

INDIA'S BIG PROBLEM OF LOW-QUALITY EMPLOYMENT

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-III

CONTEXT: An interim report titled “**Impact Assessment Study of the Labour Reforms undertaken by the States**” by the **V V Giri National Labour Institute** provides insights into the impacts of the labour reforms conducted in **Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh** during the period 2004-05 to 2018-19.

Labour laws cover many subjects — **payment of wages, safety conditions, social security, terms of employment, and dispute resolution**. The report has focused on the **reform of the Industrial Disputes Act**, which is to raise the limits of applicability of laws relating to terms of service and modes of dispute resolution (roles of unions) to 300 persons.

STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT CREATION IN INDIA

- Between 1980 and 1990, every one per cent of GDP growth generated two lakh new jobs
- Between 1990 to 2000, it decreased to one lakh jobs for every per cent growth.
- From 2000 to 2010, it fell to half a lakh only.

ABOUT LABOUR REFORMS IN RECENT DECADE

Before 2014: The government emphasized on administrative reforms through digitization and simplifying procedures.

Post-2014: The government focussed on reforming the content of the laws and designed a framework for labour law reforms.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

- Reforms of labour laws have had insignificant effect on increasing employment in large enterprises.
- **Rajasthan, the first state to implement the reforms**, seems to have benefitted the least from them as the **effects of labour reforms** takes time.
- As per the report employment in formal enterprises is becoming more informal.

CAUSES OF PROBLEMS IN LABOUR REFORMS

- The primary objective of the reforms was to induce the creation of large enterprises which could not be achieved due to the conceptual flaw in the **Industrial Disputes Act**.
- Large investors are employing increasing numbers of people on short-term contracts, while perversely demanding more flexibility in laws.
- The labour laws are the **only one factor affecting business investment decisions**. In addition to labour reforms, an enterprise needs a **growing market for its products, and capital, machinery, materials, land**, etc. to produce for the market.
- The reforms failed to serve the primary purpose of labour laws i.e., **to protect workers and not promote the interests of investors**.

INDIA @ 75

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II (INDIAN CONSTITUTION)

CONTEXT: India celebrated its 75th year of Independence on and around August 15, 2022.

CONCERNS OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY

Nationalistic rhetoric: There are attempts to shrink the idea of **India as a nation into one community**. An exclusion and an overemphasis on community identity marks the rhetoric. Therefore, in the present narration, democracy is secondary to the nation.

A contradiction in the celebration of the Constitution of India: Although the document is being celebrated, the adoption of its spirit in social and political practice is half-hearted. For instance, the two most revolutionary elements of the Constitution, **fundamental rights, and directive principles**, are conveniently set aside from time to time for vested interest.

The Constitution has been undermined from time to time by our **legislative choices, executive practices, and judicial interpretations**.

Web of institutions: The Constitution has conferred upon us many institutions and several other institutions have been added by the Parliament. Most of these institutions have been created to control the citizens. There has been a serious erosion in the functioning of these institutions partly due to political interference.

Deep inequalities: marks the Indian politics. One can enter into Indian politics through the family route or by finding out family connections. This political inequality is exacerbated by and in turn, enhances various other inequalities.

No balance between the people as a collective and the individual in India's democratic life: The idea of the individual seldom carries weight. Within communities, individuals are secondary. Further, fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals such as freedom of expression, right to life and liberty are seen as unnecessary both by the public and rulers.

Thus, the best way to celebrate 75 years of our nationhood is to remind ourselves of the **contradictoriness of our democracy**.

PRELIMS FACTS

PARTITION HORRORS REMEMBRANCE DAY

- India commemorated Sunday, August 14, as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. The commemoration was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on this date last year.
- This date also marks Pakistan's Independence Day.
- The partition of India into India and Pakistan led to grave violence and communal riots, loss of property, and extreme upheaval in the weeks and months around August 15, 1947. The Partition is acknowledged as one of the most violent and abrupt displacements in the recent history of the world.
- Estimates of the numbers of those killed vary; according to the official document, it could be between 500,000 to over a million, but "the generally accepted figure stands at around 500,000".
- The basic idea of remembering events such as the Partition, or other days that relate to a genocide or mass violence such as the Holocaust Remembrance Day, is usually **to reflect**

and learn the lessons from them and not let them be repeated in the future; and to honour the memory of victims.

UDARSHAKTI

- It is a **bilateral air exercise between India and Malaysia at Kuantan** (Malaysia).
- Other exercises: Joint military exercises “**Harimau Shakti**” are held annually between the two countries.



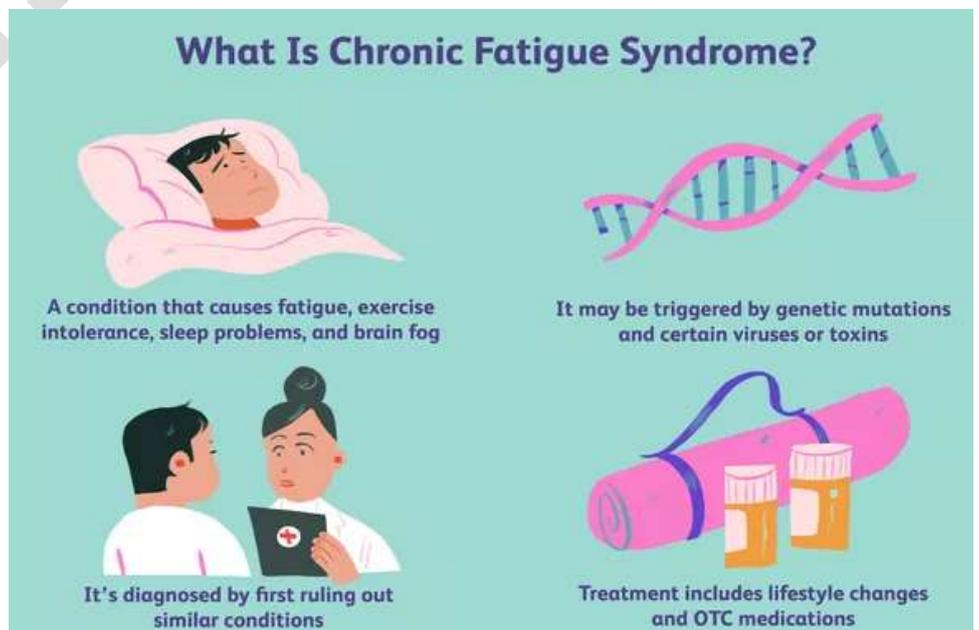
ADVANCED TOWED ARTILLERY GUN SYSTEM (ATAG)

- An **indigenously developed howitzer gun, ATAG**, became part of the 21-gun salute during the Independence Day ceremony for the first time.
- The ATAGS is an **indigenous 155 mm x 52 calibre howitzer gun developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** with its Pune-based facility **Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE)** being the nodal agency.



CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME

- Also known as **myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME/CFS)**, chronic fatigue syndrome, is a **serious and debilitating disease that affects the nervous system, the immune system and the body's production of energy.**
- Its causes are still unknown. However, the **potential triggers would include viral or bacterial infection, hormonal imbalances and genetic predispositions.**
- There is no specific test for the disease, and doctors rely on medical examinations, blood, and urine tests.
- The biggest tell-tale symptom is a **significantly lowered ability to do activities that were performed before the illness.** This is accompanied by at least **6 months (or longer)** of **debilitating fatigue** that is more severe than everyday feelings of tiredness.
- Other symptoms include **trouble sleeping, difficulty in thinking, memory retention and concentration, dizziness/light-**



headedness, headaches, muscle pain, joint ache, flu-like symptoms, tender lymph nodes and digestive issues.

- There is no specific cure or approved treatment. Instead, doctors recommend ways to deal with the symptoms of the disease.

AGASTHYAMALAI ELEPHANT RESERVE

- The proposal to designate 1,197.48 sq.km in Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli as the Agasthya Malai Elephant Reserve was approved by the Union Environment Ministry.
- Tamil Nadu will oversee this Agasthya Malai Elephant Reserve, which is the fifth elephant reserve.
- It will help connect the populations to other areas in the Srivilliputhur Meghamalai tiger reserve and with the Periyar landscapes.
- Agasthya Malai Biosphere Reserve is situated at the southern-most end of the Western Ghats and spread over two southern states Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- It is named after the Agastya Mala peak that rises up to almost 1868 metres above sea level, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- In March 2016, it was included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO.
- It covers Peppara and Shendurney wildlife sanctuaries and parts of the Neyyar sanctuary in Kerala and the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu.
- It is home to the Kanikaran tribe, one of the oldest surviving ancient tribes in the world.

Funds released to the state governments under the centrally sponsored scheme 'Project Elephant' in 2010-11

	(in ₹ lakhs)
Andhra Pradesh	15.00
Arunachal Pradesh	10.00
Assam	139.55
Chhattisgarh	75.00
Haryana	100.00
Jharkhand	80.00
Karnataka	300.76
Kerala	265.39
Maharashtra	29.00
Meghalaya	103.838
Nagaland	41.30
Orissa	113.50
Tamil Nadu	226.879
Tripura	-
Uttarakhand	206.82
Uttar Pradesh	80.15
West Bengal	410.406
TOTAL	2,197.593

Source: Wildlife Trust of India

IDENTIFIED ELEPHANT CORRIDORS OF INDIA

