

### WHY IS CHINA MORE IMPORTANT FOR TESLA THAN INDIA?

#### What makes China more Important?

- **China's Dominance in Battery Production-** China accounts for over half of global electric vehicle (EV) sales, largely driven by its dominance in battery production- a critical element for EV manufacturing.
- **Tesla's Biggest Plant in Shanghai-** was opened in 2018 after a new Chinese policy allowed foreign carmakers to establish fully-owned subsidiaries. It is important as it supplies cars to New Zealand, Australia, and Europe.
- **India's EV Push Still at Nascent Stage-** India has historically relied on imports of batteries from elsewhere, and has a fragmented EV supply chain, but is pushing for battery production through production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for advanced chemistry cell (ACC) battery storage- a crucial component of lithium-ion batteries. As per Niti Aayog, India could represent up to 13% of global battery demand by 2030.
- **Regulatory Flip-flops on India's EV Policy-** In 2018, then Niti Aayog CEO denied the need of an EV policy. In 2018-19, Centre increased customs duty on CKD (completely knocked down) imports of motor vehicles, motor cars, motorcycles from 10% to 15%. It was eased last month (with India's EV policy launch) with a minimum investment limit for manufacturers at Rs 4,150 crore.

#### Is There Still an Opportunity for India?

Yes, as China's exports are increasingly coming under scrutiny in Europe and the US. European Commission last year launched an anti-subsidy investigation into battery electric vehicles (BEV) imports from China to determine whether BEV value chains in China benefit from illegal subsidization and causes economic injury to EUs EV manufacturers. The US also considers Chinese EVs as a threat to its carmakers.

## STREET VENDORS (PROTECTION OF LIVELIHOOD AND REGULATION OF STREET VENDING) ACT, 2014

A decade has passed since the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act came into effect on May 1, 2014.



Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 was enacted in order to legalise the vending rights of street vendors (SVs).

- It aimed to protect and regulate street vending in cities, with State-level rules and schemes, and execution by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) through by-laws, planning, and regulation.
- The Act clearly **delineates the roles and responsibilities of both vendors and various levels of government.**
- It commits to **accommodating all ‘existing’ vendors in vending zones and issuing vending certificates (VCs).**
- It establishes a participatory governance structure through **Town Vending Committees (TVCs).**
  - It mandates that **street vendor representatives must constitute 40% of TVC members, with a sub-representation of 33% of women SVs.**
  - These committees are tasked with **ensuring the inclusion of all existing vendors in vending zones.**
- Additionally, the Act outlines mechanisms for addressing grievances and disputes, proposing the establishment of a **Grievance Redressal Committee chaired by a civil judge or judicial magistrate.**
- It provides that the **States/ULBs conduct a survey to identify SVs at least once every five years.**



### WHAT ARE LOOK OUT CIRCULARS (LOCS)?

The Bombay High Court recently held that public sector banks (PSBs)

cannot recommend or request the issuance of Look Out Circulars (LOCs) against loan defaulters.

Look Out Circulars (LOCs) is an instrument issued by the government as a directive to its immigration authorities to restrict and regulate the physical movement of a person.

- The immigration department is tasked to stop any such individual against whom such a notice exists from leaving or entering the country.
- Law enforcement agencies often use LOCs as a coercive measure to stop any individual wanted or under suspicion by the police or an investigating agency from leaving or entering the country through designated land, air, and sea ports.
- LOCs are usually issued by the police, intelligence agencies, or other government agencies authorised by the Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA).
- LOC does not have express statutory backing in legislation, the power to issue LOCs and their regulation stems from the executive in the form of an Office Memorandum issued by the MHA in 2021, which provides consolidated guidelines for opening LOCs against Indian citizens or foreigners.
- Guidelines:
  - The guidelines categorically provide that LOCs can only be opened in criminal or penal cases, and the reason for the LOC must be indicated with the issue of the circular.
  - If there is no criminal or penal case pending, the LOC cannot be issued, and agencies can only request that they be informed of departure or arrival.
  - However, the guidelines provide that in exceptional cases, an LOC may be issued against an individual even when the case is not a criminal case. This is in specified circumstances, such as when it is detrimental to the “sovereignty, or security, or integrity of India”, the “bilateral relations with any State”, or to the “strategic and economic interests of India”.

- LOCs are also **permitted in cases** where the individual is likely to engage in terrorism or offences against the State or when such departure would not be “in the larger public interest”.
- LOCs **cannot be issued unless basic details** — including name/parentage, passport number, and date of birth — **are available**, and such requests must be constantly monitored.
- It is the **responsibility of the originator to constantly review the LOC requests** and proactively provide additional parameters to minimise harassment to genuine passengers.
- It is also required that any **LOC issued must be reviewed on a quarterly and annual basis by agencies that request such restrictions**, and the result of the review must be **informed to the MHA**.
- **MHA has categorically transferred the legal consequences** of issuing an LOC **to the originating agency**, even though such OMs are issued by the Bureau of Immigration.
- **The power to issue such OMs and LOCs is sourced from The Passports Act, 1967**, the key legislation for the grant of passports, travel documents, and “endorsements” to travellers at the time of emigration or immigration.

## WHAT IS PATACHITRA PAINTING?

The first-generation women patachitra artists of West Bengal’s village of Naya are selling their work online and are being recognised the world over.



**Patachitra Painting** is a general term for **traditional, cloth-based scroll painting** based in the eastern Indian states of **Odisha and West Bengal**. It is believed to have originated as early as the **12th century**.

- In the Sanskrit language, "Patta" literally means "cloth" and "Chitra" means "picture".

- It is known for its **intricate details** as well as the **mythological narratives** and **folktales** inscribed in it. Most of these paintings **depict stories of Hindu deities**.
- It is one of the **ancient artworks of Odisha**, originally created for **ritual use** and as **souvenirs for pilgrims to Puri**, as well as other temples in Odisha.
- Patachitras are a **component of ancient Bengali narrative art**, originally serving as a visual device during the performance of a song.
- **Making:**
  - Pattachitra paintings are **made on a special canvas** where cotton sarees **are** layered with tamarind paste and then coated with clay powder.
  - **Traditionally, cotton canvas was used**; now, both cotton and silk canvas are used for paintings.
  - Once the canvas becomes sturdy, **colours are filled in directly without any initial sketches**. It is a **tradition to complete the borders** of the painting **first**.
  - **All colours are obtained from natural sources** like lamp soot and powdered conch shells.
  - Each painting can take up to weeks or **months to be prepared**.

## CISF TAKES OVER PARLIAMENT SECURITY FROM DELHI POLICE

### Why in news?

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel has replaced the 150 personnel of the Delhi Police, including 54 women personnel, who were deployed for the security of Parliament.

After a security breach occurred in December 2023, CISF was asked to take over the security of the Parliament complex.

### Background

- **Security breach**

- The new Parliament building was inaugurated on May 28, 2023, and was first used for official business.
- On December 13, 2023, two men carrying colour spraying canisters had jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber during Zero Hour from the visitors' gallery.
- They did this in protest against the rising unemployment, the unending ethnic violence in Manipur and farmers' issues.
  - In all, six persons have been arrested and booked under various sections, including terror charges. The police are yet to file a chargesheet in the case.
- **CISF Roped in**
  - After the security breach, eight Delhi Police security personnel who were responsible for frisking and baggage scanning were suspended.
  - Later, the MHA has asked the CISF to carry out a survey of the Parliament premises for regular deployment.

## Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

- CISF is one of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) established under an Act of Parliament, "Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968.
- CISF was established in 1969 to provide integrated security cover to certain sensitive public sector undertakings with a strength of only three battalions.
  - The force has since grown into a premier multi-skilled organization with a present strength of 1,63,590 personnel.
- It works under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs and its headquarter is located at New Delhi.

## Operations:

- **Critical Infrastructure:**
  - CISF is currently providing security cover to 353 establishments through the length and breadth of the country.

- Some of which includes Atomic Power Plants, Space Installations, Defence Production Units, Mines, Oil Fields and Refineries etc.
  - **VIP security:**
    - CISF has also been mandated to provide protection to the VIP protectees of Z+, Z, Y and X category across the country.
  - **Fire Protection:**
    - The CISF also has its own Fire Wing which provides services to 104 of the above establishments.
  - **Airports:**
    - The specialized task of airport security was assigned to CISF in the year 2000 in the wake of hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight IC-814 to Kandahar.
  - **Private sector:**
    - The CISF Act was amended to enable the Force to provide security, on payment basis, to private / joint venture industrial undertakings, which are vital for the security and economy of the country.
    - E.g. - The Infosys campuses in Mysuru, Bengaluru and Pune, the Patanjali Food and Herbal Park in Haridwar and the Reliance refinery in Gujarat's Jamnagar
  - **Overseas Deployment:**
    - CISF has contingents deployed at United Nations Stabilizations Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).
  - The CISF is the only Central Armed Police Force with a daily public interface; in the airports, in the Delhi Metro and in the iconic monuments.
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## CONSTITUTION AND THE REDISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

### Why in News?

There have been heated exchanges between the ruling government and the Opposition with respect to the redistribution of wealth during the ongoing election campaign.

The Supreme Court has also constituted a nine-judge Bench to interpret the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) with respect to ownership and control of material resources.

## What does the Constitution Provide with Respect to the Redistribution of Wealth?

- **The Preamble** to the Constitution aims to secure to all citizens social and economic justice, liberty and equality.
- **Part III** of the Constitution lists down the **fundamental rights** that guarantee liberty and equality.
- **Part IV** of the Constitution contains the **DPSP**. **DPSPs are principles** that the central and State governments should follow to achieve social and economic justice in the country.
  - Unlike the fundamental rights in Part III, the DPSP is **not enforceable** in court. They are nevertheless **fundamental in the governance of the country**.
- **Article 39(b) and (c) in Part IV** contain principles that are aimed at securing economic justice. They provide -
  - That ownership and control of material resources of the society should be distributed to serve the common good and
  - That the operation of the economic system does not result in concentration of wealth to the common detriment.

## What can be the Way Forward?

- **Growing inequality is a worldwide problem** of a liberalised open-market economic system.
- **It is the responsibility of the government** to protect the interest of the poorer classes who are most dependent on the state machinery for their livelihood.
- **At the same time past policies of extremely high tax rates**, estate duty, wealth tax etc., did not achieve their desired goals. Instead, they only led to concealment of income and wealth.
- Innovation and growth should not be curtailed but the **benefits of growth should reach all sections** especially the marginalised.



- Therefore, **the policies** need to be framed after adequate debate in line with current economic models, with **economic justice for all as enshrined in the Indian Constitution** as the underlying principle of these policies.
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## GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE



**Alok Shukla, convenor of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan and founding member of the Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti, has been awarded the 2024 Goldman Prize from Asia.**

**Goldman Environmental Prize** recognizes individuals for sustained and significant efforts to **protect and enhance the natural environment**, often at great personal risk. It is also known as the **Green Nobel**.

- It recognizes **grassroots environmental heroes** from roughly the world's six inhabited continental regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands & Island Nations, North America and South & Central America.
- The Goldman Prize views “grassroots” leaders as those **involved in local efforts**, where positive change is created through community or citizen participation.
- The first Goldman Environmental Prize ceremony took place on **April 16, 1990**. It was timed to coincide with **Earth Day**.

### **Key facts about Hasdeo Aranya region:**

- It is a sprawling forest in the **northern part of Chhattisgarh** which is known for its biodiversity and also its coal deposits.
  - The forest falls under Korba, Surajpur and Sarguja districts with sizeable tribal population. The **Hasdeo River, a tributary of Mahanadi**, flows through it.
  - It is the largest un-fragmented forests in Central India consisting of **pristine Sal** (Shorea robusta) and **teak forests**.
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