

Disha **365**



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# General Studies

## Paper II & Current Issues

Analysis for UPSC & State PSC  
Civil Services **Prelims & Mains**



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**250+** Topic-wise  
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**3rd Edition**

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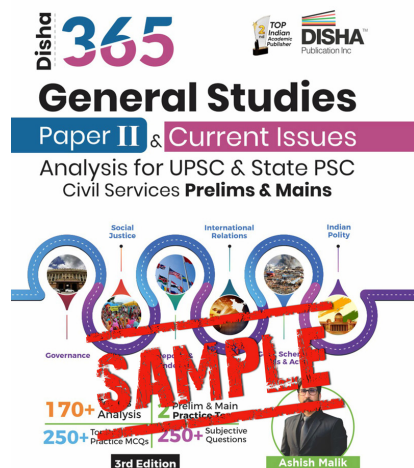
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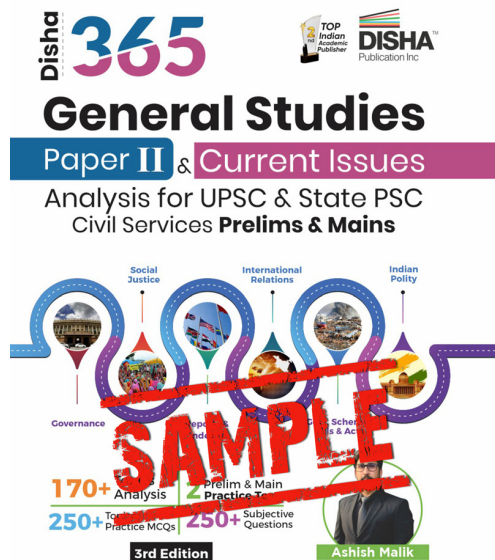
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## 1.8 World Social Protection Report: ILO Prelims & Mains

### Why in News?

Recently, a **International Labour Organisation** launched a report titled '**World Social Protection Report 2020–22**' has revealed More than 4 billion people still lack any social protection.

### About the Report:

- ⊙ This ILO flagship report provides a global overview of recent developments in social protection systems, including social protection floors, and covers the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ⊙ It offers a broad range of global, regional and country data on social protection coverage, benefits and public expenditures.

### What is Social Protection?

- ⊙ It is a human right which responds to the universal need for protection against certain life risks and social needs.
- ⊙ It is a **comprehensive approach** designed to prevent deprivation, **give assurance to the individual of a basic minimum income for himself and his dependents** and to protect the individual from any uncertainties.

### Importance of Social protection

- ⊙ It helps individuals and families, especially the poor and vulnerable, cope with **crises and shocks, find jobs, improve productivity**, invest in the health and education of their children, and protect the ageing population.
- ⊙ It enhances **human capital and productivity, reduces inequalities**, builds resilience and ends the inter-generational cycle of poverty.
- ⊙ It also helps ensure equality of opportunity by giving them a chance to climb out of poverty and become productive members of society

### Five Messages from the Report:

- ⊙ The pandemic has exposed deep-seated inequalities and significant gaps in social protection coverage, comprehensiveness and adequacy across all countries.
- ⊙ COVID-19 provoked an unparalleled social protection policy response.
- ⊙ Socio-economic recovery remains uncertain and enhanced social protection spending will continue to be crucial.
- ⊙ Countries are at a crossroads with regard to the trajectory of their social protection system.
- ⊙ Establishing universal social protection and realizing the human right to social security for all

is the cornerstone of a human-centred approach to obtaining social justice.

### Highlights of the Report:

- ⊙ **Coverage:**
  - ⊙ As of 2020, only 46.9 per cent of the global population were effectively covered by at least one social protection benefit while the remaining 53.1 per cent – as many as 4.1 billion people – were left wholly unprotected.
  - ⊙ 4.1 billion People (53 per cent) obtain no income security at all from their national social protection system.

- Only 30.6 per cent of the working-age population are legally covered by comprehensive social security systems that include a full range of benefits.

⊙ **Government Spending:**

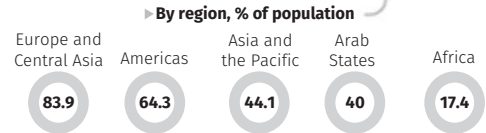
- Countries spend on average 12.9 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) on social protection (excluding health), but this figure masks staggering variations.

**State of social protection worldwide**



⊙ **Regional Inequalities:**

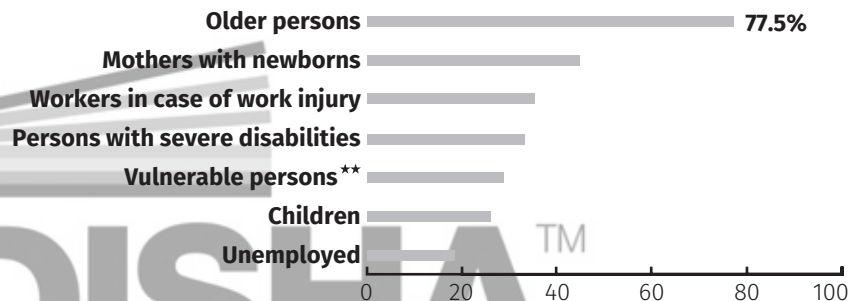
- Europe and Central Asia have the highest rates of coverage, with 84 per cent of people being covered by at least one benefit.
- The Americas are also above the global average, with 64.3 per cent. Asia and the Pacific (44 per cent), the Arab States (40 per cent) and Africa (17.4 per cent) have marked coverage gaps.



⊙ **Protection to Women, Children And Disabled Peoples:**

- The vast majority of children still have no effective social protection coverage, and only 26.4 per cent of children globally receive social protection benefits.

► **By population group, % world\***



- Only 44.9 per cent of women with newborns worldwide receive a cash maternity benefit.

2020 or latest available year covered by social assistance

Source: International Labour Organization World Social Protection Report 2020-22



- Only one in three people with severe disabilities (33.5%) worldwide receive a disability benefit.

⊙ **Unemployment protection:**

- 18.6 per cent of unemployed workers worldwide have effective coverage for unemployment and thus actually receive unemployment benefits.

⊙ **Expenditure of Public Social Protection:**

- Worldwide only 3.6 per cent of GDP is spent on public social protection to ensure income security for people of working age.

**International Labour Organisation:**

- ⊙ It is the only **tripartite U.N. agency**. It brings together **governments, employers and workers of 187 member States**, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.
- ⊙ Founded in October 1919 under the League of Nations, it is the first and oldest specialised agency of the UN.
- ⊙ It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with around 40 field offices around the world
- ⊙ To promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues.
- ⊙ It had Received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969: (i) For improving peace among classes (ii) Pursuing decent work and justice for workers (iii) Providing technical assistance to other developing nations
- ⊙ The organization has played a key role in - Ensuring labour rights during the Great Depression, Decolonization process, The creation of Solidarność ( trade union) in Poland and The victory over apartheid in South Africa

**The relationship between the UN'S SDGs and concept of Social Protection:**



**Practice Questions**

- Consider the following statements:
  - According to the World Social Protection Report 2020–22, more than 4 billion people still lack any social protection in the world
  - This is International Labour Organisation flagship report and it provides a global overview of recent developments in social protection systems, including social protection floors, and covers the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Europe and South Asia have the highest rates of coverage, with 84 per cent of people being covered by at least one benefit.

Which of the above is/are correct?  
 (a) 1 and 2                      (b) 2 and 3  
 (c) 1 and 3                      (d) 1, 2 and 3
- Consider the following statements w.r.t International Labour Organisation (ILO):
  - It is the first and oldest specialised agency of the UN founded after second world war
  - Headquartered in Geneva, ILO aims to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues.

Choose the correct statements from above:  
 (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only  
 (c) Both                      (d) None
- What is Social Protection? How do you think the pandemic has exposed deep-seated inequalities and significant gaps in social protection coverage, comprehensiveness and adequacy across all countries? Explain. (250 words)

## 2.8 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 Prelims & Mains

### Why In news?

The government had launched the third phase of its flagship skilling scheme Pradhan Mantri **Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0)** in a bid to empower the country's youth with employable skills by making over 300 skill courses available to them.

### Background of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):

- It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched in 2015 and implemented by National Skill Development Corporation(NSDC).
- “Skill India Mission” has gained tremendous momentum through launch of its flagship scheme PMKVY to unlock the vision of making India the ‘Skill Capital’ of the world.

### Objectives of PMKVY 3.0

- PMKVY 3.0 envisages training 8 lakh candidates over the scheme period of 2020-2021 with an outlay of Rs 948.90 crore.
- To enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.
- To create an ecosystem for the youth to make informed choices on the available skilling avenues.
- To Provide support to youth for skill training and certification.
- To Promote sustainable Skill Centres for greater participation of the private sector.
- Under the scheme, Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- Training and Assessment fees are completely paid by the Government
- The third phase of the scheme is designed towards making **skill development** more demand-driven and decentralised in its approach, with focus on digital technology and Industry 4.0 skills.

42% of WORKERS ENGAGED IN AGRIC

	Skilled labour force (%) 2010 - 2019	Employment in Agriculture (%) 2019	Working poor at PPP\$3.20 a day (%) 2019	Proportion of informal employment - non-agri (%) 2011-2019
129	Butan 19	55	11	-
131	India 21	42	42	80
133	Bangladesh 26	39	43	91
154	Pakistan 28	37	27	71
147	Myanmar 28	49	17	80
72	Sri Lanka 39	25	7	60
142	Nepal 42	65	33	78

### Do you know?

- PMKVY 1.0:-** Launched on 15th July, 2015 (**World Youth Skills Day**). **Outcome: In 2015-16, 19.85 lakh candidates were trained.**
- PMKVY 2.0:** From 2016 to 2020 was launched by scaling up both in terms of Sector and Geography and by greater alignment with other missions of the Government of India like Make in India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat, etc.
- Outcome:** More than 1.2 Crore youth have been trained/ oriented through an improved standardized skilling ecosystem

### How is the scheme being implemented?

This scheme has two components:

- Centrally Sponsored Centrally Managed (CSCM)** known as the central component to be implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- Centrally Sponsored State Managed (CSSM)** known as the state component implemented by the State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs)/ respective departments of the states/UTs.
  - Under the scheme, the District Skill Committee (DSC) shall be the focal point for its implementation. DSC shall have a major role in preparation of district level plan, mobilisation and counselling of candidates, formation of training batches, monitoring of quality assurance & post training support.
  - Total target of the scheme will be divided approximately in the ratio of 75:25 between central and state components respectively.
  - However, states having performed well and willing to take higher targets shall be allocated accordingly based on assessment of their performance.

### Practice Questions

- W.r.t Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), consider the following statements:
  - It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched in 2015 and implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
  - Under the scheme, Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

3. The third phase of the scheme is designed towards making skill development more demand-driven and decentralised in its approach, with focus on digital technology and Industry 4.0 skills.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

2. “Skill India Mission” has gained tremendous momentum through launch of its flagship scheme PMKVY to unlock the vision of making India the ‘Skill Capital’ of the world.” Discuss (200 words)

## 3.11 Indian Laws and Blocking of Internet Content: Centre vs Twitter Prelims & Mains

### Why in news?

- ⊙ With the government and Twitter (micro-blogging website) at loggerheads over issues related to content removal and freedom of expression, the Centre had expressed “deep disappointment” over Twitter’s partial compliance to its orders “grudgingly” and with substantial delay.
- ⊙ Further, the government of India reprimanded Twitter for not complying with its order to block more than a thousand accounts for alleged spread of provocative content and misinformation on the farmers’ protest.

### Highlights of the issue:

- ⊙ Twitter was free to formulate its own rules and guidelines, Indian laws, which are enacted by the Parliament of India, must be followed irrespective of Twitter’s own rules, according to a Ministry statement
- ⊙ Twitter then posted a blog post where it said it had **withheld “a portion of the accounts”** identified in the blocking orders given by the government”. It, however, added that no action had been taken against the accounts of news media entities, journalists, activists and politicians as it would violate their fundamental right to free expression under Indian law.
- ⊙ The Ministry had told Twitter representatives that while India had a robust mechanism for protection of freedom of speech and expression, “freedom of expression is not absolute and it is subject to reasonable restrictions as mentioned in Article 19 (2) of the Constitution of India”.
- ⊙ On the issue of the use of the hashtag related to “farmer genocide” on Twitter, The government had “expressed strong displeasure on the way Twitter acted after an emergency order was issued to remove this hashtag and content related to that. Spreading misinformation using

an incendiary and baseless hashtag..at a time when such irresponsible content can provoke and inflame the situation is neither journalistic freedom nor freedom of expression as envisaged under Article 19 of the Constitution of India.

### TOTAL 709 ACCOUNTS DEACTIVATED

- ▶ Of 257 handles that had originally tweeted with the hashtag #ModiPlanning-FarmerGenocide, 126 have been deactivated
- ▶ Of 1,178 handles that government suspected to have links with Khalistani, Pak elements to spread misinformation and provocative content, 583 deactivated



IT ministry said ‘motivated campaigns’ on platform and hashtag around PM were **being run to ‘abuse, inflame and create tension in society** on unsubstantiated grounds’  
 Twitter was **warned of action under IT Act Section 69A[3]**, under which senior company officials can be jailed for up to 7 years, apart from financial penalty

### Reason for Intermediaries to Show Compliance to IT Act:

- ⊙ **International Requirement**
- ⊙ **To Fight Cybercrime such as hacking, digital impersonation and theft of data.**
- ⊙ **To Prevent Misuse of Internet.**

### Constitutionality Of The Website Blocking Law Of India

Website blocking acts as a tool to prevent the fabrication of falsehood and is done using section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 read along with the Information Technology (Procedure and safeguards for blocking of Access of Information by public) Rules, 2009 which is also referred to as the ‘**Blocking Rules, 2009**’ (highlights the legal procedure to be followed to block any content for public access.)

### Information Technology Act, 2000

- ⊙ It grants the power for the blocking of public access to any information.

- ⊙ Section 69A is the prince among all the sections and is also found to be one of the most controversial in the recent year.
- ⊙ Blocking of various Chinese apps last year, withholding of several accounts on Twitter recently have all been associated with Section 69A of the IT Act,2000.

**Analysis of Section 69A:**

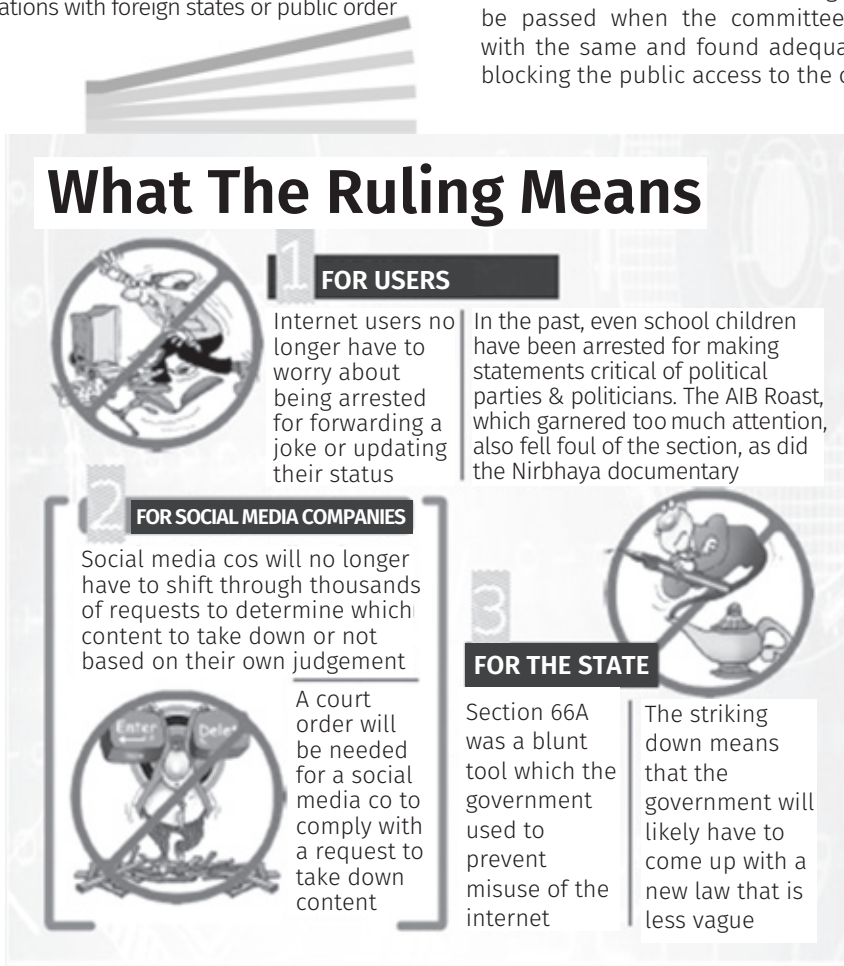
According to this particular section if **the central government or any of its authorized officer acting on its behalf** is satisfied and find it necessary to block a certain online content or website they can do so. But such a blocking can happen under five circumstances namely:

- ⊙ In the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India
- ⊙ Defense of India
- ⊙ Security of the state
- ⊙ Friendly relations with foreign states or public order

- ⊙ Preventing the incitement of any cognizable offence relating to the above mentioned circumstances.


**Validity of Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000:**

- ⊙ In the case of **Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India**, few sections of the IT Act, 2000 were struck down, especially Section 66A of the IT Act, 2000 by the use of which, online **offensive** comments were made a crime which was punishable by jail.
- ⊙ The section was struck down on the grounds that it had a detrimental effect on the fundamental rights such as the right to free speech and expression over the internet.
- ⊙ For Section 69A the Supreme Court was of the view that this section was quite narrow and also had various safeguards to be followed while blocking an online content.
- ⊙ The court ruled that the blocking order can only be passed when the committee was satisfied with the same and found adequate reasons for blocking the public access to the online content.




## What The Ruling Means

**1 FOR USERS**



Internet users no longer have to worry about being arrested for forwarding a joke or updating their status


**2 FOR SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES**



Social media cos will no longer have to shift through thousands of requests to determine which content to take down or not based on their own judgement

A court order will be needed for a social media co to comply with a request to take down content

**3 FOR THE STATE**



Section 66A was a blunt tool which the government used to prevent misuse of the internet

The striking down means that the government will likely have to come up with a new law that is less vague

**Practice Questions**

1. Consider the following statements:
  1. Blocking of various Chinese apps last year, was done under Section 66A of the IT Act, 2008.
  2. As per Section 69A, the central government or any of its authorized officer acting on its behalf is satisfied and find it necessary to block a certain online content or website they can do so

3. Online offensive comments have been made a crime in India which is punishable by jail.

Choose the correct statements from above:

- (a) 2 only                      (b) 1 and 2  
 (c) 3 only                      (d) 1 and 3
2. Is there any Constitutionality Of The Website Blocking Law Of India and why such need has surfaced in the last few years? Critically Analyse the given statement in light of recent tussle between Twitter and the Gov-ernment.

(250 words)

**4.2 China-Taiwan Issue Prelims & Mains**

**Why in News?**

- ⊙ China has been increasing military pressure on Taiwan in recent days, sending nearly 150 warplanes over the island that it views as a breakaway province.
- ⊙ On the 72nd anniversary celebrations, China flew over 100 fighter jets into Taiwan's air defence identification zone.

**What is the Issue?**

- ⊙ Tensions between China and Taiwan have escalated since October 1, 1949 when China observes its National Day to mark the birth of the People's Republic of China (PRC).
- ⊙ On the 72nd anniversary celebrations, China flew over 100 fighter jets into Taiwan's air defence identification zone, jangling nerves in Taiwan and setting off alarm around the world that it was prepping to take over the island by force.
- ⊙ Taiwan sees itself as no less than an independent nation, and its leaders, including the fiercely pro-independence President Tsai Ing-wen, have vowed to defend its sovereignty against the Chinese goal of "reunification".
- ⊙ Taiwan is entirely dependent on the US for its defence against possible Chinese aggression.

**Historical Facts:**

- ⊙ Taiwan, earlier known as Formosa, a tiny island off the east coast of China, is where Chinese republicans of the Kuomintang government retreated after the 1949 victory of the communists — and it has since continued as the Republic of China (RoC).





- ⊙ Since its founding in 1949, the People's Republic of China has believed that Taiwan must be reunified with the mainland, while the ROC has held out as an "independent" country.

### Timeline of China-Taiwan tensions

- ⊙ In 1954-55, and in 1958, the PRC bombed the Jinmen, Mazu, and Dachen islands under Taiwan's control, drawing in the US.
- ⊙ The most serious encounter was in 1995-96, when China began testing missiles in the seas around Taiwan, triggering the biggest US mobilisation in the region since the Vietnam War. The tests led to the re-election in 1996 of President Lee Teng-hui, seen by the Chinese as a pro-independence leader.
- ⊙ Starting from the 1990s, and despite the missile crisis, relations between the PRC and ROC improved, and trade ties were established. As the British prepared to exit Hong Kong in 1999, the "One China, Two Systems" solution was offered to Taiwan as well, but it was rejected by the Taiwanese.
- ⊙ China's implementation of a national security law in Hong Kong in 2020 was seen by many as yet another sign that Beijing was becoming significantly more assertive in the region.
- ⊙ In October 2020, President Xi Jinping asked the PLA to prepare for war, triggering alarm in Taiwan, which read it as an open threat.

### China-Taiwan-USA

- ⊙ After speaking with Xi Jinping, Biden said they had agreed to abide by the "Taiwan Agreement", under which US support for the "One China Policy" is premised on Beijing not invading Taiwan.
- ⊙ The One China policy is the recognition in the US of the long-held position in Beijing that there is only one China, and Taiwan is part of that.
- ⊙ Under this if any country wants to establish diplomatic relationship with China must acknowledge there is only "One China" and cut all formal ties with Taiwan.

### Diplomatic ties of Taiwan:

- ⊙ Currently fifteen states recognise Taiwan as the ROC (and thus do not have official relations with Beijing): Belize, Guatemala, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Nicaragua, Palau, Paraguay, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Swaziland and Tuvalu.

- ⊙ Taiwan has diplomatic relations with 15 countries and substantive ties with many others such as Australia, Canada, EU nations, Japan and New Zealand.
- ⊙ Taiwan has membership in 38 intergovernmental organizations including the WTO, APEC and ADB etc.

### India-Taiwan-China:

- ⊙ Since 1949, India has adopted One China Policy and recognised PRC, not the ROC as the government in Taiwan calls itself.
- ⊙ India and Taiwan do not have formal diplomatic relations but since 1995, both sides have maintained representative offices in each other's capitals that function as de facto embassies.
- ⊙ In 2011 Delhi and Taipei signed a "Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement" and "Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement" in July 2011.
- ⊙ As Chinese PLA aggressions at the Line of Actual Control led to the Galwan killings in 2020, calls for India to step up its ties with Taiwan have grown.
- ⊙ Taiwan has the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in New Delhi, and India has the India Taipei Association in Taipei.

## Practice Questions

- Consider the following statements:
  - Formosa strait, 134km wide waterbody, separates Taiwan and Philippines
  - Due to One China Policy, Taiwan does not have membership in any intergovernmental organizations
  - India and Taiwan do not have formal diplomatic relations but since 1995, both sides have maintained representative offices in each other's capitals that function as de facto embassies.
 Choose the correct statements from above:
 

(a) 1 and 3	(b) 2 and 3
(c) 3 only	(d) 1 and 2
- "Indo-Pacific region is trying hard to maintain Peace and Stability, but developments between China & Taiwan is making the situation alarming" Critically Analyse (250 words)

## 5.7 Global Roadmap to Defeat Meningitis by 2030 **Prelims**

### Why in news?

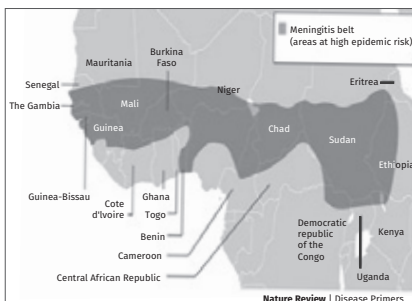
The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched the first-ever global strategy to defeat meningitis - 'Global Roadmap to Defeat Meningitis by 2030'.

### What is Meningitis?

- ⊙ **About:** Meningitis is an inflammation (swelling) of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord.
- ⊙ A bacterial or viral infection of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord usually causes the swelling. However, injuries, cancer, certain drugs, and other types of infections also can cause meningitis.
- ⊙ Early meningitis symptoms may mimic the flu (influenza). Symptoms may develop over several hours or over a few days.
- ⊙ Sudden high fever, Stiff neck, Severe headache, Headache with nausea or vomiting, Confusion or difficulty concentrating, Seizures, Sleepiness or difficulty waking, Sensitivity to light, No appetite or thirst, Skin rash (sometimes, such as in meningococcal meningitis)

### The Meningitis Belt:

Meningitis epidemics have occurred in the last decade in all regions of the world. But it is most common in the 'Meningitis Belt,' which spans 26 countries across sub-Saharan Africa.



### Highlights of the Roadmap?

- ⊙ While the road map addresses all meningitis regardless of the cause, it primarily focuses on the main causes of acute bacterial meningitis, that were responsible for over 50% of the 250 000 deaths from all-cause meningitis in 2019, cause other invasive disease such as sepsis and pneumonia, and against which effective vaccines are available (or will be in a near future).
- ⊙ The road map sets a comprehensive vision for 2030 "Towards a world free of meningitis", with three visionary goals:
  - ⊙ Elimination of bacterial meningitis epidemics;
  - ⊙ Reduction of cases of vaccine-preventable bacterial meningitis by 50% and deaths by 70%;
  - ⊙ Reduction of disability and improvement of quality of life after meningitis due to any cause.

### Practice Questions

1. W.r.t Global Roadmap to Defeat Meningitis, consider the following statements:
  1. The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched the first-ever global strategy to defeat meningitis - 'Global Roadmap to Defeat Meningitis by 2030'
  2. It aims at Reduction of cases of vaccine-preventable bacterial meningitis by 80% and eliminating deaths by 100%
  3. Reduction of disability and improvement of quality of life after meningitis due to any cause is another important goal of this roadmap

Choose the correct statements from above:

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

## Answers for Prelims & Mains

### 1.8 World Social Protection Report: ILO

1. (a) **Statement 3** is not correct: Europe and Central Asia have the highest rates of coverage, with 84 per cent of people being covered by at least one benefit. The Americas are also above the global average, with 64.3 per cent. Asia and the Pacific (44 per cent), the Arab States (40 per cent) and Africa (17.4 per cent) have marked coverage gaps.
2. (b) **Statement 1** is not correct: It was Founded in October 1919 under the League of Nations (after WW-1)

### 2.8 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0

1. (b) All are correct.
2. **Ans.** Discuss Skill India Mission- Briefly describe PMKVY and its 3 phases- How much potential does India has to be 'Skill Capital' of the

world- What are challenges in doing so- Way Forward- Conclusion (global examples if any)

### 3.11 Indian Laws and Blocking of Internet Content: Centre vs Twitter

1. (a) **Statement 1** is incorrect: It was done under Section 69A  
**Statement 3** is incorrect: In the case of Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India, few sections of the IT Act, 2000 were struck down, especially Section 66A of the IT Act, 2000 by the use of which on-line offensive comments were made a crime which was punishable by jail.

### 4.2 China-Taiwan Issue

1. (c)

### 5.7 Global Roadmap to Defeat Meningitis by 2030

1. (c)