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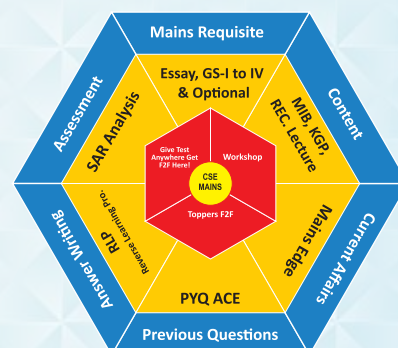
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MANISH KUMAR

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MONTHLY MAGAZINE – MAY 2025

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3	Virat Kohli's true legacy: Transforming Indian cricket through fitness and work ethic
4	Justice Sanjiv Khanna — a legacy of fairness and integrity
5	Jayant Narlikar's Hoyle-Narlikar Theory of Gravity
6	UN Dag Hammarskjold Medal Awards
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4	PM Modi Remembers Veer Savarkar on Birth Anniversary
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2	Caste Census: Legal basis, preparation timeline, and challenges ahead
3	What is Caste Census?
4	SECC 2011: When caste data was collected but not published
5	Water sharing dispute between Punjab and Haryana
6	Jharkhand collects OBC data for 'triple test' to determine quotas
7	The 14 questions President Murmu has asked the SC
8	After President Murmu seeks advisory opinion from SC, can court overturn its R N Ravi decision?
9	Does Article 21 include right to digital access?
10	The Veeraswami case: When can a sitting judge face an FIR?
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2	Eight states have kept their deputy speaker positions vacant
3	Sikkim's 50 Years of Integration with India
4	Justice BR Gavai was sworn in today as the 52nd Chief Justice of India
5	Digital access as fundamental right

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1	Poverty fell significantly last year. Much of it was driven by GDP growth
2	Kannada wasn't born from Tamil. The truth is much more interesting
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2	SMILE Scheme
3	A Decade of Marriage Equality in Ireland
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3	Trump, Syria & the Middle East
4	Member states of WHO adopt global pandemic treaty
5	What is the FATF, and why does Pakistan potentially being greylisted matter?
6	In India, needed, a crypto strategy
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	Pakistani official declared persona non grata
2	India's Trade Restrictions on Bangladesh
3	India's New Northeast-Kolkata Sea Link Project
4	UP Govt, World Bank Launch Tech-Driven Agri Project
5	UN Security Council Meeting on India-Pakistan Tensions
6	IMF Clears Loan Tranche to Pakistan; India Abstains
7	2025 Human Development Report
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1	Keyword of the Day: Regulatory Cholesterol
2	Is natural hydrogen the fuel of the future?
3	2 genome-edited rice varieties - 'Kamala' and 'Pusa DST Rice 1'
4	Takeaways from India-UK Free Trade Deal
5	The right to repair movement
6	Why and how does the RBI transfer 'surplus' to the government?
7	The 'core' of inflation and RBI's rate cutting decisions
8	Why India is the third-largest economy, not fourth or fifth
9	India releases provisional GDP estimates
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	Urban Challenge Fund
2	Cabinet approves hike in MSP for kharif crops; outlay stands at ₹2.07 lakh crore
3	India Records USD 81.04 Billion FDI Inflow in FY 2024-25

4	DoT Introduces "Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)" to strengthen Cyber Fraud Prevention
5	Railway Infrastructure Development
6	RBI's Record Forex Intervention in FY25
7	Foxconn's Rs 12,800 Crore Investment in India
8	Mismatch between MGNREGS coverage, delivery, says report
9	Port-led Development in India: FY 2024-25
10	India Expands Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups
11	India's First Mortgage-Backed Certificates Listed on NSE
12	Domestic Institutions Surpass FPIs in NSE Stock Ownership
13	RBI Gold Reserves Increase
Science & Technology	
1	Keyword of the Day: 'Wonder drug' Ozempic
2	Keyword of the Day: What are 'dark patterns' in e-commerce?
3	How did India develop genome edited rice?
4	OpenAI's latest AI models report high 'hallucination' rate
5	In nuclear energy push, Govt to allow private operators, limit liability
6	ISRO's 101 st satellite launch fails
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	Super-Fast Charging Sodium-Ion Battery Technology
2	High-Altitude Platform (HAP) Prototype
3	Nipah Virus Case in Kerala
4	Shingles Vaccine and Dementia Risk: What Recent Research Shows
Geography & Environment	
1	Picture of the Day: Vizhinjam Port
2	Fact of the Day: Study estimates at least 35,000 lives in India lost to extreme temperatures during 2001-2019
3	How ethanol from maize ignited a Fuel vs Feed debate
4	Future of Asiatic lion
5	How Madden-Julian Oscillation helped trigger the early onset of the monsoon
6	Cargo ship sinks near Kerala coast
7	What is India's stance on methane emissions?

NEWS IN SHORT	
1	PM E-Drive Scheme: E-Bus Allocation
2	Kerala Ship Disaster
3	Volcanic Eruption in Indonesia
4	Rare Fish Rediscovered in Arunachal Pradesh
5	Operation Olivia: Conservation Efforts for Olive Ridley Turtles
6	Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project Crisis
Internal Security	
1	SECURITY UPDATE: OPERATION SINDOOR
2	SECURITY UPDATE: Operation Sindoor: India's Response to Cross-Border Terrorism
3	Keyword of the Day: Fog of War
4	SECURITY UPDATE: Operation Sindoor
5	The hot LOC
6	How Air Defence Systems work
7	S-400, Akash missile key to IAS shield against Pakistan missiles and drones
8	HAROP: UAV used by India against Pakistan
9	Story of Brahmos
10	OM address to the nation on Operation Sindoor
11	Trump's 'Golden Dome'
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	Exercise Nomadic Elephant
2	IE This Word Means: Fifth-generation fighter
3	Defence Ministry Clears AMCA 5th-Generation Fighter Project
4	Maoist Encounter in Chhattisgarh
5	DRDO Stratospheric Airship Platform
6	India Fast-Tracks Strategic Hydroelectric Projects on Chenab River amid Pakistan Tensions
7	New Dam Opened on Chenab After India Blocked Water to Pakistan
8	India's defence spending rises 2.6 times in a decade, says government
9	Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Violence Decline
Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude	
1	Literature Update: Quiet power, revolutions: What shines in Banu Mushtaq's 'Heart Lamp'
2	What are the challenges faced by the civil servants?
3	Qatar's \$400 million aircraft gift to Trump: Legal, ethical concerns up in the air

QUOTES OF THE DAY

May 2025

Sl No	Quote
1	"A true batsman should in most of his strokes tell the truth about himself." – NEVILLE CARDUS
2	"Caste is not just a division of labour; it is a division of labourers." – B R AMBEDKAR
3	"Always carry champagne! In victory you deserve it and in defeat you need it." – NAPOLEON BONAPARTE
4	"Leaders who insist on imposing their decisions, do not organise the people - they manipulate them." – PAULO FREIRE
5	"We make up horrors to help us cope with the real ones." – STEPHEN KING
6	"In the past, people were born royal. Nowadays, royalty comes from what you do." – GIANNI VERSACE
7	"Commerce is a cure for the most destructive prejudices." – MONTESQUIEU
8	"Solitude is the profoundest fact of the human condition. Man is the only being who knows he is alone." – OCTAVIO PAZ
9	"Grace is not part of consciousness; it is the amount of light in our souls, not knowledge nor reason." – POPE FRANCIS
10	"There is no flag large enough to cover the shame of killing innocent people." – HOWARD ZINN
11	"Youth is the gift of nature, but age is a work of art." – STANISLAW JERZY LEC
12	"If it's the right chair, it doesn't take too long to get comfortable in it." – ROBERT DE NIRO
13	"I am rooted, but I flow" – VIRGINIA WOLF
14	"Thrillers are like life, more like life than you are." – GRAHAM GREENE
15	"There's no question dolphins are smarter than humans as they play more." – ALBERT EINSTEIN
16	"Reason and free inquiry are the only effectual agents against terror." – THOMAS JEFFERSON
17	"Grammar is a piano I play by ear. All I know about grammar is its power." – JOAN DIDION
18	"Character may almost be called the most effective means of persuasion" – ARISTOTLE
19	"This moment feels like a thousand fireflies lighting up a single sky — brief, brilliant and utterly collective." – BANU MUSHTAQ
20	"If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter." – GEORGE WASHINGTON
21	"The man who invented the red carpet needed his head examined." – PRINCE PHILIP
22	"There are two means of refuge from the misery of life — music and cats." – NEVILLE CARDUS
23	"Intelligence plus character — That is the goal of true education" – MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
24	"Your own actions are a better mirror of your life than the actions of all your enemies put together." – NGUGIWA THIONG'O
25	"Money often costs too much." – RALPH WALDO EMERSON

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

May 2025

SI No	Quote
1	"With the third parties so clearly rejected by voters, the Liberals should work with the Conservatives to get things done in Parliament." – THE GLOBE AND MAIL, CANADA
2	"As Iran is cementing ties with Russia, China and North Korea, the United States will need its friends, too, especially when it comes to sanctions. Iran can be expected to insist on assurances that any future deal won't be as easily discarded as the last one." – THE WASHINGTON POST
3	"In the worst-case scenario, Kyiv has shored up the relationship for a short period, while European allies step up support. That is not nothing. But an administration which has so harshly demanded Ukraine's gratitude has yet to give it anything deserving of thanks" – THE GUARDIAN
4	"Trump is attempting to create a presidency unconstrained by Congress or the courts, in which he and his appointees can override written law when they want to. It is precisely the autocratic approach that this nation's founders sought to prevent when writing the Constitution." – THE NEW YORK TIMES
5	"As Israel and the US attack international courts, other nations – including the UK – must do all they can to defend and bolster them. They must also press harder for the immediate resumption of aid." – THE GUARDIAN
6	"The economy will soon become Trump's. He holds the power to influence its strength-but he has little time left to act." – THE WASHINGTON POST
7	"The initial failure of coalition members to back the new German chancellor in sufficient numbers was a bad beginning at a treacherous moment for the nation." – THE GUARDIAN
8	"Both India and Pakistan believe they are treading carefully, but without intercession, the military clash following the murder of Hindu tourists in Kashmir could escalate." – THE GUARDIAN
9	"Now that both India and Pakistan have fired their first salvos, it's time to give diplomacy a chance." – THE KATHMANDU POST, NEPAL
10	"The first pontiff from the United States can be a powerful countervailing voice in the Trump era, and help protect Francis's legacy." – THE GUARDIAN
11	"It is more than likely that the ban may drive many Awami League members to questionable activities, as we have seen previously with associates of some banned political parties." – THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH
12	"Hopefully, the Geneva talks will become a new example for China and the US to work hand in hand to inject more stability and positive energy into the world." – GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA
13	"Sheikh Hasina's 16 years remains a chilling reminder of what happens when too much power is placed in the hands of one individual" – THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH
14	"Trump doesn't believe in submission to rules of any kind. He recognises no distinction between business conducted in the White House and deals done at Mar-a-Lago." – THE GUARDIAN
15	"Right now there are few signs that Damascus is on the path of inclusivity and progress, regardless of the newfound confidence the US has in Syria's current rulers." – DAWN, PAKISTAN

16	"The key question surely remains not whether the US President can be coaxed and flattered into being more helpful, but whether he can be dissuaded from becoming actively obstructive - cutting off intelligence or Starlink, or preventing Europe from buying arms for Ukraine." – THE GUARDIAN
17	"Trump is a President who eschews carefully planned diplomacy. More often than not, he appears to be winging it, and this sometimes leads to progress. The past week has demonstrated the possibilities, as well as the pitfalls." – THE WASHINGTON POST
18	"A comeback for the centrist mayor of Bucharest was good news for Kyiv. But elsewhere in Europe, the far right continues to flourish." – THE GUARDIAN
19	"It now seems that, for a considerable time, Biden might have lacked the stamina and cognitive capacity the job demands — and that his family and closest aides concealed this from the public." – THE WASHINGTON POST
20	"It now seems that, for a considerable time, Biden might have lacked the stamina and cognitive capacity the job demands — and that his family and closest aides concealed this from the public." – THE GUARDIAN
21	"The world must come together to save Gaza's children from starvation." – THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH
22	"Mr Trump's budget may blow up the deficit, but it also blows up the illusion that Democrats can win with numbers. The only way out is to fight not over how much the federal government spends but whom it spends it on." – THE GLOBE AND MAIL, CANADA
23	"Mr Carney clearly envisions a sprint of action through the summer, capped off by a fall budget that can point to a series of accomplishments." – THE GLOBE AND MAIL, CANADA
24	"New legislation allowing the annual Budapest Pride celebration to be banned contravenes basic rights. Brussels needs to draw a line in the sand." – THE GUARDIAN
25	"The good news is that the President's plans to impose tariffs on almost every country on the planet will now be subjected to something approaching the legal and constitutional scrutiny that they should have had in the first place. The rule of law, thankfully, has struck back, at least for now." – THE GUARDIAN



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PERSONALITIES IN NEWS

May 2025

Personalities in News: Operation Sindoor: Meet Col Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh leading Modi Govt's military messaging [Link](#)

- 1) India launched Operation Sindoor in response to a massacre in Pahalgam, targeting and destroying nine terror hubs in Pakistan with precision missile strikes.
- 2) The operation was a direct retaliation against the killing of tourists by terrorists and aimed to send a strong message against cross-border terrorism.
- 3) **Colonel Sofiya Qureshi** (Indian Army) and **Wing Commander Vyomika Singh** (Indian Air Force) were chosen as the public faces of the operation, briefing the media in Hindi and English respectively.
- 4) **Col Sofiya Qureshi** is notable for being the first woman to lead an Indian Army contingent in a major multinational exercise and has extensive peacekeeping experience.
- 5) **Wg Cdr Vyomika Singh** is a helicopter pilot with over 2,500 flying hours and has participated in significant expeditions and operations.
- 6) The government's choice of two accomplished women officers for the media briefing was seen as a powerful message of gender parity and national unity.
- 7) The operation marks a shift in India's approach to military messaging, highlighting both operational precision and inclusive representation.



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, centre, with Indian army officer Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, left, and Indian Air Force officer Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, right, address a press conference after India struck multiple sites inside Pakistani controlled territory with missiles under Operation Sindoor, in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, May 7, 2025. (AP Photo)

Personalities in News: Russia honours Biju Patnaik [Link](#)

A memorial plaque dedicated to Biju Patnaik was inaugurated at the Russian Embassy in New Delhi by Naveen Patnaik and Russian Ambassador Denis Alipov to honor his role during the Battle of Stalingrad.

The Battle of Stalingrad

- 1) Began on **August 23, 1942**, when Nazi Germany's 6th Army attacked Stalingrad
- 2) Germans controlled nearly 90% of the city by fall 1942, reducing it to ruins
- 3) **Soviet counterattack (Operation Uranus)** in November 1942 surrounded approximately 300,000 Axis troops
- 4) German forces under Gen Paulus surrendered on January 30, 1943



Biju Patnaik dropped supplies to the besieged Red Army during the Battle of Stalingrad. (Express Photo, Wikimedia Commons)

- 5) Battle marked a decisive turning point in World War II, ending German momentum in the east

Biju Patnaik's Contributions

- 1) Joined Royal Indian Air Force in 1936, primarily flying transport planes like the "Dakota"
- 2) Flew multiple sorties to drop supplies to the besieged Red Army in Stalingrad
- 3) Braved Luftwaffe and German anti-aircraft batteries to deliver essential supplies
- 4) Also flew evacuation missions for British officials from Rangoon and supply missions to support China's Chiang Kai-Shek

Personalities in News: Virat Kohli's true legacy: Transforming Indian cricket through fitness and work ethic [Link](#)

Why in News? Virat Kohli recently announced his retirement from Test cricket, concluding a glorious career with 9230 runs from 123 Tests.

Fitness Revolution in Indian Cricket

- 1) Introduced fitness culture to Team India after becoming captain in 2015
- 2) Transformed himself from a "chubby butter chicken loving teenager" to one of cricket's fittest athletes
- 3) Collaborated with strength coach Shankar Basu to implement scientific training approaches
- 4) First cricketer to train like an Olympic athlete, moving beyond traditional cricket fitness methods
- 5) Proposed and championed the Yo-Yo test to establish clear fitness benchmarks
- 6) Completely revamped his diet, removing junk food and eventually adopting a plant-based diet to reduce body fat and improve recovery

Impact on Team Performance

- 1) India became a fast-bowling powerhouse during his captaincy era
- 2) Enhanced team's ability to compete effectively against SENA countries (South Africa, England, Australia, New Zealand)
- 3) Fast bowlers improved fitness levels, maintaining intensity throughout matches
- 4) Won 40 of 68 Tests as captain through his aggressive approach
- 5) Prioritized taking 20 wickets in Tests, sometimes selecting an extra bowler over a batter

Training Methods and Mental Discipline

- 1) Follows structured five-day workout plan with scheduled rest days
- 2) Maintains exceptional work ethic, described by Yuvraj Singh as "four times better than any sportsperson in the last 15 years"
- 3) Always first to arrive and last to leave training sessions
- 4) Practices daily mindfulness and meditation for mental focus
- 5) Demonstrated resilience by rewiring his technique after difficult tours (e.g., England 2014)
- 6) Uses visualization exercises and positive affirmations for high-pressure situations

Legacy and Influence

- 1) Became an aspirational role model for younger cricketers
- 2) A generation of players imitated not just his technique but his appearance and fitness approach

mint

'#269, SIGNING OFF'

KOHLI BIDS FAREWELL TO TESTS

- #269 is Virat Kohli's official Test cap number
- He debuted in 2011 against West Indies in Jamaica
- Kohli was the 269th cricketer to represent India in Test matches
- The number reflects the order of debut among Indian Test players
- Since debut, Kohli played 123 Tests, scored 9,230 runs, including 30 centuries

- 3) Established fitness as essential rather than optional in Indian cricket
- 4) Demonstrated that disciplined training and lifestyle directly correlate with on-field performance
- 5) Set a standard of excellence that future generations of cricketers will be measured against

Personalities in News: Justice Sanjiv Khanna — a legacy of fairness and integrity [Link](#)

Why in News? Justice Sanjiv Khanna recently retired after completing a brief but impactful six-month tenure as the 51st Chief Justice of India.

Constitutional Protection and Minority Rights

- 1) Issued firm interim orders staying suits seeking to change character of mosques, effectively enforcing Places of Worship Act
- 2) Stayed implementation of controversial provisions of Waqf (Amendment) Act
- 3) Asserted court's secular character, stating "When we sit here, we lose our religion. We are absolutely secular"
- 4) Led bench that upheld inclusion of "socialist" and "secular" in the Constitution's Preamble
- 5) Supported judgment against illegal bulldozer demolitions targeting minority homes


Judicial Transparency Initiatives

- 1) Reinstated mandatory public disclosure of judges' assets through April 2025 full court resolution
- 2) Made Collegium recommendations and government pendency data public
- 3) Released details about judicial appointments including caste, gender, minority status
- 4) Swiftly addressed controversies involving High Court judges with transparent inquiries
- 5) Affirmed CJI's office as public authority subject to RTI scrutiny

Administrative Reforms

- 1) Ended practice of oral mentions, requiring written submissions for case listing
- 2) Achieved 106% case clearance ratio - first time Supreme Court disposed more cases than filed
- 3) Ensured fair and rational assignment of sensitive cases to appropriate benches
- 4) Firmly responded to legislative and executive criticism of judicial decisions
- 5) Declared he would not accept any post-retirement government positions

Significant Judgments

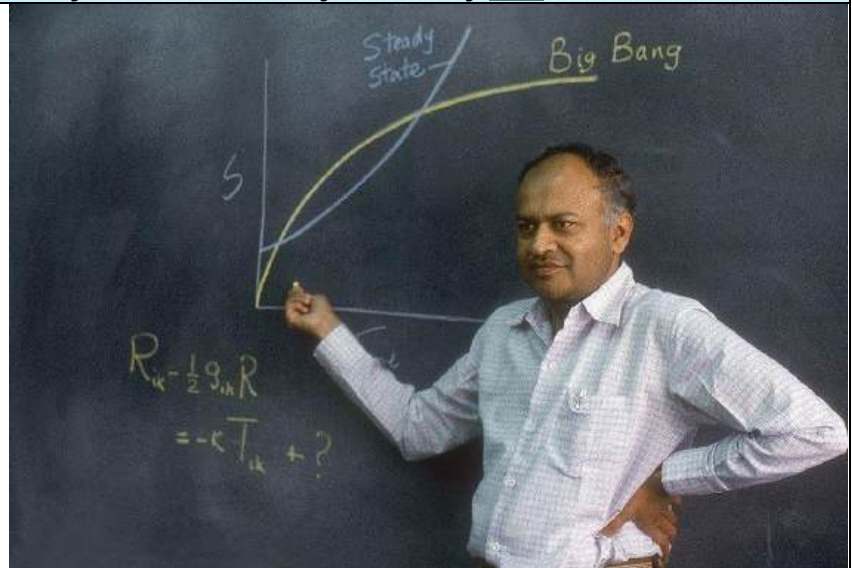
- 1) Co-authored judgment on Electoral Bonds emphasizing transparency in political funding
- 2) Ruled against preferential land allotment to VIPs by state governments
- 3) Authored Constitution Bench judgment enabling direct divorce through Article 142 powers
- 4) Upheld EVM integrity while refusing full VVPAT slip counting
- 5) Co-authored judgment upholding Article 370 abrogation in Jammu & Kashmir

Personalities in News: Jayant Narlikar's Hoyle-Narlikar Theory of Gravity [Link](#)

Why in News? Eminent Indian astrophysicist Jayant Narlikar passed away in Pune on May 20, 2025, at the age of 87.

Key Principles of the Hoyle-Narlikar Theory

- 1) Developed with Fred Hoyle in 1964 as an **alternative to Einstein's General Theory of Relativity**.
- 2) Also known as conformal gravity, it's a Machian theory that originally supported the quasi-steady state model of the universe.
- 3) At its core is Mach's principle, which states that the **mass of every object in the universe is affected by its interaction with all other objects**.
- 4) Proposes that an object's **inertia (resistance to motion) arises from its interactions** with all other matter in the universe.
- 5) Suggests that **"a universe with nothing in it is impossible"** - there must be at least two particles, each giving mass to the other.
- 6) The gravitational constant **G is not fixed** but determined by the mean density of matter in the universe.
- 7) The theory was inspired by the Wheeler-Feynman absorber theory for electrodynamics.
- 8) Reduces to Einstein's general relativity in specific conditions involving smooth fluid models of particle distribution.


The Creation Field Concept

- 1) Proposed a **"creation field" (C-field)**, a hypothetical negative-energy field responsible for continuous matter creation.
- 2) This field explains the steady-state cosmology - the idea that the universe has no beginning or end.
- 3) While acknowledging universal expansion, it maintains that the universe preserves constant density through continuous creation of new matter.
- 4) Specifically proposed that **hydrogen atoms are continuously created in space to fill voids** resulting from expansion.

Challenges to the Theory

- 1) **Stephen Hawking** demonstrated in 1965 that the theory was **incompatible with an expanding universe**.
- 2) The discovery of **cosmic microwave background (CMB) radiation** in 1965 presented a major challenge, as CMB is considered evidence of the Big Bang.
- 3) Additional evidence supporting the Big Bang theory, including observations showing galaxy evolution, made the steady-state theory less popular over time.
- 4) Despite challenges, the theory remains significant for successfully incorporating Mach's principle into cosmology, something Einstein had attempted but couldn't achieve.

NEWS IN SHORT: PERSONALITIES IN NEWS
UN Dag Hammarskjold Medal Awards

- 1) **Posthumous Honor:** Two Indian peacekeepers who died in 2024 while serving under UN flag received prestigious Dag Hammarskjold medals on International Day of UN Peacekeepers (May 29)
- 2) **Recipients:**
 - a) **Brigadier Amitabh Jha:** Served with UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in Golan Heights, was acting force commander during Syrian crisis in December 2024
 - b) **Havildar Sanjay Singh:** Deployed with UN Stabilisation Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) for conflict stabilization

- 3) **Ceremony Details:** India's Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish received medals from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at UN headquarters
- 4) **India's UN Contribution:** India is 4th largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping, currently deploying over 5,300 military and police personnel across seven missions

Historical Context: The medal honors peacekeepers who made ultimate sacrifice, named after second UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold who died in 1961 plane crash during peace mission



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History, Art & Culture

May 2025

Cultural Extravaganza: Thrissur Pooram celebrated on Tuesday [Link](#)

About Thrissur Pooram

- 1) Annual Hindu temple festival celebrated in Thrissur, Kerala, India at Thekkinkadu Maidanam.
- 2) Known as the **"Mother of all Poorams"**
- 3) Celebrated in the Malayalam month of Medam (April-May)

Historical Background:

- 1) Originated in **1796**, founded by **Shakthan Thampuran (Raja Rama Verma)**, the Maharaja of Cochin.
- 2) Created after temples from Thrissur were denied entry to Arattupuzha Pooram due to late arrival caused by heavy rain.
- 3) Has continued for over 200 years as one of the world's most renowned temple festivals.

Cultural extravaganza



Majestic display: Colourful parasols are displayed on elephants during the Thrissur Pooram celebrations on Tuesday. K.K. NAJEEB

Participants:

- 1) Ten temples participate, divided into two groups: **Paramekkavu side and Thiruvambady side**
- 2) Centered around **Vadakkunnathan Temple** (Lord Shiva's temple)

Key Rituals and Highlights:

- 1) **Kodiyettam** (flag hoisting) marks the beginning of celebrations, seven days before the main event
- 2) **Procession of about 50 caparisoned elephants** carrying temple deities
- 3) **Kudamattam ceremony** - rapid exchange of colorful parasols atop elephants
- 4) **Ilanjithara Melam** - traditional percussion ensemble with around 250 artists
- 5) **Spectacular fireworks displays (Vedikettu)**, including sample fireworks and main rounds
- 6) **Poora Vilambharam** - ceremonial opening of the south entrance gate of Vadakkunnathan Temple
- 7) **Display of elephant ornaments and decorations (Nettipattam, Chamayam, etc.)**
- 8) **Farewell ceremony (Upacharam Cholli Piriya)** marks the end of celebrations

NEWS IN SHORT: HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

The Holy Buddha Relic of Sarnath to Vietnam

- 1) The Holy Relic of Lord Buddha enshrined at Sarnath was ceremonially brought to Delhi on April 30, 2025, and displayed at the National Museum.
- 2) On May 1, the relic will be **transported to Ho Chi Minh City** by a special Indian Air Force aircraft with full religious protocol.

- 3) This marks the first time these sacred relics are being sent for exposition in Vietnam during the **UN Day of Vesak 2025 celebrations**.
- 4) The relics were originally excavated in **Nagarjuna Konda, Andhra Pradesh**, a major center of **Mahayana Buddhism**.
- 5) They will be displayed at four important Buddhist sites in Vietnam:
 - a) Hanh Tam Monastery (May 2-8)
 - b) Ba Den Mountain (May 9-13)

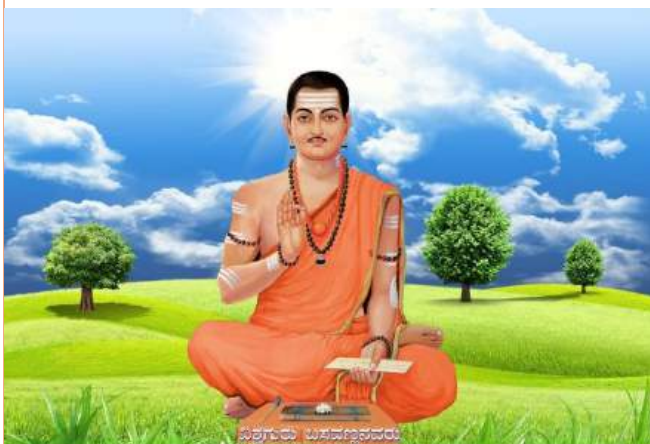
- c) Quan Su Monastery (May 14-18)
- d) Tam Chuc Monastery (May 18-21)
- 6) A high-level delegation led by Union Minister Kiren Rijiju will accompany the relics.

The main theme for UN Day of Vesak 2025 is **"Buddhist Approach to Unity and Inclusivity for Human Dignity"**.



PM Modi's Tribute to Basaveshwara

PM Modi commemorated Basava Jayanthi on April 30, 2025



*Basavanna said
"As long as mankind is divided on the
basis of caste, Nation cannot prosper"*

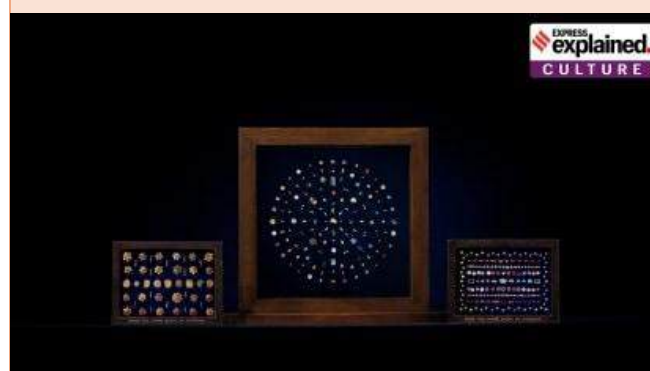
About Basaveshwara (1131-1196 CE)

- 1) Born in Karnataka; 12th-century philosopher, poet, and social reformer
- 2) Also known as Basava or Basavanna and "Bhakti Bhandari" (treasurer of devotion)
- 3) Served as Prime Minister in Kalachuri King Bijjala's court
- 4) Founded the Lingayat sect which worships Shiva as the sole deity
- 5) Composed "Vachanas" - poetic verses expressing philosophical ideas

- 6) Established "Anubhava Mantapa" - democratic forum for spiritual discourse
- 7) Promoted "Kayaka" doctrine - work is worship regardless of profession
- 8) Led Sharana movement attracting followers from all castes

The Piprahwa Relics: India's Effort to Halt Their Auction

The Piprahwa relics represent one of the most significant archaeological discoveries related to Buddha's life and are currently at the center of an international heritage dispute as India attempts to halt their auction.



What Are the Piprahwa Relics?

- 1) Ancient Buddhist artifacts discovered in 1898 at Piprahwa, Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Include bone fragments believed to be Buddha's remains, caskets, gems, and gold ornaments
- 3) Found in a stupa at ancient Kapilavastu, where Prince Siddhartha lived
- 4) Considered one of the original eight stupas containing Buddha's cremated remains

Discovery and Distribution

- 1) Excavated by British estate manager William Claxton Peppé in 1898
- 2) Most artifacts transferred to Indian Museum in Kolkata
- 3) Some bone relics gifted to King of Siam (Thailand)
- 4) About one-fifth of collection retained by Peppé family
- 5) These "duplicates" now scheduled for Sotheby's auction on May 7, 2025

India's Objections to the Auction

- 1) Relics classified as 'AA' antiquities under Indian law
- 2) Ministry of Culture: artifacts are "inalienable religious and cultural heritage"
- 3) Sale allegedly violates Indian legislation and international conventions
- 4) Buddhist leaders condemn commercialization of sacred relics

Actions Taken by India

- 1) Legal notices issued to Sotheby's and Chris Peppé (great-grandson) on May 5, 2025
- 2) Archaeological Survey of India requested Hong Kong authorities to intervene
- 3) Culture Minister raised issue with UK counterpart

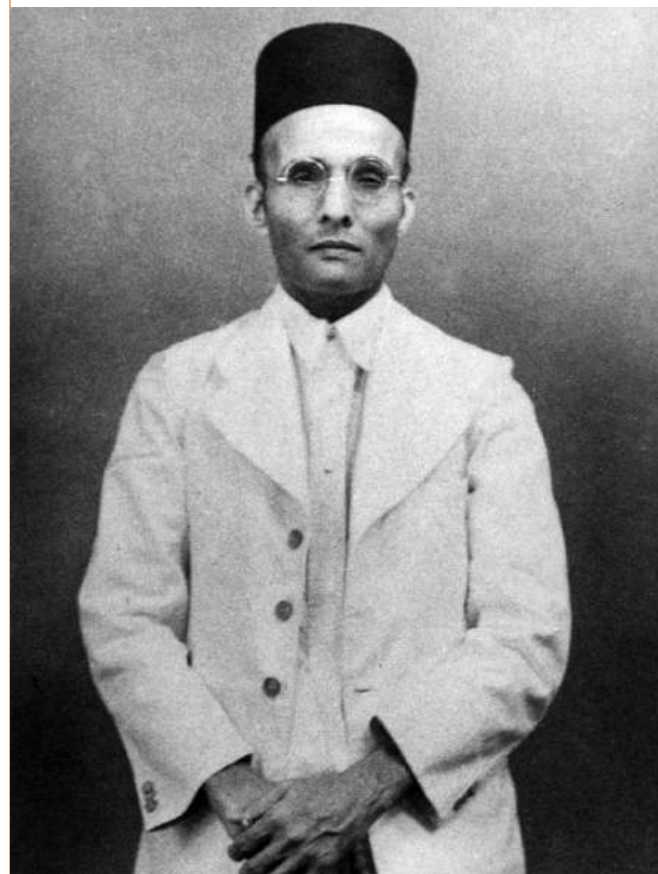
Financial Investigation Unit coordinating with Hong Kong

PM Modi Remembers Veer Savarkar on Birth Anniversary

- 1) Prime Minister Modi paid tribute to Veer Savarkar on his 142nd birth anniversary (May 28, 2025), calling him "a true son of Mother India"
- 2) Modi praised Savarkar's unwavering dedication, stating that even the "harshest torture from colonial British power could not dent his dedication to the motherland"
- 3) Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (1883-1966) was a freedom fighter, writer, and political thinker who **coined the term 'Hindutva'**
- 4) He founded the revolutionary group "**Abhinav Bharat**" in 1904 and was

imprisoned in Andaman's Cellular Jail under harsh conditions

Home Minister Amit Shah also paid tribute, highlighting Savarkar's efforts to free Indian society from untouchability and unite it



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REVERSE LEARNING PROGRAM (RLP)

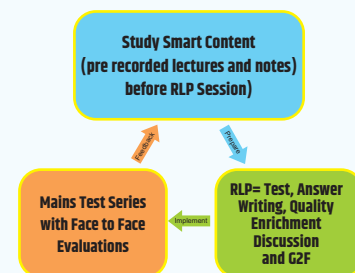
An innovative **Quality Enrichment Program** and **Answer Writing**
Mains Program dove tailed with **Face 2 Face** evaluation

14 Tests + 27 Sessions

9-Sectional+ 5 Full Length Tests

- ★ **Content:** Recorded Lectures (100+ hours) on Mains topics.
- ★ **Study Materials:** Handouts on **Mains Topics** (Essay, Ethics, Economy, Society, Governance, Geography, etc).
- ★ **Workshop: 27 RLP Sessions** (Daily Answer Writing + Live Discussions) will help in better structuring of answers and better utilization of value addition materials
- ★ Each RLP session will consist of **1.5-hour test** (10-PYQs) followed by **1.5-hours of quality discussion** and Group 2 Face evaluation.
- ★ One RLP test = 10Q = PYQs + Current Affairs
- ★ Integrated with **GS Mains Test Series** (1-Essay+1 CA + 7-Sectional + 5 FLT's)
- ★ **Face to Face** Evaluation for internalization of personal feedback
- ★ **8-Marks Improvement Booklets** (Essay & Ethics etc.) including **Current Issues**.

RLP WORKFLOW



**ABHISHEK
VASHISHTHA**
AIR-14



**DEVANSH
MOHAN DWIVEDI**
AIR-228



**TANISHI
KALRA**
AIR-386



**SARTHAK
SINGH**
AIR-393

Date	No of Day	Subject/Theme
2-Jun	RLP_2501	Geography
4-Jun	RLP_2502	Geography
6-Jun	RLP_2503	Geography
8-Jun	ST_2501	Essay
9-Jun	RLP_2504	Geography
11-Jun	RLP_2505	Biodiversity and Env.
13-Jun	RLP_2506	Biodiversity and Env. & DM
15-Jun	ST_2502	Geo., Biodiversity, Env. & DM
16-Jun	RLP_2507	Indian Culture & History
18-Jun	RLP_2508	Indian Culture & History
20-Jun	RLP_2509	Indian Culture & History
22-Jun	ST_2503	Indian Culture & History
23-Jun	RLP_2510	Economic Development
25-Jun	RLP_2511	Economic Development
27-Jun	RLP_2512	Agriculture
29-Jun	ST_2504	Economic Development + Agri
30-Jun	RLP_2513	Society
2-Jul	RLP_2514	Social Justice
4-Jul	RLP_2515	Governance
6-Jul	ST_2505	Society, SJ & Governance

Date	No of Day	Subject/Theme
7-Jul	RLP_2516	Constitution and Polity
9-Jul	RLP_2517	Constitution and Polity
11-Jul	RLP_2518	Constitution and Polity
13-Jul	ST_2506	Constitution and Polity
14-Jul	RLP_2519	International Relation
16-Jul	RLP_2520	Security
18-Jul	RLP_2521	Technology
20-Jul	ST_2507	IR, Security & Technology
21-Jul	RLP_2522	Ethics Part A
23-Jul	RLP_2523	Ethics Part A
25-Jul	RLP_2524	Ethics Part A
27-Jul	ST_2508	Current Affairs
28-Jul	RLP_2525	Ethics Part B
30-Jul	RLP_2526	Ethics Part B
1-Aug	RLP_2527	Ethics Part B
3-Aug	ST_2509	Ethics
10-Aug	FLT_2501	ESSAY
11-Aug	FLT_2502	GS-I
12-Aug	FLT_2503	GS-II
13-Aug	FLT_2504	GS-III
14-Aug	FLT_2505	GS-IV

Concession Details

Fee: ₹15000 + GST

Kalam IAS Students: **20%**

UPSC Interview Student: **30%**

CSE Selected Students: **50%**

Polity & Governance

May 2025

News / Explained / Explained Politics / The caste census

The caste census

The government has decided to hold a caste census along with the upcoming Census. Data collected by the Census will impact boundaries of constituencies, reservation for women in elected bodies, and give a fillip to demands for more quotas and their sub-categorisation.

IE Explained; By Shyamlal Yadav;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity & Governance [Link](#)

Why in News? The **Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA)** headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the enumeration of castes in the upcoming Census, reversing the government's previous position.

Historical Context

- 1) Census data since 1951 has only included counts of **Scheduled Castes (SCs)** and **Scheduled Tribes (STs)**, not other castes.
- 2) Most recent comprehensive caste data available is from the **1931 Census**.
- 3) **1941 Census** collected caste data but never released it due to World War II.
- 4) No Indian government has conducted a full caste count since independence.
- 5) In 2010, UPA government opted for a separate **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)** instead of including it in the main census.
- 6) SECC cost nearly Rs 4,900 crore but the caste data collected was never published.

What it means

- 1 Caste will be enumerated for the first time in a census since Independence. **1931** The last time a caste census was conducted in India
- 2 It will likely lead to an expansion of caste-based quotas in jobs and education, especially for other backward classes
- 3 Caste-based quotas will likely breach the 50% cap set by the 1992 Indra Sawhney judgment
- 4 The data might be used to create sub-quotas in SC, ST and OBC reservations. The Supreme Court has already permitted the government to

Current Development

- 1) Decision announced on May 30, 2025, by Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- 2) **Caste enumeration will be included in the forthcoming census** in a "transparent manner".
- 3) The census exercise was originally due in 2021 but delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4) Officials suggest census might **commence towards end of 2026 or beginning of 2027**.

NUMBERS GAME

1881-1931: British Raj included caste enumeration in Census	2016: SECC data published, caste excluded
1951: Junked in independent India's first Census, except for SCs and STs	2018: Rajnath Singh, then home minister, speaks about OBC data collection in Census 2021
1961: States allowed to conduct surveys to prepare their OBC lists	2023: Cong demands an 'up-to-date' caste census
2011: UPA undertakes caste enumeration as a part of Socio-Economic & Caste Census	2024: Bihar, Telangana publish caste survey data. Karnataka undertook survey, yet to release data

Implications

- 1) Census data will **impact boundaries of political constituencies and reservation policies**.
- 2) **Full delimitation of constituencies** is frozen until "the first Census taken after 2026".
- 3) **Women's reservation in elected bodies** depends on Census and delimitation.
- 4) Likely to boost **demands for increased quotas and sub-categorization** within caste categories.
- 5) May lead to **expansion of caste-based quotas**, potentially exceeding the 50% limit set by Supreme Court.
- 6) Will provide **accurate data on OBC population**, currently estimated at 52% by Mandal Commission.

News / Explained / Caste Census: Legal basis, preparation timeline, and challenges ahead

Caste Census: Legal basis, preparation timeline, and challenges ahead

Caste Census India: Which list of OBCs will be used? How much preparation is needed before enumeration can begin? And what challenges—both during the data collection and after the publication of results—could lie ahead?

IE Explained; By Ritika Chopra;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity & Governance [Link](#)

Why in News? Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs has approved inclusion of caste enumeration in 2025 Census, first comprehensive caste data collection since 1931.

Legal Basis for Caste Census

- 1) No amendment to Census Act required.
- 2) Registrar General and Census Commissioner empowered to design census proforma.
- 3) Can simply add OBC question beyond existing General, SC, ST categories.
- 4) Final proforma requires gazette notification.

OBC List Considerations

- 1) Central list (2,650 communities) maintained by National Commission for Backward Classes.
- 2) State lists often differ and include more communities.
- 3) Government must decide: use central list only or merge with state lists.
- 4) For comparison: SC list includes 1,170 castes; ST list has 890 communities.

Preparation Timeline

- 1) Minimum six months preparation needed before enumeration begins.
- 2) Central and state government notifications required (up to 2 months).
- 3) First digital census requiring software updates for OBC field with drop-down menu.
- 4) Enumerator retraining necessary (approximately 2 months).
- 5) Pilot testing needed to ensure no software glitches.

- 6) 80% work in preparation phase, 20% after data collection.

THE ALL-IMPORTANT CASTE-BASED CENSUS

<p>➤ Centre announces first caste census since 1931; historic, data-driven step for equity</p> <p>➤ Fadnavis, BJP leaders term move bold, overdue; blame Congress for decades of indecision</p> <p>➤ Congress supports census but questions timing; fears it's a poll play targeting Bihar votes</p>	<p>➤ Rahul Gandhi credited by Congress; calls for end to 50% reservation cap and RSS reform</p> <p>➤ OBC activists welcome count; warn against tokenism, demand data drives inclusive policy, not election agendas</p>	<p>Taywade thanks Modi govt Vaibhav.Ganajpure@timesofindia.com</p> <p>The National OBC Federation described the decision as a landmark moment in the fight for social equality. President Babanrao Taywade credited a decade-long sustained movement by OBC organisations and activists across the country for bringing the issue to the national forefront.</p> <p>"This is not just a declaration but realisation of a 10-year-old demand of our federation. We thank the central govt, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, home minister Amit Shah, and Union Cabinet for this decision," said Taywade in a statement.</p>
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Challenges Ahead

Procedural Challenges

- 1) Technology adaptation difficulties for enumerators
- 2) Misinformation risks via social media platforms
- 3) Need for robust public outreach campaigns
- 4) Training 30 lakh government officials for digital format

Political Challenges

- 1) Selecting appropriate OBC list for enumeration
- 2) Post-publication demands for recalibrating reservation quotas
- 3) Potential calls to lift 51% reservation cap set by Supreme Court
- 4) First accurate caste composition data in nearly a century
- 5) Impact on delimitation of constituencies and women's reservation implementation

What counts in caste census

Timing of announcement, motive behind it, don't matter in long run. What will be crucial is what governments do once census is done.

IE The Ideas Page; By Vandita Mishra;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity, Society [Link](#)

Yogendra Yadav writes: Caste census announcement is an opportunity to fine-tune reservation policy

Once the debate shifts to the real issue of how, the first task would be to be vigilant about three matters

IE Explained; By Yogendra Singh;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity, Society [Link](#)

The implications of caste enumeration

While there is a vast political leadership who came through the lanes of OBC politics, there has also been a concentration of certain OBC communities in these spaces. The upcoming Census, with caste enumeration, could create a window of opportunity for the inclusion of those communities who have been left behind

IE Explained; By Rama Shanker Singh, Sarthak Bagchi;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity, Society [Link](#)

Why in News? On April 30, 2025, the **Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA)** approved caste enumeration in the forthcoming national population census, marking the first comprehensive caste count in India since 1931.

What is Caste Census?

A caste census is a demographic exercise that collects data on the caste identity of citizens as part of the national population count. This upcoming census will:

- 1) Include comprehensive data on all caste groups, not just Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)
- 2) Record OBC (Other Backward Classes) populations systematically for the first time since independence
- 3) Provide detailed information about the demographic distribution of different caste groups across India

Historically, every census in independent India from 1951 to 2011 has published data **only on SCs and STs**, while comprehensive caste enumeration was **abandoned after 1931**.

The Mandal Commission used these outdated 1931 figures to estimate OBC population at 52% when recommending the 27% reservation quota.

Significance of Caste Census

- 1) **Addressing Social Inequality**
 - a) Provides data to identify disadvantaged groups and bring them to the forefront of policymaking
 - b) Helps implement targeted policies to uplift marginalized communities
- 2) **Evidence-Based Policymaking**

- a) Enables formulation of policies based on actual demographic composition rather than estimates
- b) Allows for equitable distribution of resources based on verified population data
- c) Acts as an **"X-ray" of Indian society**, revealing demographic compositions and potentially economic inequality patterns
- 3) **Strengthening Affirmative Action**
 - a) Helps monitor the effectiveness of reservation policies and other affirmative action measures
 - b) Creates opportunity for inclusion of communities who have been left behind despite the broader OBC reservation framework¹
 - c) Could influence recalibration of reservation quotas in proportion to actual populations
- 4) **Democratic Recognition**
 - a) Acknowledges the ground reality that caste continues to influence various aspects of Indian life
 - b) Addresses the principle articulated by social scientist Satish Deshpande: "we must recognise that we need to measure precisely those things that we mean to abolish - or else we risk mistaking censorship for abolition"

Challenges and Concerns

- 1) **Administrative and Logistical Complexities**
 - a) India has thousands of castes and sub-castes with regional variations in nomenclature
 - b) The same caste may be spelled differently in different states or have varying social status across regions
 - c) Accurately identifying and categorizing each individual's caste presents significant challenges
- 2) **Social and Political Risks**
 - a) Potential for deepening social divisions by reinforcing caste identities
 - b) Risk of intensifying debates over caste-based reservations, creating social tensions
 - c) Concerns about political exploitation of data for electoral strategies
- 3) **Implementation Challenges**

- a) Need for standardized classification of castes across regions
- b) Ensuring accurate data collection without manipulation
- c) Balancing the need for comprehensive data with operational feasibility
- 4) **Post-Census Policy Implications**
 - a) May trigger demands to lift the 50% ceiling on reservations set by Supreme Court
 - b) Could lead to calls for recalibration of existing quotas based on new population figures
 - c) Various communities like Patels, Gujjars, and Jats may intensify demands for inclusion in reservation frameworks
- 5) **Data Privacy and Misuse**
 - a) Ensuring protection of sensitive personal information about caste identity
 - b) Preventing stigmatization based on caste affiliation
 - c) Establishing protocols to prevent misuse of data for divisive purposes

Political Context and Ideological Shifts BJP's Evolving Stance

- 1) The BJP traditionally viewed caste-centric politics as potentially divisive
- 2) Party previously maintained it recognized only "four castes: the poor, youth, women, and farmers"
- 3) Current decision represents a complete policy reversal and acknowledgment of caste as a political reality

Opposition Influence

- 1) Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had adopted caste census as a key campaign issue
- 2) Several regional parties and state governments had been advocating for caste enumeration
- 3) Bihar under the RJD-JDU government had already conducted its own caste survey

Global Contrast

- 1) India's decision to embrace caste counting contrasts with the United States, where the Trump Administration 2.0 is dismantling Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs

- 2) Represents divergent approaches to addressing systemic discrimination

The caste census represents a watershed moment in India's social policy, potentially reshaping the landscape of affirmative action and resource allocation while testing the nation's ability to confront its deep-rooted social hierarchies with empirical data,

News / Explained / SECC of 2011: When caste data was collected but not published

SECC of 2011: When caste data was collected but not published

The SECC collected data on a range of parameters, parts of which were published in 2016. But the data on caste populations, other than the total numbers of SCs and STs, was not made public.

IE Explained; By Lalmani Verma;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity & Governance [Link](#)

Why in News? The Government has decided to collect caste data in the upcoming Census 2021, highlighting that the SECC 2011 previously collected but never published comprehensive caste data.

Socio Economic Caste Census 2011 Overview

- 1) Conducted between 2011-2013 as socio-economic study of rural and urban households.
- 2) Administered by **Ministry of Rural Development** through door-to-door enumeration.
- 3) Covered 24 lakh enumeration blocks with approximately 125 households each.
- 4) Under administrative control of **Ministry of Home Affairs** through RGI and Census Commissioner.
- 5) Unlike Census, personal information in SECC is open for government departments' use.

SECC vs Census 2011

- 1) Census 2011 was conducted before SECC (February 2011)
- 2) Both collected common demographic data (gender, marital status, religion, literacy)

- 3) Census only asked if person belonged to SC/ST categories; SECC collected actual caste names.
- 4) SECC classified respondents into SC, ST, Other, and No Caste/Tribe categories.
- 5) Census had 29 questions in Household Schedule; SECC sought additional specific details.
- 6) SECC gathered more extensive information on disabilities and illnesses than Census.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CENSUS OF RURAL INDIA

The government on Friday released the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) and said it would be an important input for policy-makers. The data addresses the multi-dimensionality of poverty and provides an opportunity for evidence-based planning with a gram panchayat as a unit, according to the finance ministry. Here are the main socio-economic data points:

8.69cr Considered poor or deprived	2.37cr (13.25%) Households with single 'kutcha' room	7.16lakh (0.40%) Households with differentially-abled members with no other adult able-bodied member	17.91cr Total rural households
5.37cr (29.97%) Landless households	2.50cr (14.01%) Households with one salaries member	81.1lakh (2.58%) Households paying income tax	
1.97cr (11.04%) Households having a refrigerator	17.85lakh (1%) Households having a landline	12.24cr (68.35%) Households having a mobile phone	3.5cr (20.69%) Households with motorised vehicles, including four-wheelers
		3.1cr (17.31%) No of illiterate people	

Source: Rural development ministry

Data Collected in SECC

- 1) Economic status: housing information, amenities, assets (refrigerator, phone, vehicles).
- 2) Urban areas: parental names and income sources (from begging/ragpicking to pensions).
- 3) Rural areas: primitive tribal groups, bonded laborers, manual scavengers, income sources.
- 4) Land ownership and agricultural equipment details.

Current Status of Caste Data

- 1) Most recent publicly available caste population data is from 1931 Census.
- 2) 1941 Census collected caste data but never released it.
- 3) SECC 2011 published some data in 2016 but caste populations (except SC/ST totals) remain unreleased.
- 4) The upcoming Census will use 1931 data as baseline for new caste enumeration.

News / Explained / Water sharing dispute between Punjab and Haryana: what happened, why

Water sharing dispute between Punjab and Haryana: what happened, why

The Bhakra Beas Management Board has ordered the release of an additional 8,500 cusecs of water for Haryana, a decision vehemently opposed by the Punjab government. Here's why.

IE Explained; By Kanchan Vasdev;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity & Governance [Link](#)

Why in News? The **Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)** ordered the release of 8,500 cusecs of water daily to Haryana, sparking strong opposition from Punjab government.

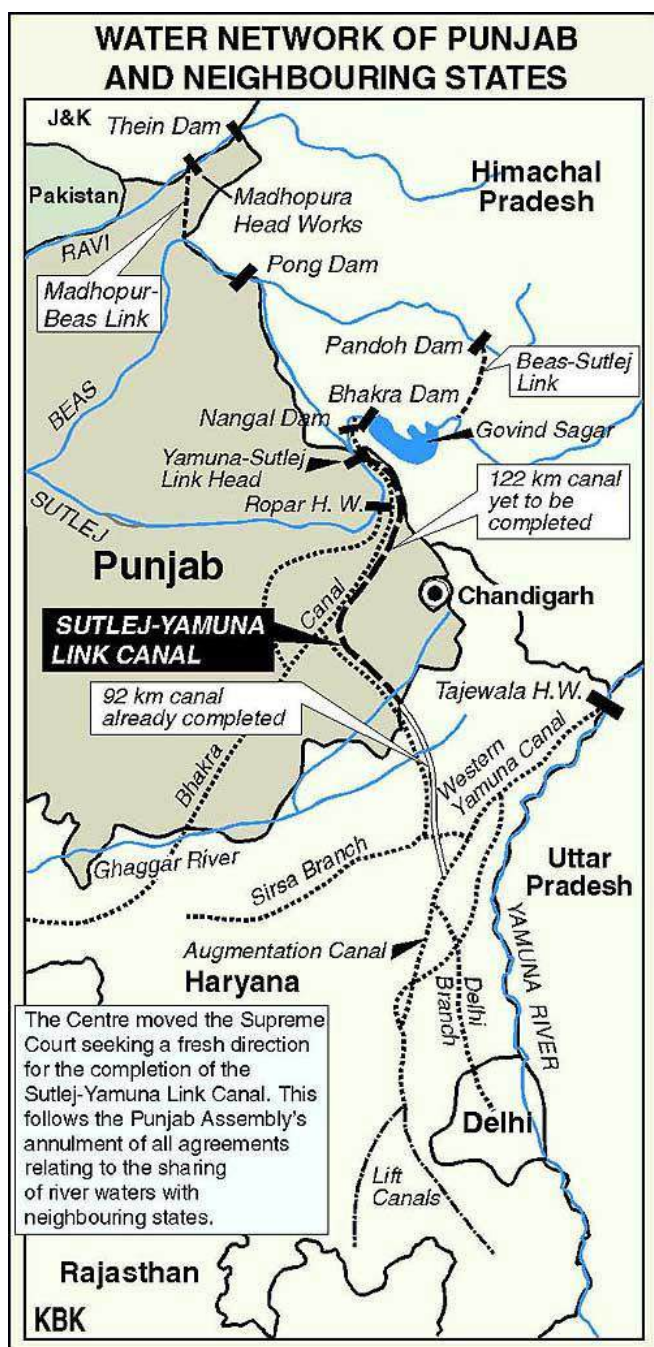
Key Issues

Current Situation:

- 1) BBMB directed Punjab to release 8,500 cusecs of water daily from Bhakra dam to Haryana on May 1, 2025.
- 2) Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann visited Nangal dam to ensure no additional water flowed to Haryana.
- 3) Punjab deployed security forces at Bhakra headworks and Lohand Khud escape channel.
- 4) Union Home Secretary convened emergency meeting with chief secretaries of BBMB partner states on May 2.
- 5) Punjab has called an all-party meeting and special Vidhan Sabha session to address the issue.

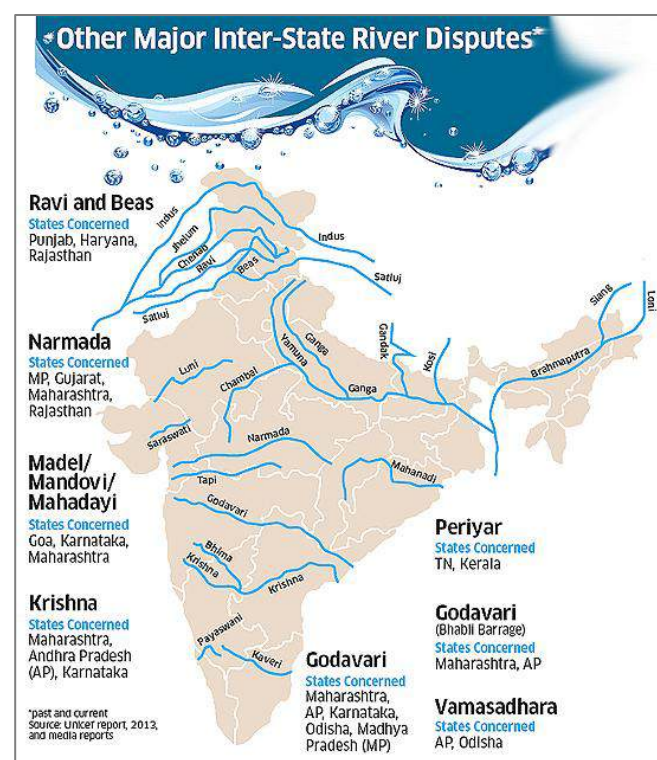
Water Allocation Dispute:

- 1) Punjab claims Haryana already utilized 104% of its allocated 2.987 MAF for current accounting season (Sept 2024-May 2025).
- 2) Haryana currently receives 4,000 cusecs but requested 8,500 cusecs citing drinking water needs in Hisar, Sirsa, and Fatehabad districts.
- 3) Dam water levels are significantly lower than last year: **Pong dam** (31.87 feet lower), **Ranjit Sagar dam** (16.90 feet lower), **Bhakra dam** (12 feet lower).
- 4) Punjab argues it has no surplus water to spare during peak summer.



Political Dimensions:

- 1) Mann accused BBMB of acting under pressure from BJP-led governments in Haryana, Rajasthan and at Centre.
- 2) Punjab claims it holds 60% share in BBMB and called the decision "arbitrary, dictatorial and undemocratic".
- 3) BBMB transferred its Director of Water Regulation (Punjab cadre) and replaced him with a Haryana cadre officer, escalating tensions.
- 4) Delhi Water Minister accused Punjab of blocking water supply to the national capital.



Decision-Making Process:

- 1) BBMB technical committee meeting resulted in 8,500 cusecs allocation despite Punjab's objections.
- 2) BJP-ruled Haryana, Rajasthan, and representatives from the central government supported the water release.
- 3) Punjab officials submitted a dissent note and walked out of the five-hour meeting.
- 4) Himachal Pradesh abstained from voting.

News / Explained / Explained Politics / Jharkhand collects OBC data for 'triple test' to determine quotas: All you need to know

Jharkhand collects OBC data for 'triple test' to determine quotas: All you need to know

Based on the data collected, Jharkhand will determine OBC quotas in the 48 urban local bodies across the state

IE Explained; By Shubham Tigga;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity & Governance [Link](#)

Why in News? Jharkhand has completed collecting OBC population data from all districts to determine quotas in 48 urban local bodies (ULBs) following Supreme Court guidelines.

The Triple Test

- 1) **First step:** Setting up a dedicated commission for empirical inquiry into backwardness in local bodies
- 2) **Second step:** Specifying proportion of reservation based on commission's recommendations
- 3) **Third step:** Ensuring total reservation (SC/ST/OBC) doesn't exceed 50% of seats
- 4) Established by Supreme Court in **Vikas Kishanrao Gawali vs State of Maharashtra case** (March 2021)

'TRIPLE TEST' FULFILLED, STATE TELLS SC

What the Bantia Commission's report said:

<p>➤ Backward Class of Citizens (BCC) in Maharashtra politically backward, deprived of representation with respect to their proportion in population, and in decision-making process</p> <p>➤ BCC accounts for 37% of state population, proportion different in each local body. Quota also different without</p>	<p>affecting SC/ST quota or breaching limit of 50%</p> <p>➤ Quota for BCCs in each local body as per their proportion in population or 27% whichever is less</p> <p>➤ If the proportion of SC & ST population in a local body is more than 50%, then no reservation for BCC</p>
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Current Status of Implementation

- 1) OBC Commission established in June 2023
- 2) Data collection began December 2024, completed May 2025
- 3) Compiled data to be developed into final report
- 4) Report will be verified by institutes like IIM, XLRI, Xavier Institute of Social Service
- 5) Commission chairperson post vacant; final report requires chairperson's approval

Kudmi community (subgroup of Mahato/Mahto caste) is largest OBC group in Jharkhand (15%)

News / Explained / Explained Law / FOR THE RECORD: The 14 questions President Murmu has asked the SC

FOR THE RECORD: The 14 questions President Murmu has asked the SC

Exercising powers vested upon her under Article 143(1), President Draupadi Murmu has made a 14-point reference to the SC for its consideration and opinion. Here are the 14 questions she has asked, published ad verbatim

IE Explained;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity [Link](#)

Why in News? President Droupadi Murmu's letter to the Supreme Court states that **Articles 200 and 201 of the Constitution** "(do not) stipulate any time frame" for a Governor or the President to act on bills passed by state Assemblies, and that "the concept of deemed assent", as introduced in the apex court's landmark April 8 decision, "is alien to the constitutional scheme and fundamentally circumscribes the power of the President and the Governor".

Exercising powers vested upon her under **Article 143(1)**, the President thus made a 14-point reference to the SC for its consideration and opinion. These 14 questions, published here ad verbatim, are as follows.

PRESIDENT MURMU RESPONDS TO LANDMARK JUDGEMENT WITH 14 QUESTIONS TO SC



Questions to the Supreme Court

Q1: What are the constitutional options before a Governor when a Bill is presented to him under Article 200 of the Constitution of India?

Q2: Is the Governor bound by the aid & advice tendered by the Council of Ministers while exercising all the options available with

him when a Bill is presented before him under Article 200 of the Constitution of India?

Q3: Is the exercise of constitutional discretion by the Governor under Article 200 of the Constitution of India justiciable?

Q4: Is Article 361 of the Constitution of India an absolute bar to the judicial review in relation to the actions of a Governor under Article 200 of the Constitution of India?

Q5: In the absence of a constitutionally prescribed time limit, and the manner of exercise of powers by the Governor, can timelines be imposed and the manner of exercise be prescribed through judicial orders for the exercise of all powers under Article 200 of the Constitution of India by the Governor?

Q6: Is the exercise of constitutional discretion by the President under Article 201 of the Constitution of India justiciable?

Q7: In the absence of a constitutionally prescribed timeline and the manner of exercise of powers by the President, can timelines be imposed and the manner of exercise be prescribed through judicial orders for the exercise of discretion by the President under Article 201 of the Constitution of India?

Q8: In light of the constitutional scheme governing the powers of the President, is the President required to seek advice of the Supreme Court by way of a reference under Article 143 of the Constitution of India and take the opinion of the Supreme Court when the Governor reserves a Bill for the President's assent or otherwise?

Q9: Are the decisions of the Governor and the President under Article 200 and Article 201 of the Constitution of India, respectively, justiciable at a stage anterior into the law coming into force? Is it permissible for the Courts to undertake judicial adjudication over the contents of a Bill, in any manner, before it becomes law?

Q10: Can the exercise of constitutional powers and the orders of/by the President / Governor be substituted in any manner under Article 142 of the Constitution of India?

Q11: Is a law made by the State legislature a law in force without the assent of the Governor granted under Article 200 of the Constitution of India?

Q12: In view of the proviso to Article 145(3) of the Constitution of India, is it not mandatory for any bench of this Hon'ble Court to first decide as to whether the question involved in the proceedings before it is of such a nature which involves substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of constitution and to refer it to a bench of minimum five Judges?

Q13: Do the powers of the Supreme Court under Article 142 of the Constitution of India limited to matters of procedural law or Article 142 of the Constitution of India extends to issuing directions /passing orders which are contrary to or inconsistent with existing substantive or procedural provisions of the Constitution or law in force?

Q14: Does the Constitution bar any other jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to resolve disputes between the Union Government and the State Governments except by way of a suit under Article 131 of the Constitution of India?

News / Explained / Explained Law / After President Murmu seeks advisory opinion from SC, can court overturn its R N Ravi decision?

Premium

After President Murmu seeks advisory opinion from SC, can court overturn its R N Ravi decision?

President Droupadi Murmu has invoked the Supreme Court's advisory jurisdiction under Article 143(1) of the Constitution to determine whether timelines can be set for the President and Governors to act on Bills sent by state Assemblies

IE Explained; By Apurva Vishwanath;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity [Link](#)

Why in News? President Droupadi Murmu has invoked **Article 143(1)** of the Constitution seeking Supreme Court's advisory opinion on whether timelines can be set for the President and Governors to act on Bills passed by state Assemblies.

Context and Background:

- 1) The reference was made on May 13, 2025, five weeks after the SC's April 8 ruling that set a three-month deadline for the President to clear Bills reserved by Governors
- 2) That ruling by a two-judge Bench headed by Justice J.B. Pardiwala set aside Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi's decision to withhold assent to 10 pending Bills
- 3) The development follows cases filed by several opposition-ruled states including Kerala, Punjab, Telangana, and West Bengal over delays by Governors in giving assent to state legislation



Understanding Article 143 (Presidential Reference):

- 1) Allows President to refer "questions of law or fact" to Supreme Court for its opinion
- 2) SC's opinion, unlike a ruling, is **not binding in nature**
- 3) Article 145(3) requires any such reference to be heard by at **least five judges**
- 4) This marks the first presidential reference during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government
- 5) The SC has previously **declined to answer** at least two references (1993 Ayodhya case and 1982 J&K case)

April 8 Supreme Court Ruling: The State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu

- 1) Mandated Governors to act on state bills "as soon as possible"
- 2) **Set three-month deadline** for President to decide on bills referred by Governor
- 3) Ruled that both **"absolute veto"** and **"pocket veto"** are impermissible

- 4) Established that Governors cannot withhold assent based on "personal dissatisfaction, political expediency, or extraneous considerations"

Broader Implications:

- 1) The reference raises questions about separation of powers and federal structure
- 2) Highlights tension between Centre-appointed Governors and Opposition-ruled state governments
- 3) Government chose presidential reference over review petition, ensuring Constitution Bench hearing
- 4) Vice President Dhankhar criticized judiciary for acting as a "super Parliament" following the April 8 judgment
- 5) The outcome will significantly impact legislative processes and executive-judiciary relationships in India

Does Article 21 include right to digital access? | Explained

What approach does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 take? Why do banks and other financial and government institutions mandate collecting KYC details? How does the current digital KYC framework exclude visually impaired individuals and acid attack survivors?

TH Text & Context; By Kartikey Singh;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity [Link](#)

Why in News? Supreme Court ruled on April 30, 2025 that digital access is a fundamental right under Article 21, directing revision of KYC norms for accessibility to persons with disabilities (PwDs).

RIGHT TO DIGITAL ACCESS UNDER ARTICLE 21

- 1) SC reinterpreted **Article 21** (Right to Life and Liberty) to include the right to digital access.
- 2) Digital access now recognized as **constitutional imperative**, not merely policy discretion.
- 3) Judgment responds to growing digital exclusion faced by PwDs, particularly in mandatory KYC processes.
- 4) Court relied on **Articles 14** (Equality), **15** (Non-discrimination), **21**, and **38** (Social welfare).

- 5) Digital divide affects not just PwDs but also rural populations, elderly, and economically disadvantaged groups.



RPWD ACT APPROACH

- 1) Adopts '**social-barrier**' approach viewing disability as arising from impairments and societal obstacles.
- 2) Defines disability beyond physical limitations to include exclusion from systemic barriers.
- 3) Section 42 mandates accessibility in all electronic media.
- 4) Requires universal design principles in digital interfaces.
- 5) Aligns with UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD).

KYC MANDATES

- 1) Required under Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002 to curb illegal finance.
- 2) RBI's 2016 Master Direction prescribes Customer Due Diligence framework.
- 3) Digital KYC verification essential for accessing banking, telecom, insurance, government benefits.
- 4) Video-based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP) enables remote verification through video interaction.

DIGITAL EXCLUSION CHALLENGES

- 1) Visual-based prompts (eye-blinking, reading flashing codes) exclude visually impaired users.
- 2) Signature requirements reject thumb impressions commonly used by visually impaired.
- 3) Biometric scanners lack accessibility features like audio feedback.

- 4) Websites/apps violate ICT Accessibility Standards with no screen-reader compatibility.
- 5) RBI directions prohibit "prompting" during verification, disadvantaging those needing assistance.
- 6) Case example: Acid attack survivor Pragya Prasun couldn't open bank account as she couldn't blink for "live photograph".

SC INTERVENTION

- 1) Issued 20 directives to make digital KYC accessible, particularly for acid attack survivors and visually impaired.
- 2) Ordered RBI to allow alternative verification methods beyond eye-blinking.
- 3) Mandated acceptance of thumb impressions as valid proof for visually impaired.
- 4) Directed all government portals, learning platforms, and financial technology services to be universally accessible.
- 5) Emphasized digital inclusion as inseparable from right to life and liberty.
- 6) Set precedent that digital access is a right, not privilege.

This landmark judgment bridges the digital divide by affirming accessibility as central to constitutional rights, requiring both public and private entities to design inclusive digital ecosystems.

News / Explained / Explained Law / The Veeraswami case: When can a sitting judge face an FIR?

The Veeraswami case: When can a sitting judge face an FIR?

Dhankar also called for revisiting the SC's K Veeraswami judgment, which he said has "erected a scaffolding of impunity" around the judiciary. The 1991 ruling deals with the filing of criminal cases against judges.

IE Explained; By Apurva Vishwanath;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity [Link](#)

Why in News? Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar called for revisiting the **SC's 1991 K Veeraswami judgment** while criticizing the in-house inquiry into unaccounted cash found at Justice Yashwant Varma's residence.

The Veeraswami Case Background


- 1) Justice K Veeraswami was Chief Justice of Madras High Court (1969-1976)
- 2) CBI registered FIR alleging he possessed resources disproportionate to income (Rs. 6,41,416.36)
- 3) FIR challenged in Madras HC, which refused to quash investigation in 2-1 ruling
- 4) Supreme Court finally decided the matter in 1991

Key Features of the 1991 Supreme Court Ruling


- 1) Supreme Court delivered 3-2 verdict on criminal proceedings against judges
- 2) Judges can be considered "public servants" under Prevention of Corruption Act
- 3) No criminal case against SC/HC judge without CJI's approval
- 4) President must grant sanction based on CJI's advice if prosecution proceeds
- 5) Ruling provides safeguard against potential harassment by litigants or political actors

REMOVAL PROCESS OF SC/HC JUDGES

- Under **Article 124(4) and 124(5)**, a judge of the Supreme Court (and High Court (see Article 217)) can be removed from his office **by an order of the President**.
- The motion to remove the judge **must be supported by a special majority** of each **House of Parliament**.




LOK SABHA




RAJYA SABHA

- A special majority is a majority of the total membership of that House **AND** a majority of at least two-thirds of the members of that house present and voting.



• In 1993, **V. Ramaswami J** was the **first judge** against whom impeachment proceedings were initiated.



Application and Aftermath

- 1) Power to register cases against sitting judges used sparingly
- 2) First instance: CJI Ranjan Gogoi authorized FIR against Justice S.N. Shukla in 2019

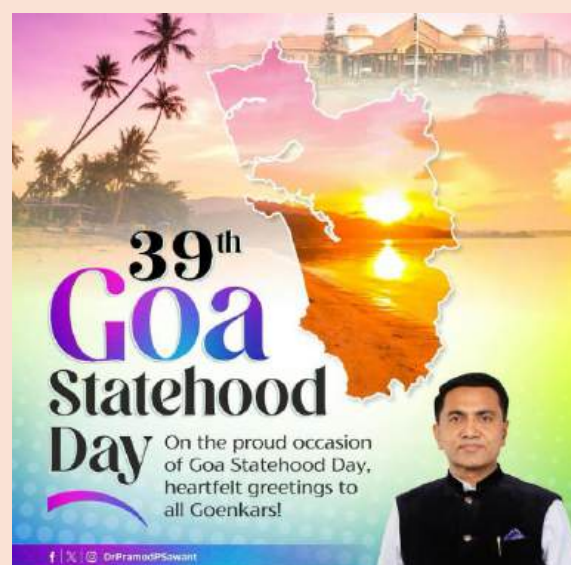
- 3) Recent case: SC dismissed petition seeking FIR against Justice Varma, stating inquiry report forwarded to President and PM
- 4) SC directed petitioners to make representation to President/PM before approaching court

Constitutional Context

- 1) Judicial independence requires protection from fear of personal consequences
- 2) Constitution prescribes impeachment as primary method for judicial removal
- 3) No successful impeachment in 75 years of Constitution's existence
- 4) In-house inquiry developed as alternative mechanism but requires executive action for impeachment

NEWS IN SHORT: POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Goa Statehood Day 2025



- 1) Celebrated annually on May 30th - this year marks the 39th anniversary of Goa's statehood
- 2) Goa became the 25th state of India on May 30, 1987
- 3) Prior to statehood, Goa was a Union Territory along with Daman and Diu after its liberation from Portuguese rule

Historical Background:

- 1) Goa was under Portuguese colonial rule for over 450 years until liberation in December 1961 through **Operation Vijay**

- 2) Unlike the rest of India which gained independence in 1947, Goa had to wait 14 more years for freedom
- 3) After liberation, Goa remained a Union Territory for 26 years before achieving full statehood

Significance and Celebrations:

- 1) The day honors Goa's rich cultural heritage, democratic legacy, and transformation into a full-fledged state
- 2) Konkani in Devanagari script was designated as the official language when Goa became a state
- 3) This year's state-level function was held at Dinanath Mangeshkar Kala Mandir, Kala Academy, Panaji at 11 AM on May 30, 2025

Celebrations include cultural events, book releases, web series launches, and felicitation of iconic Goan brands

Eight states have kept their deputy speaker positions vacant

WHAT DOES THE CONSTITUTION SAY ABOUT THE DEPUTY SPEAKER?

- Both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker must be appointed "**as soon as may be**".
- **Article 93** mandates that the Lok Sabha elect two members as Speaker and Deputy Speaker at the earliest.
- Similarly, **Article 178** provides for the election of Speakers and Deputy Speakers in state Assemblies.

- 1) Eight states without deputy speakers include Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh²⁵.
- 2) This absence violates **Article 178** of the Constitution, which requires state assemblies to elect both a speaker and deputy speaker "as soon as possible".
- 3) The deputy speaker position serves critical constitutional functions - officiating in the speaker's absence, receiving no-confidence motions against the speaker, and ensuring legislative continuity.
- 4) Traditionally, the deputy speaker role often goes to opposition parties as a democratic convention to balance power.

- 5) This trend extends beyond states - the Lok Sabha itself had no deputy speaker throughout the entire 17th Lok Sabha (2019-2024).
- 6) The prolonged vacancies represent what some consider a constitutional anomaly that potentially weakens checks and balances in legislative bodies.

The findings come from PRS Legislative Research's "Annual Review of State Laws, 2024," which also noted state assemblies meet for an average of just 20 days annually.

Sikkim's 50 Years of Integration with



India

Historical Background

- 1) Kingdom of Sikkim established in 1642 with Phuntsong Namgyal as first Chogyal (ruler)
- 2) Namgyal dynasty ruled for 333 years until 1975
- 3) British established formal protectorate through Treaty of Tumlong in 1861
- 4) Earlier treaties included **Treaty of Titaliya** (1817), **Calcutta Convention** (1890), and **Lhasa Convention** (1904)

Post-Independence Relations

- 1) After India's independence, Sikkim maintained a unique relationship unlike other princely states
- 2) Sardar Patel and BN Rau wanted Sikkim to sign Instrument of Accession
- 3) Three main ethnic communities existed: Bhutias, Lepchas and Nepalis (largest group)
- 4) Three political parties (SSC, PM, PSS) demanded popular government and accession to India in December 1947
- 5) Nehru stated Sikkim should "grow according to its own genius"

- 6) Indo-Sikkim Treaty signed in 1950, making Sikkim an Indian protectorate



Political Developments (1960s-1970s)

- 1) SSC split led to formation of influential Sikkim National Congress (SNC) in 1960
- 2) Leadership changes occurred with deaths of Nehru (1964), Shastri (1966), and Chogyal Tashi Namgyal (1963)
- 3) New Chogyal Thondup sought independent status for Sikkim
- 4) Post-1962 India-China war increased Sikkim's strategic importance
- 5) Early 1970s: India backed pro-democracy forces led by Kazi Dorji
- 6) R&AW team sent to Gangtok in 1973 to assist with merger preparations
- 7) Anti-monarchy protests in 1973 led to royal palace being surrounded

Integration Process

- 1) 1973: Tripartite agreement signed for political reforms
- 2) 1974: Elections won by Sikkim Congress; new constitution limited monarch to titular role

- 3) 1975: Referendum showed overwhelming support for joining India (59,637 votes for, 1,496 against)
- 4) Constitution (36th Amendment) Bill passed by Parliament and received presidential assent
- 5) Sikkim officially became part of India on May 16, 1975

International Recognition & Commemoration

- 1) China gave de facto recognition to integration only in 2003
- 2) During 2017 Doklam standoff, Chinese state media threatened to reverse stance
- 3) May 16 annually commemorated as Sikkim Day

2025 marks the 50th anniversary of Sikkim's integration with India

Justice BR Gavai was sworn in today as the 52nd Chief Justice of India

SCC TIMES



Justice B.R. Gavai set to take oath as 52nd Chief Justice of India on 14th May

- 1) Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai took oath as the 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI) on May 14, 2025, administered by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Collegium System

How are the Judges in India Appointed?

• What is Collegium System?

It is a system of transfer and appointment of judges that has evolved through judgments of the Apex court.

• When was it Introduced?

Introduced in 1993 – The Second Judges Case.
Formed in the consultation with the 2 senior-most judges in the SC.

• How many Judges are comprised?

In 1998 – Supreme Court expanded the Collegium into 5 member body.
• **Supreme Court Collegium** headed by CJI & 4 other senior most judges of Apex Court

• **High Court Collegium** Chief Justice & 4 other Senior most judges of that court

• Problems addressed

In 1998 – Supreme Court expanded the Collegium into 5 member body.

• Appointment of CJI

Step 1: The senior most just of SC is considered to hold the office.
Step 2: Recommendation of Outgoing CJI is considered
Step 3: The Union Minister of Law sends the recommendation to the PM who advises President to matter of appointment.

• Transfer of Judges

• In the matter of Transfer – the opinion of the CJI is deemed "determinative".
• The consent of other judges is not required
• There can be acting CJI in High court for not more than a month

• Why the System Drawn Criticism?

• Due to lack of transparency
• Lawyers too remain unaware of their names in elevation
• Critics also cite the scope of nepotism



- 2) He has made history as the first Buddhist to head India's judiciary.
- 3) Justice Gavai is also only the second person from the Scheduled Caste community to hold the position of CJI, after Justice K.G. Balakrishnan.
- 4) He succeeds Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who retired on Tuesday, May 13, 2025.
- 5) His tenure will be approximately six months, as he will retire on November 23, 2025, when he turns 65.
- 6) Justice Gavai has previously served on several important Constitutional benches that delivered landmark rulings, including those on Article 370 abrogation, electoral bonds scheme, and the 2016 demonetization decision.

- 7) He also led benches that stayed Rahul Gandhi's conviction in the "Modi surname" defamation case and granted bail to AAP leader Manish Sisodia and activist Teesta Setalvad.

His priority as CJI will be tackling case pendency across courts in India and improving infrastructure for lower courts.

Digital access as fundamental right

- 1) SC has declared that digital access is a fundamental right and an intrinsic component of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- 2) The court directed revisions to digital Know Your Customer (KYC) norms to make them accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly those with facial disfigurement and visual impairments.
- 3) The ruling came in response to petitions filed by acid attack survivors led by Pragya Prasun and by Amar Jain, a visually impaired person, who faced difficulties with digital services requiring facial recognition.

Digital Rights Recognized as Fundamental Rights in India

- 1) **K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd) vs Union of India (2017)**: Recognised Right to Privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21.
- 2) **Anuradha Bhasin vs. Union of India (2020)**: Right to internet as fundamental right – Freedom to engage in any trade, profession, or occupation over the internet is protected under Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g) of the Constitution.
- 3) **Faheema Shirin v. State of Kerala (2019)**: Kerala High Court became the first Indian court to recognize that the right to internet access forms part of the Right to Privacy and the Right to Education under Article 21 of the Constitution.



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- Improvement in the approach of Answer writing



Date	No. of Test	Subject/Theme
8-Jun	Sectional TEST 01	Essay
15-Jun	Sectional TEST 02	Geography
22-Jun	Sectional TEST 03	History + A&C
29-Jun	Sectional TEST 04	Eco. & Agriculture
6-Jul	Sectional TEST 05	Society, SJ & Govern.
13-Jul	Sectional TEST 06	Polity
20-Jul	Sectional TEST 07	IR, Security & Tech.
27-Jul	Sectional TEST 08	Current Affairs
3-Aug	Sectional TEST 09	Ethics
10-Aug	ESSAY	ESSAY
11-Aug	FLT 01	GS-I
12-Aug	FLT 02	GS-II
13-Aug	FLT 03	GS-III
14-Aug	FLT 04	GS-IV

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MODE

Online/Offline

Society & Social Justice

May 2025

Poverty fell significantly last year. Much of it was driven by GDP growth

Our analysis shows that most of the poor are concentrated around the poverty line — this makes poverty more manageable

IE The Editorial Page; By C Rangarajan, S. Mahendra Dev;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy, Social Justice
[Link](#)

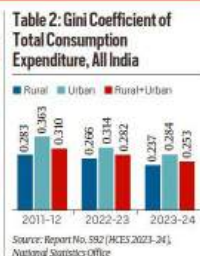
Why in News? India achieved significant poverty reduction with poverty ratio falling from 9.5% to 4.9% in just one year (2022-23 to 2023-24), largely driven by GDP growth.

Key Poverty Trends (2011-12 to 2023-24)

- 1) Total poverty ratio declined from 29.5% (2011-12) to 9.5% (2022-23) to 4.9% (2023-24)
- 2) Poverty reduction rate: 2.05 percentage points annually between 2011-12 and 2023-24
- 3) Poverty lines for 2023-24: Rural Rs 1,940, Urban Rs 2,736 monthly per capita
- 4) For urban family of five: poverty line is Rs 13,680 monthly in 2023-24

Poverty Line (PL) Cut-offs	2011	2022	2023	2011	2022	2023	2011	2022	2023
	-12	-23	-24	-12	-23	-24	-12	-23	-24
150	66.6	34.8	27.8	52.8	27.8	21.7	62.6	32.8	26
125	51.3	20.8	14.8	40.1	16.9	11.9	48.1	19.7	13.9
115	43.5	15.8	9.9	34.7	12.9	8.8	41	15	9.6
100	30.9	9.6	4.9	26.8	9.3	4.8	29.5	9.5	4.9
85	18.3	4.8	4.2	18.1	4.6	4.1	18.3	4.7	4.2
75	11.1	4.2	3.7	12.4	4.1	3.6	11.5	4.2	3.7
50	3.9	2.8	2.5	4.3	2.7	2.4	4	2.8	2.4

Note: 1. 100 per cent PL refers to Rangarajan Committee's Poverty Line, adjusted for CPI-based inflation.
 2. Rural + Urban also are the weighted average, weights being their respective shares in the estimated persons.
 Source: Estimates using Household Consumer Expenditure Surveys of NSSO



- 3) Food inflation increased from 6.6% to 7.5%
- 4) No significant changes in welfare programmes
- 5) Primary driver: GDP growth identified as main factor

Poverty Distribution Analysis

- 1) Most poor concentrated around poverty line (between 75-100% of poverty line)
- 2) Over 50% of poor fall in third-fourth quarter of poverty line in both 2011-12 and 2022-23
- 3) Large section of non-poor just above poverty line (115-125% range)
- 4) Implication: Poverty more manageable due to concentration near poverty threshold

Inequality Trends

- 1) Gini coefficient declined from 0.310 (2011-12) to 0.282 (2022-23) to 0.253 (2023-24)
- 2) Greater inequality reduction in urban areas
- 3) One-year decline (2022-23 to 2023-24): 0.029 points - nearly equal to 11-year decline

Kannada wasn't 'born' from Tamil. The truth is much more interesting

Amid the bronhaha over actor Kamal Haasan's statement that Kannada 'was born out of Tamil' and claims of one Dravidian language being born from another, a true linguistic kinship remains obscured.

IE The Editorial Page; By Rohan Manoj;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Society [Link](#)

Why in News? Actor Kamal Haasan sparked controversy by claiming "Kannada was born out of Tamil" at his film's audio launch, triggering widespread protests in Karnataka.

The Controversy Original Statement

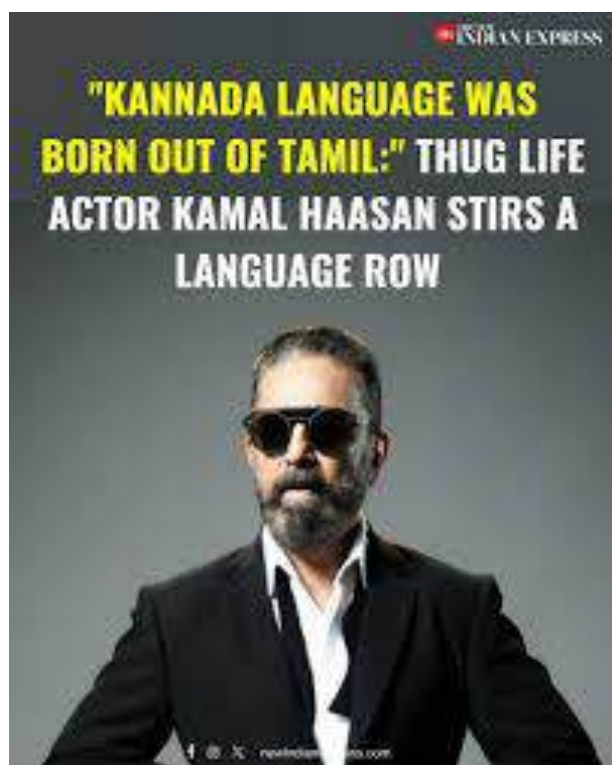
- 1) Made during Thug Life audio launch in Chennai, addressing Kannada actor Shivarajkumar
- 2) Said "Your language was born out of Tamil. So, you are included in that line"
- 3) Began speech with "Uyire Urave Tamizhe" (My life and my family is Tamil)

World Bank Assessment

- 1) Extreme poverty (\$2.15/day PPP) fell from 16.2% (2011-12) to 2.3% (2022-23)
- 2) Over 170 million people lifted above extreme poverty conditions
- 3) Lower-middle-income poverty (\$3.65/day) dropped from 61.8% to 28.1%

Factors Behind 2023-24 Decline

- 1) GDP growth increased from 7.6% to 9.2% (1.6 percentage point rise)
- 2) Consumer price inflation decreased from 6.7% to 5.4% (1.3 percentage point drop)



Immediate Backlash

- 1) Karnataka Rakshana Vedike threatened to ban his films unless he apologizes
- 2) Protesters burned Haasan's posters in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Belagavi, and Hubballi
- 3) Karnataka BJP President B Y Vijayendra demanded unconditional apology
- 4) CM Siddaramaiah said "Poor Kamal Haasan. He is simply unaware of it"
- 5) Kannada Culture Minister threatened to write to film chambers for movie ban

Haasan's Clarification

- 1) Said comments were made "out of love" and won't apologize for love
- 2) Called politicians "unqualified to talk about languages" including himself
- 3) Suggested leaving linguistic discussions to historians and experts
- 4) Maintained different perspectives exist from north vs south viewpoints

Linguistic Reality

Scientific Facts

- 1) Both Tamil and Kannada evolved independently from Proto-Tamil-Kannada ancestor
- 2) Split between languages predates all surviving literary evidence

- 3) Meaningless to say either language came from the other
- 4) Tamil literature corpus likely older but doesn't indicate language age

Current Impact

- 1) Boycott calls for Thug Life across Karnataka
- 2) Discussions of possible film ban in the state
- 3) Controversy highlights sensitive nature of linguistic identity in South India

Why language nationalism on rise in India?

Constitutional and Policy Issues

- 1) The National Education Policy 2020's three-language formula is perceived as indirect Hindi imposition despite not explicitly mandating Hindi.
- 2) The Union government links funding under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan to NEP 2020 compliance, creating economic coercion against non-compliant states.
- 3) Tamil Nadu remains India's only state to outright reject the three-language formula and maintain a two-language system (Tamil and English).
- 4) Education being moved to the concurrent list during Emergency allows central government overreach into state subjects.

Linguistic and Cultural Structural Issues

- 1) Hindi belongs to the Indo-Aryan language family while Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam are from the distinct Dravidian lineage, creating fundamental linguistic incompatibility.
- 2) North Indian states implement the three-language policy by adopting Sanskrit as the third language instead of learning any South Indian languages.
- 3) Hindi speakers constitute only 43% of India's population (520 million) while being positioned as the "connecting language".
- 4) Tamil ranks fifth among Indian languages with 69 million speakers (5.7% of population), yet faces pressure to adopt Hindi.

Political Manipulation and Federalism

- 1) The BJP government uses Hindi promotion as a tool to forge a singular cultural identity,

- potentially undermining India's linguistic diversity.
- 2) Political parties like DMK and BJP exploit language issues for electoral mobilization rather than genuine linguistic concerns.
 - 3) The Centre's conditional funding strategy amounts to federal coercion, undermining state autonomy in education policy.
 - 4) Tamil Nadu's resistance is staged by DMK to ignite sub-national sentiment before elections, according to opposition parties.

Historical and Ideological Factors

- 1) The 1953 Telugu movement that created Andhra Pradesh from Tamil Nadu established the precedent for linguistic reorganization of Indian states.
- 2) Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar's remarks about conquering territory through language destruction fuel anti-Hindi sentiment in non-Hindi states.
- 3) The original three-language formula from 1968 was designed to appease speakers resisting Hindi imposition rather than prioritizing children's education.
- 4) Language activists like Arun Javgal view Hindi imposition as the government "slowly erasing non-Hindi languages to take complete political control".

Socioeconomic Discrimination

- 1) Forcing a third language disproportionately burdens students from rural and marginalized backgrounds who struggle with basic educational access.
- 2) Dalit communities historically embrace English as the "language of emancipation" from the indigenous socio-political order dominated by upper-caste languages.
- 3) English increasingly becomes the monopoly of affluent middle classes while Indian languages are relegated to lower-class education.
- 4) The three-language formula threatens to turn linguistic diversity into a tool of exclusion rather than strength.

Regional Resistance Patterns

- 1) West Bengal's Bangla Pokkho organization actively conflicts with Hindi and Hindi-speaking people, advocating that "state language and English are enough".

- 2) Karnataka language activists weaponize central government statements to intensify opposition to Hindi promotion.
- 3) Tamil Nadu's consistent anti-Hindi stance stems from historical protests and commitment to equitable development through Tamil-English bilingualism.
- 4) Multiple non-Hindi speaking states including Karnataka and West Bengal perceive Hindi promotion measures as cultural imposition.

NEWS IN SHORT: SOCIETY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Mizoram Achieves Full Functional Literacy

- 1) Chief Minister Lalduhoma declared Mizoram as India's **first fully literate state** on May 20, 2025
- 2) The state achieved a **98.2% literacy rate**, up from 91.33% in the 2011 Census
- 3) This milestone was reached through the **ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram** (New India Literacy Programme)
- 4) 292 volunteer teachers helped educate 1,692 learners identified through door-to-door surveys

The achievement represents community mobilization and the Mizo spirit of service (**Tlawmngaihna**)

SMILE Scheme

- 1) **SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise)** is an umbrella scheme launched by the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** on February 12, 2022.
- 2) Total allocation of ₹365 crore from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with year-wise distribution.
- 3) **Comprises two sub-schemes:** one for transgender persons and another for rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging.
- 4) Focuses on comprehensive rehabilitation including medical facilities, counseling, education, skill development, and economic linkages.
- 5) Aims to provide market-oriented skills to transgender persons to help them secure employment or start their own businesses.

- 6) Provides social security through multiple dimensions including identity, medical care, education, occupational opportunities, and shelter.
- 7) Implementation involves support from State Governments, UTs, Local Urban Bodies, and various organizations

A Decade of Marriage Equality in Ireland

- 1) May 22, 2015: Ireland became the first country to approve marriage equality through popular referendum, marking 10 years today.
- 2) The historic vote transformed Ireland into a more open and compassionate society, with celebrations throughout Dublin.
- 3) The Gender Recognition Act also came into force in 2015, allowing transgender people to self-declare their gender on official documents.

- 4) This progress built on earlier milestones, including the decriminalization of same-sex relations in 1993.
- 5) The changes resulted from decades of activism, advocacy, and community organizing by LGBTQIA+ campaigners.
- 6) Ireland continues advancing equality with its 2023 National LGBTQI+ Inclusion Strategy containing over 100 actions.
- 7) Promoting civil society and human rights has become a core Irish foreign policy priority based on its own journey of social progress.

Ireland remains committed to standing for equality and universal human rights for LGBTQIA+ communities globally.



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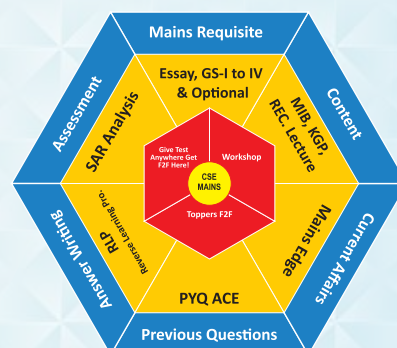
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MANISH KUMAR

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International Relations

May 2025

News / Explained / Explained Economics / Why US & China have agreed to temporarily slash tariffs

Premium

Why US & China have agreed to temporarily slash tariffs

In a joint statement, the US and China said they were committed to establishing "a mechanism to continue discussions about economic and trade relations".

IE Explained; By Udit Misra;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
[Link](#)

Why in News? US and China announced a 90-day pause in their trade war after two days of high-level negotiations in Geneva, suspending high tariffs and non-tariff barriers.

THE TRADE WAR BETWEEN US & CHINA

FEB 1: Trump imposes 10% tariffs on China, 25% on Mexico and Canada, citing fentanyl crisis

FEB 4: As tariffs on China take effect, Beijing puts 15% tariffs on US coal, LNG; 10% on crude

MAR 4: Another 10% US tariffs; total now 20%. China responds with up to 15% on key US farm products

APR 2: On "Liberation Day" Trump announces 34% on all Chinese goods from April 9

APR 4: China announces its own 34% effective April 10, as well as controls on rare earths exports

APR 7: Trump threatens additional 50% tariffs if China doesn't back down

APR 9-10: The US levies 84% additional tariffs, bringing the total to 104%. China retaliates with 84% tariffs, effective April 10. Trump then raises it to 125%, totalling 145%.

APR 11: China raises tariffs to 125%, effective Apr 12, and declares no further hikes

APR 13: Trump exempts smartphones, computers and other electronics, subjecting them only to a 20% tariff

MAY 6: Talks in Geneva announced

Background of Tariffs

- 1) Initial US tariffs on China began February 1, 2025 related to fentanyl sales in the US
- 2) April 2 ("Liberation Day"): additional 34% US tariffs imposed
- 3) By April 10: US tariffs reached 145%, China responded with 125% tariffs
- 4) China implemented non-tariff barriers including rare earth mineral export restrictions
- 5) At 145% rate, a \$100 Chinese import would cost \$245 in the US

Current Situation

- 1) Base tariff rates reduced to 10% for both countries
- 2) US maintains additional 20% tariff related to fentanyl
- 3) Effective tariffs: 30% on Chinese imports to US, 10% on US imports to China
- 4) China suspended non-tariff barriers installed after April 2

Reasons for Initial Tariffs

- 1) US cited \$1.2 trillion trade deficit with the world
- 2) Trump administration viewed deficit as other countries "ripping off" the US
- 3) Deficit increased over 40% since end of Trump's first term in 2020
- 4) US argued diplomatic approaches had failed for decades

Reasons for Truce

- 1) US economy contracted in Q1 2025 before full tariff effects were felt
- 2) Risk of retailers facing empty shelves
- 3) Economists predicted recession for US economy
- 4) Growing threat of stagflation (economic stagnation with high inflation)

Current Outcomes

- 1) China appears to have fared better in the tariff war
- 2) China's exports to US fell 21% in April but overall exports grew 8%
- 3) China's trade surplus grew by \$96 billion in April
- 4) China's GDP exceeded expectations with 5.4% growth while US economy contracted

Future Outlook

- 1) Positive market reactions: rising stock markets, US dollar, and oil prices
- 2) Agreement is only a truce to begin talks, not a final deal
- 3) Future negotiations likely to be challenging

News / Explained / Why China keeps cooking up its own names for places in Arunachal Pradesh

Why China keeps cooking up its own names for places in Arunachal Pradesh

The intention is to keep underlining its unilateral and false claims over Indian territory. It is part of a well-worn Chinese foreign policy playbook. India has consistently rejected these claims.

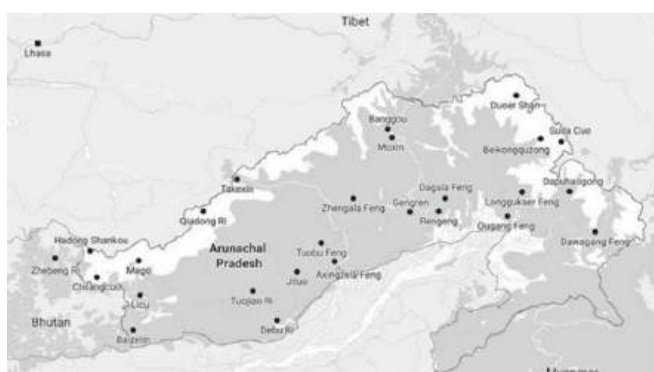
IE Explained;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
[Link](#)

Why in News? India rejected China's latest attempt to rename 27 places in Arunachal Pradesh on May 14, 2025, calling it "vain and preposterous."

Background of Renaming

China has issued five batches of "standardized" Chinese names since 2017:

- 1) First batch (2017): 6 places following Dalai Lama's visit
- 2) Second batch (2021): 15 places including residential areas, mountains, rivers
- 3) Third batch (2023): 11 places including mountain peaks and populated areas
- 4) Fourth batch (2024): 30 places
- 5) Fifth batch (2025): 27 places including mountains, rivers, lakes, passes



China's Territorial Claims

- 1) Claims approximately 90,000 sq km of Arunachal Pradesh as **"Zangnan" or "South Tibet"**
- 2) Disputes the **McMahon Line** established at 1914 **Simla Convention**

- 3) Bases claims partly on historical ties between monasteries in Tawang and Lhasa
- 4) Stems from Mao Zedong's **"Five Fingers Theory"** (Tibet as palm, with Ladakh, Sikkim, Nepal, Bhutan, and Arunachal as fingers)



Strategic Motivations

- 1) Reinforces territorial claims through **"three warfares" strategy** (media, psychological, legal)
- 2) Builds potential evidence for future international legal disputes
- 3) Attempts to legitimize claims by creating alternative toponymy
- 4) Part of broader pattern of asserting claims over disputed territories across Asia
- 5) Targets domestic audience to reinforce sovereignty narratives

India's Response

- 1) Consistently rejects all renaming attempts as categorically unacceptable
- 2) MEA spokesperson stated: "Creative naming will not alter the undeniable reality that Arunachal Pradesh was, is, and will always remain an integral part of India"
- 3) Maintains that inventing names cannot change territorial sovereignty

Timing and Pattern

- 1) Renaming typically follows diplomatic tensions or specific events
- 2) Latest attempt came after military skirmishes between India and Pakistan
- 3) Previous attempts followed Dalai Lama's visit (2017), G20 meetings (2023)
- 4) Similar strategy used in South China Sea and East China Sea territorial disputes



News / Explained / Explained Global / Trump, Syria & the Middle East: What the US President wants

Trump, Syria & the Middle East: What the US President wants

An American President has met a previously sanctioned al-Qaeda terrorist, and the US is set to lift its 46-year-old sanctions on the country he now leads. What are the takeaways from Donald Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and UAE. What are his priorities for the Middle East, and where do they leave Iran, Israel, and Syria?

IE Explained; By Bashir Ali Abbas;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
[Link](#)

Why in News? President Trump concluded a tour of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and UAE (May 13-15, 2025), announcing lifting of 46-year-old sanctions on Syria and meeting with Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa, a former al-Qaeda leader.

Key Visits and Achievements

- 1) Tour covered **Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and UAE** - Trump's first major foreign trip in second term
- 2) Secured massive investment deals worth approximately **\$1 trillion** across the three nations
- 3) **Saudi Arabia:** \$600 billion investments including \$142 billion arms deal (largest in US history)

- 4) **Qatar:** \$243.5 billion deals including \$96 billion Boeing agreement and gift of \$400 million Boeing 747-8 for Air Force One
- 5) **UAE:** \$200 billion investments including \$1.4 trillion AI agreement
- 6) Focused on **economic partnerships** rather than "moral leadership"
- 7) Accompanied by business leaders including Elon Musk and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman

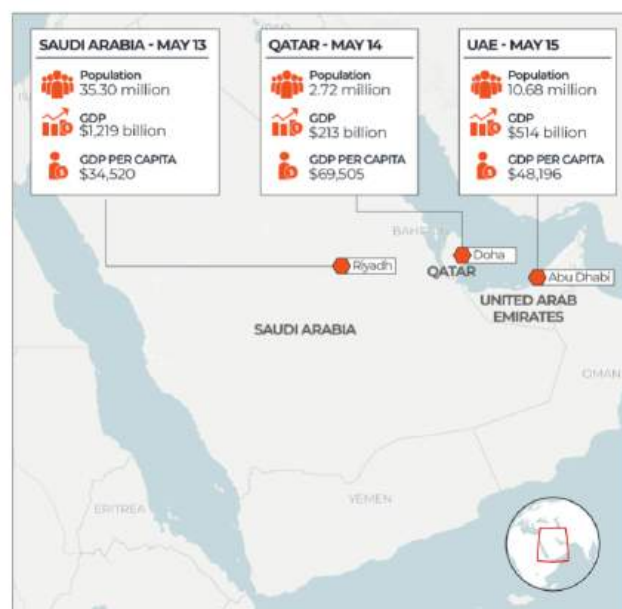
Syria Sanctions Decision

- 1) Announced **"cessation of sanctions against Syria"** after 46 years to give them "a chance at greatness"
- 2) Decision took Treasury Department officials by surprise, creating uncertainty about implementation
- 3) Met Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa (former al-Qaeda leader) in Riyadh with Saudi Crown Prince present
- 4) **White House demands for Syria:** sign Abraham Accords, recognize Israel, remove "Palestinian terrorists"
- 5) Decision followed requests from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Turkish President Erdogan

UNITED STATES

Trump visits Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE

US President Donald Trump's first official state visit will be to the Middle East, where economic opportunities and regional security are topping the agenda.



Regional Implications

- 1) **Iran nuclear deal:** Trump announced "serious negotiations" with Iran, seeking agreement without nuclear weapons
- 2) Warned Iran of "**massive maximum pressure**" if they reject the proposal
- 3) **Israel:** Netanyahu opposed Syria sanctions removal, but Trump proceeded regardless
- 4) **Gaza:** Reiterated proposal for US governance of Gaza Strip as a "**freedom zone**"
- 5) Approved \$304 million missile deal with Turkey despite Israeli concerns
- 6) Emphasized reduced US military commitment in Middle East and preference for regional conflict resolution
- 7) **Praised Syria's al-Sharaa** as "attractive," "tough" with a "strong past" despite his al-Qaeda connections

News / Explained / Explained Global / Member states of WHO adopt global pandemic treaty: What does it entail?

Member states of WHO adopt global pandemic treaty: What does it entail?

The negotiations for a global pandemic treaty began in December 2021, at a time when the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 was spreading across the world and producing a massive new surge of COVID-19

IE Explained; By Alind Chauhan;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
[Link](#)

Why in News? WHO member states adopted a legally binding pandemic treaty on May 20, 2025, following over three years of negotiations, marking only the second legally binding accord in WHO's 75-year history.

Background

- 1) Negotiations began in December 2021 during Omicron spread
- 2) Issues during COVID-19:
 - a) Vaccine hoarding by manufacturing countries
 - b) Inequitable global distribution
 - c) Studies suggest over 1 million lives could have been saved with better vaccine sharing
 - d) Lack of coordinated global response created a "toxic cocktail"

Key Elements of the Treaty

- 1) Pathogen access and benefit sharing system:
 - a) Gives companies access to scientific data in exchange for equitable sharing of medical tools
 - b) Manufacturers must allocate 10% of production to WHO
 - c) Additional 10% to be supplied at "affordable prices"
- 2) Technology transfer: Promotes exchange of know-how to help developing nations produce their own medications
- 3) Research funding policies: Countries must develop policies for taxpayer-funded research to ensure equitable access to resulting products

Limitations

- 1) Limited WHO authority:
 - a) No power over individual states
 - b) Cannot mandate travel bans, vaccinations, or lockdowns
 - c) No enforcement mechanism to ensure compliance
- 2) Implementation challenges:
 - a) Unclear pathogen sharing system mechanics
 - b) US absence

News / Explained / What is the FATF, and why does Pakistan potentially being greylisted matter?

What is the FATF, and why does Pakistan potentially being greylisted matter?

India will be submitting a dossier to the FATF, and make a case for putting Pakistan back in the 'grey list'

IE Explained;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
[Link](#)

Why in News? India is submitting a dossier to FATF in June 2025 to put Pakistan back on the grey list, citing non-compliance with anti-money laundering and terror financing commitments made when it was removed in 2022.

What is FATF

Financial Action Task Force Overview:

- 1) Global money laundering and terror financing watchdog established in 1989

- 2) Inter-governmental organization with 40 members (Russia's membership suspended in 2023) including India
- 3) Headquartered in Paris, created by G-7 nations

- 3) Previous grey listing (2018-2022) caused cumulative GDP losses of approximately \$38 billion
- 4) Affects IMF and World Bank lending decisions



Key Functions:

- 1) Monitors how criminals and terrorists raise, use and move funds
- 2) Sets global standards through 40 Recommendations to combat money laundering and terror financing
- 3) Assesses country compliance and flags non-compliant jurisdictions

FATF Lists and Their Impact

Grey List ("Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring"):

- 1) Countries with significant AML/CFT deficiencies but actively working with FATF
- 2) Subject to increased monitoring within agreed timeframes
- 3) Currently 24 countries listed
- 4) Results in adverse economic and reputational impacts, reduced foreign investment and international aid

Black List ("High-Risk Jurisdictions"):

- 1) Countries with serious strategic deficiencies in AML/CFT regimes
- 2) Currently includes North Korea, Myanmar, and Iran
- 3) Triggers mandated economic sanctions and enhanced due diligence requirements

Why Pakistan's Potential Greylisting Matters

Economic Consequences:

- 1) Significantly hampers ability to secure international funding
- 2) Increases scrutiny on transactions and investments

India's Strategic Objectives:

- 1) Curtail illicit fund flows into India, especially Jammu & Kashmir
- 2) Block Pakistan's access to international financing that could support terror activities
- 3) India also opposing World Bank's \$20 billion package for Pakistan

Pakistan's History with FATF:

- 1) First grey listed in 2008, removed in 2009
- 2) Grey listed again from 2018-2022 (four years)
- 3) Removed in October 2022 after completing 34-point action plan
- 4) India argues removal was premature and Pakistan failed to enact promised legal reforms

C Raja Mohan writes: In India, needed, a crypto strategy

Delhi needs to be alert to Trump-linked firm's cryptocurrency tie-up with Pakistan, address policy vacuum

IE The Editorial Page; By C Raja Mohan;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Science & Tech [Link](#)

Why in News? Trump-linked firm World Liberty Financial Inc signed a cryptocurrency MoU with Pakistan's newly formed Crypto Council, raising concerns for India's crypto policy vacuum.

Pakistan's Crypto Ambitions

Key Developments:

- 1) WLFI (run by Trump's children) signed MoU with Pakistan Crypto Council in March 2025
- 2) Meetings held with PM Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Asim Munir
- 3) Plans include blockchain for financial inclusion, rare earth monetization, stablecoins for remittances
- 4) Pakistan appointed British Pakistani entrepreneur Bilal bin Saqib as PM's special adviser on crypto
- 5) Estimated 25 million crypto users in Pakistan with \$2 billion market worth
- 6) First diaspora convention held to strengthen US-Pakistan tech ties

Trump's Crypto Revolution

Policy Changes:

- 1) Two executive orders reshaping US crypto strategy
- 2) Created Strategic Bitcoin Reserve and Digital Asset Stockpile
- 3) Banned central bank digital currency (CBDC) development
- 4) Appointed David Sacks as "AI and crypto czar"
- 5) SEC paused lawsuits against major exchanges; Justice Department dissolved crypto enforcement team
- 6) Bitcoin surged past \$100,000 following policy changes
- 7) Trump launched personal meme coin \$TRUMP

India's Challenges

Current Situation:

- 1) Over 100 million crypto users in India with \$7 billion market
- 2) Government taxes crypto without regulatory framework
- 3) Supreme Court warned of legal/policy vacuum creating economic and security challenges
- 4) Lacks public discourse on geopolitical implications of crypto

Historical Parallel:

- 1) India underestimated Pakistan's nuclear ambitions in 1970s
- 2) Pakistan developed nuclear weapons by late 1980s, creating security challenges

Urgent Need:

- 1) Develop comprehensive crypto strategy
- 2) Address potential misuse for terror funding and money laundering
- 3) Respond to changing global financial order under Trump's crypto policies

NEWS IN SHORT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Pakistani official declared persona non grata

- 1) Pakistani official declared persona non grata by India, meaning they are **no longer welcome and must leave the country**
- 2) This diplomatic action typically occurs when officials are found engaging in activities incompatible with their diplomatic status

- 3) Such declarations are formal expressions of displeasure in international relations

Pakistani official declared persona non grata

📅 May 13, 2025

The Government of India has declared a Pakistani official, working at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, persona non grata for indulging in activities not in keeping with his official status in India. The official has been asked to leave India within 24 hours. Charge d' Affaires, Pakistan High Commission, was issued a demarche to this effect today.

New Delhi
May 13, 2025

India's Trade Restrictions on Bangladesh

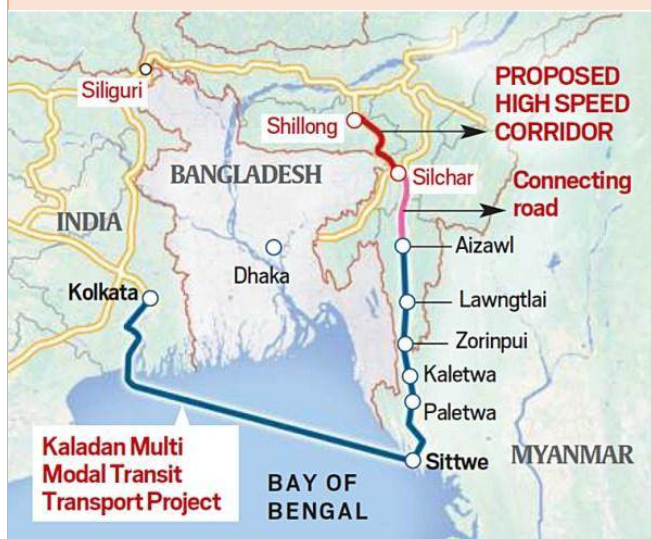
- 1) India imposed port restrictions on specified Bangladeshi exports to northeastern states through all land customs stations and integrated check posts
- 2) Restricted items include readymade garments, wooden furniture, plastic goods, carbonated drinks, baked goods, and cotton yarn
- 3) This is a reciprocal move responding to Bangladesh's own non-tariff barriers against Indian exports
- 4) The decision follows controversial remarks by Bangladesh's interim chief adviser Muhammad Yunus describing North-East India as "landlocked"
- 5) Exempted products include fish, LPG, edible oil, crushed stone, and goods transiting to Nepal/Bhutan

India aims to boost local manufacturing in the Northeast and enforce fair trade practices

India's New Northeast-Kolkata Sea Link Project

- 1) Union Cabinet approved ₹22,864 crore four-lane highway (166.8 km) along NH-6 from **Mawlyngkhung to Panchgram**, creating a sea link between Northeast and Kolkata
- 2) First high-speed corridor in Northeast (144.8 km in **Meghalaya**, 22 km in Assam), to be completed by 2030
- 3) Reduces journey time from 8.5 to 5 hours

- 4) Infrastructure includes 19 major bridges, 153 minor bridges, multiple culverts, underpasses and viaducts
- 5) Being developed under Hybrid Annuity Mode by NHIDCL



Strategic & Technical Aspects

- 1) Connects to Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Project in Myanmar, bypassing Bangladesh following Muhammad Yunus's "landlocked" remarks in Beijing
- 2) Reduces dependence on Siliguri Corridor while connecting Silchar (entry point to Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur and Barak Valley)
- 3) Employs advanced engineering: slope stabilization, LiDAR scanning, rock anchors, protective walls, and monitoring instruments (piezometers, rain gauges, inclinometers, geophones)
- 4) Supports India's Act East Policy and regional economic development

UP Govt, World Bank Launch Tech-Driven Agri Project



- 1) UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and World Bank President Ajay Banga jointly launched two initiatives-'UP AGREES' and 'AI Pragya'-on May 9, 2025
- 2) The UP AGREES project will receive a Rs 2,737 crore loan from the World Bank over six years, with the state contributing Rs 1,166 crore
- 3) The initiative aims to revolutionize agriculture in 28 districts across Purvanchal and Bundelkhand regions, benefiting nearly 10 lakh farmers with 30% participation from women
- 4) The loan has favorable terms-repayable over 35 years with just 1.23% interest
- 5) The project includes sending 500 farmers abroad for exposure to best farming technologies and linking 10,000 women producer groups
- 6) Under 'AI Pragya,' 10 lakh youth will receive training in artificial intelligence and emerging digital technologies
- 7) Global tech giants including Microsoft, Intel, HCL, Amazon, Google, and others will collaborate on the initiative

UN Security Council Meeting on India-Pakistan Tensions

- 1) The UN Security Council held closed-door consultations on escalating India-Pakistan tensions at Pakistan's request.
- 2) The approximately 90-minute meeting ended without any formal statement, resolution, or press release.
- 3) The meeting was triggered by the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, that killed 26 civilians, including one Nepali national.
- 4) UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned that tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors were "at their highest in years".
- 5) Council members raised concerns about Pakistan's nuclear rhetoric and recent missile tests that could escalate tensions.

Greece's UN Ambassador, who currently holds the Security Council presidency, described the meeting as "productive and helpful" despite no concrete outcomes.

UNSC

United Nations Security Council

Formation:- 1945 Headquarter:- New York City (United States)
 Members:- 15 (5 Permanent + 10 Non-Permanent) Under Art 23.
 Permanent Members:- China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States.
 Non-Permanent Members:- Elected By UNGA for 2 years.
 Presidency Term:- Changes every month Alphabetically.
 Type:- Principal Organ of the United Nations (UN) under Art 7 of UN Charter.
 Website:- un.org/securitycouncil/

FUNCTIONS & POWERS

Supervisory Function Suspend or Restore the Rights & Privileges of the Member under Art 5 of UN charter. Constituent Function No Amendment can be done in UN Charter without the Recommendation of UNSC Under Art 108 of UN Charter.	Elective Function UNSC play role to Elects ICJ Judges Under Art 4 & 8 of Statute of the ICJ. Secretary-General is Appointed by the GA Upon the Recommendation of the UNSC Under Art 97 of UN Charter. Veto (I Forbid) Special Power of Permanent Members to Prevent the Adoption of any "Substantive" Resolution, i.e. If any Permanent member protest or Disagree on any Substantial resolution, the Resolution will Fail.
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KEY POINTS

- # Each member of the UNSC have one Vote.
- # Resolutions Passed in UNSC will be Legally Binding on all UN members under Art 25.
- # UNSC Voting Procedure comes under Art 27.
- # Primary Responsibility to Maintain International Peace & Security under chapter 6&7 of UN Charter.
- # Passed Resolution in UNSC called **United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR)**.
- # Chapter 5 Articles 23-32 of the UN Charter contains Provisions of UNSC.
- # UNSC can **Impose Sanctions** for Peacekeeping and can also use **Armed Force** if the Situation is not in Under Control to Maintain International P&S.
- # 9 out of 15 Affirmative votes required for a Resolution passed on **Procedural matters**, But 9 out of 15 Affirmative votes with 5 Concurring votes of Permanent members are Required to pass a Resolution on **Substantial matters** (All other matters).

IMF Clears Loan Tranche to Pakistan; India Abstains

- 1) The IMF approved approximately **\$2.3 billion in financing for Pakistan** on May 9, 2025, including a \$1 billion tranche under the **Extended Fund Facility** and \$1.3 billion under the **Resilience and Sustainability Facility**
- 2) India abstained from voting and registered "strong dissent" during the IMF board meeting
- 3) India raised concerns about Pakistan's poor implementation record and the potential misuse of funds for "state-sponsored cross-border terrorism"
- 4) Government sources explained that India's abstention was not due to lack of opposition but because IMF rules do not permit a formal "no" vote-directors can only vote in favor or abstain
- 5) India highlighted that Pakistan has been a prolonged IMF borrower, **receiving support**

in 28 of the past 35 years, including four programs in just the last five years

India also raised concerns about the Pakistani military's continued dominance in economic affairs, which undermines transparency and reform efforts.

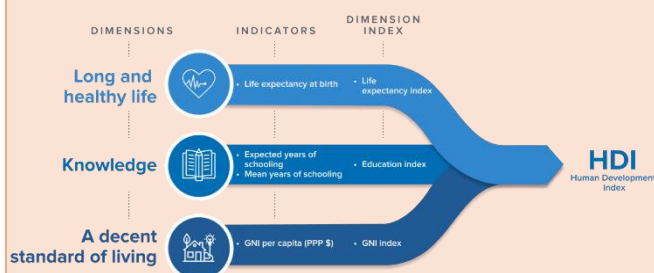
2025 Human Development Report

- 1) 2025 UNDP HDR is titled **"A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI"**
- 2) **India ranked 130** out of 193 countries in the 2023 Human Development Index (HDI), improving from 133 in 2022.
- 3) India's HDI value increased from 0.676 in 2022 to 0.685 in 2023, remaining in the medium human development category but moving closer to the high human development threshold (0.700).
- 4) Life expectancy reached 72 years in 2023, up from 71.7 years in 2022 and 58.6 years in 1990, marking the highest level since the index began.
- 5) On gender equality, India ranked 102 on the Gender Inequality Index (GII), improved from 108 in 2022.
- 6) India scored 0.874 on the Gender Development Index (GDI), placing it in group 5 countries with low success in closing the gender gap.
- 7) Among neighbors, China (75th), Sri Lanka (78th), and Bhutan (127th) ranked above India; Bangladesh (130th) ranked at par; Nepal (145th), Myanmar (149th), and Pakistan (168th) ranked below.

Prelims Pointer: About Human Development Index (HDI)

- 1) Published by **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**
- 2) HDI (Human Development Index) is calculated based on three key dimensions: **health, education, and standard of living**
- 3) The health dimension is measured through **life expectancy at birth**, with minimum value set at 20 years and maximum at 85 years⁵
- 4) The education dimension combines two indicators: **expected years of schooling** (max 18 years) and **mean years of schooling** (max 15 years)¹⁵

- 5) The standard of living dimension is measured by **Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in PPP terms**, with minimum value of \$100 and maximum of \$75,00056



- 6) Each dimension indicator is normalized to a scale of 0 to 1 using these minimum and maximum values⁵⁷

- 7) The **education index** is calculated as the **arithmetic mean** of the two normalized education indicators
- 8) The final HDI value is calculated using the **geometric mean** of all three dimension indices: $HDI = \sqrt[3]{(\text{Health Index} \times \text{Education Index} \times \text{Income Index})}$



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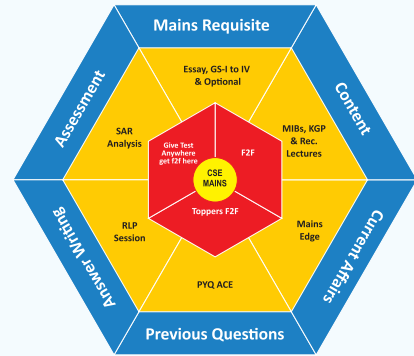


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Concession Details	Fee: ₹15000 + GST	Mode: Offline/Online
Kalam IAS Students: 20%	UPSC Interview Student: 30%	CSE Selected Students: 50%

Date	No of Day	Subject/Theme
2-Jun	RLP_2501	Geography
4-Jun	RLP_2502	Geography
6-Jun	RLP_2503	Geography
8-Jun	ST_2501	Essay
9-Jun	RLP_2504	Geography
11-Jun	RLP_2505	Biodiversity and Env.
13-Jun	RLP_2506	Biodiversity and Env. & DM
15-Jun	ST_2502	Geo, Biodiversity, Env. & DM
16-Jun	RLP_2507	Indian Culture & History
18-Jun	RLP_2508	Indian Culture & History
20-Jun	RLP_2509	Indian Culture & History
22-Jun	ST_2503	Indian Culture & History
23-Jun	RLP_2510	Economic Development
25-Jun	RLP_2511	Economic Development
27-Jun	RLP_2512	Agriculture
29-Jun	ST_2504	Economic Development + Agri
30-Jun	RLP_2513	Society
2-Jul	RLP_2514	Social Justice
4-Jul	RLP_2515	Governance
6-Jul	ST_2505	Society, SJ & Governance
7-Jul	RLP_2516	Constitution and Polity
9-Jul	RLP_2517	Constitution and Polity
11-Jul	RLP_2518	Constitution and Polity
13-Jul	ST_2506	Constitution and Polity
14-Jul	RLP_2519	International Relation
16-Jul	RLP_2520	Security
18-Jul	RLP_2521	Technology
20-Jul	ST_2507	IR, Security & Technology
21-Jul	RLP_2522	Ethics Part A
23-Jul	RLP_2523	Ethics Part A
25-Jul	RLP_2524	Ethics Part A
27-Jul	ST_2508	Current Affairs
28-Jul	RLP_2525	Ethics Part B
30-Jul	RLP_2526	Ethics Part B
1-Aug	RLP_2527	Ethics Part B
3-Aug	ST_2509	Ethics
10-Aug	FLT_2501	ESSAY
11-Aug	FLT_2502	GS-I
12-Aug	FLT_2503	GS-II
13-Aug	FLT_2504	GS-III
14-Aug	FLT_2505	GS-IV

CSE 2021

MEHAK JAIN
27-Selections in 2021

CSE 2022

Pooja Tirumani
34-Selections in 2022

CSE 2023

ADITYA SRIVASTAVA
49-Selections in 2023

CSE 2024

ABHISHEK VASHISHTHA
65-Selections in 2024

CSE RESULT 2024

CHAKRA SHEKHAR

AISHWARYA MISHRA

SHIKHAR MISHRA

REKHA SIVA

SREE KRISHNA

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- Two-way Communication
- Illustration for improvement of Answer
- Improvement in the approach of Answer writing



Concession Details

Fee: ₹6000 + GST

Kalam IAS Students: 20%

UPSC Interview Student: 30%

CSE Selected Students: 50%

MODE

Online/Offline

AAYUSHI CHAUDHARY
AIR-290, CSE 2024



Date	No. of Test	Subject/Theme
8-Jun	Sectional TEST 01	Essay
15-Jun	Sectional TEST 02	Geography
22-Jun	Sectional TEST 03	History + A&C
29-Jun	Sectional TEST 04	Eco. & Agriculture
6-Jul	Sectional TEST 05	Society, SJ & Govern.
13-Jul	Sectional TEST 06	Polity
20-Jul	Sectional TEST 07	IR, Security & Tech.
27-Jul	Sectional TEST 08	Current Affairs
3-Aug	Sectional TEST 09	Ethics
10-Aug	ESSAY	ESSAY
11-Aug	FLT 01	GS-I
12-Aug	FLT 02	GS-II
13-Aug	FLT 03	GS-III
14-Aug	FLT 04	GS-IV

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Economy and Agriculture

May 2025

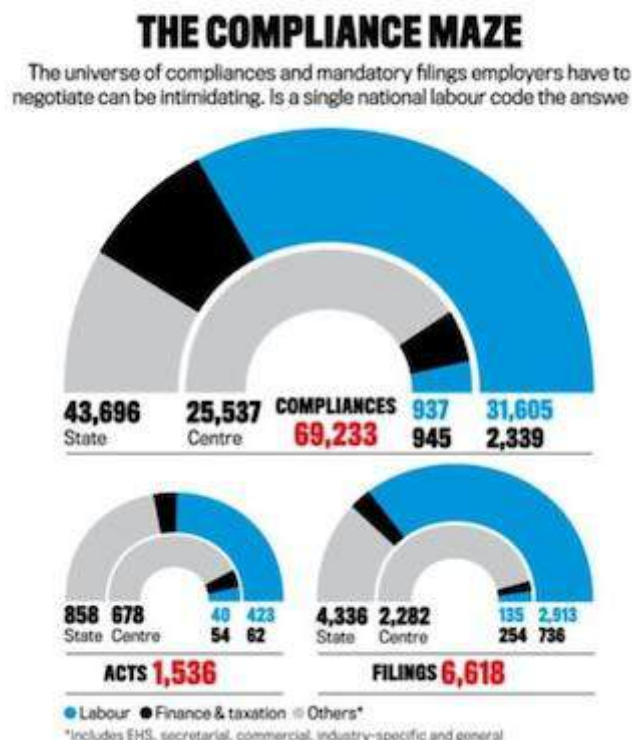
Keyword of the Day: Regulatory Cholesterol [Link](#)

What is regulatory cholesterol? Excessive and complex web of laws, compliance requirements, and regulatory filings that businesses must navigate when operating in India.

E.g. Businesses in India face a universe of 1,536 laws, 69,233 compliances, and 6,618 filings at an aggregate level.

Issues

- 1) **Punitive nature of regulations:** There are 26,134 imprisonment clauses that businesses must navigate, with over 25,000 employer jail provisions across various laws.
- 2) **Disproportionate burden on Small and Medium Enterprises:** Requiring company to spend Rs 12 to Rs 18 lakh annually just for compliance.
- 3) **Pushes companies to informal sector to remain below regulatory radar:** While India has 63 million enterprises, only one million operate in the formal sector.



Is natural hydrogen the fuel of the future? | Explained

How does hydrogen occur naturally in the environment? Why was it considered unviable to mine or harvest natural hydrogen? Can natural hydrogen as a fuel meet growing global energy demands? Why is it still an untapped industry? Does India have natural hydrogen reserves?

TH Text & Context; By Kalyan Mangalapalli;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News? Natural hydrogen is gaining attention as potentially abundant natural reserves were discovered in **France's Lorraine and Moselle regions**, estimated at about 92 million tonnes (worth \$92 billion), sparking a global race to tap this clean energy source.

What is Natural Hydrogen?

- 1) Also known as **white, geologic, geogenic, or gold hydrogen** - molecular hydrogen formed by natural processes in the Earth rather than manufactured in laboratories or industries.

- 2) Occurs as free gas in geology produced through natural processes without human intervention.
- 3) Current hydrogen production is mainly from natural gas (energy-intensive and polluting) or green hydrogen (expensive and requiring vast renewable electricity).
- 4) Natural hydrogen could provide clean, potentially low-cost fuel with reduced carbon emissions.

Sources and Formation

- 1) **Serpentinization:** Reaction of water with iron-containing rocks produces approximately 80% of world's hydrogen, especially in ocean floors.
- 2) **Radiolysis:** Water breakdown by radioactive rocks creates hydrogen.
- 3) **Other sources:** Degassing from Earth's crust and mantle, weathering, decomposition of organic matter, biological activity.

- 4) **Geological environments:** Active mountain ranges with tectonic activity (Pyrenees, Alps, Himalayas) are favourable for natural hydrogen generation.

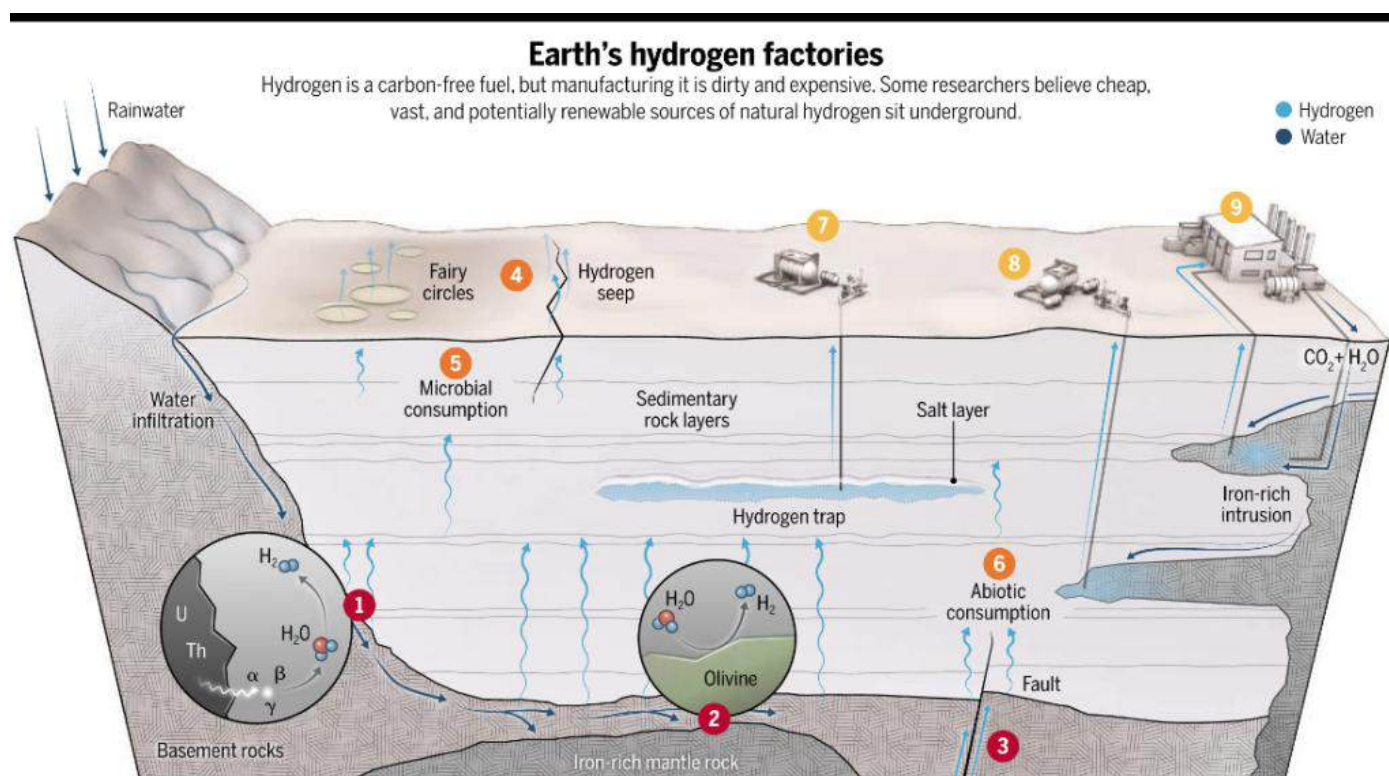
Timeline of Exploration

- 1) **1930s:** Drillers in Adelaide, Australia found "vast amounts of high-purity hydrogen" but considered it a useless byproduct.
- 2) **1987:** Accidental discovery in Bourakébougou, Mali when a worker lit a cigarette near a water well, causing unexpected flames.
- 3) **2012:** Engineers confirmed the gas from Mali well was 98% hydrogen.
- 4) **As of 2023:** The Malian well remains the world's first and only economically successful hydrogen well.

- 5) **2020s:** Growing interest with investments in US, France, and Australia; French company aims to extract hydrogen by 2027-2028.

Global Potential and Reserves

- 1) **Estimated 5 trillion tons** of natural hydrogen resources worldwide, though most is too dispersed for economic recovery.
- 2) **USGS model** suggests sufficient natural hydrogen to supply global demand for thousands of years.
- 3) Recent discoveries include deposits in **France** (46-260 million metric tons), **Tanzania**, and **Albania**.
- 4) Hydrogen seeps catalogued in **Australia**, **United States**, **Spain**, **France**, **Albania**, **Colombia**, **South Korea**, and **Canada**.



Generation

1 Radiolysis

Trace radioactive elements in rocks emit radiation that can split water. The process is slow, so ancient rocks are most likely to generate hydrogen.

2 Serpentinization

At high temperatures, water reacts with iron-rich rocks to make hydrogen. The fast and renewable reactions, called serpentinization, may drive most production.

3 Deep-seated

Streams of hydrogen from Earth's core or mantle may rise along tectonic plate boundaries and faults. But the theory of these vast, deep stores is controversial.

Loss mechanisms

4 Seeps

Hydrogen travels quickly through faults and fractures. It can also diffuse through rocks. Weak seeps might explain shallow depressions sometimes called fairy circles.

5 Microbes

In shallower layers of soil and rock, microbes consume hydrogen for energy, often producing methane.

6 Abiotic reactions

At deeper levels, hydrogen reacts with rocks and gases to form water, methane, and mineral compounds.

Extraction

7 Traps

Hydrogen might be tapped like oil and gas—by drilling into reservoirs trapped in porous rocks below salt deposits or other impermeable rock layers.

8 Direct

It might also be possible to tap the iron-rich source rocks directly, if they're shallow and fractured enough to allow hydrogen to be collected.

9 Enhanced

Hydrogen production might be stimulated by pumping water into iron-rich rocks. Adding carbon dioxide would sequester it from the atmosphere, slowing climate change.

- 5) Even 2% of estimated reserves could provide twice as much energy as all Earth's provable natural gas reserves.

India's Potential

- 1) **Promising geological structures with natural hydrogen potential in:**
 - a) Hard rock formations in Assam, Gujarat, and Deccan Plateau.
 - b) Andaman and Himalayan ophiolite complexes.
 - c) Greenstone volcanic-sedimentary sequences in cratons (Dharwar, Singhbhum).
 - d) Sedimentary basins (Vindhyan, Cuddapah, Gondwana, Chhattisgarh).
 - e) Areas with active hydrothermal systems and hot springs.
- 2) **Key challenges include:**
 - a) Limited comprehensive data requiring geological mapping.
 - b) Need for advanced extraction technologies and infrastructure development.
 - c) Economic viability concerns and high initial costs.

Industry Developments

- 1) By end of 2023, 40 companies were searching for natural hydrogen deposits globally, up from 10 in 2020.
- 2) Producers claim extraction costs of about \$1/kg - much lower than green or natural gas-based hydrogen.
- 3) Major investments include:
 - a) Koloma raised \$245 million with backing from Amazon's climate fund and Bill Gates' Breakthrough Energy Ventures.
 - b) BP and Rio Tinto investing in natural hydrogen startups.
- 4) American Association of Petroleum Geologists formed its first natural hydrogen committee.
- 5) USGS began identifying promising hydrogen production zones in the United States.

News / Explained / Explained Sci-Tech / For the first time, 2 new genome-edited rice varieties: Why is this such a major breakthrough for ICAR and India's agriculture?

For the first time, 2 new genome-edited rice varieties: Why is this such a major breakthrough for ICAR and India's agriculture?

Paddy is critical to India's food security. The new varieties, which have been developed indigenously using cutting-edge technology, require less water, produce bigger yields, and lower emissions.

IE Explained; By Harikishan Sharma;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News? Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released two genome-edited rice varieties - '**Kamala**' and '**Pusa DST Rice 1**' - marking India's first achievement in this field.

About the New Rice Varieties DRR DHAN 100 (KAMALA)

- 1) Developed by ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad
- 2) Uses genome editing targeting **Cytokinin Oxidase 2 gene without foreign DNA**
- 3) Yields 19% more than parent variety Samba Mahsuri (5.37 tonnes/hectare vs 4.5 tonnes/hectare)
- 4) Matures ~20 days earlier (130 days) than parent variety
- 5) Features improved drought tolerance and high nitrogen-use efficiency
- 6) Potential yield up to 9 tons/hectare under optimal conditions
- 7) Retains the grain and cooking quality of Samba Mahsuri
- 8) Recommended for cultivation across major rice-growing states in zones III, V, and VII

PUSA DST RICE 1

- 1) Developed by ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi from MTU1010 variety
- 2) **Uses Site Directed Nuclease 1 genome-editing targeting** Drought and Salt Tolerance gene
- 3) **Contains no foreign DNA**, comparable to conventionally bred varieties
- 4) Performance in different soil conditions:
 - a) Inland salinity: 9.67% higher yield (3,508 kg/ha vs 3,199 kg/ha)

- b) Alkaline soils: 14.66% higher yield (3,731 kg/ha vs 3,254 kg/ha)
- c) Coastal salinity: 30.4% higher yield (2,493 kg/ha vs 1,912 kg/ha)
- 5) Recommended for cultivation across major rice-growing states

Benefits and Impact

Production and Environmental Benefits

- 1) Cultivation in 5 million hectares will produce 4.5 million tonnes additional paddy
- 2) Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 20% (32,000 tonnes)
- 3) Kamala's shorter duration saves three irrigations, conserving 7,500 million cubic meters of water

Technology and Safety

- 1) Developed using **CRISPR-Cas9 technology** (2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry)
- 2) Exempt from stringent biosafety regulations under Environment Protection Act
- 3) Received clearance from Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation on May 31, 2023

Significance for Indian Agriculture

- 1) Addresses yield gap - India has largest paddy area globally but ranks second in production
- 2) India's current yield (4,138 kg/ha) is below world average (4,717 kg/ha) and China's (7,043 kg/ha)
- 3) Indigenous development using cutting-edge technology for climate resilience
- 4) Government allocated Rs 500 crore for genome-editing in agricultural crops
- 5) Research on genome-editing for other crops including oilseeds and pulses is underway

News / Explained / Takeaways from India-UK Free Trade deal: First off the block, bipartisan, deepens bilateral economy story

Takeaways from India-UK Free Trade deal: First off the block, bipartisan, deepens bilateral economy story

Both sides missed that deadline but they accomplished it on Tuesday marking a pivotal point on a bilateral arc, steered by Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal right through, that has cut across the political spectrum in London.

IE Explained; By Shubhajit Roy;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy, International Relations [Link](#)

Why in News? India and the United Kingdom finalized a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on May 6, 2025, after three years of negotiations that spanned across political administrations in both countries, with Prime Minister Modi and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer announcing its successful conclusion.

Key Provisions of India-UK FTA

Tariff Elimination:

- 1) 99% of Indian exports will receive duty-free access to UK markets, creating substantial export opportunities across sectors.
- 2) India will reduce tariffs on 90% of UK's tariff lines, with 85% becoming fully tariff-free within a decade.
- 3) Indian duties on whisky and gin will be cut from 150% to 75% initially, and further to 40% by year ten.
- 4) Automotive tariffs will decrease from over 100% to 10% under a quota system.

Double Contribution Convention:

- 1) Exempts Indian workers temporarily in the UK and their employers from social security payments for three years.
- 2) Expected to benefit more than 60,000 employees in the IT sector alone, with total savings exceeding ₹4,000 crore.

Market Access Improvements:

- 1) Opens export opportunities for Indian labour-intensive sectors including textiles, leather, footwear, and gems & jewelry.
- 2) UK businesses gain access to India's procurement market, covering approximately 40,000 tenders worth at least £38 billion annually.
- 3) India secures significant commitments on digitally delivered services, particularly in professional sectors like architecture and engineering.

Mobility and Professional Services:

- 1) Facilitates easier movement for professionals, including contractual service suppliers, business visitors, investors, and intra-corporate transferees.
- 2) Includes provisions for independent professionals such as yoga instructors, musicians, and chefs.

Significance of India-UK FTA

Economic Growth Catalyst:

- 1) Expected to boost bilateral trade by £25.5 billion by 2040 and add £4.8 billion annually to the UK economy.
- 2) Aims to increase bilateral trade to \$120 billion by 2030, doubling from its current \$60 billion level.
- 3) Will substantially improve competitiveness of Indian goods in the UK compared to competitors like Vietnam and Bangladesh.

Strategic Timing and Positioning:

- 1) First major FTA secured by India among ongoing negotiations with the US and European Union, providing leverage in those discussions.
- 2) Concluded amid global economic uncertainty triggered by US tariff regimes, demonstrating commitment to open trade.
- 3) UK's most significant trade deal since Brexit in 2020, signaling its global trade ambitions.

Bipartisan Achievement:

- 1) Negotiations spanned three UK Prime Ministers (Boris Johnson, Rishi Sunak, and Keir Starmer), demonstrating rare cross-party consensus.
- 2) Continuous leadership from India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal throughout the negotiation process.

Strengthened Bilateral Relations:

- 1) Deepens the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership beyond just economic ties.
- 2) Builds on existing investment relationships - India is the UK's second-largest FDI source after the US, while UK is India's 6th largest investor.
- 3) Creates foundation for further collaboration in defense, security, critical technologies, education, and tourism.

The right to repair movement in India | Explained

What is the Repairability Index? What does 'planned obsolescence' with respect to electronics mean? How different is the right to repair movement in the U.S. as compared to India? How are consumer advocates and electronic manufacturers responding to the Index?

TH Text & Context; By Aron Deep;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News? The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) submitted a report on "Framework on Repairability Index (RI) in Mobile and Electronic Sector" to the government last week.

Repairability Index Explained

- 1) The RI assigns scores to consumer electronics and appliances based on how easy they are to repair
- 2) Evaluation criteria includes: availability of spare parts, cost of repair, software updates, and information accessibility
- 3) Framework aims to provide consumers with valuable information without hindering industry innovation or ease of doing business
- 4) Developed by a committee largely comprising industry groups and electronics manufacturers, with some consumer rights advocates like Pushpa Girimaji participating

Understanding Planned Obsolescence

- 1) Refers to intentionally selling less durable products to encourage consumers to purchase newer models sooner
- 2) Often attributed to manufacturers cutting corners on raw materials due to increasing metal costs and price competition
- 3) Results in modern appliances facing more frequent failures than older counterparts
- 4) Attero Recycling CEO noted reduction in metal content in units and material shortages leading to leaner engineering choices
- 5) India's status as net importer of metals increases pressure to maintain existing electronic products

The Need for Repairability

- 1) Repair has become a crucial consideration for consumers when purchasing electronic products

- 2) Extended product lifespan supports other priorities like e-waste recycling and promoting a "circular economy"

Categories being considered under Right to Repair

The Department of Consumer Affairs is considering the following four categories for Right to Repair in India

CONSUMER DURABLES

Includes washing machines, fans, dishwashers, air conditioners, refrigerators, microwaves, vacuum cleaners, kettles, toasters, radios, cookers, stoves and dishwashers



MOBILES / ELECTRONICS DISPLAY DATA STORAGE COMPONENTS

Includes cell phones, laptops, earphones, smart watches, tablets, portable music players, wireless routers, USB drives, camera and gaming consoles



AUTOMOBILE EQUIPMENT



Includes four-wheelers and two-wheelers, metals, solvents, glass, rubber tyres, batteries, plastic parts, and other components

FARMING EQUIPMENT

Includes tractors, combine harvesters, sprayer, digger, plough and seed drill



SOURCE The list of equipment and gadgets covered is not exhaustive

maintenance and repair costs alongside product prices

- 5) Longer-lasting appliances represent a form of "durable wealth" for consumers

Right to Repair Movement: India vs. US

- 1) Indian approach: Non-confrontational implementation through a portal listing authorized service centers and repair literature published by manufacturers
- 2) US approach: More activist movement resisting companies that monopolize product repair through restrictions on spare parts access and penalizing third-party repairs
- 3) Consumer groups in US have successfully advocated for protections allowing third-party repairs
- 4) Indian interpretation aligns more closely with manufacturers' preference for authorized service channels

Stakeholder Responses

- 1) Electronic manufacturers have strongly opposed certain right to repair legislations in the US to protect repair revenue streams
- 2) Consumer advocates like Pushpa Girimaji describe manufacturers' repair refusals as "highly exploitative" and violations of consumer choice rights
- 3) Indian government positioned to balance industry concerns with consumer interests
- 4) The committee's industry-heavy composition doesn't necessarily predetermine an industry-favoring outcome

News / Explained / Explained Economics / Why and how does the RBI transfer 'surplus' to the government?

Why and how does the RBI transfer 'surplus' to the government?

Unlike the banks it regulates, the RBI isn't a company that announces a dividend. So, how does the transfer of its surplus work out?

IE Explained;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

- 3) Economic motivation as slowing technological advancement makes product longevity more important
- 4) US lawmaker proposed legislation requiring appliance makers to display average annual

Why in News? The RBI central board has reviewed the Economic Capital Framework on May 15, 2025, ahead of an expected record

surplus transfer ranging between Rs 2.5-3.5 lakh crore to the government for 2024-25.

Staying afloat

The RBI board maintained contingent risk buffer at 5.5% of the balance sheet during the pandemic period to support growth and overall economic activity

*Contingent risk buffer as % of balance sheet

FY	CRB*
2018-19 to 2021-22	5.5
2022-23	6.0
2023-24	6.5

Balancing act

RBI surplus transfer to govt over the years

FY	Amount (₹ cr)
2017-18	50,000
2018-19	1,75,988
2019-20	57,127
2020-21	99,122
2021-22	30,307
2022-23	87,416
2023-24	2,10,873

Source: RBI

How RBI Generates Surplus?

Sources of Income:

- 1) Returns from foreign currency assets (bonds and treasury bills of other central banks)
- 2) Interest earnings on forex transactions and forex holdings
- 3) Income from government securities it holds
- 4) Interest earned from lending to banks during liquidity shortages
- 5) Management commission for handling government borrowings
- 6) Profits from market operations (forex interventions, Open Market Operations)
- 7) Earnings from deposits with other central banks or Bank for International Settlement

Expenditure Areas:

- 1) Printing of currency notes
- 2) Staff salaries and operational costs
- 3) Commission paid to banks for government transactions
- 4) Commission to primary dealers for underwriting government borrowings

Mechanism of Surplus Transfer

Legal Framework:

- 1) Governed by **Section 47 of the RBI Act, 1934**
- 2) RBI is exempt from paying income tax or any other tax under Section 48 of the Act

Transfer Process:

- 1) Surplus implies excess of income over expenditure
- 2) Determined based on **Economic Capital Framework (ECF)** recommended by **Bimal Jalan Committee**

- 3) RBI must maintain **Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB)** between 5.5% and 6.5% of its balance sheet
- 4) Central Board decides on the transfer amount after the July-June accounting year ends
- 5) The surplus transfer averages around **0.5% of GDP** with some exceptions

Factors Behind Record Surplus in 2024-25

- 1) High profits from US Treasury bonds due to monetary policy tightening
- 2) Significant surge in forex reserves (increased by \$68 billion in FY24)
- 3) Higher earnings from interest when liquidity enters deficit mode
- 4) Increase in gold prices expanding RBI's balance sheet
- 5) RBI's interventions in forex market (\$153 billion worth of securities sold in FY24)
- 6) Difference between current exchange rate and historical exchange rate

Significance of Surplus Transfer

- 1) Provides fiscal stimulus for government capital expenditure on infrastructure projects
- 2) Helps government meet fiscal deficit targets (currently set at 5.1% for 2024-25)
- 3) Reduces government borrowing needs
- 4) Supports fiscal consolidation and glide path to 4.5% deficit by FY26
- 5) Positive impact on bond markets through correction in government securities yields
- 6) Important source of non-tax receipts for the government

News / Explained / Explained Economics / The 'core' of inflation, and RBI's rate cutting decisions

Premium

The 'core' of inflation, and RBI's rate cutting decisions

For long, inflation was being driven by food prices. It led to demands for RBI to focus on 'core' and not 'headline' inflation. But now, food inflation is trailing both headline and core inflation. What does this mean?

IE Explained; By Harish Damodaran;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News? RBI reduced its repo rate by 0.25 percentage points each in February and April 2025 after keeping it unchanged at 6.5% for two years.

INFLATION TRENDS

Previous Pattern (Feb 2023-Jan 2025):

- 1) Headline CPI inflation: 5.2%
- 2) Food inflation (CFPI): 7.6%
- 3) Core inflation: 4.1%



Recent Reversal (April 2025):

- 1) Food inflation dropped to 1.8% (lowest since Oct 2021)
- 2) Headline inflation at 3.2% (lowest since July 2019)
- 3) Core inflation at 4.2% (highest since Sept 2023)

FACTORS AFFECTING INFLATION

Previous Food Inflation Causes:

- 1) Russia-Ukraine war disrupting global supplies (from Feb 2022)
- 2) El Niño event causing subpar monsoon and heat waves (Apr 2023-May 2024)

Current Economic Indicators:

- 1) Above-normal monsoon forecast for 2025
- 2) Brent crude at \$65/barrel (down from \$75 three months ago)
- 3) Rupee stabilized at 85.5/dollar (improved from 87.99 in Feb)
- 4) Forex reserves recovered to \$690.62 billion (May 9)

RBI OUTLOOK

- 1) Better positioned for further rate cuts with food inflation under control
- 2) Core inflation remains close to RBI's 4% target
- 3) Favorable factors: stable rupee, potential disinflationary pressure from Chinese imports, improved domestic food supply

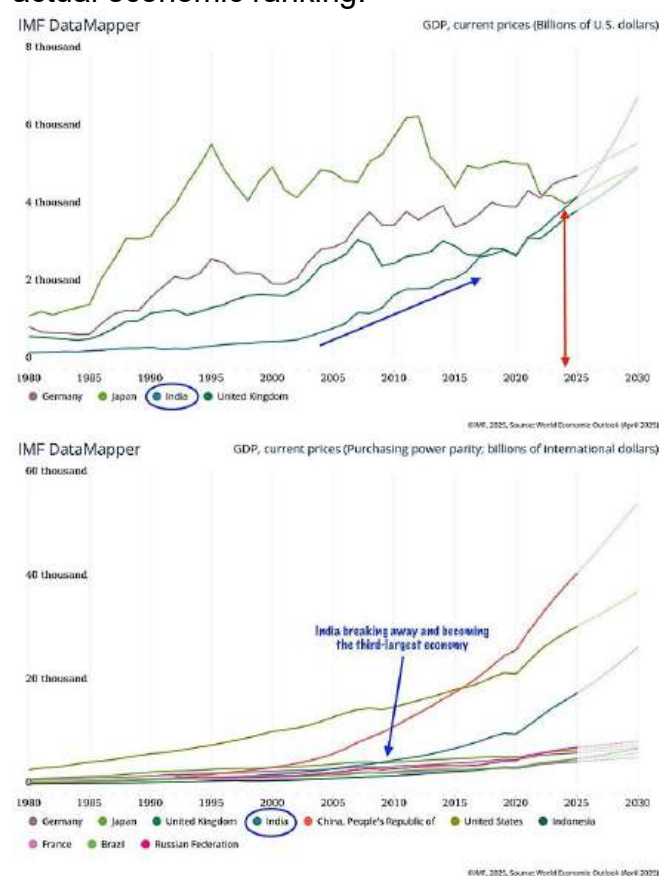
News / Explained / Explained Economics / ExplainSpeaking: Why India is the third-largest economy, not fourth or fifth

ExplainSpeaking: Why India is the third-largest economy, not fourth or fifth

Indian Economy: Recently, Niti Aayog CEO declared that India had overtaken Japan to become the fourth-largest economy in the world. We look at the data to check this claim

IE Explained; By Udit Misra;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News? Niti Aayog CEO declared India overtook Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy, sparking debate over India's actual economic ranking.



Economic Ranking Controversy Conflicting Claims

- 1) India is 4th largest economy (nominal GDP, recent claim)
- 2) India is 5th largest economy (counter-assertion using IMF data)
- 3) India is 3rd largest economy (PPP terms, since 2009)

Two Measurement Methods

- 1) Nominal GDP: Current market value in US dollars, affected by exchange rates
- 2) PPP GDP: Adjusted for purchasing power differences across countries



India's Economic Position Historical Timeline

- 1) 2009: India became 3rd largest economy in PPP terms, overtaking Japan
- 2) 2021: India overtook UK in nominal GDP terms
- 3) 2024-25: India projected to overtake Japan and Germany in nominal terms

Current Status

- 1) 3rd largest in PPP terms (unchanged since 2009)
- 2) 5th largest in nominal terms, moving toward 4th
- 3) China overtook US as largest economy in 2016 (PPP terms)

Reality Check

Per Capita Income Gap

- 1) India's per capita GDP: \$2,879 (2025 projected)
- 2) UK's per capita GDP: \$54,949 (20 times higher than India)
- 3) India at 40% of world average in PPP per capita terms
- 4) Annual Indian GDP per person: Rs 2.3 lakh

Key Insight: Despite aggregate growth, individual Indian incomes remain extremely low compared to developed nations.

News / Explained / Explained Economics / India releases provisional GDP estimates: What the data show

India releases provisional GDP estimates: What the data show

How is economic growth and national income measured? Why are the estimates "provisional"? What are the key takeaways from the data released by the government on Friday?

IE Explained; By Udit Misra;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News? India's Ministry of Statistics released provisional GDP estimates for FY25 showing 6.5% growth and Q4 growth of 7.4%.

Economic Growth Measurement GDP vs GVA:

- 1) GDP measures total expenditures (demand side) - individual, government, business spending
- 2) GVA measures supply side - value added at each production stage
- 3) Relationship: $GDP = GVA + \text{taxes} - \text{subsidies}$

Nominal vs Real:

- 1) Nominal GDP: Current prices (₹330.7 trillion in FY25)
- 2) Real GDP: Inflation-adjusted prices (₹187.97 lakh crore in FY25)
- 3) Real GDP used for international growth comparisons

TABLE 1 THE DECELERATING TRAJECTORY OF INDIA'S GDP				
Year	Nominal GDP (in Rs Lakh Crore)	Nominal GDP Growth Rate	Real GDP (in Rs Lakh Crore)	Real GDP Growth Rate
2013-14	112.3		98	
2014-15	124.7	11%	105.3	7.4%
2015-16	137.7	10.5%	113.7	8%
2016-17	153.9	11.8%	123.1	8.3%
2017-18	170.9	11%	131.4	6.8%
2018-19	189	10.6%	139.9	6.5%
2019-20	201	6.4%	145.3	3.9%
2020-21	198.5	-1.2%	136.9	-5.8%
2021-22	236	18.9%	150.2	9.7%
2022-23	268.9	14%	161.6	7.6%
2023-24	301.2	12%	176.5	9.2%
2024-25*	330.7	9.8%	188	6.5%
CAGR since 2014-15		10.3%		6.1%
CAGR since 2019-20		9.8%		5.1%

*Provisional estimates Source: MoSPI, CMIE, Indian Express research

Provisional Nature of Estimates

Revision Timeline:

- 1) January: First Advance Estimates (FAEs)
- 2) February: Second Advance Estimates (SAEs) after Q3 data
- 3) May: Provisional Estimates (PEs) after Q4 data
- 4) Year 1: First Revised Estimates
- 5) Year 2: Final Estimates

TABLE 2

SECTORAL HEALTH OF THE ECONOMY (IN RS LAKH CRORE)

Real Gross Value Added	2013-14	2018-19	2024-25	CAGR since 2014-15	CAGR since 2019-20
Agriculture	16.1	18.8	24.8	3.99%	4.72%
Industry	28.2	39.8	52.7	5.83%	4.81%
Manufacturing	15.6	23.3	29.5	5.97%	4.04%
Services	46.3	68.8	94.4	6.69%	5.4%

Source: MoSPI, CMIE, Indian Express research

Key Data Points

FY25 Performance:

- 1) Real GDP growth: 6.5% (vs 9.2% in FY24)
- 2) Nominal GDP growth: 9.8%
- 3) Q4 growth: 7.4% (vs 6.2% in Q3)
- 4) Economy size: \$3.87 trillion in USD terms

Sectoral Performance:

- 1) Construction, public administration, financial services drove growth
- 2) Manufacturing CAGR (4.04%) slower than agriculture (4.72%) since 2019-20
- 3) Overall GVA growth: 6.4% in FY25

Growth Outlook:

- 1) RBI projects 6.5% growth for FY26
- 2) Government retains 6.3-6.8% outlook for FY26

NEWS IN SHORT: ECONOMY & AGRICULTURE

Urban Challenge Fund

Why in News? Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the Urban Challenge Fund of Rs 1 lakh crore in Budget 2025-26 to implement 'Cities as Growth Hubs', 'Creative Redevelopment of Cities', and 'Water and Sanitation' proposals.

Urban Challenge Fund Overview

Purpose and Scope:

- 1) Rs 1 lakh crore fund to encourage states toward sustainable urbanization and redevelopment goals
- 2) Three focus areas: Cities as Growth Hubs, Creative Redevelopment of Cities, and Water & Sanitation
- 3) Rs 10,000 crore allocation proposed for 2025-26

#ViksitBharatBudget2025

URBAN CHALLENGE FUND

- Urban Challenge Fund with Rs 1 lakh crore to be set up
- It will assist in implementing proposals for 'Cities as Growth Hubs', 'Creative Redevelopment of Cities' and 'Water and Sanitation'
- An allocation of **Rs. 10,000 crore** to be made for FY 2025-26



Financing Mechanism:

- 1) Government finances up to 25% of bankable project costs
- 2) Minimum 50% funding required from bonds, bank loans, and PPPs

Cities expected to raise remaining Rs 40,000 crore through municipal bonds, PPPs, and loans

Cabinet approves hike in MSP for kharif crops; outlay stands at ₹2.07 lakh crore

CABINET APPROVES MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES (MSP) FOR 14 KHARIF CROPS FOR MARKETING SEASON 2025-26

- The increase in MSP for Kharif Crops at a level of at least 1.5 times of the All-India weighted average cost of production
- Highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year has been recommended for
 - Niger seed (Rs.820 per quintal)
 - Ragi (Rs.596 per quintal)
 - Cotton (Rs.589 per quintal)
 - Sesamum (Rs.579 per quintal)

- 1) Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by PM Modi approved increased Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 14 kharif crops for the 2025-26 marketing season
- 2) Total financial outlay stands at ₹2.07 lakh crore

Key MSP Increases

- 1) Paddy MSP increased by ₹69 per quintal to ₹2,369 (3% hike)
- 2) Highest absolute increases: Nigerseed (₹820), Ragi (₹596), Cotton (₹589), and Sesamum (₹579) per quintal
- 3) Other major crops: Maize MSP set at ₹2,400, Tur increased by ₹450, Groundnut by ₹480

Profit Margins

- 1) MSP ensures at least 50% profit over production cost for farmers
- 2) Highest profit margins: Bajra (63%), Maize (59%), Tur (59%), and Urad (53%)

Additional Benefits

- 1) Cabinet also extended the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) for 2025-26 with ₹15,642 crore outlay
- 2) Farmers will continue receiving affordable credit through Kisan Credit Card (KCC)

CABINET APPROVES MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES (MSP) FOR 14 KHARIF CROPS FOR MARKETING SEASON 2025-26

The expected margin to farmers over their cost of production estimated to be highest in case of -

Bajra	63%
Maize	59%
Tur	59%
Urad	53%

Policy Alignment

- 1) MSP hike follows Union Budget 2018-19 commitment of fixing MSP at least 1.5 times the all-India weighted average cost of production

Decision comes as southwest monsoon arrived earlier than usual, boosting kharif crop sowing prospects.

India Records USD 81.04 Billion FDI Inflow in FY 2024–25

Record FDI Achievement

- 1) India received USD 81.04 billion in FDI inflows during FY 2024-25, marking a **14% increase** from USD 71.28 billion in the previous year.
- 2) This represents the **highest FDI inflow in the last three years**.

Sector-wise Performance

- 1) **Services sector emerged** as the top recipient with 19% of total inflows, receiving USD 9.35 billion - a remarkable 40.77% growth from the previous year.
- 2) **Computer software and hardware sector** accounted for 16% of total FDI.
- 3) **Manufacturing FDI** showed strong momentum with 18% growth, reaching USD 19.04 billion compared to USD 16.12 billion in FY 2023-24.

Geographic Distribution

- 1) **Maharashtra** attracted the highest share at 39% of total FDI equity inflows.
- 2) **Karnataka** followed with 13% and Delhi with 12%.

Source Countries

- 1) **Singapore** led with 30% share of total FDI inflows.
- 2) **Mauritius** contributed 17% and the United States 11%.

Long-term Trend

- 1) Over the past decade, FDI inflows have grown steadily from USD 36.05 billion in FY 2013-14 to USD 81.04 billion in FY 2024-25.
- 2) The number of FDI source countries increased from 89 in FY 2013-14 to 112 in FY 2024-25.

This growth reflects India's investor-friendly FDI policy and ongoing regulatory reforms that have made most sectors open for 100% FDI through the automatic route.

DoT Introduces "Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)" to strengthen Cyber

Ministry of Communications



DoT Introduces "Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)" to strengthen Cyber Fraud Prevention

FRI enables Enhanced Intelligence sharing with Banks, UPI service providers and Financial Institutions

Boosts cyber protection and validation checks in case of mobile numbers flagged with this tool when digital payment is proposed to be made to such numbers

FRI allows for swift, targeted, and collaborative action against suspected frauds in both telecom and financial domains

With UPI being the most preferred payment method across India, this intervention could save millions of citizens from falling prey to cyber fraud

Fraud Prevention

- 1) DoT launched Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI), a multi-dimensional analytical tool to combat cyber fraud
- 2) Classifies mobile numbers into Medium, High, or Very High risk categories based on fraud probability

- 3) Enables real-time intelligence sharing between DoT, banks, UPI service providers, and financial institutions
- 4) PhonePe has already integrated the system, declining transactions to Very High risk numbers and displaying fraud alerts
- 5) The system uses data from National Cybercrime Reporting Portal, DoT's Chakshu platform, and financial institution intelligence

Railway Infrastructure Development

- 1) PM Modi inaugurated 103 modernised railway stations across India under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, aimed at upgrading railway infrastructure nationwide
- 2) Launched new Bandra-Bikaner weekly train service, enhancing connectivity between Mumbai and Rajasthan

About Amrit Bharat Scheme

ABOUT THE SCHEME

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Attempts shall be made to club different grades/types of waiting halls and provide good cafeteria/retail facilities ➤ Provision for two stalls for 'One Station One Product' ➤ Space for executive lounges and places for small business meetings ➤ Aesthetically designed hoarding on each side of the circulating area at prominent location | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Station approaches to be improved to ensure smooth access by widening roads, dedicated pedestrian pathways, parking areas, etc ➤ Landscaping, green patches, local art and culture to be used to create pleasant experience for station users ➤ High-level platforms (760-840 mm) shall be provided at all categories of stations. Length of platforms be 600 metres |
|---|--|
- 

- 1) Nationwide railway station modernization mission launched in February 2023 to redevelop 1,275 stations across India
- 2) Long-term phased development approach with customized plans for each station based on specific needs
- 3) PM Modi recently inaugurated 103 redeveloped stations spread across 86 districts in 18 states, costing over Rs 1,100 crore

Key Infrastructure Improvements

- 1) Modern passenger amenities including cleaner platforms, better-maintained toilets, modernized waiting halls with enhanced seating

- 2) Accessibility features such as lifts, escalators, improved entry/exit points, and facilities for persons with disabilities
- 3) Technology integration with free Wi-Fi, clearly marked signage, and improved information systems

Special Features

- 1) **"One Station One Product"** initiative promoting local crafts and products through kiosks within station premises
- 2) **Regional architectural inspiration** - stations incorporate local cultural elements (like Deshnoke station inspired by temple architecture)

Executive lounges and business meeting areas at select stations

RBI's Record Forex Intervention in FY25 Record Sales Volume:

- 1) RBI sold a record \$398.71 billion of foreign currency on gross basis in 2024-25, significantly higher than \$153.03 billion in the previous year
- 2) This breaks the previous record of \$212.57 billion set in 2022-23

Net Position:

- 1) Despite heavy purchases, RBI ended up as a net seller with \$34.51 billion in net sales
- 2) This marks only the seventh instance in three decades where RBI sold more forex than it bought
- 3) The net sales amount is second-highest only to \$34.92 billion during the 2008-09 global financial crisis

Timing and Triggers:

- 1) 73% of total gross sales (\$291.03 billion) occurred in the second half of FY25
- 2) December 2024 recorded the highest monthly sales ever at \$69.05 billion
- 3) Intervention intensified after Trump's election victory due to dollar strength and trade policy concerns

Impact on Reserves:

- 1) India's forex reserves dropped nearly \$80 billion between late September 2024 and mid-January 2025
- 2) Reserves fell from \$705 billion to below \$625 billion during peak intervention period

Currency Performance:

- 1) Rupee depreciated from 83.5/dollar in September 2024 to as low as 87.95/dollar in February 2025
- 2) Despite intervention, rupee still depreciated 2.4% in FY25

Expected Outcome: The substantial forex operations are expected to result in a record dividend transfer of ₹2.5-3 trillion from RBI to the government for FY25

Foxconn's Rs 12,800 Crore Investment in

Apple Vendor Foxconn pumps \$1.48 billion into Tamil Nadu unit

TOI Business Desk / TIMESOFINDIA.COM / May 19, 2025, 22:51 IST

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Foxconn has invested \$1.48 billion in its India operations, specifically in its Tamil Nadu-based unit, Yuzhan Technology. This investment supports Apple's strategy to diversify iPhone production beyond China, with a significant portion of iPhones sold in the US now sourced from India.



NEW DELHI: Apple's key supplier Foxconn has invested \$1.48 billion (approximately Rs 12,800 crore) in its India operations over the past five days, the company disclosed in a regulatory filing.

The investment was made into Yuzhan Technology (India) Private Limited, Foxconn's Tamil Nadu-based unit, via its Singapore arm, Foxconn Singapore Pte Ltd. Under the transaction, the Singapore entity acquired 9,999 shares at Rs 10 per share, including a premium component, taking the total deal value to \$1.489 billion.

per share, including a premium component, taking the total deal value to \$1.489 billion.

India

- 1) Foxconn has invested USD 1.48 billion (approximately Rs 12,800 crore) in its India operations over the past five days
- 2) The investment was made into Yuzhan Technology (India) Private Limited, Foxconn's Tamil Nadu-based unit, through its Singapore arm
- 3) This investment comes shortly after US President Trump criticized Apple's manufacturing in India, stating **"We're not interested in you building in India... we want you to build here"**
- 4) Apple CEO Tim Cook recently announced that the majority of iPhones sold in the US during the June quarter will be sourced from India
- 5) The investment aligns with Apple's broader strategy to diversify manufacturing beyond China and mitigate geopolitical and tariff risks
- 6) Foxconn has reportedly more than doubled its India revenue to over **USD 20 billion (Rs 1.7 lakh crore) in FY25** due to increased iPhone production

- 7) Currently, about **15% of Apple's global iPhone output comes from India**, with plans to produce 60 million iPhones in the country this fiscal year

The Tamil Nadu facility is expected to generate approximately 14,000 jobs

Mismatch between MGNREGS coverage, delivery, says report

- 1) The recent report on MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) highlights several critical mismatches between program coverage and actual delivery.
- 2) Despite maintaining registered households coverage, actual employment delivery has declined significantly.
- 3) Persondays of work generated dropped from 389 crore during the pandemic to just 221 crore in 2024-25 (as of January 2025).
- 4) Only 4% of households received the full 100 days of guaranteed work in 2024-25, down from 8% in the previous year.
- 5) Wages received by workers were below the officially notified wage rates in 11 states and Union Territories.
- 6) Technical implementation issues persist: 95% of delay compensation claims were rejected citing "**compensation not due**".
- 7) Documentation gaps exist: only 5% of issues identified during social audits had been addressed as of January 2025.
- 8) Community engagement is lacking: while 95% of sarpanches claim plans are approved in Gram Sabha meetings, only 1% of households confirm this participation.
- 9) Payment irregularities continue with 29.4% of households still reporting cash payments despite mandatory bank transfers.
- 10) A Parliamentary panel has recommended increasing work guarantees from 100 to 150 days and raising wage rates to at least ₹400 per day to align with economic realities.

The program faces ₹11,423 crore in pending dues to states for wages, administrative costs, and materials in 2024-25.

Port-led Development in India: FY 2024-



25

- 1) Major Indian ports achieved 4.3% annual growth in cargo handling, processing 855 million tonnes in FY 2024-25 compared to 819 million tonnes in the previous fiscal year.
- 2) This growth demonstrates the port sector's resilience amid global economic uncertainties.
- 3) Specific cargo segments showed notable performance: container cargo up 10%, fertilizer handling increased 13%, and POL (Petroleum, Oil & Lubricants) rose by 3%.
- 4) Paradip and Deendayal Ports crossed the 150 million tonnes cargo mark for the first time, setting new operational benchmarks.
- 5) JNPA (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority) achieved record handling of 7.3 million TEUs, representing 13.5% year-on-year growth.
- 6) Operational efficiency improved substantially with Pre-Berthing Detention time reduced by approximately 36% year-on-year.

Financial performance strengthened with total port income increasing 8% year-on-

year to ₹24,203 crore and operating surplus growing 7% to ₹12,314 crore.

India Expands Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups



The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has notified significant expansions to the **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS)**:

- 1) **Doubled guarantee cover ceiling:** Maximum guarantee cover per borrower increased from Rs. 10 crore to Rs. 20 crore
- 2) **Enhanced default coverage:**
 - a) **85% of default amount covered** for loans up to Rs. 10 crore
 - b) **75% of default amount covered** for loans exceeding Rs. 10 crore
- 3) **Reduced fees for priority sectors: Annual Guarantee Fee (AGF)** for startups in 27 Champion Sectors under 'Make in India' reduced from 2% to 1% per annum
- 4) **Wider financial support:** The expansion aims to provide collateral-free debt funding to startups through working capital, term loans, and venture debt
- 5) **Reduced lending risks:** Changes designed to reduce perceived risks for financial institutions lending to startups

- 6) **Innovation boost:** Expected to increase R&D experimentation and development of cutting-edge technologies by startups
- 7) **Increased institutional participation:** More financial institutions likely to provide credit support to startups, increasing overall funding flow
- 8) **Implementation timeline:** The notification supersedes an earlier scheme from October 6, 2022 and is effective from May 8, 2025
- 9) **Budget alignment:** This expansion was proposed in the Union Budget 2025-26 to enhance credit availability with guarantee cover for startups

The scheme aims to catalyse entrepreneurship and innovation in India's startup ecosystem by making debt funding more accessible to over 1.61 lakh government-recognized startups.

India's First Mortgage-Backed Certificates Listed on NSE

- 1) India listed its first **Mortgage-backed Pass Through Certificates (PTCs)** on the **National Stock Exchange** on May 5, 2025.
- 2) The PTCs, **worth ₹1,000 crores**, are **backed by a pool of housing loans originated by LIC Housing Finance Limited** and were structured by RMBS Development Company Limited.
- 3) These certificates feature a **7.26% annual coupon rate with a 20-year maturity period** and are **rated AAA(SO)** by CRISIL and CARE Ratings35.
- 4) This is the first PTC issue in India where the coupon rate was discovered through NSE's Electronic Book Provider platform, and the certificates are issued in dematerialized form, making them fully transferable and tradable in the secondary market.
- 5) **National Housing Bank** expects firms to raise between ₹100-200 billion (approximately \$1.2-2.4 billion) through residential mortgage-backed securities across 7-10 transactions this financial year.

This development aims to integrate housing finance and debt markets, potentially serving as a catalyst for the growth of India's housing finance sector by providing opportunities to long-term investors like

insurers, pension funds, and provident funds.

Domestic Institutions Surpass FPIs in NSE Stock Ownership

- 1) For the first time in over 15 years, Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) have surpassed Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in ownership of stocks listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) as of March 31, 2025.
- 2) DIIs now hold a 17.62% stake in NSE-listed companies, compared to FPIs' 17.22%.

Reasons for the Shift

- 1) **Rising Retail Participation:** More Indian investors are investing in mutual funds, insurance, and pension funds, increasing DII inflows.
- 2) **Surge in SIP Investments:** Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) have seen record inflows, providing steady capital to DIIs.
- 3) **FPI Outflows:** Foreign investors have reduced their holdings due to global uncertainties, high Indian market valuations, and better opportunities elsewhere.
- 4) **Market Resilience:** Domestic investors have absorbed FPI selling, preventing sharp market falls and boosting DII ownership.
- 5) **Regulatory Support:** Government policies and incentives have encouraged domestic savings and investments in equity markets.
- 6) **Growing Financial Awareness:** Increased financial literacy and awareness among Indians have led to higher participation in stock markets.

Strong Performance of Indian Sectors: Sectors like banking, auto, and FMCG have

attracted more domestic investment due to strong returns.

RBI Gold Reserves Increase

- 1) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) added 57 tonnes of gold to its foreign exchange reserves in FY25, marking the largest annual increase in seven years.
- 2) RBI's total gold holdings reached 879.59 tonnes by March 2025, up from 822.10 tonnes in March 2024.

INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES

As on February 23, 2024

Item	₹ Cr.	US\$ Mn.	Percentage of total reserves
Total Reserves	5135344	619072	
Foreign Currency Assets	4547374	548188	88.55%
Gold	396913	47848	7.73%
SDRs	150946	18197	2.94%
Reserve Position in the IMF	40111	4839	0.78%

- 3) The value of gold held by RBI rose significantly to \$78.17 billion as of March 2025, compared to \$52.67 billion a year ago.
- 4) Gold's share in RBI's total foreign exchange reserves increased to **11.70%** by March 2025, up from 9.32% in September 2024.
- 5) Of the total gold holdings, 511.99 tonnes are stored domestically, while 348.62 tonnes remain with the Bank of England and Bank for International Settlements.
- 6) RBI brought back 38.64 tonnes of gold to India from foreign vaults during FY25.

The overall foreign exchange reserves decreased to \$668.33 billion from \$705.78 billion in September 2024.



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- ☒ **Face to Face** Evaluation/week
- ☒ **Answer Explanation** (soft)

Concession Details

Fee: ₹6000 + GST

Mode: Offline/Online

Kalam IAS Students: 20%

UPSC Interview Student: 30%

CSE Selected Students: 50%

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Maths Foundation

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- Uninterrupted Mentorship** with direct access to faculty support whenever you need it, all the way until Mains 2025.

Concession Details

Kalam IAS Students: 20%

UPSC Interview Student: 30%

CSE Selected Students: 50%



Ethics Answer Writing Workshop Schedule

WORKSHOP	DATE
Workshop-01	05 th June
Workshop-02	07 th June
Workshop-03	10 th June
Workshop-04	12 th June
Workshop-05	14 th June
Workshop-06	17 th June
Workshop-07	19 th June
Session Timing: 4 PM	

ETHICS TEST SERIES 2025



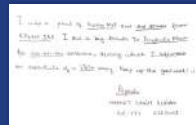
5-Tests with Real-Time Face to Face Evaluation



Ethics Marks Improvement Booklet (Value Addition)



Harnit Singh Sudan
AIR-177, CSE 2023



Prajanandan Giri
AIR-24, CSE 2023



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- 5-Full-Length UPSC-Aligned Tests** designed to build confidence and exam readiness.
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Ethics Answer Writing Workshop Schedule

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Workshop-01	03 rd June
Workshop-02	05 th June
Workshop-03	09 th June
Workshop-04	11 th June
Workshop-05	13 th June
Workshop-06	15 th June
Session Timing: 2 PM	

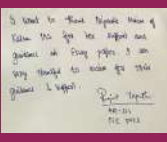


Chaitanya Giri
AIR-117, CSE 2023

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to Kalam IAS Academy because their value addition materials and especially the PDFs which were there for current affairs of GS and value addition materials for Ethics & Essay helped me a lot in my mains preparation. In fact, one day before the main preparation, I was reading those PDFs and I even made certain short notes out of those PDFs which I tried to write in the actual exams and now as the marks are out I've gotten 134 marks in essay and 108 marks in ethics and I believe that Kalam IAS value addition material did play a major role in that.



Rajat Tripathi
AIR-515, CSE 2023



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All of the Above

MARKS IMPROVEMENT BOOKLETS (MIB)

For Extra

20+ Marks

Ethics | Essay | Society | Polity | Economy | Science & Tech |
Environment | Disaster Management | Geography



Ayan Jain, AIR-16

I want to thank Kalam IAS for their support in CSE 2023. I was a part of the interview guidance course where I found the current affairs material to be extremely good, and I have also benefited previously from the value addition material provided by Kalam IAS for Mains
Thank you!
.....

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98878-44044

Science and Technology

May 2025

Keyword of the Day: 'Wonder drug' Ozempic [Link](#)

- 1) A recent groundbreaking clinical trial has found that **semaglutide**, the active ingredient in **Ozempic** and **Wegovy**, shows remarkable potential in **treating liver disease**.
- 2) Phase 3 trial (800 participants, 37 countries) found weekly semaglutide effectively treated **MASH** in **nearly two-thirds of patients**.
- 3) 72-week study showed improvement in both **MASH** and **liver fibrosis** in 32.7% of semaglutide recipients versus 16.1% in placebo group
- 4) Patients also experienced improved liver enzymes and average weight loss of 10.5%
- 5) **MASH** is a serious fatty liver disease not caused by alcohol, affecting approximately 1 in 20 U.S. adults



Keyword of the Day: What are 'dark patterns' in e-commerce? [Link](#)

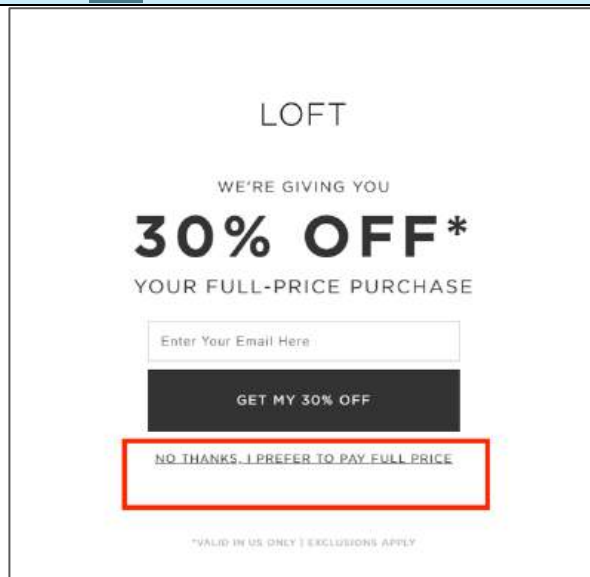
Why in News? Government mandated annual audits for e-commerce platforms to eliminate deceptive design practices called 'dark patterns'.

What are Dark Patterns?

- 1) Deceptive design tactics that manipulate users into unintended actions
- 2) Make users do things they wouldn't otherwise do or discourage beneficial user behavior
- 3) Coined by UX designer Harry Brignull in 2010
- 4) Example: Tiny 'X' marks on ads that are hard to find or click
- 5) 79% of Indian apps trick users into sharing personal data
- 6) Travel booking apps most affected, followed by delivery platforms

Government Action

- 1) Consumer Affairs Minister ordered e-commerce companies to conduct self-audits
- 2) Annual audit reports must be submitted to Department of Consumer Affairs
- 3) Joint working committee established with government, platforms, and consumer groups
- 4) 11 companies including Zepto, Uber, Ola issued notices for dark patterns
- 5) CCPA guidelines issued in December 2023





DARK PATTERNS

©KRISTINA SZEROVAY
WWW.SKETCHINGFORUX.COM

UX Knowledge Base Sketch #29



DARK PATTERNS ARE

TRICKS

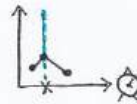
THAT MAKE THE USERS DO THINGS THEY DID NOT MEAN TO.

FINE LINE BETWEEN INFLUENCING USERS' BEHAVIOR AND TRICKING THEM!

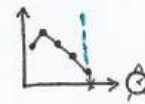
DARK PATTERNS CAN WORK IF SOMEONE IS LOOKING FOR SHORT-TERM RESULTS.

USING DARK PATTERNS HAS A NEGATIVE IMPACT IN THE LONG-TERM

VS.



ONLY INITIAL SUCCESS, NOT SUSTAINABLE



USERS WILL SWITCH TO MORE ETHICAL PRODUCTS / SERVICES

THE MOST COMMON TYPES



FORCED CONTINUITY

FREE TRIAL → CHANGES TO A PAYING SCHEME WITHOUT WARNING



ROACH MOTEL

THE START IS EASY (SIGN UP/SUBSCRIPTION), QUITTING IS HARD



GROWTH HACKING THROUGH SPAMMING

YOU BECOME THE SPAMMER WITHOUT KNOWING IT



DELIBERATE MISDIRECTION

FOCUSING THE USERS' ATTENTION ON THE MORE EXPENSIVE OPTION, HIDING THE CHEAPER WAY



OBSCURED PRICING

MAKING IT HARD TO COMPARE THE PRICES



SNEAK INTO BASKET

A RANDOM ADDITIONAL ITEM APPEARS IN YOUR BASKET (WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT)



BAIT & SWITCH

USE A CONVENTION, PATTERN IN A WAY TO MAKE THE USER FALSELY ASSUME SOMETHING



DISGUISED ADS

AN AD LOOKING LIKE ANOTHER TYPE OF CONTENT / NAVIGATION



ROADBLOCK

A POP-UP INTERRUPTS YOUR INTENDED ACTION



HIDDEN COSTS

AT THE CHECKOUT, A NEW, UNEXPECTED COST APPEARS



PRIVACY ZUCKERING

SHARING MORE PRIVATE INFO THAN YOU WANT



MISINFORMATION

E.G. CONFUSING L-COLOR, CONTRAST L-LANGUAGE

TRICK QUESTIONS
CHECK BOX TREACHERY

13 Dark Patterns Identified by CCPA

- 1) **False urgency:** Creating fake scarcity or popularity
- 2) **Basket sneaking:** Adding unwanted products to cart
- 3) **Subscription traps:** Easy signup, difficult cancellation
- 4) **Drip pricing:** Hidden costs revealed later
- 5) **Bait & switch:** Advertising one product, delivering another
- 6) **Forced action:** Mandatory signup for content access
- 7) **Interface interference:** Highlighting certain info while hiding others
- 8) **Disguised ads:** Ads looking like content
- 9) **Confirm shaming:** Using guilt to influence decisions
- 10) **Nagging:** Persistent interruptions for transactions
- 11) **Trick questions:** Confusing language to misdirect
- 12) **SaaS billing:** Exploiting subscription loops for payments
- 13) **Rogue malware:** Fake virus warnings for malware installation

How did India develop genome edited rice? | Explained

Is India the first ever country to develop rice using genome editing technology? What are the unique characteristics of the two newly developed rice varieties? Are these crops genetically modified? What have been the controversies surrounding the announcement of these two genome-edited rice varieties?

TH Text & Context; By A. M. Jigeesh;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Science & Tech [Link](#)

Why in News? Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced India as the first country to develop rice varieties using genome editing technology, with seeds becoming available to farmers within six months.



New Rice Varieties and Their Characteristics

DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala):

- 1) Developed from high-yielding Samba Mahsuri rice
- 2) Features superior yield (5.37 tonnes/hectare vs 4.5 tonnes/hectare of parent variety)
- 3) Demonstrates drought tolerance and high nitrogen use efficiency
- 4) Matures 20 days earlier, saving water and fertilizers while reducing methane emissions

Pusa DST Rice 1:

- 1) Developed from Maruteru 1010 (MTU1010) variety

- 2) Yields 9.66% more than parent variety under inland salinity stress
- 3) Shows 14.66% better performance under alkalinity conditions
- 4) Offers 30.4% yield advantage under coastal salinity stress

Technology and Development Process

- 1) Uses Site-Directed Nuclease 1 and 2 (SDN-1 and SDN-2) genome editing techniques
- 2) Developed by researchers guided by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- 3) First peer-reviewed research on Pusa DST Rice 1 published in 2020, cited in over 300 papers
- 4) Field-tested under All India Coordinated Research Project on Rice during 2023-24

Not Genetically Modified Crops

- 1) Not considered GM crops as SDN-3 technology (introducing foreign genes) was not used
- 2) SDN-1 creates a cut with automatic repair; SDN-2 guides the cell to make repairs
- 3) Contains only native genes with mutations occurring through natural processes
- 4) Several countries exempt this process from GM crop regulations

Controversies and Objections

- 1) **Farmers' Representatives:**
 - a) Claims called premature and misleading by Venugopal Badaravada, who was later expelled from ICAR governing body
 - b) Demanded accountability and transparent data about field testing
- 2) **Anti-GM Activists:**
 - a) Coalition for GM-Free India challenges portrayal of gene editing as precise and safe
 - b) Claims India's de-regulation of gene editing is illegal
 - c) Raised concerns about intellectual property rights affecting farmers' seed sovereignty
 - d) Questions government transparency regarding IPR status of released varieties

News / Explained / Explained Sci-Tech / AI basics | OpenAI's latest AI models report high 'hallucination' rate: What does it mean, why is this significant?

AI basics | OpenAI's latest AI models report high 'hallucination' rate: What does it mean, why is this significant?

Hallucination has been an issue with AI models from the start, and big AI companies and labs, in the initial years, repeatedly claimed that the problem would be resolved in the near future. However, it now seems that the issue is here to stay.

IE Explained; By Alind Chauhan;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Science & Tech [Link](#)

Why in News? OpenAI's latest AI models, o3 and o4-mini, report significantly higher hallucination rates than older versions, raising concerns about AI reliability.



What Are AI Hallucinations?

- 1) AI hallucinations refer to instances where AI models generate false, misleading, or fabricated information presented as fact.
- 2) Initially, hallucinations meant outright fabricated facts, but now also include irrelevant or contextually incorrect outputs.
- 3) Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT and OpenAI's models "guess" text sequences based on patterns in training data, without true understanding or fact-checking ability.
- 4) Hallucinations can manifest as fake citations, imaginary legal cases, or incorrect factual claims.

Why Do AI Hallucinations Happen?

- 1) LLMs are trained on massive, diverse internet text data, which includes inaccuracies and biases, causing errors in outputs.
- 2) These models generate responses probabilistically, combining billions of patterns,

which can unpredictably produce fabricated or incorrect information.

- 3) The internal workings of LLMs are complex and not fully understood, making it difficult to pinpoint why specific hallucinations occur.
- 4) Hallucinations are intrinsic to how LLMs function and cannot be completely eliminated.

Why Is This Significant?

- 1) Despite early optimism that hallucinations would diminish, new reports show hallucination rates are rising even in more advanced models.
- 2) This trend is not limited to OpenAI; other companies like DeepSeek also report increased hallucinations in newer models.
- 3) High hallucination rates limit AI applications in critical fields like legal research or academic assistance, where accuracy is essential.
- 4) Experts suggest hallucination is both a technical and sociological problem, with no clean solution in sight.
- 5) Users and developers must be cautious in deploying AI for tasks requiring high factual reliability.

News / India / In nuclear energy push, Govt to allow private operators, limit their liability

Premium

In nuclear energy push, Govt to allow private operators, limit their liability

Move follows US decision to let its firms make nuclear equipment, perform design work in India

IE Frontpage; By Bashir Anil Sasi;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy, Science & Tech [Link](#)

Why in News? India plans to amend nuclear laws to allow private operators and limit supplier liability, following US approval for Holtec International to transfer SMR technology to Indian firms.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Liability Law Amendment:

- 1) **Cap monetary liability** of equipment suppliers to original contract value
- 2) Introduce **time-frame limitation** on liability period
- 3) Address concerns of foreign vendors who cited **unlimited liability as impediment**

WHAT DID THE GOVT ANNOUNCE?

- Union Budget 2025–26: Private entry allowed in civil nuclear sector
- Public-private partnerships to build Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)
- Companies Interested: Jindal Nuclear, Tata Power, Vedanta, Adani Group
- Target: 5 operational SMRs by 2033

WHERE DOES INDIA STAND NOW?

- Nuclear share in India's power: 2.83% (CEA 2024)
- Installed capacity (Jan 2025): 8180 MW
- 2011 projection for 2032: 27,500 MW – missed target

Atomic Energy Act Amendment:

- 1) Allow private companies to **operate** nuclear power plants
- 2) Potentially permit foreign companies to take **minority stakes** in nuclear projects
- 3) Currently, only state-owned entities like **NPCIL and NTPC** can operate nuclear plants

WHAT'S BLOCKING FULL LIBERALISATION?

Atomic Energy Act (AEA) – Gives exclusive power to public sector

Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA) – Supplier liability clause deters foreign partners

Government has set up task forces to propose amendments



"Current laws haven't instilled confidence in international nuclear industry"

SIGNIFICANCE

- 1) **Follows US Department of Energy's March 2025 approval** for Holtec to transfer SMR technology to Indian firms (Holtec Asia, L&T, Tata Consulting Engineers)
- 2) **Removes key regulatory hurdle ('10CFR810' authorization)** that limited US companies from manufacturing nuclear equipment in India
- 3) **Part of broader US-India trade negotiations** and investment outreach
- 4) **Supports India's target of 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047** announced in Budget 2025
- 5) **Opens up one of India's most closed sectors** to private participation
- 6) **Amendments were promised in the Union Budget** presented earlier this year
- 7) Both legislations expected to be introduced in the upcoming monsoon session of Parliament

News / Explained / Explained Sci-Tech / ISRO's 101st satellite launch fails: Recalling the only two other instances when 'workhorse' PSLV failed

ISRO's 101st satellite launch fails: Recalling the only two other instances when 'workhorse' PSLV failed

ISRO 101st launch failure, PSLV-C61 mission failed: Since their introduction in the 1990s, the PSLV rockets have only failed twice – the first during the inaugural flight in 1993 and in 2017, when the C-39 mission was unsuccessful.

IE Explained;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Science & Tech [Link](#)

Why in News? ISRO's 101st satellite launch failed on May 18, 2025, marking only the third failure for the PSLV rocket in its 32-year operational history.

Recent PSLV-C61 Failure Details

- 1) Launch occurred at 5:59 AM from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota
- 2) Earth observation satellite EOS-09 failed to reach orbit
- 3) Problem identified in the **third stage** with a **drop in chamber pressure of the solid motor**
- 4) **Suspected flex nozzle control system malfunction** in the third-stage propulsion system
- 5) This was the 63rd PSLV flight and 27th in XL configuration
- 6) Second consecutive mission failure for ISRO in 2025 (after NVS-02 in January)

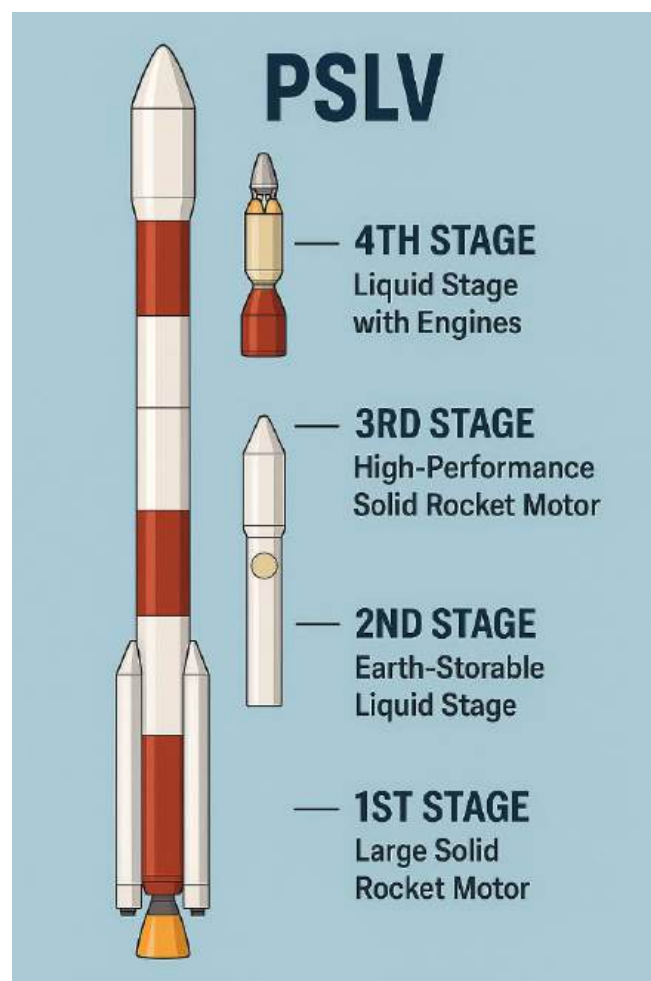
Previous PSLV Failures

1993: Inaugural Flight (PSLV-D1)

- 1) First developmental flight failed due to onboard software problems
- 2) Remote sensing satellite IRS-1E crashed into ocean

2017: PSLV-C39 Mission

- 1) Heat shield failed to separate at approximately 120 km altitude
- 2) Prevented IRNSS-1H navigation satellite from being deployed
- 3) First mission failure after the 1993 developmental flight



About PSLV

- 1) Four-stage rocket consisting of solid and liquid propulsion systems
- 2) **First stage (PS1):** Solid rocket motors with six strap-on boosters
- 3) **Second stage (PS2):** Vikas engine (storable liquid rocket)
- 4) **Third stage (PS3):** Solid rocket motor for high thrust
- 5) **Fourth stage (PS4):** Two Earth-storable liquid engines
- 6) Known as ISRO's "workhorse" due to high reliability record
- 7) Has launched approximately 345 satellites for 34 countries
- 8) Used in major missions including Chandrayaan-1 and Mars Orbiter Mission

NEWS IN SHORT: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Super-Fast Charging Sodium-Ion Battery Technology

SODIUM ION BATTERY CATHODE MATERIALS MARKET



The global market for Sodium Ion Battery Cathode Materials is forecast to a readjusted size of **US\$ 1115 million** by 2031, with a CAGR of **37.4%** during the forecast period 2025-2031

The global key manufacturers of Sodium Ion Battery Cathode Materials include HiNa Battery Technology, Jiangsu Xiangying AmpereX, GEM, Easpring, Jiangsu ZOLNASM, etc. The global top five players hold a share approximately 64.15% in terms of revenue.



- 1) Developed by scientists at **Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research in Bengaluru**
- 2) **Charges up to 80% in just six minutes** and lasts over **3,000 charge cycles**
- 3) Uses innovative **NASICON-type cathode and anode material** ($\text{Na}_x\text{V}_{1-x}\text{Al}_y\text{Nb}_z(\text{PO}_4)_w$)
- 4) Optimized with nanoscale particles, carbon coating, and aluminum additives for faster ion movement
- 5) Sodium is cheaper and more abundantly available in India than lithium, supporting Atmanirbhar Bharat mission
- 6) Could power electric vehicles, solar grids, drones, and rural homes

Avoids fire and degradation risks common to traditional batteries

High-Altitude Platform (HAP) Prototype

- 1) India's indigenous solar-powered HAP prototype completed pre-monsoon flight tests from May 8-13, 202
- 2) Developed by **National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)** with an advanced certified autopilot system
- 3) Reached altitudes of **24,000 feet** and demonstrated capability to fly through cloud cover

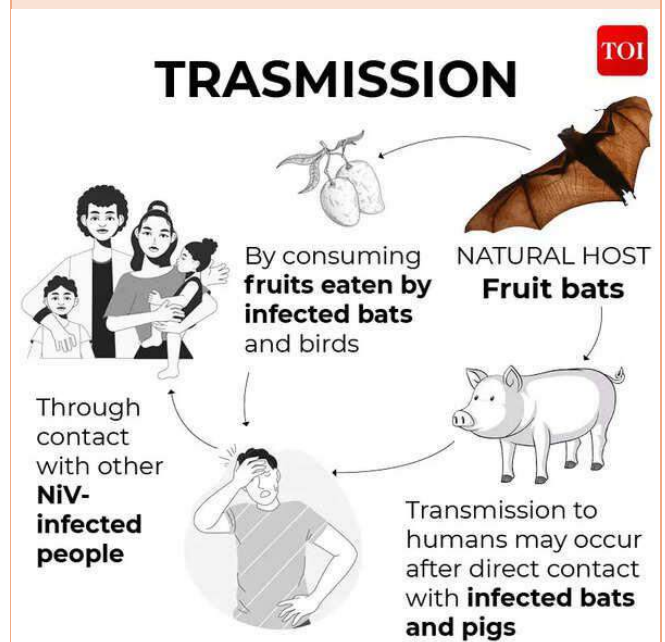


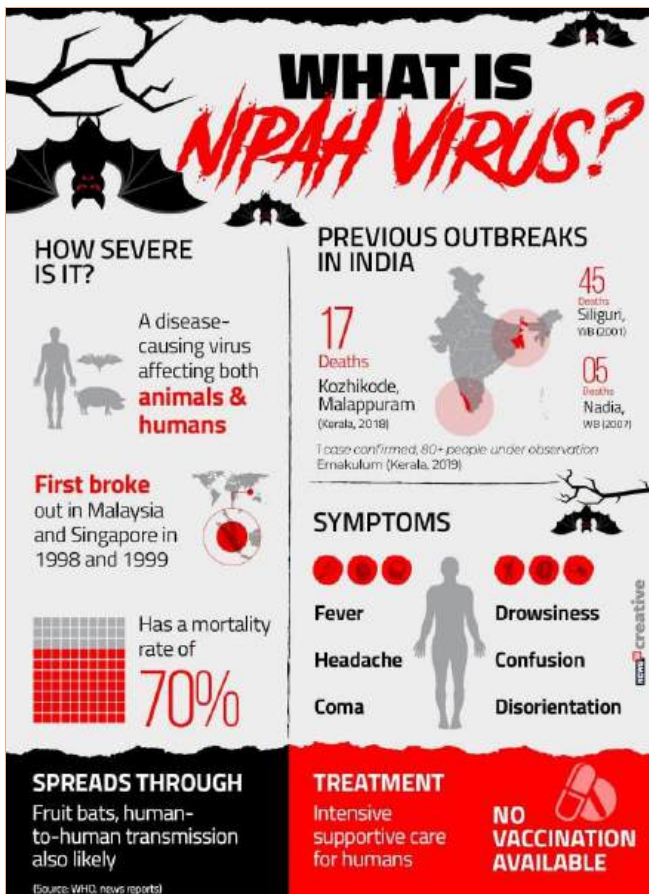
- 4) Features 12-meter wingspan, weighs under 22kg, with payload capacity of nearly 1kg
- 5) Can patrol hundreds of kilometers of national borders autonomously
- 6) Applications include border surveillance, meteorology, telecommunications, and crowd monitoring

Indian Air Force has expressed interest in similar high-altitude platform systems

Nipah Virus Case in Kerala

- 1) A 42-year-old woman from Valanchery in Kerala's Malappuram district has tested positive for Nipah virus
- 2) She is in critical condition, receiving treatment at a private hospital in Perinthalmanna
- 3) The infection was confirmed by the National Institute of Virology in Pune
- 4) The woman had been experiencing fever, cough, and breathing difficulties before diagnosis





About Nipah Virus

- 1) A zoonotic infection transmitted from animals to humans, primarily in Asia (Bangladesh and India)
- 2) No specific medication or vaccine is currently available for Nipah virus
- 3) Death occurs in 40-75% of cases, making it a severe public health concern
- 4) Spreads from animals to humans through direct contact with infected bats or pigs
- 5) Consumption of contaminated foods, especially raw date palm sap or fruits with bat saliva/urine
- 6) Person-to-person transmission occurs through close contact with infected individuals' body fluids
- 7) Spreads through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- 8) Incubation period typically 4-14 days after exposure (can extend to 45 days)
- 9) Initial symptoms include fever, headache, cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing, and vomiting
- 10) Severe cases progress to neurological symptoms: disorientation, drowsiness, seizures, and encephalitis

Can rapidly progress to coma within 24-48 hours in severe cases

Shingles Vaccine and Dementia Risk: What Recent Research Shows

Shingles Vaccine Can Decrease Risk of Dementia, Study Finds

A growing body of research suggests that preventing the viral infection can help stave off cognitive decline.



Listen to this article · 8:14 min [Learn more](#)



- 1) Shingles vaccine reduces dementia risk by 20% according to a recent Welsh study
- 2) Confirms previous associations between vaccination and lower dementia risk

About Shingles

- 1) Viral infection causing painful rashes caused by reactivation of chickenpox virus
- 2) Typically affects one side of torso along nerve pathways
- 3) Can cause persistent pain, vision loss, facial paralysis in severe cases
- 4) Vaccine recommended for people over 50 and those with weakened immunity

The Welsh Study

- 1) Natural experiment created when vaccination program limited eligibility by age
- 2) Compared similar aged populations where only some received vaccine
- 3) Found 3.5% reduction in dementia diagnoses over seven years

- 4) Potential mechanisms include preventing virus reactivation or immune system changes

Vaccine Types & Effects

- 1) Two vaccines available in India (Rs 6,000-17,000 per dose):
 - a) **Zostavax** (live weakened virus)
 - b) **Shingrix** (recombinant technology)
- 2) Oxford study showed Shingrix also reduced dementia risk by 17%

Additional Benefits

- 1) 23% lower cardiovascular risk found in South Korean study
- 2) Other vaccines also linked to reduced dementia risk:
 - a) Diphtheria (30% reduction)
 - b) Pneumococcal (27% reduction)
 - c) Hepatitis A and typhoid also show protective effects



☞ Scan to get more Study Material

Join our Telegram Channel ☞



REVERSE LEARNING PROGRAM (RLP)

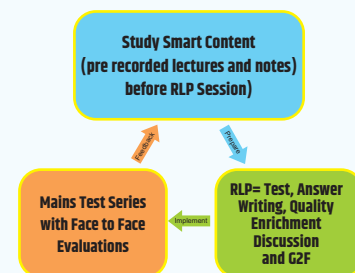
An innovative **Quality Enrichment Program** and **Answer Writing**
Mains Program dove tailed with **Face 2 Face** evaluation

14 Tests + 27 Sessions

9-Sectional+ 5 Full Length Tests

- ★ **Content:** Recorded Lectures (100+ hours) on Mains topics.
- ★ **Study Materials:** Handouts on **Mains Topics** (Essay, Ethics, Economy, Society, Governance, Geography, etc).
- ★ **Workshop: 27 RLP Sessions** (Daily Answer Writing + Live Discussions) will help in better structuring of answers and better utilization of value addition materials
- ★ Each RLP session will consist of **1.5-hour test** (10-PYQs) followed by **1.5-hours of quality discussion** and Group 2 Face evaluation.
- ★ One RLP test = 10Q = PYQs + Current Affairs
- ★ Integrated with **GS Mains Test Series** (1-Essay+1 CA + 7-Sectional + 5 FLT's)
- ★ **Face to Face** Evaluation for internalization of personal feedback
- ★ **8-Marks Improvement Booklets** (Essay & Ethics etc.) including **Current Issues**.

RLP WORKFLOW



**ABHISHEK
VASHISHTHA**
AIR-14



**DEVANSH
MOHAN DWIVEDI**
AIR-228



**TANISHI
KALRA**
AIR-386



**SARTHAK
SINGH**
AIR-393

Date	No of Day	Subject/Theme
2-Jun	RLP_2501	Geography
4-Jun	RLP_2502	Geography
6-Jun	RLP_2503	Geography
8-Jun	ST_2501	Essay
9-Jun	RLP_2504	Geography
11-Jun	RLP_2505	Biodiversity and Env.
13-Jun	RLP_2506	Biodiversity and Env. & DM
15-Jun	ST_2502	Geo., Biodiversity, Env. & DM
16-Jun	RLP_2507	Indian Culture & History
18-Jun	RLP_2508	Indian Culture & History
20-Jun	RLP_2509	Indian Culture & History
22-Jun	ST_2503	Indian Culture & History
23-Jun	RLP_2510	Economic Development
25-Jun	RLP_2511	Economic Development
27-Jun	RLP_2512	Agriculture
29-Jun	ST_2504	Economic Development + Agri
30-Jun	RLP_2513	Society
2-Jul	RLP_2514	Social Justice
4-Jul	RLP_2515	Governance
6-Jul	ST_2505	Society, SJ & Governance

Date	No of Day	Subject/Theme
7-Jul	RLP_2516	Constitution and Polity
9-Jul	RLP_2517	Constitution and Polity
11-Jul	RLP_2518	Constitution and Polity
13-Jul	ST_2506	Constitution and Polity
14-Jul	RLP_2519	International Relation
16-Jul	RLP_2520	Security
18-Jul	RLP_2521	Technology
20-Jul	ST_2507	IR, Security & Technology
21-Jul	RLP_2522	Ethics Part A
23-Jul	RLP_2523	Ethics Part A
25-Jul	RLP_2524	Ethics Part A
27-Jul	ST_2508	Current Affairs
28-Jul	RLP_2525	Ethics Part B
30-Jul	RLP_2526	Ethics Part B
1-Aug	RLP_2527	Ethics Part B
3-Aug	ST_2509	Ethics
10-Aug	FLT_2501	ESSAY
11-Aug	FLT_2502	GS-I
12-Aug	FLT_2503	GS-II
13-Aug	FLT_2504	GS-III
14-Aug	FLT_2505	GS-IV

Concession Details

Fee: ₹15000 + GST

Kalam IAS Students: **20%**

UPSC Interview Student: **30%**

CSE Selected Students: **50%**

Geography and Environment

May 2025

Picture of the Day: Vizhinjam Port [Link](#)

Why in News? Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first deepwater transshipment port at Vizhinjam, Kerala on May 2, 2025.

About Vizhinjam Port

- 1) **India's first dedicated deepwater container transshipment port**, located in Kerala with natural water depths of 18-20 meters.
- 2) Built under public-private partnership by Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd at a cost of ₹8,900 crore, with Kerala government holding majority stake.
- 3) **Strategic Importance:** Will save India approximately \$220 million annually by reclaiming transshipment business previously handled by foreign ports like Colombo, Singapore, and Dubai.
- 4) **Operational Status:** Partial operations began in October 2023, with Phase One completed by December 2024.
- 5) **Technical Capabilities:** Can accommodate next-generation cargo vessels with 24,000+ TEU capacity and features semi-automated, AI-enabled systems.
- 6) **Timeline:** Conceptualized in 1991, the project navigated through legal, environmental, logistical, and financial hurdles before becoming operational in 2025.
- 7) **Future Plans:** Expected to expand capacity to 4.5 million TEUs by 2028 with an additional investment exceeding ₹10,000 crore.
- 8) **Agreement Terms:** Operating under a 40-year agreement with Adani Ports and SEZ, signed in 2015 under then-CM Oommen Chandy.



- 9) **Expected Impact:** According to Karan Adani (MD of APSEZ), all Indian transshipment cargo will be handled from Vizhinjam within a year, with a goal to reduce logistics costs by 30%.

Fact of the Day: Study estimates at least 35,000 lives in India lost to extreme temperatures during 2001-2019

- 1) **At least 35,000 lives lost in India** due to extreme temperatures between 2001-2019.
- 2) **19,693 deaths from heatstroke** and **15,197 from cold exposure** during this period
- 3) **2015 recorded highest casualties:** 1,907 heatstroke deaths and 1,147 cold exposure deaths
- 4) **Men affected disproportionately:** 3-5 times higher heatstroke deaths and 4-7 times higher cold exposure deaths compared to women
- 5) **Working-age men (45-60 years) most vulnerable**, followed by elderly (60+)
- 6) **State hotspots for heatstroke deaths:** Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab
- 7) **State hotspots for cold exposure deaths:** Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar
- 8) Both heatstroke and cold exposure deaths show increasing trend
- 9) Study used data from India Meteorological Department and National Crime Records Bureau
- 10) Lead researchers: Pradeep Guin and Nandita Bhan from O.P. Jindal Global University



News / Explained / Explained Economics / Explained: How ethanol from maize has ignited a Fuel vs. Feed debate

Explained: How ethanol from maize has ignited a Fuel vs. Feed debate

Diversion of maize for biofuel has turned India from a surplus producer and exporter to an importer of the feed grain. There is pressure now to even allow imports of genetically modified maize for ethanol production

IE Explained; By Harish Damodaran;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy, Environment
[Link](#)

Why in News? India's ambitious ethanol blending program has diverted significant maize from feed to fuel production, creating shortages and price surges in feed sectors.

Evolution of the Problem

- 1) **India was previously a surplus maize producer** with 32-33 million tonnes (MT) production exceeding domestic demand of 28 MT, allowing for exports of up to 3.7 MT by 2021-22.
- 2) **Traditional usage:** 20 MT for livestock feed (15 MT poultry, 5 MT cattle), 5 MT for industrial starch, 2 MT for human consumption, 1 MT for seed

3) Maize became a significant ethanol feedstock, with usage rising dramatically:

- a) 2022-23: 0.8 MT maize for 31.51 crore liters of ethanol
- b) 2023-24: 7.5 MT maize for 286.54 crore liters
- c) 2024-25 (projected): 12.7 MT maize for 484.35 crore liters

MONTHLY AVERAGE PRICES OF THE TWO CROPS (₹/TONNE)

	MAIZE					SOYABEAN OIL				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
JAN	13,770	18,800	22,310	22,060	24,850	41,114	39,196	49,553	41,037	32,441
FEB	13,810	19,220	22,100	23,370	25,520	39,908	42,728	49,998	37,921	31,149
MAR	13,960	20,360	21,800	23,340	24,160	35,224	45,856	47,787	36,626	30,218
APR	15,080	20,950	20,730	22,570	24,000	34,545	44,144	44,843	35,769	32,000
MAY	15,560	20,660	19,840	22,770	—	35,387	40,961	42,746	39,936	—
JUN	15,880	22,310	19,530	22,770	—	34,363	41,236	40,431	40,126	—
JUL	17,060	21,300	22,980	24,020	—	35,026	42,639	42,504	39,503	—
AUG	17,780	23,110	23,910	24,510	—	34,884	42,595	42,598	36,581	—
SEPT	17,580	21,530	23,670	23,560	—	34,439	43,057	42,303	36,515	—
OCT	17,630	21,770	25,370	24,400	—	33,770	44,637	42,594	35,427	—
NOV	16,400	20,990	22,080	24,100	—	32,968	42,442	47,610	32,464	—
DEC	16,530	22,140	22,650	24,540	—	34,873	47,041	43,656	31,885	—



The ethanol biofuel programme has helped maize farmers.

Source: CLEMA of India

Impact on Various Sectors

Feed & Poultry Industry:

- 1) Maize prices surged from ₹14,000-15,000 to ₹24,000-25,000 per tonne in four years
- 2) Broiler chicken farm gate prices rose to ₹75 while production costs reached ₹90, causing losses
- 3) Feed shortages threatening poultry production and pushing up consumer prices

Soybean Industry:

- 1) DDGS (Distiller's Dried Grains with Solubles) from ethanol production competing with soybean DOC
- 2) DDGS selling at ₹16,000-17,000 per tonne vs. ₹31,000-32,000 for soybean DOC
- 3) Soybean prices fallen to ₹4,300 per quintal, below MSP of ₹4,892

For Farmers:

- 1) Maize farmers benefiting from higher prices near or above MSP of ₹2,225/quintal
- 2) Soybean farmers suffering from price depression due to DDGS competition

The Food vs. Fuel Debate

- 1) Ethical concerns about diverting agricultural produce from food to fuel sectors
- 2) Conflict between energy security goals and agricultural stability
- 3) Debate intensified by government bans on using sugarcane for ethanol due to production shortfalls

Proposed Solutions

- 1) **Feed industry advocating for liberalized maize imports:**
 - a) Currently limited to 0.5 MT annually at 15% duty
 - b) Requests to allow GM maize imports specifically for ethanol production
- 2) **Increasing domestic production by:**
 - a) Boosting maize yields
 - b) Shifting acreage from water-intensive rice to maize

SPOTLIGHT: PYQ – CDS (2022)

India has achieved the 10 percent Ethanol blending much ahead of the targeted date. Which one among the following greatly benefits from this?

- (a) Cassava plantations
- (b) Maize farming
- (c) Sugar industry
- (d) Wine industry

Answer: (c)

India's ethanol blending program has significantly benefited the sugar industry for several reasons:

- 1) India's ethanol production primarily comes from sugarcane molasses, which is a byproduct of sugar manufacturing

- 2) The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Program creates a steady and reliable market for excess sugar production
- 3) It helps in reducing sugar surplus in the country, stabilizing sugar prices for farmers and mills
- 4) Sugar mills gain an additional revenue stream through ethanol production, improving their financial viability
- 5) The program encourages investment in distillery capacity by sugar mills to process molasses into ethanol.

While other feedstocks like cassava and maize can technically be used for ethanol production, India's ethanol blending program is predominantly supported by the sugar industry infrastructure and its byproducts. The wine industry is not significantly involved in fuel ethanol production in India.

News / Explained / Out of the woods in Gujarat, why Asiatic lion's future can't be secured by numbers alone

W Premium

Out of the woods in Gujarat, why Asiatic lion's future can't be secured by numbers alone

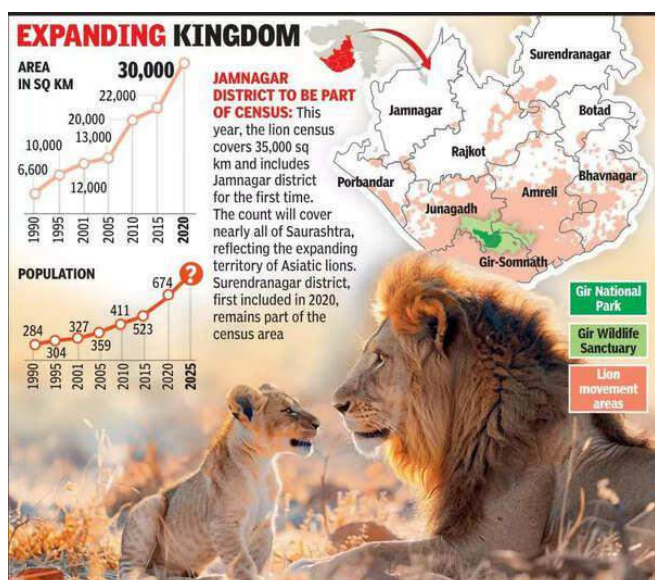
From under 200 in the 1960s, the population of Asiatic lions has grown to nearly 900 in 2025. To continue this success story, the big cats now need more quality forest habitats away from human settlements

IE Explained; By Jay Mazoomdaar;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Environment [Link](#)

Why in News? Gujarat announced latest Asiatic lion census showing population of 891, marking 32% increase since 2020.

Population Recovery Journey

- 1) **Growth trajectory:** From under 200 in 1960s to 891 in 2025
- 2) **Range expansion:** Increased 17% to 35,000 sq km, covering 58 talukas in 11 districts
- 3) **Historical pattern:** Population crossed 300 only in 1995; doubled range multiple times but population growth lagged behind
- 4) **IUCN status:** Upgraded from "critically-endangered" to "endangered" in 2008



Current Challenges

Habitat Quality Issues

- 1) Only 56% of lions found in forested areas vs non-forested regions
- 2) Population density: 15.2 per 100 sq km in forests vs 1.65 in non-forested areas
- 3) Lions colonized farmland, wasteland, agri-plantations due to limited protected areas

Human-Wildlife Conflict

- 1) Covert retaliatory killings through electrocution, drowning, shooting
- 2) Lions becoming less wary of humans, leading to unprovoked attacks
- 3) Social carrying capacity has limits despite general tolerance in Gujarat
- 4) Dependency on livestock and carcasses increases disease vulnerability

Future Concerns

Relocation Delays

- 1) Supreme Court ordered Gujarat-to-MP translocation 12 years ago, still pending
- 2) 2022: Government limited habitat assessment to Gujarat sites only
- 3) Barda sanctuary (under 200 sq km) inadequate for significant population

Sustainability Issues

- 1) Targets of doubling population to 2,000 being discussed
- 2) Need quality forest habitats away from human settlements
- 3) Risk of epidemic outbreaks and conflicts without proper habitats

- 4) Current success dependent on artificial management rather than natural ecosystem balance

News / Explained / Explained Climate / How the Madden-Julian Oscillation helped trigger the early onset of the monsoon

How the Madden-Julian Oscillation helped trigger the early onset of the monsoon

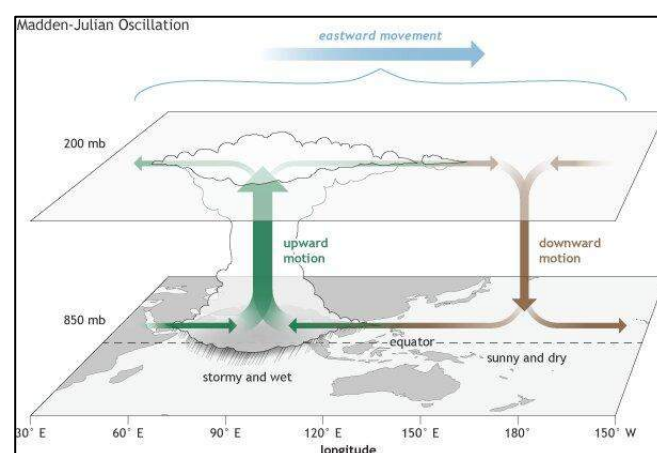
The phenomenon takes its name from the two scientists who identified it in 1971 — Roland Madden and Paul Julian, who then worked at the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado.

IE Explained;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Geography [Link](#)

Why in News? Southwest monsoon arrived 8 days early in Kerala (May 24) and 2 weeks early in Mumbai (May 26), with MJO being a key driver.

What is Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)?

- 1) Moving system of winds, cloud, and pressure that brings rain as it circles the equator
- 2) Named after Roland Madden and Paul Julian who identified it in 1971
- 3) Travels eastward at 4-8 meters per second
- 4) Completes global cycle in 30-60 days (sometimes up to 90 days)
- 5) Affects tropical regions between 30°N and 30°S latitude, including India



How MJO Works?

- 1) Active Phase: Higher-than-average rainfall, frequent cyclonic activity

- 2) Suppressed Phase: Below-average rainfall, little MJO activity
- 3) Splits planet into two parts - one receiving rainfall, other experiencing suppressed rainfall
- 4) Multiple MJO events possible in a season due to 30-60 day cycle

MJO's Role in Early Monsoon 2025

- 1) Around May 22, MJO originated in Indian Ocean
- 2) Was in Phase 4 with amplitude greater than 1
- 3) This configuration indicates strong rainfall and storms
- 4) Active MJO phase can initiate monsoon onset through cyclonic activity
- 5) Similar pattern in June 2015 brought 20 days of good rainfall across India

News / Explained / Cargo ship sinks near Kerala coast: What can be the impact of oil spills and how are they cleaned up?

Cargo ship sinks near Kerala coast: What can be the impact of oil spills and how are they cleaned up?

The Liberia-flagged MSC ELSA 3, a 28-year-old vessel, was sailing from Vizhinjam port in Thiruvananthapuram to Kochi when it capsized around 25 km southwest of Alappuzha.

IE Explained; By Nikhil Ghanekar, Anjali Marar;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Environment [Link](#)

Why in News? The Liberia-flagged cargo ship MSC ELSA 3 capsized 25 km southwest of Alappuzha while sailing from Vizhinjam to Kochi, carrying diesel and hazardous substances that pose oil spill risks.

Impact of Oil Spills Environmental Effects

- 1) Oil forms thin floating layer (slick) that spreads rapidly via wind and currents
- 2) Causes death of fish and marine organisms through oil smothering
- 3) Destroys mangroves and coral reefs
- 4) Components remain suspended in water causing long-term harm
- 5) Threatens pelagic fish breeding in affected regions

Economic Impact

- 1) Disrupts fishermen's livelihood, especially small-scale and artisanal operators working near coast
- 2) Affects local coastal economy
- 3) Creates extensive cleanup costs

Specific Risks from MSC ELSA 3

- 1) Carrying 84.44 metric tonnes diesel and 367 metric tonnes furnace oil
- 2) 12 containers of calcium carbide (toxic chemical forming explosive gases with water)
- 3) INCOIS simulation shows oil could drift toward Kerala coast affecting Alappuzha-Thiruvananthapuram stretch

Oil Spill Cleanup Methods

Assessment Phase

- 1) Observe oil slick color (black, rainbow, brown, colorless) to determine composition and extent

Cleanup Techniques

- 1) Deploy oleophilic (oil-attracting) pillows that absorb oil like sponges
- 2) Use cotton sheets or similar materials for oil absorption
- 3) Specialized motors pump out water in calm waters like lakes
- 4) Focus on preventing oil slicks from reaching shore

Challenges

- 1) Oil doesn't mix with water, making complete cleanup difficult
- 2) Process is costly, labor-intensive, and can extend for months
- 3) Monsoon currents toward shore complicate access for cleanup operations
- 4) Perpetual water flow in rivers and seas poses additional difficulties

What is India's stance on methane emissions, potent greenhouse gas?

Methane is responsible for around 30% of global warming. But what are the major global initiatives to address methane emissions? What is India's stance on it, and why hasn't it signed the Global Methane Pledge?

IE CA; By Renuka;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Environment [Link](#)

Why in News? Methane emissions discussion intensifies as global initiatives target 30% reduction by 2030, while India hasn't signed the Global Methane Pledge.

Methane: Key Climate Concern

- 1) Responsible for **~30% of global warming** despite shorter lifespan than CO₂
- 2) More efficient at trapping heat than carbon dioxide
- 3) **Primary sources:** Agriculture (40%), fossil fuels (35%), waste management (20%)

Global Initiatives

- 1) **Global Methane Pledge (GMP):** Launched at COP26, targets 30% reduction from 2020 levels by 2030
- 2) **International monitoring:** UNEP's International Methane Emission Observatory (IMEO) and Methane Alert Response System (MARS)
- 3) **Sector-specific efforts:** Oil and Gas Decarbonisation Charter aims net-zero upstream methane emissions by 2030

India's Stance

Reasons for Not Joining GMP:

- 1) Focus shift concern from long-lasting CO₂ to shorter-lived methane
- 2) Major sources linked to subsistence farming (livestock, rice cultivation)
- 3) Potential negative impact on farmers' incomes and food security
- 4) Emissions classified as 'survival emissions' vs 'luxury emissions' of developed nations

Domestic Measures:

- 1) **Agriculture:** System for rice intensification, direct seeded rice, crop diversification under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
- 2) **Livestock:** Breed improvement, balanced rationing through National Livestock Mission
- 3) **Waste-to-energy:** GOBAR-Dhan and National Biogas programmes for cattle waste utilization

NEWS IN SHORT: GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT

PM E-Drive Scheme: E-Bus Allocation

- 1) **Total Allocation:** Centre allocated ₹3,481 crore under PM E-Drive scheme to deploy 11,000 electric buses across five cities in the first phase
- 2) **City-wise Distribution:**
 - a) Bengaluru: 4,500 buses (highest allocation)
 - b) Delhi: 2,800 buses
 - c) Hyderabad: 2,000 buses
 - d) Ahmedabad: 1,000 buses
 - e) Surat: 600 buses

PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)

Cabinet Decision: 11th September, 2024

Cabinet approves PM E-DRIVE Scheme' for promotion of electric mobility in the country with outlay of Rs 10,900 crore for 2 years

Components of the scheme:

- Subsidies/Demand incentives worth Rs.3,679 crore to incentivize e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks and other emerging EVs
- E-vouchers for EV buyers to avail demand incentives under the scheme
- Allocation of Rs.500 crore for the deployment of e-ambulances
- Provision of Rs.4,391 crore for procurement of 14,028 e-buses by STUs/public transport agencies

- 3) **Overall Scheme Scope:** Total budget of ₹10,800 crore aims to distribute 14,028 buses across nine major cities (New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Surat, and Pune) by March 2026
- 4) **Subsidy Structure:** ₹20-35 lakh per bus depending on size (6-8m: ₹20 lakh, 8-10m: ₹25 lakh, 10-12m: ₹35 lakh) with phased disbursement

Pending Applications: West Bengal, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu yet to submit applications - West Bengal citing judicial

issues with FAME-2 scheme, Tamil Nadu securing World Bank loan for Chennai

Kerala Ship Disaster MSC ELSA 3 Incident:



- 1) The Liberian-flagged container vessel MSC ELSA 3 capsized and sank off Kerala coast on May 25, 2025, approximately 15 nautical miles southwest of Alappuzha
- 2) The ship was carrying 640+ containers, including 13 containing hazardous materials and 12 with calcium carbide (containing traces of phosphorous and arsenic)
- 3) All 24 crew members were safely rescued by Indian Navy and Coast Guard

Government Response:



- 4) Kerala government declared the shipwreck a **"state-specific disaster"** on May 29, considering the potentially serious environmental, social, and economic impact
- 5) This is the first time in India that a shipwreck has been classified as a state-specific disaster
- 6) The declaration enables access to State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for cleanup and rehabilitation

Environmental Impact:



- 1) Containers and debris have washed ashore in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, and Alappuzha districts
- 2) Large quantities of nurdles (small plastic pellets) have contaminated coastlines in Kerala and parts of Tamil Nadu
- 3) Oil spill concerns prompted Coast Guard deployment and cleanup operations with a July 3 deadline for oil recovery

About 54 containers have been found washed ashore - 43 in Kollam, 9 in Thiruvananthapuram, and 2 in Alappuzha.

Volcanic Eruption in Indonesia

- 1) **Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki volcano** on Flores Island in Indonesia has been raised to the highest alert level following multiple eruptions
- 2) The volcano erupted eight times on Sunday, propelling ash columns between 3-5.5 km high
- 3) Another eruption on Monday produced an ash plume reaching 5 km, drifting north and northwest
- 4) Authorities expanded the exclusion zone to a 6 km radius around the crater
- 5) The Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre in Darwin issued a red alert, indicating potential impacts on air travel
- 6) The volcanic activity coincided with earthquakes in other parts of Indonesia

Rare Fish Rediscovered in Arunachal Pradesh

- 1) Indian researchers have rediscovered the fish species *Moringua hodgarti* in Arunachal Pradesh's Siang Valley after 110 years

- 2) The fish, measuring 177-211 mm and commonly known as swamp eels, was last documented during the Abor Expedition of 1911-19
- 3) Following morphological and molecular analysis, researchers reclassified it from genus *Moringua* to *Ophichthys hodgarti*

The discovery highlights significant gaps in knowledge about cryptic fish species in the region

Operation Olivia: Conservation Efforts for Olive Ridley Turtles

- 1) Annual Indian Coast Guard mission (November-May) to protect Olive Ridley turtles during nesting season



- 2) Protected a record **6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles** at **Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha** in February 2025
- 3) Conducted over 5,387 surface patrol sorties and 1,768 aerial surveillance missions since inception
- 4) Detained 366 boats involved in illegal fishing activities
- 5) Promotes Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) among local fishermen and partners with NGOs for conservation education

About Olive Ridley Turtles

- 1) Scientific name: ***Lepidochelys olivacea***; named for its olive-green, heart-shaped shell
- 2) **Smallest and most abundant** sea turtle species in the world¹
- 3) Habitat: Found in **warm tropical waters of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans**
- 4) Diet: **Omnivorous**, feeding on jellyfish, shrimp, crabs, molluscs, fish, algae, and various marine organisms
- 5) Unique behaviour: Famous for mass nesting called "**arribada**" where thousands of

females nest simultaneously on the same beach

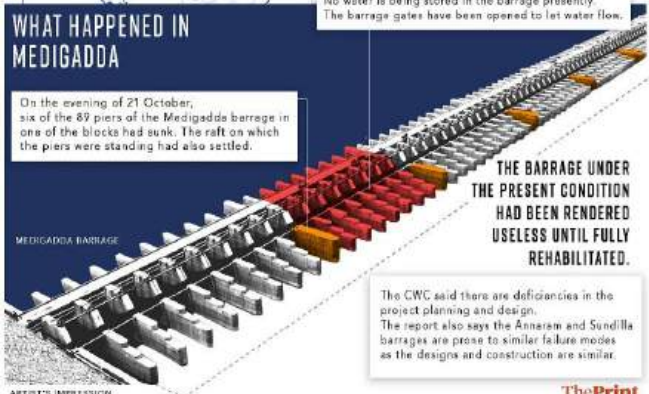
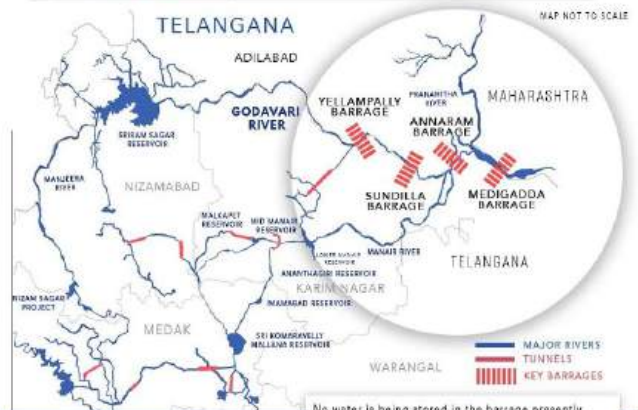
- 6) Reproduction: Females lay about 100-110 eggs per clutch, which take 45-65 days to hatch
- 7) Migration: Travels thousands of kilometers between feeding and mating grounds annually
- 8) Conservation status: Listed as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List²
- 9) Protection: Listed under Wildlife Protection Act (**Schedule 1**) and CITES (**Appendix I**)
- 10) Notable area: **Odisha's Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary** in India is the world's largest rookery for these turtles

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project Crisis

KALESHWARAM PROJECT

Commissioned in 2019, the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation project comprises three barrages constructed across Godavari river. The first barrage is at Medigadda near Kaleshwaram (on the confluence of Pranahita river, a tributary of Godavari). Two more barrages are located at Annaram and Sundilla villages between Medigadda and Sripada Yellampally irrigation project.

ORIGINAL COST	Rs 80,000 crore	TOTAL DIVERSION	180 TMC OF WATER	AREA THAT WILL BE IRRIGATED	18.25 LAKH ACRES
NOW INFLATED TO	Rs 1.05 lakh crore				



- 1) The **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)** in **Telangana** is the world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project, designed to

supply water for irrigation, industrial, and domestic use across 13 districts.

- 2) The project began in June 2019, with a planned capacity to **handle 240 TMC of water**, mostly for irrigation (over 70%), and also for Hyderabad's municipal needs, industries, and drinking water for villages.
- 3) Water is lifted **using pumps, not gravity**, and distributed through a canal network of 1,800 km.
- 4) In October 2023, a **pillar of the main Medigadda Barrage sank**, causing flooding and raising safety concerns.
- 5) The National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) found **"irreparable damage"** in three major barrages-Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla-citing lack of proper geotechnical investigation, design flaws, construction defects, and poor-quality control.
- 6) The NDSA recommended urgent structural rehabilitation, comprehensive safety

assessments, advanced geotechnical studies, and improved operation and maintenance practices.

- 7) The project has become politically contentious, with the current government calling it a **"man-made disaster"** and highlighting the financial burden of ₹16,000 crore annually in debt repayment for a structurally faulty project.

Over-storage in the barrages (over 10 TMC each, instead of the designed 2 TMC) is blamed for foundational damage and collapse.



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- Monday-Friday at 04:00 PM

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Essay	GS-I	GS-II	GS-III	GS-IV

Concession Details

Fee: ₹5000 + GST

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UPSC Interview Student: **30%**

CSE Selected Students: **50%**

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- Two-way Communication
- Illustration for improvement of Answer
- Improvement in the approach of Answer writing



Date	No. of Test	Subject/Theme
8-Jun	Sectional TEST 01	Essay
15-Jun	Sectional TEST 02	Geography
22-Jun	Sectional TEST 03	History + A&C
29-Jun	Sectional TEST 04	Eco. & Agriculture
6-Jul	Sectional TEST 05	Society, SJ & Govern.
13-Jul	Sectional TEST 06	Polity
20-Jul	Sectional TEST 07	IR, Security & Tech.
27-Jul	Sectional TEST 08	Current Affairs
3-Aug	Sectional TEST 09	Ethics
10-Aug	ESSAY	ESSAY
11-Aug	FLT 01	GS-I
12-Aug	FLT 02	GS-II
13-Aug	FLT 03	GS-III
14-Aug	FLT 04	GS-IV

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UPSC Interview Student: **30%**

CSE Selected Students: **50%**

MODE

Online/Offline

Internal Security

May 2025

SECURITY UPDATE: OPERATION SINDOOR

- 1) Indian armed forces conducted **Operation Sindoor** on May 7, 2025, at 1:44 AM, targeting 9 terror bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK).
- 2) **24 precision missile strikes** were executed, killing over 70 terrorists and wounding more than 60
- 3) This was the first tri-service military operation involving Army, Navy, and Air Force since the 1971 Indo-Pak war

Target Details:

- 1) **Nine terror targets were struck**, including Lashkar-e-Taiba stronghold in Muridke and Jaish-e-Mohammed headquarters in Bahawalpur
- 2) Camps in Sawai Nala (Muzaffarabad) and Syedna Bilal in POK were among those targeted
- 3) One of the targeted camps was reportedly where Ajmal Kasab and David Headley (of 26/11 Mumbai attacks) received training

Operation Specifics:

- 1) Precision weapons including Kamikaze drones (loitering ammunitions) were used in the operation
- 2) The operation specifically targeted terrorist infrastructure with no Pakistani military facilities hit
- 3) The strikes were described as **"focused, measured and non-escalatory"** with considerable restraint in target selection

Aftermath:

- 1) Following Indian strikes, Pakistan resorted to "arbitrary and indiscriminate firing" across the Line of Control, killing 10 civilians including 2 children
- 2) The Indian Army responded in what they described as a "proportionate manner"
- 3) US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is monitoring the situation and calling for peaceful resolution
- 4) United Nations has called for "maximum military restraint" from both countries

Civil Defence Mock Drill Today

The nationwide civil defence mock drill is being conducted today **across 244 districts** in India, starting at 4 PM.

Key activities include operationalizing air-raid warning sirens, implementing crash-blackout protocols (7:30-8:00 PM in Gujarat), testing communication links with the Indian Air Force, and rehearsing evacuation plans.



Ministry of Defence

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

PRESS RELEASE:

OPERATION SINDOOR : INDIAN ARMED FORCES CARRIED OUT PRECISION STRIKE AT TERRORIST CAMPS

Posted On: 07 MAY 2025 1:44AM by PIB Delhi

A little while ago, the Indian Armed Forces launched 'OPERATION SINDOOR', hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir from where terrorist attacks against India have been planned and directed.

Altogether, nine (9) sites have been targeted.

Our actions have been focused, measured and non-escalatory in nature. No Pakistani military facilities have been targeted, India has demonstrated considerable restraint in selection of targets and method of execution.

These steps come in the wake of the barbaric Pahalgam terrorist attack in which 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen were murdered. We are living up to the commitment that those responsible for this attack will be held accountable.

There will be detailed briefing on 'OPERATION SINDOOR', later today.

The exercise focuses on metropolitan cities and sensitive areas including **Delhi** (55 locations), **Mumbai**, **Chennai**, **border regions**, and locations with critical installations such as the **Tarapur Atomic Power Plant**.

SECURITY UPDATE: Operation Sindoor: India's Response to Cross-Border Terrorism

- 1) Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri stated that India's precision strikes were a **"controlled, precise, measured and non-escalatory"** response to **Pakistan's "original escalation"**
- 2) The "original escalation" refers to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians
- 3) Misri emphasized: **"Our intention is not to escalate matters. We are only responding to escalation"**
- 4) He warned that if Pakistan attempts further escalation, India will respond **"in an appropriate domain"**
- 5) Misri dismissed Pakistan's claims about downing Indian jets during the operation
- 6) He highlighted Pakistan's history with terrorism, referencing Osama Bin Laden's hideout and UN-proscribed terrorists operating from Pakistan



Keyword of the Day: Fog of War [Link](#)

- 1) "Fog of war" refers to the confusion and uncertainty in military conflicts, where accurate information is hard to obtain.
- 2) The concept comes from Carl von Clausewitz, who described war as being full of uncertainty and unpredictability.
- 3) It involves not knowing the true positions, strengths, or intentions of enemies and allies, making decision-making difficult.
- 4) The phrase now also covers the spread of misinformation and chaos during crises, especially amplified by social media.
- 5) During recent India-Pakistan tensions, misinformation and lack of clear updates created a "fog of war" for the public and officials.
- 6) The term is used in military, media, and even games to describe situations where information is incomplete or misleading.

SECURITY UPDATE: Operation Sindoor
What happened so far?
May 6-7, 2025 (Night):

- 1) Indian Armed Forces launch Operation Sindoor **against 9 terrorist targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)**
- 2) The precision strike operation lasted approximately 25 minutes
- 3) **Around 100 terrorists** including top 5 commanders of LeT and JeM eliminated

Targets Struck:

- 1) **Muzaffarabad (PoK):** Sawai Nala camp (LeT training center) and Syedana Bilal camp (JeM staging area)
- 2) **Kotli (PoK):** Gulpur camp (LeT base) and Abbas camp (LeT Fidayeen training center)
- 3) **Bhimber (PoK):** Barnala camp (weapons and IED training center)
- 4) **Sialkot (Pakistan):** Sarjal camp and Mahmoona Jaya camp (HM control center)
- 5) **Muridke (Pakistan):** Markaz Tayyiba (LeT training center)
- 6) **Bahawalpur (Pakistan):** Markaz Subhanallah (JeM headquarters)

Weapons Deployed:

- 1) SCALP Cruise Missiles, HAMMER Precision-Guided Bombs, and Loitering Munitions
- 2) BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles (confirmed by UP CM Yogi Adityanath)

Pakistan's Response:

- 1) Attempted retaliation targeting civilian locations and military sites
- 2) India responded by destroying Pakistan's air defense system in Lahore
- 3) Pakistan launched drones and missiles targeting Indian defense sites
- 4) India countered with strikes on 8 Pakistani military sites including **air bases at Rafiqui, Murid, Nur Khan, Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur, and Chunan**

May 10, 2025:

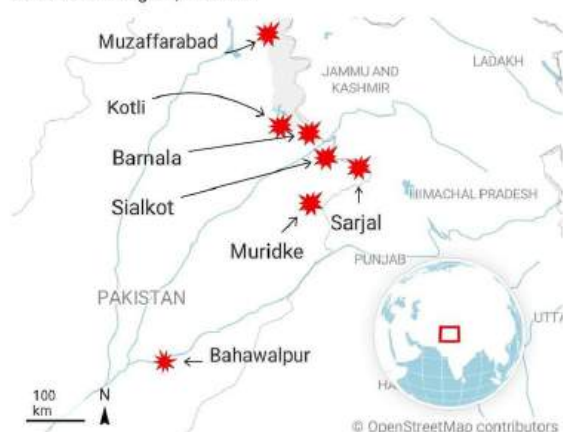
- 1) US attempts to broker a ceasefire between India and Pakistan
- 2) External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announces understanding on stopping military action
- 3) Ceasefire holds briefly before Pakistan resumes shelling along Rajouri sector and Srinagar
- 4) Explosions reported in Srinagar and Baramulla, multiple Pakistani drones shot down

May 11, 2025:

- 1) Indian Air Force confirms Operation Sindoor still ongoing despite ceasefire announcement
- 2) IAF states its tasks were executed with **"precision and professionalism"**
- 3) IAF promises detailed briefing in due course, urges public to avoid speculation

India Hits Pakistan

The strikes followed April 22, 2025 attack that killed over two dozen in Pahalgam, Kashmir


Terrorist Camps

LeT - Markaz Ahle Hadith, Barnala	LeT - Shawai Nalla Camp, Muzaffarabad	LeT - Markaz Taiba, Muridke
JeM - Markaz Subhan Allah, Bahawalpur	JeM - Tehra Kalan, Sarjal	JeM - Syedna Bilal Camp, Muzaffarabad
JeM - Markaz Abbas, Kotli	HM - Markaz Raheel Shahid, Kotli	HM - Mehmoona Joya, Sialkot

Map: Dipu Rai • Source: Media Reports

DIU

Why US Brokered the India-Pakistan



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

After a long night of talks mediated by the United States, I am pleased to announce that India and Pakistan have agreed to a FULL AND IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE. Congratulations to both Countries on using Common Sense and Great Intelligence. Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Ceasefire?

- 1) US received **"alarming intelligence"** on May 9 indicating high risk of dramatic escalation between the nuclear powers
- 2) Fear of nuclear conflict between the two countries prompted urgent US diplomatic activation⁴
- 3) The US determined India and Pakistan were not communicating directly, necessitating intervention to bring the nuclear-armed neighbors back to negotiations
- 4) **VP JD Vance** directly contacted PM Modi while **Secretary of State Marco Rubio** called Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir
- 5) US provided both nations with **diplomatic "cover"** to accept a ceasefire without appearing to capitulate first
- 6) The US has historically mediated in all major crises between India and Pakistan since 1999
- 7) **President Trump** warned that "millions of good and innocent people could have died" had the conflict continued to escalate
- 8) The situation presented an opportunity for Trump to demonstrate quick conflict resolution, similar to his approach to other global conflicts⁵
- 9) Pakistan acknowledged US played a "pivotal and paramount role" in facilitating the truce, along with Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar, UK, UN and China

Why India Agreed to a Ceasefire?



- 1) India had **already achieved its strategic objective** of sending a message that terrorist attacks would not go unpunished through Operation Sindoor
- 2) Recognizing that further military conflict would inflict significant destruction on both sides with no clear path to victory
- 3) **Pakistan's DGMO initiated the ceasefire call**, allowing India to agree without appearing to back down first
- 4) India secured favourable terms with **"no preconditions, no postconditions, and no links to other issues"** from Pakistan
- 5) India **maintained all punitive measures** taken after the Pahalgam attack, including suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty
- 6) Significant international diplomatic pressure from approximately three dozen countries influenced the decision
- 7) Direct engagement from US leadership, including calls to PM Modi from VP Vance and Secretary of State Rubio
- 8) Growing global concern about potential escalation between the two nuclear-armed nations
- 9) India preserved its strong stance by ensuring the ceasefire was **"worked out directly between the two countries"** rather than through third-party mediation (despite US claims)

What's Next in the India-Pakistan Situation?

- 1) **DGMO-level talks** between India and Pakistan scheduled for Monday, May 12, 12:00 noon to discuss ceasefire modalities
- 2) First night of relative calm reported across Jammu and Kashmir since the tensions escalated, with no incidents reported overnight

- 3) 32 airports expected to reopen soon with a new NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) to be released, indicating potential easing of air restrictions
- 4) India has put Pakistan "on notice" and maintains that **any further terrorist action from Pakistan would be treated as an act of war.**

News / Explained / The hot LoC: What is the nature of India-Pakistan ceasefire understanding

Premium

The hot LoC: What is the nature of India-Pakistan ceasefire understanding

For more than a week, the Pakistan Army has violated the ceasefire along the Line of Control every night, drawing a proportionate Indian response. What is the nature of the ceasefire understanding between the two countries? Why do violations take place, and why do they stop?

IE Explained; By Bashir Ali Abbas;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Security [Link](#)

Why in News? Pakistani troops have violated the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) for the ninth consecutive night, prompting calibrated and proportionate responses from the Indian Army.

India-Pakistan Border

India-Pakistan share 3,323 km border divided into:

- 1) **International Border (IB):** ~2,400 km from Gujarat to Akhnoor
- 2) **Line of Control (LoC):** 740 km from parts of Jammu to parts of Leh
- 3) **Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL):** 110 km dividing Siachen region



About Line of Control (LoC)

- 1) De facto military boundary between Indian and Pakistani-controlled parts of former Jammu and Kashmir.
- 2) Not an internationally recognized boundary but serves as the effective border.
- 3) Originally a ceasefire line after 1947-48 Indo-Pakistan war, renamed "Line of Control" following the **1972 Simla Agreement**.
- 4) Stretches approximately 740 km from Sangam in Kashmir to Point NJ-9842 near Siachen Glacier

News / Explained / Explained: How Air Defence Systems work

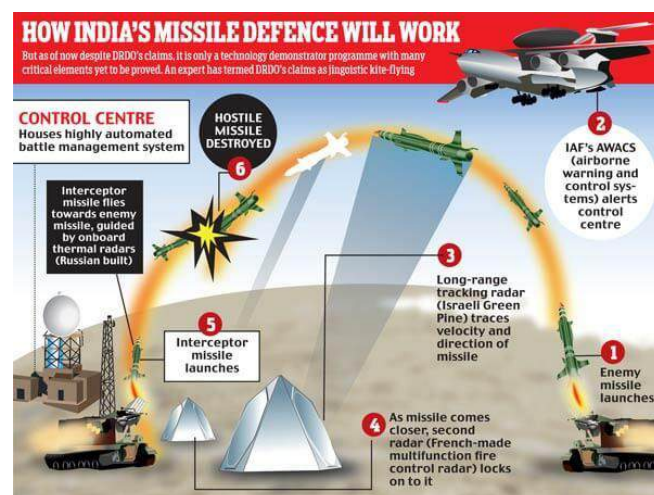
Premium

Explained: How Air Defence Systems work

Key to India's thwarting of Pakistani aerial attacks along the western border has been the success of Indian air defences.

IE Explained; By Arjun Sengupta;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Internal Security [Link](#)

Why in News? India targeted and neutralized Pakistan's air defence system in Lahore after successfully thwarting Pakistani aerial attacks along the western border.



Understanding Air Defence Systems

- 1) **Primary objective:** Take out threats from the skies including enemy fighter aircraft, unmanned drones, and missiles.
- 2) **Consists of:** Complex system of radar, control centers, defensive fighter aircraft, ground-based air defence missiles, artillery, and electronic warfare systems.
- 3) **Importance:** Controlling the skies is paramount in modern warfare; operational air defence protects against enemy air strikes.

Components of Air Defence Operations

Detection

- 1) Uses radar to send electromagnetic radio waves that reflect off objects like enemy aircraft.
- 2) Receivers collect returning waves to determine distance, speed, and nature of threats.
- 3) Satellites may also be used for certain threats like ICBMs.

Tracking

- 1) Combines radar with sensors like infrared cameras or laser rangefinders.
- 2) Must identify and track multiple fast-moving threats in complex environments.
- 3) Accuracy crucial for effective neutralization without targeting friendly aircraft.

Interception

- 1) Neutralizes threats based on their specific characteristics (range, type, speed).
- 2) Requires effective "C3" (command, control and communication) system.
- 3) Superior communication and decision-making capabilities are crucial.

Interception Methods

Fighter Aircraft

- 1) Interceptors take on attacking enemy aircraft before they deploy weapons.
- 2) Equipped with cannon, rockets, missiles, and electronic warfare systems.
- 3) India's arsenal includes Su-35s, MiG-29s, HAL Tejas, MiG-21 Bisons, and Rafales.

Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAMs)

- 1) Main component of modern air defence systems; more effective than anti-aircraft artillery.
- 2) Types: Heavy long-range systems, medium-range vehicle-mounted systems, short-range MANPADS.

- 3) India uses indigenous Akash missiles, Barak missiles, and S-400 missiles.

Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA)

- 1) Fires shells rapidly (over 1,000 rounds/minute) that explode at predetermined altitudes.
- 2) Effective due to wide dispersal of shrapnel even without direct hits.
- 3) Now mainly used as last-ditch defence and against UAVs.

Electronic Warfare (EW)

- 1) Disrupts, deceives or destroys threats using electromagnetic spectrum.
- 2) Jams enemy radar and targeting systems to impede deployment accuracy.
- 3) Can operate from both land and specialized aircraft.

News / Explained / S-400, Akash missiles key to IAF shield against Pakistan missiles and drones

S-400, Akash missiles key to IAF shield against Pakistan missiles and drones

The sources said Pakistan launched a swarm of drones and missiles between 1 am and 1.30 am Thursday morning, with India's air defence systems immediately tracking the threats and destroying them. The debris is now being recovered from several locations.

IE Explained; By Amrita Nayak Dutta;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Internal Security [Link](#)

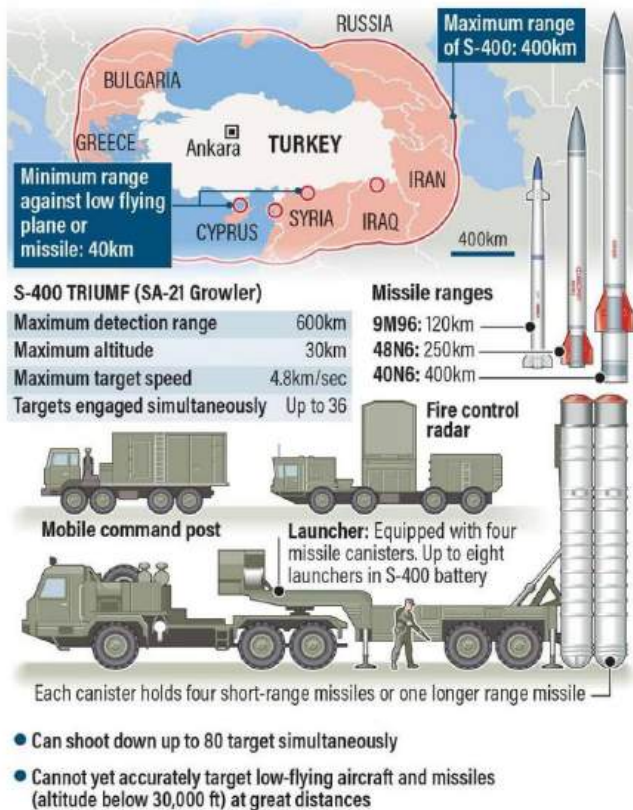
Why in News? Pakistan launched coordinated drone and missile attacks on Indian military installations which were successfully thwarted by India's air defense systems including S-400, Akash, and MRSAM missiles.

Attack Details

- 1) Pakistan launched swarm drones and missiles between 1-1:30 am on Thursday, May 8, 2025
- 2) Targeted 15 military installations across northern and western India including Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, and Bhuji
- 3) Attack followed India's Operation Sindoor which destroyed 9 terror camps in response to Pahalgam attack
- 4) Pakistan reportedly deployed over 30 surface-to-air missiles in the offensive

- Debris of intercepted threats being recovered from several locations

S-400 SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEM



- Advanced weaponry deployed included L-70 guns, Zu-23mm systems, Schilka systems across multiple sectors

Counter-Strike Operations

- India retaliated using Israeli HAROP and HARPY kamikaze drones
- Successfully neutralized Pakistan's air defense system in Lahore
- Targeted air defense radars at multiple locations in Pakistan
- Counter-strike demonstrated India's precision strike capabilities

Key Defense Systems

- S-400 Triumf:** Deployed along northern borders after receiving three squadrons from Russia¹⁶⁷
- Akash:** Indigenous missile system with 96% local content and 45-70 km range⁴⁵
- Barak 8 MRSAM:** Medium Range Surface to Air Missile system¹⁶
- Systems employed radar, missiles, electronic warfare for jamming and spoofing UAVs¹⁶
- Comprehensive integration prevented Pakistani drones and missiles from reaching targets

BATTERY CONFIGURATION OF AKASH WEAPON SYSTEM



News / Explained / HAROP: 3 things about the UAV believed to have been used by India against Pakistan

HAROP: 3 things about the UAV believed to have been used by India against Pakistan

HAROP drone India, UAV strike Lahore: India targeted multiple air defence systems in Pakistan on Thursday and successfully hit one in Lahore. The Israeli HAROP, an unmanned combat aerial vehicle, was used, it is understood. What is the HAROP?

IE Explained;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Internal Security [Link](#)

India's Defense Response

- IAF activated Integrated Counter UAS Grid across 1,800 km of airspace
- Multi-layered air defense shield successfully tracked and destroyed all threats
- India's air defense systems reportedly shot down Pakistan's F-16 aircraft and possibly JF-17 jet

Why in News? India reportedly used Israeli-made HAROP drones to target Pakistan's air defense systems on May 8, 2025, successfully neutralizing one in Lahore as part of "Operation Sindoor".



What is HAROP?

- 1) **Advanced loitering munition:** A weapon system that loiters in the air near designated targets before striking.
- 2) **Dual-function system:** Combines characteristics of a UAV and a missile, functioning as both surveillance drone and lethal weapon.
- 3) **Kamikaze capability:** Causes destruction by crashing into targets with explosive payloads, earning names like "suicide drones".
- 4) **Precision strikes:** Equipped with nose-mounted camera allowing operators to see operational areas and choose targets.
- 5) **Evolution:** Newer version of the "HARPY" system, developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) as part of their decades-long experience in loitering munition systems.

Technical Capabilities

- 1) **Impressive endurance:** Up to 9 hours flight time.
- 2) **Extended range:** Operational range of up to 1,000 km, enabling deep standoff operations.
- 3) **Sensor suite:** Equipped with electro-optical, infrared, FLIR sensors, color CCD camera, and anti-radar homing capabilities.
- 4) **Payload capacity:** Carries a 23 kg explosive payload.
- 5) **Launch flexibility:** Deployed from canisters mounted on trucks or naval vessels.

- 6) **Jamming immunity:** Can overcome challenges in communication with immunity to Global Navigation Satellite System jamming.

Operational Role

- 1) **SEAD operations:** Highly effective in Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses roles.
- 2) **Man-in-the-loop control:** While operating autonomously, maintains human operator decision-making capability through two-way data link.
- 3) **Mission flexibility:** Can abort attacks if battlefield conditions change, returning to loitering mode to minimize collateral damage.
- 4) **Combat proven:** Battle-tested with claimed 98% mission success rate.
- 5) **Multi-mission capability:** Suitable for land and naval use, urban warfare, counter-terror missions, and both high and low-intensity conflicts.

News / Explained / Story of BrahMos: the 'fire and forget', stealthy cruise missile India likely used against Pakistan

Story of BrahMos: the 'fire and forget', stealthy cruise missile India likely used against Pakistan

Built through India-Russia collaboration, the BrahMos is a versatile missile which has proved its capabilities across its land-based, ship-based, air-launched and submarine-based versions.

IE Explained; By Sushant Kulkarni;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Internal Security [Link](#)

Why in News? India used BrahMos supersonic cruise missile for the first time in combat during Operation Sindoor against Pakistan on May 10, 2025, as confirmed by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

About BrahMos

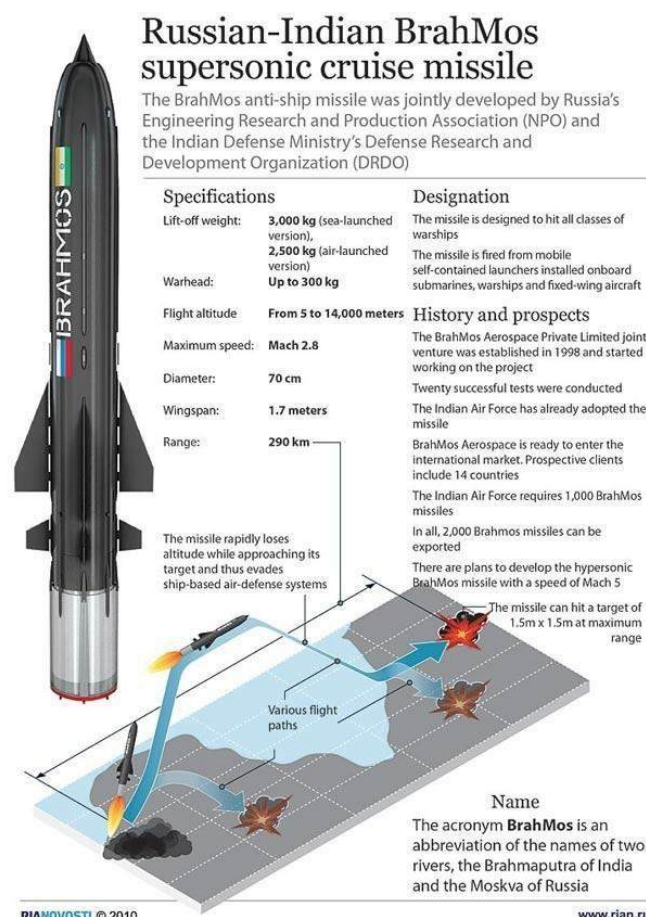
- 1) Joint development between **India's DRDO** and **Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya** (name combines Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers)



- 2) **Two-stage missile** with solid propellant booster engine in first stage and liquid ramjet in second stage
- 3) Operates on "**Fire and Forget Principle**" requiring no guidance after launch
- 4) Cruises at speeds approaching **Mach 3** (three times speed of sound)
- 5) Features stealth technology with extremely low radar cross-section
- 6) Standard **range of 290 km**; extended versions exceed 450-800 km
- 7) Can cruise at **altitudes up to 15 km** and **strike as low as 10 meters above ground**
- 8) Carries conventional warhead weighing 200-300 kg
- 9) Compared to subsonic missiles: 3x velocity, 2.5–3x range, 3–4x seeker range, 9x kinetic energy on impact

Variants

- 1) **Ship-based:** Launched from naval platforms, can be fired in salvos of up to 8 missiles
- 2) **Land-based:** Mobile launchers with NBC protection; three configurations (precision hitting, supersonic deep-dive, mountain warfare)
- 3) **Air-launched:** Carried by Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jets, tested since 2017
- 4) **Submarine-launched:** Can be launched from 50 meters underwater
- 5) **Future BrahMos-NG:** Reduced size, enhanced stealth, greater ECCM effectiveness



Operation Sindoor Details

- 1) Precision strikes targeted multiple Pakistani airbases including Rafiqui, Murid, Nur Khan, Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur, and Chunian
- 2) Additional damage reported at Skardu, Bholari, Jacobabad, and Sargodha airfields
- 3) Radar sites at Pasrur and Sialkot also targeted
- 4) BrahMos reportedly launched from Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter jets
- 5) Operation conducted in retaliation to Pakistan's attempted airspace violations
- 6) Other munitions likely used included SCALP cruise missiles and HAMMER precision-guided weapons

Strategic Significance

- 1) Forced Pakistan to agree to ceasefire after targeting multiple military installations
- 2) Demonstrated India's capability for precision strikes deep inside enemy territory
- 3) New BrahMos Integration and Testing Facility inaugurated in Lucknow to boost production capacity
- 4) Signals shift in India's defense strategy beyond mere deterrence

Opinion by Narendra Modi

PM's address to the nation on Operation Sindoor: Path of peace, path of strength

This is certainly not the era of war but this is also not the era of terrorism. Zero tolerance against terrorism is the guarantee for a better world.

IE The Ideas Page; By Narendra Modi;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Internal Security [Link](#)

Why in News? PM Modi addressed the nation on May 13, 2025, regarding Operation Sindoor, a military strike conducted against terrorist bases in Pakistan.

Background and Operation Details

- 1) **Trigger:** Terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22 where innocent citizens were killed based on religion.
- 2) **Execution:** Conducted on May 6-7, with precision strikes on terrorist hideouts including Bahawalpur and Muridke.
- 3) **Impact:** Over 100 terrorists eliminated; terrorist infrastructure destroyed significantly.
- 4) **Targets:** Struck terrorist training centers described as "universities of global terrorism".

PM Modi Addressed Nation on May 12,



2025

On Operation Sindoor

"Operation Sindoor is not just a name. It is a reflection of the feelings of millions of people in the country. Operation Sindoor is an unbroken pledge of justice."

"Operation Sindoor has redefined the fight against terror, setting a new benchmark, a new normal."

On India's Military Response

"We have inflicted unimaginable damage on Pakistan in 3 days."

"Pakistan was prepared to attack at the border... But India struck at Pakistan's chest."

"The time has come for Made in India defence equipment."

On Future Relations

"We will not differentiate between terrorists and governments that sponsor them."

"Terror and talk can't go together. Terror and trade can't go together. Water and blood can't flow together."

"If there are talks with Pakistan... it will be on terrorism... If there are talks with Pakistan... it will be on PoK..."

"This is not an era of war, but it isn't also the age of terrorism."

"Zero tolerance against terrorism is the guarantee of a better world."

Dedicating the Success

"I dedicate this bravery of armed forces to mothers, sisters and daughters of this country."

Pakistan's Response and Aftermath

- 1) Pakistan retaliated by targeting Indian civilian areas and military bases.
- 2) India's defense systems neutralized Pakistan's attacks effectively.
- 3) Indian forces caused significant damage to Pakistani Air Force bases.
- 4) Pakistan contacted India's DGMO on May 10 seeking de-escalation.
- 5) India suspended retaliatory actions following Pakistan's appeal.

India's Policy Framework

New Parameters Established:

- 1) Befitting response to any terrorist attack "on our terms".
- 2) No tolerance for nuclear blackmail.
- 3) No differentiation between terrorism sponsors and perpetrators.

Future Stance:

- 1) Zero tolerance against terrorism.
- 2) Talks with Pakistan only on terrorism and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- 3) "Terror and talks cannot go together".

Operation demonstrated capabilities of Made in India defense equipment.

News / Explained / What we know about Trump's 'Golden Dome', futuristic US missile defence seeking to make 'space wars' a reality

What we know about Trump's 'Golden Dome', futuristic US missile defence seeking to make 'space wars' a reality

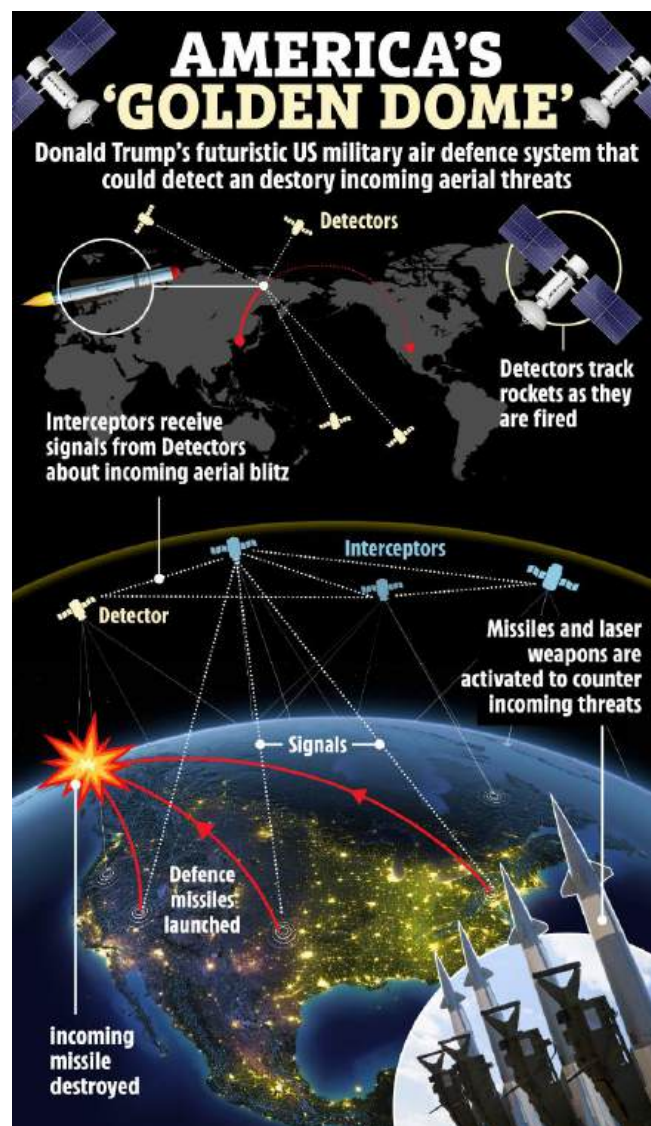
Not much is known about the \$175-billion system that US President Donald Trump has selected to "protect [the] homeland". But it is undoubtedly one of the most ambitious military tech programs ever

IE Explained; By Vaishnawi Sinha;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Security [Link](#)

Why in News? US President Donald Trump has announced the selection of a design for the \$175-billion 'Golden Dome' missile defense shield and appointed General Michael Guetlein of US Space Force to lead the project.

Key Features of Golden Dome Missile Defense System

- 1) Will integrate "next-generation" technologies across land, sea, and space
- 2) Includes space-based sensors and interceptors, potentially becoming the first true space-based weapon system
- 3) Aims to intercept missiles launched from anywhere in the world, including from space
- 4) Designed to counter hypersonic missiles, ballistic missiles, and advanced cruise missiles
- 5) Will comprise thousands of small satellites orbiting Earth to intercept enemy missiles shortly after launch
- 6) Concept resembles Reagan's "Star Wars" space-based missile defense initiative



Comparison with Israel's Iron Dome

- 1) **Iron Dome:** Short-range, ground-based system using radars for tracking
- 2) **Golden Dome:** More ambitious with space components and satellite-based tracking
- 3) **Iron Dome:** Suited for Israel's small territory (400 times smaller than US)
- 4) **Golden Dome:** Designed to protect vast US territory against ICBMs from major powers like Russia and China

Implementation Challenges

- 1) Projected cost of \$175 billion with operational target by January 2029
- 2) Industry experts skeptical about both timeline and cost estimates
- 3) Initial proposed funding of \$25 billion as part of broader \$150 billion defense package

- 4) Funding tied to contentious legislation facing congressional hurdles
- 5) Currently more conceptual than developed technology
- 6) Major defense contractors and tech companies (SpaceX, Palantir, Anduril) competing for contracts
- 7) Democratic lawmakers concerned about procurement process and Elon Musk's SpaceX involvement

NEWS IN SHORT: INTERNAL SECURITY

Exercise Nomadic Elephant

- 1) 17th edition of **India-Mongolia joint military exercise** scheduled from May 31 to June 13, 2025 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- 2) Annual bilateral exercise conducted alternately between India and Mongolia
- 3) Indian contingent: 45 personnel primarily from Arunachal Scouts battalion
- 4) Mongolian contingent: 150 Special Forces personnel

IE This Word Means: Fifth-generation fighter

Why in News? Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the "execution model" for India's fifth-generation fighter jet AMCA, with HAL now required to compete for manufacturing contracts.

Fighter Jet Generations

Technology-based categorization:

- 1) Heuristic device to classify jets by technological advancement
- 2) Each generation represents significant tech leaps that can't be retrofitted
- 3) No standard definition exists; capabilities vary within same generation

Fifth Generation Fighter Aircrafts (FGFA)

Sukhoi PAK FA, Russia



F-35, USA



HAL FGFA, India



J-31 China



Fifth-Generation Fighter Features

Most advanced operational aircraft with:

- 1) **Stealth capabilities:** Composite materials, radar-absorbent paints, designs that don't return radar signals
- 2) **Beyond Visual Range (BVR):** Identify and destroy enemies before detection
- 3) **Advanced computing:** Modern onboard software, network capabilities, integrated avionics enabling "hive mind" operations
- 4) **Current operators:** US (F-22, F-35), Russia (Su-57), China (J-20)

India's AMCA Project

Key details:

- 1) Indigenous fifth-generation fighter by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency
- 2) 25-tonne twin-engine stealth aircraft with small radar cross-section
- 3) No working prototype yet; estimated 10+ years for development

Originally planned as Russia joint venture (2007-2018), India withdrew from FGFA project in 2018

Defence Ministry Clears AMCA 5th-Generation Fighter Project

- 1) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)** Programme Execution Model on Tuesday
- 2) The project is led by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) in collaboration with industry partners
- 3) **Major policy shift:** Private companies can now bid for the project independently or in

joint ventures, breaking HAL's traditional monopoly

- 4) AMCA will be a 25-tonne, twin-engine stealth fighter with advanced capabilities including AI-powered systems and internal weapons bays
- 5) **Timeline:** Prototype development within 5 years, first flight by 2030, full induction beyond 2030, project completion by 2035
- 6) The ₹15,000 crore project aims to develop India's first indigenous 5th-generation fighter, placing India alongside the US, China, and Russia in this elite capability.
- 7) Indian Air Force plans to induct seven squadrons (126 jets) of the AMCA.



Maoist Encounter in Chhattisgarh

- 1) 27 Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces along the Narayanpur-Bijapur border in Chhattisgarh
- 2) Nambala Keshav Rao (Basavaraju), the general secretary of CPI-Maoist and top leader of the Naxal movement, was among those killed

- 3) The operation took place in the Abhujmad forest region after intelligence inputs about senior Maoist cadres
- 4) One District Reserve Guard personnel died and several others were injured in the gunfight
- 5) Home Minister Amit Shah called it a "landmark victory" in India's fight against Naxalism
- 6) The CPI has demanded an independent judicial inquiry into the killings

DRDO Stratospheric Airship Platform

India Advances High-Altitude Surveillance Capabilities With DRDO's Maiden Stratospheric Airship Platform Test

SWARAJYA MAY 05, 2025



India advanced its aerospace surveillance capabilities with DRDO's successful maiden test of a stratospheric airship platform. Designed to operate in the stratosphere, this high-altitude platform enables persistent, long-range monitoring for defence, border security, and disaster response, marking a major leap in indigenous aerial technology.

- 1) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted maiden flight-trials of **Stratospheric Airship Platform** on May 3, 2025.
- 2) Developed by Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra.
- 3) Trial conducted at Sheopur site in Madhya Pradesh, reaching an altitude of approximately 17 kilometers.
- 4) Flight duration was about **62 minutes** with an instrumental payload.

- 5) Systems tested included envelope pressure control and emergency deflation mechanisms.
- 6) Data collected from onboard sensors will be used to develop simulation models for future high-altitude airship flights.
- 7) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh stated this system will enhance India's earth observation and Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities.
- 8) The platform positions India among few countries globally with indigenous stratospheric airship technology.

Applications include persistent surveillance, border security, disaster management, and communication relays.

India Fast-Tracks Strategic Hydroelectric Projects on Chenab River amid Pakistan Tensions

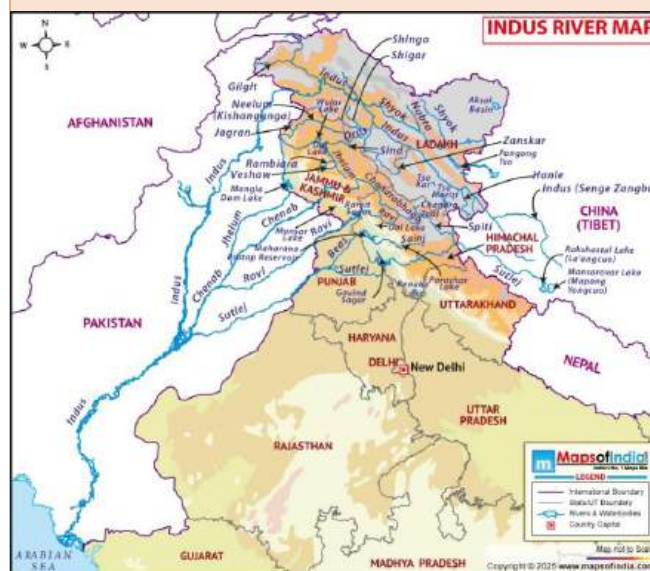


- 1) Indian government is accelerating four hydroelectric projects in **Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar** district following recent tension with Pakistan.
- 2) These run-of-the-river projects on the **Chenab river system** will enhance power generation while potentially allowing India greater control over water flows to Pakistan.
- 3) Four hydroelectric projects being fast-tracked: **Pakal Dul** (1,000 MW), **Ratle** (850 MW), **Kiru** (624 MW), and **Kwar** (540 MW)
- 4) **Pakal Dul** will be J&K's first water storage project with 109 million cubic meters storage capacity, while others have limited storage (Ratle: 24 mcm, Kiru: 10.5 mcm, Kwar: 9.2 mcm)

All projects are being implemented by state-owned **NHPC** Ltd and its joint ventures

New Dam Opened on Chenab After India Blocked Water to Pakistan

- 1) India opened two gates of the **Baglihar Dam on the Chenab River** on May 8, 2025, days after restricting water flow to Pakistan.
- 2) This was reportedly aimed at managing rising water levels due to heavy rainfall and maintaining dam pressure.
- 3) Earlier, India had restricted the Chenab's flow, causing water levels to drop so low that parts of the riverbed became walkable for the first time in recent memory.
- 4) Pakistan claimed India had choked about 90% of the Chenab river flow, potentially requiring a 20% reduction in water supplies to farms.
- 5) The action follows India's suspension of the six-decade-old Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan after an April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 civilians.
- 6) India is also preparing to reduce runoffs from the **Kishanganga project on the Jhelum river**.
- 7) Both dams are part of India's broader strategy to utilize the waters of western rivers following the treaty suspension.



Projects/Dams on Indus River System Indus River

- 1) Nimoo Bazgo Dam/Hydroelectric Project (Jammu & Kashmir)
- 2) Chutak Dam/Hydroelectric Project (Jammu & Kashmir)

Jhelum River

- 1) Uri Dam (Jammu & Kashmir)2
- 2) Lower Jhelum Hydroelectric Project (Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir)5
- 3) Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project (Jammu & Kashmir)

Chenab River

- 1) Dulhasti Dam/Hydroelectric Project (Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir)
- 2) Salal Dam/Hydroelectric Project (Reasi/Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir)
- 3) Baglihar Dam (Jammu & Kashmir)
- 4) Chenani Hydroelectric Project (Jammu & Kashmir)
- 5) Chenani-III Hydroelectric Project (Jammu & Kashmir)

Ravi River

- 1) Bassi Dam/Hydroelectric Project (Jogindarnagar, Himachal Pradesh)
- 2) Chamera I Dam/Hydroelectric Project (Chamba, Himachal Pradesh)
- 3) Chamera II Hydroelectric Project (Himachal Pradesh)
- 4) Chamera III Hydroelectric Project (Himachal Pradesh)
- 5) Ranjit Sagar Dam Hydroelectric Project (Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Punjab)
- 6) Shahpur Kandi Dam (Gurdaspur, Punjab)
- 7) Sewa-II Hydroelectric Project (Kathua, J&K)
- 8) Sewa-III Hydroelectric Project (J&K)

Beas River

- 1) Pandoh Dam (Mandi, Himachal Pradesh)4
- 2) Dehar Hydroelectric Project (Rampur/Shimla, Himachal Pradesh)
- 3) Lurgi Hydroelectric Project (Himachal Pradesh)
- 4) Mukerian Hydroelectric Project (Hazipur, Punjab)
- 5) Pong Hydroelectric Project (Kangra, Himachal Pradesh)

Satluj River

- 1) Bhakra Dam/Hydroelectric Project (Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh)
- 2) Naptha Jhakri Project (Himachal Pradesh)
- 3) Nathpa Jhakri Hydroelectric Project (Shimla, Himachal Pradesh)

- 4) Karcham Wangtoo Hydroelectric Project (Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh)
- 5) Keshang Hydroelectric Project (Himachal Pradesh)
- 6) Koldam Hydroelectric Project (Shimla, Himachal Pradesh)
- 7) Rampur Hydroelectric Project (Himachal Pradesh)
- 8) Ganguwal & Kotla Hydroelectric Project (Rupnagar, Punjab)
- 9) Ghanvi Hydroelectric Project (Shimla, Himachal Pradesh)

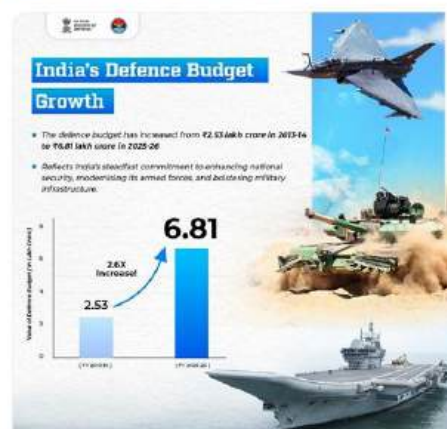
India's defence spending rises 2.6 times in a decade, says government



Ministry of Defence, G...
@SpokespersonMoD

The defence budget increased from Rs 2.53 lakh crore in 2013-14 to Rs 6.81 lakh crore in 2025-26. Strategic reforms, private sector participation, and innovation have boosted indigenous manufacturing, making India a self-reliant, globally trusted defence exporter while strengthening national security and economic growth.

#MakeInIndia #DefenceProduction



- 1) India's defence budget has grown from Rs 2.53 lakh crore (\$29.6 billion) in 2013-14 to Rs 6.81 lakh crore (\$79.8 billion) in 2025-26, marking a 2.6-fold increase over 12 years.
- 2) The announcement comes amid escalating India-Pakistan tensions following the Pahalgam attack and India's retaliatory "Operation Sindoor," with ongoing drone attacks and civilian bombings across the Line of Control.

- 3) India's current defence allocation represents 13.45% of the total Union Budget, the highest share among all ministries.
- 4) The Ministry of Defence has declared 2025-26 as the 'Year of Reforms' aimed at modernizing procurement procedures and optimizing budget utilization.
- 5) India's military spending now ranks fifth-highest globally at \$86.1 billion, significantly outpacing Pakistan's \$10.2 billion defence expenditure.
- 6) The budget emphasizes self-reliance with 75% of the modernization funds earmarked for domestic procurement, supporting the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative in defence manufacturing.
- 7) Capital outlay for new equipment acquisition represents 26% of the total defence budget, with 46% allocated to revenue expenditure and 24% to pensions.

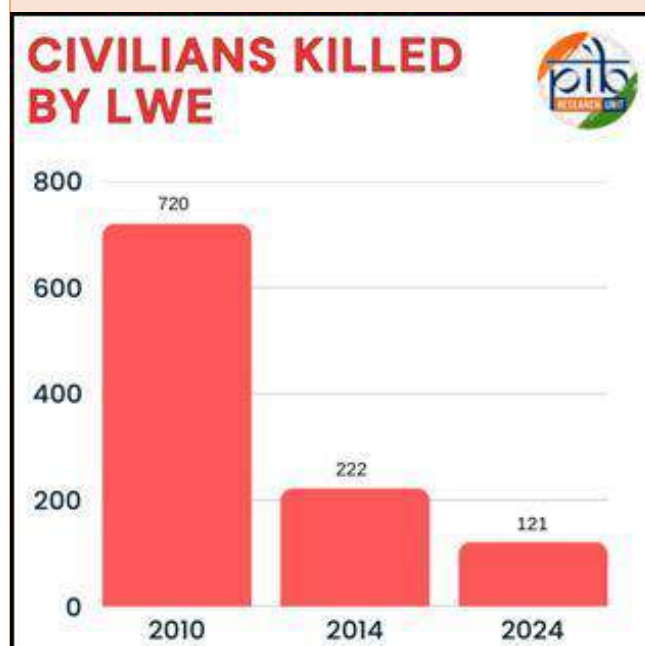
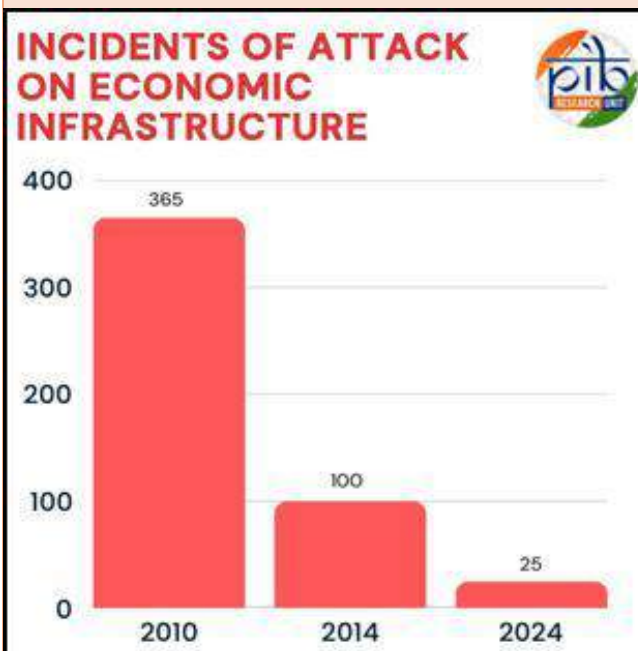
Prime Minister Modi recently addressed troops at Adampur air base, praising military operations that "destroyed terrorist camps and Pakistan's air bases"

Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Violence Decline

- 1) Incidents of LWE violence have dropped by **81% from 1936 cases in 2010 to 374 in 2024**
- 2) Deaths from LWE violence (civilians and security forces) reduced by **85% from 1005 in 2010 to 150 in 2024**
- 3) This significant reduction follows the implementation of the '**National Policy and Action Plan to address LWE**' in 2015
- 4) The geographical spread of LWE has contracted **from 126 districts across 10 states in 2013 to just 38 districts across 9 states**

The government's strategy combines security measures with development

initiatives to address root causes of extremism.



Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

May 2025

Literature Update: Quiet power, revolutions: What shines in Banu Mushtaq's 'Heart Lamp' [Link](#)

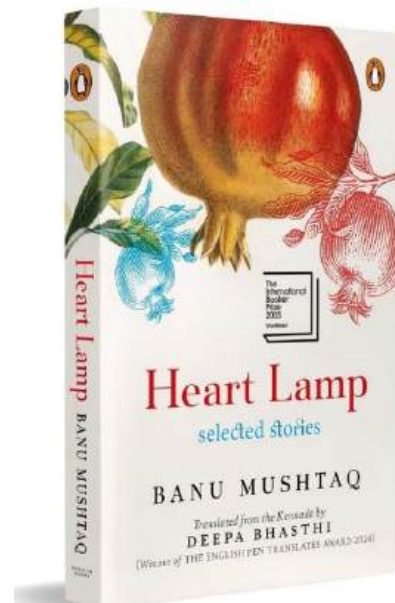
Why in News? Banu Mushtaq's "Heart Lamp" won the International Booker Prize 2025, making her the first Kannada writer to receive this honour.

About the Author: Banu Mushtaq

- 1) Born in 1948 in Hassan, Karnataka
- 2) Multifaceted career: lawyer, journalist, activist, author
- 3) Published six short story collections, one novel, and essays
- 4) Champion of women's rights in Muslim communities
- 5) Part of Karnataka's Bandaya ("rebel") literary tradition
- 6) Focus on rebellion in private spheres: faith, family, religion

About the Book: Heart Lamp

- 1) Collection portraying overlooked lives with clarity and depth
- 2) Set in everyday spaces: kitchens, prayer rooms, narrow lanes
- 3) Stories capture quiet moments of resistance and self-assertion
- 4) Features nuanced Muslim women characters, avoiding stereotypes



- 5) Presents religion neither as villain nor refuge but as terrain to navigate
- 6) Notable stories include "Black Cobras" and the title story "Heart Lamp"
- 7) Employs empathetic gaze that elevates ordinary lives to epic proportions

Recognition and Translation

- 1) Translated by Deepa Bhashthi, who preserved original rhythms and key Kannada words
- 2) Recognized for creating "new textures in a plurality of Englishes"
- 3) Significant milestone for Kannada literature with centuries of storytelling tradition
- 4) Prize acknowledges the power of quiet voices that deserve global attention

What are the challenges faced by the civil services? | Explained

What are the frameworks under which the bureaucracy functions?

TH Text & Context; By Rangarajan R;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Ethics, Governance [Link](#)

Why in News? Civil Services Day was celebrated on April 21, 2025, marking the contribution of India's civil servants to nation-building and governance, commemorating Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 1947 speech where he invited civil servants to be the "steel frame of India."

Major Challenges Facing Civil Services

- 1) **Political Interference and Neutrality Erosion:** Political pressure to do "patently wrong acts", arbitrary transfers, unhealthy nexus between politicians & bureaucrats.
- 2) **Administrative Inefficiencies:** Bureaucratic red tape (E.g. Speedy Money for services), outdated structures influenced by colonial-era systems (E.g. Rigid hierarchy system, top-down approach, control and caution approach)
- 3) **Severe Vacancy Crisis:** As of January 1, 2024, there are precisely 1,316 vacant posts in the IAS (against sanctioned strength of 6,858) and 586 vacancies in the IPS (against 5,055 sanctioned positions).
- 4) **Resource and Capacity Constraints:** Prolonged delays in schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), barriers to accessing welfare benefits for Scheduled Tribes.
- 5) **Corruption and Accountability Gaps:** MGNREGA implementation reports show bribe demands from officials for timely payments, lack of ethics training and checks leading to transactional mindset.

Government Initiatives to Reform Civil Services

- 1) **Mission Karmayogi (2020):** The program has trained over 24,000 officials in PM Gati Shakti learning modules and certified more than 388,000 personnel in emerging technologies like AI, IoT, and Big Data.
- 2) **Lateral Entry System:** Since its 2018 implementation, exactly 63 domain experts

have been appointed to various Ministries/Departments.

3) Performance Evaluation Reforms

- a) The **new 360-Degree Approach** collects feedback from multiple stakeholders including peers, subordinates, and seniors.
- b) **Outcome-based monitoring** now explicitly ties funding to achieved results, focusing on measurable metrics like unit cost efficiency and resource optimization.

4) E-Governance Initiatives:

- a) **Government to Citizens (G2C) applications** have extended governance reach through 24x7 digital service delivery, reducing the need for physical office visits by an estimated 60%.
- b) **CPGRAMS** has processed over 2 million citizen grievances online, providing transparent tracking and significantly reducing resolution times.
- c) **Government to Government (G2G) platforms** like PARIVESH and PRAGATI have streamlined internal processes, cutting interdepartmental coordination time by up to 70%.

5) Transparency Mechanisms: RTI implementation has resulted in over 6 million information requests annually, forcing greater disclosure of administrative actions and decisions.

- a) **Citizen Charters** with specific service delivery timelines have been mandated across departments, with penalties for delays.

Way Forward

- 1) **Address Bureaucratic Vacancies:** The annual intake cap needs to increase beyond 180 IAS officers
 - a) Address the root causes of high attrition, particularly at middle management levels where experienced officers are increasingly leaving for private sector opportunities.
- 2) **Insulate From Political Pressure**
 - a) 2013 Supreme Court ruling in **T.S.R Subramanian vs Union of India &** mandated minimum fixed tenure for bureaucrats.

- b) **Civil Service Boards** need strengthening at both central and state levels to minimize arbitrary transfers.
- c) **Recording political instructions** in writing should be standardized.
- 3) **Enhance Specialized Capabilities:** Training curriculum requires fundamental restructuring
- 4) **Promote Outcome-Based Administration:** Quality data collection systems should be universally implemented, emphasis on unit cost efficiency and resource optimization
- 5) **Technological Integration:** Emerging technologies like AI and blockchain should be prioritized
- 6) **Ethics and Transparency Enhancement:** Transparent performance metrics tied to citizen satisfaction, rather than procedural compliance.

News / Explained / Explained Global / Qatar's \$400-million aircraft gift to Trump:
Legal, ethical concerns up in the air

Qatar's \$400-million aircraft gift to Trump: Legal, ethical concerns up in the air

Is the US President legally allowed to accept eye-wateringly expensive gifts? What other concerns does a Made-in-Qatar Air Force One raise? We explain

IE Explained; By Rounak Bagchi;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Ethics [Link](#)

Why in News? President Donald Trump's potential acceptance of a **\$400-million Boeing 747 jet** from Qatar's royal family as a temporary Air Force One has sparked controversy over constitutional, ethical, and security concerns.

About the Aircraft Gift

- 1) Boeing 747 valued at approximately \$400 million, fitted with three bedrooms, private lounge, and executive office
- 2) Proposed to temporarily replace aging Air Force One planes that have been in use for 40 years
- 3) Would be gifted from Qatar's defense ministry to the Pentagon, requiring modifications to meet Air Force One safety standards
- 4) Trump plans to eventually house the aircraft in his presidential library after his term ends



Legal and ethical issues

Legal Issues

- 1) Violation of Emoluments Clause (Article I, Section 9, Clause 8) which prohibits accepting foreign gifts without congressional approval
- 2) Exceeds the \$480 threshold established by US law for gifts that federal officials can personally keep
- 3) Bypasses the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act of 1966 requiring congressional consent for high-value foreign gifts
- 4) Questions about proper documentation and handling through the White House Gift Unit
- 5) Legal ownership ambiguity if the aircraft is intended for Trump's presidential library
- 6) Precedent concerns as gift value far exceeds historical presidential gifts
- 7) Potential violation of procurement laws that govern acquisition of government property

Ethical Issues

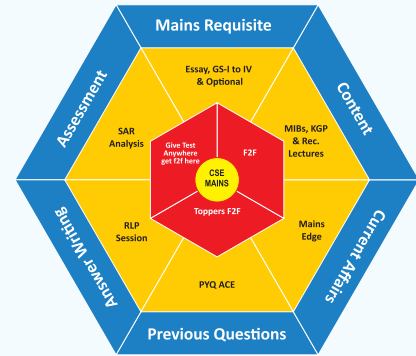
- 1) Creates appearance of foreign influence over presidential decision-making
- 2) Undermines the constitutional safeguard designed to protect against foreign corruption
- 3) Conflicts with Trump's "America First" and domestic manufacturing rhetoric
- 4) Raises national security concerns about foreign-supplied presidential transport
- 5) Potential conflict of interest due to Trump's business interests in Qatar (including planned luxury golf resort)
- 6) Lack of transparency about terms and conditions of the arrangement
- 7) Blurs lines between gifts to the office versus gifts to the individual
- 8) Sets concerning precedent for other nations seeking favor through extravagant gifts
- 9) Questions about potential personal enrichment if aircraft ultimately benefits Trump's library
- 10) Circumvents traditional government procurement and oversight processes

REVERSE LEARNING PROGRAM (RLP)

An innovative Quality Enrichment Program and Answer Writing Mains Program dove tailed with Face 2 Face evaluation

- * **Content:** Recorded Lectures (100+ hours) on Mains topics.
- * **Study Materials:** Handouts on **Mains Topics** (Essay, Ethics, Economy, Society, Governance, Geography, etc).
- * **Workshop:** **27 RLP Sessions** (Daily Answer Writing + Live Discussions) will help in better structuring of answers and better utilization of value addition materials
- * Each RLP session will consist of **1.5-hour test** (10-PYQs) followed by **1.5-hours of quality discussion** and Group 2 Face evaluation.
- * One RLP test = 10Q = PYQs + Current Affairs
- * Integrated with **GS Mains Test Series** (1-Essay+1 CA + 7-Sectional + 5 FLTs)
- * **Face to Face** Evaluation for internalization of personal feedback
- * **8-Marks Improvement Booklets** (Essay & Ethics etc.) including **Current Issues**.

Marks Improvement Gateway (MIG 2025)



Concession Details	Fee: ₹15000 + GST	Mode: Offline/Online
Kalam IAS Students: 20%	UPSC Interview Student: 30%	CSE Selected Students: 50%

Date	No of Day	Subject/Theme
2-Jun	RLP_2501	Geography
4-Jun	RLP_2502	Geography
6-Jun	RLP_2503	Geography
8-Jun	ST_2501	Essay
9-Jun	RLP_2504	Geography
11-Jun	RLP_2505	Biodiversity and Env.
13-Jun	RLP_2506	Biodiversity and Env. & DM
15-Jun	ST_2502	Geo, Biodiversity, Env. & DM
16-Jun	RLP_2507	Indian Culture & History
18-Jun	RLP_2508	Indian Culture & History
20-Jun	RLP_2509	Indian Culture & History
22-Jun	ST_2503	Indian Culture & History
23-Jun	RLP_2510	Economic Development
25-Jun	RLP_2511	Economic Development
27-Jun	RLP_2512	Agriculture
29-Jun	ST_2504	Economic Development + Agri
30-Jun	RLP_2513	Society
2-Jul	RLP_2514	Social Justice
4-Jul	RLP_2515	Governance
6-Jul	ST_2505	Society, SJ & Governance
7-Jul	RLP_2516	Constitution and Polity
9-Jul	RLP_2517	Constitution and Polity
11-Jul	RLP_2518	Constitution and Polity
13-Jul	ST_2506	Constitution and Polity
14-Jul	RLP_2519	International Relation
16-Jul	RLP_2520	Security
18-Jul	RLP_2521	Technology
20-Jul	ST_2507	IR, Security & Technology
21-Jul	RLP_2522	Ethics Part A
23-Jul	RLP_2523	Ethics Part A
25-Jul	RLP_2524	Ethics Part A
27-Jul	ST_2508	Current Affairs
28-Jul	RLP_2525	Ethics Part B
30-Jul	RLP_2526	Ethics Part B
1-Aug	RLP_2527	Ethics Part B
3-Aug	ST_2509	Ethics
10-Aug	FLT_2501	ESSAY
11-Aug	FLT_2502	GS-I
12-Aug	FLT_2503	GS-II
13-Aug	FLT_2504	GS-III
14-Aug	FLT_2505	GS-IV

CSE 2021

MEHAK JAIN
27-Selections in 2021

CSE 2022

Pooja Tirumani
34-Selections in 2022

CSE 2023

ADITYA SRIVASTAVA
49-Selections in 2023

CSE 2024

ABHISHEK VASHISHTHA
65-Selections in 2024

CSE RESULT 2024

CHAKRA SHEKHAR

AISHWARYA MISHRA

SHIKHAR MISHRA

REKHA SIVA

SREE KRISHNA

VISHWAS GUPTA

DEVANSH MOHAN DWIVEDI

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SANJAY SHRIVASTAVA

DHAMET VINY

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- Two-way Communication
- Illustration for improvement of Answer
- Improvement in the approach of Answer writing



Concession Details

Fee: ₹6000 + GST

Kalam IAS Students: 20%

UPSC Interview Student: 30%

CSE Selected Students: 50%

MODE

Online/Offline

AAYUSHI CHAUDHARY
AIR-290, CSE 2024



Date	No. of Test	Subject/Theme
8-Jun	Sectional TEST 01	Essay
15-Jun	Sectional TEST 02	Geography
22-Jun	Sectional TEST 03	History + A&C
29-Jun	Sectional TEST 04	Eco. & Agriculture
6-Jul	Sectional TEST 05	Society, SJ & Govern.
13-Jul	Sectional TEST 06	Polity
20-Jul	Sectional TEST 07	IR, Security & Tech.
27-Jul	Sectional TEST 08	Current Affairs
3-Aug	Sectional TEST 09	Ethics
10-Aug	ESSAY	ESSAY
11-Aug	FLT 01	GS-I
12-Aug	FLT 02	GS-II
13-Aug	FLT 03	GS-III
14-Aug	FLT 04	GS-IV

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 - Economy and Agriculture
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 - Internal Security

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- 40 h-FST of GS I - IV & 10 h-FST of Essay
- Monday-Friday at 04:00 PM

- ☒ **Face to Face** Evaluation/week
- ☒ **Answer Explanation** (soft)

Concession Details

Fee: ₹6000 + GST

Mode: Offline/Online

Kalam IAS Students: 20%

UPSC Interview Student: 30%

CSE Selected Students: 50%

Mon
Essay
Tue
GS-I
Wed
GS-II
Thu
GS-III
Fri
GS-IV

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Abhishek Vashishtha



Devansh M. Dwivedi



Tanishi Kalra



SARTHAK SINGH



MANISH KUMAR

*No Fees for CSE Interviewee 2024

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Exam on the Day of Exam

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MAUNDRAT

Maths Foundation

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- Face-to-Face:** Post Test Analysis providing personalized feedback and actionable improvement suggestions.
- Updated Ethics Marks Improvement Booklet (Ethics - MIB)** - Covering all contemporary issues relevant for Ethics.
- Uninterrupted Mentorship** with direct access to faculty support whenever you need it, all the way until Mains 2025.

Concession Details

Kalam IAS Students: 20%

UPSC Interview Student: 30%

CSE Selected Students: 50%



Ethics Answer Writing Workshop Schedule

WORKSHOP	DATE
Workshop-01	05 th June
Workshop-02	07 th June
Workshop-03	10 th June
Workshop-04	12 th June
Workshop-05	14 th June
Workshop-06	17 th June
Workshop-07	19 th June
Session Timing: 4 PM	

ETHICS TEST SERIES 2025



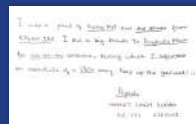
5-Tests with Real-Time Face to Face Evaluation



Ethics Marks Improvement Booklet (Value Addition)



Harnit Singh Sudan
AIR-177, CSE 2023



Prajanandan Giri
AIR-24, CSE 2023



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- 5-Full-Length UPSC-Aligned Tests** designed to build confidence and exam readiness.
- Face-to-Face:** Post Test Analysis providing personalized feedback and actionable improvement suggestions.
- Updated Essay Marks Improvement Booklet (Essay - MIB)** - Covering all contemporary issues relevant for Ethics.
- Uninterrupted Mentorship** with direct access to faculty support whenever you need it, all the way until Mains 2025.

Concession Details

Kalam IAS Students: 20%

UPSC Interview Student: 30%

CSE Selected Students: 50%



Ethics Answer Writing Workshop Schedule

WORKSHOP	DATE
Workshop-01	03 rd June
Workshop-02	05 th June
Workshop-03	09 th June
Workshop-04	11 th June
Workshop-05	13 th June
Workshop-06	15 th June
Session Timing: 2 PM	

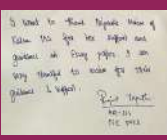


Chaitanya Giri
AIR-117, CSE 2023

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to Kalam IAS Academy because their value addition materials and especially the PDFs which were there for current affairs of GS and value addition materials for Ethics & Essay helped me a lot in my mains preparation. In fact, one day before the main preparation, I was reading those PDFs and I even made certain short notes out of those PDFs which I tried to write in the actual exams and now as the marks are out I've gotten 134 marks in essay and 108 marks in ethics and I believe that Kalam IAS value addition material did play a major role in that.



Rajat Tripathi
AIR-515, CSE 2023



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Ayan Jain, AIR-16

I want to thank Kalam IAS for their support in CSE 2023. I was a part of the interview guidance course where I found the current affairs material to be extremely good, and I have also benefited previously from the value addition material provided by Kalam IAS for Mains
Thank you!
.....

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