

➤ SC held that **Gujarat is not appropriate government to decide on remission petition** as the trial was conducted in Maharashtra. Thus, **remission orders** were held to be **invalid**.

➤ Remission refers to **reduction in period of sentence** that has been imposed on a person, **without affecting the nature of sentence**.

State may release convicts early under its remission policy.

➤ **Constitutional provisions related to Remission**

Article 72 empowers President of India to grant pardons, suspend, remit, reprieves, respites or commute the sentence of a person convicted of any offense where sentence is

- ◆ by a court Martial;
- ◆ for an offence against any law relating to a matter to which executive power of Union extends;
- ◆ a sentence of death.

Under **Article 161**, Governor's power is similar to that of President, but limited to a matter to which executive power of state extends.

➤ **Legal basis of Remission**

Section 432 of **Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) 1973** grants government power to suspend or remit sentences. Section 433A mandates **remission only after 14 years of imprisonment**.

➤ Green Hydrogen is defined as **hydrogen produced using renewable energy** including **production through electrolysis or conversion of biomasses**.

Currently, India produces **6.5 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of hydrogen**, predominantly for use in **crude-oil refineries and fertilizer production**.

➤ **Need for adoption of Green Hydrogen**

Decarbonize sectors like transportation, shipping, and steel, etc. and achieve net zero emission by 2070. Achieve **high energy demand**, which is estimated to **grow 35% by 2030**.

➤ **Concerns with Green Hydrogen**

High production costs of green hydrogen amount to roughly **\$4-5 per kilogramme (kg)**. **Renewable energy** is not available **round-the-clock** and **non- economical battery storage**.

Trade barriers with renewable resource-deficient countries like Europe, Korea and Japan which are anticipated to emerge as crucial markets for green hydrogen.

➤ **Key goals to accelerate Green Hydrogen Ecosystem in India On supply side,**

- ◆ **Reduce cost** of producing green hydrogen to **less than \$2/kg**.
- ◆ **Eliminate costs related to green hydrogen conversion, storage and transportation**.

⊕ **On demand side,**

- ◆ **Capitalize on India's export potential** for green hydrogen derivatives by developing conversion and storage facilities at ports.
- ◆ **Introduce penalties** on use of **carbon intensive alternatives** like natural gas.

Supreme Court verdict on Remission

Laxman Naskar versus Union of India (2000): SC laid down **five grounds** on which remission is to be considered.

- offence affects society at large; probability of crime being repeated;
- potential of convict to commit crimes in future; if any purpose is being served by keeping convict in prison; and
- socio-economic condition of convict's family.

State of Haryana vs. Rajkumar (2021): Court held that **Section 433-A of CrPC cannot and does not in any way affect the constitutional power conferred on President/Governor under Articles 72/161 of Constitution**.

National Green Hydrogen Mission

It aims to **make India a Global Hub** for producing, utilizing, and exporting Green Hydrogen.

2 sub-missions include: **Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT)**.
Strategic Hydrogen Innovation Partnership (SHIP).

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) completes 5 year

► **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** launched NCAP in 2019 in the backdrop of the rising air pollution in the country.

► About NCAP:

- ⊕ **About:** Aims to improve air quality in 131 cities (non-attainment cities (NAC) and Million Plus Cities) in 24 States by engaging all stakeholders.
 - ◆ The cities which are exceeding the **National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)** for 5 consecutive years are identified as NAC by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- ⊕ **Target:** To achieve reductions up to **40%** of Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5) concentrations by **2025-26**, base year 2017.
- Implementation:** CPCB at the national level.

- ⊕ ◆ Under it, **City Action Plan's (CAPs)** are implemented by state government and its agencies at state and city level (Municipal bodies).

PRANA (Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in NAC) has been also launched monitor the implementation of NCAP.

► ⊕ **NCAP's progress** in last 5 years reveals a mixed scenario.

As per studies, PM2.5 in 27 cities recorded improvements out of 49 cities. Similarly, for PM10, 24 cities saw an improvement out of 46.

⊕

In terms of cities, Varanasi achieved a significant reduction in PM2.5 and PM10 levels, along with Agra and Jodhpur.

Other Initiatives for Reducing Air Pollution:

- **National Ambient Air Quality Programme (NAMP)**
- **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)**
- Switch to **Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI)** Emission Standards
- **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) Electric Vehicles (FAME) Scheme**

► **Map will help government and agencies such as National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in managing landslides.**

It has divided country into **five classes (refer to map)** on the basis of **vulnerability**.

Map revealed previously unknown places with high risk, such as some areas of the Eastern Ghats, north of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

► About Landslide

- ⊕ It occurs when large masses of soil, rocks, or debris move down a slope.

It affects at least **15 % of the land area** of country. Major prone areas are Himalaya and Western Ghats.

► Types of landslides:

- ⊕ **Falls:** Due to the abrupt movements of masses
- ⊕ **Topples:** Forward rotation and movement of a mass of rock.
- Slides:** Rocks, debris, or soil slide through along slope
- ⊕ **Lateral spreads:** Mode of movement is lateral extension due to tensile fractures.
- ⊕ **Flows:** Categorized into different types such as earth flows, etc.

► Causes of Landslides:

Natural: Seismic activity, cloudburst, etc.

- ⊕ **Anthropogenic:** Deforestation, etc.

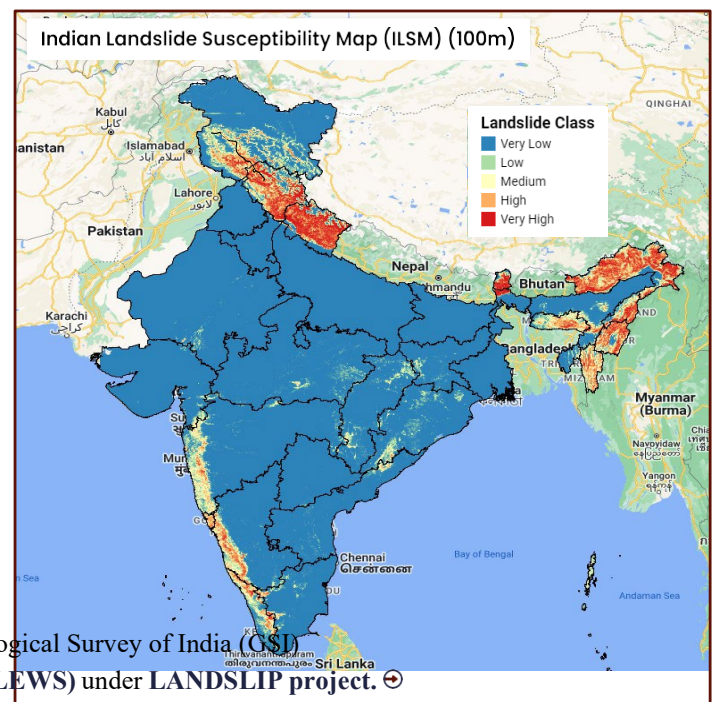
- ◆ Due to **climate change** its frequency has increased.

► Initiatives Taken:

- ⊕ **National Landslide Risk Management Strategy, 2019**
- ⊕ **National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping Programme** by Geological Survey of India (GSI)
 - ◆ Also, developed Prototype **Landslide Early Warning System (LEWS)** under **LANDSLIP** project. ⊕

Landslide Atlas (ISRO)

- ⊕ **NDMA guidelines:** Provide for hazard mapping and risk assessment etc.



Swachh Survekshan (SS) awards 2023 conferred

- ▶ **Indore and Surat** have jointly won the **Cleanest cities Award**.
- ▶ **Winners in other categories include:**
 - ⊕ For urban centres with **less than 1 lakh population:** Saswad in **Maharashtra**
 - ⊕ **Best Performing State:** Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh
 - ⊕ **Best Safaimitra Surakshit Sheher:** Chandigarh
 - ⊕ **Cleanest Ganga Towns:** Varanasi and Prayagraj (UP)
- ▶ The winners are selected according to the SS 2023, conducted by the **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** under the **Swachh Bharat Urban Mission 2.0**, since 2016.
 - ⊕ It is the world's largest **urban sanitation and cleanliness** survey.
- ▶ **About SS 2023:**
 - Theme: Waste to Wealth**
 - ⊕ Ranking of Wards within the cities is also being promoted.
 - Additional weightage is has been given to **indicators** such as source segregation of waste, enhancement of waste processing capacity of cities etc.
 - ⊕ **New indicators** such as phased reduction of plastic, plastic waste processing have been introduced.
- ▶ **About SBM 2.0:**
 - Launched in 2021 to make all cities **garbage-free cities (GFCs)** by 2026.
 - It is a **centrally sponsored scheme**.
 - ⊕ Covers all **statutory towns**.
 - ⊕ **Other Initiatives: Special Swacchta Campaign 3.0** for reducing pendency in Government; **swachhata Pakhwada** by various ministries, etc.

UAE-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) Council (UICC) launched

- ▶ UICC was launched at India-United Arab Emirates (UAE) Business Summit.
- ▶ UICC will encourage close partnerships and tangible **cooperation across all levels** of UAE and Indian business communities.
 - UICC emphasises on **start-ups, women entrepreneurs, Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs), and services sectors**.
- ▶ **India- UAE CEPA came into force in 2022.** It is the first full free trade Agreement to be signed by India with any country in past decade.
 - It covers **Trade in Goods and services, Rules of Origin, customs cooperation, Dispute Settlement etc.**
 - ⊕ **Bilateral trade has increased** by approximately **15%** since CEPA came into force.
- ▶ **Significance of CEPA**
 - ▶ **Enhanced access for cross-border trade in services**, and provide thrust to pharmaceutical sector.
 - ⊕ **Raise bilateral merchandise trade to \$100 billion in five years** from about \$43 billion in FY21.
 - ⊕ **Special safeguard measures provide protection** against imports surge from UAE due to tariff concessions.
 - ⊕ **UAE can act as gateway to West Asian countries and Africa** for Indian exporters.

India- UAE Relations

UAE is India's **third largest trading partner** (2022-23) after China and US and second-largest **export destination**.

- ▶ **Both countries have maritime cooperation to maintain peace and security** in the region through regular military exercises like **Desert Eagle**.

Global Risk Report 2024

Report is based on **Global Risks Perception Survey** and annually released by **World Economic Forum**.

- ▶ **Key findings**
 - ⊕ **India's top five risks:** Misinformation and Disinformation (MI); Infectious diseases; Illicit economic activity; Inequality (wealth and income); and Labour shortage.
 - ⊕ **Global short-term risks:** MI; Extreme Weather Events (EWS); Societal polarization; Cyber insecurity; etc.
 - ⊕ **Global long-term risks:** EWS; Critical change to Earth systems; Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse etc.

Interim bail

Supreme Court has recently extended the **interim bail** of an ex-Minister.

- ▶ **Interim bail** is granted for a short time before the hearing for the grant of regular bail or anticipatory bail.
- ▶ **Other kinds of Bails in India:**
 - ⊕ **Regular Bail:** Granted to a person who has been arrested or is in police custody.
 - ⊕ **Anticipatory bail:** It can be filed by those who fear arrest for a non-bailable offense.
- ▶ Provisions related with bail are covered in **Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC)**, which has been replaced by **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)**.



MILAN 24 Exercise

- It is a **biennial multi-national naval exercise**.
- It was first conceived by **Indian Navy in 1995 at Andaman and Nicobar Command** with participation of **four countries** (Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand).



Coal Controller Organisation (CCO)

- Ministry of Finance** has approved restructuring of CCO.
- CCO is a **subordinate Office of Ministry of Coal** having its offices at **Kolkata, Delhi**.
- CCO **collects and maintains coal production data** of all private and public sector coal mines in country on monthly basis.
- Functions of CCO**
 - Carrying out **Annual Coal & Lignite survey and publishing of Provisional Coal Statistics and Coal Directory** of India.
 - Monitors progress of **development of Captive Coal/Lignite blocks** and its associated end use projects.
 - Hears any **objection to Government's notification** relating to **acquisition of coal-bearing areas**.
 - Assessment and collection of excise duty** levied on all raw coal raised and dispatched.



International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- South Africa accused Israel of subjecting genocidal acts against Palestinians at ICJ.

About ICJ

- It is a principal **judicial organ** of the United Nations (UN) established in 1945.
 - It is the **only principal organs of the UN** which is not located in New York.
- Role:** To **settle legal disputes** as per **International law** and to provide **advisory opinions**.
 - Judgment is **binding** on the parties to a case and without appeal (subject to interpretation or revision).
- Composition:** **15 judges**, who are elected for **nine years** by the UNs General Assembly and the Security Council.
- H.Q:** The Hague (Netherlands)



Henley Passport Index 2024 (HPI)

- HPI was released by **Henley & Partners**, a global leader in residence and citizenship planning.
- HPI ranks different passports according to **number of destinations their holders can visit without a prior visa**.
 - It covers **227 destinations and 199 passports**.
 - Rankings are based on data provided by **International Air Transport Association**.
- Key findings**
 - India stands at **80th rank in list of most powerful passports**. Its passport has visa-free access to 62 nations.
 - France, Germany, Italy and Spain, Japan and Singapore** are sharing number one spot.



Momentum investing

- Many academic studies have shown that momentum investing can generate high returns.

About Momentum Investing

- It refers to a style of investing wherein investors **purchase assets** such as stocks or bonds that are consistently **rising in price**, while **selling assets whose prices are falling**.
 - Momentum investor** hope that the upward price momentum of these assets would continue, thus allowing them to sell these assets at higher prices in the future to make profits.
 - The **buy high, sell higher** philosophy of momentum investing is in stark contrast to the traditional approach of **buy low, sell high**.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)



Centre has set an indicative target of 1% for blending SAF with conventional jet fuel for all international flights by 2027.

About SAF:

- SAF is a **liquid fuel** currently used in commercial aviation which reduces CO2 emissions by up to 80%.
- It can be **produced** from a number of sources (feedstock) including waste oil and fats, green and municipal waste and non-food crops.
- As per **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**, SAF could contribute around 65% of the reduction in emissions needed by aviation to reach net-zero in 2050.

Personality in News

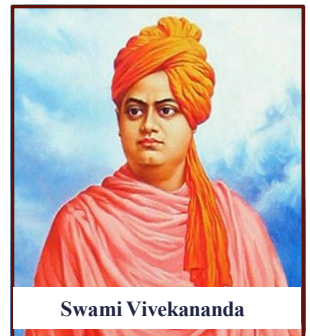


Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902)

- National Youth Day (12th January)** has been celebrated on the **birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda**.
- He was a philosopher and social reformer. His childhood name was **Narendra Nath Datta**.

Contribution:

- He popularised the **Vedanta**, the ancient system of **religious philosophy**.
- Established **Ramakrishna Mission** in 1887, named after his **Guru Swami Ramakrishna Paramhansa**.
- Also, set up **Belur Math (aka Ramakrishna Math)**.
- Gave speech at the **World Religion Conference** in Chicago (US) in 1893.
- Literary work:** Raja Yoga, Karma Yoga etc.
- Values:** Compassion, unselfishness etc.



Swami Vivekananda