
Mains Topics

Fire Tragedies in India

Context

A fire at a Goa nightclub that killed 25 exposed severe regulatory failures, illegal operations, and weak enforcement of fire safety norms, highlighting India's recurring pattern of preventable accidents and need for systemic reform.

Fire Tragedies in India: Trends

- About **25,000 people die annually** in India “due to fires and related causes.” **Women** reportedly constitute around **66%** of these fatalities.
- Fire incidents continue to disproportionately affect **residential and informal sector buildings**.
- **Concentration in Certain States:** Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh have a high number of mishaps.

What are the Reasons For Fire Tragedies

- **Regulatory Non-compliance:** Factories running without Fire No-Objection Certificates.
 - Absence of mandatory firefighting equipment and functional alarms.
- **Pattern of Neglect Post-Tragedy:** Cycle of accident → outrage → media attention → political visit → compensation → silence.
- **Unsafe handling and storage of hazardous/flammable materials:** Lack of proper storage, poor ventilation, exposure to heat or friction, inadequate separation of hazardous operations, and unsafe chemical-handling practices are recurrent flaws.
 - E.g., 2025 explosion at a fireworks factory in Virudhunagar killed six workers.
- **Faulty electrical systems and short circuits:** Poor wiring, overloading, and outdated installations cause most urban fires.
 - E.g., 2022 Mundka (Delhi) factory fire — short circuit triggered blaze; 27 deaths.
- **Weak Accountability:** Rare convictions; minimal penalties for safety violations.
 - Safety audits reduced to tick-box exercises.

Impact of Such Incidents

- **Human Cost:** Loss of breadwinners; families pushed into trauma and poverty.
 - Social marginalisation of victims' families.
- **Economic Loss:** Shutdowns, production delays, and damage to plant infrastructure.
 - Compensation payouts and legal costs.
- **Reputational Damage:** Loss of trust in companies and industries.
 - Negative perception in domestic and global markets.
- **Erosion of Workforce Morale:** Reduced motivation and higher attrition among workers.

Fire Safety Regulation In India

- **National Building Code (NBC), 2016:** Issued by the Bureau of Indian Standards, NBC is the central reference for fire-safety norms in India. It prescribes standards for building design, fire-protection systems, exit routes, and maintenance. States are expected to incorporate these minimum safety norms into their local building bylaws.
- **Model Building Bye-Laws, 2016:** These bye-laws mandate various fire-safety measures such as the use of fire-resistant construction materials, installation of alarm and detection systems, and adequate lighting and ventilation to reduce smoke risks.
- **Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act, 2005:** Provides a statutory basis for ensuring fire safety in buildings. States are required to adopt and implement its provisions to update and harmonize laws relating to fire prevention and management.
- **Model Fire and Emergency Services Bill, 2019:** Offers a standardized framework for states to strengthen and regulate fire and emergency services, addressing operational and administrative gaps in state-level fire departments.
- **Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of State Fire Services (2023):** Introduced following the 15th Finance Commission's recommendation of ₹5,000 crore, this scheme focuses on upgrading fire-service infrastructure, equipment, and response capacity across states.

Measures to Avoid Industrial Accidents

- **Strengthen Legal Framework:** Criminalise responsible authorities like in South Korea/Singapore to hold top executives criminally liable.
- **Enforce Compliance: Mandatory third-party safety audits** with public disclosure.
 - Strict penalties for operating without safety certifications.
- **Safety as Core Value:** Integrate safety into industrial design, inspired by Germany/Japan's practices.
- **Worker Training & Inclusion:** Multilingual safety training for workers.
- **Digitisation & Transparency:** Create a **national industrial safety dashboard** for real-time risk reporting.
 - Whistle-blower protection to encourage reporting of lapses.
- **Cultural Change:** Shift from a "compliance mindset" to a **prevention-first mindset**.
 - Public campaigns to build awareness about worker safety rights.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Today's Prelims Topics

National Livestock Mission

Context

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, under the Entrepreneurship Development component of National Livestock Mission, is providing a 50% capital subsidy up to Rs. 50.00 lakh.

About National Livestock Mission

- It was launched in **2014–15** under the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)**.
- **Stakeholders:** individuals, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Joint Liability Groups (JLGs), Farmer Cooperative Organizations (FCOs), etc.
- **Objectives:** Improve livestock productivity, Generate employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, Enhance availability and quality of feed & fodder, Promote research, innovation, animal health, and risk-management.
- **Sub-Missions:**
 - Breed Development of Livestock & Poultry
 - Feed and Fodder Development
 - Research & Development, Extension, Insurance & Innovation

Source: [PIB](#)

Removal of HC Judge

Context

A group of INDIA bloc MPs has submitted a formal letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking to initiate an impeachment motion against Justice G.R. Swaminathan of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court.

About Process of Removal of Judge

- 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 Mentioned in Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968

- **Initiation of Motion:**
 - Lok Sabha: requires signatures of **100 MPs**, or
 - Rajya Sabha: requires signatures of **50 MPs**.
- **Admittance & Committee Inquiry:** The Presiding Officer (Speaker/Chairman) may admit or reject the motion.
 - If admitted, a **three-member inquiry committee** is formed: a Supreme Court judge, a Chief Justice of a High Court, a distinguished jurist.
 - The committee investigates and submits its report.
- **Parliamentary Vote:** If the committee finds the judge guilty, each House must pass the removal motion by:
 - **Special Majority:** majority of total membership + two-thirds of members present and voting.
- **Presidential Order:** After both Houses pass the motion, the **President issues an order removing the judge** from office.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Aditya L1

Context

Aditya-L1, working with six U.S. satellites, has helped scientists understand why the May 2024 solar storm (Gannon's storm) behaved unusually.

About Aditya L1

- Aditya-L1 is **India's first solar observatory spacecraft**.
- It was launched by **PSLV-C57** on **September 2, 2023**, and is on its way to the **Sun-Earth Lagrange point 1 (L1)**, which is located about 1.5 million kilometres from Earth.
- Objective: **Studying the Sun's upper atmosphere**, including the chromosphere and corona.
- Payloads: The spacecraft is **equipped with seven payloads**:
 - **VELC (Visible Emission Line Coronagraph)** – Studies the corona and its dynamics.
 - **ASPEX (Aditya Solar Wind Particle Experiment)** – Analyzes solar wind particles.
 - **PAPA (Plasma Analyzer Package for Aditya)** – Measures charged particles in solar wind.
 - **SoLEXS (Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer)** – Observes X-ray emissions.
 - **HEL1OS (High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer)** – Studies high-energy solar radiation.
 - **MAG (Magnetometer)** – Measures interplanetary magnetic fields.
 - **SUIT (Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope)** - observe the **Sun's photosphere and chromosphere** in the **ultraviolet (UV) wavelength** range.

About L1

- L1 is a balanced gravitational location between the Earth and the Sun, and it is **an ideal place to study the Sun** without interference from Earth's atmosphere.
- Placing a satellite in a halo orbit around the L1 point offers the significant benefit of maintaining **uninterrupted observation of the Sun**, free from any periods of occultation or eclipses.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Interpol Notices

Context

The CBI has issued a Blue-Corner Notice through Interpol against owners of the Goa nightclub Birch by Romeo Lane, where 25 people died in a recent fire.

INTERPOL (International Criminal Police Organization)

- **HQ:** Lyon, France
- **Members:** 196 countries (India is a member)
- **Purpose:** It is an inter-governmental law enforcement organisation, helps coordinate cooperation among law enforcement agencies across its member countries.

Types of Interpol Notices

Notice	Purpose
Red Notice ●	To locate and provisionally arrest a wanted person pending extradition. (Most well-known)
Blue Notice ●	To locate or identify a person of interest, or to collect information.

Types of Interpol Notices

Green Notice <input type="checkbox"/>	To warn about a person's criminal activities when they pose a threat to public safety.
Yellow Notice <input type="checkbox"/>	To locate missing persons, especially minors, or help identify persons unable to identify themselves.
Black Notice ●	To identify unidentified bodies.
Orange Notice <input type="checkbox"/>	To warn of an event, person, object, or process representing a serious and imminent threat.
Purple Notice <input type="checkbox"/>	To provide information on modi operandi, objects, devices, or concealment methods used by criminals.
Silver Notice ○	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To track assets of wanted criminals globally. (Launched Jan 2024 in pilot phase). First Silver Notice from India: Issued against Shokeen Shubham (visa fraud), followed by Amit Lakhapal (crypto fraud).
Interpol–UN Special Notice <input type="checkbox"/>	For individuals or entities subject to UN sanctions.

CAFE III Norms

Context

The US-based International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) and the Geneva-based International Road Federation (IRF) have separately urged India to reconsider further concessions under India's upcoming Corporate Average Fuel-Efficiency (CAFE) norms.

CAFE III Norms

- CAFE norms regulate **fuel efficiency and CO₂ emissions** of an automaker's overall fleet.
- Unlike BS norms (which target toxic pollutants), CAFE norms aim to reduce **greenhouse gas emissions** and improve energy efficiency.
- Under CAFE, a manufacturer's **average CO₂ emissions per km** across all vehicles sold must stay within limits.
- Earlier phases:
 - **CAFE I** (2017): initial fuel efficiency targets.
 - **CAFE II** (2022): CO₂ emissions capped at **113 g/km** for passenger cars.
- **CAFE III** will tighten limits further, compelling manufacturers to adopt more **efficient engines, hybrids, and electric vehicles**.

Source: [Hindustan Times](#)

UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)

Context

UNESCO has added three more Saudi cities — Riyadh, AlUla, and Riyadh Al-Khabra — to the Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC).

About UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)

- It is an international network of cities committed to promoting lifelong learning as a driver of sustainable development.
- Launched by **UNESCO's Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)**.
- It includes 425 cities from 91 countries.
- **Core Features of a Learning City:**
 - Ensures inclusive learning in schools and vocational systems.
 - Provides lifelong learning opportunities for all citizens.
 - Promotes digital literacy and skill development.
 - Encourages community learning centres, libraries, and open learning spaces.
 - Supports green learning, health education, and cultural learning.
 - Uses data to strengthen local education policies.
- **India has three GNLC cities:** Warangal (Telangana), Thrissur (Kerala), Nilambur (Kerala)

Source: [TOI](#)

Places in News

Czech Republic



News? PM Modi congratulated Excellency Andrej Babiš on appointment as Prime Minister of Czech Republic.

About Czech Republic

- **Capital:** Prague
- **Location:** Central Europe; landlocked.
- **Borders:** Germany (W), Poland (N), Slovakia (E), Austria (S).
- **Geography:**
 - Historically composed of **Bohemia, Moravia, and part of Silesia.**
 - **Terrain:** Mostly **hills and plateaus**, surrounded by mountain ranges such as the Sudetes and Carpathians.
 - **Major river:** **Vltava** (flows through Prague).
 - **Climate:** Temperate continental.
- **Membership:**
 - **EU:** since 2004
 - **NATO:** since 1999

Source: [PIB](#)



PRELIMS QUESTIONS

Q. Consider the following countries: (2023)

1. Bulgaria
2. Hungary
3. Latvia
4. Czech Republic
5. Lithuania
6. Romania

How many of the above-mentioned countries share a land border with Ukraine?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) Only five

Answer: A