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## **1. Israel-Hezbollah Conflict- History and Present**

### **Introduction**

#### **The Displacement of Palestinians (1948)**

The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah has its origins in the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, which led to the displacement of over 750,000 Palestinian Arabs. Many of these displaced Palestinians settled in southern Lebanon, creating tensions in the region.

#### **Early Conflicts (1970s-1980s)**

Throughout the 1960s and 70s, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) used southern Lebanon as a base to launch attacks on Israel. In response, Israel invaded southern Lebanon twice—first in 1978 and again in 1982, in an attempt to push back the PLO. This led to Israel establishing a security zone in southern Lebanon, patrolled by a Christian militia allied with Israel.

### **The Rise of Hezbollah**

#### **Formation and Objectives**

Hezbollah was formed in the early 1980s as a response to Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon. Backed by Iran, Hezbollah initially sought to resist Israeli forces but gradually expanded its goals to include creating a theocratic state in Lebanon and opposing Western influence in the region.

#### **Hezbollah's Role in Lebanese Society**

Apart from its military activities, Hezbollah gained substantial support by providing social services such as healthcare and education, particularly to Lebanon's marginalized Shiite population.

### **Key Conflicts and Developments**

#### **Operation Grapes of Wrath (1996)**

In 1996, Israel launched a 17-day military campaign called Operation Grapes of Wrath against Hezbollah, which resulted in significant civilian casualties. A notable incident occurred in Qana, where over 100 Lebanese civilians were killed, increasing Hezbollah's popularity.

#### **Israeli Withdrawal (2000)**

By 2000, Israel's continued presence in southern Lebanon became untenable due to Hezbollah's persistent attacks. Israel unilaterally withdrew from Lebanon after a costly 18-year occupation.

### The 2006 War

In 2006, after Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers, Israel launched a full-scale attack. The conflict resulted in the deaths of 1,200 Lebanese and 159 Israelis. Despite Israel's military advantage, Hezbollah's resilience proved difficult to overcome, and the war ended without Hezbollah's defeat.



### Current Situation

#### Continued Hostilities

Tensions between Israel and Hezbollah have persisted, and recent escalations following the October 7, 2023, Hamas attacks have once again led to clashes. As of now, Israel is preparing for a potential ground invasion of southern Lebanon, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vows to continue striking Hezbollah targets.

#### Legacy of the Conflict

#### Influence on Regional Dynamics

Hezbollah's successful resistance against Israel has cemented its role as a dominant political and military force in Lebanon. It has also inspired other militant groups in the region, becoming a key player in Iran's

broader strategy in the Middle East.

### Israeli Military Strategy

Israel's experience with Hezbollah has shaped its military tactics, leading to a preference for airstrikes and short incursions rather than prolonged ground occupations. However, the current situation may signal a shift in this strategy.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Relations

Source: Indian Express

## 2. Supreme Court's Methods for Addressing Errant Judges

### Overview

The Supreme Court (SC) faces challenges when dealing with misconduct by judges due to constitutional protections. While impeachment is the only formal route, the SC has developed alternative methods to influence or discipline judges within these constraints.

### Judicial Misconduct: A Recent Case

In September 2024, the SC expressed concern over comments made by Karnataka High Court Justice V Srishananda, including referring to a Bengaluru locality as being "in Pakistan" and making an inappropriate remark toward a female lawyer. Although the judge apologized, the case highlighted the difficulty of disciplining judges in constitutional courts.



### Impeachment as the Sole Formal Mechanism

Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts have significant protections to ensure their independence. The only constitutional process to remove a judge is impeachment, which is detailed in Article 124(4). This process requires a high level of political consensus and has been triggered only five times in India's history.

None of these impeachment attempts resulted in a judge's removal, though one judge, Justice Soumitra Sen, resigned after being impeached by the Rajya Sabha.

### Judicial Action as an Alternative

When impeachment is not feasible, the SC has taken judicial action. In 2017, Calcutta High Court Justice C S Karnan was found guilty of contempt of court and sentenced to six months in prison. His case raised concerns about the SC disciplining a fellow judge, which set an uneasy precedent.

### Transfer Policy and the Role of the Collegium

Another method the SC uses to influence judges is the transfer policy, managed by the Collegium. The Collegium, consisting of five senior-most SC judges, can recommend the transfer of High Court judges. This practice has been used to discipline judges by moving them to different courts, as seen in the 2010 case of Justice P D Dinakaran, who faced corruption allegations. However, critics argue that transferring judges does not address underlying issues and merely relocates the problem.

### Conclusion

While impeachment is the only formal method for dealing with judicial misconduct, its high threshold makes it rare. The SC has therefore developed informal methods, such as judicial reprimands and transfers, to manage errant judges while working within constitutional limitations.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: Indian Express

## 3. India rises to 39th position among 133 global economies in the Global Innovation Index 2024

### Introduction

India has achieved a significant milestone in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024, securing the 39th position among 133 global economies. This leap in ranking reflects India's commitment to fostering a robust innovation ecosystem that is underpinned by strong policies, investment in research and development (R&D), and a collaborative environment for startups and industries. The country's growing innovation potential has been supported by government initiatives that prioritize technological advancement, ease of doing business, and entrepreneurship. This impressive achievement is a clear indication of India's emergence as a global innovation leader, a feat that also underscores its rapid transformation from a developing economy into a hub of cutting-edge technological and scientific breakthroughs.



### **India's Innovation Journey: A Steady Ascent**

In a span of nearly a decade, India has made tremendous strides in the GI rankings, rising from the 81st position in 2015 to 39th in 2024. This steady climb reflects the country's focused approach towards nurturing innovation across various sectors, driven by strong governmental support and a robust intellectual property framework.

This achievement highlights India's growing leadership in innovation, especially as the country ranks 1st among 10 economies in Central and Southern Asia and 1st among lower-middle-income economies. Furthermore, India ranks 4th globally in the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Science & Technology (S&T) Cluster Ranking, with key cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, and Chennai listed among the World's Top 100 S&T clusters. Additionally, India stands 7th globally in intangible asset intensity and excels in innovation outputs, ranking 33rd, marking a notable improvement from the previous year. This

recognition underscores India's continued dominance and leadership in innovation across multiple sectors.



In the 2024 edition of the GII, Switzerland, Sweden, the United States, Singapore, and the United Kingdom have emerged as the world's most innovative economies. However, India, along with China, Turkey, Vietnam, and the Philippines, has been recognized as one of the fastest-rising economies in terms of innovation over the past decade.

The Global Innovation Index (GII) was launched in 2007 through a collaboration between INSEAD, a prominent business school, and World Business, a British magazine. It offers a comprehensive evaluation of global innovation by tracking the performance of 133 economies worldwide. The Global Innovation Index serves as a benchmark resource that charts global innovation trends, guiding policymakers, business leaders, and others in unleashing human ingenuity to improve lives and address shared challenges, including climate change.

### **Important Initiatives**

India's rise in the Global Innovation Index (GII) reflects not only the country's remarkable progress but also its growing potential to emerge as a global hub for innovation. Through



initiatives like Start-Up India, Digital India, and the Atal Innovation Mission, the Indian government has continuously fostered entrepreneurship, research, and technological advancement. Startup India was launched on January 16, 2016, with the goal of nurturing entrepreneurship, building a strong startup ecosystem, and transforming India into a nation of job creators rather than job seekers. This initiative includes a variety of programs designed to support emerging entrepreneurs. These efforts are coordinated by the Startup India Team, which reports to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). As of September 30, 2024, DPIIT has officially recognized 1,49,414 entities as startups.

Digital India is a key government initiative aimed at transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge-based economy. The Digital India programme is centred on three key vision areas: digital infrastructure as a core utility to every citizen, governance & services on demand, digital empowerment of citizens.

### Initiatives and measures to promote technology led startup-innovation ecosystem



Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), established in 2016, is a flagship initiative of the Government of India to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country. AIM adopts a comprehensive approach to foster problem-solving and innovative thinking in schools, while also creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem in universities, research institutions, and the private and MSME sectors. Till date, AIM has established 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs in

Schools across the country, more than 3500 startups are incubated at Atal Incubation Centres and have created more than 32000 jobs in the ecosystem.

These programs, along with sustained efforts in boosting innovation infrastructure and enhancing collaboration between academia and industry, have been key drivers of this growth. As India continues its upward trajectory in innovation, the focus remains on scaling up infrastructure, promoting intellectual property rights protection, and encouraging public-private collaboration. These actions will solidify India's competitiveness in the global innovation landscape, fuelling both economic growth and societal advancement.

### **Conclusion**

India's stellar performance in the Global Innovation Index 2024 underscores its strategic focus on leveraging innovation as a key driver for economic growth and global competitiveness. The nation's ability to rapidly climb the rankings reflects its concerted efforts to foster a robust ecosystem that encourages technological advancements, research and development, and entrepreneurship. Looking ahead, India's sustained focus on innovation will be vital as the country seeks to capitalize on emerging technologies, expand its influence in the global tech industry, and foster inclusive growth. With continued policy support and an evolving talent pool, India is not just poised to maintain its leadership among lower-middle-income economies but also to emerge as a global powerhouse of innovation, driving advancements that could shape the future of industries worldwide.

Relevance: GS Prelims

Source: Indian Express