

14th Amendment

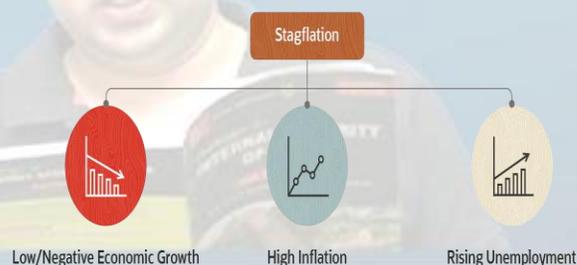
- The Colorado Supreme Court ruled Donald Trump ineligible for the 2024 presidential ballot based on the 14th Amendment, Section 3, citing his involvement in the January 6, 2021, insurrection.
- The reason is the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1868, three years after the Civil War ended
- Section 3 disqualifies individuals from holding office if they engaged in insurrection against the United States, emphasising governance through constitutional politics, not force.
- It applies to all federal and state offices, requiring adherence to the oath to uphold the Constitution and ensuring that office holders respect the rules of governance.
- The provision targets those resorting to violence when ballots fail to achieve desired outcomes, emphasising the significance of democratic principles over force.
- However, there's a possibility of redemption through congressional action (by a two-thirds vote of each House) to remove the disqualification in exceptional cases.
- The Hindu

Stagflation

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials believe the risk of stagflation a portmanteau of economic stagnation with high inflation has lowered further to 1% compared with 3% in August based on data.

What Is Stagflation?

Stagflation is the combination of poor economic growth and high inflation, usually accompanied by rising unemployment.



Stagflation hits an economy when its growth slows while inflation rises—economic trends that contradict each other in normal times.

The Hindu

AITGA

ABOUT ASEAN

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam joined ASEAN on 7 January 1984, followed by Viet Nam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and

Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999, making up what is today the ten Member States of ASEAN.



ASEAN India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITGA)

- The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (the "Agreement") is a trade deal between the ten member states of ASEAN and India.

ASEAN and India signed the Agreement at the 7th ASEAN Economic Ministers-India Consultations in Bangkok, Thailand in 2009. The Agreement, which came into effect in 2010, is sometimes referred to as the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement.

The Agreement has led to steadily increasing trade between ASEAN and India since its signing. In 2019-20, trade between India and ASEAN was worth US\$86 billion.

- Though this represented a decline from US\$97 billion in 2018-19 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was an increase from US\$81.3 billion in the 2017-18 financial year.
- The Agreement covers trade in physical goods and products; it does not apply to trade in services.
- ASEAN and India signed a separate ASEAN-India Trade in Services Agreement in 2014.
- Along with the ASEAN-India Investment Agreement, the three agreements collectively form the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area.

- Once the Agreement came into force in 2010, it established one of the world's largest free trade areas, covering a combined market of close to 1.8 billion people. Under the Agreement, ASEAN and India have committed to progressively eliminating duties on 76.4 percent of goods and to liberalize tariffs on over 90 percent of goods.
- India and the ten-member Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) will begin negotiations in February to "modernise" their decade and a half-old free trade agreement (FTA) to bring more balance in the pact currently weighed against New Delhi.

- But new areas like labour, environment, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and gender, are likely to be kept out, sources have said.
- India has long been pressing for a review of the AITGA, which was signed in August 2009 and implemented in January the following year, as the pact resulted in disproportionate benefits for the ASEAN.
- India's trade deficit with the region was at \$7.5 billion per annum when the pact was implemented.
- This has ballooned to \$43.57 billion in FY23
- Modernizing the AITGA will include incorporating changes in the Rules of Origin (ROO), which can work in favour of India by increasing market access for some items as well as blocking possible re-routing of goods by China through the ASEAN countries.
- The modernised AITGA will also have a chapter on trade remedies, which will seek to provide a safety net for domestic industry against unfair trade practices or unforeseen surges in imports of goods, he added.

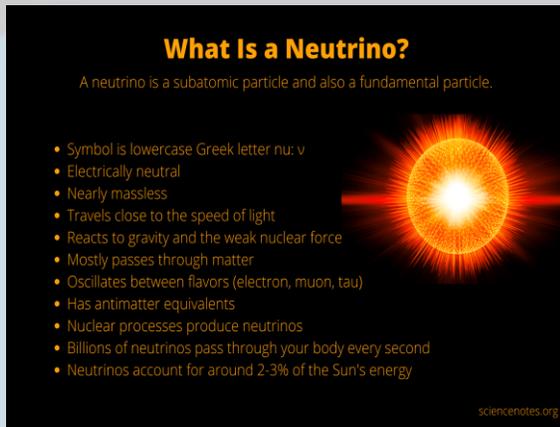
- But no new areas, such as environment, labour, MSMEs or gender, will be added to the AITGA.

- The Hindu

Arecibo message

- The Arecibo message is an interstellar radio message carrying basic information about humanity and Earth that was sent to the globular cluster Messier 13 in 1974.
- It was meant as a demonstration of human technological achievement, rather than a real attempt to enter into a conversation with extraterrestrials.
- The message was broadcast into space a single time via frequency-modulated radio waves at a ceremony to mark the remodeling of the Arecibo Telescope in Puerto Rico on 16 November 1974.
- The message was aimed at the current location of M13, about 25,000 light years from Earth, because M13 was a large and relatively close collection of stars that was available in the sky at the time and place of the ceremony
- Messier 13 or M13, also designated NGC 6205 and sometimes called the Great Globular Cluster in Hercules or the Hercules Globular Cluster, is a globular cluster of several hundred

thousand [stars](#) in the [constellation of Hercules](#).



The Hindu

Geography of Taiwan



It runs through the [Tropic of Cancer](#). Also known as Formosa,

The island of Formosa (or Taiwan) was formed about 4.5 million years ago from a [Geosyncline](#). It is part of an [island arc](#).

It was formed when the [Eurasian Plate](#) slid under an old chain of volcanic islands in the Philippine Mobile Belt.

At the northern end of the island, the Philippine Mobile Belt sank under the Eurasian Plate

Island arcs are those well-known series of islands with [volcanoes](#) (such as the [Ring of Fire](#)).

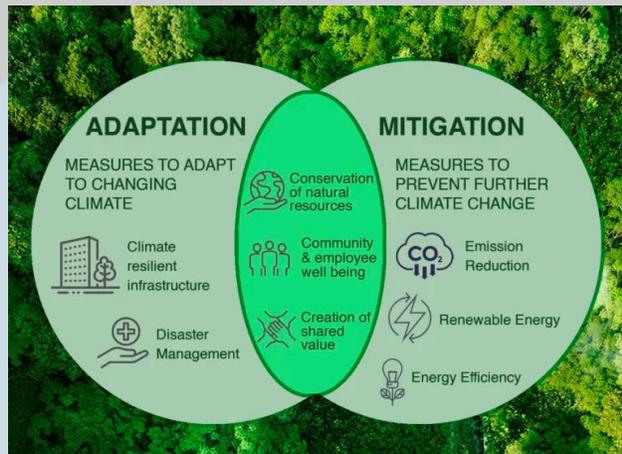
They are usually caused by [tectonic plate boundaries](#) passing over geologic [hot spots](#) in the [Earth's crust](#).

In [geology](#), a hotspot or hot spot is a portion of the Earth's surface which is [volcanic](#). This may be caused by a rising mantle plume or some other cause.

Hotspots may be far from [tectonic plate boundaries](#).

The Hindu

• Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)



impacts and exposure to risks and vulnerabilities and have[ing] used the outcomes of these assessments to inform their formulation of national adaptation plans, policy instruments, and planning processes and/or strategies”, by 2030.

- By 2027, all the Parties have to establish multi hazard early warning systems, climate information services for risk reduction and systematic observation to support improved climate related data, information and services.
- A significant point remains to be answered whether it will advance adaptation.
- The GGA is an encouraging development as it contains a number of developments that are very useful for the cause of adaptation.
- But it still falls woefully short in terms of treating adaptation on a par with mitigation as it lays stress on holding the increase in the global average temperature well below 2° C and 1.5° C essential for ensuring the continued availability of the largest number of adaptation options and also adds greater levels of mitigation that will reduce the need for additional adaptation efforts.
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- The 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in Dubai, was notable in terms of stopping the lackadaisical approach of the international community to the adaptation concern.
- Guided by the Paris Agreement on Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), the efforts put in at COP 26 and COP 27 were what culminated in the adoption of the framework for GGA at COP28.
- The Hindu

Challenges in GGA implementation

- The framework of the GGA is expected to influence what type of adaptation action will be prioritised.
- A main target in the GGA includes the Parties to the Paris Agreement having “conducted up-to-date assessments of climate hazards, climate change

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SAURABH PANDEY

CSE

(CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION)

FROM BASICS TO UPSC BRILLIANCE