

SOCIAL ISSUES❖ **Demographic dividend and unemployment problems in India and China**

➤ **Context:** A recent Pew survey estimates the current median Indian age at 28, as compared to China's 39, suggesting India will continue to enjoy its demographic advantage up to the end of this century.

➤ However, experts at home and abroad wonder if India's demographic dividend may remain an advantage, without education and skilling leading to jobs. In China too, a high level of youth joblessness has generated a great deal of attention and discontent.

➤ **What is happening in China?**

• In March, when the World Population Review announced China's youth population was declining and the ageing population was rising — coinciding with the annual ritual of 'Two Sessions', the country's lawmakers' highest-level policymaking meetings — observed: "In 2023, a record of 11.58 million students in China are expected to graduate from higher education institutions. How will China's youths cope with the situation, and what measures have the Chinese government put in place to stabilise employment?"

• Like the last year, in China, the perennial struggle to find employment after graduation is especially dire this year. It is of crucial import to remember that the hundreds of millions of college and university graduates last year and this year are also the ones forming the first and second cohorts of this century. The irony is, they are China's "post-'00s" generation — those who grew up during the age of most rapid economic growth, and now they are forced to view themselves as the first victims of a pandemic-hit slow economy amid a growing demand for job security.

• When these 10-12 million young Chinese entered the job market in March-April last year and this year — in what is known as China's job season, called sanjinsiyin or "Golden March-Silver April" in Chinese — instead of a decent job they faced a job market hit hard by the Covid-19 lockdowns and massive layoffs in key sectors such as real estate, tech, and education.

• Mostly urbanites, who already earned the wrath of the authorities for popularising social media trends such as 'lying flat' and 'involution' (which are about rejecting the culture of over-working and over-achieving), these Gen-Z fresh graduates were also the ones who launched last year's anti-Zero Covid protest, the anti-Xi Jinping short-lived yet 'scary' urban-based social movement.

➤ **What's the extent of the problem?**

• With one out of every five young urbanites without work, China is facing a new kind of epidemic: joblessness'. Today, many Chinese 'public intellectuals' are seeing the problem of urban joblessness as actually predating the outbreak of the pandemic. These scholars cite China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), which reported that the official jobless rate for urban youths aged 16 to 24 rose 0.6 percentage points to 19.9% in last July, the highest since the national agency started releasing youth employment data in 2018.

➤ **What is the scene in India?**

• In India, the China story throws up similarities, plus big differences. India's challenges: the numbers of school leavers, plus liberal arts graduates from universities and engineers from low-grade colleges who cannot find jobs. And yet, we face a shortage of plumbers, electricians, artisans, bakers, cooks, dental assistants, and all manner of skilled personnel and many hands-on specialties. What went wrong?

• For three decades, we paid lip-service to 'skilling', but entities such as the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), created in 2003, have not delivered. Chasing numbers, NSDC focused on short courses of less than a year's duration, insufficient for real skill acquisition.

• Then, our fine stock of 2,500+ Industrial Training Institutes established after the 1960s are run by state governments. Long moribund, efforts to re-purpose them, with the help of CII and FICCI, bringing in neighbouring industrial enterprises, have mostly failed. States resist transferring full control to their industrial partners. But private skilling institutes have mushroomed, many in the informal sector, partly filling that gap.

• Additionally, many engineering colleges mostly function as money-making enterprises, giving inadequate training. On the flip side, huge numbers throng the coaching industry, to compete for exams to the elite IITs and other prestigious technical entities. Those that miss out aim at the fast-expanding venture enterprises in service jobs, including as delivery personnel. Besides, a real shift to skilling needs hard choices in terms of segmenting the school stream, at what used to be called the 'middle school' level, when the youth are aged 11 or 12 years.

➤ **What about National Education Policy (NEP) and jobs?**

• Our NEP 2020 speaks, according to one analyst, of: '6th grade, 7th grade, and 8th grade...Here, vocational training is introduced for the students to improve their skills in the particular field.'

- If vocational segmentation is to be effective, this has to continue at the secondary level, with vocation-focused schools, different from traditional high schools, designed to produce skilled artisans and specialists – it is not right to call them ‘skilled workers’. China’s vocational education stream is perceived as unattractive, compared with regular schools that lead to academic careers. An identical challenge is likely to face Indian vocational institutions. NEP does not seem to address this.
- What is the overall Indian picture? The Indian youth do nothing remotely resembling China’s ‘lie flat’ phenomenon. Hardly anyone wants to opt out. That is a telling comparison; sociologists might reflect on the why. The responses in two large, populous countries are very different.
- How do the jobless Indian youth react? They chase varied options. One is ‘undocumented migration’, the dream of prosperous foreign lands. India is now a major source of UK’s ‘boat people’. On the Canada-US land border, high numbers of detainees come from India, as do those tackling the US-Mexico border. Other targets: the Gulf region, Europe, Africa and unexpected places, like Malta and Japan. Recently, we saw Indians in the thousands returning from a conflict zone Sudan.
- Many seem to turn to crime, and India has become a hub for internet-based scams, many with international reach.

➤ **What are the solutions?**

In sum, what do India and China need?

1. Job creation is the topmost priority.
2. Skilling, to effective outcome levels, should be our constant goal.
3. The NEP vision of segmentation at the middle school level should lead to a different kind of high schools that continue with skilling training.
4. MSMEs are likely to be the major employment creators.
5. IT capabilities are India’s innate asset; we must valorise that. But don’t neglect the manufacturing sector.

This entails giving respect to such specialisations – the best model for this is Germany, emulated by many countries in Europe and beyond, Singapore, and to a lesser extent, China.

NATIONAL ISSUES

❖ **Why do state Ministers need Centre’s OK to travel abroad?**

➤ **Context:** The Centre informed Delhi High Court on Wednesday (June 7) that Delhi Education Minister Atishi has been cleared to travel to the UK next week.

- Atishi, who has been invited by Cambridge University to speak at a conference on June 15 in her official capacity, had moved the court on Tuesday seeking directions to the government to decide on granting her political clearance before it is too late.
- All Chief Ministers and Ministers of states and Union Territories are required to obtain political clearance from the Centre before they can travel abroad.
- In July 2022, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was unable to attend the World Cities Summit in Singapore after the Centre delayed the required political clearance beyond the deadline for acceptance of the invitation.

➤ **What is the process that CMs and state ministers must follow in order to be able to travel abroad?**

- As per the 2015 circular the Cabinet Secretariat said that The Cabinet Secretariat and the Ministry of External Affairs should be kept informed of the proposed foreign visit, either official or private, of Chief Ministers and Ministers of State Governments/Union Territories. However, prior political clearance and FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) clearance are mandatory.
- A copy of the application must be sent to the Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).
- In Atishi’s case, counsel for government told the court on Wednesday that political clearance had been granted, and the proposal had been sent to the DEA for further approval. The court said that this was only a “formality”, and counsel agreed that once political clearance has been given, “no department comes in the way”.

➤ **What is political clearance?**

- Political clearance comes from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). This is required not only for public servants but for any government servant for a foreign trip.
- The decision to grant political clearance is taken based on multiple factors such as:
 - ✓ the nature of the event,
 - ✓ the level of participation from other countries,
 - ✓ the kind of invitation that has been extended, and
 - ✓ India’s relations with the host country.
- Since 2016, applications can be made for e-political clearance, on the portal epolclearance.gov.in.

- The concerned ministry and the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) entertain an application only if political clearance from the MEA is attached with the request.
- Without this clearance, no public servant can go abroad.
- **Instances when requests by CMs/ministers for political clearance were denied**
 - On October 11, 2019, Kejriwal addressed a conference in Denmark through videoconferencing after the Centre denied him clearance. The previous UPA government had denied political clearance to Assam's Congress Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi to the US and Israel, and to Jharkhand's BJP Chief Minister Arjun Munda to Thailand.
 - Rejecting Gogoi's application for a visit to New York for a "high level meeting" on April 2, 2012, the MEA had said that "direct correspondence by a diplomatic Mission with a State Government... [was] inappropriate".
- **Any other Clearance needed?**
 - Chief Ministers, ministers of state governments and other state officials also need clearance from the Department of Economic Affairs.
 - For Union ministers, after getting political clearance from the MEA, additional clearance is needed from the Prime Minister, whether the trip is official or personal.
 - Only if trip is official, Lok Sabha MPs need clearance from the Speaker, and Rajya Sabha members from the Chairperson (Vice President of India).
 - ✓ For MPs, it is not obligatory to inform the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha secretariat if the trip is private.
 - For officers of various ministries up to Joint Secretary level, clearance is given by the minister concerned, after political clearance. For those above that rank, the proposal needs approval of a screening committee of secretaries.
 - Rules vary according to the duration of the visit, the country to be visited, and the number of members in a delegation.
 - ✓ If the foreign trip involves the hospitality of organisations other than those of the UN, FCRA clearance is needed from the Home Ministry.
 - ✓ For government employees, all foreign trips, official or personal, need approval.
- **Do judges need clearance for foreign trips?**
 - For official foreign travel, the proposal by a Supreme Court or High Court judge is sent to the Department of Justice (DoJ). This is done after taking clearance from the Chief Justice of India. The DoJ, after taking political clearance from the MEA and in some cases from the Home Ministry (when FCRA is involved), issues approval.
 - In February, 2011, the DoJ issued new guidelines with restrictions particularly on the personal travel of judges of the higher judiciary. These guidelines were struck down by the Delhi High Court in May, 2012.
 - In July, 2021, the Centre issued an Office Memorandum stating that "in such cases, where Visa Support Notes Verbale are sought from MEA by the Hon'ble Judges of SC/ HC , prior Political Clearance of the MEA is to be submitted for the intended private or official visits abroad".
 - Delhi High Court struck down the memorandum in April, 2022, saying "it is uncalled for, given the high offices judges are holding".

SOCIAL ISSUES

- ❖ **Social Justice Ministry report on manual scavenging**
- **Context:** The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has said that only 508 districts out of the total 766 districts in the country have declared themselves manual-scavenging free.
- **Status of manual scavenging in India**
 - The Social Justice Ministry has maintained in almost every Parliament session in the last two years that there are no manual scavenging deaths taking place across the country.
 - These deaths have been attributed to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
 - ✓ As per the officials, the Ministry have differentiated manual scavenging from hazardous cleaning of sewers.
 - ✓ They maintained that the surveys conducted in 2013 and 2018 had identified all existing manual scavengers (about 58,000).
 - ✓ Hence, manual scavenging no longer existed in the country.
 - 508 districts have reported themselves as manual scavenging free.
 - According to the scheme for rehabilitation of manual scavengers, the 58,000 identified sewer workers have been given a one-time cash pay-out of ₹40,000 each.
 - Self-Employment Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) was started in 2007.

- Under the SRMS, the Social Justice Ministry had identified a total of 58,098 eligible manual scavengers in a nationwide survey conducted in 2018. After identifying the scavengers, the Ministry of Social Justice had announced that the practice of manual scavenging no longer takes place in the country. This is because all manual scavengers had been accounted for and enrolled into the rehabilitation scheme.
 - In addition, around 22,000 of them (less than half) have been connected to skills training programmes. Subsidies and loans are available to any of them wishing to set up their own business.
- **About NAMASTE Scheme:**
- NAMASTE stands for National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem.
 - It has been launched with an objective to ensure safety and dignity of sanitation workers in urban India as well as providing sustainable livelihood to these workers.
 - Ministries involved: It is launched as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
 - Implementing agency - National Safai Karamchari Financial Development Corporation (NSKFDC) would be implementing agency for NAMASTE.
 - Coverage: Five hundred cities (converging with AMRUT cities) will be taken up under this phase of NAMASTE. It will be implemented for the period 2022-26.
 - The FY 2023-24 Union Budget showed ₹100 crore allocation for the NAMASTE scheme.
- **Aim:**
- Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India
 - All sanitation work is performed by skilled workers
 - No sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter
 - Sanitation workers are collectivized into SHGs and are empowered to run sanitation enterprises
 - All Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers (SSWs) have access to alternative livelihoods
- **Components of the Scheme:**
- These workers and their families will be covered under the Ayushyaman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). The premium for AB-PMJAY for those identified SSWs families who are not covered earlier shall be borne under NAMASTE.
 - The Action Plan will promote mechanization and enterprise development.
 - Identified SSWs and their dependants will be given counselling on available livelihood choices and an opportunity to acquire alternative skills, if they so desire. The worker may choose to explore an alternative livelihood option or an entrepreneurial venture. An SSW may choose to continue working in the sanitation sector, thereby becoming eligible for receiving capacity building training.
 - The identified SSWs and their family members will be extended benefits of all the social security schemes.
 - The scheme will include capital subsidies of up to ₹5 lakh on sanitation machinery costing up to ₹15 lakh and interest subsidies on loans. Interest rates will be capped between 4-6% for the beneficiaries.
 - The scheme also provides for training the workers in the use of these machines, during which time a stipend of up to ₹3,000 per month will be provided.

PRELIM FACTS

1. **World Ocean Day 2023**

- **In News:** The World Oceans Day is celebrated every year on 8th June to create awareness about the benefits that mankind gets from the ocean.
- This year, the theme of World Oceans day 2023 is **“Planet Ocean: The Tides are Changing.”**
 - The Day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2008.
 - The Day was originally proposed in 1992 by Canada’s International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) and the Ocean Institute of Canada (OIC) at the Earth Summit – UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Global coordination of World Ocean Day was initiated by The Ocean Project, and in 2002, the United Nations officially recognized and acknowledged “World Oceans Day” in 2008.

2. **Fattah Missile**

- **In News:** Iran has recently unveiled its first-ever hypersonic missile, Fattah, which it says can penetrate missile defence systems and will give it a military edge.
- **About Fattah Missile:**
- It is an intermediate range ballistic missile developed by Iran.
 - It can travel at hypersonic speeds of up to 15 times the speed of sound and can penetrate missile defence system.

- It has a range of 1,400 kilometres and uses solid propellants, allowing high manoeuvrability.
- This missile has the capability to utilize various warheads for different missions.

➤ **What are Hypersonic Missiles?**

- Hypersonic missiles travel at speeds of at least Mach 5 — five times the speed of sound — and can manoeuvre mid-flight, making them harder to track and intercept.
- Unlike conventional ballistic missiles, hypersonic ones fly on a trajectory low in the atmosphere, enabling them to reach their targets more quickly and with less chance of being intercepted by modern air defences.

3. Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park

➤ **In News:** The Director of the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park recently bagged **UNESCO's Michel Batisse Award for 2023.**

➤ **About Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park:**

- Designated as a Biosphere Reserve, the Gulf of Mannar is one of the biologically richest coastal regions in all of mainland of India.
- It is the first Marine Biosphere Reserve in the South and South East Asia.
- Location: It is located 160 km between Dhanushkodi and Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu.
- Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, established in 1980, boasts three surreal aquatic ecosystems – mangroves, seagrass, and coral reef.
- The intertidal areas are dominated by mangroves belonging to the Rhizophora, Avicennia, Bruguiera
- Dugong, an endangered marine mammal, is the main attraction of the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park.
- It has recorded some 117 species of hard Coral. It is home to different vulnerable whales like humpback whales, blue whales, fin whales, etc.

4. Price Support Scheme (PSS)

➤ **In News:** Recently, in a significant step towards enhancing domestic production of pulses, the government of India has removed the procurement ceilings of 40% for tur, urad and Masur under Price Support Scheme (PSS) operations for 2023-24.

➤ **About Price Support Scheme:**

- It is being implemented by the Government of India in the state.
- It is one of the components of the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (AASA) scheme.
- Implemented by: The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation implements this scheme for procurement of oil seeds, pulses and cotton, through NAFED which is the Central nodal agency, at the MSP declared by the government.
- Main crops covered: Bajra, Jowar, Maize, Paddy, Cotton, Tur, Moong, Urad, Groundnut, Sesamum Wheat, Gram, Mustard, Sugarcane etc.

➤ **What are the Benefits?**

- Farmers get the benefit of the scheme through the sale of their produce at support price in APMC centres opened by the Nodal procurement agency.
- When prices of commodities fall below the MSP, State and central notified procurement nodal agencies purchase commodities directly from the farmers at MSP, Under specified FAQ (fair Average Quality).
- In this way, prices of the main commodities are procured and protect the farmers against economic loss in farming.

5. Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)

➤ **In News:** Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR) launched to leverage Emerging Technologies in Power Sector

- The Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy have jointly launched this National Mission. The National Mission is titled “Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)”.
- The Mission will be funded by pooling financial resources of: the Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Central Public Sector Enterprises under the two Ministries. Any additional funding needed will be mobilized from Government of India's budgetary resources.

➤ **Significance:**

- The Mission will serve as a catalyst for national priorities such as achieving Net Zero emissions and promoting initiatives like Make in India and Start-up India.
- It will also contribute towards achieving the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

➤ **Mission Objectives**

- To identify emerging technologies and areas of future relevance for the Global Power Sector and take up indigenous end-to-end development of relevant technologies
- To provide a common platform for Power Sector Stakeholders for collective brainstorming, synergetic technology development and devise pathways for smooth transfer of technology
- To support pilot projects of indigenous technologies (developed especially by Indian Start-ups) and facilitate their commercialization
- To leverage foreign alliances and partnerships to accelerate research & development of advanced technologies, thereby facilitating exchange of knowhow and Technology Transfer.
- To seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and to create vibrant & innovative ecosystem in the Power Sector of the country
- To make our Nation among the leading Countries in Power System related Technologies & Applications development
- Areas Identified for Research
 - ✓ Alternatives to Lithium-Ion storage batteries
 - ✓ Modifying electric cookers / pans to suit Indian cooking methods
 - ✓ Green hydrogen for mobility (High Efficiency Fuel Cell)
 - ✓ Carbon capture
 - ✓ Geo-thermal energy
 - ✓ Solid state refrigeration.
 - ✓ Nano technology for EV battery
 - ✓ Indigenous CRGO technology
- Structure of the Mission: The Mission will have a two-tier structure: a Technical Scoping Committee and an Apex Committee.

ANSWER WRITING

Discuss the salient features of the indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system, also known as KAVACH. What other reforms are needed in the railway sector to improve its efficiency and safety?

The KAVACH is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with the Indian industry. It consists of electronic devices and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) devices installed in the trains. It was announced in the 2022 Union Budget as a part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Salient features of the KAVACH are as follows:

- It is meant to provide protection by preventing trains to pass the signal at Red and avoid collision. It activates the train's braking system automatically if the driver fails to control the train as per speed restrictions.
- The provision of a line-side signal display in the cabin for improved visibility in foggy conditions and at higher speeds.
- Continuous updating of movement authority and automatic whistling at level crossings.
- The Traffic collision avoidance system (TCAS), with the help of equipment on board the locomotive and transmission towers at stations connected with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags and helps in two-way communication between the stationmaster and loco-pilot to convey any emergency message.
- An added feature is the centralised live monitoring of train movements through the Network Monitor System.
- 'Kavach' is one of the cheapest, safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4) certified technologies where the probability of error is 1 in 10,000 years.

Other reforms required in the railway sector to improve its safety and efficiency are as follows:

- Infrastructure modernisation: India's railway network has not been able to stay up to date with the modernisation of infrastructure and services, and has not been able to grow as fast as India needs. For e.g: Tracks are not in sync with the modern age trains. Hence, all arms of the railways require the modernisation of equipment and processes.
- Improving safety: The severe congestion on Indian Railways' main trunk routes is the primary factor contributing to the trains' stagnant speeds and their subpar safety record. Track, electrical, and signalling infrastructure maintenance and fault diagnosis have suffered because of this severe congestion. The Kakodkar committee suggested allocating Rs 1 lakh crore over five years and forming a statutory railway safety Authority.
- Use of enterprise resource planning: Railways need to introduce enterprise resource planning systems to help them adopt more commercial approaches that would increase productivity and profitability. These

systems also help railway planners to maintain an overview of existing railway resources such as staff or rolling stock and determine more efficient ways of using them.

➤ Bibek Debroy committee's recommendations:

- Transition to commercial accounting: According to the committee the process of accounting in Indian Railways is "very complicated". There is a need for refinement in the way Indian Railways prepares and maintains accounts and costs of its businesses, activities and services.
- Boost private sector participation: Private entry into running both freight and passenger trains in competition with Indian railways should be allowed. Private participation in various railway infrastructure services and non-core activities like production and construction should also be encouraged.
- Decentralisation: The report recommended that to ensure proper decentralization, there is a need to delegate enhanced powers, especially in respect of tenders connected with works, stores procurement, service or even revenue-earning commercial tenders, to the Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs).
- Reducing the focus on non-core areas: According to the committee, many tasks carried out by the Indian Railways are not at the core of the prime business of rail transportation. These activities include running hospitals and schools, catering, real estate development, including housing, construction and maintenance of infrastructure, manufacturing locomotives, coaches, wagons and their parts, etc. Indian Railways should focus on core activities to efficiently compete with the private sector.

Implementing measures like an Automatic Train Protection system (KAVACH) throughout all rail tracks in the country can help achieve the Indian railway's goal of zero accidents. Other reforms, as recommended by various committees, should also be implemented to improve the efficiency and safety of railways.

MCQs

1. Consider the following statements about NAMASTE scheme.

1. The NAMASTE scheme provides capital subsidies to sewer cleaners on the purchase of sanitation machinery, training of workers with a stipend amount, and loan subsidies with capped interest rates on sanitation equipment.
2. The Union Budget for 2023-24 showed a ₹100-crore allocation for the NAMASTE scheme and no allocation for the rehabilitation scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) **Both 1 and 2**
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Consider the following statements

1. Recently, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched an online portal to facilitate the recruitment of industry experts as "Professors of Practice" (PoP) for India's education institutions.
2. The scheme for PoP was introduced as a part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) **Neither 1 nor 2**

3. Consider the following statements regarding salt cavern-based strategic oil reserves

1. Unlike underground rock caverns, salt caverns are developed by pumping water into geological formations with large salt deposits to dissolve the salt.
2. They are naturally well-sealed, and engineered for rapid injection and extraction of oil.
3. Like underground rock caverns, salt cavern-based storages are not suitable for storing compressed air and hydrogen.

How many of the above statements are incorrect?

- a) **Only one**
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

4. Recently, the Lavender festival at Baderwah in the Jammu region inaugurated by which ministry?

- a) **Minister of Science & Technology**
- b) Minister of Culture
- c) Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- d) Minister of Defence

5. Consider the following statements regarding Fattah Missile
1. It is an intermediate range ballistic missile developed by India.
 2. It can travel at hypersonic speeds of up to 15 times the speed of sound and can penetrate missile defence system.
 3. It has a range of 1,400 kilometres and uses solid propellants, allowing high manoeuvrability
- Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?
- a) **1 Only**
 - b) 2 Only
 - c) 1,2 and 3 only
 - d) 2 and 3 only
6. Consider the following statements about Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park:
1. It is the first Marine Biosphere Reserve in the South and South East Asia
 2. It is located 160 km between Dhanushkodi and Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu.
 3. Dugong, an endangered marine mammal, is the main attraction of the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park.
- Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?
- a) 1 Only
 - b) 2 Only
 - c) **1,2 and 3 only**
 - d) 2 and 3 only
7. Consider the following statements
1. The World Oceans Day is celebrated every year on 8th June to create awareness about the benefits that mankind gets from the ocean.
 2. This year, the theme of World Oceans day 2023 is “Planet Ocean: The Tides are changing.”
- Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?
- a) 1 Only
 - b) 2 Only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) **Neither 1 nor 2**
8. Consider the following statements about demographic dividend.
1. As per UNFPA, the working population is considered to be between 15-64 years of age.
 2. Demographic Index can summarize population dynamics and characteristics in one number.
- Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?
- a) 1 Only
 - b) 2 Only
 - c) **Both 1 and 2**
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
9. Recently ‘Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao Yojana’ (CM Learn and Earn Scheme) launched by which state?
- a) **Madhya Pradesh**
 - b) Maharastra
 - c) Uttar Pradesh
 - d) Andhra Pradesh
10. Consider the following statements about Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)
1. To identify emerging technologies and areas of future relevance for the Global Power Sector and take up indigenous end-to-end development of relevant technologies.
 2. To provide a common platform for Power Sector Stakeholders for collective brainstorming, synergetic technology development and devise pathways for smooth transfer of technology.
 3. To support pilot projects of indigenous technologies (developed especially by Indian Start-ups) and facilitate their commercialization.
 4. To seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and to create vibrant & innovative ecosystem in the Power Sector of the country.
- Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?
- a) 1 and 4 only
 - b) 2 Only
 - c) **1,2, 3 and 4only**
 - d) 2 and 3 only