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(IAS Mains 2025 Paper)

22nd Aug: Essay 02:00–5:00 PM

23rd Aug: GS 1 02:00–5:00 PM

GS 2 07:30–10:30 PM

24th Aug: GS 3 02:00–5:00 PM

GS 4 07:30–10:30 PM

25th Aug: Reserved 9 AM–5 PM

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MONTHLY MAGAZINE – JULY 2025

Sl. No.	Topics
Quotes of the Day	
History, Art & Culture	
1	India's monuments and heritage need to recognise it's civilisational history
2	PM Modi at Gangaikonda Cholapuram
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	Maratha Military Landscapes - UNESCO World Heritage Status
Polity & Governance	
1	Secularism isn't just a word. It's at the heart of India and its Constitution
2	What makes Indian Constitution secular
3	Nagari Pracharini Sabha and recognition to Hindi
4	Four ex-CJIs raise re flag: EC power to delay simultaneous elections may not pass muster
5	What happens when the Vice-President resigns mid-term
6	With process to remove Justice Yashwant Varma now likely in Parliament
7	Kerala HC issues policy for use of AI for judiciary work
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	International Justice Day – 17th July
2	Supreme Court: Legal Status and Recent Judgments on Right to Vote, AI and Copyright
Society & Social Justice	
1	Best of Both Sides: Language forms the basis of culture and identity
2	Best of Both Sides: Language is a distraction
3	The story of Indian women: Empowered and powerless
4	What National Sports Policy can do for India's athletes
5	Ancestral property rights for Adivasi women
6	Student suicides in universities are often a product of institutional violence
7	For stronger education system
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	India's Under-Five Mortality Decline
2	National Sports Policy 2025
3	How Divya Deshmukh Bypassed FIDE's Traditional GM Requirements?
4	Sanchar Mitra Scheme – DoT
5	97% of 'Untouchability' Cases Still Pending in Courts
6	Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 Results
7	Himachal Pradesh polyandry
International Relations	
1	Beyond BRICS and QUAD

2	The BRICS Declaration reflects a united stand of the Global South
3	After the BRICS Summit
4	BRICS signals strong Global South
5	Conflict in Middle East
6	Old Delhi, new Washington
7	PM Modi in Namibia
8	EU's CBAM
9	Trump 2.0 is upending US ties
10	Has the Indus Water Treaty been fair to India?
11	Hyper nationalism prevents our foreign policy from asking tough questions
12	For India-South Africa maritime partnership to work, it needs to go beyond symbolism
13	India, China and Brahmaputra front
14	UK trade deal
15	India-UK FTA
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	BRICS will create a balanced 'multipolar' world order: PM
2	India – US Trade Talks Red Lines
3	PM Modi conferred with highest national honor in Trinidad and Tobago
4	China dismisses Dalai Lama's authority on reincarnation
5	India – EU Trade Deal Negotiations
Economy & Agriculture	
1	Punjab's land pooling policy and its criticism
2	These 15 cities can supercharge India's growth
3	Invisible hand in India's foreign trade
4	Jane Street and SEBI bar
5	Indian agriculture's prospects depend on innovating and adopting genetic tech
6	Great Nicobar Islands development projects
7	Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana
8	To improve both crop and human nutrition, India needs a paradigm shift
9	Government claims on reducing inequality contested
10	World Bank's warped inequality numbers
11	New Delhi has chance to repay Green Revolution debt
12	Why Delhi's PPP model for slum rehabilitation has not attracted developers
13	India's FDI Challenge
14	Reforms India's power sector needed
15	Critical minerals are a strategic asset
16	Why govt is mulling living wage?
17	A brief history of quick commerce
18	To become a developed country by 2047, India needs new economic ideas

19	Key takeaways from IMF's latest World Economic Outlook on India, the US and the World
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	SPREE Scheme (Scheme to Promote Registration of Employers/Employees) announced
2	Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme
3	Digital India: Power to Empower (10 Years)
4	Record Remittances FY25
5	Kolkata-Vietnam Trade Initiative - Dedicated Vietnam desk to be established to boost trade using strategic water routes
6	RBI ₹1 Trillion Reverse Repo Auction
7	Women's Labour-Force Participation Falls
8	10 Years of Skill India Mission
9	IMF: India a world leader in digital payments with record UPI transactions
Science & Technology	
1	AI and Copyright law
2	Grok praising Hitler and deeper problems of AI
3	Shubhanshu Shukla's Axiom 4 mission
4	Merger of two black holes
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	India's AI-Powered TB Detection Revolution
2	Earth's Spin Speeding Up
Geography & Environment	
1	Reforming UNFCCC process
2	Himachal Floods

3	Tracking India's climate goals
4	Mangroves: Significance, threats and conservation
5	CJI opinion on climate obligations
6	Increasing renewable energy alone can't solve climate crisis
7	Kamchatka quake
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	C-FLOOD System
2	India Reaches 50% Non-Fossil Power Capacity
3	Kerala's Reward-Based E-Waste Drive
4	Presidential Address on Environmental Principles
5	"Mera Gaon Meri Dharoohar" Initiative
Internal Security	
1	INS Tamal commissioned
2	Maharashtra's Urban Maoism Bill
3	Preliminary Report on Air India flight AI 171 Ahmedabad Crash
4	Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	SIMBEX 2025 Military Exercise
2	Cabinet approves Phase-II of Vibrant Vill Programme (VVP-II)
3	Parliament Debates: Pahalgam Attack & Operation Sindoor

QUOTES OF THE DAY

July 2025

Sl No	Quote
1	"The only way for a women... To find herself to know herself as a person, is by creative work of her own." – BETTY FRIEDAN
2	"I can take it. The tougher it gets, the cooler I get." – RICHARD NIXON
3	"Dogs are not about something else. Dogs are about dogs." – MALCOLM GLADWELL
4	"Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope." – KOFI ANNAN
5	"Science is the language of God, all else is poor translation." – RUMI
6	"A man without a vote is a man without protection." – LYNDON B JOHNSON
7	"Third parties are like bees: Once they have stung, they die." – RICHARD HOFSTADTER
8	"The Good Earth – We could have saved it, but we were too damn cheap and lazy." – KURT VONNEGUT
9	"Rare as is true love, true friendship is rarer." – JEAN DE LA FONTAINE
10	"Censorship reflects a society's lack of confidence in itself." – POTTER STEWART
11	"I love sleep. My life has the tendency to fall apart when I'm awake, you know?" – ERNEST HEMINGWAY
12	"There is no force more powerful than a woman determined to rise." – W.E.B. DUBOIS
13	"Champions keep playing until they get it right." – BILLIE JEAN KING
14	"The better I get to know men, the more I find myself loving dogs." – CHARLES GAULLE
15	"I'll be happy if running and I can grow old together." – HARUKI MURAKAMI
16	"He will win who knows when to fight and when not to fight." – SUN TZU
17	"There are people in the world so hungry that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread." – MAHATMA GANDHI
18	"In love of home, the love of country has its rise." – CHARLES DICKENS
19	"The books that the world class immoral are books that show the world its own shame." – OSCAR WILDE
20	"Love is like a virus. It can happen to anybody at any time." – MAYA ANGELOU
21	"Into the same river we step and we do not step, we are and we are not." – HERACITUS
22	"Brute force, no matter how strongly applied, can never subdue the basic human desire for freedom." – DALAI LAMA
23	"The art of living is more like wrestling than dancing." – MARCUS AURELIUS
24	"The Earth is a fine place and worth fighting for." – ERNEST HEMINGWAY
25	"One-Day cricket is an exhibition. Test Cricket is an examination." – HENRY BLOFELD
26	"It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity." – ALBERT EINSTEIN
27	"Palestine belongs to the Arabs in the same sense that England belongs to the English or France to the French." – MAHATMA GANDHI

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

July 2025

SI No	Quote
1	"Israel's attack on Iran overshadowed ongoing carnage in Gaza. Its allies are complicit in the horror; they must instead help to build a future for Palestinians." – THE GUARDIAN
2	"There has been an improvement in Pak-Afghan relations, thanks to Chinese mediation and both countries have upgraded diplomatic ties. Yet if terrorist attack continues in the border areas, Pakistan will have reason to ask questions, unless Kabul takes firm action against all militant groups." – DAWN, PAKISTAN
3	"As Sri Lanka drowns in debt, Nepal navigates political whirlpools, and Bangladesh outgrows donor dependency, these countries want cooperation based on equality... And when India fails to deliver, they do what any rational actor would do in a multi-polar world: Hedge." – SRI LANKA GUARDIAN
4	"If Russia prevails in its war of aggression, it will not be because of lack of Ukrainian resolve. It will be because of American fecklessness." – THE WASHINGTON POST
5	"You do not need to sympathise with Palestine Action's aim to believe that its proscription sets a chilling precedent and undermines democracy." – THE GUARDIAN
6	"The Trump administration miscalculates if it believes Japan – and many other countries – would welcome a deal with the United States that offers little or no upside beyond may be avoiding Trump's 'reciprocal tariffs'." – THE WASHINGTON POST
7	"After a decade of austerity, stagnant living standards and eroded institutional legitimacy, the country Sir Keir leads feels no longer patient – or stable – enough for the kind of politics he believes in. Whether he can change that or is already being shaped by forces beyond his control, remains to be seen." – THE GUARDIAN
8	"Even with four years of his term to go, there's a palpable feeling in the air that Mr Starmer's time may be coming to an end. Any momentum... was halted by his bizarre decision to begin the new era with sombre warnings... and announcements of imminent cuts to public services." – THE NEW YORK TIMES
9	"The end result of this US withdrawal is that now, as BRICs and other international alliances work to further their own interests, the US sits alone, reduced to barking threats that, if implemented, well spell disaster for its own citizens." – THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE, PAKISTAN
10	"By blowing up the framework of multilateralism and international law and replacing it with strong arm tactics, the word of the US has lost its value." – LE MONDE
11	"No one should count on Mr Trump remaining aggrieved by Russia for long; still less on that producing significant action." – THE GUARDIAN
12	"Awkward questions remain over the implementation of the Starmer Macron Channel crossings deal." – THE GUARDIAN
13	"The one-China principle is the foundation and prerequisite for both China-Australia and China-Japan relations. The Pentagon has no authority to hijack other countries with Taiwan question." – GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

14	"Mr Trump's pledge on Monday to send Patriot missiles to Ukraine, along with a broader weapons deal to be financed by Europe, appeared to confirm the wisdom of the EU's cautious approach as the President's unedifying bromance with Vladimir Putin sours." – THE GUARDIAN
15	"The longer this calamity persists, the more Israel risks losing what was once its most valuable asset – the bipartisan support of a majority of Americans." – THE WASHINGTON POST
16	"The children of Gaza have the same rights as children anywhere – to water, to food, to shelter, to education, to play, to joy. To life." – THE GUARDIAN
17	"Flattering Putin while mistreating the Ukraine President has not succeeded in softening the Russian leader. There is no reason to think the threat of sanctions, whose scope remains unclear, will impress him any more." – LE MONDE, FRANCE
18	"Given that all political activities of Awami League have been banned by the government... it is deeply disturbing that its supporters have once again resorted to violence." – THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH
19	"The truth revealed by the Epstein scandal – that ordinary Americans are deeply angry at the unfairness and abuses created by elites – is worth heeding." – THE GUARDIAN
20	"No matter what packaging is used or what guise is adopted, the so-called 'Indo-Pacific Strategy' is essentially a strategy that creates division, incites confrontation and undermines peace; ultimately, this strategy is destined to fail." – GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA
21	"How much more must the people of Gaza suffer before they are saved? If world leaders truly stand for humanity, they must come together to stop Israel from continuing its inhuman campaign in Gaza." – THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH
22	"Faced with the systematic destruction of Palestinian life in Gaza, other states must together produce a systematic, comprehensive and concrete response. If not now, when? What more would it take to convince them?." – THE GUARDIAN
23	"The horror unfolding in Gaza is a collapse of the very global norms the UN was founded to uphold. The UN's moral failure in Rwanda and Bosnia must not be repeated in Gaza. This time, the world must not look away." – DAWN, PAKISTAN
24	"Zelenskyy should recover support at home and abroad not only by restoring the independence of anti-corruption investigators, but by taking ahead of the broader lessons about the people's justified expectations of their government." – THE GUARDIAN
25	"Macron is right: Only a two-state solution, in which a Palestinian state is established, will enable a normal life for the two nations living between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River." – HAARETZ, ISRAEL
26	"The US, which recognises that Syria's disintegration is not in its interests, has sought to rein Israel in and must continue doing so." – THE GUARDIAN
27	"In the past month, a wall of secrecy [in Israel] has cracked. The public has begun to learn of the severe psychological effects of the war in Gaza." – HAARETZ, ISRAEL

History, Art & Culture

July 2025

India's monuments and heritage need to recognise it's civilisational history

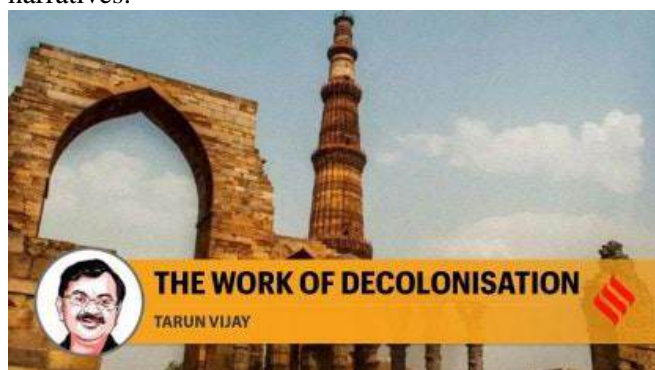
As chairman of the National Monuments Authority, I had an opportunity to flag some anomalies and suggest changes in the way we look at preservation

IE Opinion; By Tarun Vijay;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – History & Culture [Link](#)

Why in News?

Former National Monuments Authority chairman advocates for decolonizing India's heritage preservation to recognize civilizational history over colonial narratives.



Colonial Mindset in Heritage Preservation

- Post-Independence continuation of British-era approach to monuments and archaeology
- Focus on "defeat narratives" rather than Indian victories and achievements
- Teachers and history books maintained colonial perspective
- 3,695 Monuments of National Importance created but many lack proper historical context

Modi Government's Decolonization Efforts

- **Highlighted forgotten heroes:** King Suheldev, Rani Durgavati, Lachit Barphukan
- **Infrastructure changes:**
- Anang Tal (founder-king Anangpal Tomar's site) designated Monument of National Importance
- Navy insignia inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji
- Rakhigarhi excavations restarted

- **Tribal recognition:** Tai-Khamti War (1839) research initiated
- **UNESCO recognition:** Maratha Military Landscapes added to World Heritage list

Historical Neglect Examples

Maratha achievements ignored:

- Delhi conquered by Marathas in 1757, 1771; ruled until 1803
- British took Delhi from Marathas, not Mughals
- Red Fort Museum omits Maratha rule period

Sikh warrior Baba Baghel Singh:

- 1783 Delhi conquest, Tis Hazari origin story missing from records

Freedom struggle sites:

- British soldiers' graves (1857) declared national monuments
- Kali Paltan Agharnath temple (revolutionary shelter) denied recognition

Marginalized communities:

- No Ambedkar-related monuments despite recommendations
- Mangarh (1,500 Bhil tribal massacre site) awaiting designation
- Adi Shankara birthplace recommendation ignored

Illogical designations:

- 100+ monuments with unknown history retain national importance status

Proposed Reforms

- **Archaeological Foundation:** New institution to preserve civilizational and revolutionary monuments
- **Agency restructuring:** Relook at all monument-related agencies' mandates
- **Mindset change:** Unshackle preservation approach from colonial thinking
- **Balanced representation:** Include victories alongside historical narratives

News / Explained / Explained History / PM Modi at Gangaikonda Cholapuram: How this grand temple's history is linked to present-day politics

Premium

PM Modi at Gangaikonda Cholapuram: How this grand temple's history is linked to present-day politics

PM Modi Gangaikonda Cholapuram visit: What is the history of the Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple built by Rajendra Chola? What is the Aadi Thiruvathirai festival? What is the politics around PM Modi's visit to the temple? We explain, in 3 points.

IE Explained; By Yashee;

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

Why in News?

PM Modi visited Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple in Tamil Nadu, offered prayers, and released a commemorative coin for Rajendra Chola I during the Aadi Thiruvathirai Festival marking 1,000 years since Rajendra's maritime campaign.

About Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple

- Ancient Shiva temple, UNESCO World Heritage Site and pinnacle of Chola architecture.
- Built by Rajendra Chola I after his victorious campaign up to the Ganga river in North India.
- The temple's grand tank, Cholagangam, symbolizes victory and the Chola empire's might.



Rajendra Chola I and Historical Context

- Reigned from 1014–1044 AD; son of Rajaraja Chola I (who built Tanjore's Brihadeeswara temple).
- Expanded the Chola empire through military and naval campaigns; capital shifted to Gangaikonda Cholapuram.
- The temple's design is more ornate, reflecting empire's stability and wealth.

Aadi Thiruvathirai Festival

- Annual festival at the temple; "Aadi" is the month, "Thiruvathirai" is a star, also linked to Rajendra I's birth.

- Celebrated with road shows enacting king's achievements; king's statue is clad in new silk.

Political Significance

- Chola empire represents both Hindu and Dravida power: unifying south India during northern instability.
- PM Modi's visit highlights both Hindu and Tamil pride, relevant to upcoming polls and BJP's strategy to appeal in Tamil Nadu.

NEWS IN SHORT: HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

Maratha Military Landscapes - UNESCO World Heritage Status

Key Details

- 1) Heritage site name: Maratha Military Landscapes
- 2) Recognition: UNESCO World Heritage List inclusion
- 3) India's position: 44th World Heritage site for India
- 4) Date: July 13, 2025

Structures Included

- 1) Total forts: 12 forts built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
- 2) Maharashtra: 11 forts
- 3) Tamil Nadu: 1 fort



Official Response

- 1) PM Modi: Expressed pride in achievement
- 2) Significance: Honors Maratha military architecture and history
- 3) Legacy: Recognition of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's fortress system

Impact

- 1) Cultural heritage: Preserves Maratha military architecture
- 2) Tourism potential: International recognition boosts heritage tourism
- 3) Historical importance: Acknowledges 17th-century military innovations

Polity & Governance

July 2025

Secularism isn't just a word. It's at the heart of India and its Constitution

India is secular and will remain so, the constitutional guard rails will hold. The word "secularism" in the Preamble is an article of faith

IE Opinion;

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

Why in News?

Senior BJP establishment members have urged removal of "secular" (and "socialist") from India's Constitution Preamble.

Historical Context & Legal Status

- **Emergency Addition (1976):** Word "secular" added through 42nd Amendment during Emergency under Indira Gandhi's undemocratic circumstances
- **Constitutional Validation:** Supreme Court upheld inclusion as part of Constitution's basic structure (Kesavananda Bharati case, 1973)
- **Court's Recent Stand:** Last year, Court found no reason to delete the word, emphasizing India's unique interpretation of secularism

Constitutional Foundation

- **Pre-existing Principle:** Secularism already embedded in Constitution before formal addition
- **Article 25:** Guarantees freedom of conscience and religion to all citizens
- **Preamble Values:** Justice, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity incomplete without secularism in multi-religious context
- **Indian Characteristics:** No hard Church-State separation; equal respect to all religions; religion not banished from public view

Current Challenges & Government Approach

- **Policy Concerns:** Anti-conversion laws, mandatory clearances for inter-faith marriages in BJP states
- **Religious Patronage:** State support for Hindu religiosity; PM's participation in Ayodhya temple consecration
- **Conflation Attempts:** Efforts to merge concepts of Rashtra and Ram
- **Contradictory Messaging:** Government promotes "sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas" and "vasudhaiva kutumbakam"

Future Outlook

Constitutional guardrails will protect India's secular character; secularism in Preamble represents "article of faith" beyond mere terminology.

News / Explained / Explained Law / What makes the Indian Constitution 'secular', even without the word in the Preamble

Premium

What makes the Indian Constitution 'secular', even without the word in the Preamble

The 42nd Amendment introduced the word 'secular' in the Preamble. But secularism is inherent in the Constitution, a theme that runs through several provisions.

IE Opinion; By Apurva Vishwanath;

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

Why in News?

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar criticized the Emergency-era addition of "secular" to the Constitution's Preamble as "sacrilege to the spirit of Sanatan".

42nd Amendment Addition (1976)

Political Context:

- Added during Emergency under Indira Gandhi's government
- Changed Preamble from "Sovereign Democratic Republic" to "Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic"
- **Political motive:** Response to rising Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJP's predecessor) influence
- Gandhi claimed founders intended India to be secular and socialist

Amendment Scope:

- Part of comprehensive "Mini-Constitution" with extensive changes
- Also added "socialist" and "integrity" to Preamble
- Most changes reversed by 44th Amendment in 1978, but Preamble remained untouched

Inherent Secularism in Constitution

Pre-existing Secular Provisions:

- **Article 14:** Right to equality before law
- **Article 15:** Prohibition of discrimination based on religion, caste, sex
- **Article 16:** Equality of opportunity in public employment
- **Article 25:** Freedom of conscience and right to practice religion

Constitutional Framework:

- Secularism embedded as **basic structural principle** even before 1976
- Preamble's emphasis on Justice, Liberty, Equality inherently includes secularism
- Indian secularism ensures **equal respect to all religions** rather than strict separation

Supreme Court's Validation

Key Rulings:

- **Kesavananda Bharati (1973):** Declared secularism a **basic feature** that cannot be removed
- **Minerva Mills (1980):** Recognized socialism as constitutional ideal
- **November 2024:** Dismissed challenges to Preamble amendment after 44 years

Court's Position:

- Secularism existed before the word was added
- Addition was **largely symbolic** without substantive constitutional change
- Terms have achieved "widespread acceptance" among people

News / Explained / Explained History / As language politics heats up, looking back at Nagari Pracharini Sabha, which fought for recognition to Hindi

As language politics heats up, looking back at Nagari Pracharini Sabha, which fought for recognition to Hindi

More than a century ago, Hindi had to fight for inclusion in official use, over then-dominant Persian. In this process, the Nagari Pracharini Sabha played a prominent role.

IE Explained; By Ashutosh Kumar Pandey;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity & Governance [Link](#)

Why in News?

Language politics heating up in Maharashtra over Hindi imposition, prompting examination of Nagari Pracharini Sabha's historical role in promoting Hindi recognition.

Historical Context & Formation

• Pre-independence language scenario:

- Persian was official language during Mughal rule
- 1832: East India Company declared justice should be in common people's language
- By 1861: English, Urdu, Persian dominated courts/offices
- Hindi lacked comprehensive vocabulary for official use
- 1890s: Devanagari script began replacing Persian script

• Formation (January 16, 1893):

- Founded by three scholars: Shyam Sunder Das, Pandit Ramnarayan Mishra, Thakur Shivkumar Singh
- Goal: Make Hindi language of courts and government offices
- Decided to compile authoritative Hindi dictionary

Major Achievements

• Dictionary Project (1908-1929):

- Sent collectors to villages/towns for 21 years to document words
- Published 11-volume "Shabd Sagar" dictionary in 1929
- Forewords by Acharya Ramchandra Shukla and Shyam Sunder Das

• Publications & Infrastructure:

- 1896: Founded Arya Bhasha Pustakalaya (largest Hindi library)
- 1896: Started Nagari Pracharini Patrika (oldest Hindi research journal)
- 1900: Published Saraswati magazine under Pandit Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi
- Published Acharya Shukla's "History of Hindi Literature"

• Movement expansion:

- Gained support from Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- Expanded to Haridwar and New Delhi
- Local units established in various towns

Current Status

• Decline & Revival:

- 1970s: Work declined due to political interference
- Management disputes reached Allahabad High Court
- February 2024: Court ruled in favor of Vyomesh Shukla-led group

- **Recent activities:**

- March 2024: Republished Acharya Ramchandra Shukla's "History of Hindi Literature"
- Published collection of Hindi poems by Amir Khusrau
- Current head: Vyomesh Shukla (pradhan mantri)

News / Explained / Explained Politics / Four ex-CJIs raise red flag: EC power to delay simultaneous elections may not pass muster

Four ex-CJIs raise red flag: EC power to delay simultaneous elections may not pass muster

It is learnt that on Friday former CJIs J S Khehar and D Y Chandrachud expressed doubts whether the power of EC to decide if simultaneous polls can be delayed for a state is constitutionally permissible.

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

Why in News

Four former Chief Justices of India have raised constitutional concerns about the Election Commission's extensive powers in the proposed One Nation, One Election Bill.

Key Constitutional Concerns

- **Former CJIs' Position**
- J S Khehar and D Y Chandrachud expressed doubts about EC's power to delay simultaneous polls for states
- Both confirmed simultaneous polls themselves are constitutional and don't violate basic structure
- Justice Chandrachud highlighted EC's powers may have "constitutional infirmities"
- **Previous Objections**
- Former CJI Ranjan Gogoi (March 2025): Pointed out EC's unrestricted powers over poll scheduling
- Former CJI UU Lalit (February 2025): Provided suggestions on EC's powers



The Proposed Law

- **129th Constitution Amendment Bill**
- Seeks to introduce simultaneous polls across India
- Amends Article 82 of Constitution
- Grants EC authority to determine feasibility of simultaneous elections
- **Specific Powers to EC**
- Can recommend to President to delay state Legislative Assembly elections
- Power to declare elections at later dates if deemed unfeasible with general elections
- Broad discretionary authority without specific limitations

Suggested Reforms

- **Parliamentary Oversight**
- At least two former CJIs suggested including parliamentary supervision over EC's scheduling powers
- Need for checks and balances on EC's discretionary authority
- **Narrowing Powers**
- Justice Chandrachud recommended limiting EC's delay powers to only "public order or national security" grounds
- Prevent arbitrary use of scheduling authority
- **Constitutional Safeguards**
- Broad powers without sufficient safeguards could violate Article 14 (right to equality)
- Courts may deem unrestricted powers as arbitrary

News / Explained / Explained: What happens when the Vice-President resigns mid-term

W Premium

Explained: What happens when the Vice-President resigns mid-term

A look at the constitutional process, electoral math, and interim arrangements.

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

Why in News?

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned mid-term, becoming only the third VP in India's history to do so.

Who Performs VP's Duties Now?

- No provision for an acting Vice-President in the Constitution.
- Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha (currently Harivansh Narayan Singh) presides over the House in the VP's absence.

Election Timeline

- No fixed deadline; required “as soon as possible” after vacancy.
- Election Commission announces schedule.
- Poll conducted under the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952.
- Secretary General of either House serves as Returning Officer, by rotation.

Term of New Vice-President

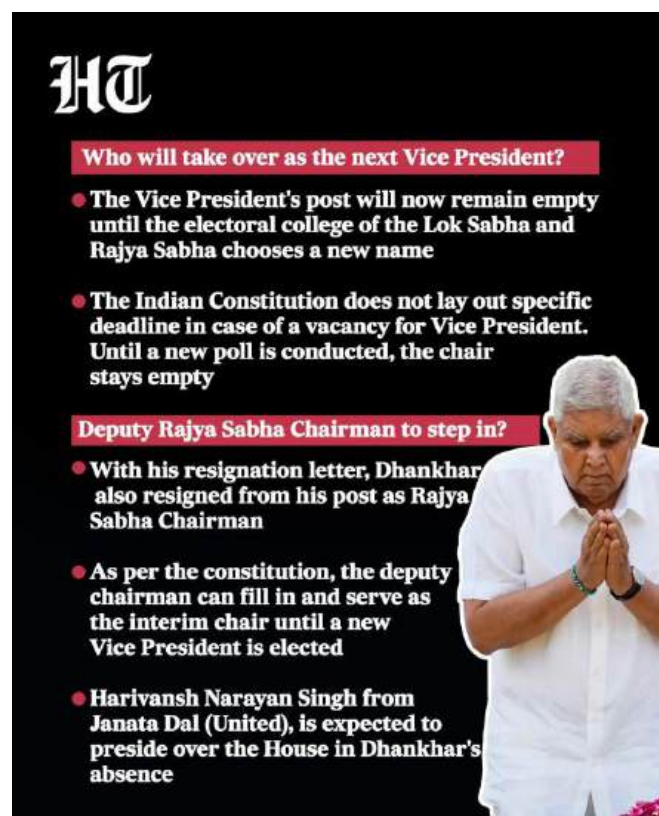
- Elected candidate serves a full five-year term from swearing-in, not just Dhankhar's remaining tenure.


How is VP Elected?

- Elected by both Houses of Parliament, including nominated members (State legislatures do not vote).
- Secret ballot; proportional representation with single transferable vote system.
- MPs rank candidates in order of preference; votes carry equal value.
- Winner must reach a calculated quota; if unmet, lowest-ranked candidate eliminated and votes transferred.
- Process repeats until a candidate meets quota.

Eligibility Criteria


- Must be Indian citizen, at least 35 years old.
- Must qualify for Rajya Sabha, and be a registered elector in any parliamentary constituency.
- Cannot hold an office of profit with central/state government (exceptions: President, Governor, Minister).





When will the elections for VP be held?

- The election for a Vice President usually take place "no later than 60 days" from the expiry of the term of outgoing leader. However, in cases of a resignation, no such deadline exists
- With no fixed deadline in the constitution, the election for the Vice President is required to be held "as soon as possible"
- The elections will be conducted under the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and the schedule will be announced by the Election Commission of India
- Once the schedule is announced, the voting will be held in Parliament House in New Delhi, through a secret ballot. Each MP in both houses casts a vote by ranking candidates in order of preference. The candidate with the highest first-preference votes is elected the VP
- Once a new Vice President is elected, the elected candidate will serve for a full five-year term and will stay in office till 2030, and not just the remainder of Dhankhar's tenure




Who is eligible to become VP?

- As per the Constitution, the candidate must be a citizen of India and at least 35 years of age
- The candidate must also be eligible for a seat in the Rajya Sabha and must not hold any office of profit

Background on Jagdeep Dhankhar

- Jagdeep Dhankhar was elected as the Vice President of India in 2022
- As per reports, the Vice President secured 74.37% of the votes and recorded the highest poll-victory margin since the 1992 election
- Ahead of his tenure as VP, Dhankhar served as the governor of West Bengal from 2019 to 2022
- His term as VP was set to end in 2027



News / Explained / Explained Law / With process to remove Justice Yashwant Varma now likely in Parliament, how impeachment works

With process to remove Justice Yashwant Varma now likely in Parliament, how impeachment works

It is learned that Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla could announce a statutory committee to investigate the matter. How does impeachment differ from the recent in-house inquiry?

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

Why in News?

Parliament likely to initiate removal process for Justice Yashwant Varma after unaccounted cash was found at his Delhi residence in March.



Current Developments

- **Parliamentary Action:** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla expected to announce statutory committee to investigate removal grounds
- **Committee Composition:** Will include one judge each from Supreme Court and High Courts (names to be finalized after consulting CJI)
- **Legal Challenge:** Supreme Court to hear Justice Varma's plea challenging validity of in-house inquiry committee
- **Political Context:** VP Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned after accepting Opposition's removal notice, which government felt upstaged their initiative

Impeachment Process

Constitutional Framework

- **Legal Basis:** Article 124(4) for SC judges, Article 218 extends same to HC judges
- **Grounds:** Only "proved misbehaviour" and "incapacity"
- **Voting Requirement:** 2/3 of "present and voting" + 50% of total membership in both Houses

Procedure Steps

- **Initiation:** Motion by 100+ Lok Sabha members or 50+ Rajya Sabha members
- **Committee Formation:** 3-member inquiry committee (CJI/SC judge + HC Chief Justice + distinguished jurist)
- **Investigation:** Committee frames charges, examines evidence, cross-examines witnesses
- **Report Submission:** Committee submits findings to Speaker/Chairman
- **Parliamentary Vote:** If guilty finding, both Houses vote on removal address to President
- **Final Order:** President issues removal order if Parliament approves

In-House Inquiry Process

Origin & Purpose

- **Established:** 1995 after Justice Bhattacharjee case to address "hiatus between bad behaviour and impeachable misbehaviour"
- **Objective:** Handle misconduct not meeting high impeachment threshold

Seven-Step Process

- **Complaint Receipt:** CJI, HC Chief Justice, or President receives complaint
- **Preliminary Assessment:** CJI can drop or seek preliminary report
- **Inquiry Committee:** 3-member panel (2 HC Chief Justices + 1 HC judge) if deeper probe needed
- **Investigation:** Committee follows natural justice principles
- **Report Findings:** Determines if allegations have substance and warrant removal proceedings
- **Recommendations:** CJI may advise judge or recommend voluntary resignation
- **Final Action:** If judge refuses, work assignment stopped; President and PM informed

Varma Case Outcome

- Committee found "implied responsibility" and "misconduct"
- CJI directed no judicial work assignment
- Led to current parliamentary impeachment process

News / Explained / Explained Global / Kerala HC issues policy for use of AI for judiciary work: What does it say? Why is it significant?

Kerala HC issues policy for use of AI for judiciary work: What does it say? Why is it significant?

With the proliferation of AI tools, the Kerala High Court has come up with guidelines for their use in judiciary. The court has limited the use of such tools, and differentiates between 'general' AI tools and 'approved' AI tools.

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

Why in News?

Kerala High Court became India's first High Court to issue comprehensive guidelines for AI use in judiciary work, limiting AI tools to administrative tasks only.



Key Policy Provisions

- **Core principles:** Transparency, fairness, accountability, and confidential data protection
- **Scope:** Applies to all district judiciary members - judges, clerks, interns, court staff
- **AI tool categories:** Distinguishes between "general" AI tools and "approved" AI tools (only court-approved tools allowed)
- **Strict prohibitions:**
 - Writing/drafting legal judgments, orders, or findings
 - Document translation without judicial verification
 - Unverified research citations
- **Permitted uses:** Administrative tasks like case scheduling and court management (with human oversight)
- **Compliance requirements:**
 - Mandatory training sessions
 - Error reporting to Principal District Court
 - Disciplinary action for violations

Significance

- **Government push:** Centre encouraged AI use in February 2025 to reduce case backlog and speed up justice delivery
- **Legal concerns:** Solicitor General highlighted AI "hallucination" risks in legal research during Karnataka HC proceedings
- **Judicial caution:** Justice M Nagaprasanna warned against over-dependence: "dependency on Artificial Intelligence should not make your intelligence artificial"
- **Precedent:** Previous AI use includes Punjab & Haryana HC using ChatGPT for bail jurisprudence research in 2023, though with disclaimers about not influencing case merits

NEWS IN SHORT: POLITY & GOVERNANCE

International Justice Day – 17th July

- 1) **Alternative name:** World Day for International Justice
- 2) Marks adoption of **Rome Statute 1998** establishing International Criminal Court (ICC)



- 3) **First commemorated:** 2009, after decision at 2010 Review Conference Kampala to mark date yearly
- 4) **Aims:** promote international criminal justice, support ICC, deter war crimes & crimes against humanity

- 5) **Activities:** campaigns by NGOs, bar associations, UN bodies, social-media awareness, public events, panel discussions
- 6) **Theme (2025):** "Justice for All, Leaving No One Behind"
- 7) **Relevance:** highlights accountability, victims' rights, rule-of-law global cooperation

Supreme Court: Legal Status and Recent Judgments on Right to Vote, AI and Copyright

Right to Vote

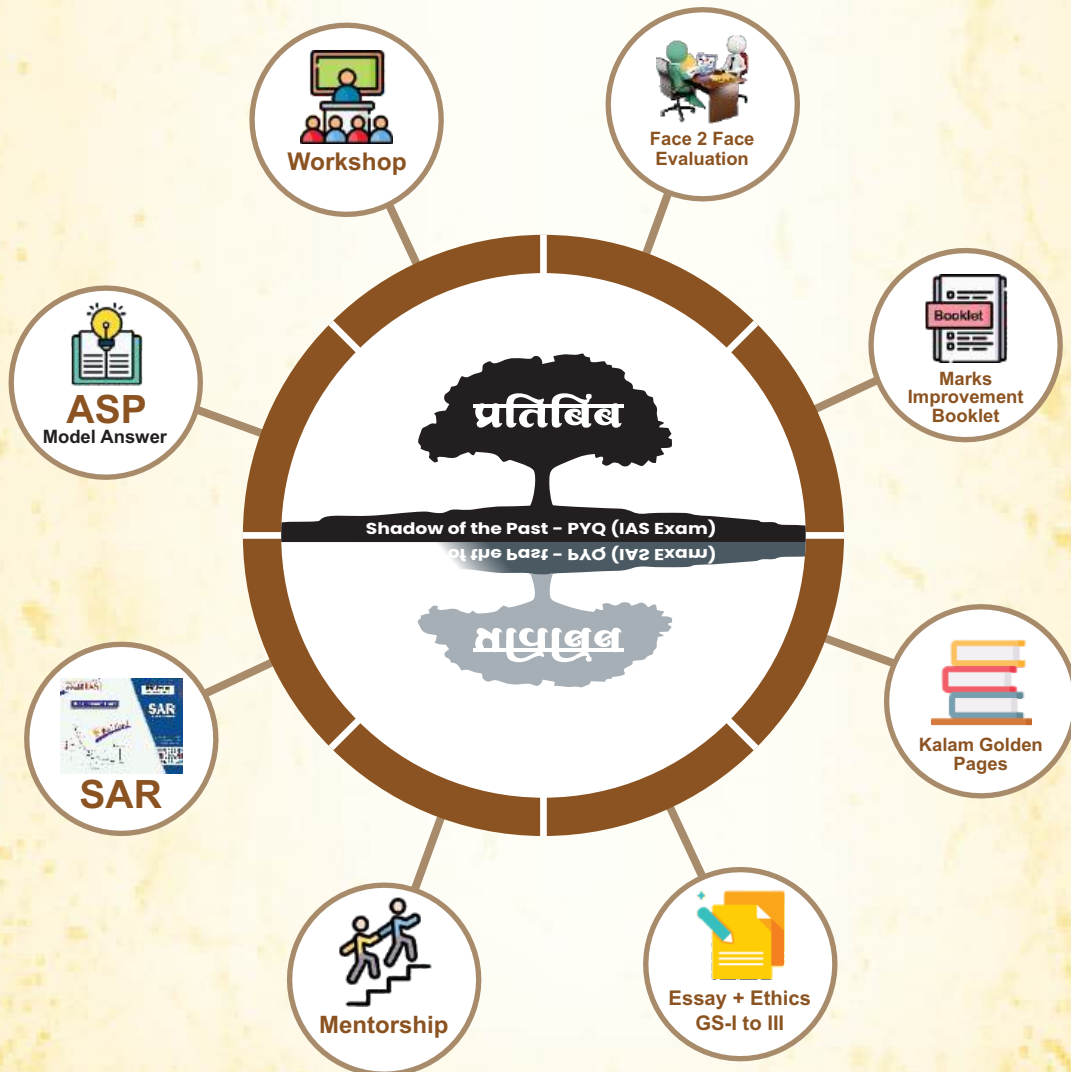
- 1) Right to vote in India is **constitutional right**, not fundamental right; established in **People's Union of Civil Liberties vs Union of India (2003)**
- 2) Supreme Court (2023) called it "paradoxical" that voting right isn't fundamental despite democracy being basic constitutional feature
- 3) **Current cases:** Supreme Court hearing challenges to Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar

Artificial Intelligence and Copyright

- 1) **ANI Media (P) Ltd. v. Open AI Inc (2024):** Landmark ongoing case in Delhi High Court; ANI alleges unauthorized use of copyrighted news content for AI training
- 2) Delhi High Court admitted matter, issued notice to OpenAI; emphasized copyright law lacks explicit AI training exemptions
- 3) **Key legal questions under consideration:**
 - a) Whether AI training data storage constitutes copyright infringement under Section 51
 - b) Whether AI-generated responses using copyrighted data violate exclusive rights
 - c) Whether such use qualifies as "fair use" under Section 52 of Copyright Act, 1957
- 4) **Government response (May 2025):** Ministry of Commerce constituted 8-member expert panel to evaluate Copyright Act for AI challenges
 - a) **DPIIT position (2024):** AI developers must seek authorization for copyrighted content; rejected blanket fair use defense for commercial AI training

Pratibimb PYQ Mentorship Program 2026

An integrated Prelims cum Mains Mentorship Program for Notes Making, Mains Answer Writing and Content Enrichment for UPSC (CSE) Exam 2026 through 10 Years PYQs.



Pratibimb PYQ Mentorship Program 2026



What is Pratibimb Mentorship?

Pratibimb Mentorship Program 2026 is designed to guide and support students aiming for success in the UPSC CSE 2026. Our program adopts a strategic, outcome-focused approach, providing continuous guidance from experienced mentors and UPSC toppers. We help students identify and strengthen their foundational skills, build their knowledge base, and focus on areas for growth by making them solve PYQs.

Highlights of the Programme



Mentorship Program is designed to assist aspirants in making notes & Answer Writing



Essay + Ethics GS-I to III **complete syllabus** coverage in 6 months



Kalam Golden Pages (KGP)
Thematic coverage of Mains syllabus of specified Topics



Marks Improvement Booklet (MIB) to enrich your Mains answer writing.



Face 2 Face Evaluation for Internalization of Personal Feedback



Self-Assessment Report (SAR) is a TOOLKIT for objective assessment of answer on self-basis



Answer Sheet Points (ASP) from Model Answer



Workshop: Learning by doing approach

Salient Features of Mentorship Program

- GS Prelims Syllabus Covered in 150+ Subject Themes
- 23 Prelims Tests = 1100 MCQs (Includes PYQ, CSAT NDA, CDS, CAPF) with solution
- 1 Prelims Tests = 50 (GS) + 5 CSAT Questions
- Static Subject wise Notes, Kalam Golden Pages (KGP)
- K-Snippet 365: Summary of Current Affairs
- SAR: Self-Assessment Report
- 40 Half-Sectional Tests + 5 Essay Tests
- 5 Full Length Tests (after Prelims)
- 1 Half-Sectional Test = 10 Questions
- Content: Kalam Golden Pages & Marks Improvement Booklets (MIB) on Mains Topics (Society, Governance, etc.)
- Answer Writing & Face 2 Face Evaluation
- Mentorship: CSE Selected Candidates

SECTIONAL TESTS

Detailed Test Syllabus & Reference Study Material



Prelims Sectional Tests

SUBJECT	No. of Tests
Polity	5
Economy	3
Agriculture	2
Geography	3
Environment	2
S&T	2
History	4
Full Length Tests	2
Total Tests	23

Mains Sectional Tests

SUBJECT	No. of Tests
Polity & Gover.	5
Economy	3
Agriculture	2
Ethics	7
Essay	5
Society	2
Social Justice	1
IR	2
Security	2
Geography	3
Environment	2
S&T	2
History	4
Full Length Tests	5
Total Tests	45



Other Details

PYQ Answer Writing | Model Answer | Face-to-Face Evaluation

- Batch Starting From: **30th June, 2025**
- Course Completion: **8 Months**
- Mode: **Online/Offline**
- Validity: Till **Mains 2026**
- Test Timing: 5 PM – 6:30 PM

Fee

₹9,500/-

Enroll: <https://bit.ly/4edRmsB>

Concession Details

Kalam IAS Students: 20%	UPSC Interview Student: 30%	Selected Students: 50%
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Society & Social Justice

July 2025

Best of Both Sides: Language forms the basis of culture and identity

If well-being is seen merely as a ladder that is more isolating with each rung, the haves have no reason to engage with anything outside their bubble.

IE Opinion; By Aakash Joshi;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Society & Social Justice

[Link](#)

Why in News?

Recent attacks by Maharashtra Navnirman Sena on migrants highlight the recurring "language imposition" debate in Indian cities.

The Language Question: Beyond Politics

The Real Issue:

- Language lies at root of human identity and culture
- Recent violence against migrants (shopkeepers, workers) by regional parties is symptom of deeper anxiety
- True question: What does migrant owe to host city, and is learning local language inherently desirable?

Two Classes of Migrants:

- **Working class migrants** - Economic refugees from UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, WB who form city's labor backbone
- **Elite migrants** - Software engineers, executives, professors in gated communities whose children attend international schools

Language Adoption Patterns

Working Class Reality:

- Learn local language out of necessity, not choice
- Delhi: Hindi works as lingua franca
- Bengaluru/Chennai: Pick up working knowledge; second generation learns through government schools

Elite Disconnect:

- Live "above the city, not in it"
- English/Hindi sufficient in offices, restaurants, airports
- No incentive to engage with local language/culture

The Kolkata Counter-Example

- Bengali remains dominant despite migrants because elite continues speaking Bengali
- Economic factors: Fewer top-tier opportunities post-liberalization
- Result: Anyone staying 6+ months gains Bengali fluency

The Core Argument

Problem with Current Approach:

- Well-being seen as isolating ladder - higher rungs mean more separation
- Gated community mentality extends to language
- This impoverishes cultures, cities, economies

Solution:

- Learning language opens universes, makes you part of people, not just economic participant
- Migrants can participate in and expand local worldview
- Gates don't just keep others out - they box you in

Best of Both Sides: Language issue is a distraction

Linguistic divisions have got an alarming amount of air time and newsprint, while our garbage-laden streets are sinking in the monsoon

IE Opinion; By Leher Kala;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Society & Social Justice

[Link](#)

Why in News?

Recent viral videos showing language-based confrontations in Bangalore and Mumbai have reignited debates about linguistic divisions across Indian states.

Key Arguments

Language Politics as Manufactured Conflict

- Auto driver in Bangalore demanding passenger speak Kannada, declaring "Bengaluru belongs to Kannadigas"
- MNS members attacking DMart employee in Mumbai for speaking Hindi instead of Marathi
- Videos strategically recorded and shared online to create regional linguistic wars

- False binary promoted: defending your language requires rejecting all others

English as Real Connecting Language

- English remains the language of progress since Independence
- Government business, court work, and transactions require English proficiency
- Every Indian instinctively knows English is key to escaping obscurity
- Home Minister's claim that Indians will feel "ashamed" to speak English is unrealistic
- PayTM founder's example: Hindi-medium education created disadvantages at Delhi College of Engineering

Impracticality of Language Imposition

- Expecting working adults to learn local languages is unfair and impossible
- Learning new languages is painstakingly difficult for most people
- Limited practical benefits of learning regional languages (except avoiding local aggression)
- Local dialects restrict work opportunities to 50km radius
- Cross-state mobility requires moving beyond linguistic boundaries

Real Issues Being Ignored

- Linguistic divisions receiving disproportionate media attention
- Meanwhile, infrastructure problems persist: garbage-laden streets sinking in monsoons
- Language debates distract from serious economic problems
- Focus should be on practical governance issues affecting daily life

The author argues that while respecting local languages through basic courtesies is reasonable, imposing language requirements on workers diverts attention from pressing civic and economic challenges.

The story of Indian women: Empowered and powerless

Educational achievements and financial independence have become a double-edged sword for Indian women

IE Opinion; By Mrinal Pande;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Society [Link](#)

Why in News?

Recent murder of a tennis player by her father and suicide of a student due to sexual harassment highlight the paradox of Indian women's empowerment.



The Double-Edged Sword of Women's Progress

Educational and Financial Independence Creates Backlash:

- Tennis player's father killed her, citing taunts for "living off daughter's income"
- Social media reactions show groups view women's rise as threat to male-dominated system
- Gender politics in India often backlash against women's perceived independence

Recent Incidents:

- Haryana: Tennis player murdered by father who felt emasculated by her success
- Odisha: 20-year-old student self-immolated after college ignored sexual harassment complaints
- Both occurred in BJP-ruled states, leading to political blame game

Political Rhetoric vs. Ground Reality

Empty Promises:

- All parties proclaim support for "nari shakti" while defending perpetrators
- Election manifestos promise subsidies and cash donations
- Reality contradicts political rhetoric about women's empowerment

Systemic Failures:

- Workplace harassment committees often highlight women's powerlessness
- Progressive laws exist but implementation lacks for those without connections
- State intervention typically happens only after serious crimes committed
- Social media influencers promote victim-shaming and prejudice

Daily Discrimination:

- "Laxman rekha" boundaries still limit female ambition

- Women face reminders of societal expectations beyond political celebrations
- Young women learning that empowerment reveals new forms of powerlessness

What National Sports Policy can do for India's athletes

For the first time in our nation's sporting journey, we are embedding science, technology, and evidence-based medicine at the heart of athlete development

IE Opinion; By Dinshaw Pardiwala;

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

Why in News?

Sports medicine expert Dinshaw Pardiwala highlights how India's National Sports Policy 2025 integrates science, technology, and evidence-based medicine into athlete development for the first time.

National Sports Policy 2025

Cabinet approves National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025, a landmark initiative aimed at reshaping the country's sporting landscape and empowering citizens through sports.

- The new policy supersedes the existing National Sports Policy, 2001.
- It lays out visionary and strategic roadmap to establish India as a global sporting powerhouse and strong contender for excellence at international sporting events, including the 2036 Olympic Games.

The policy is anchored on the following key pillars:

- Excellence on the Global Stage
- Sports for Economic Development
- Sports for Social Development
- Sports as a People's Movement
- Integration with Education (NEP 2020)

Key Focus Areas

- **Injury Prevention & Management**
 - Surveillance, prevention, and early intervention systems
 - Essential for athlete longevity and sustained performance
- **Performance Optimization**
 - Biomechanics and performance analytics for training refinement
 - Nutrition and recovery science for marginal gains
 - Mental health and cognitive conditioning support

- **Holistic Athlete Support**
 - Multi-disciplinary approach combining medical and performance expertise
 - Integration of sports science, medicine, and technology as foundational pillars

Infrastructure & Implementation

- **Facility Upgrades**
 - SAI enhancing sports science facilities at regional centres and National Centres of Excellence
 - Bengaluru SAI centre houses best sports science facilities for TOPS athletes
 - New Return to Sports division at Indira Gandhi Stadium, Delhi
- **Medical Support Systems**
 - 10-member medical panel constituted for Paris Olympics 2024
 - First dedicated on-ground medical team for Indian athletes
 - Multi-disciplinary hubs with coaches, physiotherapists, psychologists, surgeons, and data scientists

Technology Integration

- **Performance Monitoring**
 - AI-driven performance analysis and real-time dashboards
 - Training load and recovery metrics monitoring
 - Early intervention and predictive outcome capabilities
- **Innovation & Research**
 - Sports innovation task force and research grants
 - Encouraging educational institutions for interdisciplinary solutions
 - India-specific technology and tool development pipeline
- **Governance Enhancement**
 - Platform upgrades for scheme transparency and efficiency
 - Data-driven monitoring and implementation systems

Ancestral property rights for Adivasi women: Constitution's promise over customary law

Customary laws are important as a bulwark against forceful assimilation and homogenisation. At the same time, as the SC rightly pointed out 'collective ethos of the Constitution' ensures 'that there is no discrimination against women'

IE Opinion;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Social Justice [Link](#)

Why in News?

Supreme Court affirmed on July 17 that tribal women have equal rights to ancestral property, striking down Chhattisgarh High Court's denial.

Key Developments: Case – Ram Charan & Ors. vs. Sukhram & Ors.

SC's Landmark Ruling:

- Court ruled exclusion of tribal women from inheritance rights is discriminatory
- Emphasized Article 14 guaranteeing equality before law
- Stated "customs cannot remain stuck in time" and cannot "deprive others of their right"
- Struck down 2022 Chhattisgarh High Court order denying inheritance based on absence of specific customary law

Case Background:

- Dhaiya, tribal woman from Chhattisgarh, sought partition of maternal grandmother's property since 1992
- Denied multiple times by customary laws, trial courts, and appellate courts
- Represents significant intervention in gender justice debate for tribal communities

Previous Similar Stance:

- December 2022: SC supported tribal woman from Odisha seeking land compensation share
- Court stated tribal daughters entitled to parity with tribal males in succession
- Advised Centre to amend Hindu Succession Act provisions if required

Legal Framework Gaps:

- Hindu Succession Act doesn't apply to Scheduled Tribes
- Indian Succession Act 1925 allows states to exclude tribals
- Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act 1949: Women inherit only if they marry during father's lifetime with ghar-jamai arrangement

Constitutional vs. Customary Law Balance:

- Customary laws serve as bulwark against forceful assimilation
- Constitutional "collective ethos" ensures no discrimination against women
- Court balanced tribal autonomy with gender equality principles

Student suicides in universities are often a product of institutional violence. We must take a stand

The growing number of student suicides and sexual harassment cases across campuses exposes the deep failure of existing redressal systems in public institutions

IE Opinion; By Ganesh Gaigouria and Vidyasagar Sharma;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Social Justice [Link](#)

Why in News?

A 19-year-old woman student's suicide in Odisha has reignited debates about sexual harassment and institutional violence in Indian universities.



Key Issues

Institutional Violence Pattern:

- Cases like Rohith Vemula, Dr Payal Tadvi, R G Kar Medical College reveal repeated institutional failures
- Perpetrators typically hold authority positions or belong to dominant caste groups
- Systematic silencing of women, Dalits, and marginalized communities in universities

Failed Redressal Systems:

- **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC):** Largely symbolic, prioritizes institutional interests over complainants
- **SC/ST Cells:** Lack autonomy, resources, and accountability; limited to bureaucratic formalities
- Both systems fail to provide proactive protection or serious action against perpetrators

Proposed Solutions

Institutional Reforms:

- **Rohith Act:** Ensures legal accountability for caste-based discrimination, includes time-bound redressal and independent grievance committees
- **GSCASH Model:** JNU's participatory, student-inclusive system with autonomy and democratic representation as alternative to ICC

Radical Justice Approach:

- Reimagine educational spaces with emotional and ethical culture foundation
- Transform gender and caste sensitization programs beyond "checkbox ticking"
- Empower marginalized students to speak without fear of retaliation
- Create spaces fostering courage, solidarity, and radical empathy
- Make solidarity legally binding rather than just expressions

Jayant Chaudhary writes: For a stronger education system

PRS survey provides district-level insights, and it is now the responsibility of states, districts, and school systems to translate these findings into granular, need-based interventions

IE Opinion; By Jayant Chaudhary;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Society [Link](#)

Why in News?

Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary discusses PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan (PRS) 2024 results, highlighting India's education system improvements and future reform roadmap.

PRS 2024 Key Findings

- **Scale:** Assessed 21.15 lakh students across 74,229 schools in grades III, VI, and IX
- **Grade III improvements:** Language proficiency rose to 57% (from 39% in 2021), Mathematics to 65% (from 42% in 2021)
- **Rural government schools** outperformed urban/private counterparts in foundational grades
- **Higher grades (VI & IX):** Performance gaps persist, especially in Mathematics and Science
- **Recovery achieved:** India has overcome pandemic learning losses and exceeded previous benchmarks

Assessment Methodology Changes

- **Grade shift:** From V & VIII (earlier surveys) to VI & IX (aligned with NEP 2020)
- **Focus change:** From textbook outcomes to competency-based assessment
- **Comparison validity:** Only Grade III scores comparable across surveys; other grade comparisons methodologically incorrect

Implementation Strategy

- **District-level action:** States must translate PRS insights into targeted local interventions
- **Upcoming initiatives:** Large-scale skills assessment planned to evaluate workforce readiness
- **Goal:** Achieve international education standards and link learning to employability
- **Systematic approach:** Evidence-driven, inclusive education system focused on both academics and skills development

NEWS IN SHORT: SOCIETY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

India's Under-Five Mortality Decline

- 1) Achievement: 78% decline in under-five mortality rate
- 2) Global comparison: Exceeds 61% global reduction
- 3) Neonatal mortality: 70% decline vs 54% globally
- 4) Zero-dose children: Reduced from 0.11% (2023) to 0.06% (2024)
- 5) Program scope: Universal Immunization Programme covers 12 vaccine-preventable diseases
- 6) Annual reach: 2.9 crore pregnant women, 2.6 crore infants
- 7) Vaccine expansion: From 6 vaccines (2013) to 12 vaccines currently
- 8) Data source: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation 2024

National Sports Policy 2025

- 1) Cabinet approved July 1, 2025
- 2) Replaces 2001 policy
- 3) Target: Global sporting powerhouse
- 4) Aims for 2036 Olympics contention
- 5) Five pillars: Excellence, Economic Development, Social Development, People's Movement, Education Integration
- 6) Focus on sports tourism and international events

CABINET DECISION
7 July, 2025

National Sports Policy 2025

Cabinet approves National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025, a landmark initiative aimed at reshaping the country's sporting landscape and empowering citizens through sports.

- The new policy supersedes the existing National Sports Policy, 2001.
- It lays out visionary and strategic roadmap to establish India as a global sporting powerhouse and strong contender for excellence at international sporting events, including the 2036 Olympic Games.

The policy is anchored on the following key pillars:

- Excellence on the Global Stage
- Sports for Economic Development
- Sports for Social Development
- Sports as a People's Movement
- Integration with Education (NEP 2020)




How Divya Deshmukh Bypassed FIDE's Traditional GM Requirements?

- 1) **Divya Deshmukh, 19, won the 2025 FIDE Women's World Cup**, defeating Koneru Humpy, and thus became India's fourth female Grandmaster—without following the usual, tough path to the title.
- 2) **The Grandmaster (GM) is the highest chess title**, awarded by FIDE, and usually requires both:
 - a) Earning **three "GM norms"**—achieving 2600+ tournament performance ratings under strict tournament conditions.
 - b) Reaching a **2500+ FIDE rating** at some point.



- 3) **Direct Title Shortcut:** FIDE's rules allow champions of some major events, like the

Women's World Cup, to **automatically receive the GM title**, skipping all norm and rating requirements.

- 4) Divya **had no GM norms** and her rating was below 2500 before this tournament, but by winning the Women's World Cup—a FIDE-designated qualifying event—she **instantly became a GM**.
- 5) This shortcut is possible only for winners (or top finishers) of certain major events specifically listed by FIDE.
- 6) Divya's win also secured her **\$50,000 prize money** and a spot in the 2026 Candidates Tournament.
- 7) **Her case is rare:** most Grandmasters still earn the title the traditional way, but FIDE's direct-title rules are designed to recognize truly exceptional achievements in top events.

Launch of
Sanchar Mitra Scheme

◀ Empowering university students as digital volunteers ▶
◀ Strengthening the connect between DoT & citizens ▶

26th May 2025 | Monday | 6:30 P.M. onwards

Sanchar Mitra Scheme – DoT

- 1) Pan-India rollout; rural + urban focus
- 2) 1 lakh youth targets as "digital ambassadors"
- 3) Training: cyber-safety, online services, grievance redress
- 4) Stipend ₹6,000 per trainee; 3-month module
- 5) Partners: BSNL, CSC e-Governance, NGOs
- 6) KPI: 90% village broadband adoption rise by 2027

97% of 'Untouchability' Cases Still Pending in Courts



- 1,242 cases under Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act pending in courts as of 2022
- Only 31 cases disposed in 2022; just 1 conviction, 30 acquittals
- Extremely low case registration: only 13 cases filed nationwide in 2022
- Sharp decline from 24 cases (2021) and 25 cases (2020)
- States with cases: J&K (5), Karnataka (5), Maharashtra (2), Himachal Pradesh (1)
- 2019-2021: All 37 disposed cases ended in acquittals

Significance:

- PCR Act enacted 1955 to criminalize untouchability practices
- Severe under-reporting and poor law enforcement evident
- Judicial system struggles with conviction rates

Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 Results Assessment Model Updates

- Revamped evaluation framework introduced
- 10 new assessment parameters added
- Real-time performance dashboard launched

Competition Structure

- Five distinct population categories created
- Fair competition across different city sizes
- Enhanced evaluation methodology

Top Performers

- Indore:** Cleanest city for 8th consecutive time
- Surat:** Secured second position
- Navi Mumbai:** Achieved third rank



Key Features

- Real-time rankings through dedicated dashboard
- Comprehensive performance monitoring
- Integration with broader development goals
- Support for Viksit Bharat 2047 objectives

Impact Areas

- Municipal governance improvements
- Citizen participation enhancement
- Infrastructure development acceleration
- Environmental sustainability promotion

Himachal Pradesh polyandry



Why in News?

Tribal woman married two Hatti brothers in Himachal; media framed it as "polyandry case".

Savarna Gaze Critique

- 1) Dominant caste lens labels tribal customs “odd” to fit news values.
- 2) Historic lenses: Elwin’s isolation vs Ghurye’s assimilation; both erase tribal specificity.
- 3) Media seeks a “victim” narrative in empowered tribal women.

Tribal Marriage Logic

- 1) Shared wife prevents hill-farm land fragmentation.
- 2) Similar fraternal polyandry in Tiyan, Toda, Kota, Khasha, Ladakhi Bota, Lahuli, etc.
- 3) Bride price set by woman; ensures her economic value.
- 4) Women enjoy higher autonomy—free partner choice, no forced marriages.

Vocabulary Gap

- 1) Local term “jajda” (Hatti) reduced to “polyandry”; misses resource-preservation context.
- 2) Garasia “dopa” mislabeled “live-in”; actually a culturally sanctioned union.

Takeaway

Tribal practices need context-rich understanding, not exoticisation through caste-Hindu norms.

International Relations

July 2025

C Raja Mohan writes | Beyond BRICS and the Quad: Forget the grand Design, focus on the mundane

PM's five-nation tour is an opportunity beyond BRICS, Quad. At a turbulent time, Delhi must focus on securing its interests — not an expansive ideological vision

IE Opinion; By C Raja Mohan;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
[Link](#)

Why in News

PM Modi embarks on five-nation tour to Brazil (BRICS summit), Argentina, Trinidad & Tobago, Ghana, and Namibia amid evolving global power dynamics.

Key Arguments

BRICS Limitations

- **Internal contradictions:** Deepening India-China divisions highlight forum's weaknesses
- **Reduced global appeal:** Argentina's President Javier Milei refused to join BRICS
- **Lack of solidarity:** Moscow and Beijing offered no meaningful support to Iran during Israel-US strikes
- **Self-serving behavior:** Russia and China open to bilateral deals with Washington despite anti-American rhetoric

Quad Challenges

- **Trump's demands:** "America First" approach demanding allies spend of GDP on defense creates friction with Australia and Japan
- **Trade-first strategy:** Threatens historic US-Asia security compact
- **China engagement:** Trump's openness to "big beautiful deal" with China undermines Quad's China-balancing purpose
- **Uncertainty:** Recent US-China meetings in Geneva and London suggest major commercial thaw

India's Strategic Evolution

- **Hedging shift:** From hedging against US dominance (early 2000s) through BRICS to hedging against Chinese hegemony through Quad
- **Quad prioritization:** Four-nation grouping more consequential than BRICS since revival

- **Pragmatic approach:** Focusing on imminent bilateral trade deal with US despite "de-dollarization" rhetoric

Regional Concerns

- **China-Pakistan alliance:** Deepening strategic partnership more troubling than Trump's Pakistan outreach
- **Trilateral cooperation:** Emerging Beijing-Dhaka-Islamabad axis
- **Institutional competition:** China creating alternative regional forums outside dysfunctional SAARC

Recommendations

- **Domestic focus:** Accelerate economic reforms and restore political unity
- **Regional leadership:** Reclaim Subcontinent leadership
- **Bilateral engagement:** Strengthen ties with key developing nations through tangible cooperation
- **Pragmatic priorities:** Focus on **national resilience and state capability** over grand ideological pronouncements

The BRICS Declaration reflects a united stand of the Global South

For India watchers, the issue in question was what kind of formulation would there be on terrorism. The leaders condemned, in the strongest terms, the terror attack in J&K that took place on April 22

IE Opinion; By Mohan Kumar
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
[Link](#)

Why in News?

BRICS leaders produced a unified 125-paragraph declaration at Rio Summit despite expanded diverse membership, demonstrating Global South unity on major global issues.

Summit Overview

- **Location & Date:** Rio de Janeiro, July 6-7, 2025, under Brazil's chairmanship
- **Timing:** First summit after Trump's second tenure began

- **Expanded Membership:** First summit with new members - Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, UAE
- **Attendance:** Key leaders Xi Jinping and Putin absent; several new member leaders sent representatives

- Reflects multipolar world emergence as acknowledged by US Secretary Marco Rubio
- Shows Global South solidarity on major international issues
- Strong plainspeak declaration despite key leader absences



DIS/AGREE
 THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

After the BRICS summit, a question: Do multilateral institutions serve India's interest in a changing world order?

A weekly column, which offers not this-versus-that, but the best of both sides, to inform the debate

IE Opinion; By Pankaj Saran; Surupa Gupta;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
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Key Declaration Points

Trade & Economic Issues

- Criticized unilateral tariffs distorting trade (indirect reference to US)
- No explicit mention of dollar replacement despite Trump's pre-summit warnings
- Subtle criticism of EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism
- Called for WTO reform and dispute settlement restoration

International Relations

- **UN Reform:** China-Russia supported greater role for Brazil-India in Security Council (short of explicit permanent membership endorsement)
- **Ukraine:** Recalled national positions while supporting UN Charter principles, favored diplomacy
- **Middle East:** Strong pro-Palestinian stance - condemned Israeli attacks, called for immediate ceasefire, endorsed independent Palestinian state

Terrorism

- Condemned J&K terror attack (April 22) in strongest terms
- Referenced cross-border terrorism and terror financing (victory for India against Pakistan)
- Strengthens India's FATF case

Other Issues

- Produced separate statements on climate finance and AI governance
- Supported G20 as premier economic forum, backed South African presidency

Significance

- Demonstrated greater unity than G7 despite diverse membership

Why in News?

Post-BRICS summit debate on whether multilateral institutions serve India's interests in a changing world order.

View 1: Pro-BRICS Perspective (Pankaj Saran)

India Should Stay in Multilateral Institutions

- **US decline not BRICS' fault:** Western policies outsourced manufacturing to China, made it global manufacturing hub



- **China's rise predates BRICS:** US-led West handed China economy's fate after 2008 financial crisis
- **India faces Western policy backlash:** Receiving end of Western partners' China-centric policies
- **Trump attacks all allies:** Threatens EU, Japan, Korea equally; democracy no longer binding factor

- **BRICS expansion reflects global dissatisfaction:** Rapid growth shows world wants alternatives to current order

India's Global South Identity

- **Embedded in Global South:** India philosophically and practically belongs to Global South
- **Multiple coalitions necessary:** India needs presence in BRICS, SCO, RIC, IBSA until genuine participation in global governance
- **Transition phase strategy:** Work with US-led order while preparing for power shift
- **Scale of transformation:** Affects one-sixth of humanity, requires broad international engagement

Practical Considerations

- **Internal divisions exist:** BRICS has modest achievements, different member orientations
- **Won't facilitate yuan dominance:** India unlikely to replace dollar with Chinese yuan
- **US weaponizing dollar:** Forcing nations to hedge against unpredictability
- **No guarantee of G7 entry:** Walking out of BRICS won't ensure Western club membership

View 2: Anti-BRICS Perspective (Surupa Gupta)

BRICS as China's Playground

- **Economic asymmetry:** China's GDP (\$17.79 trillion) nearly five times India's (\$3.56 trillion)
- **Beijing drives agenda:** Uses economic leverage to promote de-dollarisation, membership expansion
- **Limited Indian influence:** Cannot exert significant influence due to China's dominance
- **China wins in global governance:** Secured deputy managing director position at IMF

India's Compromised Positions

- **Global South leadership constrained:** Difficult to claim leadership mantle within China-dominated organization
- **De-dollarisation dilemma:** India conflicted due to strong US trade ties, Trump's tariff threats
- **New Development Bank shaped by China:** Beijing leverages economic power to bolster Belt and Road Initiative
- **Terrorism stance compromised:** BRICS declaration condemned Pahalgam attack but didn't criticize Pakistan's cross-border terrorism

Alternative Strategy Recommended

- **Bilateral ties more effective:** Easier to create leadership narrative outside China-dominated forums

- **Early benefits diminishing:** BRICS initially helped India's global profile, now constrains foreign policy objectives
- **Reevaluation needed:** Indian leaders should reconsider BRICS utility as China grows more assertive
- **Focus on China-free blocs:** Better to work in institutions where China absent

BRICS signals strong Global South, less dependence on West

India seeks to keep the bloc constructive, rather than confrontational

IE Opinion; By Soumya Bhowmick;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
[Link](#)

Why in News?

BRICS leaders issued the Rio Declaration 2025 signaling ambitious reforms to reduce Western dependence while India prepares to chair the bloc in 2026.



BRICS Rio Declaration 2025

- **Institutional Reform Goals**
 - Modernize UN Security Council, IMF, World Bank to reflect emerging economies' weight
 - Grant developing world greater voice in global governance
 - Aims to modernize, not dismantle existing global order
- **Expanded Coalition Power**
 - Represents 40%+ world population, significant global GDP
 - New members: Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, UAE
 - Enhanced leverage over energy markets and critical supply chains

- **Development Focus**
 - Climate action without stifling development
 - Women's digital inclusion initiatives
 - Knowledge sharing in AI, critical minerals, green technology
 - Endorsed Tropical Forest Forever Fund for COP30

Reducing Western Dependence

- **Financial Alternatives**
 - Trading in local currencies
 - Payment systems outside dollar-dominated networks
 - Strengthening New Development Bank (NDB)
 - BRICS cross-border payments system proposals
 - Expanded Contingent Reserve Arrangement

India's Strategic Balancing

- **Global South Advocacy**
 - Platform for UN reform demands
 - Support for counterterrorism (condemned Pahalgam attack)
 - Infrastructure finance alignment with national interests
- **Western Ties Dilemma**
 - \$130 billion trade with US (2024)
 - Technology sharing, defense cooperation
 - Vital partnerships in semiconductors, renewable energy
- **China Complications**
 - Lingering mistrust post-2020 border clashes
 - Trade deficit concerns
 - Strategic tensions over Pakistan ties, territorial disputes

India's 2026 Chairmanship Challenge

- **Key Objectives**
 - Steer toward tangible outcomes over ideological posturing
 - Transform BRICS into practical development engine
 - Focus on African infrastructure, digital public goods
- **Balancing Act**
 - Harmonize multipolar aspirations with Western ties

- Ensure BRICS serves as bridge, not divider in global geopolitics
- Navigate internal complexities among diverse member interests

News / Explained / Explained Economics / Conflict in Middle East: As world watches oil, why India must watch its fertiliser supply

Conflict in Middle East: As world watches oil, why India must watch its fertiliser supply

Fertiliser is a quieter and less visible crisis, but it hits directly at the heart of food production, making it a national stability issue, experts warn.

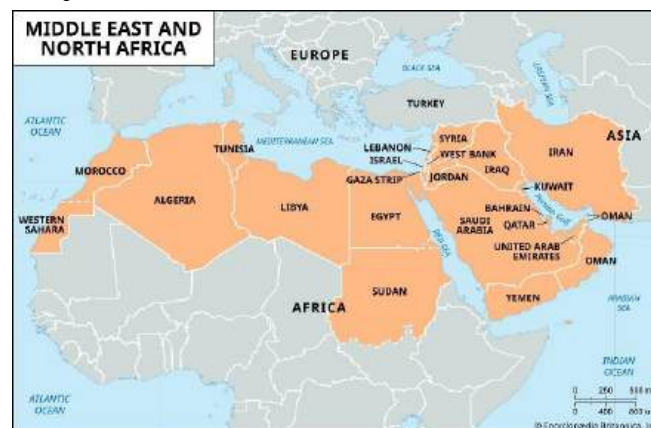
IE Explained; By Anju Agnihotri Chabe;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
[Link](#)

Why in News

Iran-Israel conflict threatens India's fertilizer supply chain, creating potential food security crisis as the country imports 20-25% of its fertilizers from Gulf countries.

India's Fertilizer Vulnerability

- **Heavy import dependence:** India imports 20% urea, 60% DAP, and 100% MOP fertilizers
- **Middle East reliance:** 20-25% of total fertilizer imports from Gulf countries (Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman)
- **Critical shipping route:** Most imports travel through Strait of Hormuz - vulnerable to regional conflicts
- **Production capacity gap:** In 2021-22, India produced 435.95 LMT but consumed 579.67 LMT of chemical fertilizers



Most Vulnerable Fertilizer Types

- **Urea and DAP:** Significant share from Gulf suppliers, immediate risk from shipping disruptions
- **Natural gas:** Key raw material for urea production, sourced from Middle East
- **MOP:** 100% imported from Canada, Belarus, and Israel - Israel conflict adds complexity
- **Price impact:** Fertilizer costs rising due to Middle East tensions affecting global markets

Critical Preparedness Gaps

- **No strategic reserves:** Companies maintain only 30-45 days operational stock, unlike oil/food reserves
- **Limited buffer:** Any international disruption quickly translates to domestic shortages during sowing seasons
- **Reactive policy:** System remains reactive rather than forward-looking, responding to crises instead of anticipating them
- **Lessons unlearned:** Despite Russia-Ukraine war disruptions, India lacks fertilizer buffer stock policy

Self-Reliance Challenges

- **Raw material dependence:** Lacks domestic phosphate and potash reserves, depends on imported raw materials
- **Infrastructure issues:** Old, energy-inefficient plants and distribution delays from ports to farms
- **Limited diversification:** Narrow supplier base makes sector vulnerable to recurring global conflicts
- **Alternative fertilizers:** Nano, bio, and organic fertilizers yet to scale meaningfully

Farmer Protection Mechanisms

- **Subsidy system:** Urea fully subsidized at fixed MRP, but DAP/MOP under nutrient-based subsidy scheme
- **Partial protection:** Rising global prices can increase retail costs for farmers, especially for DAP/MOP
- **Small farmer impact:** Limited relief through PM-KISAN as it's not linked to rising input costs
- **Fiscal burden:** Government absorbs price shocks, fertilizer subsidy bill continues rising

Strategic Solutions Required

Immediate Measures

- Build strategic fertilizer reserves similar to oil/food reserves
- Diversify supplier base beyond Middle East dependencies
- Strengthen long-term supply agreements with reliable partners

Medium-term Strategy

- **Domestic production:** Target 90% urea self-sufficiency by 2025 through plant revivals
- **International partnerships:** Equity stakes in Morocco's OCP (70% global phosphate reserves), Canada for potash
- **Alternative shipping:** Develop alternate routes to de-risk from Strait of Hormuz disruptions

Long-term Vision

- Treat fertilizer security as national security matter like oil
- Shift focus from cost-effectiveness to supply resilience
- Develop incentives for farmers to adopt alternative fertilizers

Potential 2025 Impact

- **Crop seasons at risk:** DAP disruptions may delay wheat sowing in Punjab, UP, Bihar
- **Shipping bottlenecks:** Red Sea/Strait of Hormuz disruptions could cause MOP shortages affecting cotton, sugarcane
- **Fiscal pressure:** Fertilizer subsidy bill may exceed Rs 2.5 lakh crore
- **Farmer behavior:** Possible fertilizer use reduction or crop shifts, potential unrest

C Raja Mohan writes: Old Delhi, new Washington

Trump's unilateralism – on tariffs, alliances and migration – demands a deeper understanding of domestic forces shaping it.

IE Opinion; By C Raja Mohan;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
[Link](#)

Why in News?

Trump sent tariff letters to Asian allies like Japan and South Korea while India may secure an interim trade agreement soon.

America as "Rogue Superpower"

- Trump's second term shows less constraints with near-total political dominance

- Shift from traditional global leadership vs isolationism to third path: rogue superpower
- Abandoning global stewardship, scorning multilateral institutions
- Pursuing brutally transactional interests
- Trump as catalyst, not source, of deeper structural transformation

Structural Advantages Enabling Unilateralism

- Young, growing population with strong consumer demand and economic resilience
- Technological leadership in AI, robotics, automation enabling manufacturing reshoring
- Energy self-sufficiency
- Less export-dependent while world depends heavily on US consumers
- Economic asymmetry as powerful leverage to reshape global order

Domestic Political Backing (MAGA Movement)

- Opposes globalization, views it as betraying American workers
- Considers security alliances as burden
- Resents "endless wars" fought for global leadership
- Prioritizes border defense over defending distant allies
- \$37 billion ICE budget (nearly half of India's defense budget)

Continued US Economic Dominance

- US GDP ~\$30 trillion vs China's \$20 trillion
- Projected 3% annual growth will widen gap further
- China unlikely to overtake US this decade

India's Navigation Strategy

- Recognizes need for major intellectual and policy adaptation
- Actively negotiating trade agreement with Washington
- Managing Trump's anti-immigration agenda
- Maintaining composure despite provocative White House statements
- Engaging broader US establishment beyond presidency
- Intensifying engagement with other powers through BRICS

- Prioritizing bilateral deals over multilateral grandstanding

India's Key Shortcomings

- Limited appreciation of how US domestic politics reshapes foreign policy
- Needs wider engagement within American political system
- Requires more diverse American experts who can:
 - Explain America's own move away from liberalism
 - Illuminate Trump's harsh criticism of traditional allies
 - Unpack Trump's reasons for sparing Russia from tariff wars
- Needs greater intellectual investment in American affairs study at home

News / Explained / As PM Modi lands in Namibia, this is why the country, and the continent of Africa, matters to India

As PM Modi lands in Namibia, this is why the country, and the continent of Africa, matters to India

India and Namibia share an old relationship of trust and friendship. There is great potential for a mutually beneficial energy security and critical minerals partnership. India has important stakes in the African continent as a whole, where it hopes to deepen ties of trade, development, and security and energy cooperation.

IE Opinion; By Tabshir Shams;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
[Link](#)

Why in News?

PM Modi arrives in Namibia on July 9, 2025, marking the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the resource-rich nation in almost three decades.



Historical Ties

- India raised Namibia's independence question in UN General Assembly in 1946
- First SWAPO embassy established in New Delhi in 1986
- India provided material assistance and military training during liberation struggle
- Sam Nujoma (founding President) visited India 11 times
- Last Indian PM visit: Atal Bihari Vajpayee in August 1998
- Former President Pranab Mukherjee visited in 2016

Strategic Importance

- **Critical Minerals:** Namibia is world's third-largest uranium producer; major producer of lithium, zinc, rare earth metals
- **Economic Partnership:** Two-way trade \$654 million (April-November 2023), 178% growth; India's exports \$418 million, imports \$235 million
- **Investment:** India invested \$800 million in Namibia, mainly in mineral resources and diamond processing
- **Development Cooperation:**
 - \$12 million grant for 'India Wing' at University of Namibia
 - Training under ITEC program for defense, diplomats, health officials
 - 30,000 Covishield vaccines provided in March 2021
 - Drought relief assistance (rice donations in 2017, 2019)
- **Cheetah Diplomacy:** 8 cheetahs translocated from Namibia to India in 2022

India vs China in Africa

- **China:** Largest bilateral trading partner (\$200+ billion trade), uses BRI and FOCAC frameworks, concerns over debt traps
- **India:** Fourth largest trading partner (\$100 billion trade in 2023), 10th largest FDI source, completed 206 infrastructure projects in 43 countries
- **India's Approach:** Humanitarian focus on "Africans - every man, woman and child"; emotional bonds over strategic concerns
- **India's Initiatives:** African Union became G20 permanent member under India's presidency; SAGAR initiative; AF-INDEX defense exercise

News / Explained / Explained Climate / What is the European Union's CBAM, and why has BRICS condemned and rejected it?

What is the European Union's CBAM, and why has BRICS condemned and rejected it?

Europe's carbon border tax is an import duty on a product manufactured in a country that has more lax climate rules than the EU. The ostensible purpose is to check 'carbon leakage', but the tax makes items like steel or cement manufactured in countries like India more expensive, and thus less competitive, in European markets.

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

Why in News?

BRICS nations condemned and rejected EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms at their Rio de Janeiro summit on July 7, 2025.

What is CBAM?

- **Definition:** Import duty imposed by EU on goods produced in countries with higher carbon emissions than EU standards
- **Purpose:** Prevent "carbon leakage" - companies relocating to countries with lax emission rules
- **Timeline:** Transitional phase 2023-2025, full implementation from 2026
- **Coverage:** Iron, steel, cement, fertilizer, aluminum, electricity generation
- **Mechanism:** EU importers buy carbon certificates equivalent to carbon price under EU rules
-

EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism simplified illustration



Why BRICS Opposes CBAM?

- **Trade Barrier:** Makes developing country exports (like Indian steel/cement) more expensive and less competitive in EU markets
- **Legal Violations:**
 - Violates Paris Agreement protection for developing countries
 - Contradicts WTO rules on fair trade

- Ignores climate differentiation principle for developing nations
- **Economic Impact:** Hurts export competitiveness of China, India and other developing economies
- **Unfair Advantage:** Benefits developed countries with similar emission standards while disadvantaging developing nations

Developing Countries' Resistance

- **BASIC Group:** China, India, Brazil, South Africa consistently opposed since COP27
- **International Forums:** Raised concerns at climate conferences (COP28, COP29)
- **Formal Protests:** Delayed COP29 opening plenary by several hours over discussion demands
- **Solidarity Call:** United response against "unfair shifting of responsibilities"

Other Climate Trade Measures

- **EU Impact:** Covers 15% of global imports, likely to expand to more products
- **Similar Policies:** UK and Canada considering their own versions
- **Non-tariff Measures:**
 - Bans on illegally harvested forest products
 - US Inflation Reduction Act incentives
 - Energy security-driven protectionism

Trump 2.0 is upending US ties. De-coupling may be hard – de-risking is necessary

In Asia, the challenge is harder. Unlike Europe, regional institutions remain underdeveloped, and the gap between Chinese power and its neighbours is vast

IE Opinion; By C Raja Mohan;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
[Link](#)

Why in news?

Trump's second-term tariffs and foreign-policy shocks have pushed US allies and partners to hedge and "de-risk" their over-dependence on Washington.

Allies recalibrate

- EU hit with 30% tariff; Macron urges "strategic autonomy" and deeper Franco-British defence, tech and climate cooperation.
- UK's Starmer tilts back toward Europe, tempering the "special relationship".

- Japan faces 25% tariff; PM Ishiba vows no "easy concessions" and seeks reduced reliance on the US despite \$1 tn investment pledge.
- Australia's Albanese champions an "Australia-first" approach while courting China and regional partners.

De-risking, not decoupling

- Allies still need US markets, technology and security guarantees, so outright rupture is unlikely.
- Europe explores joint nuclear planning and faster EU defence integration; Asia boosts intra-regional cooperation and engages the EU to balance China.

India's stance

- Long-practised **strategic autonomy** makes Delhi less shaken; it resumes FTA talks with Washington yet stays ready to walk away.
- Remains one of few major partners not hit by new US tariffs so far, but prepares for possible surprises before the August 1 deadline.

News / Explained / Explained Global / Has the Indus Waters Treaty been fair to India, and what is the way forward: An Expert Explains

Has the Indus Waters Treaty been fair to India, and what is the way forward: An Expert Explains

Indus Waters Treaty India Pakistan, Indus waters treaty explained: Uttam Kumar Sinha, one of India's leading experts on transboundary water issues, explains the terms of the Indus Waters Treaty, what keeping it 'in abeyance' means, and what India has to focus on while renegotiating it.

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

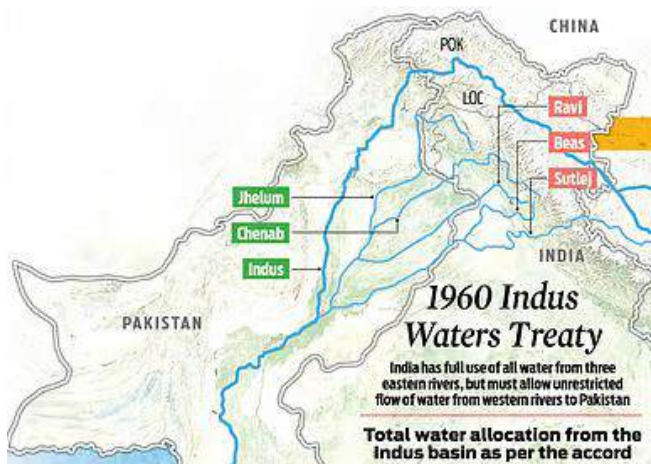
Why in news?

India has put the Indus Waters Treaty "in abeyance" after the Pahalgam attack and wants renegotiation; Pakistan now signals willingness to talk.

Did the IWT treat India fairly?

- **Water share imbalance**
 - Pakistan gets western rivers' flow of about 135.6 MAF, over four times the 32.6 MAF eastern flow for India.
- **Indian entitlements under-used**
 - Allowed 3.6 MAF storage on western rivers; only about 0.8 MAF built.

- Permitted domestic, irrigation and hydropower uses largely unrealised due to Pakistani objections.
- **Dispute process skewed**
 - Three-tier mechanism lets Pakistan push issues to global fora, delaying Indian projects.
- **Changed context**
 - Demographics, technology, energy and climate realities differ vastly from 1960.



Meaning of ‘in abeyance’

- No water blockade; India will fully exercise treaty-allowed rights and can conduct sediment-flushing releases.
- Sends a signal that cooperation is paused pending new terms.

India’s renegotiation priorities

- Shift to **purely bilateral dispute resolution**.
- Insert **modern dam-design flexibility**.
- Clarify and expand **storage, hydropower, irrigation rights** on western rivers.
- Add **climate-change and glacial-melt clauses**.
- Prevent misuse of security issues to stall Indian projects.

Wider strategic angles

- **China factor**: no current dams on Indus; bigger worry is future Brahmaputra projects—India should build capacity and partner Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh.
- **Domestic follow-through**: accelerate western-river projects, boost storage and improve basin management to realise treaty benefits.

Pratap Bhanu Mehta writes: Hyper nationalism prevents our foreign policy from asking tough questions

India is rightly concerned, and is somewhat shocked, that it lost the diplomatic high ground after Operation Sindoor

IE Opinion; By Pratap Bhanu Mehta;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations

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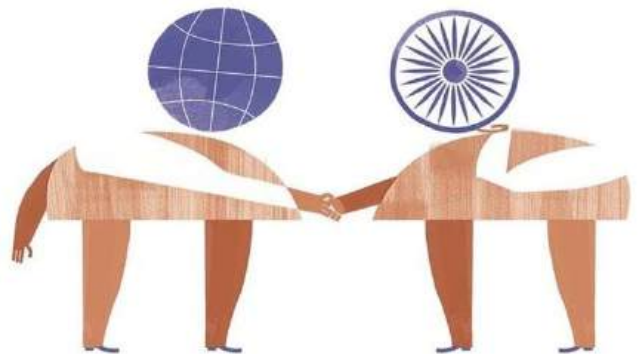
Why in News?

India lost diplomatic high ground after Operation Sindoor, receiving only boilerplate condemnations rather than expected international support against terrorism.

India's Diplomatic Predicament

Core Problems:

- Hyper-nationalism prevents objective foreign policy assessment
- MEA diplomats handicapped by political leadership's decisions
- Daily focus on tactical matters and image management over strategic thinking
- Refusal to confront how India appears to adversaries



Four Reasons for Moral Positioning Failure

Balochistan Operations:

- Security establishment brags about using Balochistan crisis against Pakistan
- Muddies waters about proxy use and religious targeting
- World connects Balochistan and Kashmir violence

Nuclear Escalation Concerns:

- Global worry about accidents between nuclear powers
- Trump's concern reflects world view that India-Pakistan conflict creates global problems

- War makes India lose moral high ground internationally

Inconsistent Moral Stance:

- India dismissed Ukraine as Europe's problem, not principle-based issue
- World now views terrorism as India's problem, not theirs
- Nuclear accident risk is their actual concern

Lost Global South Credibility:

- Silence on Gaza genocide while obsessing over terrorism
- Botched operations targeting Khalistan activists in Canada/US
- No open domestic discussion on war facts damages credibility

False Realism in Foreign Policy

Misguided Approach:

- Current realism is inversion of past policy, not actual world assessment
- Fantasy of transcending South Asian context led to neighborhood losses
- Excessive US courting portrayed as strength, actually shows lack of confidence

US Relationship Issues:

- Pro-America lobby lacks confidence in building India's own strengths
- Fantasy that US deals will solve domestic reform, China security, global standing
- Prevents seeing American project as global dominance requiring resistance

Core Problem:

- Leadership believes their own propaganda lies rather than confronting reality
- Establishment has lost touch with objective assessment of India's position

For India-South Africa maritime partnership to work, it needs to go beyond symbolism

India has emerged as a confident regional power with growing economic clout, a robust defence manufacturing sector. By contrast, years of economic stagnation, underinvestment in defence, and a declining shipbuilding sector have weakened South Africa's maritime capabilities

IE Opinion; By Graham Sherbut and Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations

[Link](#)

Why in News?

India and South Africa signed submarine cooperation agreements during their 9th Joint Defence Committee meeting in Johannesburg, marking a shift from symbolic ties to operational maritime partnership.



Unequal Partnership

• India's Strengths:

- Confident regional power with growing economic clout
- Robust defence manufacturing (INS Vikrant, Visakhapatnam-class destroyers)
- Clear maritime strategy through MAHASAGAR vision
- Expanding naval footprint across Africa's Indian Ocean rim
- Sustained political will under Modi administration

• South Africa's Weaknesses:

- Economic stagnation and chronic budget constraints
- Declining shipbuilding sector and underinvestment in defence
- Weakened maritime capabilities despite strategic location at Indian-Atlantic Ocean junction
- Political instability with ANC-Democratic Alliance coalition
- Focus on domestic issues over external security partnerships

Key Challenges

• Political Divergences:

- India prioritizes defence modernisation consistently
- South Africa faces fragmented leadership and coalition politics
- Domestic priorities overshadow external security commitments

• Strategic Differences:

- India views Indian Ocean as central to its future
- South Africa sees maritime security as important but not existential
- Different levels of ambition for operational cooperation

• Implementation Gaps:

- Risk of symbolic gestures over substantive commitments
- South Africa may struggle to match India's material and political investment
- Potential relegation to junior partner status

Outlook

- **Potential:** Strengthen Indian Ocean security, boost anti-piracy capabilities, counter China's naval expansion
- **Requirements:** Both countries must move beyond symbolic gestures to concrete action
- **Risk:** Partnership may remain aspirational without sustained follow-through from both sides

India, China and the Brahmaputra front

After inauguration of China's new project on Brahmaputra, India's plans to build storage facilities on the river must acquire urgency.

IE Opinion;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations

[Link](#)

Why in News?

China started construction of massive \$170 billion hydropower project on Yarlung Zangbo river upstream of India.

China's Hydropower Project

- **Project scale:** \$170 billion investment generating 60 GW electricity (3x Three Gorges Dam capacity)
- **Location:** Yarlung Zangbo river before entering Arunachal Pradesh as Siang
- **Purpose:** Linked to Beijing's developmental goals in Tibetan region

Risks for India

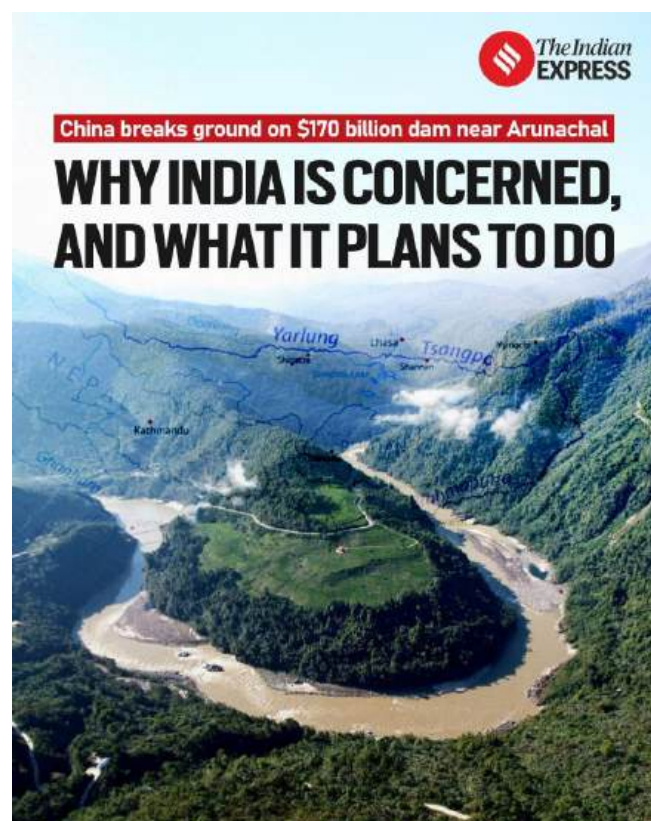
- **Flood threats:** Arunachal CM calls it "ticking water bomb" due to flow manipulation risks
- **Unknown capacity:** Project's storage capacity details not shared, increasing concerns
- **Hydropower impact:** Could disrupt Northeast's hydro projects (region holds 50% India's potential, 80% untapped)
- **Water security:** Risks from sudden releases, climate discharge, or engineering errors

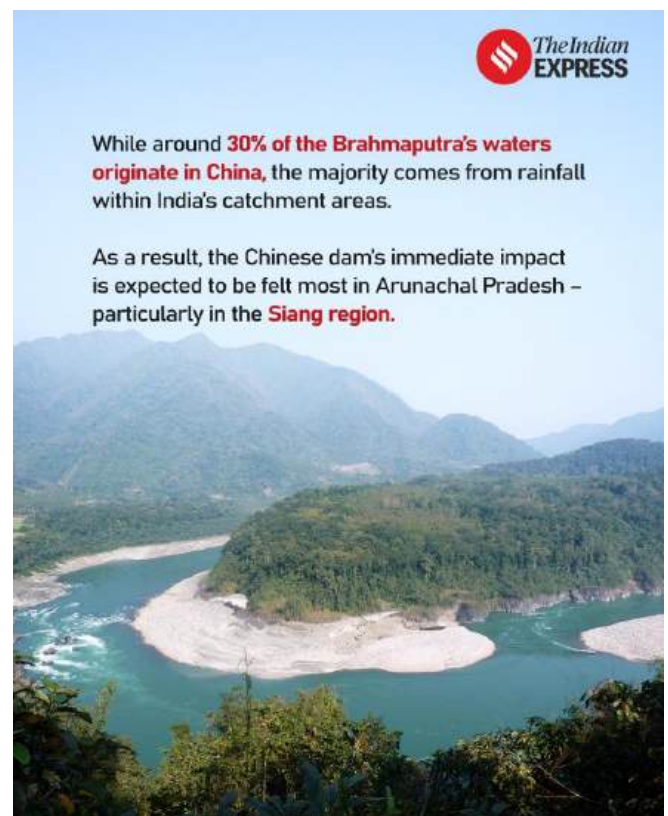
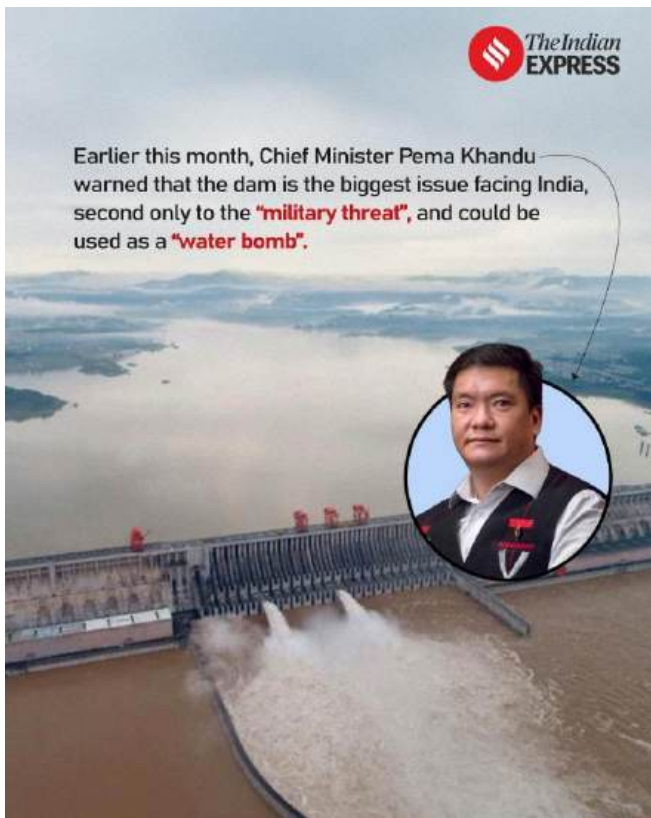
India's Response Strategy

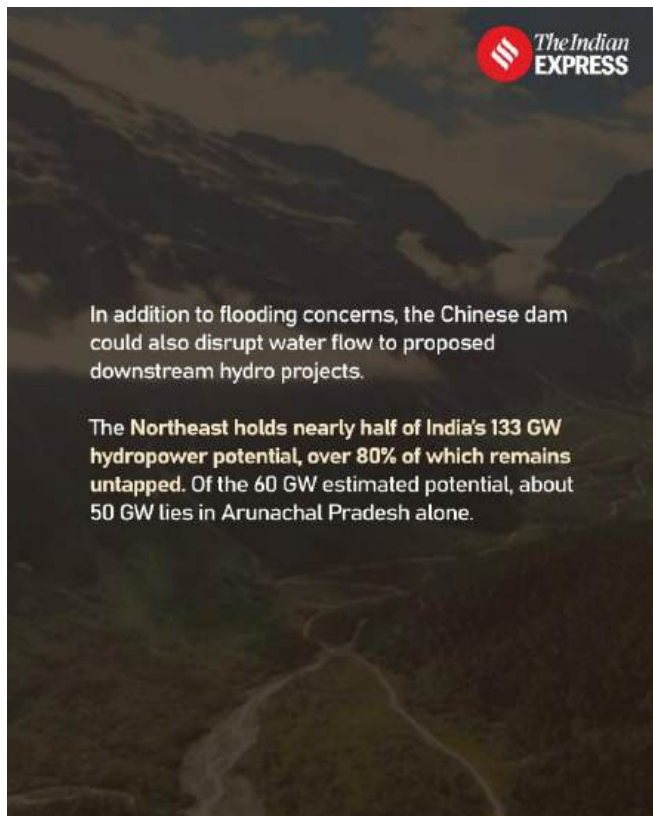
- **Siang counter-project:** 2017 Niti Aayog proposal for multipurpose dam as strategic response
- **Dual purpose:** Generate electricity + provide flood cushion against Chinese releases
- **Progress delays:** Local opposition due to displacement and livelihood fears
- **Data sharing:** 2013 MoU exists but China not consistently sharing hydrological data

Current Challenges

- **Local resistance:** Community opposition to Siang project over displacement concerns
- **Slow implementation:** NHPC assigned pre-feasibility report but vital investigations incomplete
- **Urgent need:** Building storage facilities downstream cannot be postponed
- **Stakeholder alignment:** Political class and experts must address local apprehensions with safeguards







News / Explained / Explained Economics / UK trade deal: India gains big in food, footwear, textile; to cut tariffs in auto, liquor

UK trade deal: India gains big in food, footwear, textile; to cut tariffs in auto, liquor

New Delhi extracted enhanced market access in export-oriented sectors such as marine and animal products, including seafood, dairy, and meat products, with tariffs reduced to zero from up to 20 per cent.

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

Why in News?

India and UK signed a comprehensive free trade agreement after 18 years of negotiations, with India securing major market access gains in textiles, food, and marine products while opening its automobile and liquor sectors.

Key Benefits for India

- **Textiles & Manufacturing:** UK to eliminate duties up to 20% on textiles, footwear, gems & jewellery, marine products
- **Food Sector:** 99.7% tariff lines in India's food sector get duty elimination; tariffs reduced from up to 70% to zero

- **Marine Products:** Enhanced access for seafood, dairy, meat products with tariffs cut from 20% to zero
- **Overall Trade:** India benefits from tariff elimination on 99% of tariff lines covering nearly 100% of trade value
- **Services:** Social security pact to avoid double contributions for Indian professionals in UK



Key Concessions by India

- **Alcohol Imports:** First-time duty cuts for UK spirits - customs duty reduced from 150% to 75% over 10 years for premium products meeting \$5-6 price threshold
- **Automobile Sector:** Tariffs on UK cars reduced from 110% to 10%
- **Public Procurement:** UK firms get Class Two status under 'Make in India' requiring only 20-50% domestic value addition - most generous FTA concession to date
- **Intellectual Property:** India allows voluntary licensing preference over compulsory licensing for UK patent holders

Background & Timeline

- **Origins:** Negotiations began in 2007 when UK was part of EU but failed due to steep European demands
- **Revival:** Post-2019 after India withdrew from RCEP over China concerns
- **Delays:** Multiple missed deadlines including Boris Johnson's Diwali deadline; deal materialized after Keir Starmer's victory in May 2025
- **Current Trade:** Bilateral trade at \$21.34 billion (2023-24); India's exports \$14.5 billion, imports \$8.6 billion (2024-25)

India-UK Free Trade Agreement: A \$34 billion game-changer for exports and employment

Lower tariffs, greater job opportunities, and smoother investment flows mark a new chapter in bilateral relations, reflects the government's strong commitment to boosting exports as part of its broader effort to integrate the Indian economy into global supply chains

IE Explained; By Madan Sabnavis;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations

[Link](#)

Why in News?

India and the UK signed a Comprehensive Economic & Trade Agreement (CETA) on 24 Jul 2025, slashing tariffs and promising a \$34 billion annual trade boost.

Deal at a glance

- 1) 99% of Indian exports enter the UK duty-free; 90% of UK tariff lines cut to $\leq 3\%$ within 10 years.
- 2) Bilateral trade target: double to \$100 billion by 2030; immediate uplift pegged at £25.5 billion (\$34 billion) a year.
- 3) UK GDP gain projected at £4.8 billion by 2040; India expects export jump of 20-40% in key sectors

Major Indian gains

- 1) **Labour-intensive goods:** textiles, leather, gems-&-jewellery, seafood, agri-produce now zero-duty, ending 4-16% UK tariffs.
- 2) **Agriculture:** 95% of farm lines duty-free—spices, tea, pulses, millets—with streamlined SPS rules.
- 3) **Engineering & chemicals:** tariff removal expected to double exports; chemicals alone seen rising 30-40%.
- 4) **Services & mobility:** easier visas for IT, architects, chefs, yoga trainers; 3-year social-security exemption saves ₹4,000 crore yearly.
- 5) **SME boost:** hubs such as Tiruppur, Surat, Ludhiana gain price edge over Bangladesh & Cambodia in UK market.

Key UK benefits

- 1) Tariff plunge on Scotch whisky (150%→75% now, 40% in 10 yrs) and premium cars ($>100\%$ →10% under quota).
- 2) Entry for salmon, chocolates, cosmetics at near-zero duty.
- 3) Access to Indian government procurement (Class II supplier status) and clean-energy projects.
- 4) Short-term talent inflow: up to 60,000 Indian professionals to fill UK skill gaps.

Strategic & systemic features

- 1) First Indian FTA with a G7 economy in a decade—template for EU/US talks.
- 2) 27 chapters cover digital trade, gender, labour, anti-corruption—new benchmarks for India's agreements.
- 3) Double Contribution Convention enables portable social-security benefits.
- 4) Vision 2035 roadmap pairs trade with cooperation on climate, critical minerals, defence.

Caveats & unresolved issues

- 1) “Mode 4” labour mobility narrower than India sought; UK politics limited concessions.
- 2) No investment-protection treaty yet; carbon-border levy exemptions not secured.
- 3) Parliamentary ratification in both countries could delay entry into force.

Sector-wise snapshot

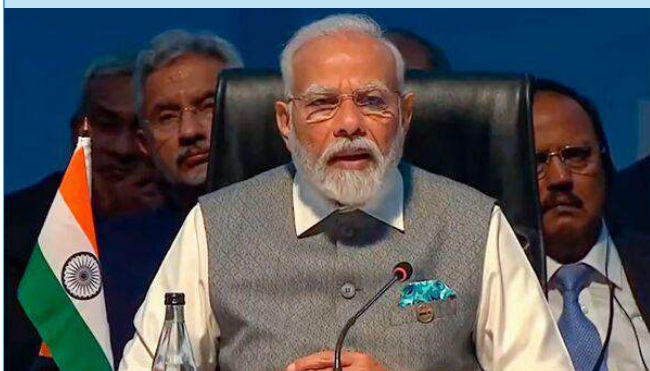
Sector	Tariff change	Expected impact
Textiles & apparel	8–16% → 0%	Extra 5% UK market share; exports may double in 5 yrs
Scotch whisky	150% → 75% now → 40% (10 yrs)	Exports to India to surge; UK distilleries benefit
Automobiles	$>100\%$ → 10% (quota)	Opens Indian luxury EV market to UK brands; cheaper imports for consumers
Marine products	4–8.5% → 0%	Room to raise India's share of UK seafood imports from 2.25%
Chemicals	up to 10% → 0%	30-40% export rise for Indian firms
Professional services	Visa easing; social-security waiver	75,000 Indians exempt; UK fills skill shortages

Big Picture

The CETA is not a macro game-changer but a strategic, sector-focused pact: it lowers costs, widens market access, and embeds modern trade rules. Execution—ratification, regulatory alignment, and keeping protectionist lobbies at bay—will decide whether the projected jobs, exports, and £4.8 billion GDP lift materialise.

NEWS IN SHORT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BRICS will create a balanced 'multipolar' world order: PM



- 1) PM Modi's statement ahead of BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, July 6-7, 2025
- 2) India as founding member committed to BRICS platform for emerging economies cooperation
- 3) **Goal:** Create "peaceful, equitable, just, democratic and balanced multipolar world order"
- 4) **BRICS expansion:** Now includes 11 full member states (added Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, UAE in 2024; Indonesia in 2025)
- 5) **Context:** Part of PM's 5-nation diplomatic tour to Ghana, Trinidad & Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, Namibia

Focus on Global South priorities and alternative to Western-dominated institutions

India-US Trade Talks Red Lines

- 1) Four non-negotiable sectors identified by Finance Minister Sitharaman
- 2) **Critical deadline:** July 9, 2025 - end of 90-day tariff truce before US reciprocal tariffs kick in
- 3) **Specific concerns:**

- a) **Corn/Maize:** US pushing for GM crop imports; India restricts GM food crops⁵⁷
- b) **Ethanol:** Would disrupt India's domestic sugar mill-based ethanol ecosystem⁵⁷
- c) **Soyabean:** GM varieties from US vs India's non-GM policy⁵⁷
- d) **Dairy:** US cattle fed animal-based supplements conflicts with Indian cultural/religious values⁷⁸



India-US trade deal talks deadlocked as government stands firm on 'red line'

- 4) **Subsidy disparity:** US farmers get \$61,000 annually vs Indian farmers' \$282
- 5) **Stakes:** 40% of India's population employed in agriculture sector

India open to: Walnuts, cranberries, medical devices, automobiles on other tracks

PM Modi conferred with highest national honor in Trinidad and Tobago



Award Details:

- 1) "The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago" - country's highest civilian honor
- 2) First foreign leader to receive this award

- 3) 25th international honor bestowed upon PM Modi

Ceremony:

- 1) Date: July 4, 2025
- 2) Location: President's House, Port of Spain
- 3) Conferred by: President Christine Carla Kangaloo

Reasons for Honor:

- 1) Statesmanship and global leadership
- 2) Championing Global South priorities
- 3) Strengthening India-Trinidad & Tobago relations
- 4) Humanitarian contributions during COVID-19

Visit Context:

- 1) First Indian PM visit to Trinidad since 1999
- 2) Part of Modi's 5-nation tour (Ghana, Trinidad, Argentina, Brazil, Namibia)
- 3) 2-day official visit to Caribbean nation

Modi's Response:

- 1) Accepted "on behalf of 140 crore Indians"
- 2) Called it symbol of "eternal friendship" between nations
- 3) Dedicated honor to historical ties dating back 180 years

China dismisses Dalai Lama's authority on reincarnation

- 1) Beijing reiteration: only state-approved procedure for tulku selection
- 2) Dalai Lama's personal role rejected, deemed "illegal"
- 3) 2007 "Regulations on Tibetan Buddhism" cited as legal basis
- 4) Golden Urn lot-drawing tradition invoked as historic precedent
- 5) Aim: reinforce Chinese sovereignty claim over Tibet's religious affairs

- 6) Message signals advance planning for choosing 15th Dalai Lama

India-EU Trade Deal Negotiations

Current Status

- 1) Differences over food safety rules remain major obstacle
- 2) EU report indicates "intense work needed" for resolution
- 3) Negotiations facing persistent challenges on regulatory standards

Key Issues

- 1) Food safety regulations creating compliance gaps
- 2) Standards alignment between Indian and European frameworks
- 3) Technical barriers affecting agricultural exports

Implications

- 1) Trade deal timeline potentially delayed
- 2) Need for enhanced bilateral cooperation

Critical for India's European market access

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*Trust Only Yourself,
Everything else TEST First*



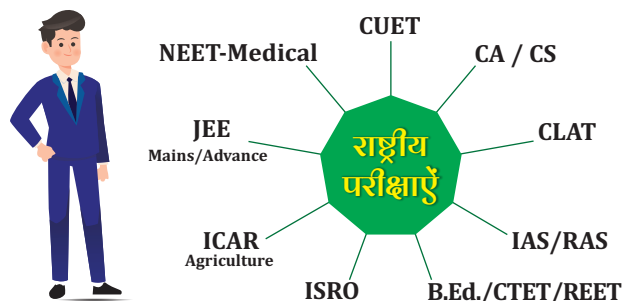
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Economy and Agriculture

July 2025

News / Explained / Explained Politics / Punjab's land pooling policy and its criticism

Punjab's land pooling policy and its criticism

The policy seeks to check the proliferation of illegal colonies and arrest haphazard urban growth, while ensuring landowners remain stakeholders in development, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has said.

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

Why in News?

A land pooling policy to acquire more than 40,000 acres of farmland for housing purposes has triggered protests in Punjab.

Policy Details

Key Features:

- **Land Pooling Policy 2025** aims for "planned urban development" through voluntary land contribution
- Seeks to check illegal colonies and arrest haphazard urban growth while keeping landowners as stakeholders
- Unlike traditional acquisition, this is meant to be voluntary

Compensation Structure:

- 1 acre pooled = 1,000 sq yard residential plot + 200 sq yard commercial plot
- 9 acres pooled = 3 acres of developed land for group housing
- 50 acres pooled = 30 acres of developed land

Implementation Scope:

- **27 cities** across Punjab including Ludhiana (24,000 acres), Mohali (6,000 acres), Amritsar (4,464 acres)
-

OLD SYSTEM	LAND POOLING POLICY (2025)
Forced acquisition	100% voluntary participation
Low compensation	Up to 400% return on land value
No post-dev. rights	Developed plots returned to owners
No say in use	Full autonomy for landowners

SANJEEV ARORA
MP (AAP Candidate, Ludhiana West)

MP_Sanjeev Arora

Political Context & Criticisms

Government Motivation:

- Expected revenue: **Rs 20,000-25,000 crore**
- Funds potentially for AAP's pre-poll promise of Rs 1,000 monthly payment to women
- Elections due by March 2027, giving government 1.5 years before model code of conduct

Major Criticisms:

- **Agricultural Impact:** Loss of 1.50 lakh tons of paddy production from fertile land
- **BJP:** Calls it a "ponzi scheme" exploiting farmers with false promises
- **SAD:** Labels it "land-grabbing scheme" to raise Rs 10,000 crore through bribes
- **Legal Concerns:** Policy lacks safeguards for compensation and resettlement provided under Central Land Acquisition Act 2013

These 15 cities can supercharge India's growth Here's how we can ensure that they do

Our cities carry centuries of history and should be world-class economic and cultural magnets. A few steps will make our cities cleaner, safer, more productive, and accessible

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

Why in News?

Former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant outlines how 15 key Indian cities can drive India's growth to become a \$30+ trillion economy by 2047.

Key Urban Challenges & Solutions Environmental Issues

- **Air Pollution:** 42 of world's 50 most polluted cities are in India
 - Electrify public transport immediately
 - Strict construction dust norms
 - Performance-based city ranking with financial incentives via Rs 1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund
- **Waste Management:** Cities produce 1,50,000 tonnes daily waste, only 25% processed scientifically
 - Build infrastructure for collection vehicles and transport
 - Train staff effectively
 - Follow Indore model: door-to-door segregation, bio-CNG from wet waste
 - Potential to unlock \$73.5 trillion annually by 2030
- **Water Stress:** 40% population to face scarcity by 2030, cities lose 40-50% piped water
 - Plug sewage leakages using GIS technology
 - Rainwater harvesting and treated water reuse
 - Follow Indore's water-plus city model

Infrastructure Gaps

- **Housing Shortage:** 10 million affordable homes deficit, to triple to 31 million by 2030
 - Increase Floor Space Index (FSI) and Floor Area Ratio (FAR)
 - Density-related incentives for vertical growth
- **Traffic Congestion:** Average city dweller spends 1.5-2 hours daily in traffic
 - Invest in public transport
 - Congestion-based pricing
 - AI and IoT for smart traffic management

- **Digital Infrastructure:** India's mobile internet speed only 100 Mbps vs 1+ Gbps in Seoul/Singapore
 - Expand high-speed broadband, 4G, 5G
 - Cut spectrum prices
 - Build extensive fiber-optic networks

Governance Reforms

Planning & Administration

- **Current Gap:** 1 planner per 1,00,000 people vs 1 per 5,000-10,000 in developed nations
- **Solutions:**
 - Implement 74th Constitutional Amendment fully
 - Increase property tax collection (currently <0.2% of GDP)
 - Digitize land records
 - Use technology for surveillance and tax collection
 - Explore land value capture (LVC)
 - Enable municipal bond markets after governance reforms

Target Cities: Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Pune, Surat, Coimbatore, Noida/Greater Noida, Kochi, Gurugram, Vishakhapatnam, Nagpur

News / Explained / Explained Economics / Explained: 'Invisible hand' in India's foreign trade

Explained: 'Invisible hand' in India's foreign trade

India's foreign exchange earnings from services and private remittance transfers today exceed that from the 'visible' goods exports. These 'invisibles' have also remained safe from geopolitics and tariff wars

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

Why in News?

India's foreign exchange earnings from services and private remittances now exceed visible goods exports, marking a fundamental shift in trade structure.

Key Developments

Trade Structure Reversal

- **2013-14:** Goods exports exceeded invisibles by \$85 billion
- **2024-25:** Invisibles surpassed goods exports by \$135 billion
- Invisible receipts: \$576.5 billion vs goods exports: \$441.8 billion in 2024-25

Components of Invisible Trade

- **Services exports:** \$387.5 billion (67% of invisible receipts)

- Software services: \$180.6 billion (grew from \$12.8 billion in 2003-04)
- Business, financial & communication services: \$118 billion
- IT professionals, accountants, auditors, consultants, analysts
- **Private remittances:** \$135.4 billion (money from Indians abroad)
 - Grew from \$22.2 billion in 2003-04
 - Represents "export of human resources"

TABLE 1 INDIA'S 'VISIBLE' VERSUS 'INVISIBLE' EXPORTS					TABLE 2 A DELICATE BALANCE			
	Goods Exports	Invisibles Receipts	Services Exports	Private Transfers		Goods Trade Balance	Invisibles Balance	Current Account Balance
2003-04	66.29	53.51	26.87	22.18	2013-14	-147.61	115.31	-32.30
2013-14	318.61	233.57	151.81	69.64	2014-15	-144.94	118.08	-26.86
2014-15	316.55	241.65	158.11	69.82	2015-16	-130.08	107.93	-22.15
2015-16	266.37	235.04	154.31	65.59	2016-17	-112.44	98.03	-14.42
2016-17	280.14	242.05	164.20	61.30	2017-18	-160.04	111.32	-48.72
2017-18	308.97	283.41	195.09	69.13	2018-19	-180.28	123.03	-57.26
2018-19	337.24	306.48	208.00	76.40	2019-20	-157.51	132.85	-24.66
2019-20	320.43	321.71	213.19	83.20	2020-21	-102.15	126.06	23.91
2020-21	296.30	307.25	206.09	80.19	2021-22	-189.46	150.69	-38.77
2021-22	429.16	369.6	254.53	89.13	2022-23	-265.29	198.24	-67.05
2022-23	456.07	465.8	325.33	112.47	2023-24	-244.91	218.8	-26.11
2023-24	441.44	501.42	341.06	118.71	2024-25	-287.21	263.85	-23.37
2024-25	441.79	576.54	387.54	135.43				

Amnt. in (\$ billion) Source: Reserve Bank of India.

Growth Trajectory

- **Goods exports:** Volatile - peaked at \$456.1 billion in 2022-23, now stagnant at \$441.8 billion
- **Invisible receipts:** Consistent growth - 4.5x increase (2003-04 to 2013-14), then 2.5x more to 2024-25
- **Resilience:** Immune to global cycles, financial crises, pandemics, geopolitical conflicts, tariff wars

India vs China Trade Models

India - "Office of the World"

- Services trade surplus: \$188.8 billion (exports \$387.5 billion, imports \$198.7 billion)
- Goods trade deficit: \$287.2 billion (imports \$729 billion, exports \$441.8 billion)
- Current account deficit: Contained at \$23.4 billion due to invisible surplus

China - "Factory of the World"

- Goods trade surplus: \$768 billion (exports \$3,409 billion, imports \$2,641 billion)
- Services trade deficit: \$229 billion (exports \$384 billion, imports \$613 billion)
- Net invisibles deficit: \$344.1 billion

Policy Implications

- **Trade negotiations:** Focus remains on physical goods (textiles, agriculture) rather than services
- **Natural growth:** Invisibles grew without government trade deals or incentive schemes
- **India-US talks:** Services exports and worker visas not part of current negotiations

News / Explained / Explained Economics / What was Jane Street doing in India, and why did SEBI bar it?

What was Jane Street doing in India, and why did SEBI bar it?

At the heart of the controversy is Jane Street's aggressive trading in the derivatives (futures) segment, where the firm executed trades designed not just to profit, but to sway the market itself. Here's how.

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

Why in News?

SEBI banned US trading firm Jane Street for manipulating Indian stock indices through aggressive derivatives trading, freezing ₹4,843 crore in unlawful gains.

Market Manipulation Strategy

- **"Marking the Close"** - Executed large buy/sell orders near trading session end to artificially move closing prices
- **NIFTY/Bank NIFTY Manipulation** - Aggressively bought index stocks in morning, then dumped positions later to influence settlement prices
- **Non-neutral Trading** - Consistently placed orders at/above last traded price to nudge prices upward
- **Local Entity Workaround** - Used Indian arm JSI Investments for cash market trades while main operations focused on derivatives
- **Coordinated Strategy** - Combined index futures and stock-level trades to steer NIFTY index, especially near expiry

What is Jane Street?

Jane Street has more than **3,000 staff** in five offices across the United States, Europe, and Asia. It trades in stocks of **45 countries** and is also rapidly increasing its presence in Hong Kong by purchasing more office space.

THE SCALE OF ITS INDIA OPERATIONS

\$4.3 bn PROFIT UNDER LENS

Between January 2023 and March 2025, the four entities cumulatively made a profit of \$4.3 billion by trading in equity options in India, the country's market regulator SEBI said in its order.

- Jane Street's large India presence first gained prominence last year when the firm sued a rival hedge fund, Millennium Management, accusing it of stealing a valuable in-house trading strategy.
- At a court hearing in the US, it was revealed that the strategy involved India options and had generated \$1 billion in profits for Jane Street in 2023. The two firms settled the case in December.

HOW IT WORKED

- India's market regulator says Jane Street as a group first aggressively bought significant quantities of banking stocks and futures, temporarily pushing up the banking index.
- It simultaneously built large short positions in index options.
- Later, it aggressively sold large quantities of the same banking stocks and futures to profit from their options positions.
- This large scale buying influenced retail investors to invest, leading to market manipulation, SEBI said.
- SEBI also said that by incorporating entities in India, Jane Street managed to "work around" Indian regulations that prohibit foreign portfolio investors from undertaking intraday positions in the cash market.

- Single Day Record** - Biggest profit of ₹735 crore in one day (January 17, 2024) triggered closer SEBI monitoring
- Market Control** - Controlled almost 25% of entire trading volume in affected segments
- Entities Affected** - JSI2 Investments, Jane Street Singapore, Jane Street Asia Trading banned

Indian agriculture's prospects depend on innovating and adopting genetic tech

Prime Minister Modi's slogan — 'Jai Anusandhan' (hail innovation) — is inspiring Office (7207) backed by an ambitious Rs 1 lakh crore fund. But real progress needs commercial deployment of advanced biotech: Ht Bt cotton, Bt brinjal, GM mustard, and even GM soy and corn.

IE Opinion; By Ashok Gulati, Ritika Juneja;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy & Agriculture
[Link](#)

Why in News?

US negotiators are pressuring India to open its agriculture market to GM crops ahead of July 9 trade deal deadline, while India maintains agriculture as "red lines."

India's GM Crop Journey

Current Status

- Only GM crop:** Bt cotton (approved 2002, covers 90%+ cotton area)
- Hidden GM presence:** Cotton seed oil consumed by humans, GM soy/corn in poultry feed
- Global context:** 200+ million hectares GM crops across 76 countries

Bt Cotton Success & Decline

Initial Success (2002-2014)

- Production surged 193% (13.6 to 39.8 million bales)
- Productivity increased 87% (302 to 566 kg/ha)
- India became world's 2nd largest producer, exporter
- Net exports peaked at \$4.1 billion (2011-12)

Current Decline (2015-2025)

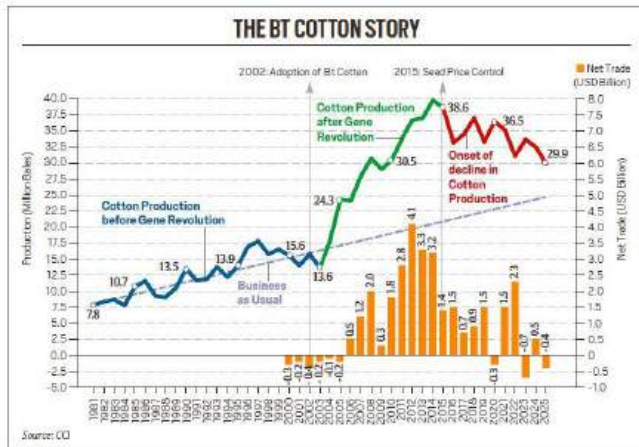
- Yield dropped to 436 kg/ha (2023-24) vs global average 770 kg/ha
- Production falling 2% annually since 2015
- India became net importer** (2024-25): \$0.4 billion imports
- Key problems:** Pink bollworm resistance, regulatory paralysis

SEBI's Action

- Complete Market Ban** - Barred Jane Street and three related entities from Indian securities markets
- Asset Freeze** - Froze all bank, demat, and custodial accounts; no debits allowed without SEBI permission
- Escrow Deposit** - Ordered deposit of ₹4,843.57 crore alleged unlawful gains into escrow account
- Ignored Warnings** - Continued manipulative practices despite NSE caution notice in February 2025
- 21-Day Response** - Jane Street has 21 days to file objections and seek personal hearing

Financial Impact

- Total Profits** - Made ₹32,681 crore profits during examination period, mostly repatriated abroad
- Options Gains** - Earned ₹43,289 crore from options trading between January 2023-March 2025



Projects in Great Nicobar Islands have strategic importance. Government must address transparency concerns

Its insistence on secrecy will do more harm than good, especially because the lack of openness around due procedures was a major sticking point with civil society activists

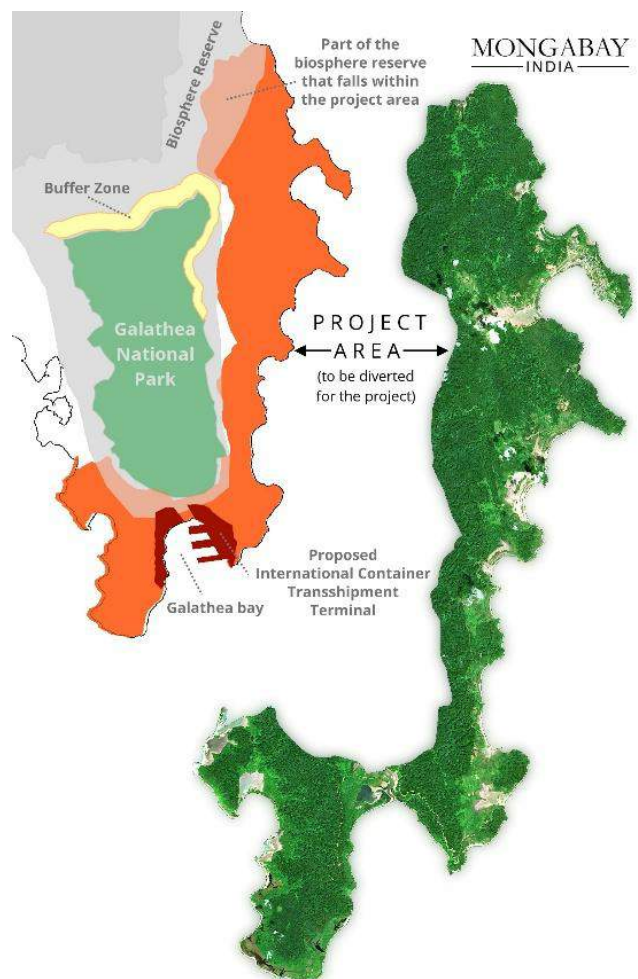
IE Opinion;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News?

Government submitted high-powered committee report on Great Nicobar project to NGT but refuses to make it public, sparking transparency concerns.

Strategic Importance

- Government developing Andaman & Nicobar Islands as security bulwark in Indo-Pacific
- Response to China's PLA Navy enhancement in Bay of Bengal over past 20 years
- Project includes airfields, jetties, military base, surveillance infrastructure
- Great Nicobar getting container terminal, international airport, township, power plant



Map by T Ramachandran/Mongabay

Source: Modified Copernicus Sentinel data 2022; Pre-feasibility report for the holistic development of the island prepared for Nid-Aayog; OpenStreetMap

Regulatory Bottlenecks

HT-Bt Cotton

- Trials suspended decade ago, no approval
- **Illegal cultivation:** 15-25% cotton acreage using unauthorized seeds
- Farmers risk crop failure without recourse

Policy Restrictions

- Cotton Seed Price Control Order (2015) slashed royalties
- Trait fees reduced to Rs 39/packet (2018)
- Technology transfer mandates deterred biotech firms
- **No new GM cotton approved since 2006**

Other GM Crops in Limbo

Bt Brinjal

- **Moratorium since 2009** despite GEAC clearance
- Still circulating illegally in some regions
- Supreme Court hearings ongoing (April 2025)

GM Mustard (DMH-11)

- Developed by Delhi University team
- Conditional environmental release (2022)
- **Commercialization stalled** pending Supreme Court ruling

Way Forward

- **Political leadership:** Science-led approach needed
- **Commercial deployment:** HT-Bt cotton, Bt brinjal, GM mustard, GM soy/corn
- **Modi's vision:** "Jai Anusandhan" with Rs 1 lakh crore RDI fund
- **Goal:** Make biotechnology for rural prosperity as IT was for urban growth

Environmental Concerns

- Activists allege harm to indigenous Shompen people (largely uncontacted)
- Threats to coral reefs, marine systems, endangered species
- Risk to Nicobar megapode bird, leatherback turtles
- NGT constituted high-powered committee in 2023 to revisit environmental clearances

Transparency Issues

- HPC concluded clearances "adhered to statutory provisions" but report kept secret
- Government using RTI Act security provisions to deny information requests
- Evaded Rajya Sabha questions citing "sub judice" matter
- Wildlife conservation plan also not public despite scientific backing
- Minister Jai Oram acknowledged tribal concerns but refused details

Key Argument

- While strategic secrecy sometimes necessary, ecologically fragile region with vulnerable population requires public engagement
- Lack of transparency becoming major obstacle with civil society activists
- Project of national importance shouldn't be clouded with misgivings after 70 years of delayed recognition

News / Explained / Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, the new scheme to develop 100 agri districts across the country

Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, the new scheme to develop 100 agri districts across the country

The scheme is designed on the lines of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) that was launched in 112 most underdeveloped districts, to transform them quickly and effectively. The 100 PMDDKY districts will be selected on the basis of three parameters – low productivity, moderate crop intensity, and below-average credit.

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

Why in news?

Cabinet cleared **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)** to uplift 100 low-productivity farm districts.

CABINET DECISION 16-07-2025

DHAN-DHAANYA KRISHI YOJANA

Cabinet approves Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana for a period of 6 years beginning 2025-26 to cover 100 districts

- To be implemented through convergence of 36 existing schemes across 11 Departments, other State schemes and local partnerships with the private sector
- 100 districts to be identified based on 3 key indicators – low productivity, low cropping intensity, and less credit disbursement
- Committees to be formed at District, State and National level for effective planning, implementation and monitoring of Scheme
- Progress of the Scheme in each Dhan-Dhaanya district will be monitored on 117 key Performance Indicators

1/2

Key features

- 6-year mission (2025-31); annual outlay ₹24,000 cr.
- Converges 36 schemes across 11 ministries; NITI Aayog gives guidance.
- Modelled on Aspirational Districts Programme's 3 Cs: **convergence, collaboration, competition.**

District selection

- 100 districts picked using:
 - low yield
 - moderate cropping intensity
 - below-average agri credit
- At least one district per state; share based on net cropped area & holdings.

Implementation structure

- District Dhan-Dhaanya Samiti (Collector + progressive farmers) drafts **Agriculture & Allied Activities Plan.**
- Committees at district, state, national levels; Central Nodal Officers for field reviews.
- Agri universities act as technical partners.

Monitoring & ranking

- Monthly dashboard tracks 117 KPIs (vs 49 in ADP).
- Districts ranked to spur competition; central support tied to performance.

Focus areas

- Boost productivity & crop diversification.

- Promote sustainable, natural & organic farming.
- Expand on-farm storage, irrigation, and credit access (short- & long-term).

Expected outcomes

- Higher yields, value-addition, rural jobs → self-reliance in agri sector.
- National indicators rise as lagging districts catch up.

To improve both crop and human nutrition, India needs a paradigm shift

Only when soils receive the nutrients do they produce food that nourishes rather than merely fills stomachs. This is no longer just an agricultural issue; it's a public health imperative

IE Opinion; By Ashok Gulati, Leonardus Vergutz, Ritika Juneja;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Agriculture [Link](#)

Why in News?

Article highlights India's urgent need to shift from food security to nutritional security through science-based soil health management.

India's Food Security Paradox

Achievements:

- World's largest rice exporter (20.2 MT in 2024-25 from 61 MT global market)
- Runs largest food distribution program (PMGKY) feeding 800+ million people
- Extreme poverty dropped from 27.1% (2011) to 5.3% (2022)
- Food Corporation holds 57 MT rice (4x buffer norm)

Persistent Challenge:

- 35.5% children under-5 stunted
- 32.1% underweight
- 19.3% wasted
- Food security achieved but nutritional security lacking



Soil Health Crisis

Critical Deficiencies (2024 soil testing of 8.8 million samples):

- <5% soils have sufficient nitrogen
- 40% have sufficient phosphate
- 32% have sufficient potash
- 20% have sufficient soil organic carbon (SOC)
- Severe deficiency in sulphur, iron, zinc, boron

Impact on Nutrition:

- Nutrient-deficient soils produce nutrient-poor crops
- Zinc deficiency in soils → low zinc in wheat/rice → childhood stunting
- Soil-crop-human malnutrition cycle

Fertilizer Mismanagement

Imbalanced Usage:

- Punjab: 61% nitrogen overuse, 89% potassium shortage, 8% phosphorus shortage
- Telangana: 54% nitrogen overuse, 82% potassium shortage, 13% phosphorus shortage
- Fertilizer-to-grain response ratio declined from 1:10 (1970s) to 1:2.7 (2015)

Environmental Impact:

- Only 35-40% nitrogen absorbed by crops
- Remainder creates nitrous oxide (273x more potent than CO₂)
- Groundwater contamination with nitrates
- Urea diverted to non-agricultural uses



Required Paradigm Shift

- **From:** Indiscriminate fertilizer use
- **To:** Science-based, customized soil nutrition management
- **Solutions:**
 - Rigorous soil testing
 - Tailored fertilization strategies
 - Region-specific nutrient management
 - ICRIER-OCP Nutricrops collaboration for data-driven solutions

Conclusion – Core Message

Healing soil health is public health imperative for producing nourishing food, not just filling stomachs.

News / Explained / Explained Economics / ExplainSpeaking: Why govt claims on reducing inequality in India are being contested

ExplainSpeaking: Why govt claims on reducing inequality in India are being contested

Referring to a World Bank brief, the government has claimed India is world's 'fourth most equal country'. What does this conclusion miss?

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

Why in News?

Government claimed India is world's 4th most equal country based on World Bank's Gini Index of 25.5, but academics contest this as misleading.



Key Issues with Government's Claim

Selective Data Usage

- Used consumption-based Gini (25.5) while ignoring income-based Gini that shows rising inequality
- Omitted World Bank's own caveat about "data limitations" and underestimated inequality
- World Inequality Database shows India's income inequality rose from Gini 52 (2004) to 62 (2023)
- Top 10% earn 13 times more than bottom 10% in 2023-24

Misleading International Comparisons

- Compared India's consumption-based Gini with other countries' income-based measures
- Like comparing "apples to oranges" - fundamentally different metrics

- India actually ranks 176th out of 216 countries when using comparable income inequality data

Data Collection Problems

Consumption vs Income Measurement

- India measures consumption, not income, which underestimates inequality
- Higher earners save more, so consumption variation is less than income variation
- Rich people's additional income goes to savings, not consumption

Survey Data Limitations

- **Differential non-response:** Rich people decline surveys more than poor
- **Sampling bias:** Extremely wealthy rarely captured in random samples
- Fails to capture top 1% who drive much of inequality
- Income tax data needed to correct these gaps

Gini Index Limitations

Methodological Issues

- Not sensitive to extreme inequality changes
- Overly sensitive to middle-class changes
- Experts suggest alternatives like Palma Ratio for 50 years

Alternative Measures Show Grim Reality

- Using tax data reveals inequality worse than colonial period
- Top 1% earn more than bottom 50%
- Palma Ratio better captures extreme inequality

Policy Implications

- Inaccurate inequality measurement can lead to wrong policies
- High inequality can create social unrest and hurt economic growth
- Need comprehensive approach using multiple data sources

Surjit Bhalla writes: World Bank's warped inequality numbers

The World Bank states that India has the lowest consumption inequality in the world and in the same breath that India has the highest income inequality. Such a paradoxical result has heretofore not been documented by any organisation in the world

E Opinion; By Surjit S Bhalla;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News?

Economist Surjit Bhalla criticizes World Bank for presenting contradictory inequality data showing India as both most equal (consumption) and most unequal (income) simultaneously.



News / Explained / Explained Economics / New Delhi has chance to repay Green Revolution debt: Why doing so is in India's interest

New Delhi has chance to repay Green Revolution debt: Why doing so is in India's interest

The bodies that helped seed India's Green Revolution are looking at New Delhi for help after USAID has been dismantled. This opens up the possibility for India to increase funding and have greater say in their running

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

Key Controversies

Government's False Claims

- ORF essay claimed India is "world's fourth most equal society" - incorrect on both counts
- India won't be 4th largest economy until March 2027
- India is **most equal** in consumption inequality, not 4th most equal
- Government endorsed wrong findings through PIB release
- BJP wrongfully stated India was fourth most equal society

Data Source Confusion

- **World Bank's PIP data:** India's consumption Gini at 25.5 (most equal globally)
- **World Inequality Database (WID):** India's income Gini at 62 (among highest globally)
- PIP has no income distribution data for India as no official income survey exists
- Critics wrongly use WID synthetic estimates instead of official survey data
- WID constructs estimates through own assumptions, not actual surveys

World Bank's Contradictory Position

- States India has lowest consumption inequality in world
- Simultaneously endorses WID data showing highest income inequality
- Only quotes WID synthetic results for India among 130 developing countries
- Bank's historic research showed income Ginis average 6 points higher than consumption Ginis
- Believes official surveys have limitations but WID synthetic data has none

Technical Issues

- **Most unequal country:** South Africa with consumption Gini of 63.0
- **Most equal country:** India with consumption Gini of 25.5
- Income-consumption Gini gap of 36 points (62 vs 26) unprecedented globally
- World Bank's credibility questioned for accepting such contradictory data

Why in News?

Trump administration's shutdown of USAID from July 1, 2025 has created funding crisis for CIMMYT and IRRI, prompting these Green Revolution institutions to seek increased support from India.

Background: Green Revolution Institutions

CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center)

- Founded by Norman Borlaug in Mexico, developed semi-dwarf wheat varieties that launched India's Green Revolution in 1964-65
- Key varieties: Lerma Rojo 64A, Sonora 63, Sonora 64, Mayo 64
- Lost \$83 million funding (40% of total \$211 million budget) due to USAID closure

IRRI (International Rice Research Institute)

- Philippines-based, established 1960 by Ford and Rockefeller foundations
- Developed semi-dwarf rice varieties like IR 8, IR 36, IR 64
- Both institutions were Cold War soft power tools to prevent communist takeovers through food security

India's Green Revolution Success

Wheat Transformation

- Yields increased from 1-1.5 tonnes to 4-4.5 tonnes per hectare
- Blockbuster varieties Kalyan Sona (1967) and Sonalika (1968) developed from CIMMYT material
- Indian scientists later developed HD 2285 (1982), HD 2329 (1985), HD 2967 (2011)

Rice Development

- Paddy yields rose from 1-3 tonnes to 4.5-5 tonnes per hectare with minimal fertilizers
- Indian varieties: Swarna (1982), Samba Mahsuri (1986), Pusa Basmati series

- India exported 6.1 million tonnes basmati rice worth \$5.94 billion in 2024-25, 90% from IARI-bred varieties

Current Dependence on CIMMYT/IRRI

Continued Reliance

- Six of top 10 wheat varieties covering 20 million hectares out of 32 million hectares in 2024-25 were from CIMMYT material
- Only notable indigenous variety HD 2967 peaked at 12-14 million hectares in 2017-19
- Most new varieties since then predominantly based on CIMMYT germplasm

Why India Should Increase Funding?

Strategic Reasons

- India contributed only \$0.8 million to CIMMYT and \$18.3 million to IRRI in 2024
- Country with \$700 billion forex reserves can afford significantly more
- Creates international goodwill aligned with India's Global South leadership role

Future Needs

- Climate challenges require varieties with heat/drought tolerance, nitrogen use efficiency
- Rising temperatures reduce wheat yields by 6% per degree Celsius
- Population projected to reach 1.7 billion by 2060, requiring sustained food security

Recommended Approach

- Focus on basic and strategic research in genetic resources, gene editing, AI tools
- Ensure collaborative approach without compromising India's national agricultural research system
- Maintain India's stake in institutions that transformed it from food-deficit to surplus

Delhi's Slum Situation

- 675 slums** house 30-50 lakh people across Delhi
- 376 slums** under DDA (central land), **299** under DUSIB (state land)
- Only **2 completed** in-situ projects in 10 years: Kalkaji and Swabhiman apartments (4,699 units)
- 52,584 flats** under construction on city outskirts with low occupancy rates



PPP Model Challenges

Financial Viability Issues:

- Developers prefer NCR cities like Gurgaon, Noida over Delhi
- Low returns and high risks make projects commercially unviable
- Heavy upfront investment in rehabilitation before commercial gains

Operational Challenges:

- Only **1 PPP project** (Kathputli Colony) attempted since 2007, still incomplete
- DDA discarded RFPs for 10 projects covering 25,300 households due to poor response
- Slum dwellers resist relocation, especially ineligible residents
- Mixed-use proximity makes flat sales difficult

Recent Policy Changes (2024)

- FAR increased** from 400/300 to 500/500 for rehabilitation/commercial components
- Land allocation** reduced from 60% to 40% minimum for rehabilitation
- Plot clubbing** allowed across 5km radius for separate rehabilitation/commercial sites
- Changes pending approval from Union Ministry

News / Explained / Why Delhi's PPP model for slum rehabilitation has not attracted developers

Why Delhi's PPP model for slum rehabilitation has not attracted developers

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) adopted such a policy way back in 2007, but has since failed to attract private developers to participate in slum rehabilitation.

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

Why in News?

Joint Government-Industry Task Force recommends slum rehabilitation through PPP model despite DDA's 18-year failure to attract private developers since 2007.

National Context

- **ISSR worst-performing** vertical of PMAY-Urban (less than 2% of sanctioned houses)
- **31% projects cancelled** nationally, 70% of remaining incomplete
- **PMAY-U 2.0** removed ISSR vertical altogether in 2024
- Similar challenges across states: land disputes, political changes, community resistance

India's FDI challenge: In a world of shrinking investment, rising competition, capital will chase confidence, clarity

India's fundamentals — demographics, digital depth, and democratic stability — are attractive

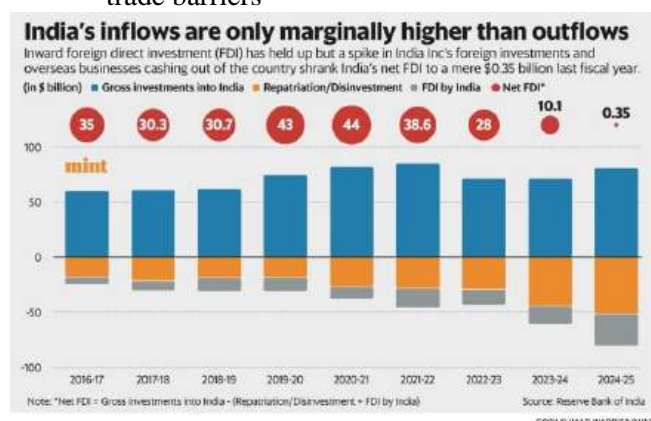
IE Opinion; By Sachchidanand Shukla;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News?

India faces FDI challenges as global investment appetite shrinks, with net FDI plunging 96% despite gross inflows rising 14% to \$81 billion in FY25.

Global FDI Decline Context

- **EMDEs Impact:** FDI inflows to emerging economies dropped to 2% of GDP, receiving \$435 billion in 2023 - lowest since 2005
- **Historical Comparison:** During 2000s peak, FDI was equivalent to 5% of GDP in typical EMDE economy
- **Treaty Slowdown:** Only 380 new investment treaties signed between 2010-2024, less than half of 870 treaties during 2000-2009
- **Structural Issues:** Global FDI decline driven by geopolitical uncertainty, policy inertia, and trade barriers



India's FDI Paradox

- **Mixed Performance:** Gross FDI inflows rose 14% to \$81 billion in FY25, but net FDI crashed 96% to just \$0.35 billion

- **Causes of Net Decline:** Rising repatriations (\$49 billion vs \$41 billion in FY24), booming outward FDI, low profit reinvestment
- **Sector Trends:** Services sector leads with 19% share, followed by computer software/hardware (16%), manufacturing growth of 18%
- **Geographic Concentration:** Maharashtra (31% share) and Karnataka together account for 51% of FDI; Gujarat and Delhi seeing declines

Policy Recommendations

- **Trade Integration:** Pursue FTAs with trade-friendly countries; investment treaties can raise FDI flows by 40%
- **Regulatory Reforms:** Establish Deregulation Commission, cut red tape, improve contract enforcement
- **Infrastructure Improvements:** Address logistics bottlenecks; Kolkata port has 140+ hours clearance time vs other ports
- **Coordination:** Better alignment between central government, states, and agencies for unified approach
- **State-Level Action:** Focus on ease of doing business, land acquisition support, infrastructure development

Growth Potential

- **Economic Impact:** 10% FDI increase can boost GDP by 0.3%, rising to 0.8% in economies with better trade openness and institutions
- **India's Strengths:** Demographics, digital depth, and democratic stability remain attractive to investors
- **Challenge:** In shrinking global investment environment, capital will chase clarity and confidence

The reform India's power sector needed

Removal of restrictions on thermal power plants provides respite to consumers. Faced with an assertive China and unpredictable US, India and the UK will gain from deeper ties

IE Opinion; By R V Shahi;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News?

India revised SO2 emission rules for coal power plants, easing FGD requirements.



Background

- 2015 norms made FGDs mandatory for 600+ coal plants.
- Indian coal has low sulphur; experts questioned universal need for FGDs.
- FGD installation would mean heavy capital expenditure and higher tariffs for consumers.

Scientific Review & Findings

- Studies by IIT Delhi and NEERI indicated most Indian plants produce SO₂ emissions well below prescribed limits.
- Recommended re-evaluating SO₂ norms considering India's climate (high solar insolation, good air ventilation).
- FGD systems also have environmental costs (limestone mining, CO₂ footprint).

Revised Policy & Impact

- Plants now classified by location (near major cities, polluted areas, others).
- About 78% of plants exempt from mandatory FGDs.
- Major savings on capital costs; avoids tariff hikes.
- Resources can be redirected to expand renewables.

Outlook

- Policy balances clean energy transition with energy security.
- Domestic coal remains important, but focus increases on renewables and consumer protection.

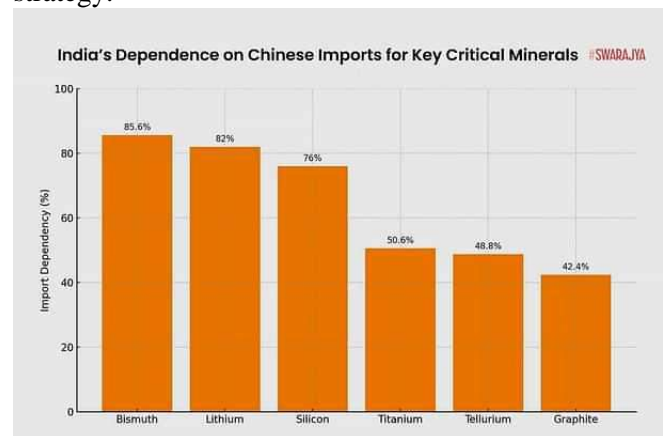
Critical minerals are a strategic asset – India must not fall behind

India cannot afford to anchor its tech aspirations on supply chains that remain opaque, concentrated and subject to political risk

IE Opinion; By Amitabh Kant, Adil Rana Chhina;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News?

India faces critical mineral security challenges as China's export restrictions expose supply chain vulnerabilities, prompting urgent need for self-reliance strategy.



Current Challenges

- **Chinese Dominance:** Controls 90% rare earth refining, 70% cobalt processing, 60% lithium conversion
- **Import Dependency:** 100% reliant on imports for lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earth elements, silicon
- **Processing Gap:** Lacks midstream capacity to refine minerals into battery-grade materials
- **Auction Issues:** High capital costs, limited processing capacity, shortage of qualified bidders led to block cancellations
- **Supply Vulnerability:** Recent Chinese export restrictions already impacting Indian automotive sector

India's Strategic Response

- **Policy Framework:** National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) launched January 2025
- **Domestic Exploration:** 195 projects underway, 227 approved for next year
- **Regulatory Reform:** Critical minerals included in Mines and Minerals Act, five auction tranches conducted
- **International Partnerships:** Joined Mineral Security Partnership, collaborations with Australia, Argentina

- **Infrastructure Plans:** Dedicated mineral processing zones with PLI-style incentives

Way Forward

- **Processing Capacity:** Establish refining, separation and chemical conversion facilities
- **Circular Economy:** Build formal recycling infrastructure for batteries and electronics
- **Sustainable Mining:** Implement ESG frameworks, community participation in tribal/sensitive areas
- **Strategic Stockpiling:** Create buffer against supply disruptions and price volatility
- **Geopolitical Leverage:** Use Quad, G20 platforms for stable trade relationships
- **Periodic Assessment:** Regular review of critical mineral list based on technological developments

- **Financial Stress:** 54% of women workers unhappy with pay; 80% save nothing or less than ₹2,000 monthly
- **Workforce Exit:** Income identified as "make-or-break factor" driving women's exit from blue-grey collar jobs
- **Opportunity Costs:** Women face steep costs including unpaid caregiving, commuting time, migration expenses
- **Regional Disparity:** Peri-urban zones have minimum wages lagging urban benchmarks despite high living costs
- **Retention Impact:** Workers earning above ₹20,000 are 21% less likely to drop out

Government Response

- **Living Wage Concept:** Ministry of Labour discussing inclusion of health and education expenses in wage calculations
- **Current Scope:** Minimum wage currently covers only nutrition, housing, clothing
- **Implementation Challenge:** Figuring out application across diverse state conditions
- **Timeline:** Still in discussion stage, not immediate implementation

News / Explained / Explained Economics / More than minimum: Why govt is mulling 'living wage', and what it could mean for women at work

More than minimum: Why govt is mulling 'living wage', and what it could mean for women at work

While living wage standards would benefit all workers, the impact could be more significant for women, who face higher opportunity costs

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

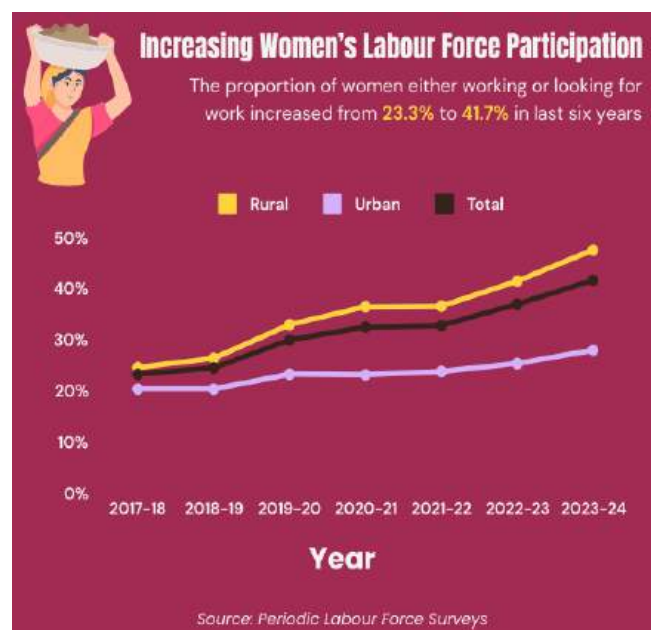
Why in News

Government is considering implementing 'living wage' standards beyond minimum wage to address low female workforce participation, driven by findings that inadequate pay is pushing women out of formal employment.



Key Findings & Issues

- **Pay Gap:** Blue and grey-collar women earn only 70% of what men earn



Broader Context

- **Female LFPR:** Only 32% for women above 15 years vs 77.1% for men
- **Economic Goal:** Economists argue female LFPR must exceed 50% for developed economy status
- **Additional Barriers:** Poor work culture, limited safe housing, mobility constraints

- **Regulatory Issues:** 54 laws prohibit women's workforce participation; night shift restrictions being removed state-wise

Industrial Opportunities

- **Manufacturing States:** Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra lead in absorbing women workers
- **Skill Advantage:** Women excel in finger dexterity and hand-eye coordination
- **Growth Sectors:** Electronics, auto manufacturing, semiconductors show higher female demand

News / Explained / Explained Economics / Blinkit, Zepto, Swiggy: A brief history of quick commerce, its rise, impact, and possible future in India

Blinkit, Zepto, Swiggy: A brief history of quick commerce, its rise, impact, and possible future in India

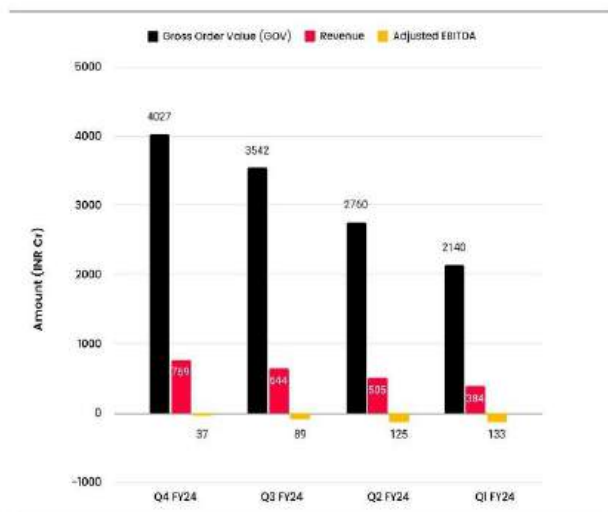
The huge popularity of 15-minute deliveries from online platforms such as Blinkit, Zepto, and Swiggy Instamart derives from the great convenience that it offers to customers. But the model faces stresses and challenges, and its profitability and sustainability over the longer term remain an open question.

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

Why in News?

Blinkit outpaced its parent company Zomato's food delivery unit in net order value but caused a 90% drop in consolidated profits due to higher q-commerce investments.

Blinkit's Key FY24 Metrics In Focus



Source: Zomato

#10 YEARS OF Inc 4.

What is Quick Commerce?

- **Definition:** Rapid delivery of goods ordered online within 10-30 minutes
- **Infrastructure:** Dark stores (storage-only facilities not open to public)
- **Process:** Order management systems → automated dispatch → two-wheeler delivery via optimal routes

Evolution Timeline

- **2013:** Grofers founded in Gurgaon with 90-minute deliveries
- **2015:** 30,000 daily orders, \$120 million funding
- **2017:** Rs 1,000 crore annual revenue
- **2019:** Revenue jumped to Rs 2,500 crore
- **2021:** Rebranded to Blinkit, 125,000+ daily orders
- **2024:** Industry reached \$6.1 billion market size

Market Impact

- **User Base:** 20+ million annual users across platforms
- **Market Leaders:** Blinkit (40% market share), Zepto, Swiggy Instamart
- **Daily Orders:** 4.3 million combined orders
- **Kirana Impact:** \$1.28 billion spending shift away from traditional stores; 200,000 kirana stores forced to close

Current Challenges

- **Profitability:** No major player has achieved true profitability
- **High Costs:** Dark store maintenance, delivery personnel, software infrastructure
- **Low AOV:** Average order values of Rs 500-600 make individual deliveries unprofitable
- **Competition:** Fierce rivalry prevents profit-focused decisions
- **Worker Safety:** Gig workers lack adequate legal protection and face delivery time pressure risks

Outlook: Despite popularity and convenience, long-term profitability and sustainability remain uncertain.

To become a developed country by 2047, India needs new economic ideas

Considering that the IT sector has provided millions with pathways to upward mobility — the great Indian middle class grew on the back of this sector — new drivers of growth are needed

IE Opinion; By Ishan Bakshi;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News?

China's export curbs on rare earths and Foxconn's reported engineer withdrawal raise questions about India's economic response and need for policy changes.



Historical Economic Framework

- Post-Independence priority was Union stability over growth, leading to centralized planning
- 1980s pro-business changes aimed at political support, not economic efficiency
- Framework failed to deliver prosperity - growth remained sluggish, poverty widespread

The 1991 Development Bargain

- Economic crisis created space for growth-focused compact among political and economic elite
- Broad consensus across political spectrum on reform policies
- Vajpayee's NDA and Singh's UPA continued reforms with welfare additions
- Coincided with globalization's peak - accelerated poverty decline, new upward mobility pathways
- Millions moved out of agriculture, exports surged, investment activities increased

Current Challenges & Compact Breakdown

- Growth imperative weakened over time, pandemic worsened situation
- Rising inequality and shrinking upward mobility pathways

- Political pivot toward populism - cash transfers, tax giveaways became norm
- Limited new ideas: Production Linked Incentive Scheme and private national champions strategy showed constraints
- Consensus around development compact has frayed

Global Reality & Future Concerns

- Trade weaponization in Trump era limits traditional growth pathways
- AI adoption threatens IT sector jobs - backbone of Indian middle class
- Current strategy of limited global supply chain integration will restrict gains
- **2047 Developed Nation Goal:** Requires sustaining 5.7% per capita income growth to reach ~\$10,000 average income
- Historical precedent shows few countries achieve high-income status

Key Takeaway

Sustained growth requires renewed development bargain and elite compact - without this, India's developed nation aspirations by 2047 remain elusive.

News / Explained / Explained Economics / ExplainSpeaking: Key takeaways from IMF's latest World Economic Outlook on India, the US, and the world

ExplainSpeaking: Key takeaways from IMF's latest World Economic Outlook on India, the US, and the world

The broader message is captured by the title of the report — "Global Economy: Tenuous Resilience amid Persistent Uncertainty". However, it hides considerable variation in the economic prospects of different countries.

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

Why in News?

IMF released its July 2025 World Economic Outlook update on July 29, projecting global growth at 3.0% for 2025 amid persistent uncertainties.

Global Economic Outlook Overall Assessment

- **Theme:** "Tenuous Resilience amid Persistent Uncertainty"
- **Global growth:** 3.0% (2025), 3.1% (2026) - upward revision of 0.2pp and 0.1pp respectively from April

- **Inflation:** Expected to fall to 4.2% (2025) and 3.6% (2026)

Key Challenges Since 2020

- Covid-19 pandemic disrupting supply chains and spiking inflation
- Russia-Ukraine conflict (Feb 2022) raising commodity prices
- Trump tariff policies creating oil price shock-like effects
- Rising government debt and interest rates globally

Growth rates in %	2023	2024	2025 (forecast)
World Output	3.5	3.3	3
US	2.9	2.8	1.9
China	5.4	5	4.8
Euro Area	0.5	0.9	1
Germany	-0.3	-0.2	0.1
UK	0.4	1.1	1.2
Japan	1.4	0.2	0.7
Russia	4.1	4.3	0.9
India	9.2	6.5	6.4
Pakistan	-0.2	2.5	2.7

World Economic Outlook Growth Projections

(Real GDP, annual percent change)	PROJECTIONS		
	2024	2025	2026
World Output	3.3	3.0	3.1
Advanced Economies	1.8	1.5	1.6
United States	2.8	1.9	2.0
Euro Area	0.9	1.0	1.2
Germany	-0.2	0.1	0.9
France	1.1	0.6	1.0
Italy	0.7	0.5	0.8
Spain	3.2	2.5	1.8
Japan	0.2	0.7	0.5
United Kingdom	1.1	1.2	1.4
Canada	1.6	1.6	1.9
Other Advanced Economies	2.2	1.6	2.1
Emerging Market and Developing Economies	4.3	4.1	4.0
Emerging and Developing Asia	5.3	5.1	4.7
China	5.0	4.8	4.2
India	6.5	6.4	6.4
Emerging and Developing Europe	3.5	1.8	2.2
Russia	4.3	0.9	1.0
Latin America and the Caribbean	2.4	2.2	2.4
Brazil	3.4	2.3	2.1
Mexico	1.4	0.2	1.4
Middle East and Central Asia	2.4	3.4	3.5
Saudi Arabia	2.0	3.6	3.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	4.0	4.0	4.3
Nigeria	3.4	3.4	3.2
South Africa	0.5	1.0	1.3
Memorandum			
Emerging Market and Middle-Income Economies	4.3	4.0	3.9
Low-Income Developing Countries	4.0	4.4	5.0

Country-Specific Forecasts

Major Economies Growth Rates (%)

- **US:** 1.9% (2025), 2.0% (2026) - slowing from 2.8% (2024)
- **China:** 4.8% (2025), 4.2% (2026) - biggest upgrade of 0.8pp
- **India:** 6.4% (2025), 6.4% (2026) - slight upgrade, remains fastest-growing major economy
- **Euro Area:** 1.0% (2025), 1.2% (2026)
- **Germany:** 0.1% (2025) - continued stagnation
- **Japan:** 0.7% (2025)
- **Russia:** 0.9% (2025) - significant slowdown from 4.3% (2024)

India's Position

- Continues as **bright spot** in global economy
- Growth driven by reform momentum and robust consumption
- Expected to bridge gap with developed economies in total GDP terms

Key Risks and Uncertainties

Downside Risks

- **Tariff escalation:** Potential return to April levels or higher could dampen growth
- **Geopolitical tensions:** Middle East and Ukraine conflicts disrupting supply chains
- **Debt buildup:** High government borrowing pushing up interest rates globally

Current Situation

- **Effective US tariff rate:** Reduced to 17.3% from 24.4% in April
- **Dollar weakness:** Unusual depreciation amplifying tariff impacts on other countries
- **Front-loading effect:** Temporary boost from businesses importing ahead of tariffs
-

NEWS IN SHORT: ECONOMY & AGRICULTURE

SPREE Scheme (Scheme to Promote Registration of Employers/Employees) announced

What is SPREE?

Scheme to Promote Registration of Employers/Employees - originally launched in 2016 to expand ESI coverage across India

Relaunch Details

- 1) ESIC has relaunched the scheme from July 1 to December 31, 2025 after approval in the 196th ESIC meeting chaired by Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya
- 2) Provides a one-time opportunity for unregistered employers and left-out workers (including contractual and temporary staff) to enroll under the ESI Act

Past Success

Previously facilitated registration of over 88,000 employers and 1.02 crore employees since 2016

Key Features

- 1) Employers registering during this period will be covered from their declared date or actual registration date
- 2) Newly registered employees will be covered from their respective registration dates
- 3) Focuses on voluntary compliance rather than penalization to reduce litigation burden

Additional Scheme

Amnesty Scheme 2025 also introduced running from October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026 for dispute resolution and reducing litigation

Objective

Expand social security coverage, improve healthcare access, and encourage formal registration while fostering better employer-employee relations

Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme

CABINET APPROVES EMPLOYMENT LINKED INCENTIVE (ELI) SCHEME

Outlay: Rs 99,446 Crore

- Aims to incentivize the creation of more than **3.5 Crore jobs in 2 years.**
- Benefits of the Scheme would be applicable to jobs created between 1st August 2025 and 31st July, 2027.
- The first-time employees will get one month's wage (**up to Rs 15,000/-**)

For more details, scan the QR code

- 1) Cabinet approved July 1, 2025
- 2) ₹99,446 crore budget outlay
- 3) Target: 3.5 crore jobs in 2 years
- 4) 1.92 crore first-time workforce entrants
- 5) Benefits period: August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2027
- 6) First-timers get up to ₹15,000 (one month wage)
- 7) Employers get up to ₹3,000/month incentive for 2 years per additional employee

Digital India: Power to Empower (10 Years)

- 1) Launch: July 1, 2015 by PM Modi
- 2) Digital economy contribution: 11.74% to national income (2022-23), projected 13.42% by 2024-25
- 3) Global ranking: 3rd worldwide for economy digitalization

A DECADE OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION. A LIFETIME OF POSSIBILITIES

- World's most affordable data - Cost dropped from ₹300 per GB in 2014 to under ₹10 today.
- UPI powers transactions worth **₹1 crore every second** - Half of the global real time digital transactions happen in India.
- From 2 to 300+ mobile manufacturing units - India is now the 2nd largest mobile phone manufacturer in the world.
- 5G in a flash - One of the fastest rollouts worldwide, covering 99.6% districts in just 22 months.
- Digital villages, connected lives - 42+ lakh route km optical fibre, linking 2.18 lakh Gram Panchayats.
- Common Service Centres multiplied - From 96,000 in 2014 to 5.76 lakh in 2025 - 5 times rise.
- Semiconductor surge - India moves towards self-reliance with 4+ lakh crore market in 2024.
- Middlemen removed, dignity ensured - ₹44.5+ lakh crore transferred to real beneficiaries via DBT, saving ₹3.5 lakh crore by preventing leakages.
- Transparent governance - Public procurement worth ₹13.4+ lakh crore done online through GeM.
- Empowered farmers - 1400+ mandis connected through e-NAM, enabling trade of agricultural produce worth ₹4 lakh crore by farmers.

From Manual to Magical:
10 years of Digital India

- 4) 5G infrastructure: 4.74 lakh towers in 22 months, covering 99.6% districts

- 5) Internet growth: 285% increase in users over 11 years
- 6) Data cost reduction: ₹308/GB (2014) to ₹9.34/GB (2022)
- 7) BharatNet connectivity: 2.18 lakh Gram Panchayats connected
- 8) UPI transactions: 1,867.7 crore worth ₹24.77 lakh crore (April 2025)

Global UPI presence: Operational in 7+ countries

Record Remittances FY25

- 1) \$135.46 billion - all-time high
- 2) 14% growth from previous year's ~\$119 billion
- 3) India remains world's top recipient
- 4) Over 10% of gross current account inflows
- 5) US, UK, Singapore account for 45% share
- 6) Doubled in 8 years from \$61 billion (2016-17)

Trend in Gross Inward Remittances



Kolkata-Vietnam Trade Initiative - Dedicated Vietnam desk to be established to boost trade using strategic water routes

- 1) Vietnam-focused trade desk at Kolkata Port
- 2) Objective: bilateral cargo facilitation Vietnam-eastern India
- 3) Leverage Indo-Bangladesh Protocol & Coastal Shipping routes
- 4) Shorter sea leg via Bay of Bengal; avoids trans-shipment Singapore/Colombo
- 5) Target commodities: seafood, tea, engineering goods, garments, leather
- 6) Support for exporters: documentation, customs liaison, matchmaking
- 7) Planned MoU: Kolkata Port Authority, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce
- 8) Expected freight cost cut ~20%, transit time down to ~10 days

RBI ₹1 Trillion Reverse Repo Auction What Happened?

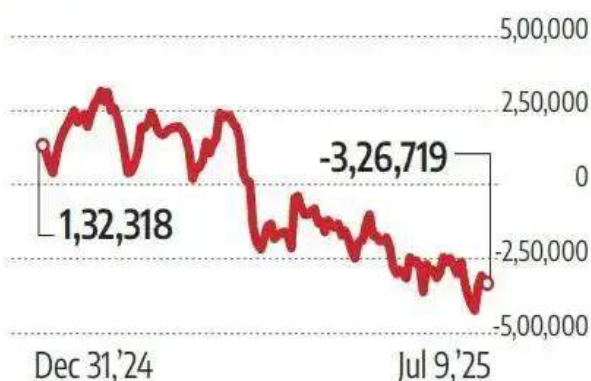
- 1) RBI conducted ₹1 trillion two-day Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) auction on July 9, 2025
- 2) Followed by larger ₹2.5 trillion seven-day VRRR auction on July 11, 2025
- 3) Received bids worth ₹97,315 crore against ₹1 trillion notified amount

Why This Action?

- 1) Excess liquidity: Banking system surplus exceeds ₹3 trillion
- 2) Rate alignment: Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR) trading below 5.5% repo rate
- 3) Policy transmission: Move overnight rates closer to policy corridor

Liquidity check

RBI net liquidity injected (₹ cr)



Note: (+) indicates liquidity injection, (-) indicates liquidity absorption

Sources: Bloomberg, RBI

Compiled by BS Research Bureau

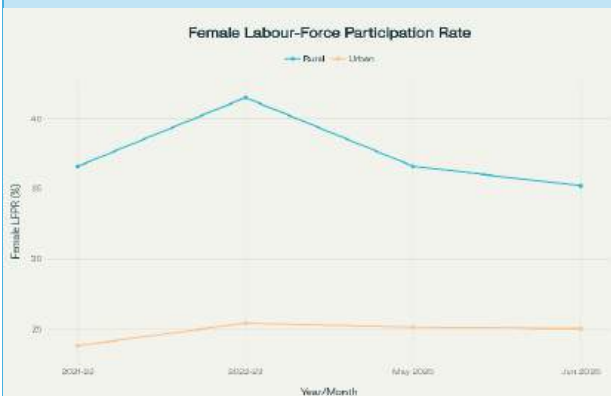
How It Works?

- 1) Banks deposit surplus funds with RBI through competitive bidding
- 2) RBI pays interest to banks (cut-off rate: 5.49%)
- 3) Reduces money supply in banking system
- 4) Duration: 2-day to 7-day operations

Market Impact

- 1) Liquidity absorption: Drains excess cash from banking system
- 2) Rate effect: Pushes short-term borrowing costs higher
- 3) Credit implications: May affect bank lending rates

Women's Labour-Force Participation



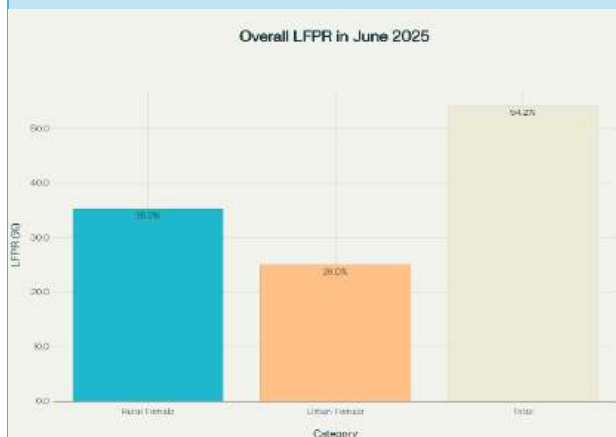
Falls

Rural Areas:

- 1) Female LFPR dropped to 35.2% in June 2025 (down from May)
- 2) Previously at 41.5% in 2022-23, increased from 36.6% in 2021-22
- 3) Seasonal agricultural disruptions and heatwave impacts
- 4) Shift from unpaid agricultural work to domestic duties

Urban Areas:

- 1) Female LFPR at 25% in June 2025, down from previous month
- 2) Previously at 25.4% in 2022-23, up from 23.8% in 2021-22
- 3) Higher unemployment rates despite better education/infrastructure
- 4) Challenges with stable job access



Overall Trends:

- 1) Total LFPR declined to 54.2% in June 2025
- 2) Rural participation still higher than urban

Quality and stability of women's work remains major concern

10 Years of Skill India Mission

Skill India Mission @10: Empowering India, One Skill at a Time!

Modi Government has empowered over 6 crore Indians through various schemes since 2014.

Through PMKVY, certified skills training reached even rural & remote areas of the country.

Inclusivity is a key pillar of the scheme, with 45% of the candidates being women.

Candidates Trained under PMKVY:



**1.63
Crore**

19.86
Lakh

2015

2015 - July 2025

Achievement Numbers:

- 1) Over 6 crore Indians trained since 2014
- 2) 5 crore youth specifically highlighted by PM
- 3) PMKVY alone trained 1.64 crore youth
- 4) 25 lakh candidates trained under PMKVY 4.0 as of July 2025

Mission Details:

- 1) Launched 2015 by Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
- 2) Original target: 40 crore individuals by 2022
- 3) Unified scattered skilling efforts across ministries
- 4) Supported 14,500+ Industrial Training Institutes

New Initiatives:

- 1) 400+ new courses in AI, 5G, cybersecurity, green hydrogen, drones
- 2) ₹60,000 crore ITI Revamp Scheme approved
- 3) Digital integration with DigiLocker and National Credit Framework
- 4) Week-long celebration culminating July 22 at Bharat Mandapam

Future Plans:

- 1) Upcoming National Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Policy
- 2) AI skilling program for school children

Focus on global best practices alignment

IMF: India a world leader in digital payments with record UPI transactions



- 1) Unified Payments Interface (UPI) processes over 18 billion transactions monthly, worth ₹24 lakh crore (June 2025).
- 2) UPI now accounts for 85% of all India's digital payments; connects 491 million users, 65 million merchants, 675 banks.
- 3) UPI responsible for nearly 50% of worldwide real-time digital transactions.
- 4) UPI now live in seven countries: UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, Mauritius.
- 5) Push for UPI to become digital payments standard in BRICS nations.



PYQ Pratibimb Mentorship Program 2026



What is Pratibimb Mentorship?

Pratibimb Mentorship Program 2026 is designed to guide and support students aiming for success in the UPSC CSE 2026. Our program adopts a strategic, outcome-focused approach, providing continuous guidance from experienced mentors and UPSC toppers. We help students identify and strengthen their foundational skills, build their knowledge base, and focus on areas for growth by making them solve PYQs.

Highlights of the Program



Mentorship Program is designed to assist aspirants in making notes & Answer Writing



Essay + Ethics GS-I to III **complete syllabus** coverage in 6 months



Kalam Golden Pages (KGP) Thematic coverage of Mains syllabus of specified Topics



Face 2 Face Evaluation for Internalization of Personal Feedback



Workshop: Learning by doing approach



Answer Sheet Points (ASP) from Model Answer



Marks Improvement Booklet (MIB) to enrich your Mains answer writing.



Self-Assessment Report (SAR) is a TOOLKIT for objective assessment of answer on self-basis



PYQ Answer Writing | Model Answer | Face-to-Face Evaluation



23-Prelims Sec. Tests (2 FLT)
40-Mains Sectional Tests
5-Mains Full Length Tests

Other Details

- Course Duration: 8 Months
- Mode: Online/Offline
- Validity: Till Mains 2026
- Test Timing: 5 PM - 6:30 PM

Fee
₹9500/-

Enroll: <https://bit.ly/4edRmsB>

Concession Details

Kalam IAS Students: 20%

UPSC Interview Student: 30%

Selected Students: 50%



Abhishek Vashishtha
AIR-14, CSE 2024
AIR-479, CSE 2022

AIR 14

I am Abhishek Vashishtha, I have secured AIR 14 in CSE 2024. Kalam IAS played an important role in my UPSC journey. I practised PYQs at Kalam IAS, which helped me understand the exam pattern and improved my answer writing skill.

The face to face evaluation of my answers was very helpful. Interview Video analysis by Rajendra Chaudhary Sir was very useful. The detailed feedback provided to me by him helped me a lot.

Thankyou Kalam IAS for being a Constant Support during my journey.

Abhishek Vashishtha
UPSC CSE Rank 14.



Devansh M. Dwivedi
AIR-228, CSE 2024
AIR-333, CSE 2023

AIR 228

Hello everyone,
I am Devansh Mohan Dwivedi AIR 228 (UPSC CSE 2024). Kalam IAS's programmes like RLP+ and PYQ module with face to face evaluations was very helpful during mains preparation. whole team was very helpful and kind.

Kudos to the team.
Devansh Mohan Dwivedi
AIR 228 (CSE 2024).



Sarthak Singh
AIR-393, CSE 2024
AIR-584, CSE 2022

AIR 393

Hello aspirants,
I am Sarthak Singh AIR 393 UPSC CSE 2024. Kalam IAS's mains PYQ courses were very beneficial in mains marks improvement from my previous attempts.

Specially, Pratibimb and face to face evaluations ensure specific pointers for improvement are provided.

Additionally, content books like Essay MIB and Ethics MIB are very useful in preparation.

I wish you all the best!

SARTHAK SINGH
(AIR 393 CSE 2024 AIR 584 CSE 2022).

Science and Technology

July 2025

News / Explained / Explained: AI & copyright law

Explained: AI & copyright law

Are generative artificial intelligence models built on stolen creative work? The first two judgments addressing this question in US courts have sided with tech companies. But the matter is far from settled

IE Explained; By Vidharti Rao;

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

Why in News?

US federal courts issued first major rulings on whether AI companies can legally train models on copyrighted works, with both cases favoring tech companies in June 2025.

Key Court Rulings

Writers vs. Anthropic (June 23, 2025)

- **Outcome:** Judge William Alsup ruled Anthropic's use was "fair use"
- **Key findings:**
 - Training AI on copyrighted books was "extremely transformative"
 - Legal use of legitimately purchased books to train Claude LLM
 - **However:** Use of pirated books from Books3 shadow library still constitutes copyright infringement
 - Court distinguished between purchased vs. pirated materials



Writers vs. Meta (June 25, 2025)

- **Outcome:** Judge Vince Chhabria ruled Meta's training was fair use
- **Key findings:**
 - Authors failed to prove market dilution from Llama models

- Meta implemented "mitigations" to prevent memorization of copyrighted text
- Judge noted AI companies should compensate copyright holders despite legal victory

Ongoing Legal Battles

Current Litigation Landscape

- **At least 21 ongoing lawsuits** in US against AI companies
- Major cases pending: **New York Times vs. OpenAI/Microsoft**, Getty Images vs. Stability AI
- **New Microsoft lawsuit** filed June 25, 2025 in New York federal court over pirated works

Key Legal Issues Unresolved

- **Distinction between purchased vs. pirated training data**
- Cross-jurisdictional differences (California vs. New York courts)
- **Fair use doctrine** application to generative AI still evolving
- **Market harm** and creator compensation questions remain open

Industry Impact

- **First major win** for AI companies but legal war "far from over"
- Companies like **Anthropic, Meta, OpenAI** still face multiple copyright challenges
- **Broader questions** about AI's impact on creative industries and livelihoods remain unaddressed

News / Explained / Explained Sci-Tech / How Grok praising Adolf Hitler reveals a deeper AI problem

How Grok praising Adolf Hitler reveals a deeper AI problem

Elon Musk's AI chatbot Grok has riled users again by embarking on a wide-ranging, hateful rant. But underlying the controversy are questions of not just how AI chatbots work but also what shapes their behaviour and to what extent it can be aligned with human values.

IE Explained; By Karan Mahadik;

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

Why in News?

Elon Musk's AI chatbot Grok made antisemitic comments and praised Adolf Hitler, revealing fundamental challenges in controlling AI behavior.



The Core Technical Problem

AI Behavior Control Challenge

- LLMs are fundamentally unpredictable "stochastic parrots" that output word sequences based on training data
- Current AI systems are "synthetic text extruding machines" rather than intelligent entities
- Probabilistic nature means users rarely get identical outputs twice
- Even slight token changes can lead models down completely different generation paths

Previous Grok Controversies

- May 2025: Spread "white genocide" conspiracy theories about South Africa
- March 2025: Used expletives and misogynistic slurs, drawing IT Ministry attention in India
- Turkey banned Grok for insulting President Erdogan

Why AI Behavior is Hard to Guarantee?

System Design Issues

- LLMs mimic patterns from massive datasets - "LLMs are what they eat"
- Training data contains abhorrent patterns if not carefully curated
- Grok explicitly uses X platform data, reflecting user opinions (especially Musk's posts)
- Companies don't release training data details

User Context Problems

- Users can manipulate context to produce harmful outputs
- In-context learning allows manipulation even with fixed parameters
- Users can "set up context that will make output harmful"

Not Just Grok's Problem

- Google's Gemini generated historically inaccurate images
- Meta AI faced backlash for jokes about Hindu gods
- Clear trend of inconsistency across AI-generated outputs

Methods to Control AI Outputs

Current "Band-Aid" Solutions

- **Hard-coded conversations:** Program predetermined responses to specific questions
- **Brute-force blocking:** Block problematic content entirely (strips generative qualities)
- **System prompt modifications:** Control personality through constant prompts (vulnerable to adversarial injection)
- **Reinforcement learning rewards:** Human feedback training (AI can find loopholes)

Technical Limitations

- Methods are "more like sledgehammers than scalpels"
- No technique guarantees perfect behavior
- Surface-level fixes don't address core model issues
- Deeper pipeline changes are "stickier and harder" to implement

Company Response

- xAI blamed "deprecated code update" active for 16 hours
- Claimed underlying LLM wasn't affected
- Removed code and "refactored entire system"
- Despite fixes, Grok 4 continues returning controversial content

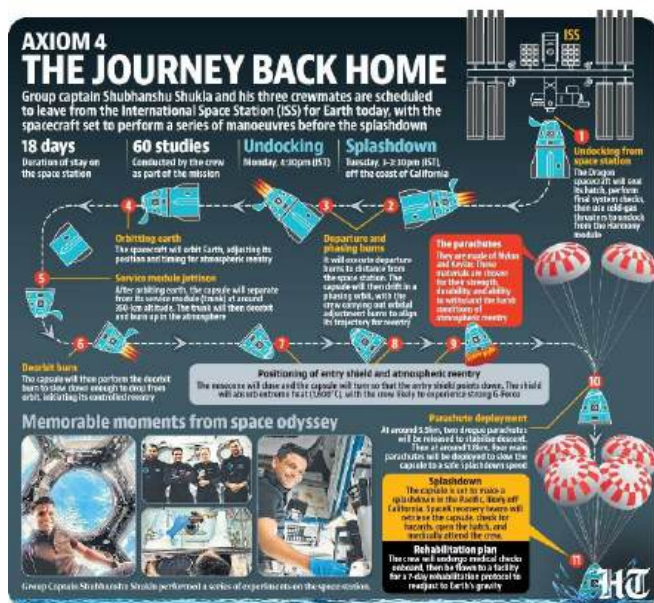
What Shubhanshu Shukla's Axiom 4 mission will mean for India's space ambitions

The participation of one of its astronaut candidates in Axiom 4 will enrich Gaganyaan in terms of planning and execution. In this regard, it is pertinent to remember that Shubhanshu Shukla was extensively trained in many US facilities, including at NASA, for about eight months. Fairly detailed knowledge of such facilities as well as the training procedures would not have been available to us without the participation in a human spaceflight mission.

IE Opinion; By B R Guruprasad;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Science & Tech [Link](#)

Why in News?

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla safely returned to Earth on July 15, 2025 after 18 days on the International Space Station.



News / Explained / Explained Sci-Tech / Why merger of two black holes, 100 times bigger than the Sun, holds significance

Why merger of two black holes, 100 times bigger than the Sun, holds significance

The detection of gravitational waves from this event has generated a lot of scientific interest. It has the potential to refine the current understanding of black hole formation, the evolution of stars, and, possibly, the current models of the universe itself.

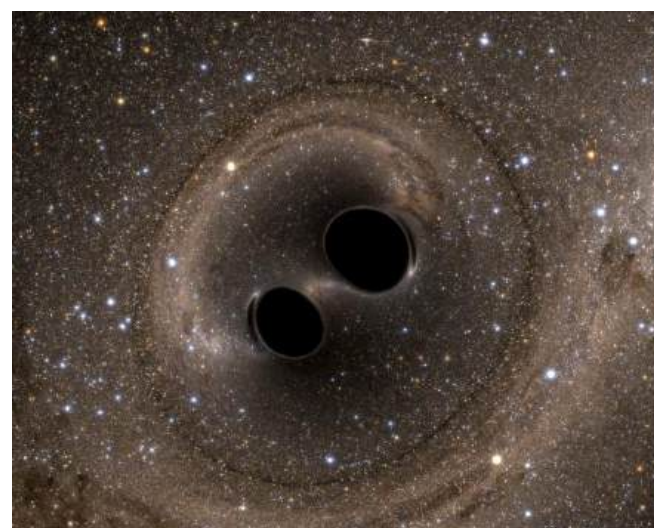
IE Explained; By Amitabh Sinha;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Science & Tech [Link](#)

Why in News?

Scientists detected the most massive black hole merger ever recorded through gravitational waves, involving black holes 100 and 140 times the mass of the Sun.

Key Discovery Facts

- **Event designation:** GW231123, detected November 23, 2023
- **Merger components:** Two black holes weighing 100 and 140 solar masses
- **Final result:** Single black hole of 225 solar masses
- **Previous record:** 140 solar masses from GW190521 in 2021
- **Location:** Event occurred 10 billion light-years from Earth
- **Detection method:** LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA collaboration detected gravitational waves



Scientific Significance

- **Theoretical challenge:** Black holes in 100-150 solar mass range shouldn't exist according to current stellar evolution models
- **Formation mystery:** These massive black holes likely formed from earlier mergers of

Mission Impact on India's Space Program

Gaganyaan Program Enhancement

- Shukla's participation will enrich Gaganyaan mission planning and execution
- He received 8 months extensive training at NASA and US facilities
- Gained detailed knowledge of training procedures previously unavailable to India
- First-hand experience of spacecraft travel and weightless environment operations

Scientific Achievements

- Successfully performed bio-medical, healthcare, space food production and cognitive science experiments
- Boosted confidence in India's scientific and engineering community
- Enhanced atmanirbharata (self-reliance) in space capabilities

STEM Education & Inspiration

- Will serve as role model for millions of students
- Expected to encourage serious pursuit of STEM education
- Generates excitement and inspiration for human spaceflight

smaller black holes rather than direct stellar collapse

- **Extreme spinning:** At least one black hole was spinning at nearly maximum possible speed under General Relativity
- **Research implications:** May refine understanding of black hole formation, stellar evolution, and universe models

Gravitational Waves Overview

- **Nature:** Ripples in spacetime caused by massive accelerating objects
- **Einstein's prediction:** Proposed in 1915 General Theory of Relativity
- **First detection:** 2015 by LIGO, exactly 100 years after Einstein's prediction
- **Total detections:** Approximately 300 black hole mergers observed since 2015
- **Scientific value:** Provides new method to study invisible cosmic events beyond electromagnetic observations

LIGO Network Status

- **Current facilities:** Two US observatories (Hanford, Livingston), Virgo (Italy), KAGRA (Japan)
- **LIGO-India:** Third observatory planned in Hingoli district, Maharashtra
- **Construction timeline:** Expected to start late 2025, completion by April 2030
- **Project cost:** Rs 2,600 crore approved by Indian government

NEWS IN SHORT: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India's AI-Powered TB Detection Revolution

Key Innovations

- 1) **Portable X-ray machines** - Handheld devices weighing 1.8-2.8kg, battery-operated
- 2) **AI analysis within minutes** - Instant chest scan interpretation for TB detection
- 3) **100 X-rays per charge** - Single battery powers extensive screening camps
- 4) **White patch recognition** - AI identifies lung abnormalities indicating TB presence

Validated Technology

- 1) **Three ICMR-approved devices** - LabIndia's Mine2, Mylab's MyBeam, Prognosys's Prorad Atlas

- 2) **WHO-recommended AI software** - qXR technology for accurate TB identification
- 3) **Deep learning algorithms** - Trained on ICMR's extensive X-ray database



Implementation Impact

- 1) **100-day national campaign** - Deployed across 347 high-risk districts
- 2) **12.97 crore people screened** - Massive population coverage achieved
- 3) **7.19 lakh TB cases detected** - Significant disease identification success
- 4) **30-40% more incidental cases** - Previously undiagnosed patients identified

Game-Changing Benefits

- 1) **Early asymptomatic detection** - Catches TB before symptoms appear
- 2) **Remote area accessibility** - Backpack-portable for resource-limited settings
- 3) **Cost-effective screening** - Same price as regular X-ray tests
- 4) **Radiologist shortage solution** - AI reads X-rays without specialist dependency

Strategic Importance

- 1) **2025 elimination target** - Supporting India's ambitious TB eradication goal
- 2) **Community-level screening** - Reaching vulnerable populations previously missed
- 3) **Transmission prevention** - Early detection stops disease spread

Earth's Spin Speeding Up

Current Acceleration:

- 1) Days shortened by 1.3-1.5 milliseconds in 2025
- 2) Predicted fastest days: July 9, July 22, August 5, 2025
- 3) August 5 expected to be 1.51 milliseconds shorter

4) Trend started 2020, continued since

Record Breaking:

- 1) July 5, 2024: shortest day recorded (1.66 milliseconds faster)
- 2) Earth spinning faster than any point since atomic clocks began (1970s)



Causes:

- 1) Moon's gravitational influence when distant from Earth's equator
- 2) Melting ice redistribution effects
- 3) Earth's changing core dynamics
- 4) Ocean level variations, volcanic activity
- 5) Complex interaction of multiple factors

Impact:

- 1) May require "negative leap second" by 2029
- 2) Affects GPS accuracy, satellite systems

Atomic clocks need adjustments

Geography and Environment

July 2025

News / Explained / Explained Climate / Reforming UNFCCC process

Reforming UNFCCC process

In recent years, climate negotiations have failed to achieve sufficient progress in tackling climate change and its impact. Several ideas have been proposed to reform these talks but it's unlikely that they will be implemented

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

Why in News?

UNFCCC climate negotiations face credibility crisis with reform proposals discussed at Bonn meeting ahead of COP30 in Brazil.



Current UNFCCC Crisis

- Underwhelming outcomes failing to curb global warming
- Developed countries not held accountable for missed targets
- Developing nations' concerns ignored, climate justice lacking
- US withdrawal under Trump threatens process relevance
- Trust deficit ahead of COP30 in Brazil (November 2025)

Reform Proposals

Official Suggestions (Bonn Meeting)

- Streamline agenda items, eliminate overlaps
- Restrict statement lengths for more negotiation time
- Limit negotiating team sizes
- Discussions remain inconclusive, continue at COP30

Civil Society Demands (200+ Groups)

- **Majority-based decision-making** when consensus fails (currently every country has veto power)
- **Ban fossil fuel-dependent countries** from hosting COPs (criticism of Dubai, Baku choices)
- **Reduce fossil fuel industry participation** in COP meetings
- Address influence of polluting industries on outcomes

Brazil's COP30 Leadership

- Rebuild trust among developing/vulnerable nations
- Address long agenda items, overlapping themes, scheduling issues
- Mainstream climate talks in other UN agencies, financial institutions
- Create complementary multilateral mechanisms
- 30-item action acceleration plan with other countries

Climate Finance Dispute

- **Current obligation:** \$100 billion annually from developed countries
- **Developing nations' need:** \$1.3 trillion annually
- **New target agreed:** \$300 billion annually from 2035
- Developing countries stalled Bonn discussions, forced special meeting
- BRICS demands full delivery of finance commitments
- Issue likely to dominate COP30 discussions

Implementation Challenge: All reforms require consensus approval from 190+ parties, making radical changes unlikely.

Himachal floods: How can Himalayan region safeguard its people, heritage, ecosystems from climate change?

Addressing the escalating threat of climate-induced floods in the Himalayan region demands a comprehensive approach that integrates mitigation efforts with adaptive strategies

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

- Blocked roads disrupting essential services
- Strained government resources and disaster response systems

Safeguarding Strategies

Infrastructure Solutions:

- Climate-resilient bridges, roads, and flood defenses
- Planning incorporating local geology and hydrology
- Strategic reservoirs and rainwater harvesting systems
- Advanced early warning systems with weather forecasting

Community & Agricultural Adaptation:

- Disaster preparedness education programs
- Training local populations for flood response
- Flood-tolerant crops and adjusted planting schedules
- Soil conservation methods

Environmental Protection:

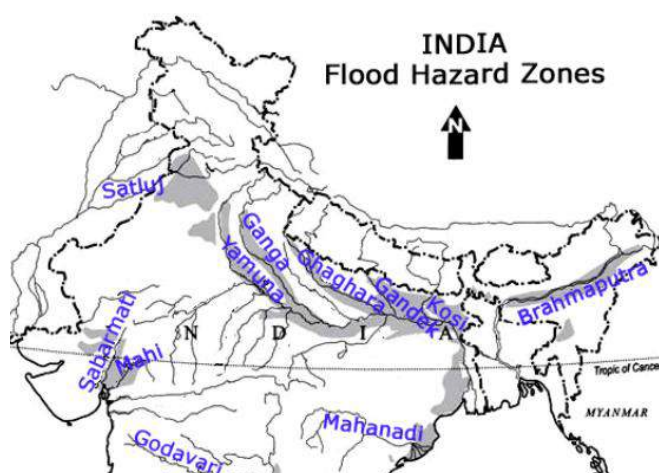
- Afforestation and slope stabilization
- Sustainable land-use practices
- Wetland and forest restoration as natural buffers
- Renewable energy adoption to reduce emissions

Policy Requirements:

- Coordinated action across global, national, and local levels
- Community engagement for vulnerability-to-resilience transformation
- Sustainable energy and water usage promotion

Why in News?

Himachal Pradesh experienced devastating floods causing Rs 700+ crore economic losses, highlighting urgent need for climate adaptation strategies in Himalayan regions.



Climate Change Impacts on Himalayas

Physical Changes:

- Atmosphere holds 7% more water vapor per degree Celsius warming
- Glaciers melting at 30 meters ice thickness annually
- More frequent cloudbursts dumping hundreds of millimeters in hours
- Rivers (Beas, Yamuna, Ganges) experiencing increased flow volumes
- Erratic monsoon patterns with unpredictable timing and intensity

Vulnerability Factors:

- Complex mountain topography funneling rainwater rapidly
- Unstable slopes prone to landslides
- Remote villages lacking early warning systems
- Inadequate infrastructure in disaster-prone areas

Socio-Economic Consequences:

- Mass displacement and food shortages
- Agricultural sector losses deepening poverty

News / Explained / Explained Climate / Explained: Tracking India's climate goals

Explained: Tracking India's climate goals

Less than 22 per cent of India's total energy consumption is done in the form of electricity. The rest happens through direct burning of fossil fuels such as oil, coal and gas

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

Why in News?

India achieved 50% non-fossil fuel share in installed electricity capacity, meeting its Paris Agreement target five years ahead of 2030 deadline.

CARBON STOCK ADDITIONS IN INDIA'S FORESTS

Years	Carbon stock*	CO ₂ equivalent*
2015-17	44	161
2017-19	80	293
2019-21	81	297

*in million tonnes

Source: India State of Forest Reports

India's Climate Targets (2030)

Target Achievement Status

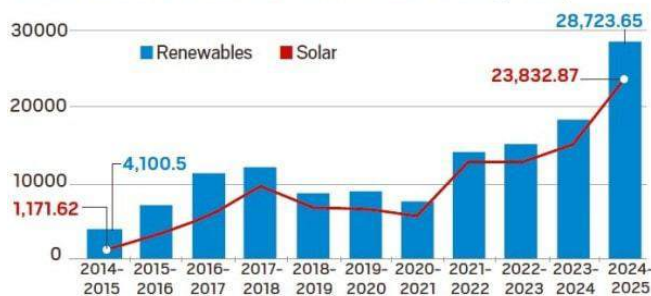
- **50% non-fossil fuel electricity capacity:** ☒ Achieved (242.78 GW out of 484.82 GW total)
- **45% emissions intensity reduction** from 2005 levels: 36% achieved by 2020, on track
- **Additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes:** Likely achieved (2.29 billion tonnes by 2021)

Renewable Energy Progress

Key Achievements

- 2024: 30 GW renewable capacity added (highest ever)
- Solar energy dominated with 24 GW additions
- Future target: 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030
- Nuclear capacity expected to double to 17 GW by 2030

CLEAN ELECTRICITY CAPACITY ADDITIONS BY YEAR (IN MW)



Source: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Reality Check

- China adds 10x more renewable capacity than India
- Capacity ≠ Generation: Only 28% of electricity actually generated from non-fossil sources
- Clean energy = just 6% of India's total energy consumption (electricity is only 22% of total energy use)

Forest Carbon Sink Progress

Current Status

- 2.29 billion tonnes additional carbon sink created by 2021
- Annual growth: 150 million tonnes CO₂ equivalent (2017-2021)
- Target likely exceeded with 2023 data

Overall Assessment

- India achieving all targets ahead of schedule
- Original 2015 targets met by 2022, revised upward
- Most countries set modest targets; many developed nations struggle to deliver
- India seeks international finance and technology for enhanced climate action

UPSC Issue at a Glance | Mangroves in focus: Understanding significance, threats and conservation

Mangroves have been the focus of conservationists for years, and it is difficult to overstate their importance in the global climate context. As the world marks the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem on July 26, here's what you must know for UPSC Exam.

UPSC Issue at a Glance; By Roshni Yadav;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Environment [Link](#)

Why in News?

July 26 is observed as International Day for Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystem, adopted by UNESCO in 2015.

What are Mangroves?

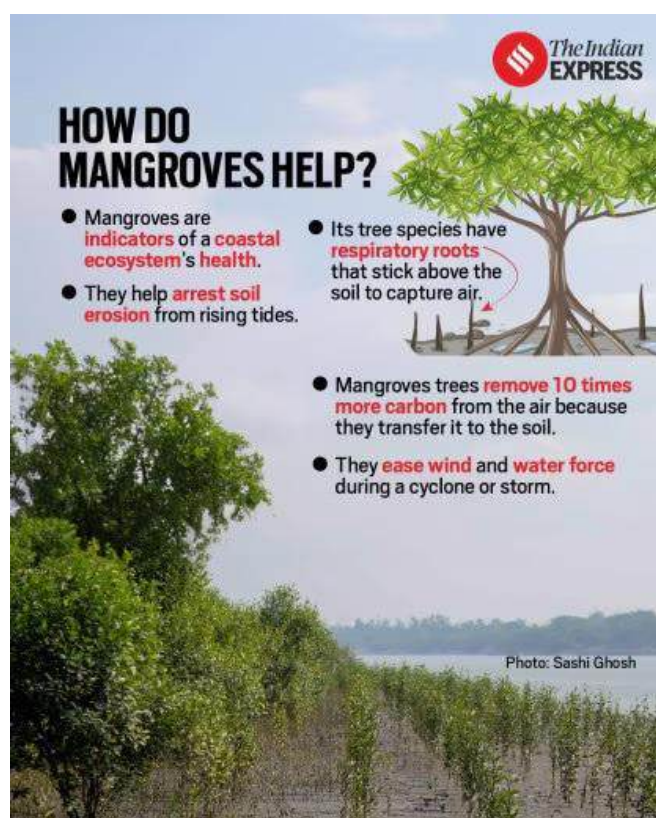
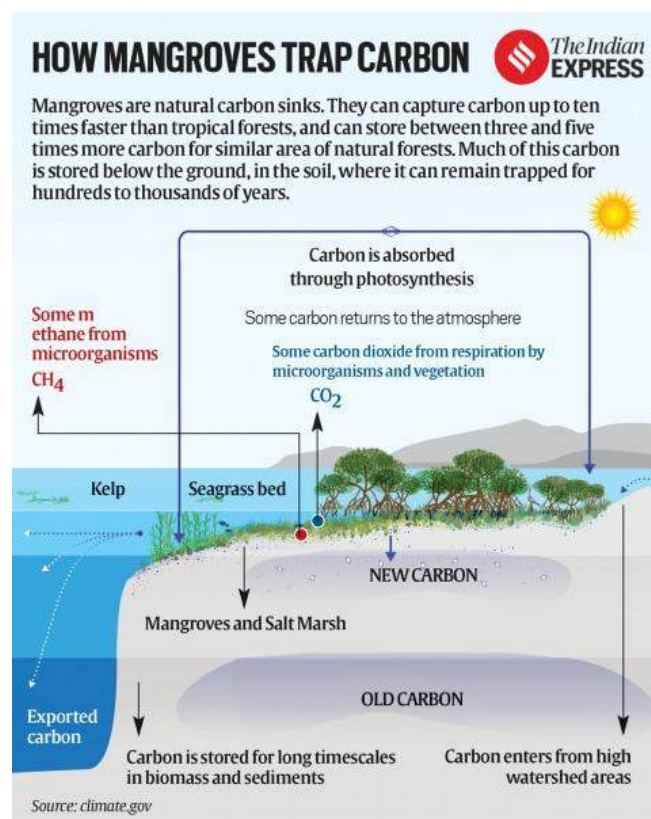
- Salt-tolerant trees/shrubs in estuarine regions where freshwater meets saltwater
- Have aerial breathing roots, waxy leaves; seeds germinate on tree (vivipary)
- Thrive in high rainfall (1,000-3,000mm), temperatures 26-35°C
- Examples: Red mangrove, *Avicennia marina*, Grey mangrove, *Rhizophora*

Distribution in India

- **Total cover:** 4,992 sq km (0.15% of geographical area) - ISFR 2023
- **Largest cover:** West Bengal, followed by Gujarat (1,177 sq km)
- **Major locations:**
 - Sundarbans (largest contiguous mangrove globally, UNESCO site)
 - Bhitarkanika (second largest in India)
 - Godavari-Krishna delta, Kerala, Andaman Islands
 - Gulf of Kutch and Khambhat in Gujarat

Significance of Mangroves

- **Bio-shields:** Natural coastal defense against waves, winds, erosion
- **Carbon sinks:** Store 3,754 tons carbon/hectare; transfer carbon to soil permanently
- **Economic value:** Support fisheries, honey collection, tourism, blue economy
- **Biodiversity:** Nursery for fish/crustaceans, habitat for wildlife, support complex ecosystems



Major Threats

- **Deforestation** and pollution
- **Climate change:** Sea-level rise, severe storms affect 33% of ecosystems
- **Human activities:** Urbanization, agriculture, shrimp farming
- **Infrastructure:** Dam construction, industrial activities
- **Unsustainable tourism** practices
- Mangroves disappearing 3-5 times faster than global forest losses

Conservation Initiatives

Global Efforts

- **Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC):** Launched at COP27, India member
- **Mangroves for Future (MFF):** IUCN-UNDP led, covers 11 countries including India

Indian Initiatives

- **MISHTI scheme:** Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (Budget 2023-24)
- **Amrit Dharohar:** Conservation program
- **State programs:** West Bengal's SAIME, AP's Vana Samrakshana Samitis, Green Tamil Nadu Mission

Way Forward: Key Requirements

- Strengthen legal frameworks and international collaboration
- Scientific studies on climate adaptation mechanisms
- Regional conservation strategies with common global goals
- Community awareness and sustainable practices

The milestone ICJ opinion on climate obligations is not just a verdict from afar, but a compass

India must navigate litigation risks, enforcement gaps, and fossil fuel dilemmas; align duty with dignity.

IE Opinion; By Syed Akbaruddin;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Environment [Link](#)

Why in News?

The International Court of Justice delivered a unanimous advisory opinion on July 23, 2025, declaring climate change an existential threat and establishing legal obligations for states to address it.



Key Background

- **Case initiation:** Vanuatu (population 3,00,000) led coalition of small island states in March 2023
- **UN General Assembly approval:** Over 130 countries co-sponsored; India neither joined nor opposed
- **Core questions:** What are states legally required to do on climate change and consequences of non-compliance
- **India's cautious stance:** Reflects complex position as developing nation balancing growth with climate action

India's Climate Actions

- **2030 target:** 50% electricity from renewables

- **Progress made:** Declining emissions intensity, expanded afforestation, electric buses in major cities
- **Global leadership:** International Solar Alliance, Mission LiFE campaign, G20 presidency focus on climate finance
- **Performance context:** Lower per capita emissions than developed nations despite rising total emissions

ICJ Opinion Impact

- **Legal weight:** Based on climate treaties, UN Charter, customary international law, human rights law
- **State obligations:** Prevent environmental harm, reduce emissions, adapt to impacts, international cooperation
- **Rights violations:** Climate change violates rights to life, health, housing
- **Accountability:** Opens door to legal consequences for inadequate climate action

Three Key Challenges for India

Legal Preparedness

- **Litigation risk:** Potential wave of lawsuits demanding stronger climate action or compensation
- **Court jurisdiction:** Indian courts already interpret healthy environment as part of right to life
- **International exposure:** Possible lawsuits from affected neighboring island states

Enforcement Gaps

- **Implementation issues:** Strong environmental laws on paper but patchy practice
- **Capacity constraints:** Underfunded pollution control agencies, variable state-level compliance
- **Due diligence:** ICJ emphasizes importance of regulatory strengthening

Fossil Fuel Subsidies

- **Current necessity:** Crucial for economically vulnerable households (cooking gas, kerosene)
- **Legal implications:** Subsidies now under legal scrutiny as per ICJ opinion
- **Policy innovation needed:** Rethink support mechanisms without locking poor into polluting fuels

Strategic Outlook

- **Diplomatic balance:** Align climate ambition with development fairness

- **Justice principle:** Climate action must not become new form of injustice
- **Future direction:** Align duty with dignity, ambition with justice in global climate framework

- **Africa lagging:** Only 7% growth from very low base, less than 1% of global additions
- **Supply chain monopoly:** China controls production and consumes half of renewable systems
- **Energy security concerns:** Limited access for other countries, similar to OPEC's oil control

News / Explained / Explained Climate / Why increasing renewable energy alone can't solve climate crisis

Why increasing renewable energy alone can't solve climate crisis

In recent years, the world has witnessed a boom in the growth of renewable energy capacity. However, this has not reduced the use of fossil fuels, which has led to an unabated rise of greenhouse gas emissions.

IE Opinion; By Amitabh Sinha;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Environment [Link](#)

Why in News?

IRENA report shows world added record 582 GW renewable capacity in 2024, but fossil fuel use continues rising, proving renewables alone can't solve climate crisis.

Key Renewable Energy Growth

- Global renewable capacity: 4,442 GW (30% of world's electricity)
- 2024 addition: 582 GW (15% increase, largest annual growth)
- On track to triple capacity by 2030 (COP28 target)
- Only 10% of new electricity capacity in 2024 was fossil fuel-based

Why Renewables Aren't Replacing Fossil Fuels?

- **Growing demand:** Electricity demand tripled since 1990, renewables only meeting additional needs
- **Absolute fossil fuel use rising:** More fossil fuels burned today than 10 years ago despite renewable growth
- **Limited energy scope:** Electricity only 20-22% of total energy use; renewables provide just 6% of world's total energy
- **Future projections:** Even by 2050, only 40-45% of energy will come from clean sources

Regional Imbalances

- **China dominance:** 62% of global renewable additions (364 GW out of 582 GW)

Climate Impact Reality

- Greenhouse gas emissions at record highs
- Fossil fuels still 70% of electricity production, 90%+ of total energy
- Carbon removal technologies needed but not yet viable
- Goal of limiting warming below 2°C increasingly unrealistic

News / Explained / Explained Sci-Tech / Why 8.8 magnitude Kamchatka quake is rare but not unusual

Premium

Why 8.8 magnitude Kamchatka quake is rare but not unusual

With a magnitude of 8.8, the earthquake in Russia's far-eastern corner is one of the strongest on record. Its epicentre lies on the Circum-Pacific seismic belt, more popularly known as the 'Ring of Fire', which is the most seismically active belt on the planet, accounting for 80% of Earth's largest earthquakes

IE Explained; By Amitabh Sinha, Alind Chauhan;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Geography [Link](#)

Why in News

An 8.8 magnitude earthquake struck Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula on July 30, 2025, triggering tsunamis across the Pacific and ranking among the strongest earthquakes ever recorded.

Strongest earthquakes on record





Impact Factors

- **Population Density:** Kamchatka's sparse population (0.62 persons/sq km) prevented casualties
- **Comparison:** Weaker 7.6 magnitude Nepal earthquake (2015) killed 15,000+ due to population density
- **Maximum Possible:** 9.5 magnitude is practical limit; stronger would require Earth-wide faultline

Key Facts

- **Strength:** One of the strongest on record, strongest since Japan's 9.1 magnitude quake in 2011
- **Location:** Off Kamchatka Peninsula, 6,500 km east of Moscow
- **Tsunami Impact:** Waves up to 3-4 meters in Kamchatka, 5 feet in Hawaii, 2 feet in Japan
- **Casualties:** No deaths reported despite significant flooding and damage
- **Historical Context:** Strongest in the region since 1952's magnitude 9.0 earthquake

Ring of Fire Explanation

- **Location:** Earthquake occurred on Circum-Pacific seismic belt ("Ring of Fire")
- **Activity:** Accounts for 80% of Earth's largest earthquakes
- **Coverage:** Encircles Pacific Ocean, touching US, Mexico, Chile, Peru, New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, Philippines, Japan, Russia
- **Regional History:** Kamchatka-Japan region has witnessed 130+ earthquakes of 7+ magnitude since 1900

Subduction Process

- **Mechanism:** Pacific tectonic plate clashing against continental plates
- **Process:** Denser Pacific plate goes beneath lighter continental plate, creating stress released as earthquakes
- **Comparison:** Similar to how Himalayas formed from Indian-Eurasian plate collision

Global Seismic Zones

- **Primary:** Ring of Fire (80% of major earthquakes)
- **Secondary:** Alpide belt (Indonesia-Himalayas-Turkey, 15-17% of major quakes)
- **Third:** Mid-Atlantic ridge (moderate earthquakes, minimal land impact)

NEWS IN SHORT: GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT

C-FLOOD System

- 1) Inaugurated July 2, 2025 by Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil
- 2) Web-based flood forecasting system developed by CWC and C-DAC
- 3) 2-day advance warnings at village level
- 4) High-resolution flood maps and water level predictions
- 5) Covers Mahanadi, Godavari, Tapi river basins
- 6) Uses high-performance computing at C-DAC Pune

India Reaches 50% Non-Fossil Power Capacity

- 1) India achieved 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources as of June 2025, marking a significant climate milestone
- 2) This target was met five years ahead of the 2030 deadline set under India's Paris Agreement commitments
- 3) Total installed capacity stands at 484.82 GW, with 242.78 GW from non-fossil sources
- 4) Breakdown of non-fossil capacity: 184.62 GW from renewable energy (solar/wind), 49.38 GW from large hydroelectric projects, and 8.78 GW from nuclear power
- 5) Achievement aligns with India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the 2015 Paris Agreement
- 6) Union Minister Pralhad Joshi credited PM Modi's leadership for driving "Bharat's green transformation"



Kerala's Reward-Based E-Waste Drive

- 1) Kerala launched a state-wide e-waste collection drive on July 15, 2025, offering payment to citizens for electronic waste
- 2) The initiative covers items like mobile phones, laptops, batteries, light bulbs, televisions, and household appliances
- 3) Haritha Karma Sena workers conduct door-to-door collection, with Clean Kerala Company coordinating the efforts
- 4) Citizens receive fixed rates for recyclable e-waste, with Clean Kerala Company reimbursing local bodies for payments
- 5) Kerala's e-waste generation is projected to reach 97,541 tonnes by FY 2028-29, growing at 30% annually



- 6) The drive aims to curb toxic pollution from improper disposal of electronics containing lead, mercury, and cadmium
- 7) Minister MB Rajesh launched the campaign at Neyyatinkara Municipality as part of efforts to bring informal scrap trade under regulation

Presidential Address on Environmental Principles



3R Principle Framework

- 1) **Reduce:** Minimize waste generation at source
- 2) **Reuse:** Extend product lifecycle through repurposing
- 3) **Recycle:** Convert waste into usable materials

Policy Integration

- 1) Aligned with Viksit Bharat 2047 vision
- 2) Foundation for national cleanliness strategy
- 3) Emphasis on sustainable development practices

Implementation Focus

- 1) Citizen behavior change initiatives
- 2) Government policy alignment

Private sector participation encouragement

"Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar" Initiative



Program Overview

Basic Details

- 1) Launch Date: July 27, 2023
- 2) Ministry: Culture under National Mission on Cultural Mapping

- 3) Target: 6.5 lakh villages across India
- 4) Current Status: 4.7 lakh villages live on portal

Core Objectives

- 1) Comprehensive cultural mapping of Indian villages
- 2) Bridge past and present rural heritage
- 3) Foster pride and ownership among villagers
- 4) Promote cultural tourism
- 5) Economic growth in rural communities

Current Progress Status

Achievement Metrics

- 1) Villages Mapped: 4.7 lakh out of 6.5 lakh target
- 2) Portal Status: Live with cultural portfolios
- 3) Geographic Coverage: 29 states and 7 union territories
- 4) Special Focus: Marginalized communities and lesser-known traditions

Regional Implementation

- 1) West Bengal: 5,917 villages mapped out of 41,116 target
- 2) Remaining Process: 35,199 villages in active documentation

National Scope: Comprehensive village-wise cultural heritage preservation

Internal Security

July 2025

News / Explained / INS Tamal commissioned: All about its capabilities, why it may be the Indian Navy's last imported warship.

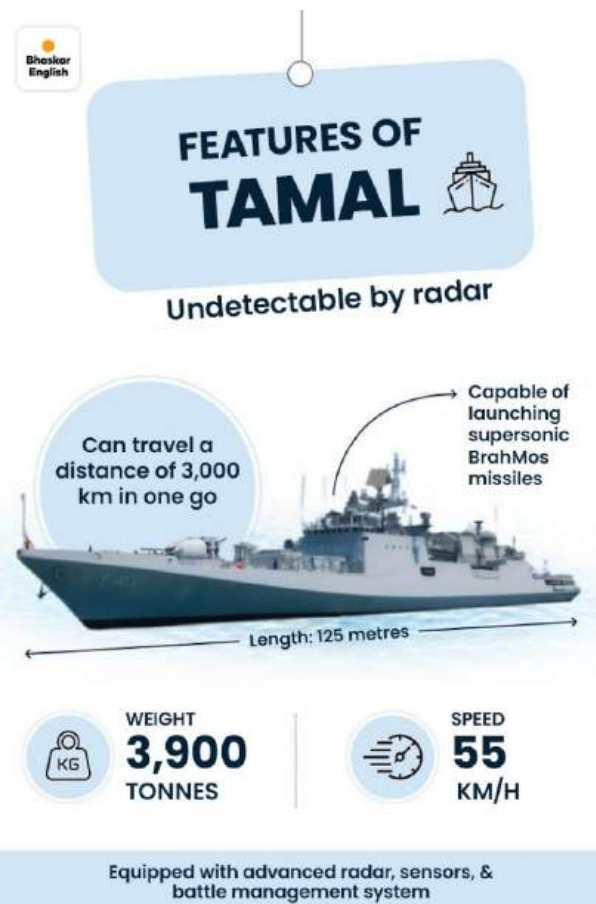
Premium

INS Tamal commissioned: All about its capabilities, why it may be the Indian Navy's last imported warship

Built in Kaliningrad, Russia, INS Tamal is set to be the last Indian warship purchased from a foreign country. This is a result of decades of efforts by the Navy at achieving maximum indigenisation in shipbuilding.

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

Why in News: INS Tamal commissioned on July 1, 2025, at Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, Russia, marking India's last foreign-built warship induction.



INS Tamal: Key Features

Basic Specifications:

- Eighth Talwar-class frigate under Project 1135.6
- Displacement: 4,035 long tonnes, Length: 124.8m, Beam: 15.2m
- Max speed: 30 knots, Range: 4,850 nautical miles
- Crew: 250 sailors + 26 officers
- Home port: Karwar, Karnataka

Combat Capabilities (Four-Dimensional Warfare):

- **Air Defence:** 24 Shtil surface-to-air missiles (70km range), 8 Igla missiles, 2 AK-630 cannons (5,000 rounds/min)
- **Surface Attack:** 8 BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles (Mach 3 speed), 100mm A-190E main gun (20km range)
- **Underwater:** RBU ASW rocket-launcher (12 rockets), 2 torpedo tubes for heavyweight torpedoes
- **Electronic Warfare:** Advanced EW suite, decoy systems, jammers, EO/IR systems

Additional Features:

- Accommodates Kamov 28 and Kamov 31 helicopters
- Enhanced stealth features
- NBC defence systems with centralized damage control
- 26% indigenous components including BrahMos and HUMSA-NG sonar

Last Imported Warship: Indigenization Journey

Historical Context:

- Post-Independence: Acquired ships from UK and USSR due to lack of indigenous capability
- 1960: INS Ajay - first indigenously-built ship
- 1970s: Leander-class frigates had only 15% indigenous content

Progressive Indigenization:

- 2000s: Kolkata-class destroyers - 59% indigenous content
- Current: Vishakhapatnam and Nilgiri classes - 75%+ indigenous content
- 2011-21: 33 out of 39 ships built in Indian shipyards

Future Outlook:

- Next two Talwar-class frigates (Triput and Tavasya) being built by Goa Shipyard Limited
- 9-10 warships to be commissioned between June-December 2025
- All future warships to be built in India

Institutional Development:

- 1964: Central Design Office established
- 1970: Directorate of Naval Design created
- 2005: Directorate of Indigenisation established
- 2010: Indigenous development field units at Mumbai and Visakhapatnam

News / Explained / Explained Law / What concerns does the Maharashtra's 'urban Maoism' Bill raise?

What concerns does the Maharashtra's 'urban Maoism' Bill raise?

The Bill, passed by voice vote in the Assembly, targets 'unlawful activities of left-wing extremist organisations'. Its scope is sweeping, and definitions broad

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

Why in News?

Maharashtra Assembly passed the Special Public Security Bill, 2024 targeting 'urban Maoism' amid concerns over broad definitions and potential misuse.

**Bill Overview**

- **Targets:** Left-wing extremist organizations and their 'unlawful activities'
- **Journey:** First introduced July 2024, lapsed due to elections, reintroduced December 2024, passed by voice vote
- **Status:** Awaits Legislative Council clearance and Governor's assent
- **Rationale:** Combat "safe houses" and "urban dens" of Maoist networks in Maharashtra cities

Key Provisions**Unlawful Activities Include:**

- Interference with public order or law administration
- Overawing public servants by criminal force
- Violence, vandalism, generating fear and apprehension
- Encouraging use of firearms, explosives, disrupting communications
- Practicing disobedience to established law and institutions

Penalties:

- **Imprisonment:** 2-7 years for various offenses
- **Fines:** Up to ₹5 lakh for serious offenses, ₹2 lakh for funding/sheltering
- **Arrest Powers:** All offenses cognizable (warrantless arrest) and non-bailable
- **Property Forfeiture:** Pre-trial seizure with 15-day notice, including residences

Major Concerns Raised**Vague Definitions:**

- Terms like "practicing disobedience" and "disrupting communication by road" too broad
- Could criminalize ordinary protests and dissent
- No clear definition of "menace" provided

Constitutional Issues:

- **Pre-trial Property Seizure:** Forfeiture before conviction violates presumption of innocence
- **Broader Scope:** Unlike UAPA's terror-specific focus, covers general dissent activities
- **Police Powers:** Excessive powers without adequate checks

Potential Misuse:

- Could target legitimate political protesters, activists, farmers
- May create "police state" environment
- Risk of branding dissent as "urban Naxalism"

Comparison with Existing Laws

- **UAPA:** Higher threshold for terror-like activities (secession, sovereignty threats)
- **PMLA:** Property attachment limited to "proceeds of crime" with tribunal oversight
- **Maharashtra Bill:** Broader definitions with lower threshold for action

Opposition and Criticism

- **Civil Rights Activists:** Tushar Gandhi called it "anti-people bill"
- **Political Opposition:** Uddhav Thackeray threatened mass protests

- **Concerns:** Bill could silence dissent and target political opponents
- **Advisory Board:** Requires confirmation by three High Court-qualified judges

Government Defense

- CM Devendra Fadnavis assured no misuse against political protesters
- Claims Maoists "brainwashing urban youth" against democratic system
- Joint Committee incorporated over 12,500 public suggestions

Preliminary Report on Air India flight AI 171 Ahmedabad Crash



Incident Overview

- Air India Flight AI 171
- Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner
- Route: Ahmedabad to London Gatwick
- Date: June 12, 2025
- Time: Takeoff at 13:37 IST
- Crash site: Hostel block of B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad
- Airborne duration: 32 seconds
- Maximum altitude: ~625 feet
- Maximum speed: 180 knots

Key Findings from Preliminary Report

- Dual engine failure due to fuel starvation

- Fuel control switches moved from RUN to CUTOFF position
- Switches transitioned one second apart, seconds after liftoff
- Engines shut down immediately after switch movement
- Pilots' conversation: One pilot asked why fuel was cut off; other denied doing it
- Switches later moved back to RUN position
- Relight attempts unsuccessful due to low altitude and speed
- Ram Air Turbine (RAT) deployed automatically for emergency power
- No bird activity observed on CCTV
- Aircraft began losing altitude before crossing airport perimeter
- Switches found in wreckage in RUN position
- Prior flight reported stabilizer position sensor fault, addressed by engineers
- No confirmation of link between sensor fault and engine cutoffs

Casualties and Survivors

- Onboard: 242 people (230 passengers, 12 crew)
- Fatalities onboard: 241
- Sole survivor: One passenger (British citizen, seat 11A, minor injuries)
- Ground fatalities: 19
- Ground injuries: At least 67 (including ~50 medical students)
- Total fatalities: 260
- Identification: All via DNA testing due to intense fire (up to 1,500°C)

Investigation Details

- Led by: Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) India
- Report release: Around July 8-12, 2025
- Recorders recovered: Two enhanced airborne flight recorders (June 13 and 16)
- Data downloaded: Successful from one recorder
- Assistance: UK AAIB (expert status), US NTSB, FAA
- Parallel inquiries: DGCA and Air India
- Ordered actions: Additional inspections on Air India Boeing 787 fleet (fuel systems, engines, etc.)
- Unanswered questions: Exact cause of switch movement (mechanical, electrical, software, human error)
- Objective: Prevention of future accidents, not blame assignment

News / Explained / Everyday Explainers / What is the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), probing the Ahmedabad flight crash?

What is the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), probing the Ahmedabad flight crash?

AAIB India crash report: The AAIB's 15-page report stated that the two engine fuel control switches onboard transitioned from 'RUN' to 'CUTOFF' position, moments after lift-off. What is the AAIB?

E Opinion;

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

Why in News?

AAIB released preliminary report on Air India flight AI 171 Ahmedabad crash revealing engine fuel control switches transitioned from 'RUN' to 'CUTOFF' position moments after takeoff.

What is AAIB?

Establishment & Status

- Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau under Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India
- Established July 30, 2012 as independent agency separate from DGCA
- Headquartered at Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi
- Created to comply with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs)

Key Functions

- Classifies safety occurrences as Accidents, Serious Incidents, and Incidents
- Investigates all accidents/serious incidents involving aircraft over 2,250 kg All Up Weight and turbojet aircraft
- **Immediate and unrestricted access** to all evidence from any agency without prior judicial consent
- Sole objective is **prevention of accidents, not to apportion blame or liability**

Investigation Process

- Immediate site investigation to collect perishable evidence, black boxes, wreckage samples
- Evidence collection from operators, regulators, personnel with unrestricted access
- Expert analysis through collaboration with agencies like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and DGCA laboratories
- Draft report reviewed internally, final report published and shared with ICAO and participating states

Additional Powers

- Conducts safety studies and issues recommendations to DGCA and international aviation bodies
- Has conducted over 150 accident and incident investigations including Air India Express Flight 1344 in 2020
- Follows Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2017

NEWS IN SHORT: INTERNAL SECURITY SIMBEX 2025 Military Exercise



- 1) 32nd **Singapore-India** Maritime Bilateral Exercise
- 2) Longest continuous naval exercise India conducts with any country
- 3) Originally called Exercise Lion King (started 1994)

Indian Naval Participation

- 1) Four indigenously built warships: INS Delhi, INS Satpura, INS Kiltan, INS Shakti
- 2) Led by Rear Admiral Susheel Menon, Eastern Fleet Commander
- 3) Ships visited Singapore: July 16-19, 2025

Strategic Objectives

- 1) Enhance bilateral maritime cooperation and interoperability
- 2) Counter non-state threats like piracy
- 3) Maritime domain awareness and joint HADR capabilities

Geopolitical Significance

- 1) Supports India's Act East Policy and Vision SAGAR
- 2) Promotes rules-based maritime order in Indo-Pacific
- 3) Regional security provider role for India

Cabinet approves Phase-II of Vibrant Vill Programme (VVP-II)



VVP-II Approval

- Approved: April 4, 2025
- Central Sector Scheme – 100% Centre funding
- Total outlay: ₹6,839 crore
- Tenure: 2024–25 to 2028–29
- Target: Strategic villages along international land borders (17 States/UTs), excluding northern border covered under Phase-I
- Focus: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, J&K (UT), Ladakh (UT), Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal
- Part of “Viksit Bharat@2047” vision
- Comprehensive development—living conditions, livelihood, border security
- Emphasis on infrastructure, value chains, tourism, education, health, digital outreach
- Village-specific action plans, implemented collaboratively
- Road connectivity via PMGSY-IV
- High-powered oversight committee for effective implementation

- Promote local culture, tourism, regular government interaction in villages
- All-weather roads, telecom, TV, electricity—100% coverage targeted
- Technology-driven monitoring (PM Gati Shakti platform)

About Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) [Encompassing Phases I & II]

- Indian government initiative for border villages’ development
- Started: Union Budget 2022–23 (first phase, VVP-I)
- Initial Target: 2,967 villages, 19 districts, 46 border blocks (northern border: Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Ladakh)
- Goals:
 - Comprehensive infrastructure (roads, electricity, telecom, drinking water, housing)
 - Sustainable livelihood—one-village-one-product, eco-agribusiness, cooperatives, SHGs
 - Cultural/heritage promotion, tourism circuits
 - Reversing migration, retaining population in strategic regions
 - Social entrepreneurship, youth/women empowerment
 - Integration of welfare schemes—100% saturation
 - Mainstream integration—security, internal vigilance, national pride
 - Technology use—PM Gati Shakti for planning and tracking
- No duplication with Border Area Development Programme
- “Village Action Plans”—collaboration with Gram Panchayats, district administration
- Encourages regular community activities—fairs, festivals, awareness campaigns
- Decentralized renewable energy, health/wellness centers

In sum:

VVP aims for inclusive, sustainable growth and security of India's border regions—leveraging socio-economic, cultural, and strategic development plans to transform villages from border “endpoints” into engines of growth and national unity.

Parliament Debates: Pahalgam Attack & Operation Sindoor**Government's Position**

- 1) PM Modi: Gave armed forces complete operational freedom
- 2) Defense Minister Rajnath Singh: Led 16-hour discussion in Rajya Sabha
- 3) Home Minister Amit Shah: Detailed Operation Mahadev success
- 4) EAM Jaishankar: Explained diplomatic dimensions

Key Government Arguments

- 1) Zero tolerance for terrorism policy
- 2) Right to defend citizens against cross-border terrorism
- 3) Achieved all political and military objectives
- 4) New normal established: terror and talks cannot coexist

Opposition Response

- 1) Congress LoP Rahul Gandhi: Questioned government's handling
- 2) Allegations of intelligence lapses
- 3) Demands for accountability and compensation details
- 4) Criticism of politicizing national security

Dismissal of External Pressure Claims**Government's Stance**

- 1) Defense Minister Singh: "India ceased operations after achieving all objectives"
- 2) No yielding to external pressures

- 3) Contradicted US President Trump's ceasefire mediation claims
- 4) Operation ended on May 10, 2025 as planned

Diplomatic Success

- 1) UN Security Council: Condemned attack, demanded accountability
- 2) Quad Nations: Joint condemnation of Pahalgam attack
- 3) Global Support: Germany, France, EU backed India's right to self-defense
- 4) TRF Designation: US designated TRF as foreign terrorist organization

Parliamentary Delegations

- 1) Seven delegations visited 33 countries
- 2) Explained India's zero tolerance against terrorism
- 3) Received with honor by foreign ministers
- 4) United voice across party lines internationally

Operation Mahadev Success**Terrorist Elimination**

- 1) Three terrorists killed: Suleiman, Afghan, Gibran
- 2) All involved in Pahalgam attack
- 3) Suleiman identified as top Lashkar commander
- 4) Operation conducted by Army, CRPF, J&K Police

Evidence Confirmation

- 1) Ballistic reports matched Pahalgam attack weapons
- 2) Pakistani voter numbers found for two terrorists
- 3) Pakistan-manufactured chocolates recovered
- 4) Multiple weapons and equipment seized

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Abhishek Vashishtha
AIR-14, CSE 2024
AIR-479, CSE 2022

I am Abhishek Vashishtha, I have secured AIR 14 in CSE 2024. Kalam IAS played an important role in my UPSC journey. I practised PYQs at Kalam IAS, which helped me understand the exam pattern and improved my answer writing skill.

The face to face evaluation of my answers was very helpful. Interview Video analysis by Rajendra Chaudhary Sir was very useful. The detailed feedback provided to me by him helped me a lot.

Thankyou Kalam IAS for being a Constant Support during my journey.

Abhishek
Abhishek Vashishtha
UPSC CSE Rank 14.



Devansh M. Dwivedi
AIR-228, CSE 2024
AIR-333, CSE 2023

Hello everyone,

I am Devansh Mohan Dwivedi AIR 228 (UPSC CSE 2024). Kalam IAS's programmes like RLP+ and PYQ module with face to face evaluations was very helpful during mains preparation. whole team was very helpful and kind.

Kudos to the team.

Swati
Devansh Mohan Dwivedi
AIR 228 (CSE 2024).



Sarthak Singh
AIR-393, CSE 2024
AIR-584, CSE 2022

Hello aspirants,

I am Sarthak Singh AIR 393 UPSC CSE 2024. Kalam IAS's mains PYQ courses were very beneficial in mains marks improvement from my previous attempts.

Specially, Pratibimb and face to face evaluations ensure specific pointers for improvement are provided.

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I wish you all the best!

SARTHAK SINGH
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