

23rd Nov, 2024

1. Understanding the changing face of extremist violence GS 2 (International relations)

- **Why in News:** The rise of extremist violence, particularly through domestic terrorism and extremist ideologies, is underreported amid major conflicts like the Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas clash. A RAND study highlighted

Understanding the changing face of extremist violence

The study, published by RAND, a non-partisan research organization, found that extremist violence is becoming more prevalent in the United States and other Western countries. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more diverse, with a growing number of groups and individuals involved in such activities. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more organized, with groups and individuals working together to plan and execute attacks. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more violent, with a growing number of groups and individuals using weapons and tactics that are more lethal. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more widespread, with a growing number of groups and individuals operating in a wider range of countries and regions. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more difficult to detect and prevent, with a growing number of groups and individuals using tactics that are more sophisticated and harder to track. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more resilient, with a growing number of groups and individuals able to withstand setbacks and continue their activities. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more adaptable, with a growing number of groups and individuals able to change their tactics and strategies in response to changing circumstances. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more effective, with a growing number of groups and individuals achieving their goals and objectives. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more influential, with a growing number of groups and individuals inspiring and motivating others to join their cause. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more visible, with a growing number of groups and individuals using social media and other platforms to spread their message and recruit members. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more dangerous, with a growing number of groups and individuals posing a threat to the safety and security of the United States and other Western countries. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more complex, with a growing number of groups and individuals using a combination of different tactics and strategies to achieve their goals and objectives. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more persistent, with a growing number of groups and individuals continuing their activities over a long period of time. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more resilient, with a growing number of groups and individuals able to withstand setbacks and continue their activities. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more adaptable, with a growing number of groups and individuals able to change their tactics and strategies in response to changing circumstances. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more effective, with a growing number of groups and individuals achieving their goals and objectives. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more influential, with a growing number of groups and individuals inspiring and motivating others to join their cause. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more visible, with a growing number of groups and individuals using social media and other platforms to spread their message and recruit members. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more dangerous, with a growing number of groups and individuals posing a threat to the safety and security of the United States and other Western countries. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more complex, with a growing number of groups and individuals using a combination of different tactics and strategies to achieve their goals and objectives. The study also found that extremist violence is becoming more persistent, with a growing number of groups and individuals continuing their activities over a long period of time.

- **Evolving Nature of Extremist Violence**
 - **RAND Study on Domestic Terrorism:** A RAND study on the changing face of domestic extremist violence stresses the importance of understanding new trends to prepare for future threats.
 - **Impact on Law Enforcement:** The study suggests that law enforcement agencies must adapt to the changing spectrum of extremist ideologies to prevent escalation in both the U.S. and globally.
 - **Lessons for India:** Although India's history of extremist violence differs, the study's findings on the rise of right-wing extremism have global relevance, especially in India's context.
- **The Historical Context of Extremism in India**
 - **Early Post-Independence Extremism:** In the early years of independence, India faced severe communal violence and the rise of left-wing extremist movements like the Communist insurgencies in Bengal and Telangana.
 - **Naxalite Movement:** By the late 1960s, the Naxalite movement emerged as a major challenge to the Indian state, initially appealing to intellectuals and the youth, but later descending into violent extremism.
 - **The Lingering Threat:** While the movement declined, left-wing extremism, particularly Naxalism, continues to be a threat, demonstrating the potential for radical ideologies to resurface.
- **The Rise of Right-Wing Extremism**
 - **Shift from Left to Right:** The rise of right-wing ideologies across Europe has shifted the focus of extremist violence from left-wing to right-wing extremism. Countries like Germany and France have seen growing right-wing movements with increasing xenophobia.
 - **Impact of Global Events:** The rise of the Islamic State and the 2001 attacks in the West, along with the pandemic, have exacerbated right-wing radicalization, feeding into global instability and insecurity.
 - **India's Security Implications:** Right-wing extremism is also growing in India, with organizations like the Popular Front of India (PFI) linked to radical elements, making it essential for law enforcement to manage this new dimension of threat.

2. Socialism Means 'Welfare State' In Indian Context: SC GS 2 (Governance)

- **Why in News:** The Supreme Court of India has reserved its judgment on a case challenging the inclusion of the words "socialist" and "secular" in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. The court is considering several petitions filed by individuals including Subramanian Swamy, Vishnu Shankar Jain, and Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who argue that these terms should not be part of the Preamble.

- **Background**

- **The 42nd Amendment (1976):** The terms “socialist”, “secular”, and “integrity” were added to the Preamble by the **42nd Amendment** during the **Emergency period** (1975-77) under the government of Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi**.
- The petitioners argue that these words were added in a controversial period (the Emergency) and should be removed, claiming that the amendment was unconstitutional. Though the petition is not against the principles of “socialism” or “secularism”, but objects to their inclusion in the **Preamble**.
- The petitioners argue that the inclusion of these terms in the Preamble was unnecessary and that the **Preamble** should remain as it was originally written by the **Constituent Assembly**.

Socialism in India means a welfare state, not a dictatorial dogma: CJI

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna on Friday said the idea of ‘socialism’ in India primarily meant a welfare state that provides equality of opportunity for all, and not a dictatorial dogma rammed down on citizens.

Heading a Bench comprising Justice Sanjay Kumar, the Chief Justice of India, reasoned that the concept of socialism in India did not negate the participation of private players or negate individualism.

The Supreme Court was hearing a batch of petitions, one of them by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, challenging the inclusion of the words ‘socialist, secular’ in the Preamble of the Constitution in 1976 with retrospective application. The petitioners have

meant that there should be equal opportunities for all; it never prevented the private sector from thriving here.

Challenged the validity of Section 2 of the Constitution 42nd Amendment Act of 1976, and particularly the change in the Preamble. One of the petitioners argued that the dogma of socialism cannot prevail over other ideas, and it was wrong to force upon the nation one particular economic theory.

Equality of opportunity “Socialism here means a welfare state where there should be equality of opportunity for all. It has never prevented the private



ed the “will of the people”. Mr. Upadhyay contended that the changes made amounted to a “fraud on the Constitution”. He pointed out that the 42nd Constitution Amendment Act was passed in the thick of the Emergency days when the “voice of the people was silenced”.

But the Chief Justice firmly pointed out that socialism and secularism were part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

CPI leader and former Rajya Sabha member, Binoy Viswam, represented by advocate Sriram Parakkat, described the pleas as a ruse to remove ‘socialist, secular’ from the Preamble in order to campaign for votes in the name of religion. Mr. Parakkat said the top court had specifically banned seeking votes in the name of faith.

- **Court’s Observations:**

- The **Supreme Court** benchnoted that the **42nd Amendment** had already been **subjected to judicial reviews** in the past and had been **upheld** by the courts.
- The bench emphasized that it cannot declare the Parliament’s actions during the Emergency as invalid. In other words, they rejected the idea that the changes made during the Emergency were **illegitimate**.
- The bench also **refused** to refer the case to a larger bench, as requested by the petitioners, and clarified that “**socialism**” in India refers to a “**welfare state**”, which is different from the concept of socialism in other countries.
- **The Role of Parliament and the Constitution:** The court highlighted that under **Article 368**, Parliament has the **power to amend the Constitution**, which includes the **Preamble**. This power was exercised during the 42nd Amendment.
- The bench made it clear that it would not entertain arguments claiming that the **Preamble** could not be amended, as **Article 368** grants Parliament the authority to do so.

- **Understanding ‘India’s’ Socialism**

- **Socialism in India:** The court stated that “**socialism**” in India is **understood as a welfare state**—meaning the state’s role is to ensure the welfare and equality of its citizens, not necessarily to control all industries or eliminate private enterprise. The private sector has grown successfully in India, and **socialism** in India has not stopped this growth.
- **Secularism in India:** The court referred to its earlier decision in the **1994 SR Bommai case**, where it had already ruled that “**secularism**” is a fundamental part of the Constitution, meaning the state must remain neutral and not favor any religion.

- **Preamble**

- The Preamble to the Indian Constitution serves as a concise statement of the fundamental principles and objectives that guide the nation.
- Adopted on November 26, 1949, it outlines the aspirations of the Indian people and sets the tone for the entire constitutional framework.
- The Preamble declares India to be a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, and republic nation.
- **Amendment:** As per Article 368 of the Constitution of India, the Preamble of the Constitution of India can be amended.

3. Govt. Notifies Telecommunication Cybersecurity Rules Under Telecom Act, 2023 GS 2 (Governance)

• Why in News:

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has published four sets of draft rules under the Indian Telecommunications Act, 2023. One of these includes Cybersecurity Rules.
- These rules mandate specific measures for telecom entities and outline clear obligations to enhance cybersecurity.

Govt. notifies telecom cybersecurity rules

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Centre has notified the telecom cyber security rules, that aim to safeguard India's communication networks and services, through a host of measures including specified time-limits for telcos to report security incidents and make disclosures.

The rules also empower the central government/its authorised agency to seek traffic data and any other data (other than the content of messages) from a telecom entity for the purpose of ensuring cyber security.

The rules clearly outline telecom cyber security obligations. Telecom entities would be required to appoint a Chief Telecommunication Security Officer,

and report security incidents within six hours to the Centre along with "relevant details of the affected system including the description of such incident."

In 24 hours of becoming aware of the security incident, telecom entities would be required to furnish information on a number of users affected, duration, geographical area, the extent to which functioning of the network or service is affected; and the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken.

As per the rules, a manufacturer of equipment that has an International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number, will register the number of such equipment manufactured in India with the government, before the first sale of such equipment.

• About Telecommunications Act, 2023:

- Earlier, the Indian Telecommunications sector was governed by three separate Acts of Parliament:
 - **Indian Telegraph Act 1885**
 - **Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act 1933,**
 - **Telegraph Wires, (Unlawful Protection) Act 1950**
- The Telecommunications Act, 2023 was brought in to consolidate these three separate Acts.
- **Aim:** To amend the existing laws governing the provision, development, expansion and operation of telecommunication services, telecom networks and infrastructure, in addition to assignment of spectrum.

• Telecommunication Cybersecurity Rules Under Telecom Act, 2023:

- **Data Collection and Analysis:**
 - The government or authorized agencies can request telecom companies for **traffic data** or other data for cybersecurity purposes.
 - **Message data** (e.g., text, audio, video) is excluded from the scope of government requests.
 - **Traffic data** includes information generated, transmitted, received, or stored in telecommunication networks, such as type, routing, duration, and timing.
 - Telecom companies must establish infrastructure to collect traffic data and provide it to the government at designated points for analysis, processing, and sharing with authorized entities.
- **Cybersecurity Compliance and Reporting:**
 - **Cybersecurity Policy:** Telecom companies must adopt and report on a cybersecurity policy that includes:
 - Security safeguards and risk management practices.
 - Procedures for network testing and incident response systems.
 - Forensic analysis measures for cybersecurity incidents.
 - **Security Audits:** Companies must conduct periodic cybersecurity audits through government-certified agencies.
 - **Security Operations Centre (SOC):** Telecom companies must establish SOC's to monitor and handle cybersecurity incidents.
 - **Incident Reporting:**
 - Initial reporting of cybersecurity incidents within **6 hours** of awareness.
 - Detailed reports (e.g., number of users affected, geographic impact, remedial actions) within **24 hours**.
 - **Compliance Portal:** Companies must furnish cybersecurity compliance reports on a government portal or through secure communication channels.
- **Security Incident Response:**
 - The government may direct telecom companies to:
 - Prevent or remedy cybersecurity incidents within a specified time frame.
 - Disconnect telecom identifiers linked to threat actors
 - Companies must appoint a **Chief Telecommunication Security Officer (CTSO)** to coordinate incident response and compliance

- The government can disclose incident details to the public or require telecom companies to do so.
- **Equipment Security Regulations:**
 - Telecom equipment with an **IMEI number** must be registered with the government.
 - It is prohibited to:
 - Alter or remove telecommunication equipment identifiers.
 - Use devices with tampered identifiers to produce traffic.
 - The government may block equipment with tampered IMEI numbers or direct manufacturers to assist in addressing such issues.
- **Digital Implementation:**
 - A government portal will facilitate the digital implementation of these rules.
 - Secure communication mechanisms may be used for issuing orders, collecting information, or reporting compliance.
- **Key Provisions Unchanged from the Original Draft Rules:**
 - The government can take action against threat actors by disconnecting identifiers.
 - Directions may be issued to telecom companies to prevent or address security incidents.
 - Tampering with equipment identifiers remains strictly prohibited
- This structured format ensures clarity in understanding the roles and responsibilities of telecom companies and the government's authority under the Telecommunication Cybersecurity Rules.

4. White House on Adani bribery case GS 2 (International Relations)

- **Why in News:** The White House has expressed confidence in its 'strong' ties with India amidst the ongoing controversy surrounding allegations against the Adani Group.
- **The issue**
 - The US Department of Justice issued a press release detailing allegations on the Adani Group for paying over \$250 million (approximately Rs 2,100 crore) in bribes to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for solar power contracts.
 - If the case proceeds badly for Adani, it will further damage his position in India. It will be difficult for Indian business and State institutions to disentangle themselves from Adani as he is heavily present in the infrastructure and energy sectors (most favoured sectors).
- **India-US Relations**
 - The relationship between the United States and India has grown significantly over the last 30 years, with cooperation in key areas such as defense, technology, and international initiatives. The engagement has been built around three main pillars:
 - **India as the World's Largest Democracy:** The U.S. values India's democratic system, and they often emphasize their shared democratic ideals. The U.S. sees India as a "natural ally" because both countries are democracies—India is the world's largest, and the U.S. is one of the oldest.
 - However, despite this shared democratic identity, their approaches to democracy can differ. India generally avoids promoting democracy abroad and often has a more pragmatic stance compared to the U.S. on issues concerning non-democratic countries.
 - India's own democracy has faced challenges, but the 2024 parliamentary elections have helped reaffirm its democratic credentials.

White House: Aware of (Adani) allegations, India-US ties on strong foundation

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 22

A DAY after US prosecutors indicted the Adani Group for allegedly offering Rs 2,029 crore (US \$265 million) in bribes to Indian government officials, the US has said that the Indo-US relationship is built on a "strong foundation".

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters Thursday that the administration is aware of the charges against the Adani Group.

United States prosecutors indicted the Adani Group Chairman, Gautam S Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani and six others on Wednesday for allegedly offering \$2,029 crore bribes to Indian government officials for securing "lucrative solar energy supply contracts" with state electricity distribution companies.

"Obviously we're aware of these allegations, and I would have to refer you to the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) and DOJ (Department of Justice) about the specifics of those allegations against the Adani Group," she said.

"What I will say is on the US and India relationship, we believe that it stands on an extremely strong foundation anchored in ties between our people and cooperation across a full range of global issues," Jean-Pierre said.

"What we believe and we're confident about is that we'll continue to navigate this issue as we have with other issues that may have come up as you just stated. And so the specifics of this, this is something that the SEC and DOJ can speak to directly, but again, we believe that... this re-

lationship between India and the US has been built on a strong foundation," the White House Press Secretary said.

The bribery charges come nearly 22 months after the Adani Group faced allegations of stock manipulation and accounting fraud from US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research.

The government has not responded to the allegations that the Adani Group has denied.

There is a sense in the establishment that the controversy will not impact the Indo-US relations, which are considered to be bipartisan, in the last two decades.

Diplomats dealing with the US account feel that the institutional mechanisms between the two countries are quite robust—that such episodes do not usually impinge on diplomatic relations.

While Adani's global footprint—from Australia to Bangladesh, Kenya to Sri Lanka—has expanded in the last decade, the Modi government has backed the business group with some diplomatic muscle.

New Delhi usually refrains from wading into allegations against private business groups, and portrays an "at arm's length" distance between the government and the firms.

When the Bangladesh interim government, under Chief Advisor Mohammad Yunus, criticised the Adani Group on the power purchase agreement, the Indian government did not wade into the dispute and asked the two parties to resolve the issue.

At present, the US has a lame-duck administration under President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, who lost the Presidential polls to former President Donald Trump.

- **India as a Bulwark Against China:** The U.S. sees India as a **counterbalance to China**, especially as tensions between India, the U.S., and China have risen. India's relationships with China and the U.S. have been in competition, particularly over issues like territorial disputes and the **South China Sea**.
 - India has become more involved in U.S.-led initiatives and has deepened defense cooperation with the U.S., but it still seeks to maintain strategic autonomy. This means India avoids forming strong alliances with any one country, including the U.S.
 - India's relationship with China is complex, as it has economic ties with China and military reliance on Russia, which limits its willingness to fully align with the U.S. in potential conflicts, like over Taiwan.
- **India as an Engine of Global Growth:** The U.S. sees India as a key player in global economic growth, especially in areas like **technology and manufacturing**. India's economy is growing rapidly, it has the world's largest population, and it's expected to become the **third-largest economy** in the next decade.
 - The U.S. also sees India as an alternative to China in terms of economic partnerships, especially with the trend toward reducing reliance on China in global supply chains.
 - However, India's growth faces challenges. It has struggled to expand its manufacturing sector, and issues like infrastructure, labor, and protectionism hold back its economic potential. India is unlikely to replace China's central role in global supply chains in the near future.

5. Argentina considering leaving the Paris Agreement **GS 2 (International Relations)**

• Why in News:

- Argentina's President Javier Milei is reportedly considering withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, following his government's decision to pull negotiators from the COP29 climate summit.
- This review coincides with President-elect Donald Trump's plans to exit the accord for the second time, raising concerns over the future of global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

• Paris Agreement

○ About

- Adopted in December 2015 during the COP21 summit, it is a landmark international treaty under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- It seeks to unite nations in combating climate change and adapting to its impacts.
- The agreement requires member countries to submit and update their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) every five years, with each update reflecting greater ambition, as outlined by the UNFCCC.

○ Aim/Objectives

- **Limit Global Warming:** Keep the global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, with efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C.
- **Enhance Adaptive Capacity:** Strengthen countries' abilities to deal with climate impacts and foster climate-resilient development.
- **Financial Support:** Mobilize at least \$100 billion annually by 2020 to assist developing countries in climate action.

○ Achievements

- **Broad Participation:** Over 190 countries, including major emitters like China, the U.S., and the EU, have joined the agreement.
- **Global Commitments:** Countries submitted nationally determined contributions (NDCs) outlining their climate action plans.
- **Green Technology Growth:** Encouraged a global shift toward renewable energy and sustainable practices.

Argentina considers Paris treaty pullout: What does that mean?

ALIND CHAUHAN
NOV 11, 2024, 10:15 AM IST

Argentina's President Javier Milei is reportedly considering withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, following his government's decision to pull negotiators from the COP29 climate summit. This review coincides with President-elect Donald Trump's plans to exit the accord for the second time, raising concerns over the future of global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Paris Agreement, adopted in December 2015 during the COP21 summit, is a landmark international treaty under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It seeks to unite nations in combating climate change and adapting to its impacts. The agreement requires member countries to submit and update their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) every five years, with each update reflecting greater ambition, as outlined by the UNFCCC.

The aim/objectives of the Paris Agreement include limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, enhancing adaptive capacity, and mobilizing financial support for developing countries. Achievements of the agreement include broad participation from over 190 countries, global commitments to reduce emissions, and the growth of green technology.

Argentina's decision to consider withdrawing from the Paris Agreement is a significant move, especially given the global focus on climate action. The agreement is a cornerstone of international climate policy, and its withdrawal would have serious implications for global efforts to combat climate change. Argentina's decision is seen as a setback for the global climate movement, particularly as it coincides with the upcoming COP29 summit in Dubai. The move is also seen as a reflection of the political climate in Argentina, where President Milei's government is known for its right-wing, anti-establishment stance. Milei has expressed skepticism towards international agreements and has focused on domestic economic issues. His decision to pull Argentina out of the Paris Agreement is a clear signal of his government's priorities and its stance on international climate commitments.

The Paris Agreement is a landmark international treaty under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It seeks to unite nations in combating climate change and adapting to its impacts. The agreement requires member countries to submit and update their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) every five years, with each update reflecting greater ambition, as outlined by the UNFCCC.

The aim/objectives of the Paris Agreement include limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, enhancing adaptive capacity, and mobilizing financial support for developing countries. Achievements of the agreement include broad participation from over 190 countries, global commitments to reduce emissions, and the growth of green technology.

- **Criticism**
 - **Non-Binding Nature:** The agreement relies on voluntary commitments, with no enforcement mechanism for non-compliance.
 - **Insufficient Targets:** Critics argue that current NDCs are inadequate to meet the 1.5°C or 2°C goals.
 - **Financial Gaps:** Developed nations have fallen short of the \$100 billion annual funding target for developing countries.
 - **Withdrawal Risks:** Some countries, like the U.S. (temporarily under Trump) and potentially Argentina, have expressed intent to exit, undermining global unity.
- **Process of withdrawal from the Paris Agreement**
 - **Provision dealing with the withdrawal**
 - Article 28 of the Paris Agreement lays out the procedure and timeline for a country's withdrawal from the treaty.
 - **Conditions for Withdrawal**
 - A country can withdraw three years after the agreement's entry into force for that country (from 2016 onward).
 - Withdrawal requires written notification to the UN Depositary.
 - **Procedural Requirements**
 - The withdrawal notification must be submitted to the Office of Legal Affairs at the UN Headquarters in New York.
 - **Timeline for Withdrawal**
 - The withdrawal takes effect one year after the Depositary receives the notification.
 - A later date may be specified in the notification.
 - **Obligations Until Withdrawal Takes Effect**
 - Until the withdrawal becomes effective, the country remains a party to the agreement and must participate fully in its activities.
- **Argentina considering leaving the treaty**
 - **No Decision Yet on Withdrawal**
 - Argentina is re-evaluating its participation in the Paris Agreement but has not yet decided to leave.
 - The govt officials have cited disagreements with several aspects of the treaty.
 - Argentina is reassessing its overall climate change strategy. It has paused further actions until it gains clarity on its position.
 - **President Milei's Views on Climate Change**
 - President Milei is a climate change denier, previously calling it a "socialist lie."
 - **Government's Stance on Climate Change**
 - Argentina does not deny climate change but attributes it to natural cycles rather than human activities, framing the debate as a "philosophical issue."
 - The government supports taking measures to mitigate the effects of climate change despite differing views on its causes.
- **Potential Impact of Argentina's Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement**
 - **Global Concerns**
 - Experts fear Argentina's exit could create a domino effect, prompting other nations to reconsider their participation.
 - This would jeopardize global climate goals, which require a 42% reduction in emissions by 2030 and 57% by 2035 to limit warming to 1.5°C.
 - **Argentina's Role in Climate Policy**
 - As **South America's second-largest economy** and the **24th-largest GHG emitter**, Argentina plays a significant role in global emissions.
 - It holds substantial fossil fuel reserves, including the second-largest shale gas and fourth-largest shale oil reserves globally.

- **Economic and Diplomatic Risks**
 - Withdrawal could isolate Argentina on the global stage.
 - Countries like the EU are introducing climate-related import duties, making Argentina less attractive as a trading partner.
- **Domestic Challenges to Withdrawal**
 - Domestic opposition may hinder President Milei's ability to withdraw Argentina from the treaty.
 - Parliamentary approval is required for withdrawal, as all international treaties ratified by Argentina hold constitutional status.

6. Chhattisgarh's New Tiger Reserve

GS 3 (Environment)

- **Why in News:** Indian government has notified the 56th Tiger Reserve of the country in Chhattisgarh. Guru Ghasidas - Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve of Chhattisgarh is going to be the 3rd largest in the country.

• Tiger Reserves

○ About

- A National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary that is considered significant for protecting tigers can be additionally designated as a Tiger Reserve.
- A Tiger Reserve consists of:
 - a 'Core' or 'Critical Tiger Habitat', which is to be managed as an inviolate area, and
 - a 'Buffer' or Peripheral area, which may be accorded a lesser degree of habitat protection.

○ Background

- **Project Tiger was launched by the Govt in 1973** to save the endangered species of tiger in the country. As part of this project, the tiger reserves of India were set up.
- These reserves are administrated by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.

○ How are tiger reserves notified?

- Tiger Reserves are notified by State Governments as per **provisions of Section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** on advise of the **National Tiger Conservation Authority**.
- The following steps are involved in the notification:
 - Submission of a proposal by the State.
 - NTCA granting in-principle approval and requesting detailed proposals.
 - NTCA conducting due diligence and recommending the proposal to the State.
 - State Government officially notifying the area as a Tiger Reserve.

○ Can tiger reserves be altered and de-notified?

- As per Section 38W of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:
 - Changes to tiger reserve boundaries require the recommendation of the Tiger Conservation Authority and approval from the National Board for Wildlife
 - De-notification of a tiger reserve by a State Government is only allowed in public interest with approval from both the Tiger Conservation Authority and the National Board for Wildlife.

• Guru Ghasidas - Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve

○ About the reserve

- It is the **fourth tiger reserve in Chhattisgarh** after **Achanakmar, Indravati, and Udanti - Sitanadi**.
- With an area of 2,829 sq km, it is the third largest tiger reserve in India.

○ Geographical location

- The reserve is spread across **four districts in northern Chhattisgarh's Sarguja region**: Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur (MCB), Korea, Surajpur, and Balrampur.
- It is located in the northern part of the state, bordering Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.

Chhattisgarh's new tiger reserve, at heart of animal's contiguous home



- It falls **between two other tiger reserves**: Bandhavgarh in Madhya Pradesh and Palamau in Jharkhand.
- **Connectivity**
 - Situated between Bandhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh) and Palamau (Jharkhand) Tiger Reserves, with proximity to Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh), **forming the largest contiguous habitat for tigers.**
- **Wildlife found in the region:**
 - Includes tigers, elephants, sloth bears, vultures, peacocks, wolves, leopards, otters, chitals, jackals, nilgai, bison, hyenas, langurs, cobras, etc.
- **Flora**
 - The reserve is also rich in flora, with sal, saja, dhavda, and kusum providing the bulk of the tree cover.
- **Significance**
 - Guru Ghasidas National Park was the last known habitat of the Asiatic cheetah in the country.
 - Turning Guru Ghasidas into a Tiger Reserve is important because it connects Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh and provides a corridor for tigers to move between the Bandhavgarh and Palamau Tiger Reserves.
 - The state's tiger population fell from 46 in 2014 to 17 in 2022, the last official tiger status report by the NTCA, released in 2023, revealed.
 - Hence, this new Tiger Reserve will help in Tiger conservation in the state.

