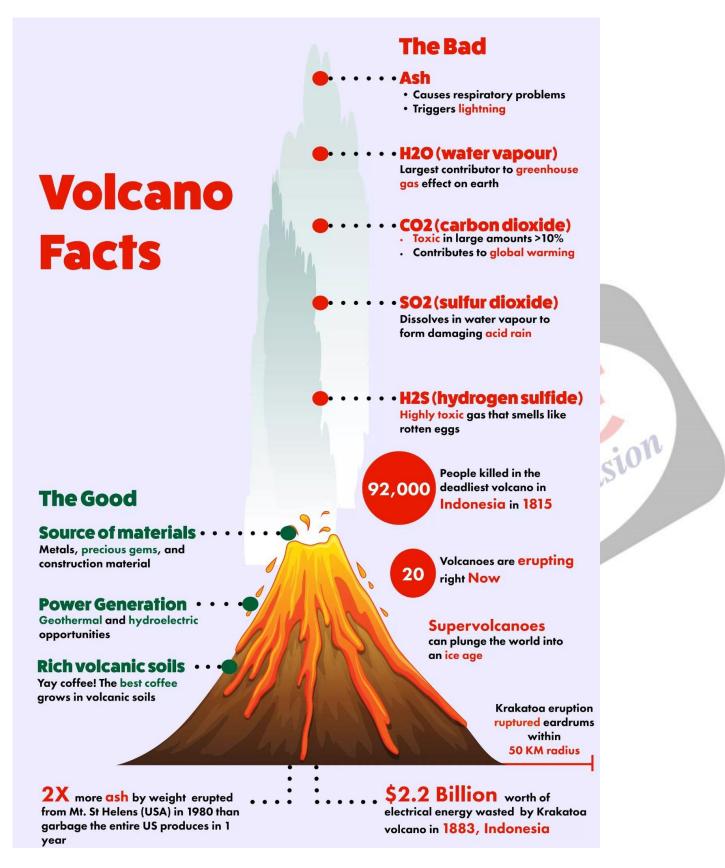


Undersea Volcano

- The undersea volcanic eruption happens in a volcano which is located under the ocean surface. There are an estimated one million undersea volcanoes, and most of them are located near the tectonic plates.
- Apart from lava, these openings also spew out ash. These deposit on the ocean's floor and lead
 to the formation of sea mounds (underwater mountains that are formed on the ocean floor
 but do not reach the water surface).

Fuel-Coolant Interaction

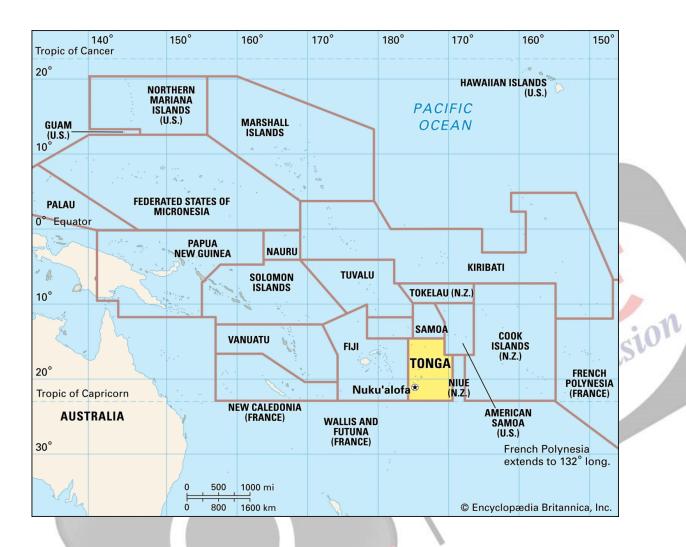
- If magma rises into seawater slowly, even at temperatures of about 1200 degrees Celsius, a thin film of steam forms between the magma and water. This provides a layer of insulation to allow the outer surface of the magma to cool. But this process doesn't work when magma is blasted out of the ground full of volcanic gas.
- When magma enters the water rapidly, any steam layers are quickly disrupted, bringing hot magma in direct contact with cold water. It is akin to weapons-grade chemical explosions.
 - Extremely violent blasts tear the magma apart.
- A chain reaction begins, with new magma fragments exposing fresh hot interior surfaces to water, and the explosions repeat, ultimately jetting out volcanic particles and causing blasts with supersonic speeds.



Tonga

- Tonga is an island country in Polynesia, part of Oceania, with 171 islands, of which 45 are inhabited.
- The country spans approximately 800 km north-south and is surrounded by Fiji, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Niue, and Kermadec.
- Tonga has a tropical rainforest climate. The economy relies heavily on remittances from Tongans living abroad, particularly in Australia, New Zealand, and the United States.

- The **economy focuses on small-scale industries** like handicrafts and agriculture, with efforts to enhance sectors such as tourism and communications.
- The **largest ethnic group in Tonga is Tongan,** followed by a mix of Tongans, Chinese, Fijians, Europeans, and other Pacific Islanders.



Drishti Mains Question:

Discuss the factors leading to volcanic eruptions. Also, suggest mitigation strategies for managing volcanic hazards in India.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Consider the following: (2013)

- 1. Electromagnetic radiation
- 2. Geothermal energy
- 3. Gravitational force
- 4. Plate movements
- 5. Rotation of the earth
- 6. Revolution of the earth

Which of the above are responsible for bringing dynamic changes on the surface of the earth?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- **(b)** 1, 3, 5 and 6 only
- (c) 2, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Ans: (d)

Mains:

- **Q**. Discuss about the vulnerability of India to earthquake related hazards. Give examples including the salient features of major disasters caused by earthquakes in different parts of India during the last three decades. **(2021)**
- **Q**. Why are the world's fold mountain systems located along the margins of continents? Bring out the association between the global distribution of fold mountains and earthquakes and volcanoes. **(2014)**
- **Q**. Mention the global occurrence of volcanic eruptions in 2021 and their impact on regional environment. **(2021)**

Conservation Breeding in Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP)

Source: TH

Why in News?

Recently, the <u>Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP)</u> in Visakhapatnam has been at the forefront of <u>wildlife</u> <u>conservation</u> in India, particularly in the successful breeding and nurturing of <u>Striped hyenas</u> and <u>Asiatic wild dogs</u> **(Dhole).**

What are the Key Points About Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP)?

- It is an ex-situ facility established in 1977, located amidst Seethakonda Reserve Forest in the Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh.
 - It is surrounded by **Eastern Ghats** on three sides and the **Bay of Bengal** on the fourth side.
- It is a large category zoo recognised by the <u>Central Zoo Authority</u>.
 - Due to its close proximity to Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary it is also home to many free-ranging animals and birds.
- **IGZP has successfully bred** striped hyenas, <u>wild dogs</u>, <u>Indian grey wolves</u>, <u>ring-tailed lemurs</u>, <u>Indian bison</u>, <u>blue</u> and <u>gold macaws</u>, jungle cats, and <u>eclectus parrots</u>.

Asiatic Wild Dogs (Dhole)



About:

 Dhole (Cuon alpinus) is a wild carnivorous animal and is a member of the family Canidae and the class Mammalia.

Habitat:.

- Historically widespread across southern Russia to southeast Asia, they are now mainly found in south and southeast Asia, with northern populations in China.
- In India, they are clustered in the Western and Eastern Ghats, central India, and northeast India.

Conservation:

- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule II
- International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List: Endangered
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix II
- The creation of reserves under <u>Project Tiger</u> provided some protection for dhole populations sympatric with tigers.

Striped Hyenas

About:

- The Striped hyenas (*Hyaena hyaena*) are one of the three hyena species.
 - Other **hyena species include** Brown hyenas, and Spotted hyenas (the largest).
- They are smaller and less social than the more well-known Spotted hyena.
- Challenges to Conservation: Habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, poaching, and illegal wildlife trade.
- Protection Status:
 - IUCN Status: Near Threatened
 - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I



Personality Rights

For Prelims: Personality Rights, Rights to Privacy, Article 21, Artificial Intelligence (AI).

For Mains: Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, **nano-technology**, bio-technology, and issues relating to <u>intellectual property rights</u>.

Vision

Source: IE

Why in News?

The recent dispute between Hollywood Actress and OpenAI highlights the importance of personality rights in the context of Artificial Intelligence (AI) models.

- The actress accused **OpenAI**, the <u>artificial intelligence</u> company behind <u>ChatGPT</u>, of using her voice despite having previously declined licensing requests from the company's CEO.
- Earlier, the New York Times (NYT) took legal action against OpenAl and Microsoft, alleging the unauthorised use of its copyrighted content to train Al models, including ChatGPT.

What are Personality Rights?

- About:
 - Personality rights refer to an individual's right to protect their personality, which is a
 part of the broader right to privacy or property.
 - These rights encompass various aspects of a celebrity's public persona, including its name, voice, signature, images, distinctive features, mannerisms, poses etc.
- Types:
 - Right to Privacy:

- This protects an individual's control over their **personal information and affairs.**
- It prevents unauthorised disclosure of personal details or intrusion into one's private life
- It is affirmed by the <u>Supreme Court</u> judgement on the **Puttaswamy v Union Of India, 2017 Case**.

Right of Publicity:

- This grants individuals control over the **commercial use** of their **name**, **image**, **likeness**, **or other recognisable characteristics**.
- They can **choose whether and how these aspects of their identity are used** for product endorsements or advertising.

Importance:

 These rights are important to celebrities as their names, photographs or even voices can easily be misused in various advertisements by different companies to boost their sales.

What is the Status of Personality Rights in India?

- While personality rights are not explicitly mentioned in Indian statutes, they are protected through principles related to privacy and property rights.
- Key legal Provisions include:
 - Article 21 of the Indian Constitution:
 - While there is no specific statute solely for personality rights, the <u>right to privacy</u> enshrined in **Article 21** of the Constitution offers the closest legal protection in India.

Copyright Act, 1957:

- The <u>Copyright Act of 1957</u>, while not directly addressing personality rights, offers some tangential protection through concepts like "passing off" and "deception" in <u>Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)</u> cases.
- "Passing off" occurs when someone misrepresents their goods or services as belonging to someone else.
- This can be relevant to personality rights if:
 - Someone uses a celebrity's name or image to endorse a product without their permission, creating the impression that the celebrity is associated with the product.
 - Someone creates a character or image that is so similar to a well-known personality that it deceives the public into thinking it's the real person.
- Deception is when someone uses a person's name or likeness in a way that is
 deceptive or misleading, it might be possible to argue copyright infringement,
 especially if the use harms the reputation of the person.
- Indian Trademarks Act, 1999:
 - Section 14 restricts the use of individual names and representations.

Court Judgments:

- Courts have recognized the right of publicity, allowing celebrities to protect their name, likeness, and persona from unauthorised use.
- In *Krishna Kishore Singh vs Sarla A Saraogi Case, 2021,* the Supreme Court of India held that the right to publicity is distinct from the right to privacy.
 - The court emphasised that **public figures have a similar right of publicity**. It affirmed that publicity rights are inheritable and devisable.
- In its **Arun Jaitley vs. Network Solutions Private Limited, 2011,** the Delhi High Court observed that an **individual's popularity or fame is equally significant on the internet as in real life.**
 - The court also stated that a name, besides being a personal identifier, can acquire its own distinctive significance.

• Examples:

- In May 2024, the Delhi **High Court** upheld **Jackie Shroff's personality and publicity rights,** restraining various e-commerce stores, Al chatbots, and others from using the actor's name, image, voice, and likeness without his consent.
- Similarly, in September 2023, actor Anil Kapoor also received legal

protection for his image rights.

- The Delhi High Court placed restrictions on 16 entities, prohibiting them from using his name, image, or likeness for commercial purposes.
- In the **2010** case of **D.M.** Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. vs. Baby Gift House, Daler Mehndi's company emerged victorious in the Delhi High Court. The case involved shops selling dolls that mimicked Mehndi's appearance and sang his songs.
 - The court upheld **Mehndi's right to control his public image commercially.**

What is the Status of AI Regulation in India?

No Specific Regulation for AI in India:

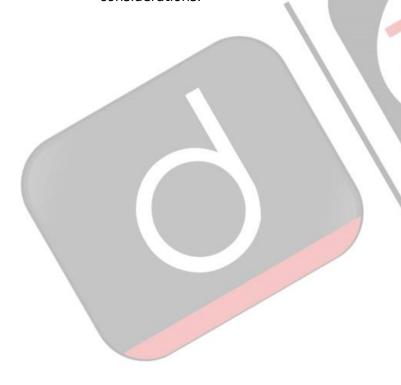
- Currently, India does not have a specific regulation for artificial intelligence (AI).
- But various advisories, guidelines, and IT rules from time to time have provided legal supervision for the advancement of AI, Generative AI, and large language models (LLM) in India.

NITI Aayog's Leadership:

In 2018, <u>NITI Aayog</u> released the "<u>National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence #AIForAll"</u> outlining responsible development and deployment of AI in healthcare, agriculture, education, and smart infrastructure.

Data Protection & Global Collaboration:

- The recently enacted <u>Digital Personal Data Protection Act (2023)</u> empowers the government to address privacy concerns arising from Al use.
- Additionally, India's membership in the <u>Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)</u> fosters collaboration on **responsible AI** development, data governance, and ethical considerations.



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPRs)

IP refers to intangible assets owned/legally protected by an individual/company from outside use or implementation without consent.



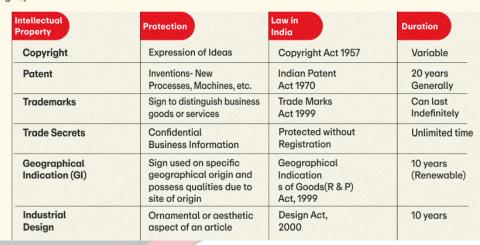


- WIPO Administered (first recognised IPR under):
 - (Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property 1883 (Patents, Industrial Designs)
 - Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works 1886 (Copyrights)
- WTO TRIPS Agreement:
 - Ensures adequate standard of protection
 - () Argues for incentives for technology transfer to developing countries
- Budapest Treaty 1977:
 - (h) International recognition of the deposit of microorganisms for the purposes of patent procedure
- Marrakesh VIP Treaty 2016:
 - (b) Facilitate access to published works by visually impaired persons and persons with print disabilities
- (9) IPR also outlined in Article 27 (Universal Declaration of Human Rights)



- National IPR Policy 2016:
 - (b) Motto: "Creative India; Innovative India"
 - Compliant with TRIPS Agreement
 - Brings all IPRs to single platform
 - (b) Nodal Dept Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (Ministry of Commerce)
- (Section Assistance of the Property of the Pro (NIPAM)
- (Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness Campaign (KAPILA)

World Intellectual Property Day: 26th April





Drishti Mains Question:

Discuss the legal framework for personality rights in India. Analyse the challenges in reconciling them with the right to freedom of speech.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q.1 'Right to Privacy' is protected under which Article of the Constitution of India? (2021)

- (a) Article 15
- (b) Article 19
- (c) Article 21
- (d) Article 29

Ans: (c)

Q.2 Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. Which of the following in the Constitution of India correctly and appropriately imply the above statement? (2018)

- (a) Article 14 and the provisions under the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution.
- (b) Article 17 and the Directive Principles of State Policy in Part IV.
- (c) Article 21 and the freedoms guaranteed in Part III.
- (d) Article 24 and the provisions under the 44th Amendment to the Constitution.

Ans: c

Q1. With the present state of development, Artificial Intelligence can effectively do which of the following? (2020)

- 1. Bring down electricity consumption in industrial units
- 2. Create meaningful short stories and songs
- 3. Disease diagnosis
- 4. Text-to-Speech Conversion
- 5. Wireless transmission of electrical energy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- **(b)** 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans: (b)

Mains

Q. In a globalized world, Intellectual Property Rights assume significance and are a source of litigation. Broadly distinguish between the terms—Copyrights, Patents and Trade Secrets. **(2014)**

Many Facets of Truth

For Prelims: Mahatma Gandhi, Non-violence (ahimsa), Satyagraha

For Mains: Dilemmas and Complexity of Truth, Moral dilemmas in Historical Narratives, Ethical Conduct, and Democratic Ethos, Relevance and Significance of the teaching of Mahatma Gandhi

Source: IE

Why in News?

For millennia, philosophers have wrestled with questions about the **nature of truth**, its knowability, and whether it is **universal or subjective**, leading to **diverse perspectives** on the concept.

What are the Various Thinkers' Perspectives on Truth?

Correspondence Theory:

- Thinkers like <u>Aristotle</u> and Bertrand Russell assert that truth is determined by the
 correspondence between our statements or thoughts and the external world, meaning a
 statement is true if it accurately reflects reality.
- For example, "The grass is green" is true because the **grass actually** has the property of **greenness** in the real world.
- This theory doesn't account for **abstract truths (e.g., mathematical theorems)** that don't directly correspond to physical reality.

Coherence Theory:

- Thinkers like <u>Immanuel Kant</u> and Friedrich Hegel assert that truth is determined by the internal consistency of ideas, where a statement is true if it coheres with an established framework of knowledge.
- For example, scientific theories are considered true if they are internally consistent and explain a wide range of phenomena.
- This theory can lead to closed belief systems that resist new evidence that contradicts the existing framework.

Pragmatic Theory:

- Thinkers such as William James and John Dewey argue that the truth of a statement is determined by its practical usefulness and its ability to lead to successful outcomes.
- Example: The theory of gravity is considered true because it allows us to predict the movement of objects and build stable structures.
- This theory makes truth relative to context and doesn't account for objective facts independent of human usefulness.

Mahatma Gandhi's Quest for Truth:

Divine Truth and Non-Violence:

- Gandhi's truth wasn't merely factual accuracy. He equated it with the ultimate reality, God itself.
- Truth is naturally obvious, but it becomes clear only when the ignorance around it is removed. This absolute truth could be understood through non-violence (ahimsa).
- His truth is not just a concept but an eternal principle equivalent to God, making the pursuit of truth and the practice of non-violence inseparable.
- The unending quest for truth involved introspection, continuous questioning, and the readiness to acknowledge errors, seeing truth as an ongoing journey of self-discovery rather than a set endpoint.

Truth in Action:

- Gandhi's commitment to truth extended to his **methods of protest**. He devised <u>Satyagraha</u>, meaning **"truth force."**
- Satyagrahis, Gandhi's followers, aimed to awaken the conscience of the oppressor through acts of civil disobedience and unwavering truthfulness.

What are the Dilemmas and Complexity of Truth?

The Complexity of Truth:

- The **three lions on the** Ashokan pillar, part of India's national emblem, symbolise **three perspectives of truth:** my truth, your truth, and an observer's truth.
- The fourth, unfathomable dimension of truth often leads to the saying, "God only knows the truth."
- For example, during an election, the task of the <u>Election Commission of india</u> becomes challenging.
 - The challenge lies in <u>political parties</u> often engaging in caste or communal speech by use of clever language which makes it difficult for the <u>election commission</u> to act.
 - The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) though bans explicit appeals on these grounds,

but loopholes let political parties make divisive statements indirectly.

- The Dilemma of Truth and Deception:
 - Historical and mythological narratives, like **Yudhishthira's half-truth** in the <u>Mahabharata</u>, illustrate the ethical dilemmas faced when truth is manipulated.
 - Yudhishthira's declaration of Ashwathama's death led to a misinterpretation that caused Dronacharya's demise.
 - This story underscores the moral complexities that arise when truth is bent for strategic purposes, highlighting the potential loss of moral high ground.

Conclusion

- The principle of "Satyameva Jayate" remains a guiding light for India's democratic ethos.
- However, the practical application of this principle in our day-to-day lives demands a robust commitment to ethical conduct by all stakeholders.
- It must be supported by a collective moral awakening among political leaders and citizens alike.
- Ensuring that truth triumphs in the democratic process requires continuous vigilance, introspection, and an unwavering commitment to <u>rule of law</u> and ethical values.

Drishti Mains Question:

Q. In context of effective governance and policymaking, discuss the significance of recognising the diverse dimensions of truth in comprehending societal realities, with examples from contemporary events.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Mains:

- **Q**. "Corruption causes misuse of the government treasury, administrative inefficiency, and obstruction in the path of national development." Discuss Kautilya's views. **(2016)**
- Q. What does each of the following quotations mean to you? (2021)
- (a): "Every work has got to pass through hundreds of difficulties before succeeding. Those that persevere will see the light, sooner or later."- Swami Vivekananda
- (b): "We can never obtain peace in the outer world until and unless we obtain peace within ourselves."- Dalai Lama
- (c): "Life doesn't make any sense without interdependence. We need each other, and the sooner we learn that, it is better for us all."- Erik Erikson

Theories of Evolution

THEORIES OF EVOLUTION

The modification of living organisms during their descent, generation by generation from common ancestors.

Oparin-Haldane Theory of Origin of Life

- Also known as Materialistic theory
- Describes process of origin of life on early Earth as:

Physio-chemical processes of atoms→ Organic compounds→ Macromolecules→ First living system or cells

Theory of Inheritance of Acquired Character (Lamarckism)

- First theory of organic evolution
- Evolutionary ideas:
 - (h) Internal forces of life increase the size of organism
 - New structures appear because of an 'inner want'
 - Direct environmental effect over living organisms
 - (h) Inheritance of acquired character
- E.g.; Long neck of giraffe due to gradual lack of surface vegetation

Theory of Natural Selection (Darwinism)

- Foundation of evolutionary biology
- Elements:
 - (Universal occurrence of variation
 - Rapid multiplication
 - The struggle for existence Intraspecific and interspecific
 - (Natural Selection)
 - (h) Inheritance of useful variations; Elimination of non-useful variations
- **E.g.**; Survival of more dark-winged moths than white-winged ones in post-industrialisation period

Neo-Darwinism

Integration of Darwin's theory of evolution with Gregor Mendel's theory of genetics

Modern Synthetic Theory

- One of the proven theories of organic evolution
- ■Includes factors such as Mutation, Variation /Recombination, Heredity, Natural Selection and Isolation

Mutation Theory (Hugo de Vries)

- Describes evolution as a jerky process where new varieties of species are formed by mutations (discontinuous variations)
- Salient features:
 - (H) Mutation appears all of a sudden and becomes operational immediately
 - (b) Same type of mutation in several individuals of a species
 - (H) All mutations are inheritable
 - (b) Useful mutations are selected and lethal ones are eliminated by nature



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