

GS PAPER 1 – HISTORY

National Youth Festival

The article discusses India's **National Youth Festival**, celebrated annually on **January 12**, marking the birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda**, a pioneer of youth empowerment and nation-building. It highlights the launch of the **Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue**, an innovative platform designed to engage young Indians in the developmental journey of the nation. This initiative aligns with the vision of a **Viksit Bharat (Developed India)** and is rooted in **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on the centrality of youth in India's growth story**. **National Youth Festival**

What is National Youth Festival, and why is it celebrated?

1. January 12 is celebrated as the National Youth Festival in India, marking the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
2. The festival aims to engage and empower Indian youth, fostering creativity, leadership, and national integration.

What is the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue?

1. It is an initiative launched to harness the energy, creativity, and leadership of Indian youth to contribute towards a "Developed India" or *Viksit Bharat*.
2. It supports PM Narendra Modi's belief in youth as central to India's progress by providing a platform for discussions, idea exchanges, and collaboration on national challenges.

What is the theme of the 2025 National Youth Festival?

1. The theme is "Youth for Sustainable Development," highlighting young people's role as drivers of global change.
2. There are few new elements that are introduced this year:
 - a. **Workshops on leadership and innovation:** Topics include youth leadership, digital entrepreneurship, and sustainable living.
 - b. **Cultural programs:** Celebrating India's heritage through music, dance, and art.
 - c. **Tech showcases:** Exhibitions by young innovators addressing real-world issues in health, education, agriculture, and more.
 - d. **Virtual participation:** Digital platforms allow youth from remote areas to join discussions and workshops.
 - e. **Engagement with leaders:** Interaction with experts from government, business, and academia.
 - f. **Recognition of contributions:** Awards for exceptional youth leadership, innovation, and service.

What is MY Bharat's role in the National Youth Festival?

1. As an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, MY Bharat curates the festival's programs, ensuring alignment with the aspirations of India's youth.
2. It provides resources, mentorship, and opportunities to address social and technological challenges, encouraging innovative solutions for nation-building.
3. MY Bharat enables participation from across the country, ensuring inclusivity and broader representation.

How does the initiative reflect Swami Vivekananda's philosophy?

It resonates with Vivekananda's belief in the potential of youth, as he once said, "Give me one hundred 'believing' young men... I will transform India as the number one nation in the world."

GS PAPER2- GOVERNANCE-ISSUES RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF SOCIAL SECTOR/SERVICES RELATING TO HEALTH

Improving faecal sludge management in India

The article discusses challenges in managing faecal sludge and wastewater in India. It highlights design flaws in treatment plants, especially in Uttar Pradesh, and suggests cost-effective, climate-specific solutions for better sludge management, co-treatment processes, and waste disposal in towns and cities.

What is the Current State of Faecal Sludge Management in India?

1. Since the National Faecal Sludge and Septage Management Policy was introduced in 2017, India has made significant strides in managing faecal sludge.
2. The first faecal sludge treatment plant (FSTP) was established in Devanahalli, Karnataka.
3. Currently, over 1,500 FSTPs are operational across the country, primarily using decentralized and nature-based treatment methods.

How is Uttar Pradesh Addressing Faecal Sludge Management?

1. Uttar Pradesh began implementing faecal sludge management in 2018, constructing FSTPs in cities like Jhansi as part of the Namami Gange programme.
2. By 2019, the state planned to build 54 FSTPs under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). As of now, there are 59 treatment plants across 56 cities in the state.

What Are the Design Flaws in Uttar Pradesh's FSTPs?

The FSTPs in Uttar Pradesh have faced several design issues:

1. **Uniform Capacity:** All FSTPs under the AMRUT mission were built with a capacity of 32 kilolitres per day, which does not suit the varied population sizes and sludge volumes in different cities. This has led to inefficiencies, with some plants being underutilised and others overwhelmed.
2. **Redundant Features:** Many plants have unnecessary features, like both screw press machines and unplanted drying beds for dewatering, leading to higher capital and operational costs. For example, in Jhansi, where natural drying would be sufficient due to the dry climate, the use of mechanical presses is unnecessary.

- Over-Engineered Co-Treatment Facilities:** Some co-treatment plants include secondary treatment modules that duplicate processes already happening in sewage treatment plants, adding unnecessary complexity and cost.

How Can These Issues Be Resolved?

To avoid past mistakes, treatment plants should be designed with the following considerations:

- Climate and Sludge Characteristics:** In arid regions, natural drying beds may be sufficient, while more humid or cold areas might need mechanical dewatering.
- Scalability:** Start with smaller-capacity plants that can be expanded as necessary, which is particularly useful for small and medium towns.
- Simplified Co-Treatment:** Focus on dewatering septage without secondary treatment of liquid waste to streamline operations and reduce costs.

GS PAPER2-INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS-EFFECT OF POLICIES AND POLITICS OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON INDIA'S INTERESTS

Rising crude prices impact India and refiners

The article discusses rising global crude oil prices, India's reliance on discounted Russian oil, and potential savings for Indian refiners. It highlights uncertainties about US sanctions on Russia, impacts on Indian pump prices, and losses in LPG subsidies for state-run refiners.

Why are crude oil prices rising?

- Brent crude oil prices rose by 3% this year, crossing \$77 per barrel.
- This increase is due to a harsh northern hemisphere winter, reduced US inventory, lower OPEC production, and expectations of new US sanctions on Russia.
- Seasonal demand and macroeconomic factors have also contributed to the price surge.

How does India benefit from Russian oil?

- Russia supplied **1.78 million barrels per day (bpd)** of oil to India in 2024, accounting for **38% of India's total crude imports**.
- Urals, Russia's biggest export and a medium sour crude, made up **1.3 million bpd (28%)** of India's imports.
- Discounts on Urals range from **\$3 to \$20 per barrel**, depending on market conditions.
- Russian oil averaged **\$74.8 per barrel** in November 2024, cheaper than Saudi oil at **\$81.4 per barrel**.
- In December 2024, Urals accounted for over **80% of Russian oil shipped to India**, showing its profitability for Indian refiners.

Will sanctions impact India's imports?

- The Biden administration imposed stringent sanctions on **two Russian state-oil companies, key Russian insurers, and 183 tankers**.
- If these sanctions remain, Russian suppliers may need to expand discounts (from the current **\$3-4 per barrel**) to keep Indian refiners buying.
- Similar discounts exceeded **\$35 per barrel in December 2022** after price caps by the US and EU, showing how sanctions influence pricing.
- If India reduces Russian imports, refiners will need to purchase costlier Gulf or US crude, raising overall import costs.

How might global production affect oil prices?

- Global oil production is expected to rise by **1.6 million bpd** in 2025, with **90% of this growth coming from non-OPEC nations**.
- An oversupply of **300,000 bpd** (excluding any OPEC production increase) may keep Brent prices lower, with forecasts of **\$74 per barrel** for 2025.
- If Brent averages \$74 per barrel, Urals — trading at a **\$16 discount** — would cost around **\$58 per barrel**.
- Russian oil exporters are concerned about prices falling to **\$40-50 per barrel**, which is \$30 below Russia's 2025 budget assumptions.

What is the impact on Indian fuel prices?

- Since May 2022, India has kept petrol, diesel, and LPG prices unchanged, regardless of global price changes.
- State refiners faced **Rs 40,000 crore in losses** from LPG sales in 2024-25, and there is no clarity on government compensation.
- Cheaper Urals prices have helped refiners recover losses, but it is unclear if savings will be passed on to consumers through lower pump prices.

What does the future hold for Russian oil?

- Russian officials, including Rosneft's chief Igor Sechin, warn that Urals prices may drop to **\$40-50 per barrel** due to increased global supply.
- Discounts on Urals have narrowed from **\$37 per barrel** (post-Ukraine invasion in 2022) to around **\$3-4 per barrel** in 2024.
- India's crude basket averaged **\$79 per barrel** (April-December 2024), excluding Russian oil, showing the cost advantage of discounted Urals.

GS PAPER2- GOVERNANCE-ISSUES RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF SOCIAL SECTOR/SERVICES RELATING TO HEALTH

Improving Ambulance Services in India for All

The article discusses the growth of ambulance services in India, highlighting their importance, variations in quality, lack of regulation, and regional disparities. It emphasizes the need for standard protocols, trained staff, and affordable, efficient emergency care services.

How did ambulance services evolve in India?

1. **Initially hospital-based services:** Ambulances were initially available only at hospitals.
2. **NGO involvement in the 1980s:** NGOs in southern India started providing free and voluntary ambulance services in the 1980s.
3. **Government services:** In the last decade, several state governments introduced ambulance services targeting women of reproductive age and children under five years.
4. **Institutional deliveries focus:** Ambulances were introduced to transport expectant mothers to healthcare facilities under the National Rural Health Mission through public-private partnerships.
5. **Private sector entry:** Private ambulance services by corporate hospitals and standalone companies, such as Blinkit's "10-minute" ambulance service in Gurugram, have emerged.

What is the significance of ambulance services in India?

1. Ambulance services are crucial for emergency medical care and patient transportation.
2. An increase in chronic diseases and road accidents has led to higher demand. Services include transporting patients and providing Basic Life Support (BLS) or Advanced Life Support (ALS).
3. The Indian ambulance market was valued at \$1.5 billion in 2022. It is expected to grow at over 5% annually from 2024 to 2028.

What are the challenges in ambulance services?

1. **Limited Critical Care Facilities:** Only 3,441 of 17,495 ambulances have Advanced Life Support (ALS) units. Most function as basic patient transport facilities rather than emergency care providers.
2. **Regional Disparities:** Western states like Gujarat and Maharashtra dominate the market, while northeastern states face significant shortages.
3. **Inadequate Staffing:** Only 3% of hospitals have Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), despite 88% having in-house ambulances.
4. **Poor Infrastructure:** Only 12% of hospitals provide specialized care during patient transport.
5. **Traffic and Road Challenges:** Poor urban planning and traffic congestion in metros delay emergency response.
6. **Lack of a Standard Toll-Free Number and Monitoring System:** There is no nationwide toll-free number or monitoring mechanism to ensure timely and quality care.
7. **Weak Regulation:** Lack of standard protocols, fragmented licensing, and corruption lead to inconsistent service quality.

What should be done?

1. To enhance ambulance services, it is crucial to develop standard protocols, improve training and certification of paramedics, and address regulatory inconsistencies.
2. Publicly-funded services, public-private partnerships, and civil society initiatives are essential to provide affordable and efficient ambulance services in India.

GS PAPER 3- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India's Journey in Military AI

The article explores India's journey and challenges in integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into its military framework, amidst global advancements in military AI technologies. As AI becomes a pivotal component in modern warfare, countries like Israel and China are leading in rapid AI adoption for military purposes. India, recognizing the transformative potential of AI, has made significant investments in AI development and modernization of its defense systems.

How has India embraced AI in its military modernization efforts?

1. India has allocated ₹6.21 lakh crore (\$75 billion) in its defence budget, emphasizing modernization.
2. AI integration in military operations has begun with systems like the **Indrajaal autonomous drone security system**.
3. Investments from foreign tech giants, such as Microsoft's \$3 billion investment in Telangana data centers, have supported India's AI ecosystem.

What is the government's stance on AI for military purposes?

1. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted AI's transformative potential in areas like predictive analytics and autonomous decision-making.
2. India is part of international joint AI initiatives, showcasing its commitment to leveraging AI for defence.

What challenges does India face in adopting AI for defence?

1. **Infrastructure Issues:**
 - a. A lack of digitized data and the high cost of data centers are significant barriers.
 - b. Legacy systems in the military, such as outdated aircraft, require expensive upgrades, straining resources.
2. **Policy Gaps:**
 - a. Fragmented policies and insufficient guidelines hinder AI deployment.
 - b. Documents like the **National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence and Responsible AI for All** lack military-specific frameworks.
3. **Institutional Barriers:**

- a. The Defence Artificial Intelligence Council (DAIC) and the Defence AI Project Agency (DAIPA) exist but have not provided recent updates or significant progress.

How does India compare globally in military AI?

1. Nations like **Israel** and **China** are rapidly advancing in military AI and are already ahead in technology deployment.
2. While India recognizes AI's importance, there is inconsistency in its approach, reflected in cautious remarks by leaders:
 - a. The Minister of External Affairs likened AI to nuclear weapons in its potential dangers.
 - b. The Prime Minister emphasized the need for extreme caution during the **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) in 2023**.

What systemic challenges exist in India's military structure for AI adoption?

1. **Siloed Operations:**
 - a. The Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force operate with distinct doctrines and communication systems, limiting interoperability.
2. **Public Sector Dependence:**
 - a. Reliance on public sector units (PSUs) for defence manufacturing hinders large-scale, advanced AI system deployment.
 - b. Encouraging **public-private partnerships (PPPs)** and integrating private competition can enhance innovation, as seen in the space sector.

What are the strategic steps India needs to take for better AI adoption?

1. Develop robust policies and frameworks tailored for military AI deployment.
2. Address inter-service silos to ensure interoperability in joint operations.
3. Promote PPPs to scale and enhance the quality of AI systems.
4. Foster international collaborations and innovation for rapid AI integration.

What is the outlook for India's AI-enabled military?

1. Despite current challenges, India has taken significant steps toward leveraging AI for defence.
2. Strategic alignment, systemic reforms, and fostering collaboration will enable India to harness AI effectively and ethically.
3. With cohesive strategies, India can match global advancements and ensure its defence ecosystem remains competitive.

GS PAPER 3 – ENVIRONMENT

Breaching 1.5°C

The article discusses the significant milestone in climate change: the year 2024 became the first calendar year to breach the 1.5°C global warming threshold, marking a critical point in the planet's warming trend. This breach, measured relative to pre-industrial temperatures (1850-1900 averages), is based on data from multiple global datasets, including the Copernicus Climate Change Service and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

What does breaching 1.5°C mean, and why is it significant?

1. **Significance of 1.5°C:** The 1.5°C mark, referenced in the 2015 Paris Agreement, is an arbitrary threshold indicating severe climate impacts as temperatures rise. It doesn't signify an abrupt change but emphasizes worsening climate effects.
2. **2024 Breach:** The year 2024 became the first calendar year to breach the 1.5°C warming threshold, with a global annual average temperature of 1.6°C above pre-industrial levels (1850-1900).
3. **Paris Agreement Context:** The 1.5°C target refers to long-term trends over decades, not individual years. Therefore, this breach does not imply the Paris Agreement has been violated yet.

What data confirms the breach?

1. **Copernicus Climate Change Service:** Recorded a 1.6°C rise above pre-industrial levels for 2024.
2. **World Meteorological Organization (WMO):** Using six datasets, WMO reported a warming of 1.55°C for 2024.
3. **Historical Context:** 2024 surpassed 2023 as the warmest year on record. For comparison, 2016, influenced by a strong El Niño, was 1.29°C warmer than pre-industrial levels.

Why did 2024 become the warmest year ever?

1. **Contributing Factors:**
 - Mild El Niño conditions during 2023-2024.
 - Other El Niño-like systems in different ocean regions.
 - The 2022 Tonga volcanic eruption, which altered atmospheric composition.
 - Reduced sulphur dioxide emissions from the shipping industry, which otherwise reflect solar radiation.
 - The Sun's solar maximum phase during 2024, increasing solar energy reaching Earth.
2. **No Single Cause:** ECMWF notes that warming resulted from a combination of factors, and further analysis is required.

How do 2023 and 2024 compare to previous years?

Exceptionally Warm Years:

- a. 2023: 1.45°C above pre-industrial levels.
- b. 2024: 1.6°C above pre-industrial levels, breaking the previous record.
- c. Monthly Trends: Every month since July 2023, except July 2024, was over 1.5°C warmer than pre-industrial averages.

Does this breach mean the 1.5°C target is unachievable?

1. **Not Yet:** A single-year breach does not mean the Paris Agreement target is unattainable. The focus is on multi-decade trends.
2. **Future Outlook:** With global warming rates exceeding 0.2°C per decade, breaching the 1.5°C target within the 2030s is highly likely.

What are the long-term implications of the 2024 breach?

1. **Global Emissions:** Emissions are still rising, and 2030 emission cut targets are unlikely to be met. This increases the probability of 1.5°C breaches becoming the norm.

2. **Projections:** According to the WMO, annual temperatures could reach 1.9°C above pre-industrial levels before 2028. There's a 50% chance of the five-year average exceeding the 1.5°C mark by 2028.

What does 2025 and beyond look like?

1. **2025 Forecast:**

- a. Not expected to surpass 2024 as the warmest year.
- b. Likely to remain in the 1.1°C to 1.4°C range above pre-industrial levels, consistent with the past decade.

2. **Long-term Trends:** The UK Met Office predicts 2025 might be the third warmest year ever, after 2024 and 2023.

PRELIM FACTS

1. The UN migration agency's aid appeal for Syria

The United Nations' **International Organization for Migration** has said it is increasing an appeal for Syria, from \$30 million to \$73.2 million. This is being done with the aim of assisting **1.1 million people** across Syria over the next 6 months.

About International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- **Established** in 1951
- **UN Affiliation:**
 - It is a part of the United Nations system as a related organization.
 - IOM is not a specialized agency but a related organization of the UN since 2016
- **Principle:**
 - Advocates humane and orderly migration to benefit migrants and society
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Membership:** 175 Member States & 8 Observer States
 - India has been a member of the IOM since June 18, 2008
- **Publications:**
 - World Migration Report
 - Migration Health Annual Report
- **Functions:**
 - **Migration Management:** Ensures orderly and humane migration processes
 - **Cooperation:** Promotes international collaboration on migration issues
 - **Solutions and Assistance:** Practical solutions for migration challenges
 - **Humanitarian Aid:** To migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons
- **Key Responsibilities:**
 - **UN Agency for Labour Mobility and Migration** provides policy and operational guidance on:
 - Labour mobility
 - Diaspora communities and development links
 - Migrant integration
 - **Coordinator for UN Network on Migration:** Facilitated the UN Global Compact for Migration (adopted in 2018)

The IOM does not **enforce migration policies** in member countries. Instead, the IOM provides **advice and assistance** to governments on migration policy.

2. Gulf of Mexico
 Recently, US President-elect Donald Trump proposed renaming the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America, sparking debates over the geopolitical and historical significance of such a name change.

About Gulf of Mexico:

- **Location:** A marginal sea of the **Atlantic Ocean**, bordered by the **United States, Mexico, and Cuba**.
- **Neighbouring Nations:**
 - **North and Northwest:** United States
 - **South and Southwest:** Mexico



- **Southeast:** Cuba.
- **Rivers Draining into the Gulf:**
 - **Mississippi River** (largest contributor).
 - Other rivers: Brazos, Rio Grande, and Mobile.
- **Geographical Features:**
 - **Shape and Size:** Oval-shaped basin, approximately **1.6 million km²** in area.
 - **Floor Composition:** Sedimentary rocks and recent sediments.
 - **Energy Resources:** A major offshore petroleum production hub, contributing to **14% of US crude oil production**.

3. Silver Notice

Interpol has introduced its first-ever Silver Notice, a groundbreaking initiative to track and recover laundered assets across international borders.

About the Silver Notice:

- **What it is:** A colour-coded alert by Interpol to track and recover criminally acquired assets such as properties, vehicles, financial accounts, and businesses.
- **How it works:**
 - Member countries can issue a Silver Notice to request **information about assets** linked to criminal activities.
 - Facilitates the **identification, location, seizure, confiscation, or recovery** of assets under national laws.
 - **Reviewed by Interpol's General Secretariat** to ensure compliance with its rules and prevent misuse for political purposes.
- **Need for Such Notices:**
 - Addresses the challenge of **transnational organized crime** and recovers illicit wealth.
 - Helps combat fraud, corruption, drug trafficking, and other financial crimes.

4. Republic Day Craft Products

To mark 75 years of the Republic of India, President has introduced a unique Republic Day "At Home" reception. Invitees will receive a curated box of crafts showcasing southern India's rich heritage.

- These crafts, created by artisans from five southern states under the "**One District One Product**" scheme.
 - **About Craft Products in the News:**
1. **Kalamkari Painted Bamboo Box (Andhra Pradesh):**
 - **Features:** Handcrafted with traditional **Nimmalakunta Kalamkari paintings**.
 - **GI Tag State:** Andhra Pradesh.
 2. **Ikat-Pochampalli Cover (Telangana):**
 - **Features:** Reusable cover showcasing **Ikat weaving** tradition.
 - **GI Tag State:** Telangana.
 3. **Ganjifa Art Magnet (Karnataka):**
 - **Features:** Depicts the intricate **Ganjifa art**, known for its connection to playing cards.
 - **GI Tag State:** Karnataka.
 4. **Kanjeevaram Silk Pouch (Tamil Nadu):**
 - **Features:** Handmade silk pouch symbolizing the elegance of **Kanjeevaram weaving**.
 - **GI Tag State:** Tamil Nadu.
 5. **Etikopakka Dolls (Andhra Pradesh):**
 - **Features:** Eco-friendly, traditional **wooden dolls**.
 - **GI Tag State:** Andhra Pradesh.
 6. **Screwpine Leaf Bookmark (Kerala):**
 - **Features:** Woven from natural **screwpine leaves**, symbolizing sustainability.
 - **GI Tag State:** Kerala.

5. Kisan Pehchan Patra (Farmer ID)

The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has made farmer ID mandatory for registering new beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).

About Kisan Pehchan Patra

- It is a **unique Aadhaar-linked digital identity** that is dynamically connected to the state land records.
- It is also known as the **Farmer ID**.
- It will include key data such as **demographic details, crops cultivated and land ownership information**.
- The data collected through Farmer IDs will form the **Farmers' Registry**. This data will benefit farmers by improving access to crop insurance, loans, and other government schemes.
- The initiative aims to **improve productivity and sustainability** of the farming sector by streamlining access to services, improving data accuracy and enabling targeted interventions.

National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)

Central government employees who donate organs are eligible for 42 days of leave, as per the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO).

About National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO):

- **What it is:** NOTTO is a **national-level organization** established under the **Directorate General of Health Services**, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Headquarters:** Located on the Institute of Pathology (ICMR) Building, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.
- **Aim:**
 - To coordinate, regulate, and promote organ and tissue donation and transplantation in India.
 - Facilitate the **safe and efficient allocation and utilization of organs and tissues**.
- **Functions:**
 - **Policy Formation:** Lay down guidelines and protocols for organ donation and transplantation.
 - **Coordination and Networking:** Act as the apex body for coordinating organ procurement, allocation, and distribution across regions.
 - **Registry Maintenance:** Maintain a National Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplant Registry.
 - **Awareness Campaigns:** Promote organ donation through public awareness initiatives.
 - **Training and Support:** Organize training programs for healthcare workers and provide consultancy on legal and non-legal aspects of organ donation.
 - **Monitoring:** Oversee transplantation activities and maintain a data bank for surveillance.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. In the context of public administration, how can the bystander effect, where individuals hesitate to act assuming others will intervene, impact the responsiveness of officials during emergencies? Suggest measures to cultivate proactive behavior.

The bystander effect refers to the phenomenon where individuals are less likely to intervene in an emergency, assuming others will take action. In public administration, this can affect officials' responsiveness during crises, leading to delays or inadequate responses. To counter this, fostering a culture of accountability, training, and leadership can encourage proactive behavior and ensure timely interventions in emergencies.

Impact of the Bystander Effect on Responsiveness of Officials During Emergencies

- **Diffusion of Responsibility:** When multiple officials are involved, each person may believe others will act, leading to delays and insufficient response during an emergency.
For example: During the **1984 Bhopal gas leak disaster**, numerous agencies delayed their actions, assuming others would handle the crisis, worsening the impact on residents.
- **Fear of Judgment:** Officials may hesitate to act due to the fear of being criticized if their actions are seen as wrong, especially in high-pressure situations.
For example: In a **fire emergency**, local authorities delayed evacuation, worried that overreacting would lead to reputational damage, resulting in unnecessary injuries and fatalities.
- **Lack of Accountability:** Shared responsibility in a group setting can lead to a lack of individual accountability, causing inaction during emergencies when decisions need to be made promptly.
For example: During the **2018 Kerala floods**, no single agency took charge, and relief efforts were slow, exacerbating the suffering of affected communities.
- **Over-reliance on Protocols:** Officials may wait for predefined procedures to be followed or approval before taking action, leading to inaction in urgent situations requiring immediate decisions.
- **Psychological Paralysis:** Seeing other officials remain passive in an emergency can lead to psychological paralysis, where individuals hesitate to act, fearing they might make a mistake.
For example: During a **stampede** in a crowded event, officials failed to control the crowd quickly, as they were uncertain whether others would step in or take charge.

Measures to Cultivate Proactive Behaviour

- **Training in Crisis Management:** Regular and thorough training in emergency scenarios can equip officials with the confidence to act quickly and effectively, minimizing hesitation in critical moments.
For example: **Japan's regular earthquake preparedness drills** have significantly improved the responsiveness of their emergency responders, enabling them to act quickly and save lives during disasters.
- **Clear Accountability Mechanisms:** Designating clear roles and responsibilities for officials ensures that individuals understand their duties, reducing the diffusion of responsibility and improving the speed of response.
For example: In the **United States**, the **Incident Command System (ICS)** clearly assigns leadership during emergencies, ensuring that there is no confusion about who is in charge, speeding up responses.
- **Incentivizing Initiative:** Providing rewards or recognition for proactive behavior can motivate officials to take initiative and act decisively, even in uncertain or high-risk situations.
For example: After the **2019 Odisha cyclone**, officials who led **timely evacuation** efforts were recognized with national awards, encouraging others to adopt a proactive approach in future emergencies.
- **Psychological Conditioning:** Behavioral training programs can help officials overcome fears and the hesitation associated with judgment, promoting a mindset of confidence and quick decision-making during emergencies.
For example: **Mumbai police officers undergo training simulations** that prepare them to make rapid decisions in terror attacks, helping to reduce hesitation when confronted with real threats.

- **Real-time Communication Systems:** Implementing efficient and real-time communication platforms allows officials to stay connected, coordinate efforts, and ensure timely actions, reducing delays and confusion in emergency situations.

To combat the bystander effect in public administration, officials should be trained to take swift, independent actions during emergencies. Establishing clear accountability, fostering a culture of responsibility, and incentivizing proactive behavior can ensure timely responses. Leveraging technology for real-time monitoring and communication can further enhance officials' quick decision-making capabilities.

MCQ

- Which one of the following organizations is responsible for giving regulatory approval to the medial devices in India?
 - Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
 - Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)**
 - National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)
 - All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)
- Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme:
 - The scheme is funded by the central government and state governments in a 60:40 ratio.
 - Beneficiaries under the scheme receive Rs. 6,000 annually in three installments through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
 - Only small and marginal farmers with up to 2 hectares of cultivable land are eligible for the scheme.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only**
 - 1, 2, and 3
- Consider the following statements:
 - The Gulf Stream originates in the Gulf of Mexico.
 - The Panama Canal connects the Gulf of Mexico with the Pacific Ocean.
 - The Yucatán Peninsula separates the Gulf of Mexico from the Caribbean Sea.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only**
 - 1, 2, and 3
- With reference to the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), consider the following statements:
 - It was launched in 2001, implemented by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare
 - It focuses on accreditation, organic production standards, and promoting organic farming.
 - NPOP standards for production and accreditation are recognized by the European Commission allowing Indian organic products to be accepted internationally.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only**
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2, and 3
- Consider the following statements:
 - The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been a specialized agency of the United Nations since 2016.
 - It provides advice and assistance to governments on migration policy.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 only**
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- Consider the following statements:
 - National Youth Festival 2025 emphasizes the role of young people as key drivers of global change and aligns with India's commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
 - Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports responsible for shaping and guiding the National Youth Festival.
 Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2**
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- Which of the following are advanced features of the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE) platform?
 - Real-time tracking of customs clearance processes.
 - Automatic error correction in trade data.
 - Integration with international customs systems for data sharing.
 - Providing traders with mobile app support for documentation.
 Select the correct Solution:
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2, and 4 only
 - 1, 2, 3 and 4
 - 1, 3, and 4 only**
- Consider the following statements about the Genome India Project:
 - It is fully funded by private organizations to avoid governmental influence.
 - The genetic data collected is stored at the Indian Biological Data Centre.
 - The project aims to study genetic disorders prevalent in Indian populations.
 How many of the above statements is/are correct?
 - Only one
 - Only two**
 - All three
 - None
- Consider the following statements about the Future of Jobs Report, 2025:
 - It is released annually by the World Economic Forum.
 - The report emphasizes the growing demand for sustainability-related jobs.
 - It identifies the gig economy as a key driver of employment growth.
 Which of the above statements are correct?
 - 2 and 3 only**
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2, and 3
- Which of the following are correct regarding the structure and operations of Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)?
 - It functions under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
 - It collaborates with universities to promote legal training on animal cruelty.
 - It conducts inspections of slaughterhouses and zoos.
 How many of the above statements is/are correct?
 - Only one
 - Only two**
 - All three
 - None