

Regent Education & Research Foundation

GENERAL STUDIES - I	2
Social Issues	2
Bihar's 65% Quota	2
GENERAL STUDIES - II	3
Governance	3
Public Examinations (Prevention Of Unfair Means) Act 2024	3
Integrity of competitive examinations	5
India's Failing Exam Systems	8
Tamil Nadu Hooch Tragedy	10
International Relations	13
Great power rivalry across Eurasia	13
GENERAL STUDIES - III	14
Environment	14
Rooftop Solar Energy	14
Balancing Ecology and Security in A&N Islands	16
Security	19
Internal security plan for next five years	19

GENERAL STUDIES - I

Social Issues

Bihar's 65% Quota

The Indian Constitution embodies the principle of social justice, allowing the state to implement special provisions for the underprivileged.

Despite the political motives often driving the expansion of reservation policies, **the judiciary has frequently intervened, emphasising the need for merit and efficiency in administration.**

Therefore, **considering the recent Patna High Court order on 65% reservation, it is important to explore the complexities of India's reservation policies,** judicial responses, and the underlying tensions between constitutional mandates and socio-political realities.

Indian Judiciary's Response to Reservation Policies -

- The Strict Scrutiny Doctrine —
 - The **strict scrutiny doctrine** employed by the Indian judiciary mandates that **any policy affecting fundamental rights must be narrowly tailored** to achieve a compelling governmental interest.
 - **In the context of reservation policies, this doctrine has been used to assess whether the reservations are justified,** necessary, and whether they disproportionately affect other groups.
 - This **rigorous standard has led to the invalidation of several attempts by state governments** to extend reservations to various communities.
- The 50 Percent Cap on Reservations —
 - The **judiciary's steadfast adherence to the 50 percent ceiling** for reservations is another **critical aspect of its response.**
 - This **cap was first articulated in the M R Balaji case of 1962,** where the Supreme Court deemed that **reservations exceeding 50 percent would violate the right to equality.**
 - This **principle has been reaffirmed in numerous cases,** such as **Devadasan (1964), N M Thomas (1976), and Indra Sawhney (1992).**
 - The **judiciary has maintained that while exceptions might be made** for remote or underdeveloped areas, **the 50 percent limit is generally sacrosanct.**
- Recent Verdict of Patna High Court on 65% Reservation in Bihar —
 - It **struck down the 65 percent reservation** in Bihar based on the 2023 Caste Survey.
 - The **court held that the Nitish Kumar government's rationale**—that the Backward Classes constitute a major part of the state's population and are underrepresented in unreserved categories—**was insufficient.**
 - The **judgment reiterated that the term proportionate representation is alien to Articles 15 and 16,** which emphasise "inadequacy of representation" rather than strict proportionality.
- Exceptions and Nuances —
 - Despite the rigid application of the 50 percent rule, **the Supreme Court has recognised the need for flexibility in certain contexts.**
 - In **Indra Sawhney, the court acknowledged that this limit need not be religiously adhered to** in regions that are far-flung or outside the national mainstream.
 - However, **the Patna High Court did not extend this leniency to Bihar,** despite its significant socio-economic challenges.
 - The **court's decision underscores the need for governments to present compelling evidence and context-specific arguments** to justify deviations from established limits.

The Reservation Debates -

- Proportionate vs. Adequate Representation —

- The judiciary's emphasis on adequacy of representation over proportionate representation is rooted in the landmark Indra Sawhney case of 1992.
- The Supreme Court in this case opined that adequate representation cannot be read as proportionate representation, suggesting that reservations should aim to correct significant underrepresentation rather than mirror the exact demographic composition of backward classes.
- This interpretation has guided subsequent judgments, including the Patna High Court's ruling on Bihar's reservation policy.
- The Efficiency and Merit Argument —
 - Another significant judicial concern is the potential impact of reservations on administrative efficiency and merit.
 - Courts have often cited the need to balance affirmative action with the maintenance of standards in public administration.
 - The Patna High Court, for instance, noted that merit should not be completely sacrificed.
 - This view reflects a broader judicial apprehension that excessive reservations might undermine the quality of governance.
 - However, critics argue that this perspective is based on unproven assumptions and fails to recognise the broader social benefits of inclusive policies.

Judicial Flexibility and recent trends on Reservation Policies -

- Recent judgments, such as the SC's decision in the EWS case (2023) and Justice D Y Chandrachud's observations in B K Pavitra II (2019), indicate a gradual shift towards a more nuanced understanding of merit and efficiency.
- Justice Chandrachud's call for redefining merit in terms of social good highlights the judiciary's evolving approach.
- Its emphases inclusivity and social equity over rigid adherence to traditional notions of merit.

Conclusion -

- The Indian judiciary's response to reservation policies illustrates the ongoing struggle to balance constitutional principles with the practicalities of achieving social justice.
- While the strict scrutiny doctrine and the 50 percent cap have shaped judicial intervention, recent trends suggest a growing recognition of the need for more flexible and context-sensitive approaches.
- As India continues to grapple with deep-seated social inequalities, the judiciary's role in shaping and refining reservation policies remains crucial.

Source - [The Indian Express](#)

QUESTION - Considering the recent Patna High Court order on 65% reservation, critically analyse the complexities of India's reservation policies, judicial responses, and the underlying tensions between constitutional mandates and socio-political realities.

GENERAL STUDIES - II

Governance

Public Examinations (Prevention Of Unfair Means) Act 2024

With the recent controversies surrounding the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) UG-2024 and the cancellation of the University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET), public examinations have come under increased scrutiny.

Details -

- UGC-NET 2024 was cancelled on June 19 after the Union Home Ministry found that the integrity of the examination may have been compromised. UGC-NET is the qualifying exam for admission to PhD programs, and to apply for an entry-level teaching position at an Indian university.
- This was the first time a centrally-conducted public examination has been scrapped after Parliament passed Public Examinations (Prevention Of Unfair Means) Act in February 2024.

Public Examinations (Prevention Of Unfair Means) Act 2024 -**• About —**

- This act was passed by the Indian Parliament in February 2024. It aims to prevent unfair means in order to bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility to the public examinations system.

• Wide scope of application —

- The Act is the first Central Government legislation addressing unfair practices in public examinations.
- It has a broad scope, allowing for the inclusion of other agencies through government notifications.

• Considerate of candidates' welfare —

- Bona fide candidates of the public examinations are kept outside the purview of the Act.
- Even the defaulting candidates will not be punished within the Act however, appropriate action will rather be taken by the concerned public examination authority.

• Unfair means in an examination has been defined —

- Section 3 of the Act lists at least 15 actions that amount to using unfair means in public examinations for monetary or wrongful gain.
- These include —
 - Leakage of question papers or answer keys and colluding in such leaks.
 - Unauthorized access to question papers or Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) response sheets.
 - Tampering with answer sheets, including OMR sheets.
 - Unauthorized persons providing solutions during exams.
 - Assisting candidates indirectly or directly.
 - Tampering with documents used for shortlisting or ranking candidates.
 - Tampering with computer systems or networks.
 - Creating fake websites.
 - Conducting fake exams and issuing fake admit cards or offer letters for cheating or monetary gain.

• Inclusive and comprehensive —

- The Act comprises 19 sections across six chapters, addressing all aspects of preventing unfair means in public examinations.
- It includes comprehensive definitions covering various unfair practices such as question paper leaks, assistance to candidates, security violations, and tampering with computer systems.
- It also addresses details like manipulation in seating arrangements.

• Punishments —

- Section 9 of the Act states that all offences shall be cognizable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable.
 - This means that an arrest can be made without a warrant and bail will not be a matter of right; rather, a magistrate will determine whether the accused is fit to be released on bail.

• Public examination defined —

- Section 2(k) defines a public examination as any examination conducted by a public examination authority listed in the Act's Schedule or any other authority designated by the Central Government through notification.
- The central government can add new authorities in the schedule through a notification as and when required.

• Power to Refer Investigation to a Central Agency —

- The Act empowers the Central Government to refer any case under the Act to a Central Investigating Agency whenever necessary in order to ensure expeditious and cautious disposal of matters concerned.

- **Designation of a Public Servant —**
 - The Act designates the officials of public examination authority as public servants, thereby ensuring accountability and transparency in the process.
 - As a result, appropriate administrative action can be taken against the defaulting public servants, following the service rules and procedures of the authority.
- **Status of organised crime —**
 - Section 11 of the Act addresses organised crimes, imposing punishments ranging from 5 to 10 years and fines up to 1 crore rupees.

Criticism and way forward -

- **Fate of public examinations cancelled due to unfair means —**
 - The Act does not specify a time frame for rescheduling exams canceled due to unfair means.
 - Given the high stakes for numerous candidates, timely rescheduling is crucial.
 - It is recommended that canceled exams be re-conducted within six months to preserve candidates' merit and preparation, ensuring fair opportunities for all.
- **Invigilators and Officials are unaware of examination procedures —**
 - Invigilators and administrative officers often lack proper training, leading to inefficiencies and opportunities for unfair practices.
 - To prevent this, eligibility criteria for invigilators should be established. Intensive training programs and workshops should be conducted to equip invigilators with necessary skills.
- **Investigation referred to a DSP level officer —**
 - The Act designates officers of at least Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) or Assistant Commissioner of Police rank to investigate unfair means in public examinations.
 - However, given the significant impact on candidates, a specialised investigation and regulation authority should be established for systematic investigation of these offences.
- **Underutilisation of Modern Technology and AI —**
 - Authorities have yet to effectively use technology to counteract offenders who are increasingly using it for their schemes.
 - Electronic methods can streamline the question paper-setting process, reduce time, and allow for digital verification of question sets.
 - Centralised question banks can make managing and updating questions more efficient.
 - Electronic printing and distribution of exam papers can also minimise the risk of paper leaks.
 - Integrating technology like Artificial Intelligence (AI) can enhance the evaluation stage by catching discrepancies overlooked by humans.

Source - [The Hindu](#)

QUESTION - Discuss the implications of the recent controversies surrounding public examinations such as NEET UG-2024 and UGC-NET 2024 on the credibility of the examination system in India. Critically analyse the provisions of the Public Examinations (Prevention Of Unfair Means) Act 2024 in addressing these challenges. Suggest additional measures that can be taken to enhance transparency and fairness in public examinations.

Integrity of competitive examinations

While the recent allegations of corruption in the NEET exam have drawn significant attention, if look carefully, the issue is much larger issue.

The integrity of NEET and other competitive exams for higher education and prestigious jobs is undeniably crucial.

However, as public discourse becomes entangled in investigations, petitions, individual culpability, and political rhetoric, we lose sight of the most pressing issue: an overwhelming number of students competing for a disproportionately small number of seats.

A Broader Analysis of the Real Scam Behind Competitive Exams -

- Systemic Inadequacy Post-Independence —

- **Seventy-five years after gaining independence**, India has made significant strides in many areas, **yet it remains critically deficient in providing sufficient opportunities** for its growing youth population.
- **Despite rapid economic growth**, the systems in place have not evolved to meet the growing aspirations of millions of young Indians.
- **This is starkly evident in the education sector**, where competitive exams such as NEET reveal a gross imbalance between demand and supply.
- **With 24 lakh students competing for just 1 lakh seats**, the majority are left **disheartened** and frustrated.
- **This scenario underscores the broader issue of systemic inadequacy**, where the infrastructure and resources available are woefully insufficient to cater to the needs of the population.
- Misplaced Emphasis on Merit —
 - The **inadequate supply of opportunities** is often masked by a **misleading emphasis on merit**.
 - **This concept**, as it is currently employed, **serves to obscure the systemic failures** by suggesting that those who do not succeed simply lack the necessary merit.
 - In reality, **the competition is so intense and the resources so limited** that even highly capable individuals are squeezed out.
 - **This misplaced emphasis shifts the blame onto the youth**, rather than addressing the underlying issue of insufficient opportunities.
 - **By framing the problem in terms of individual merit**, society conveniently **sidesteps the need to expand and improve** the infrastructure that supports education and employment.
- Exploitation of Aspirations: The Narrow Definition of Success —
 - Instead of addressing these systemic inadequacies, **society has often resorted to exploiting the high aspirations of the youth**.
 - By idolising the success stories of a few individuals, **society creates an illusion that such success is universally attainable**, despite the systemic barriers.
 - **This narrative not only misleads the youth but also places undue pressure** on them to conform to a narrow definition of success.
 - The **glorification of wealth and power as the ultimate goals further compounds the problem**, as it limits the scope of success to a few elite individuals who have managed to navigate the system effectively.

Impact of Inadequate Opportunities and the Consequence of Ignoring Systematic Reforms -

- The Broader Impact Across Sectors —
 - The **problem of inadequate opportunities extends beyond medical education** and it is the same across various sectors, from higher education to employment in both public and private domains.
 - In every field, **there is a significant mismatch between the number of aspirants and the available opportunities**.
 - This not only limits the potential of the youth but also stifles the country's overall progress.
 - **In the employment sector**, for instance, **many graduates find themselves underemployed or in jobs that do not match their qualifications**, leading to widespread frustration and disillusionment.
- Impact on National Development —
 - The **inadequate availability of opportunities has profound implications** for the economic and democratic engagement of the youth.
 - Economically, **the lack of adequate educational and job opportunities prevents young people from contributing fully to the economy**, thereby wasting a valuable demographic dividend.
 - **This scenario is particularly troubling for a country like India**, which has a significant youth population.
 - The **inability to harness the potential** of this demographic group **not only hinders individual progress but also impedes national development**.
- Economic Disengagement and Discontent —
 - The economic disengagement of the youth leads to a host of social and economic issues.

- When young people cannot find suitable opportunities, their potential remains untapped, leading to increased dependency ratios and a potential rise in socio-economic problems.
- This **disengagement breeds a deep sense of injustice and hopelessness among the youth**, who feel their hard work and aspirations are futile in a system that does not accommodate their ambitions.
- **The competitive nature of exams like NEET, coupled with the limited seats, exacerbates this feeling of futility**, and can have severe psychological impacts, including anxiety, depression, and even suicidal tendencies.
- The Consequences of Ignoring Systemic Reforms —
 - Ignoring the need for systemic reform **has far-reaching consequences**.
 - It perpetuates a cycle of inequality and disenfranchisement, where the majority of the youth are left behind.
 - **This situation is unsustainable in the long run**, as it can lead to increased social unrest and instability.
 - When the aspirations of the youth are systematically thwarted, **it creates fertile ground for dissent and discontent**, which can manifest in various forms, from protests to increased crime rates.

Way forward -

- Political and Institutional Reforms —
 - **Responsible political leaders must transcend partisan divides to acknowledge the scale of the problem** and work collaboratively to devise long-term solutions.
 - This **requires a commitment to prioritising the expansion of educational and employment opportunities** as a national agenda.
 - **Policymakers must design and implement policies that are inclusive**, sustainable, and aimed at levelling the playing field.
- Investment in Education —
 - There is an **urgent need for a massive infusion of public funds to expand and improve the educational infrastructure**.
 - This **includes building new schools, colleges, and universities**, especially in underserved and rural areas, to ensure that quality education is accessible to all.
 - Also, **investing in teacher training programs and recruiting qualified educators is crucial**.
 - **Enhancing the quality of education starts with well-trained teachers who can inspire and guide students effectively**.
 - Moreover, **the curriculum should be regularly updated** to reflect current industry demands and global trends.
 - It **should also emphasise critical thinking, creativity, and practical skills**, moving away from rote learning.
- Societal Attitudes and Redefining Success —
 - **Addressing societal attitudes and redefining the concept of success are crucial components of a comprehensive solution**.
 - The **current narrow definition of success, focused on wealth and power, needs to be broadened to include diverse achievements and contributions**.
 - **Encouraging a culture that values all professions and contributions**, not just those associated with high income or prestige, **can help reduce the pressure on the youth to pursue a limited set of career paths**.
 - **And celebrating and recognising achievements in various fields, including arts, sports, social work, and entrepreneurship, can provide role models for the youth and highlight the multiple pathways to success**.

Conclusion -

- **The need for comprehensive solutions to address the inadequacy of opportunities for India's youth cannot be overstated.**

- **By investing in education, creating job opportunities, redefining societal values, and demonstrating strong leadership, India can transform its demographic potential into a powerhouse of inclusive growth and development.**
- **Only through such decisive and sustained efforts can the aspirations of India's youth be validated, paving the way for a brighter and more equitable future.**

Source - [The Indian Express](#)

QUESTION - Recent allegations of corruption in exams like NEET highlight systemic issues beyond individual culpability. Critically examine the broader implications of inadequate educational and job opportunities on India's socio-economic development and national integration. Suggest comprehensive policy measures to address these inadequacies.

India's Failing Exam Systems

The NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) controversy represents a culmination of systemic failures and poor policy implementation over the years.

This scandal, marked by recurrent paper leaks, incorrect results leading to tragic aspirant suicides, and inexplicable awarding of grace marks, has eroded public trust in the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Therefore, it is imperative to examine the roots and ramifications of these issues, offering a nuanced understanding and proposing potential reforms.

Incidents of Recent Paper Leaks and their Impact -

- **Recent controversies surrounding NEET have highlighted significant flaws** in its administration.
- **Leaks of examination papers** and the release of incorrect results have not only led to a loss of trust but have also been **linked to tragic aspirant suicides**.
- In the latest instance, **an unprecedented 67 students achieved perfect scores**, raising suspicions of systemic manipulation.
- **Additionally, over 1,560 students received grace marks** without transparent justification, further eroding confidence in the National Testing Agency (NTA).
- **The government's cancellation of the National Eligibility Test (NET) due to similar issues compounds doubts** about the integrity of these examinations.

Origin of NEET Policy, its Objectives and Implementation Challenges -

- Standardising Educational Competence —
 - **One of the primary motivations for instituting NEET was the need to standardise the educational competence** of students entering medical colleges.
 - **Before NEET, there was a noticeable disparity in the foundational knowledge of basic sciences** such as Chemistry, Physics, and Biology among students from different educational backgrounds.
 - This **disparity often led to significant variations in the quality of medical graduates, as students from some regions or institutions possessed insufficient understanding** of these crucial subjects.
 - **By implementing NEET, the Ministry of Health aimed to ensure that all medical aspirants, regardless of their educational background, met a minimum standard of competence** in the basic sciences.
- Reducing the Number of Entrance Examinations —
 - **Before NEET, India's medical aspirants faced several entrance examinations and there were approximately 46 different entrance exams** conducted by various medical colleges and institutions, each with its own syllabus, format, and evaluation criteria.
 - This **multiplicity of exams created significant stress and confusion for students**, who had to prepare for and appear in multiple tests within a short period.
 - **The policy aimed to consolidate these numerous exams into a single, standardised test** —NEET.

- This move was expected to simplify the admission process, reduce the financial and logistical burden on students, and ensure a more straightforward and equitable selection process.
- By having one common entrance examination, the government hoped to streamline the process, making it more efficient and less cumbersome for all stakeholders involved.
- Eliminating Capitation Fees —
 - Another critical issue NEET sought to address was the rampant practice of capitation fees in private medical colleges.
 - Capitation fees are essentially donations or bribes paid by students to secure admission, often bypassing merit-based selection criteria.
 - This practice not only compromised the quality of medical education but also made it inaccessible to deserving students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
 - By basing admissions solely on NEET scores, the policy aimed to curtail the discretion of private medical colleges in selecting students.
 - This merit-based approach was intended to ensure that only the most qualified candidates gained admission, irrespective of their financial background.
 - The elimination of capitation fees was seen as a step towards fostering transparency and fairness in the admission process, thereby enhancing the credibility of medical education in India.
- Challenges in Implementation —
 - While the objectives of NEET were clear and well-intentioned, the implementation of the policy encountered several challenges.
 - In 2013, the Supreme Court suspended the scheme following petitions from private colleges that argued NEET's centralised process infringed on their autonomy.
 - However, a five-judge bench restored NEET in 2016, reaffirming the need for a unified examination system.
 - One of the persistent issues was the lack of a uniform standard for school education across India.
 - Central government schools followed the CBSE syllabus, which was generally more rigorous than the syllabi of state boards and the International Baccalaureate (IB) programs in private schools.
 - This disparity led to accusations of bias, as NEET's standards were perceived to favour students from CBSE backgrounds.

The Opposition of NEET: The Case of Tamil Nadu -

- Tamil Nadu has consistently opposed NEET, advocating for its state policy of linking medical college admissions to high school performance.
- The state's Expert Committee, led by Justice A.K. Rajan, revealed that rural students and those from Tamil medium schools were disproportionately disadvantaged by NEET.
- Between 2017 and 2021, admissions of Tamil medium students plummeted from 15% to as low as 1.6%, and rural student admissions dropped from 62% to 50%.
- This decline has significant implications for Tamil Nadu's public health system, which relies on rural students to work in primary health centres.

Necessary Key Reforms to Address the Crisis of NEET -

- Extending the MBBS Degree —
 - One potential reform is to extend the duration of the MBBS degree to six years, incorporating a pre-medical year.
 - This additional year would be dedicated to bringing students up to a standardised level in critical subjects such as Zoology, Chemistry, and Physics.
 - This approach has historical precedence; during the 1960s and 1970s, medical education in India included a preparatory year to ensure all students possessed the necessary foundational knowledge.
- Decentralising Examinations —
 - Another critical reform is to decentralise the examination process, allowing states and universities to conduct their own entrance exams.

- The **centralisation of NEET** has led to **significant disparities and dissatisfaction**, particularly among students from non-CBSE backgrounds.
- State and university-level exams can be tailored to the specific educational standards and curricula of their regions, making them more relevant and fairer for local students.
- **Universities and states can adopt more flexible and innovative examination formats** that better assess students' knowledge and skills.
- Constituting Regional Boards —
 - An **intermediate solution could involve the creation of regional examination boards that standardise exams** within specific geographic areas.
 - These **boards could operate under the guidance of a central body** but retain the flexibility to adapt to local educational standards.
 - **Regional boards can strike a balance between national standardisation and local relevance**, ensuring exams are fair and comprehensive.
- Improving School Education —
 - A **long-term solution to the issues plaguing NEET involves fundamentally improving the quality of school education** across India.
 - This requires comprehensive reforms in governance, curriculum, and infrastructure.
 - Shifting from rote learning to inquiry-based and critical thinking-oriented education.
 - **Curricula should be regularly updated to include the latest scientific and educational advancements.**

Conclusion -

- The **current NEET crisis is representative of a broader systemic failure** in ensuring high-quality school education in India.
- **The long-term solution lies in improving the school system, decentralising examinations, and establishing robust oversight mechanisms.**
- **Only through such comprehensive efforts can confidence and credibility be restored** in the examination system, ensuring fairness and integrity for all students.

Source - [The Hindu](#)

QUESTION - Examine the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) in the context of medical education in India. Discuss the challenges faced in its implementation and propose a roadmap for necessary reforms.

Tamil Nadu Hooch Tragedy

India faces recurring tragedies, from road accidents to monsoon flooding, often attributed to an incompetent state unable to enforce laws.

Among these tragedies, the recurrent calamities due to the consumption of illicit alcohol stand out, highlighting both legal and moral failures.

The recent Kallakurichi hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu, resulting in nearly 60 deaths, underscores the severe consequences of these failures.

Historical Context of Alcohol Consumption in India -

- Ancient and Medieval Periods —
 - References to alcohol, particularly a fermented drink called soma, appear in the Vedic texts and soma was considered a divine drink and was consumed during religious rituals and ceremonies.
 - The Rigveda, one of the oldest Indian scriptures, speaks of soma with reverence, indicating its importance in the social and religious life of that era.
 - During the Mughal period, despite the Quranic prohibition of alcohol, drinking was not uncommon.
 - The Mughal emperors and their courts indulged in wine and other alcoholic beverages, imported from Persia and Central Asia, as well as locally produced drinks.
 - This period saw a flourishing of a sophisticated drinking culture, with alcohol integrated into the fabric of elite social life.

- Colonial Period —
 - The **British colonial authorities sought to regulate and control the production and consumption of alcohol**, introducing new forms of liquor and establishing a taxation regime.
 - **Indigenous alcoholic beverages**, which were integral to community celebrations and cultural practices, **were stigmatised and restricted**.
 - The **colonial narrative framed these traditional practices as primitive**, promoting instead the consumption of gin and whiskey, distilled in industrial quantities and heavily taxed.
 - **This period also saw the birth of the term "Indian-made foreign liquor" (IMFL)**, which became a symbol of colonial influence.
 - **IMFL represented a blend of Western and Indian drinking cultures**, embodying the tensions between colonial control and indigenous practices.
 - The **British promoted these beverages among the Indian elite, creating a class of brown sahibs** who adopted Western lifestyles and drinking habits.
- Independence and Prohibition Movements —
 - **The temperance movement**, which had been gaining momentum since the late 19th century, **found a natural ally in the independence struggle**.
 - **Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi**, who viewed alcohol as a social evil and a threat to moral integrity, **championed the cause of prohibition**.
 - **Gandhi's vision of a free India included a society free from the vices introduced by colonial rule**, with alcohol being a prime target.
 - When India gained independence in 1947, the ideals of the temperance movement were enshrined in the Constitution.
 - **Article 47 of the Directive Principles of State Policy urged the state to endeavour to bring about prohibition of intoxicating drinks and drugs injurious to health**.
 - **This made India the only secular and democratic country to constitutionally mandate such a directive**, reflecting the strong moral undertones of the independence era.
- Modern Era and Contemporary Issues —
 - **In the modern era, state policies on alcohol vary widely**, reflecting the ongoing tension between moral, cultural, and economic factors.
 - **States like Bihar have experimented with prohibition**, driven by concerns over alcohol-fuelled domestic violence and public health.
 - However, **these efforts often lead to unintended consequences**, such as the proliferation of illicit alcohol production and consumption.

Contradictory Excise Policies and their Consequences -

- Prohibition and Its Implementation —
 - After India gained independence, **the constitutional directive to promote prohibition of intoxicating substances was a nod to the moral and cultural values** espoused by leaders like Mahatma Gandhi.
 - However, **the practical implementation of prohibition was delegated to individual states, leading to a patchwork of policies** that reflect a wide spectrum of approaches towards alcohol regulation.
- Economic Considerations —
 - **One of the most significant contradictions in alcohol policy arises from the economic benefits** that alcohol sales provide to state governments.
 - **Alcohol excise is a major source of revenue**, often contributing significantly to the state's budget.
 - **For instance, the government of Tamil Nadu generates substantial revenue through the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC)**, which controls the sale of alcohol in the state.
 - This **economic dependency creates a conflict of interest**, making it challenging to implement strict prohibition.
- Social and Cultural Dimensions —
 - **The societal perception of alcohol consumption is another area of contradiction**.
 - On one hand, **traditional and moralistic views continue to stigmatise drinking**, associating it with moral decay and social vice.

- On the other hand, urbanisation and globalisation have brought about a shift in attitudes, particularly among the younger generation and urban elites, who view drinking as a symbol of modernity and personal freedom.
- Impact on Health and Public Safety —
 - In states with prohibition, the consumption of illicit alcohol often leads to mass poisoning incidents, as seen in the Kallakurichi hooch tragedy.
 - The lack of regulatory oversight in the production of illicit alcohol results in dangerous concoctions that can cause severe health issues and fatalities.
- Surge in Illegal Moonshine Industries —
 - These contradictory policies have perpetuated the illegal moonshine industry, driven by the high demand for alcohol in regions where it is criminalised.
 - Law enforcement agencies and political figures often collude with the mafia or fail to enforce the law, with the poor bearing the brunt of these policies.
 - In Bihar, prisons are overcrowded with poor men arrested for drinking, and most victims of hooch tragedies are impoverished.

Way forward -

- Need for a National Consensus —
 - Addressing this issue requires a national consensus to balance public health science and personal freedoms.
 - Lessons from other countries can guide this approach. For instance, revisiting policies on cannabis, which India criminalised under U.S. pressure, despite its long history of use, could be insightful.
 - The U.S. now hosts the largest legal cannabis industry, suggesting potential pathways for India.
- Strict Quality Control —
 - Legalising alcohol consumption with strict quality controls and permitting indigenous alcohol production is crucial.
 - Concurrently, enforcing zero-tolerance for alcohol-related offences, such as bars selling to underage drinkers, is imperative.
 - Shifting from the traditional in-patient de-addiction centres to evidence-based psychosocial interventions within the primary care network would also help treat harmful drinking non-stigmatising.
- Learning from International Experience —
 - Reflecting on international experiences, such as the culture change in Britain during the late 1980s and 1990s regarding drink-driving, is instructive.
 - The UK extended pub closing hours and strictly enforced drink-driving laws, leading to a societal shift where drink-driving became socially unacceptable.

Conclusion -

- The contradictory policies on alcohol in India reflect a deep-seated tension between moral imperatives, economic interests, and social realities.
- These contradictions have led to a range of unintended consequences, from the proliferation of illicit alcohol and associated health risks to the reinforcement of gender and socio-economic inequalities.
- Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive and balanced approach that integrates public health science, respects personal freedoms, and learns from the experiences of other countries.

Source - [The Indian Express](#)

QUESTION - India faces recurring tragedies, including those due to illicit alcohol consumption, highlighting significant legal and moral failures. Discuss the historical context of alcohol consumption in India, the contradictory excise policies, and their socio-economic and health impacts. Suggest measures to balance public health concerns and personal freedoms while addressing these issues.

International Relations

Great power rivalry across Eurasia

Recent geopolitical events, such as Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to North Korea and Taiwan, and the U.S. presidential debate between Joe Biden and Donald Trump, highlight the increasing interconnections between European and Asian security dynamics. This evolving global security landscape presents new strategic opportunities for middle powers like India to enhance their geopolitical influence and national security.

The Issue -

- Asia's Active Role in European Geopolitics –
 - Historically, **Asian resources and military contributions** significantly **influenced European geopolitics**, particularly during the colonial era and World Wars I and II.
 - Today, **Asian states are no longer passive actors** but actively shape the balance of power in Europe, as seen in their involvement in the Ukraine conflict.
- Current Scenario: Ukraine Conflict -
 - Both Russia and Western Europe are **seeking support from Asian countries** to influence the outcome of the Ukraine war.
 - The Ukraine peace conference aimed to **garner political and diplomatic support from non-Western nations** to counter Russian aggression, while Moscow urged key Global South nations to boycott the conference.
 - Asian countries have become **major suppliers of arms in the conflict**, with North Korea aiding Russia and South Korea supporting Ukraine.

Elaborating on the issue -

- Enhanced Asian Agency –
 - **North Korea and South Korea's Roles** –
 - North Korea has emerged as a significant supplier of ammunition to Russia, while South Korea's arms exports to Ukraine highlight its strategic role in the conflict.
 - Although China is not directly supplying arms to Russia, it provides support through other means, illustrating its indirect involvement in the conflict.
 - The US is encouraging Japan to increase missile production and relax export controls to support Ukraine and other conflict zones.
 - **Putin's Visits to Pyongyang and Hanoi** –
 - Putin's visit to North Korea aimed to rebuild ties and sign agreements on mutual security assistance, showcasing Russia's strategic shift.
 - North Korea, under Kim Jong-un, is leveraging its relationship with Russia to enhance its strategic position vis-à-vis China, Japan, South Korea, and the US.
 - This dynamic could lead to South Korea becoming a more crucial ally for the US and Europe, particularly if Russia aids North Korea in boosting its nuclear arsenal.
 - **Vietnam's Strategic Balancing** –
 - Vietnam has hosted leaders from major powers (Biden, Xi, and Putin) within nine months, highlighting its strategic balancing act.
 - By expanding economic ties with both China and the US while exploring security cooperation with Washington, Vietnam aims to maintain its strategic autonomy.
 - Renewing ties with Russia is part of Vietnam's strategy to balance relations between major powers and enhance its geopolitical leverage.
- Western Dilemmas and Debates –
 - **U.S. Foreign Policy Challenges** –
 - The US faces the challenge of balancing its military commitments in Europe and Asia amid the Russia-China alliance and ongoing conflicts.
 - Some Republican policymakers argue that the US should prioritise its military focus on Asia rather than Europe, emphasising the threat posed by China.
 - The Biden Administration recognises China as the primary challenge but remains committed to supporting Ukraine, leading to ongoing debates in US foreign policy.
 - **European Defence Responsibilities** –

- Both Biden and Trump agree on the need for Europe to take greater responsibility for its own defence to relieve some of America's burdens.
- Asian states, including Australia, India, Japan, and South Korea, are increasingly willing to contribute to regional security and the reconstruction of the security order.
- Europe faces internal divisions on how to address the China challenge, with economic interdependencies with China complicating its strategic decisions.

Way forward -

- Building Strong Security Partnerships –
 - **Integrated Deterrence** –
 - The US is promoting "integrated deterrence," encouraging middle powers to enhance their military capabilities and contribute to regional security.
 - This approach involves building strong security partnerships with middle powers like India to balance against China and Russia's influence.
- India's Strategic Opportunity –
 - **Urgent Modernisation** –
 - India has a strategic window of opportunity to modernise its defence industrial base and rapidly expand domestic arms production.
 - Achieving self-sufficiency in arms production is crucial for India's strategic autonomy and national security.
 - The Indian bureaucracy must act swiftly to capitalise on these international opportunities to strengthen India's defence capabilities.

Conclusion -

The increasing interconnections between European and Asian security present significant strategic opportunities for middle powers like India. Capitalising on these opportunities requires swift and decisive action to modernise defence capabilities and enhance national security. Ensuring self-sufficiency in arms production is essential for maintaining strategic autonomy and strengthening India's position in the evolving global security landscape.

Source - [The Indian Express](#)

QUESTION - The recent geopolitical events underscore the evolving interconnections between European and Asian security dynamics. Discuss the implications of Asia's enhanced agency in shaping global geopolitics, particularly in the context of the Ukraine conflict. How can middle powers like India leverage these developments to strengthen their strategic influence?

GENERAL STUDIES - III

Environment

Rooftop Solar Energy

Rooftop solar (RTS) holds significant promise for transforming India's energy sector by providing a sustainable, decentralised, and cost-effective way to address the nation's increasing electricity demand and promoting self-reliance among consumers.

In the fiscal year 2023-2024, India's installed **RTS capacity surged by 2.99 GW**, marking the highest annual growth to date. By March 31, 2024, the total installed **RTS capacity reached 11.87 GW**, according to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

To adequately meet the escalating energy needs, India must intensify its efforts to expand its RTS infrastructure.

Rooftop solar (RTS) programme -

- **Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission: A Major Solar Initiative** —

- Launched in January 2010, the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission marked India's first significant effort to boost solar energy production.
- Initially targeting 20 GW of solar energy (including RTS) in three phases (2010-2013, 2013-2017, 2017-2022), the goal was revised in 2015 to 100 GW by 2022, with a 40 GWRTS component.
- **Revised Targets and Achievements —**
 - By December 2022, India achieved an installed RTS capacity of approximately 7.5 GW. Consequently, the 40 GW target deadline was extended to 2026.
- **Drivers of Growth in RTS Installations —**
 - Over the years, improvements to the RTS installation numbers have been driven by favourable initiatives.
 - These include —
 - the Sustainable Partnership for RTS Acceleration in Bharat, SUPRABHA, and
 - the Sustainable Rooftop Implementation for Solar Transfiguration of India, SRISTI, schemes,
 - financial incentives, technological advances, awareness campaigns, and training programmes.
- **Untapped Potential and Future Goals —**
 - Despite progress, India's overall RTS potential remains vast at approximately 796 GW.
 - Many States have yet to fully harness this potential.
 - To meet the ambitious targets of 500 GW of renewable energy capacity (including 280 GW of solar) by 2030, and net-zero goals by 2070, RTS needs to contribute about 100 GW by 2030.

Leading States in Rooftop Solar (RTS) Installations -

- **Gujarat — A Model of Success —**
 - Installed Capacity: 3,456 MW
 - Key Factors: Proactive government policies, efficient approval processes, numerous RTS installers, high consumer awareness
 - Notable Achievement: Modhera, India's first solar-powered village with 1,300 RTS systems of 1 kW each
- **Maharashtra — Strong Performance —**
 - Installed Capacity: 2,072 MW
 - Key Factors: Robust solar policies, favorable regulatory environment
- **Rajasthan — High Potential —**
 - Installed Capacity: 1,154 MW
 - Key Factors: Largest state by land area, high solar irradiance, streamlined approvals, financial incentives, public-private partnerships
- **Other Notable Performers —**
 - Kerala: 675 MW
 - Tamil Nadu: 599 MW
 - Karnataka: 594 MW
- **States Lagging Behind —**
 - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand
 - Challenges: Bureaucratic hurdles, inadequate infrastructure, lack of public awareness
- **Conclusion —**
 - While states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan are making significant progress in RTS installations, others still face substantial challenges that need to be addressed to fully tap into their solar potential.

Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana -

- **Objective —**
 - **Goal —** Equip 1 crore households with rooftop solar (RTS) systems, providing up to 300 units of free electricity per month
 - **Capacity Addition —** 20 GW from 2 kW systems per household
 - The scheme aims to revolutionise India's energy landscape by significantly boosting RTS capacity, ensuring energy equity, and fostering sustainable development.
 - It also aims to train professionals for installing, operating, and maintaining RTS systems, fostering a skilled workforce.

- **Target** — Rural and urban households, especially in regions with limited electricity access, high solar potential, and vulnerable communities.
 - It aims to ensure equitable distribution of benefits.
- **Financial Outlay** —
 - **Total Budget:** Rs 75,021 crore —
 - Central Financial Assistance: Rs 65,700 crore
 - Incentives for Distribution Companies: Rs 4,950 crore
 - Other Allocations: Incentives for local bodies, model solar villages, innovative projects, payment security mechanisms, capacity building, awareness, and outreach
 - **Technology and Infrastructure** —
 - Focus: Advanced solar technologies, energy storage solutions, smart grid infrastructure
 - Goal: Enhance efficiency, reliability, and resilience of RTS installations
 - **Streamlined Processes** —
 - Intention: Simplify approvals, permits, and regulatory clearances for RTS installations
 - Outcome: Reduce administrative hurdles and promote ease of business

Way forward -

- **Awareness** —
 - To encourage widespread adoption of RTS technologies, comprehensive awareness campaigns led by distribution companies and local bodies are essential.
 - These campaigns should include grassroots initiatives and door-to-door promotions targeting every administrative level—from wards to districts.
- **Ensure economic viability** —
 - Economic viability is crucial for RTS adoption. Government subsidies help reduce costs, and expanding low-cost financing options from banks and non-bank financial companies (NBFCs) will further facilitate affordability.
 - Making RTS loans as accessible as typical vehicle loans will encourage more households to consider solar energy solutions.
- **Research and Development (R&D) in Solar Technology** —
 - Emphasising R&D in solar technology, energy storage solutions, and smart-grid infrastructure can reduce costs, enhance performance, and improve reliability of RTS systems.
 - Innovative technologies like drone and satellite imagery for shadow analysis, rooftop suitability assessments, and energy consumption patterns can optimise RTS system designs and support achieving adoption targets.
- **Investment in Training and Skill Development** —
 - Initiatives like the 'Suryamitra' training programme, which has trained over 51,000 solar PV technicians since 2015, illustrate the importance of investing in training, vocational courses, and skill development.
 - Accelerating such programmes will help build a skilled workforce necessary for the RTS sector's growth and sustainability.
- **Update and review RTS policies** —
 - To support the effective implementation of the 'Muft Bijli Yojana' and enhance RTS adoption, there is a need to update and review RTS policies.
 - This includes revising net-metering regulations, grid-integration standards, and building codes to address current challenges.

Source - [The Hindu](#)

QUESTION - Rooftop solar (RTS) systems have shown significant potential in transforming India's energy landscape, contributing to decentralised, sustainable, and cost-effective electricity solutions. Discuss the progress and challenges of the RTS sector in India, with a focus on the key drivers of growth, leading states, and the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. Additionally, suggest measures to enhance the adoption of RTS systems across the country.

Balancing Ecology and Security in A&N Islands

India's strategic and economic landscape has been significantly shaped by its geographical features, among which the Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) Islands hold a crucial position. Despite their strategic importance, these islands have historically been neglected by Indian policymakers.

Therefore, it is important to delve into the historical oversight, the strategic necessity, and the recent developmental plans for the A&N Islands, highlighting their potential as a cornerstone of India's maritime strategy and economic development.

Historical Context and Strategic Importance of A&N Islands -

• Early Recognition of Strategic Value —

- **Sardar K. M. Panikkar**, a visionary historian and diplomat, **underscored the significance of these islands as early as 1945**.
- Panikkar argued that control over the Indian Ocean and effective defence of India's coastline could only be achieved by **establishing advanced bases on the A&N archipelago**.
- He pointed out **that the islands' location in the Bay of Bengal provided a strategic vantage point** for maritime operations and coastal defence.
- **His foresight highlighted the potential of the A&N Islands to act as a maritime sentinel**, overseeing vital sea lanes and ensuring the security of India's eastern seaboard.

• Evolution of Strategic Policies —

- **It was only in the later decades that India began to acknowledge the strategic imperatives** of the A&N Islands.
- The **economic opportunities in Southeast Asia and the ASEAN region**, coupled with **growing seaborne trade and energy interests** in the Asia-Pacific, led to the formulation of the **Look East and Act East policies**.
- These policies aimed at **strengthening economic and strategic ties with East and Southeast Asian countries**, thereby increasing the importance of the A&N Islands as a strategic asset.

• Military Realisation Post-Kargil —

- **The realisation of the A&N Islands' strategic importance** was starkly brought to the forefront following the **near-disaster of the Kargil conflict in 1999**.
- The **conflict highlighted the gaps in India's defence preparedness** and underscored the need for a robust military presence in the strategically located A&N Islands.
- **In response, the Indian government established the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)** in 2001, a joint tri-service command based in Port Blair.
- **This move was a significant step towards integrating the defence capabilities** of the navy, air force, and army in the region, although it faced initial resistance and neglect.

• Renewed Focus and Fortification —

- **Recent years have seen a renewed focus on fortifying the ANC** and enhancing the strategic infrastructure across the A&N Islands.
- **Efforts are underway to establish naval and air force bases from Shibpur** in the north to Port Blair, Car Nicobar, Kamorta, and Campbell Bay in the south.
- **These developments aim to transform the A&N Islands into a formidable eastern maritime bastion**, capable of guarding the Malacca Straits and ensuring maritime security in the region.

Neglect and Complacency towards A&N Islands -

• Post-Independence Neglect —

- **Despite Panikkar's warnings**, India's early post-independence years saw a significant neglect of the A&N Islands.
- **Several factors contributed to this oversight**. The nascent nation was preoccupied with **more immediate concerns**, such as its adversarial relationship with Pakistan, which required attention to its western borders and waters.
- **Additionally, India had extensive trading links and a large diaspora in the Persian Gulf**, drawing its focus westward.
- The **country also maintained traditional ties with Indian Ocean Island nations and the East African littoral**, further diverting attention from the eastern maritime expanse.

• Maritime Remoteness and Tenuous Hold —

- **One of the primary reasons for the neglect of the A&N Islands was their perceived maritime remoteness.**
- The geographical isolation of these islands posed logistical challenges for their administration and defence.
- **Great Nicobar Island, the southernmost of the A&N group, is situated a mere 140 kilometres from Indonesia but is almost 2,000 kilometres from Chennai, highlighting the significant distance from the Indian mainland.**
- **This remoteness made it difficult for the central government to maintain a strong administrative and military presence.**
- Furthermore, **India's hold on the A&N Islands was tenuous in the early years post-independence.**
- **In 1947, Britain considered retaining the islands as a Crown possession even after Indian independence, indicating their strategic value.**

The Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island, Economic Potential and Development Challenges -

- The Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island —
 - Recently, a **plan for the Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island was unveiled by the NITI Aayog.**
 - This **Rs 75,000 crore project aims to establish infrastructure** including an international container transshipment terminal, an international airport, power plants, new cities, a coastal transport system, and a free trade zone.
 - **While this project promises significant economic and strategic benefits, it has faced opposition from environmentalists and civil society groups** concerned about its impact on the local ecology and indigenous tribes.
- Economic Potential and Development Challenges —
 - The **A&N Islands have vast maritime resources, with an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 600,000 sq km**, accounting for 30% of India's total EEZ.
 - The waters are rich in marine life and potential hydrocarbon resources.
 - However, **the islands' economic development must balance sustainability and the preservation of indigenous tribes like the Onge, Jarawa, Sentinelese, and Shompen.**
 - Traditionally, tourism and fisheries have been the most sustainable avenues for development.

Critical consideration to Balance the Ecology and Development of A&N Islands -

- Sustainable Development Practices —
 - **Emphasising sustainable development practices is crucial** for the A&N Islands.
 - Tourism and fisheries have traditionally been considered sustainable avenues for revenue and employment generation.
 - **Any new development projects should integrate sustainability principles**, ensuring that the ecological balance is maintained, and the livelihoods of local communities are enhanced.
 - **Ecotourism, sustainable fisheries, and renewable energy projects could be prioritised over heavy industrial and infrastructural developments.**
- Replicating Successful Models —
 - **Aspiring to replicate the success of duty-free ports and free trade zones like those in Singapore or Hong Kong in the remote GNI faces practical challenges.**
 - These **established hubs benefit from robust industrial back-ups**, extensive hinterlands, and strategic locations along major global trade routes.
 - **GNI, on the other hand, is 2,000 km from Chennai and Kolkata**, with limited industrial and logistical support.
 - **The travails of Sri Lanka's Hambantota port and airport projects, which have faced significant financial and operational challenges**, serve as a cautionary tale for such ambitious projects in GNI.
- Viability of a New Transshipment Terminal —
 - **The viability of establishing a new transshipment terminal in GNI is another critical issue.**

- **GNI is equidistant (1,300 km) from established transshipment hubs** and bunkering ports such as Singapore, Port Klang in Malaysia, and Hambantota in Sri Lanka.
- The **proximity to these well-established hubs raises questions** about the necessity and economic feasibility of a new terminal.
- Moreover, **India has recently commissioned a transshipment terminal in Vizhinjam, Kerala, with great expectations.**
- **The success of this terminal should be evaluated before embarking on a similar venture** in the remote and ecologically sensitive GNI.

Conclusion -

- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands **hold immense strategic and economic potential for India.**
- **A balanced approach that addresses both security and sustainable development is essential** for harnessing this potential.
- **By considering alternative development strategies** and ensuring the protection of the islands' unique ecological and anthropological heritage, **India can transform the A&N Islands into a strategic asset and a model of sustainable development.**

Source - [The Indian Express](#)

QUESTION - Discuss the strategic and economic significance of the Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) Islands in the context of India's maritime strategy. How can India balance the ecological preservation with the strategic and economic development of the A&N Islands?

Security

Internal security plan for next five years

Despite India's recent achievements, a well-defined plan is needed to address internal security issues that can undermine national strength.

What is the issue?

- Need for Clear Strategies —
 - **Lack of National Security Doctrine (NSD)** — India doesn't have a formal NSD, which outlines national security threats and response strategies. This makes it harder to develop a cohesive approach to internal security.
 - **Developing a National Security Strategy** — It has been proposed to create a national NSD or, at least, a dedicated internal security strategy. This would provide a clear roadmap for addressing internal threats.
- Revamping Internal Security Management —
 - **Overburdened Home Ministry** — The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is overloaded, potentially hindering its ability to address urgent security concerns.
 - **Dedicated Internal Security Ministry** — There is a suggestion of creating a separate Ministry for Internal Security, led by a junior minister. This could improve focus and response times for internal security threats.

Specific Security Challenges and Recommendations -

- Jammu and Kashmir —
 - **Persisting Tensions** — Despite claims of reduced terrorism, recent attacks highlight ongoing security issues in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - **Path Towards Normalcy** — There is a need to restore statehood and holding elections as steps towards normalcy and reducing tensions.
- Northeast India —
 - **Stalled Peace Processes** — Unfulfilled peace agreements, like the one with the Nagas, and unresolved ethnic conflicts contribute to instability in the Northeast.

- **Addressing Underlying Issues** — The government should focus on enforcing existing agreements and addressing the root causes of ethnic conflicts.
- **Left-Wing Extremism (Naxalism)** —
 - **Offering a Path to Peace** — While violence from Naxal groups has decreased, there is a suggestion that the government offer a ceasefire and open negotiations to bring them into the mainstream.

Strengthening Security Institutions -

- **Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** —
 - **Reforming Intelligence Gathering** — The Intelligence Bureau (IB) currently operates under an administrative order, lacking a strong legal framework. This can limit its effectiveness.
 - **Enhancing Investigative Powers** — The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) derives its power from an outdated act. There is a recommendation to strengthen the CBI's legal mandate, resources, and infrastructure.
- **State Police Forces** —
 - **Building Public Trust** — State police forces need to transform from "Ruler's Police" to "People's Police." This requires building trust with the public and improving the quality of service provided.
- **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)** —
 - **Addressing Internal Issues** — The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) face problems like unplanned expansion, leading to inefficiencies, and inadequate training.
 - **Recommendation for Reform** — There is a need for appointing a high-level commission to investigate these issues and propose long-term solutions.
- **Role of Technology** —
 - There is a need for a high-powered technology mission. This mission would focus on identifying and recommending the adoption of modern technologies to address emerging security challenges faced by law enforcement agencies.

Conclusion -

A robust internal security system is essential for India to project strength on the international stage. Government should implement these suggestions with foresight and imagination to create a more secure India.

Source - [The Indian Express](#)

QUESTION - India's rise as a global power hinges not only on its economic and military prowess but also on its ability to ensure internal security. Critically examine the key internal security challenges outlined in the passage, and suggest a roadmap for strengthening India's internal security framework.