

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS Paper 3 Indian Economy – Issues relating to growth and development.

On An Alternate Model of Development – The quest for 'happiness' in the Viksit Bharat odyssey

The vision of 'Viksit Bharat' aims to transform India into a developed nation by 2047, the 100th year of its Independence. However, there are concerns and recommendations regarding the model of development it follows.

Developmental Aspects in 'Viksit Bharat':

1. **Structural Transformation:** Transforming economic and social structures.
2. **Labour Market Organization:** Addressing employment challenges.
3. **Competitiveness Enhancement:** Improving India's competitiveness.
4. **Financial and Social Inclusion:** Ensuring broader access to financial and social services.
5. **Governance Reforms:** Enhancing governance efficiency and transparency.

Concerns with the Model:

1. **Euro-Centric Emphasis:** Critics argue that 'Viksit Bharat' overly prioritizes economic development, reflecting a Euro-centric view that may not suit India's diverse needs.
2. **Development Contradictions:** Focusing solely on economic growth can disrupt social harmony, leading to imbalances and rising inequality.

Recommendations for a More Inclusive Model:

1. **Prioritize Happiness:** Shift focus from material wealth to happiness as a central goal. Mental health and wellness should be integral to development plans, given India's lower ranking in the Happiness Index despite economic growth.
2. **Emphasize Social Connections:** Recognize the importance of social connections in happiness and well-being. Countries like Finland and Denmark prioritize social support systems, contributing to their high happiness rankings.
3. **Include Diverse Indices:** Incorporate social indicators beyond GDP to measure development. Indices like Human Development Index, Green Index, Global Innovation Index, Gender Equality Index, and others should be considered to gauge overall progress.

Balancing economic growth with societal well-being and inclusivity is vital for 'Viksit Bharat' to be a comprehensive and holistic developmental model.

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS paper 3- Internal security- maritime security.

Drone attack on merchant ship in the Indian Ocean

In response to a drone attack on a merchant ship in the Indian Ocean, several actions and challenges have emerged, shaping the global approach to maritime security.



India's Response:

1. **Swift Military Deployment:** India mobilized Coast Guard and Navy ships promptly, showcasing rapid reaction capabilities.
2. **Naval Adjustments:** The Indian Navy, traditionally focused on piracy, is reevaluating strategies to counter drone threats.

Global Response:

1. **Operation Prosperity Guardian:** A US-led initiative with allies aimed at safeguarding maritime traffic from drone threats in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
2. **Coalition Dynamics:** Discord within international coalitions, illustrated by France, Italy, and Spain withdrawing, presents challenges in unified action.
3. **Anti-Drone Technologies:** Emphasis on developing technologies like jamming and spoofing, but their effectiveness under all conditions remains uncertain.

Challenges in Maritime Security:

1. **Technology Gaps:** Lack of accessible and foolproof anti-drone technologies makes defense against drone threats challenging.
2. **Coalition Dynamics:** Internal disagreements within global coalitions complicate unified responses to maritime security threats.

Implications of the Drone Attack:

1. **Regional Security Concerns:** The attack near Porbandar raises concerns about unpredictable threats, prompting urgent security reassessment in maritime regions.
2. **Impact on Navigation and Commerce:** Threats to shipping routes pose broader economic implications, urging calls for heightened maritime security.

Proposed Actions:

1. **Join International Coalitions:** India could consider collaborating with initiatives like Operation Prosperity Guardian to coordinate responses and bolster regional maritime security.
2. **Adopt Anti-Drone Technology:** Navies should invest in and deploy effective anti-drone measures such as jamming and directed energy weapons.
3. **Enhance Communication and Intelligence:** Improved surveillance and intelligence sharing among maritime nations are critical for swift threat detection and response.
4. **Regular Training and Adaptation:** Naval forces need ongoing training in anti-drone tactics, moving beyond traditional approaches to address evolving security challenges.