

Today's Prelims Topics

Drive against Manual Scavenging

Context

The Supreme Court (SC) has reaffirmed its commitment to eradicating **manual scavenging** and **hazardous manual cleaning** of sewers and septic tanks. The SC referred to its **October, 2023 judgment**, which issued directives to the Union and State governments to eliminate these practices

About Manual Scavenging

- **The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993** defines 'manual scavenger' as "a person engaged in or employed for manually carrying human excreta".
- Manual scavenging undermines SDGs related to **clean water and sanitation** (Goal 6), **decent work and economic growth** (Goal 8), **reduced inequalities** (Goal 10) and **peace, justice and strong institutions** (Goal 10).

Initiatives taken to prevent Manual Scavenging:

- **The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013:** This Act supersedes the 1993 Act and prohibits all forms of manual excrement cleaning of insanitary latrines, open drains, or pits. It also focuses on the rehabilitation of manual scavengers and provides measures for their welfare.
- **Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge:** Launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** on World Toilet Day in 2020, it aims to make sewer cleaning completely mechanized by providing proper gear and oxygen tanks to workers in case of unavoidable emergencies.
- **The National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)** scheme aims to improve the safety and dignity of sanitation workers in India. It was launched in 2023-24 and is being implemented in over 4,800 urban local bodies (ULBs) across the country.

MANUAL SCAVENGING VIOLATES

 International Conventions	 Constitutional Provisions	 Legal Provisions
<p>Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): <i>Mandate dignity, equality fair remuneration and social security.</i></p> <p>International Convention for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR): <i>Envisages equality and decent living standard for women.</i></p> <p>Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW): <i>Eliminate violence and discrimination against women.</i></p>	<p>Article 15: <i>State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them</i></p> <p>Article 17: <i>"Untouchability" is abolished & its practice in any form is forbidden.</i></p> <p>Article 21: <i>No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.</i></p>	<p><i>Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2015 of (MS Act, 2013)</i></p> <p><i>Scheduled Caste and Schedules Tribes Amendment Act 2015 (SC/ST Act)</i></p>


 #UPSC #CSE

Directions issued by SC in Balram Singh Vs Union of India & Others (2023)

- **Complete Eradication of Manual Sewer Cleaning:** Union Government to:
 - Frame policies and issue directives to all statutory bodies (corporations, railways, cantonments, etc.) for the phased eradication of manual sewer cleaning.
 - Ensure outsourced sewer work does not require individuals to enter sewers for any purpose.
- **States and Union Territories to:** Adopt and implement the Union Government's guidelines across all municipalities, local bodies, and agencies in their jurisdictions.
- **Rehabilitation of Affected Workers:** Full rehabilitation measures for sewer workers and families of those who have died.
- **Enhanced Compensation for Sewer Deaths:** Compensation for deaths caused by hazardous cleaning increased from ₹10 lakh to ₹30 lakh.
- **Development of a Centralized Portal and Dashboard to:**
 - Maintain data on sewer deaths and affected workers.
 - Track compensation disbursement and rehabilitation measures.
 - Provide information on existing policies and initiatives.

National commission on Safai Karmchari (NCSK)

- It was constituted in August 1994 as a statutory body under National Commission for Safai Karmcharis Act, 1993, for a period of 3 years.
- With the lapsing of the 1993 Act in 2004, the Commission is acting as a **Non-Statutory body** under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, its tenure is extended from time to time through Government Resolutions.
- It aims to improve the status of Safai Karmcharis or manual scavengers in India.
- NCSK recommends programs to the Central Government to reduce inequalities in status, opportunities and facilities for Safai Karmcharis .

Source:

- [The Hindu - Will go to 'any extent possible' to eradicate manual scavenging: SC](#)

Guruvayur Temple

Context

The Supreme Court has strongly criticized the Guruvayur Devaswom administration for its decision to not conduct the age-old ritual '**Udayasthamana Pooja**' at Kerala's Sri Krishna Temple on **Guruvayur Ekadashi day**.

About Guruvayur Temple

- It is located in **Guruvayur, Thrissur District, Kerala**, and is dedicated to **Lord Krishna**, worshipped as **Guruvayurappan**. It is also called "**Dwarka of South**".
- In 1931-32, A satyagraha was initiated by **Kelappan (known as Kerala Gandhi)** to advocate for the inclusion of untouchables into the temple.
- **Adi Shankaracharya**, the 8th-century Indian philosopher is credited with streamlining and the temple's rituals.
- **Features:**
 - The temple is built in the traditional Kerala architectural style.
 - Structures like the **Nalambalam** (temple structure surrounding the sanctum sanctorum), **Balikkal** (sacrificial stone) and **Deepastambam** (pillar of lights) are situated on the temple premises.
 - **Dwajasthamba:** It is a flagstaff, around 70 feet tall, fully covered with gold.
 - The temple is also famous for being home to a **large population of captive male Asian elephants**.
- **Udayasthamana Pooja:** It is an elaborate ritual conducted to offer continuous prayers and offerings to the deity **throughout the day**.
 - The pooja includes multiple rounds of Abhishekams (ritualistic bathing of the idol), Naivedyams (food offerings), and Aartis (offerings of light).
 - The ritual is particularly significant on **Vrishchikam Ekadashi**, one of the holiest days in the Hindu calendar, dedicated to Lord Vishnu.
 - Performing this pooja on this day is believed to **enhance the spiritual energy of the deity and bring prosperity and blessings to devotees**.



Source:

- [The Hindu - SC seeks response from Guruvayur panel on 'Udayasthama' puja plea](#)

STUDY IQ
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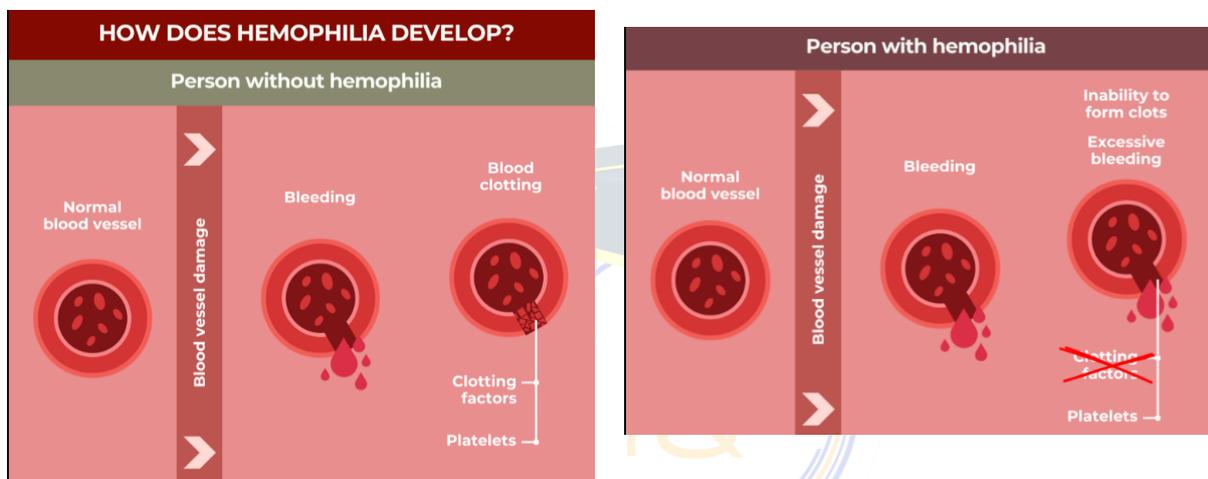
Gene therapy for Haemophilia

Context

Indian scientists have achieved a major milestone by using gene therapy to treat severe **Hemophilia A**.

About Haemophilia

- It is a **rare genetic blood disorder that prevents blood from clotting properly**. It's usually inherited and more common in males.
- Most common types are hemophilia A (classic hemophilia) and hemophilia B (Christmas disease)
- **Haemophilia A**: It occurs when the body doesn't produce enough **factor VIII**, a protein that helps blood clot.
- India has the **second-largest patient pool globally**, with an estimated **40,000 to 100,000 patients**.
- Treatment costs are very high: **₹2.54 crore** per patient over 10 years.



Gene Therapy

- It is a medical technique that treats or prevents disease **by altering a person's genes**. It can involve:
 - Replacing a disease-causing gene with a healthy copy.
 - Inactivating a disease-causing gene.
 - Introducing a new or modified gene into the body.
 - Training the body's immune system to recognize and attack cancer cells.
- Gene therapy can be used to treat a variety of diseases, including: Cancer, Genetic diseases like hemophilia and sickle cell disease etc.
- **Gene Therapy as a One-Time Solution for Haemophilia**
 - **Mechanism:** A gene is introduced into the body, enabling it to produce enough Factor VIII to prevent haemorrhage.
 - It uses **lentivirus as a vector** to integrate the clotting factor gene into stem cells, which is later reintroduced into the patient's body.
 - **Advantages:**
 - Eliminates the need for frequent infusions of clotting factors or other medications.
 - Potentially safer for children and avoids the need for immunosuppressive therapy.

Source: [The Hindu - Indian scientists develop novel gene therapy to provide one-time solution for haemophilia](#)

India's malaria caseload, deaths fall by 69%

Context

The 2024 'World Malaria Report' has been released by the World Health Organisation (WHO). As per the report, India has made "significant progress" in reducing malaria incidence and mortality.

About Malaria

- Malaria is a **mosquito-borne disease caused by a parasite**. It is preventable and curable.
- It is a life-threatening disease primarily found in tropical countries.
- **5 species** of parasites can cause malaria in humans and 2 of these species – **Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax** – pose the greatest threat.
- It is a **notifiable disease** in India.
- **Spread:**
 - Malaria mostly spreads to people through the bites of some infected **female Anopheles mosquitoes**.
 - Malaria does not spread from person to person.
 - Blood transfusion and contaminated needles may also transmit malaria

Highlights of the WHO's World Malaria Report 2024

- **India's Achievements:**
 - **Reduction in Caseload and Deaths:**
 - Malaria cases reduced by **69%**, from **6.4 million in 2017** to **2 million in 2023**.
 - Malaria deaths declined by **69%**, from **11,100 to 3,500** during the same period.
 - **Exit from the HBHI Group:** India is no longer part of the **High-Burden-High-Impact (HBHI)** group of endemic countries.
- **Key Strategies Behind India's Success:**
 - **Artemisinin-Based Combination Therapy (ACT):** It is a combination of two or more drugs used to treat malaria. Artemisinin kills most malaria parasites, while a partner drug clears the remaining parasites.
 - **Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLIN):** LLIN are mosquito nets that contain insecticide in the fibers, making them effective for years without needing to be retreated. These nets block and kill mosquitoes, reducing mosquito populations and their lifespan when widely used.
 - **Targeted Interventions:** Focused efforts in forested and tribal areas in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and the North-East improved access to diagnostics, treatments and drugs.
 - **Effective Monitoring and Case Management:** Consistent evaluations helped ensure proper implementation of interventions

Source:

- [the Hindu - India's malaria caseload, deaths fall by 69%](#)

Ghost Guns

Context

Usage of ghost guns has increased in the US in recent times. The person suspected of the fatal shooting of UnitedHealthcare CEO, was carrying a “ghost gun” when he was apprehended.

About Ghost Guns

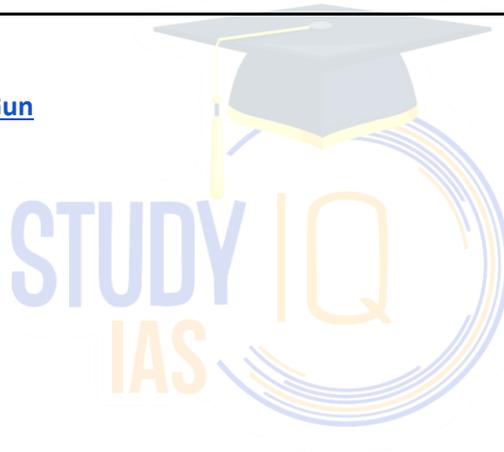
- Ghost guns, also known as Privately Made Firearms (PMF), are untraceable firearms created using kits or **3D printing technology**.
- **Characteristics:**
 - Lack serial numbers, making them virtually untraceable by law enforcement.
 - Do not require background checks for purchase, unlike commercial firearms.
 - Made from a combination of 3D-printed parts, metals, and plastics.

3D Printing

- It is a process of creating three-dimensional objects from digital models by adding material layer by layer. It is also known as **additive manufacturing**,
- It is an additive process, in which layers of a material like plastic, composites or bio-materials are built up to construct objects that range in shape, size, rigidity and colour.

Source:

- [Indian Express - Ghost Gun](#)



Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme

Context

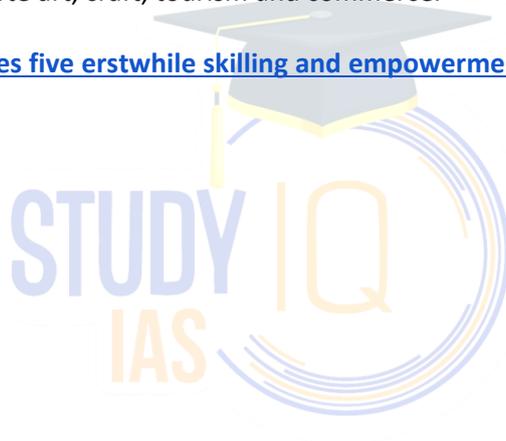
The Ministry of Minority Affairs has converged 5 existing schemes into a new scheme named PM-VIKAS.

About PM VIKAS

- It is a **Central sector scheme** under the **Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA)**.
- It aims to empower minority and artisan communities through inclusive development.
- PM-VIKAS is an integrated scheme combining (5) existing schemes of MoMA viz. **Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil**.
- **Scheme Components:**
 - **Skilling and Training:** Includes traditional (arts & crafts) and non-traditional (NSQF compliant) skill training.
 - **Leadership and Entrepreneurship:** Focuses on leadership development and entrepreneurship support, particularly for women.
 - **Education:** Provides open schooling opportunities (8th, 10th, and 12th) for school dropouts.
 - **Infrastructure Development:** Development of "Vishwakarma Villages" (hub and spoke model) to promote art, craft, tourism and commerce.

Source:

- [PIB - PM VIKAS converges five erstwhile skilling and empowerment schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs](#)



Webb Confirms Accelerated Expansion of the Universe

Context

Recent observations from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope have provided further evidence that the universe is expanding more rapidly than previously expected.

About key findings

- **Rate of Expansion:** Data from the Webb telescope indicates that the universe's expansion rate is approximately **8% faster than what is predicted based on current astrophysical models**. This phenomenon is known as the **Hubble Tension**.

- **Hubble's Law:** It is also known as the **Hubble Constant**, it says that the universe is expanding at a rate of **67-68 kilometers per second per megaparsec (a megaparsec is 3.26 million light-years)**.

- **Validation of Hubble's Findings:** The findings corroborate earlier measurements obtained from the Hubble Space Telescope, suggesting that the discrepancies are not due to instrument errors in Hubble.
- **Understanding Dark Matter and Dark Energy:**
 - **Dark Matter:** Comprising about 27% of the universe, dark matter is an invisible form of matter inferred from its gravitational effects on visible matter.
 - **Dark Energy:** Believed to constitute approximately 69% of the universe, dark energy is a hypothesized form of energy that drives the accelerated expansion of the universe.

Source:

- [The Hindu - Webb confirms the cosmos is expanding at unexpected rate](#)

News in Shorts

Panchamasali Community

- The Panchamasalis are a major sub-group within the Lingayat community.
- The Lingayats (officially classified as Hindu sub-caste 'Veerashaiva Lingayats') are followers of Basavanna, a 12th century philosopher-saint who started a radical anti-caste movement which rejected orthodox ritualistic Hindu practices in favour of a more personal, affective relationship with God, specifically Lord Shiva.
- They have been demanding for inclusion in **Category 2A** of the **Other Backward Classes (OBC)** list in Karnataka. Currently categorized under **Category 3B**
- Panchamasalis are the largest among Lingayats, making up nearly **70 per cent of the total Lingayat population.**

Source:

- [The Hindu - Panchamasali seer says police instigated violence in Belagavi](#)



Editorial Summary

Opposition MPs sign on notice to impeach Allahabad HC judge

Context

The Opposition has initiated efforts to move an impeachment motion against Allahabad High Court judge Shekhar Kumar Yadav over his controversial statements at a recent Vishwa Hindu Parishad event.

About Process of Removal - By the Parliament

- A judge can be removed from office through a motion passed by Parliament on the grounds of **“proved misbehaviour or incapacity.”**
- Although the Constitution does not mention the term **“impeachment,”** it is commonly used to describe the removal process under **Article 124** (for Supreme Court judges) and **Article 218** (for High Court judges).

Procedure for Removal of Judges (as per the Judges Inquiry Act, 1968):

- **Initiation of Impeachment Motion: (Under Section-3 of the Act)**
 - The impeachment motion can originate in either House of Parliament:
 - **Lok Sabha:** Requires a signed notice by at least **100 members.**
 - **Rajya Sabha:** Requires a signed notice by at least **50 members.**
 - The **Speaker** (for Lok Sabha) or **Chairman** (for Rajya Sabha) may consult individuals and examine relevant materials before deciding whether to admit or reject the motion.
- **Investigation Committee Formation:**
 - If the motion is admitted, the Speaker or Chairman will form a **three-member committee** to investigate the charges. The committee consists of:
 - **Chief Justice of India** or a **Supreme Court judge (Head of Committee)**
 - **The Chief Justice of a High Court**
 - **A distinguished jurist (In opinion of Speaker/Chairman)**
 - **Powers of the Committee:**
 - Frames charges.
 - Examine evidence.
 - Call witnesses.
 - Conducts proceedings (sometimes appointing lawyers, e.g., senior advocate Indira Jaising in Justice Ramaswami's case).
- **Framing of Charges:** The committee frames charges and provides a copy to the judge, who can submit a **written defence.**
- **Committee Report Submission:** After completing the investigation, the committee submits its report to the Speaker or Chairman.
 - The report is then presented before the concerned House of Parliament.
- **Consideration of Motion:** If the report finds evidence of **misbehaviour or incapacity,** the motion for removal is considered and debated in the House.
- **Adoption of Motion:** The motion must be passed in each House by:
 - A **majority of the total membership** of that House.
 - A **two-thirds majority** of the members present and voting.
 - If the motion passes in one House, it is sent to the other House for approval.
- **Presidential Order:** Once both Houses adopt the motion, it is sent to the **President,** who issues an order for the judge's removal.

Note:

- Except for a **removal motion**, the legislature cannot discuss a judge's misconduct.

In-House Procedure

- Established in 1999 and made public in 2014, this procedure allows judges facing serious allegations to opt for voluntary retirement to avoid public embarrassment.
- The procedure allows a complaint against a High Court judge to:
 - President.
 - Chief Justice of India (CJI).
 - Chief Justice of the High Court.
- **Procedure for Investigating Complaints:**
 - **Step 1:** High Court Chief Justice receives the complaint and may seek a response from the judge.
 - **Step 2:** If further investigation is needed, the complaint and response are forwarded to the CJI.
 - **Step 3:** The CJI can appoint a **fact-finding committee** consisting of:
 - Two Chief Justices from other High Courts.
 - One High Court judge.
- **Outcome of Investigation:** If sufficient grounds are found, the CJI may ask the judge to retire voluntarily.
 - If the judge refuses, the CJI can inform the President and Prime Minister, leading to impeachment proceedings.

Previous Instances of Impeachment in India

- **1993: Justice V Ramaswami (SC Judge)** faced impeachment proceedings on **financial impropriety**. The motion was unsuccessful despite a guilty finding.
- **2011: Justice Soumitra Sen (Calcutta HC Judge)** was impeached by Rajya Sabha for **corruption** but **resigned** before Lok Sabha could take up the matter.
- **2015: Justice S K Gangele (Madhya Pradesh HC Judge)** faced impeachment on charges of **sexual harassment**, but the committee cleared him in 2017.
- **2015: Justice J B Pardiwala (Gujarat HC Judge)** faced impeachment for controversial remarks about reservation but the motion was dropped after the judge expunged the remarks.
- **2017: Justice C V Nagarjuna (Andhra Pradesh & Telangana HC Judge)** faced impeachment for **financial misconduct** and victimizing a Dalit judge, but the motion was not pursued.
- **Despite multiple attempts, no judge in India has been successfully impeached.**

UPSC PYQ

Q. Consider the following statements: **(2019)**

1. The motion to impeach a Judge of the Supreme Court of India cannot be rejected by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha as per the Judges (inquiry) Act, 1968.
2. The Constitution of India defines and gives details of what constitutes 'incapacity and proved misbehaviour' of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India.
3. The details of the process of impeachment of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India are given in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.
4. If the motion for the impeachment of a Judge is taken up for voting, the law requires the motion to be backed by each House of the Parliament and supported by a majority of total membership of that House and by not less than two-thirds of total members of that House present and voting.

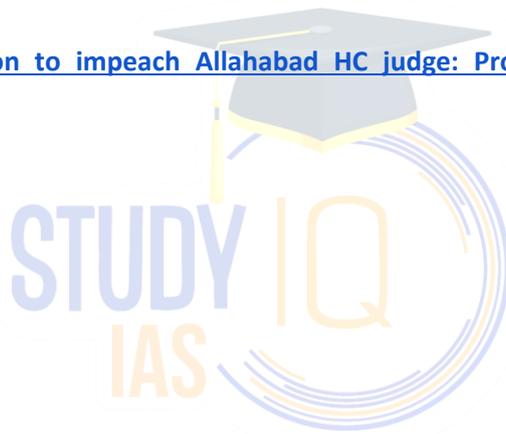
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Source:

- [Indian Express - Motion to impeach Allahabad HC judge: Process of impeachment, past attempts](#)



Climate impact of exploring space passing below the radar

Context

The growth in satellite launches raises concerns about their impact on climate monitoring systems and the accumulation of orbital debris.

Environmental Effects of Rocket Launches

- **Emissions:**
 - Every rocket launch releases significant amounts of **carbon dioxide, black carbon and water vapor** into the atmosphere.
 - Black carbon is particularly concerning as **it absorbs sunlight 500 times more effectively than carbon dioxide, contributing to global warming.**
- **Ozone Layer Depletion:**
 - Rocket propellants, especially chlorine-based chemicals, deplete the ozone layer at high altitudes, leading to increased ultraviolet radiation exposure on Earth and disrupting atmospheric circulation.
- **Satellite Ash:**
 - When satellites burn up upon re-entry at the end of their missions, they release metallic ash into the middle layers of the atmosphere, which can harm atmospheric conditions and potentially alter the climate.
- **Energy-Intensive Satellite Production:**
 - The manufacturing process for satellites is energy-intensive, involving metals and composite materials that have substantial carbon footprints due to their extraction and preparation.
 - Satellites also require propulsion systems for orbital adjustments, contributing additional emissions.
- **Orbital Debris Concerns:**
 - **Definition:** Orbital debris includes defunct satellites, spent rocket stages and fragments from break-ups in low Earth orbit (LEO).
 - **Statistics:** As of September 2024, there have been approximately 6,740 rocket launches since 1957, placing 19,590 satellites in orbit. Of these, around 13,230 remain in space, with 10,200 still functional.
 - **Pollution:** The presence of non-functional objects in orbit constitutes a form of pollution. There are about 36,860 cataloged space objects, including those from over 650 fragmentation events, with a total mass exceeding 13,000 tonnes.
 - **Collision Risks:** The increasing mass of space debris raises collision risks for operational satellites. Even small pieces of debris traveling at speeds up to 29 km/h can cause significant damage.
- **Impact on Scientific Data Collection:**
 - Orbital debris interferes with data collection critical for monitoring climate and disasters by obstructing radio waves. This interference necessitates costly shielding and collision avoidance maneuvers for satellite operators.
- **Barriers to space sustainability:**
 - Current space activities **lack clear international regulations**, as they fall outside frameworks like the Paris Agreement.
 - This absence allows unchecked emissions and debris accumulation to threaten Earth's climate and future space exploration.

Achieving Sustainability in Space Exploration

- **Innovative Solutions:**

- **Reusable Rockets:** Companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin are developing reusable rockets to reduce waste and costs. However, these parts can be heavier and may **increase fuel consumption.**
- **Cleaner Fuels:** Transitioning to fuels like liquid hydrogen or biofuels could minimize harmful emissions but presents **challenges due to current production methods relying on non-renewable energy.**
- **Biodegradable Satellites:** Designing satellites with biodegradable materials could help reduce long-term debris but **currently they lack durability required for extreme space conditions.**
- **Autonomous Debris Removal (ADR):** Technologies such as **robotic arms and laser systems** show promise for cleaning up orbital debris **but face high costs and legal uncertainties.**
- **Global Traffic Monitoring System:** A system to monitor satellites and debris in real-time could reduce collision risks but is **hindered by data-sharing resistance due to security concerns.**

Way Forward

- **Global Cooperation:**
 - International collaboration is necessary to create and enforce standards for reducing emissions, managing space debris and sharing critical data.
 - Organizations like the **Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS)** can take the initiative in shaping and implementing these global standards.
- **Investing in Green Technologies:**
 - Governments and private companies should focus on funding innovative, eco-friendly technologies.
 - This includes developing green fuels, systems to clear debris and biodegradable materials for satellite components.
- **Policy Incentives:**
 - Offering financial incentives, like subsidies or tax cuts, can motivate private firms to adopt sustainable practices.
 - On the other hand, penalties can help discourage actions that harm the environment.

Source:

- [The Hindu - Climate impact of exploring space passing below the radar](#)

Stagnant Wages and Slowing Growth: Addressing India's Economic Imbalance

Context

Corporate profits in India reached a **15-year high** in March 2024, with profit after tax hitting **4.8% of GDP**. Despite these profits, **wage growth in the private sector has stagnated**, sparking concerns over reduced demand and broader economic recovery post-COVID-19.

Key Stats

- **Stagnant Wage Growth:** Wages in key sectors have grown very slowly over the last five years (2019–2023):
 - **Engineering, Manufacturing, Process, Infrastructure (EMPI):** 0.8% annual growth.
 - **Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG):** 5.4% annual growth (highest among sectors).
 - **Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI):** 2.8% annual growth.
 - **Retail:** 3.7% annual growth.
 - **Information Technology (IT):** 4% annual growth.
 - **Logistics:** 4.2% annual growth.
- **Impact of Inflation on Wages:**
 - Inflation during the same period eroded real wages:
 - Inflation rates were **4.8% (2019–20)**, peaking at **6.7% (2022–23)**, and slightly moderated to **5.4% (2023–24)**.
 - For many workers, **real income** (wages adjusted for inflation) either stagnated or declined, making their **purchasing power weaker**.
- **Average Wages Across Sectors:**
 - FMCG workers earned the lowest average wage of **₹19,023/month** in 2023.
 - IT professionals had the highest average wage of **₹49,076/month** in 2023.

Reasons Behind Stagnant Wages

- **Labour Surplus:**
 - Post-pandemic, India's economic growth is behind by **7%** compared to pre-COVID projections.
 - A larger workforce is competing for limited opportunities, reducing employees' bargaining power for higher wages.
- **Global Trends:**
 - A declining share of wages in GDP is a worldwide phenomenon, driven by weaker organized labour since the 1990s.
- **Low Productivity:**
 - Indian labour productivity remains poor compared to global standards.
 - Without productivity improvements, wage increases become unsustainable for businesses.
- **Corporate Cost Optimization:**
 - Many companies have reduced staff costs to maintain profit margins.
 - Managerial compensation often remains high, but the decline in wages is sharper for non-managerial roles.

Way Forward

- **Productivity Enhancement:**
 - Investment in skill development and technology can improve labour productivity, enabling sustainable wage increases.
- **Formalization of Workforce:**

- Expanding formal employment opportunities can help bridge income gaps, especially in labour-intensive sectors.
- **Balancing Profits and Wages:**
 - Businesses must share their profits more equitably with workers to ensure demand remains robust.
- **Sector-Specific Interventions:**
 - Boost employment in industries like textiles, tourism, and manufacturing to create more quality jobs.

Source:

- [Indian Express - Private sector profit at 15-year high but salaries stagnant](#)

