

## 6 Dec 2022: UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis



**It is easy to give power, it is  
difficult to give wisdom**

- B R Ambedkar



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### A. GS 1 Related

*Nothing here for today!!!*

### B. GS 2 Related

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### C. GS 3 Related

**Category: INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### **1. Why are fisherfolk protesting the Vizhinjam port project?**

*Syllabus: Infrastructure: Ports*

*Prelims: About Vizhinjam port*

*Mains: Controversy surrounding the Vizhinjam port project*

##### **Context**

The fisherfolk and their families have been protesting at the under-construction Vizhinjam port for the past several months.

##### **Significance of the Vizhinjam port project**



Image Source: Vizhinjam Seaport Limited

- Vizhinjam port is situated on the southern tip of the Indian Peninsula in the Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala.
- The port is about 10 nautical miles from the major international sea routes and the east-west shipping axis.
- The port has a natural water depth of more than 20m within a nautical mile from the coast and would be of significant importance in the maritime development of the country as well as the state of Kerala.
- Vizhinjam port is expected to provide impetus to the growth of minor ports in Kerala and other regional ports and also help generate significant employment opportunities.
- The port is currently being developed by Adani Ports Private Limited in a landlord model with a Public Private Partnership (PPP) component on a design, build, finance, operate and transfer (DBFOT) basis.

### Concerns of coastal erosion

- As per the fisherfolk protesting against the Vizhinjam port project, the development work has increased coastal erosion along the coast of Thiruvananthapuram.
- Close to 300 families and households living along the coastline have shifted to relief camps as their houses were destroyed due to high-intensity coastal erosion.
- Although coastal erosion has been an issue in all the coastal districts of Kerala, it has been more severe along the coastline of Thiruvananthapuram.
- As per a study undertaken by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Society of Integrated Coastal Management, and the Ministry of Environment and Forest, erosion was

minimum at Thrissur (1.5%) and maximum at Thiruvananthapuram (23%), even before the start of the construction of the port.

- In Kerala, the seasonal shoreline changes are more severe during the monsoon months as the high-energy short storm waves hit the coast in a perpendicular position causing erosion.

### **The government's stand**

- The Kerala Government has held that the coastal erosion taking place closer to the port is because of climate change and the demand for blocking the construction cannot be conceded.
  - The recent report by the expert committee appointed by the [National Green Tribunal](#) and Shoreline Monitoring Cell has said that erosion in many places has remained the same as before and even after the start of the construction of the port. However, during the October 2020-September 2021 period, a few areas close to the port witnessed erosion.
  - The high number of cyclones formed over the Arabian sea post the cyclone Ockhi in 2017 is cited as the key reason for the recent erosion and accretion and the impact of the port activity on either side of the coast has been less significant, said the report.
- Further, government officials say that the port is being built inside a natural sediment cell which is a pocket-like area wherein disruptions to the movement of sand along the coast do not affect the adjacent coastline.

### **Demands of the protesters**

- Protesters have demanded a comprehensive rehabilitation package for the fisherfolk in the region.
- Compensation to households of those who lose their lives in fishing accidents.
- Effective measures to mitigate coastal erosion.
- Further, the fisherfolk of the region have demanded an assured minimum wage when the sea turns rough due to severe weather conditions and subsidised kerosene for boats.

**For information on this issue refer to the following article:**

**[UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis dated 07 Sep 2022](#)**

***Nut graf:** The development of Vizhinjam port has been controversial as it has not just attracted protests from the fishermen communities in the region but has also faced questions about its financial feasibility. In this regard, the government has to intervene and address all the concerns associated with the port project for it to become successful.*

**Category: ECONOMY**

## 1. The lingering crisis of labour post-pandemic

*Syllabus: Indian Economy and issues relating to growth, development and employment.*

*Prelims: About International Labour Organisation (ILO) and its reports*

*Mains: Key findings about the trends in employment in India and worldwide and important recommendations.*

### Context

The [International Labour Organisation \(ILO\)](#) has released two reports that provide an idea about the situation and trends in global employment post-pandemic.

### Details

- The “**Global Wage Report 2022-2023: The Impact of inflation and COVID-19 on wages and purchasing power**” report talks about the twin crises namely the inflation and economic slowdown which have led to a fall in the real monthly wages across the world.
  - This report also discussed the impacts of the [Russia-Ukraine war](#) in worsening the global energy crisis.
  - In the Global Wage Report, the main aim is to collect wage data from about 190 countries and territories which are then categorised into five separate regions.
- The “**Asia-Pacific Employment and Social Outlook 2022: Rethinking sectoral strategies for a human-centred future of work**” report points out that the Asia-Pacific region has lost over 2.2 crore jobs in 2022.

### Key findings of the reports

- The Global Wage Report analysed the trends in the real and nominal wages of employees.
  - According to the report, the term “wage” was defined as the total gross remuneration including regular bonuses extended to employees during a specified period for time (monthly for the report) worked and also for the time not worked which includes paid leaves and paid sick leaves.
  - As per the report, the **nominal wage** refers to the adjusted figures after considering consumer price inflation and **real wage growth** is nothing but the year-on-year change in the real average monthly wages of all employees.
- The reports note that the nominal wages increased from ₹4,398 in 2006 to ₹17,017 per month in 2021 in India.
  - This data for the computation of the report was taken from the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.



- Despite the increase in nominal wages, the real wage growth rate in the country has fallen from 9.3% in 2006 to -0.2% in 2021 when [inflation](#) is accounted for.
  - This negative growth in India has begun ever since the COVID pandemic.
- The real wage growth rate has plunged not just in India but also in countries like China, where the growth rate has declined from 5.6% in 2019 to 2% in 2022 and Pakistan, where the growth is -3.8%. In 2022.
- The report also notes that the increasing cost of living has had a severe impact on lower-income earners and their households because they are spending most of their disposable income on essential goods and services, which are experiencing greater price increases as compared to non-essentials.
- According to the report on employment in Asia-Pacific, only the trends in the high-skill jobs showed a recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, which is also seen across all subregions.
- There have been concerns about the increasing inequality as the employment gain was seen to be 1.6% among high-skill workers between 2019 and 2021 and there was no improvement among low-to-medium-skill workers.
- Further, among the G-20 countries, there was a significant gap in the average level of real wages between advanced G-20 countries and emerging [G-20](#) countries.
  - The average level of real wages was found to be around \$4,000 per month in advanced economies and about \$1,800 per month in emerging economies.

## Recommendations

- Reports recommend a set of policy measures to address the issue of the cost-of-living crisis. Acknowledging the fact that over 7.5 to 9.5 crore people were pushed into extreme poverty during COVID-19, the report said that the bargaining process for future nominal wage adjustments should adopt a sufficiently large and prudent price expectation.
  - This way the standard of living of households, especially low-income households could be protected against unexpected future inflation and prevent an undesirable wage-inflation spiral.
- The reports also say that there is a need to strengthen labour market institutions and wage policies.
- The ILO opines that the development of decent formal wage employment is a prerequisite for an equitable distribution of wages and income, and the major contributor to equitable and sustainable wage growth.
- Further, the ILO has urged governments to focus on the gender pay gap because when women leave the labour market, they are less likely to return than men.
- There is also a need for adopting a multilateral approach that helps tackle the adverse effects of climate change, increasing inequalities, poverty, discrimination, violence and exclusion and also the increasing [digital divide](#) between poor and rich countries.

**Nut graf:** The recent ILO reports have indicated that the existing global crises have led to a decline in real wages and have pushed millions of workers into unemployment as a result of which the income inequality and poverty levels are expected to increase in the coming days undermining the goal of achieving prosperity for all. Thus, there is an urgent need to adopt well-designed policy measures that help maintain the purchasing power and living standards of workers.

#### D. GS 4 Related

*Nothing here for today!!!*

#### E. Editorials

**Category: POLITY AND GOVERNANCE**

##### 1. No uniformity in parole and furlough rules

**Syllabus:** Issues arising out of design and implementation of policies

**Mains:** Parole and Furlough provisions across states.

**Prelims:** Parole and Furlough.

**Context:** The release of convicts on parole and furlough in Haryana and Tamil Nadu.

**Details:**

- There are no specific provisions related to parole and/or furlough either in the Prisons Act, 1894, or the Prisoners Act, 1900. However, Section 59 of the Prisons Act authorizes States to make rules regarding the shortening of sentences or rewarding good conduct.
- It should be noted that Prisons, Reformatories, and other associated institutions fall in the State list of the [Seventh Schedule](#) of the Constitution.

**Provision of parole/leaves and furlough in different states:**

- Furlough refers to an incentive for good conduct in prison and is counted as a sentence served. Whereas, parole/leave is a suspension of sentence. Emergency leave/parole is granted for specific emergencies like death, serious illness, or marriage in the family.
- In Uttar Pradesh, government grants the 'suspension of the sentence' for up to one month. The period may be extended beyond 12 months with prior approval of the [Governor](#).

- The rules in Maharashtra permit the release of a convict on furlough for a period of 21 or 28 days (on the basis of the case). It also allows 'emergency parole' for 14 days and 'regular parole' for a span of 45 to 60 days.
- The rules of Haryana (revised in April 2022) allow 'regular parole' of up to 10 weeks (in two parts), 'furlough' for 3 to 4 weeks in a year, and 'emergency parole' of up to 4 weeks.
- The Tamil Nadu rules of 1982 grant 'ordinary leave' for 21 to 40 days, and 'emergency leave' up to 15 days (in 4 parts), which can be extended further by the government in exceptional circumstances.
- In Andhra Pradesh, there is a provision for furlough and parole/emergency leave for up to 2 weeks, which can be extended in exceptional circumstances.
- The rules in Odisha allow 'furlough' for up to 4 weeks, 'parole leave' for up to 30 days, and 'special leave' for up to 12 days.
- In West Bengal, the convict is released on 'parole' for a maximum of 1 month and in case of emergency for up to 5 days.
- The government of Kerala provides 'ordinary leave' of 60 days (in 4 spells), and 'emergency leave' for up to 15 days at a time.
- CUSTODY PAROLE: A convict who is ineligible for any furlough or parole is allowed to attend a funeral/marriage of a close relative under a Police escort. Different states have different periods for custody parole. For instance, in Haryana, it is 6 hours and in Kerala, it is for a maximum of 24 hours.
- There also exists huge diversity in states in terms of familial and social obligations and the list of relatives of the convict for granting furlough/parole/emergency leave. For instance, in Kerala, there is a list of 24 relatives in case of death and 10 in case of marriage, whereas in other states only close relatives like spouses, parents, or siblings are considered.
- Moreover, each State uses a different yardstick to punish a convict who fails to surrender after parole or the furlough period terminates.

### Conclusion:

- It should be noted that temporary release cannot be availed of as a matter of right.
- Each State has its own set of provisions/guidelines which varies in scope and content. It is argued that such provisions may be flouted to give favours to a few powerful convicts.
- In the absence of a common legal framework to guide the States and check misuse, arbitrariness can creep in and eventually endanger the entire criminal justice system.
- As 'prisons' is on the State List, at least half of the States should come together to request the Central government to legislate a common law for the country on parole and furlough.

**Also read:** [Reforms in Criminal Justice System](#)

**Nut Graf:** *There is a huge divergence across India in terms of prison rules, specifically parole and furlough. It is often argued that an absence of a common legal framework may result in some amount of*



*arbitrariness which has the potential to hamper the entire criminal justice system. States should come together to formulate a uniform law for furlough and leave provisions.*

## 2. EWS quota: beyond the smokescreen

*Syllabus: Welfare schemes for the vulnerable section of the population.*

*Mains: Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota.*

*Prelims: EWS.*

### Details:

- The aim of [reservation](#) was laudable as it was introduced as a short-term measure to give opportunities to socially and educationally backward (SEBCs) or inadequately represented groups in various fields like education and employment.
- It resulted in improving the standard of living of many people.
- The author argues that even after seven decades, the reservation system is extended for political and sociological reasons, despite being a short-term measure. It is further argued that those who really needed reservation were deprived of its benefits.
- The Indian economy was largely agrarian and was based on traditional commerce at the time of Independence. People were largely unskilled. But free school education and industrialization equipped people with new skills. The class divide became a thing of the past as cities became cosmopolitan.
- According to the author, the cause for social inequality and oppression was wrongly attributed to a particular faith and the practice of the caste system prevalent in those days. In the present age of technology and information, the expanding middle-class population has made the caste system less prevalent. The present-day economic prosperity has neutralized the reason for social injustice to a large extent.
- It is the constitutional and moral obligation of the government to achieve the goal of “social, economic and political justice,” as mentioned in the Preamble. As per the author, the 10% quota for the [Economically Weaker Section\(EWS\)](#) is a step in the right direction that will ensure economic and social justice.
- The author puts forth certain misconceptions associated with the EWS quota:
  - There is a widespread belief that the [basic structure of the Constitution](#) has been violated as the EWS quota empowers the privileged sections of society who are neither socially and educationally backward nor inadequately represented.

- Moreover, the 10% quota in the open category in favour of 'forward' communities might reduce the availability of seats in the open category for other classes and communities. It was clarified that this 10% is in addition to the existing reservation in favour of SEBCs.

**Also read:** [Sansad TV Perspective: EWS Quota](#)

***Nut Graf:** Affirmative action for the Economically Weaker Section can help ensure the 'economic and social justice' that is enshrined in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.*

### 3. Faith and freedom

***Syllabus:** Issue arising out of design and implementation of policies.*

***Mains:** Freedom of religion and anti-conversion laws.*

**Context:** The Supreme Court is hearing a Public Interest Litigation seeking action to curb deceitful religious conversion in the country.

**Details:**

- The Supreme Court is hearing an alleged [Public Interest Litigation \(PIL\)](#) seeking action to check deceitful religious conversion in India.
- The Gujarat government is also looking forward to the removal of a stay on a specific provision of its anti-conversion law that requires prior permission from the District Magistrate for any conversion done "directly or indirectly". The Gujarat High Court had stayed Section 5 of the Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act, 2003 (amended in 2021 to incorporate 'conversion by marriage'), along with staying the implementation of other provisions that tried to consider inter-faith marriages as instances of illegal conversion.
- The High Court noted that the requirement of prior permission would force the individual to disclose one's religious belief or any change of faith, contrary to SC rulings that said that marriage and faith involve a person's choice.
- However, the Gujarat government has claimed that the stay on Section 5 is impacting even genuine inter-faith marriages that do not involve any fraud or coercion. This is based on a claim that the prior permission requirement obviates the need to question the genuine nature of the conversion, if any, consequent upon an inter-religious marriage.
- It should be noted that the [Freedom of religion](#) is protected only when no questions/suspicion is raised or entertained based on the mere fact of solemnizing inter-faith marriage.
- Compelling a person to disclose his/her intent to change faith violates both freedom of conscience and the [right to privacy](#).

- The observations of a Supreme Court Bench in the context of religious conversion through “allurement” or charity work further provoke the Government to formulate anti-conversion measures at a national level.
- It is argued by many that the court should not entertain exaggerated allegations of rampant fraudulent conversions and instead leave it to States to identify the extent of the issue (if any) and adopt measures to protect religious freedom and communal harmony.

Also read: [Love Jihad Laws Explained](#)

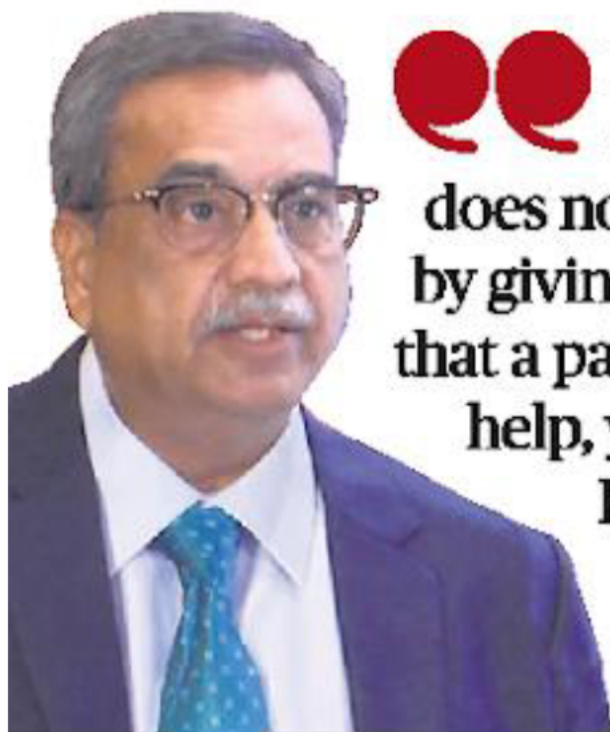
***Nut Graf:** A recent public interest litigation in the Supreme Court regarding religious conversion has once again brought to the limelight the issue of anti-conversion laws. It is a sensitive issue as it is related to the right to privacy and freedom of religion and should be dealt with utmost consideration to maintain peace and harmony in the country.*

#### F. Prelims Facts

*Nothing here for today!!!*

#### G. Tidbits

#### 1. SC offers to find solution to ‘deceitful conversion’



“Everybody has a right to choose their faith but that does not mean luring somebody by giving something. If you believe that a particular community needs help, you help it. It is charity.

But the purpose of charity should not be conversion

**JUSTICE M.R. SHAH**

Image source: The Hindu

- The Supreme Court said that acts of charity or good work to help a community or the poor must not be used as a cover-up to hide the intention of converting them religiously as payback and also said that forcible conversions in the country are a very serious issue as it affects the basic principles of Indian Constitution.
- The Supreme Court held that conversion on the basis of a voluntary belief in the deity of a different faith was different from the belief gained through allurements and said that the court would examine such disguised intentions behind religious conversions through allurements by offering food, medicines, treatment, etc.
- The Solicitor-General appearing for the Centre raised the importance of setting up a statutory mechanism wherein a neutral authority would examine if the purpose of offering grains, medicines, or treatment is to facilitate religious conversions.
- The apex court in the past has upheld such statutes that monitored religious conversions and the court has directed the Union government to provide details of anti-conversion laws and statutes in various States and other materials.

## 2. India, Germany ink migration agreement



- During the recent meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India and Germany, the two countries signed a comprehensive partnership on migration and mobility which aims to ease travel for research, study and work for people in both countries.
- According to the Indian Foreign Minister, the new agreement would be the basis for a more contemporary partnership.
- The Ministers held discussions on bilateral issues such as Germany's assistance to India on renewable energy and energy transitions, their Indo-Pacific strategies, and other international issues relating to China, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- During the bilateral talks, the Indian Foreign Minister defended the Indian government's decision to increase the intake of Russian oil since the war in Ukraine by telling that India's consumption of Russian oil is just about one-sixth of Europe's consumption and must not be compared unfavourably.

### 3. Sri Lanka seeks India's help to boost dairy output

- In a move to ramp up its dairy production and become self-sufficient, Sri Lanka has sought technical assistance from India's [National Dairy Development Board \(NDDB\)](#) and Amul.
  - Sri Lanka had attempted a similar collaboration in the late 1990s, but it had not materialised.
- The former President of Sri Lanka Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga had invited India's "milkman" [Vergheese Kurien](#) to set up the "Kiriya" dairy project, named after the Sinhala word for milk.
  - A \$20 million joint venture between the NDDB and Sri Lanka's MILCO was also announced, but the project failed to take off due to resistance from nationalist worker unions and business lobbies in Sri Lanka.
- President of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe has recently appointed a committee with representatives from Sri Lanka's public and private sectors, to work with the NDDB and devise short, medium and long-term plans to increase local milk production.
- Currently, Sri Lanka's domestic dairy production accounts for less than 50% of its requirements and the country spends about \$300 million annually on dairy imports, mostly from New Zealand.

## H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

### Q1. The Asia-Pacific Employment and Social Outlook 2022 report was released by

- a. International Labour Organisation
- b. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- c. World Economic Forum
- d. World Bank



**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The “Asia-Pacific Employment and Social Outlook 2022: Rethinking sectoral strategies for a human-centered future of work” was released by the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**.

**Q2. Consider the following statements with respect to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):**

1. The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India is the Chairperson of the MPC.
2. The MPC determines the policy repo rate required to achieve the inflation target.
3. The decision of the Monetary Policy Committee shall be binding on the Bank and the quorum for the meeting of the MPC is three members.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct**, The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India is the ex-officio chairperson of the Monetary Policy Committee.
- **Statement 2 is correct**, The MPC determines the policy repo rate required to achieve the inflation target.
- **Statement 3 is not correct**, The decision of the Monetary Policy Committee shall be binding on the Bank and the quorum for the meeting of the MPC is **four members**.

**Q3. Consider the following statements:**

1. The World Bank defines the extreme poor as those living on less than \$1.90 a day.
2. The extreme poverty line is based on the 2017 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

- c. Both
- d. None

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is not correct**, The World Bank updated the global poverty lines in September 2022 and the new extreme poverty line is \$2.15 per person per day, which replaces the \$1.90 poverty line.
- **Statement 2 is correct**, The extreme poverty line is based on the 2017 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).

**Q4. Which country is not among the five largest spenders in military expenditure in 2021?**

- a. China
- b. India
- c. Russia
- d. France

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the five largest military spenders in 2021 were the **United States, China, India, the United Kingdom and Russia**.
- Together these five countries accounted for 62% of the total military expenditure.

**Q5. Which of the following is not a bird? PYQ (2022)**

- a. Golden Mahseer
- b. Indian Nightjar
- c. Spoonbill
- d. White Ibis

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Golden Mahseer is a **freshwater fish species** belonging to the genus Tor.
- Golden Mahseer is regarded as the “tiger of Indian rivers”.

- The Golden Mahseer can be found in the rivers of the Himalayan foothills, the Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra basins, the Cauvery, Tambraparini, and Kosi rivers.

### I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

1. Write a note on the global employment scenario post-pandemic and suggest a set of policy options and responses to the cost-of-living crisis. (10 Marks, 150 Words) (GS-3; Economy)
2. Examine the status of anti-conversion laws in India. (10 Marks, 150 Words) (GS-2; Polity and Governance)

