

GS III-SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS AND EFFECTS IN EVERYDAY LIFE

India-made TB diagnostics tech wins acclaim at World Health Assembly

- Recently, the **Truenat platform**, developed in India, was lauded at the **77th World Health Assembly** in Geneva for its **rapid diagnosis of tuberculosis**.

Truenat platform

- About:** Molbio in Goa developed the Truenat platform, a **rapid molecular test for diagnosing pulmonary, extrapulmonary, and rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis**.
- Features of the Truenat Platform:** This **portable, battery-operated machine** provides results from samples in **under an hour and can screen for more than 40 diseases**.
- Utilisation:** With approximately **10,000 installations worldwide**, Truenat is deployed in over **7,000 primary and community health centres** as part of the **National TB Elimination Programme**.
 - Additionally, it is utilised in around **1,500 private laboratories across the country**.

World Health Assembly

- About:** The World Health Assembly is the **decision-making body of WHO**.
- Members:** Delegations from all WHO Member States attend this meeting, which **focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board**.
- Functions:** The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the **organisation's policies**, appoint the **Director-General**, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget.
- Location:** The Health Assembly is held annually in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

GS III-SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS AND EFFECTS IN EVERYDAY LIFE


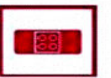






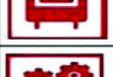



GREAT Scheme

- The **Ministry of Textiles** has approved **Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)** schemes for startups in technical textiles.
- It is part of the **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)**.
- Under the GREAT scheme, grant-in-aid, typically **up to INR 50 lakhs, over 18 months** will be provided.
- The scheme aims to harness India's talent and expertise in the technical textiles sector to introduce innovative products and technologies to the market.

About Technical textiles:

- They are specialized fabrics with diverse applications in industries** like automotive, construction, healthcare, and more
- These textiles are categorized into **12 segments based on their usage, including Agrotech, Meditech, Mobiltech, Geotech, and others**.

For instance, Mobiltech covers products like seat belts and airbags in vehicles, while Geotech includes materials for soil erosion control.

	Agrotech Horticulture + landscape gardening, agriculture + forestry, animal keeping		Meditech Hygiene, medicine
	Buildtech Membrane, lightweight + massive construction, engineering + industrial building.		Mobiltech Cars, ships, aircraft, trains, space travel
	Clothtech Garments, shoes		Oekotech Environmental protection, recycling, waste disposal
	Geotech Road infrastructure, Railways, Irrigation and Hydraulic structures, Waste Landfills, Dams etc.		Packtech Packaging, protective-cover systems, sacks, big bags, container systems
	Homotech Furniture, upholstery + interior furnishing, rugs, floor coverings		Protech Person and property protection
	Indutech Filtration, cleaning, mechanical engineering, chemical industry		Sporttech Sport and leisure, active wear, outdoor, sport articles.

About The National Technical Textiles Mission:

- It was **approved in 2020**, and aims to **elevate India** as a global leader in technical textiles and **boost domestic usage from USD 40 billion to USD 50 billion by 2024**.
- Operated under the Ministry of Textiles, it **spans four years with key components** focusing on research, market development, exports, and education.

- India's technical textiles sector, **currently at USD 40 billion with an 8% share** in the global market, targets accelerated growth to 15-20% annually to compete with major players like the USA, Europe, China, and Japan.

GS III- FOOD SECURITY

Dietary Patterns in India

The **2022-23 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey** highlights some surprising dietary trends in India, emphasizing vegetable, fruit, pulse, and milk consumption.

Key findings:

- Food Expenditure Snapshot: Rural India** spends **more per capita** on milk than on vegetables, fruits, and pulses. **Urban** areas also prioritize milk over these items.
- Regional Insights: Rajasthan's** "vegetarian" tag contrasts with **lower spending** on vegetables, fruits, and pulses. **Northeastern states** show **higher vegetable consumption** than **Gujarat** (despite having a significant Vaishnav-Jain population)
- Milk Priority:** Milk consumption is high, even in states with lower expenditure on vegetables, fruits, and pulses. North, West, and Central Indian states spend more on milk than on eggs, fish, and meat.
- Non-Vegetarian Trend:** Kerala, Goa, West Bengal, Northeastern, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh prioritize expenditure on eggs, fish, and meat over milk.
- In India, **vegetarianism typically includes dairy** but not necessarily veganism.

Key terms:

- Vegetarians** abstain from meat but consume animal products like dairy and eggs.
- Vegans** avoid all animal products, including dairy, eggs, and honey, relying solely on plant-based foods.
- Non-vegetarians** include meat, poultry, seafood, and sometimes dairy and eggs in their diets

VEGETARIAN STATES

(Value of monthly per capita consumption in Rs)

	RURAL		URBAN	
	Milk*	Meat**	Milk*	Meat**
Haryana	933.28	47.02	1040.79	85.33
Delhi	813.31	103.66	836.74	134.05
Punjab	782.39	66.88	836.85	75.41
Rajasthan	660.85	49.15	776.47	54.87
Sikkim	659.79	555.02	901.17	608.2
Himachal Pradesh	629.21	135.13	686.09	121.92
Gujarat	476.35	47.64	669.78	77.78
Jammu & Kashmir	482.46	219.33	651.82	214.88
Uttarakhand	427.3	131.77	570.32	143.8
Uttar Pradesh	337.02	99.42	516.59	113.88
Bihar	309.51	202.59	420.23	228.93
Madhya Pradesh	302.94	71.21	446.35	83.46
Karnataka	234.08	222.31	332.84	292.38
Maharashtra	226.87	147	393.99	198.41

*Includes milk products; **Includes Egg and Fish.

Source: Survey on Household Consumption Expenditure, 2022-23.

NON-VEGETARIAN STATES

(Value of monthly per capita consumption in Rs)

	RURAL		URBAN	
	Meat**	Milk*	Meat**	Milk*
Goa	679.59	419.12	655.15	449.93
Tripura	656.13	232.39	731.99	359.49
Nagaland	652.53	162.94	868.56	258.13
Mizoram	611.94	147.29	720.34	204.22
Kerala	545.44	224.65	503.59	245.61
Manipur	520.05	140.22	430.46	167.96
Arunachal Pradesh	519.13	199.3	706.12	339.21
Meghalaya	442.57	118.77	632.78	207.56
Assam	371.59	149.82	487.99	300.82
Tamil Nadu	325.22	249.21	358.18	345.3
West Bengal	312.64	122.51	442.43	225.03
Telangana	321.05	266.62	344.34	394.53
Andhra Pradesh	317.41	305.93	310.95	390.52
Odisha	186.7	96.6	234.98	224.27
Jharkhand	185.56	147.29	198.52	330.26
Chhattisgarh	102.47	84.84	107.76	234.79

III- EFFECTS OF LIBERALIZATION ON THE ECONOMY, CHANGES IN INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND THEIR EFFECTS ON INDUSTRIAL GROWTH.

Global Economic Prospects Report 2024

The **World Bank** recently released its **June 2024 Global Economic Prospects**, in which it forecasts **India to remain the fastest-growing major economy**, expecting an average annual growth rate of **6.7%** from FY25 to FY27.

- The World Bank has revised India's upward growth projections by **0.2 percentage points** for **FY25 and FY26**, now **forecasting growth rates of 6.6% and 6.7%**, respectively.
 - This update **reflects an improvement in the economic outlook** compared to earlier estimates.

World Bank

- Establishment:** 1944 during the **Bretton Woods Conference**,
- The World Bank originated as the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**
- It comprises five institutions committed to addressing global challenges through sustainable solutions.
- Headquarter:** **Washington, D.C., United States**
- Objective:** Its primary goal is to alleviate poverty and promote shared prosperity in developing nations.
- Members:** **189 member countries**, including **India**
- Major Reports:** **Ease of Doing Business, Human Capital Index, World Development Report, Migration and Development Brief, and Global Economic Prospects.**

About Global Economic Prospects Report

- This report was released by the **World Bank**.
- It **analyzes current global economic trends and future outlook**.

Key Highlights of India's Economic Growth Forecast- 2023-2027

- **Strong Growth Outlook:**
 - India's economic growth is projected to reach **8.2% in 2023-24**, which is 1.9 percentage points higher than the World Bank estimated in January.
 - **Moderation in India's Growth:** The World Bank anticipates a moderation in India's growth rate to an **average of 6.7% annually from FY25 to FY27**.
 - This slowdown is attributed to **reduced investment following a period of high growth**.
- **Factors Driving Growth:**
 - **Investment Growth** will likely remain robust, supported by **strong public and private sector investments**.
 - Public investment will be particularly significant.
 - **Private Consumption** is set to benefit from **improved agricultural production and decreasing inflation rates**.
 - **Government Expenditure** is **projected to grow slowly** as part of reducing current spending relative to GDP.
- **Global Economic Outlook:**
 - **Economic Stabilization:** Globally, economic growth is forecasted to stabilize at **2.6% this year**, marking the first time in three years despite geopolitical tensions and high interest rates.
 - Growth is expected to slightly increase to **2.7% in 2025-26**, driven by modest gains in trade and investment.
 - **Inflation worldwide:** Moderate inflation is possible worldwide, though at a slower pace than previously assumed, averaging **3.5% this year**.
- **South Asia's Economic Scenario:** Growth in the South Asia region, primarily led by India, is projected to slow to **6.2% in 2024** and maintain this rate in **2025-26**.
 - This reflects steady economic expansion aligned with the region's potential growth, albeit weaker than pre-pandemic levels

GS III- CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND DEGRADATION, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Drop in levels of Ozone-depleting HCFCs

A new study published in the journal **Nature Climate Change** reported a **significant decrease in atmospheric hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)** five years before the target year.

Key Findings of the Study On Ozone-depleting HCFCs

The study is titled as "**A decrease in radiative forcing and equivalent effective chlorine from hydrochlorofluorocarbons**"

- **Peaking of Emissions:** HCFC emissions **peaked in 2021**, five years earlier than anticipated in 2026.
- **Impact of HCFCs:** Their **impact on the Earth's energy balance (known as radiative forcing) and the amount of chlorine in the atmosphere (called equivalent effective chlorine) have decreased since 2021**, five years earlier than expected.
 - **The global direct radiative forcing from HCFCs:** It decreased to 61.28 milliWatt per square metre (mW m^{-2}) in 2023 down from 61.67 mW m^{-2} in 2022.
 - **The equivalent effective chlorine (EECI) of HCFCs** decreased to 319.33 one part per trillion (ppt) in 2023 from 321.35 ppt in 2022.
- **Future Projection:** The HCFCs will **return to their 1980 values in 2082 for radiative forcing and in 2087 for the EECI**, as projected by the research.
- **HCFC-22:** It is the most abundant HCFC in the atmosphere with a **global warming potential 1,910 times that of carbon dioxide** on a 100 year time horizon. It has witnessed the most significant decline resulting **in a drop in the radiative forcing and EECI between 2021 and 2023**.
 - **HCFC-22 usage:** It is used as a **refrigerant** in a variety of applications, including unitary air conditioners, cold storage, retail food refrigeration, chillers, and industrial process refrigeration.

Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)

HCFCs are **compounds containing carbon, hydrogen, chlorine and fluorine** and are viewed as acceptable temporary alternatives to chlorofluorocarbons.

- The HCFCs have **shorter atmospheric lifetimes than CFCs and deliver less reactive chlorine to the stratosphere** where the "ozone layer" is found.
- **Application:** They are used in the **foam, refrigeration, and air conditioning sectors**
- **International Legislation:** It mandates production caps for HCFCs; production is prohibited after 2020 in developed countries and 2030 in developing countries.

- **Other HCFCs:** A minor decline was also observed in **HCFC-141b** (the second most abundant) from 24.63 ppt in 2022 to 24.51 ppt in 2023.
 - The third most prevalent, **HCFC-142b**, has been progressively declining since 2017.
- **India** is ahead of eliminating HCFCs in new equipment manufacturing, as claimed by the government in a report released during the COP28 to UNFCCC held in Dubai 2023.
- **The Role of Montreal Protocol in curbing HCFC emissions.**
 - **The Copenhagen (1992) and Beijing (1999) Amendments** to the Montreal Protocol mandates the **phase-out of HCFC production and usage.**
 - **Phase out Target:** The production of HCFCs is currently being phased out globally, **with a completion date slated for 2040.**
 - **Role:** The Montreal Protocol enforced **strict controls and promoted the adoption of ozone-friendly alternatives**, curbing the release and levels of HCFCs into the atmosphere

Global-Warming Potential (GWP)

- GWP is a term used to describe the relative potency, molecule for molecule, of a greenhouse gas, taking account of how long it remains active in the atmosphere.
- **Objective:** The measure was developed to allow comparisons of the global warming impacts of different gases. The larger the GWP of a gas, the more it warms the Earth as compared to CO₂ over that time period
 - Specifically, it is a measure of how much energy the emissions of 1 ton of a gas will absorb over a given period of time, relative to the emissions of 1 ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- The global-warming potentials (GWPs) are calculated over 100 years.
- **Carbon dioxide is taken as the gas of reference** and given a 100-year GWP of 1.
- **Significance:** GWPs provide a common unit of measure, which allows analysts to add up emissions estimates of different gases (e.g., to compile a national GHG inventory), and allows policymakers to compare emissions reduction opportunities across sectors and gases.

The Montreal Protocol

- **About:** It was signed in 1987 and is a global agreement to protect the stratospheric ozone layer by phasing out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) by eliminating the production and consumption of ODSs like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halons.
 - ODS are substances commonly used in products such as refrigerators, air conditioners, fire extinguishers, and aerosols.
 - The worldwide production of CFCs has been prohibited since 2010.
- **HCFCs were a replacement of CFCs** but they were found to have a strong greenhouse gas potential and an ODSs.
- **Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC):** They have become a substitute for HCFCs. They are non-ozone depleting substances (ODS), but have high Global Warming Potential (GWP)
 - **The Kigali Amendment to Montreal Protocol 2016:** It introduces strict restrictions on the manufacture and consumption of HFCs.
 - **Global Cooling Pledge and the Paris Agreement:** Pledges have been made to cut HFC emissions, whose radiative force impact is rising in spite of the controls.

PRELIM FACT

GS-I-POST-INDEPENDENCE CONSOLIDATION AND REORGANIZATION WITHIN THE COUNTRY

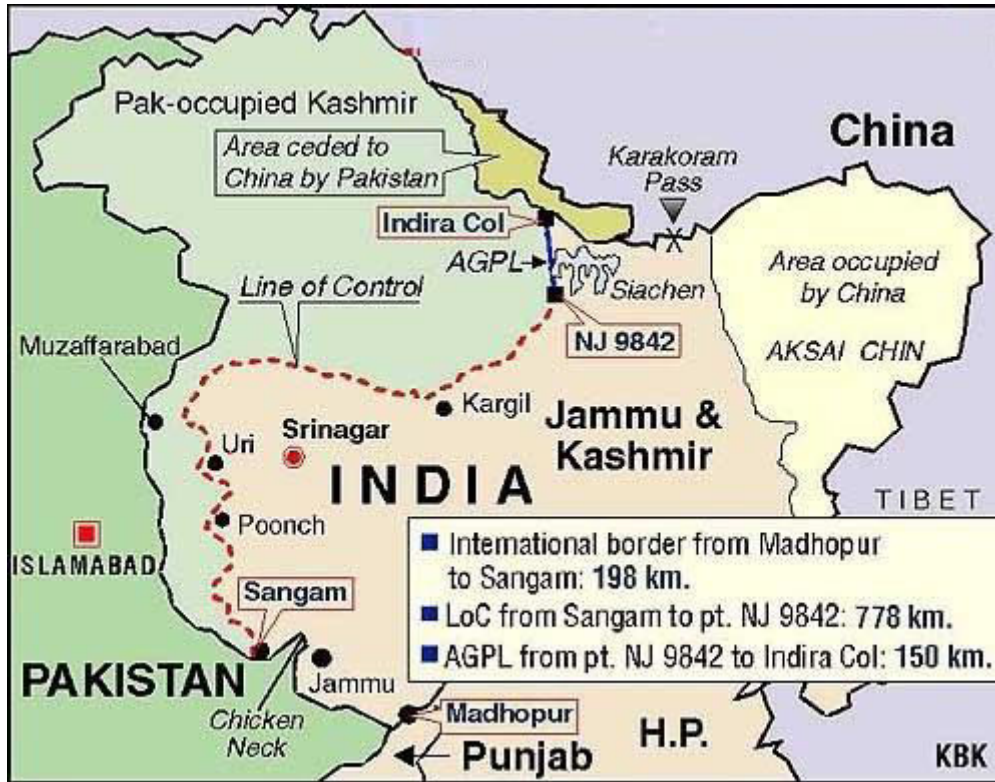
25 years of Kargil War

To honour the 25th anniversary of the Kargil War victory, the Indian Army has launched a Pan-India Motorcycle Expedition.

We celebrate 'Kargil Diwas' on 26th July

What was the Kargil War?

- **After the Indo-Pak War of 1971**, several military conflicts occurred between India and Pakistan. Both countries conducted nuclear tests in 1998, escalating tensions that led to the **Kargil War in 1999.**
- The Kargil War fought between May and July 1999 in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir (now part of Ladakh), resulted in an Indian victory.



Operation Vijay:

- In 1999 Pakistani troops infiltrated the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC) under **Operation Badr**, aiming to cut off Indian troops in Siachen.
- In response, the Indian Army launched **Operation Vijay**.

GS-I-POST-INDEPENDENCE CONSOLIDATION AND REORGANIZATION WITHIN THE COUNTRY

40 Years of Operation Bluestar

Slogans advocating **Khalistan** were recently raised at the Golden Temple complex in Punjab’s Amritsar during the 40th anniversary of ‘**Operation Bluestar**’.

What is the Khalistan Movement?

- The **Khalistan** movement seeks to establish a sovereign Sikh state called **Khalistan** in the Punjab region.
- It traces its origins to India’s independence and Partition, with communal violence leading to the **displacement of Sikhs**.
- The movement gained momentum with the **Punjabi Suba Movement for a Punjabi-speaking state**, leading to the **Anandpur Sahib Resolution in 1973**.
- By the 1980s, **Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale’s influence** (a radical leader of Sikhism) and violent tactics escalated tensions, culminating in the **1984 Operation Bluestar** to remove him from the Golden Temple complex

What was Operation Bluestar?

- Operation Blue Star, **conducted by the Indian Army between 1st June and 6th June 1984**, aimed to flush out militants from the **Golden Temple** and **neutralize Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale**, a key figure in the Khalistan movement.
- It was followed by **Operation Black Thunder (1986 and 1988)**

GS II- WELFARE SCHEMES FOR VULNERABLE SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION BY THE CENTRE AND STATES

PM Awas Yojana Expansion: Centre to Spend Rs 4 trillion

The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of **20 million more houses under PMAY-Gramin and 10 million under PMAY-Urban**.

What is PM Awas Yojana?

It is a **housing scheme launched by the government of India** to provide affordable housing for all by 2024. The scheme has two variants, **PMAY –Rural and PMAY – Urban**

About PMAY:

	PMAY-Urban	PMAY-Rural
Nodal Ministry	Launched in 2015 by Ministry of	Launched in 2016 by Ministry of

	Housing and Urban Affairs	Rural Development
TYPE	Both Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Scheme	Centrally Sponsored
Beneficiaries	EWS (economically weaker section): up to 3 lakh incomes; LIG (Lower income group): 3-6 lakh income MIG (Middle income group): 6-12 lakh income EWS is eligible for Assistance in all four verticals of Mission; LIG/MIG is eligible under only the CLSS component (Central Sector Scheme)	Identified through Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011
Four Verticals	1. In-situ Slum Redevelopment 2. Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) 3. Affordable Housing in Partnership 4. Beneficiary-led Construction/Enhancement	N/A
Current Status	Over 83 lakh houses completed as of 3rd June 2024 (of 2.95 crore houses sanctioned)	About 2.62 crore houses completed as of 11 June 2024

GS-II-STRUCTURE, ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE EXECUTIVE AND THE JUDICIARY

Mercy petition

The President of India has **rejected the mercy plea** of a member of the banned group **Lashkar-e-Taiba** convicted for the 2000 Red Fort attack.

About Mercy Petition:

- A mercy petition is a **formal request made by a person sentenced to death or imprisonment seeking leniency from the President or Governor.**
- This process is available in countries like the USA, UK, Canada, and India.
- In India, it is tied to the fundamental right to **life under Article 21 of the Constitution.**

Constitutional Framework:

Article 72: Grants the President the power to pardon, reprieve, respite, or remit punishments or to suspend, remit, or commute sentences, including:

- Sentences by Court Martial
- Sentences for offences under Union laws
- Death sentences

Article 161: Grants similar powers to State Governors for offences under State laws.

ANSWER WRITING

Discuss the responsibilities of the judiciary in protecting freedom of expression against undue censorship by state authorities. How do judicial interventions reinforce democratic principles and rule of law? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Freedom of expression is a fundamental right in India, safeguarded by **Article 19(1)(a)** of the Indian Constitution, subject to **reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2)**. Recently, in **Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020)**, the Supreme Court highlighted the **significance of internet access for freedom of speech**, directing the government to review the prolonged internet shutdown in Jammu and Kashmir.

Responsibilities of the Judiciary:

- **Interpreting and Enforcing Constitutional Provisions:** The judiciary ensures that constitutional protections for free speech are upheld, interpreting restrictions narrowly.
For example: In **Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)**, the Supreme Court **struck down Section 66A of the IT Act** for being overly broad and vague, protecting online expression from arbitrary state action.
- **Balancing State Interests and Individual Rights:** Courts evaluate whether restrictions on speech imposed by the state are justified under Article 19(2), which allows for reasonable limitations.
For example: In **S. Rangarajan v. P. Jagjivan Ram (1989)**, the Supreme Court emphasized that speech can **only be restricted when it poses a clear and present danger** to public order.
- **Judicial Review of Executive Actions:** Judicial review allows the courts to scrutinize executive actions and legislation that impose censorship, ensuring they meet constitutional standards.

For example: The Supreme Court in **Bennett Coleman & Co. v. Union of India (1972)** prevented the government from imposing limits on newspaper pages, protecting **press freedom** from excessive state control.

- **Protecting Media and Journalistic Freedoms:** The judiciary defends the rights of journalists and media outlets to report and publish without undue interference, recognizing their role in democracy.
For example: In the **Sakal Papers v. Union of India (1962)** case, the Supreme Court **struck down the Newspaper (Price and Page) Act, 1956**, which had restricted the number of pages in a newspaper, thereby protecting **economic freedom of the press**.
- **Promoting Transparency and Accountability:** The judiciary promotes transparency by ensuring that laws and regulations impacting freedom of expression are clear and accountable.
For example: The Supreme Court's decision in the **PUCL v. Union of India (2003)** mandated the **disclosure of criminal records of candidates contesting elections**, enhancing transparency and public awareness.

How Judicial Interventions Reinforce Democratic Principles and the Rule of Law:

Rule of Law: The principle that **all individuals and institutions, and entities, public or private**, including the government, are **subject to and accountable to law** that is fairly applied and enforced.

- **Ensuring State Accountability:** Judicial review holds state authorities accountable, preventing misuse of power.
For example: In **Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)**, the Supreme Court expanded the interpretation of **personal liberty**, ensuring that no person is deprived of their rights except by due process of law.
- **Protecting Fundamental Rights:** Judicial interventions safeguard fundamental rights, reinforcing democratic principles.
For example: The **Vishakha v. State of Rajasthan (1997)** judgment established guidelines for preventing **sexual harassment at the workplace**, protecting women's rights and promoting a safe working environment.
- **Fostering Open Debate:** By protecting controversial speech, courts encourage a culture of open debate essential for democracy.
For example: In **Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020)**, the Supreme Court underscored the importance of internet access for freedom of speech, directing the **review of internet shutdowns** in Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Preventing Authoritarianism:** Judicial scrutiny of censorship laws prevents authoritarian misuse of power.
For example: The Supreme Court's verdict in **Romesh Thapar v. State of Madras (1950)** invalidated a ban on the entry and circulation of a left-wing journal, safeguarding **freedom of the press** from arbitrary state actions.
- **Building Public Trust:** Protecting fundamental rights and freedoms builds public trust in judicial and democratic institutions.
For example: The Supreme Court's intervention during the Emergency period (1975-77) in cases like **ADM Jabalpur v. Shivkant Shukla** reinforced the judiciary's role in **protecting civil liberties**, though it later recognized the need to correct its stance to build trust.

The judiciary's active role in protecting freedom of expression against undue censorship is vital for upholding democratic values and the rule of law. Future efforts should focus on **enhancing judicial independence, ensuring timely interventions, and fostering international judicial cooperation**. Comprehensive **judicial training on freedom of expression** and **robust legal frameworks** will further balance free speech with societal needs, ensuring a resilient democracy.

MCQS

1. Consider the following pairs:

International Organisation	Associated Reports
1. World Economic Forum	World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report
2. World Bank	World Economic Outlook
3. United Nations	Global Economic Prospects Report

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- a) Only one pair
 - b) Only two pairs
 - c) All three pairs
 - d) **None of the pair**
2. Which one of the following is associated with the issue of control and phasing out of the use of ozone depleting substances?
- a) Nagoya Protocol
 - b) Kyoto Protocol
 - c) **Montreal Protocol**
 - d) Cartagena Protocol
3. Consider the following statements regarding Pardoning Power of the President:

1. The pardoning power of the President is an executive power and it is independent of the Judiciary.
2. The petitioner for mercy has right to an oral hearing by the President.
3. Where the earlier petition for mercy has been rejected by the President, stay can be obtained by filing another petition.
How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) **Only one**
b) Only two
c) All three
d) None
4. Consider the following statements regarding Operation Bluestar
 1. Operation Blue Star, conducted by the Indian Army between 1st June and 6th June 1984, aimed to flush out militants from the Golden Temple and neutralize Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a key figure in the Khalistan movement
 2. The Khalistan movement seeks to establish a sovereign Sikh state called Khalistan in the Maharashtra region
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) **Only 1**
b) Only 2
c) both 1 and 2
d) None
5. Consider the following statements regarding PM Awas Yojana
 1. It is a housing scheme launched by the government of India to provide affordable housing for all by 2024.
 2. The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of 20 million more houses under PMAY-Gramin and 10 million under PMAY-Urban.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) Only 1
b) Only 2
c) **both 1 and 2**
d) None
6. The 'Truenat platform' was seen in the news recently is related to:
a) **The development of a rapid molecular test for diagnosing tuberculosis.**
b) A new method for COVID-19 vaccination.
c) An innovative approach to cancer treatment.
d) A breakthrough in diabetes management.
7. With reference to Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, consider the following statements:
 1. The primary vegetation type found in the sanctuary is temperate broadleaf forest.
 2. The sanctuary is famous for its conservation efforts of Bengal Tiger.
 3. One of the key objectives behind establishing the sanctuary is for conserving the broad-leaved oak forests.
 Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) **1 and 3 only**
d) 1, 2 and 3
8. Which of the following are members of the Upper Yamuna River Board?
a) **Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi**
b) Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan
c) Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat
d) Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Delhi
9. Consider the following statements regarding the Lok Sabha Speaker:
 1. The Prime Minister proposes the name of the candidate for Speaker after consultations with opposition parties.
 2. In order to be elected as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the person must not hold any office of profit under the government.
 3. The outgoing Speaker presides over the first sitting of a newly constituted Lok Sabha when the Speaker is elected.
 How many of the statements given above are correct?
a) **Only one**
b) Only two
c) All three
d) None
10. Consider the following:
 1. Sewage treatment infrastructure
 2. River-front development
 3. Biodiversity conservation
 4. Construction of dams and barrages
 How many of the above are the pillars of the 'Namami Gange Programme'?
a) Only one
b) Only two
c) **Only three**
d) All four