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Concession Details

Kalam IAS Students: 20%

UPSC Interview Student: 30%

Selected Students: 50%



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 of 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.

Thank you 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 PYA module with face to face evaluation 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

Hello aspirants,
I am Sarthak Singh AIR 393 UPSC CSE 2024. Kalam IAS mains PYA 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).

MONTHLY MAGAZINE – AUGUST 2025

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2	How the Buddhist relics Piprahwa Gems returned to India
3	The Derozio effect
4	The untold stories of Bengali women revolutionaries who got us freedom
5	Vivek Agnihotri's Bengal Files
6	Amit Shah honours Vithalbhai Patel
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14	Rivalry with China need not mean conflict
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3	How does the World Bank classify countries by income?
4	RBI Monetary Policy Statement 2025-26
5	GST Evasion Detection Drive
6	Coastal Shipping Bill, 2025 Passed by Lok Sabha
7	Finance Minister Introduces Revised Income Tax Bill with Select Committee Recommendations
8	India's S&P Rating Upgrade
9	Periodic Labour Force Survey shows unemployment rate eased to 5.2% in July

10	"Harnessing the Blue Economy: India's Fisheries at a Glance" Backgrounder
11	"PLI Scheme: Powering India's Industrial Renaissance" Backgrounder
12	Ministry of Finance UPS to NPS Switch Facility
13	India's GDP Growth - 7.8% in Q1 FY 2025-26
Science & Technology	
1	India's patent landscape: Universities as changemakers
2	Scientists discover a rare quadruple star system in the Milky Way
3	With Sci-Hub gone, will the 'One Nation, One Subscription' scheme step up?
4	ISRO conducts air drop test for Gaganyaan
5	How India's 'aquonauts' will undertake deep sea exploration under Samudrayaan Mission
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1	India launches NASA-ISRO NISAR satellite for advanced Earth observation
2	Brain-Eating Amoeba Cases Surge in Kerala
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1	How an earthquake can generate tsunami
2	EU's carbon tax is unlikely to fix global warming
3	Increase in coal production dipped in 2024
4	What caused Uttarkashi flash floods
5	Uttarkashi Cloudburst
6	What has been the impact of ethanol blending?

NEWS IN SHORT	
1	Environment (Construction and Demolition) Waste Management Rules, 2025
2	Tsunami Alert Withdrawn in Russia After 7.0 Magnitude Quake
3	Bird Deaths and Wind Energy in India - Environmental Concerns
4	Government speeds up ethanol blending with expanded production and infrastructure
5	Why Africa wants to ditch popular world map?
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1	DRDO successfully tests home-grown air defence system: All about IADWS and its 3 components
2	Two warships from 2 shipbuilders commissioned: INS Udayagiri and INS Himgiri
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1	Operation Muskaan
2	Conclusion of SLINEX 2025
3	The 'Sustainable Power 1404' Exercise
4	Joint Doctrine for Multi Domain Operations Release
5	Exercise Bright Star 2025
Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude	
1	Rabindranath Tagore's poetry, Adi Shankaracharya's teachings – One divine message
2	The stray dog crisis is real. But the solution cannot be cruelty



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QUOTES OF THE DAY

August 2025

Sl No	Quote
1	"We must live together as brothers or perish together as fools." – MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
2	"It is greed to do all the talking but not to want to listen at all." – DEMOCRITUS
3	"In politics, nothing happens by accident. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way." – FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT
4	"If a man really like potatoes, he must be a pretty decent sort of fellow." – A A MILNE
5	"The machine does not isolate man from the great problems of nature but plunges him more deeply into them." – ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPERY
6	"It is lamentable that to be a good patriot one must become the enemy of the rest of mankind." – VOLTAIRE
7	"Tact is the knack of making a point without making an enemy." – HOWARD W NEWTON
8	"It's not the voting that's democracy; It's the counting." – TOM STOPPARD
9	"The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts." – C S LEWIS
10	"If there are no dogs in heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went." – WILL ROGERS
11	"Between saying and doing, many a pair of shoes is worn out." – IRIS MURDOCH
12	"The service of India means, the service of the millions who suffer." – JAWAHARLAL NEHRU
13	"A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a moulder of consensus." – MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
14	"For last year's words belong to last year's language, and next year's await another voice." – T S ELIOT
15	"Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows." – MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
16	"If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear." – GEORGE ORWELL
17	"In art, what we want is the certainty that one spark of original genius shall not be extinguished." – MARY CASSATT
18	"Dogs are better than human beings because they know but do not tell." – EMILY DICKINSON
19	"The ban on sports betting does exactly what prohibition did. It makes criminals rich." – JAMES SUROWIECKI
20	"He that can have patience can have what he will." – BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
21	"Our country is the world, our countrymen are all mankind." – WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON
22	"You cannot control your own population by force, but it can be distracted by consumption." – NOAM CHOMSKY
23	"Our bodies are our gardens; Our wills are our gardeners." – WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
24	"The noise of the city is very loud; in recollection it's like the sound track of a film turned up too high." – MARUERITE DURAS

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

August 2025

Sl No	Quote
1	"Sir Keir Starmer's declaration on Palestinian statehood sends a welcome signal for the future. But more pressure is needed if a humanitarian catastrophe is to be averted." – THE GUARDIAN
2	"In securing a 20 percent tariff rate from Washington, Dhaka has navigated a perilous new era of US trade diplomacy." – THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH
3	"With the UN climate summit nearing, all eyes are on China – the key player in the global renewables boom and the fight to stay within climate limits." – THE GUARDIAN
4	"After Putin strung him along for months... Trump took steps this past week against India... The President now has an opportunity to press his advantage by doing the same with China." – THE WASHINGTON POST
5	"As the nation celebrates one year of the historic August 5 that put an end to the autocratic rule of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League, it is deeply troubling that the corrupt, authoritarian, and exclusionary practices that had made the regime so reviled in the first place persist to this day." – THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH
6	"One year on from the uprising, we urge critical reflection from all its stakeholders. They all must do more, and do better." – THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH
7	"The Russian president had a friend in Donald Trump but a paranoid addiction to war prevents him from doing a deal." – THE GUARDIAN
8	"[Benjamin] Netanyahu's approach is not merely wrong. It will make things worse, much worse for people in Gaza in the short term, most of all but worse for Israelis in the long term too. Netanyahu is sowing dragon's teeth for years to come, and the sooner he is stopped the better" – THE GUARDIAN
9	"Mr Trump shown himself unwilling to confront China on TikTok for selfish reasons. Congress should step up. It should do what the founders intended and act as a bulwark of American democracy." – THE NEW YORK TIMES
10	"Morally and practically speaking, the Ukrainian President's absence on Friday will mean that any deal struck by Mr Trump and Mr Putin in Alaska lacks all legitimacy." – THE GUARDIAN
11	"To have to return to the discussion on mob violence every other week feels like a Sisyphean exercise by now – an unlikely fate given the promise of the July uprising to make a break from past authoritarian practices." – THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH
12	"The assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, along with most of his family members, on August 15, 1975 is a dark chapter in Bangladesh's history." – THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH
13	"The key for Zelenskyy in the coming days is to ensure that Moscow, not Kyiv, is rightly blamed for any lack of progress. That means maintaining an openness to negotiations and not being baited into public debating, like in their last Oval Office meeting." – THE WASHINGTON POST

14	"Netanyahu does not consider the issue of the civilians and soldiers abducted on his watch as anything other than a nuisance. From his perspective, the hostages in Gaza are foiling the realisation of the 'total victory' that he has promised time and again." – HAARETZ, ISRAEL
15	"Ukraine must remain in control of the future of its own territory, and the use of force must not be rewarded by the summary of redrawing of borders. With enormous bravery and skill, and at immense cost, Ukraine has resisted an illegal invasion for more than three years. There must be no sellout." – THE GUARDIAN
16	"Any peace deal must ensure Ukraine's territorial sovereignty, while ending Russia's West-led isolation, particularly dropping economic sanctions. Anything less will fail to bring long-lasting peace." – DAWN, PAKISTAN
17	"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismisses the claim that he is aiming for Israel's complete occupation of Gaza because this would require Israel to support the Strip's residents in accordance with international law." – HAARETZ ISRAEL
18	"The suffering and death of Palestinians is multiplying. Seizing and occupying Gaza City would only deepen the horror." – THE GUARDIAN
19	"Trump, who claimed to want to limit China's global influence, in reality is actually bolstering it through his erratic foreign policy." – LE MONDE, FRANCE
20	"Unfortunately, in the first year of the interim government, there have been no effective steps specifically addressing mob violence." – THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH
21	"This is how it works: Blow up a hospital, kill journalists and express regret. The propaganda strategy is transparent: It is not a war crime because the IDF 'regrets' what happened." – HAARETZ, ISRAEL
22	"As the Israeli occupation of Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese land has shown the Zionists very much intend to deliver on their promise of 'Greater Israel'. Therefore, unless the slaughter of Palestinians is stopped, large swathes of the region may soon be devoured by the Zionists." – DAWN, PAKISTAN
23	"Does Donald Trump, who has the unique power to halt this war, believe he can one day win a Nobel peace prize when he lauds the man subject to an international court warrant as 'a war hero' and refuses to intervene to stop the slaughter [in Gaza]?" – THE GUARDIAN
24	"Fixing Ottawa's strained relations with Beijing has become all the more critical because of Canada's broken trust with the United States under President Donald Trump." – THE GLOBE AND MAIL. CANADA



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History, Art & Culture

August 2025

S Y Quraishi writes: In referring to elections under the Cholas, PM Modi invoked a historical truth

His words spoke to the indigenous traditions of collective decision-making, anchored in ethics, equity, and participation

IE Opinion; S Y Quraishi;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – History [Link](#)

Why in News?

PM Modi declared at Gangaikonda Cholapuram that Indian democracy predated the Magna Carta, referencing ancient Chola electoral systems.



Ancient Chola Democracy System

- **Uthiramerur village elections:** Conducted over 1,000 years ago in Tamil Nadu under Chola dynasty
- **Historical evidence:** Temple inscription from 920 AD during Parantaka Chola's reign details complete electoral framework
- **Kudavolai system:** "Ballot pot" method where candidate names on palm leaves were drawn by impartial young boy
- **Self-governing republics:** Villages had genuine democratic governance, not just feudal councils
- **Fixed terms:** One-year tenure for elected representatives

Electoral Process & Qualifications

Candidate Requirements:

- Age: 35-70 years
- Property: Own tax-paying land with house
- Knowledge: Well-versed in sacred texts or administration

Disqualifications:

- Debt defaulters, alcohol consumers

- Those with moral transgressions
- Failed to present accounts from previous office
- Close relatives of disqualified persons also barred

Accountability Measures:

- Right to recall representatives
- Removal for embezzlement or dereliction
- Lifetime bans (up to 7 generations) for serious offenses

Historical Significance

- **Indigenous roots:** Democracy existed in India since 5th century BCE
- **Kautilya's Arthashastra:** Described samghas (local unions) for governance
- **Vaishali republic:** World's first known republic
- **Modern relevance:** Ancient codes more stringent than today's political standards
- **Civilizational DNA:** India's democratic ethos predates 1947 Constitution

Author's conclusion: Democracy in India is homegrown, not borrowed - making India the "mother of democracy worldwide."

News / Explained / Explained Culture / How the Buddhist relics Piprahwa Gems returned to India

How the Buddhist relics Piprahwa Gems returned to India

This return was made possible by "an exemplary case of public-private partnership," Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on Wednesday. Here's the story

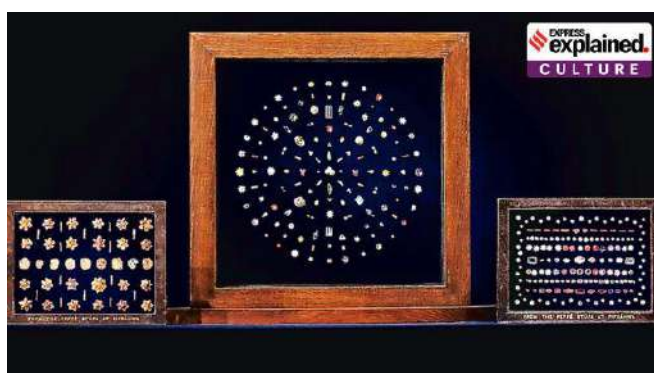
IE Opinion; By Divya A;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – History [Link](#)

Why in News?

Buddhist relics (Piprahwa Gems) taken from India in 1898 have been returned through public-private partnership.

Background

- **Original Discovery:** 349 gemstones excavated in 1898 by English estate manager William Claxton Peppé from Buddhist stupa in Piprahwa village, UP
- **Historical Journey:**
 - Sacred bones/ashes donated to Siamese King Rama V
 - Most artifacts sent to Indian Museum, Kolkata
 - Some remained with Peppé family for 127 years
- **Auction Plan:** Chris Peppé put collection up for auction at Sotheby's Hong Kong in May 2025, estimated value over \$100 million



The Derozio effect: a brief, disruptive moment in 19th century colonial Calcutta

Young Bengal, a group of radical reformers were followers of Henry Derozio at the Hindu College. Though shortlived, their idea of India was 'inclusive, tolerant, eclectic', like that of Gandhi, Nehru and so many others

TH Text & Context; By Uma Mahadevan-Dasgupta;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – History [Link](#)

Why in News?

Rosinka Chaudhuri's book "India's First Radicals: Young Bengal and the British Empire" examines the brief but influential Derozio movement in 19th century colonial Calcutta.



Government Intervention

- **Legal Action:** Ministry of Culture served legal notice on May 5 demanding auction cessation and repatriation
- **Challenges:**
 - Relics excavated on British-allocated land
 - Privately held for 127 years
 - Taken before India's Antiquities Act 1972
- **Pressure Tactics:** Coordinated with Hong Kong authorities through Financial Investigation Unit

Resolution

- **Private Acquisition:** Indian industrialist Pirojsha Godrej bought collection for undisclosed amount
- **Museum Agreement:**
 - Large portion to be loaned to National Museum for 5 years
 - Entire collection to be displayed for 3 months initially
- **Outcome:** Avoided government commercial transaction while ensuring repatriation

Henry Derozio & Hindu College (1826-1831)

- **Background:** 17-year-old Anglo-Portuguese poet appointed lecturer at Hindu College, Calcutta in 1826
- **Literary works:** Published "Poems" and "The Fakeer of Jungheera" addressing colonial subjugation
- **Poetry themes:** Described India as "captured eagle," advocated freedom for enslaved, compared country to unused musical instrument
- **Teaching impact:** Inspired students (Derozians) to form Academic Association for social debates
- **Dismissal & death:** Removed in April 1831 for alleged atheism promotion; died of cholera months later

Young Bengal Movement & Impact

- **Core principles:** Liberty, reason, original thinking; opposition to social, cultural, religious orthodoxies
- **Political milestone:** Established India's first political party - Bengal British India Society (1843) with British abolitionist George Thompson
- **Vision statement:** "Secure welfare, extend rights, advance interests of all classes of fellow subjects"
- **Identity:** Not Macaulay's anglicized Indians but "new race of men in the East" per missionary Alexander Duff

Key Example - Radhanath Sikdar

- **Professional role:** Mathematics student turned Chief Computer at Survey of India under George Everest
- **Courageous act:** Confronted British magistrate over mistreatment of Indian laborers; filed legal complaint
- **Scientific achievement:** First calculated Peak XV (Mount Everest) as world's highest mountain
- **Recognition denied:** Andrew Waugh officially reported results, won honors while Sikdar excluded from narrative

Legacy & Vision

- **Philosophical alignment:** Young Bengal's inclusive, tolerant, eclectic vision paralleled later leaders like Gandhi and Nehru
- **Cultural approach:** Open to world's best ideas while formulating national culture
- **Historical significance:** Though short-lived, planted seeds for future independence movements
- **Lasting impact:** Established precedent for challenging colonial authority through principled resistance

The untold stories of Bengali women revolutionaries who got us freedom

These women waged a battle on two fronts: Against foreign colonial domination and social constraints that sought to limit their agency

IE Opinion; By Samayeta Bal;

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

Why in News?

Article published during India's 79th Independence Day celebrations highlighting overlooked Bengali women revolutionaries who fought both colonialism and patriarchy.



The Double-Front Battle Context

- **Colonial + Patriarchal Opposition:** Fought British Empire while defying social constraints limiting women's agency
- **Early 20th Century Bengal Restrictions:** Girls' education discouraged, early marriage common, purdah system confining upper-caste women
- **Revolutionary Group Skepticism:** Even nationalist groups like Surya Sen's initially doubted women's leadership capacity
- **Broader Societal Expectations:** Women expected to remain in narrow domestic roles, participation in nationalist cause viewed with suspicion

Armed Revolutionary Actions

- **Pritilata Waddedar (1932):** Led daring assault on racially segregated European Club, Chittagong; consumed cyanide to avoid capture; left leaflets urging women not to "remain in background"
- **Kalpana Datta:** Participated in Chittagong armoury raid; documented women as "equal tacticians and partners," not mere auxiliaries
- **Bina Das (1932):** Attempted assassination of Bengal Governor Stanley Jackson during university convocation; earlier wore khadi in college, wrote about banned literature in exams
- **Matangini Hazra ("Gandhi Buri", 1942):** Illiterate widow from Tamluk led Quit India procession; shot while holding tricolour, chanting "Vande Mataram" until death

Literary and Intellectual Resistance

- **Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain:** Authored "Sultana's Dream" envisioning women-led society; established schools for Muslim girls in Kolkata; went door-to-door persuading families for girls' education

- **Educational Revolution:** Reading groups organized, nationalist publications like "Mukti" contributed to, homes opened as underground meeting sites
- **Literary Weapons:** Literacy used as resistance tool, local consciousness building especially among women

Covert Operations and Networks

- **Kamala Das Gupta:** Managed women's hostel while serving as courier for underground groups; hid fugitives, coordinated logistics under domestic cover
- **Sophisticated Methods:** Arms smuggled in food baskets, messages stitched into embroidery, rakhis tied across religious lines against 1905 Bengal partition
- **Nanibala Devi:** Widowed Brahmin woman used multiple identities (mother, wife, servant) as revolutionary cover; endured torture in Peshawar, chose silence over betrayal
- **Labanya Prabha Ghosh:** Rural Bengal organizer of reading groups, regular contributor to nationalist publications

Revolutionary Impact and Legacy

- **Expanded Definition:** Transformed concept of revolutionary from armed combat to intellectual, educational, and covert resistance
- **Cross-Class Movement:** From elite educated women to illiterate rural widows like Matangini Hazra
- **Documentation Challenge:** Stories survived in fragments - oral histories, forgotten journals, fellow fighters' recollections rather than textbooks
- **Foundational Architects:** Not footnotes to masculine history but essential architects of freedom demanding equal participation in nation-building
- **Continuing Relevance:** Legacy represents resilience against invisibility, courage against expected submission, redefining patriotism beyond battlefield valor

News / Explained / Explained History / Vivek Agnihotri's Bengal Files: Who was Gopal 'Paantha' Mukherjee, and what did he do on Direct Action Day?

Vivek Agnihotri's Bengal Files: Who was Gopal 'Paantha' Mukherjee, and what did he do on Direct Action Day?

Great Calcutta Killing 1946, Hindu Muslim riots Kolkata: Vivek Agnihotri's Bengal Files is about the 'Great Calcutta Killing', the riots that raged in Kolkata for four days beginning August 16, 1946, the date designated by the Muslim League as "Direct Action Day" to create Pakistan. One of the characters in the violence was Gopal Mukherjee.

IE Explained; By Adrija Roychowdhury;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – History [Link](#)

Why in News?

Shantanu Mukherjee filed police complaint against filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri claiming "Bengal Files" tarnishes his grandfather Gopal "Paantha" Mukherjee's reputation.

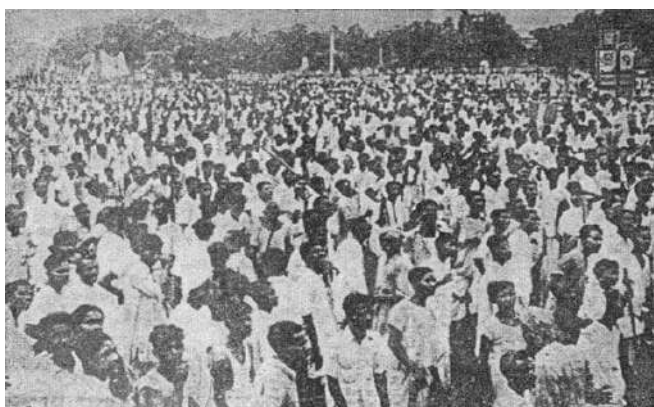


Gopal "Paantha" Mukherjee – Background

- **Identity:** Born 1916, lived Malanga Lane, Bowbazar area, central Kolkata
- **Physical appearance:** 5'4" height, long hair like women, moustache and beard
- **Profession:** Owned mutton shop on College Street; "paantha" means goat in Bengali
- **Gang leadership:** Led street gang of 800+ young men during 1946 riots
- **Revolutionary background:** Member of Atma Unnati Samiti, inspired by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
- **Political affiliation:** Founded Bharatiya Jatiya Bahini organization, participated in Quit India Movement

Direct Action Day Context (August 16, 1946)

- **Muslim League's call:** Muhammad Ali Jinnah declared Direct Action Day for Pakistan creation
- **Bengal situation:** H.S. Suhrawardy (Muslim League CM) declared public holiday
- **Violence trigger:** 100,000-strong rally at Maidan; Suhrawardy allegedly restrained police
- **Casualties:** 5,000-10,000 killed, 15,000 wounded over four days
- **Political impact:** Led directly to Bengal partition in 1947



A crowd assembled at the foot of the Ochterlony Monument (now known as the Shahid Minar) in Kolkata, to attend a meeting of the Muslim League on the Direct Action Day (16 August 1946). (Photo: Wikimedia Commons)

Gopal Mukherjee's Actions During Violence

- **Initial response:** Saw Muslim League volunteers with sticks shouting "Lad ke lenge Pakistan"
- **Defensive mobilization:** Closed shop, gathered "boys" to protect Hindu neighborhoods
- **Weapons procurement:** Two American .45 pistols, grenades bought from US soldiers for Rs 250/whisky bottle
- **Combat strategy:** "If one murder happens, commit 10 murders" - his orders to followers
- **Selective targeting:** Claimed attacked only League rioters, not ordinary Muslims/women/children
- **Area coverage:** Operated in Bowbazar, College Street, Chandni Chowk areas

Post-Riots Life & Legacy

- **Gandhi encounter:** Refused three times to meet Gandhi; finally met but wouldn't surrender weapons
- **Social ostracism:** Initially hailed as savior, later looked upon with contempt
- **Criminal turn:** Turned to organized crime - dacoities, armed robberies, smuggling, kidnapping
- **Police records:** Listed as CRO-HS-K23865 in 1950 Lalbazar Detective records
- **Family perspective:** Grandson claims he saved Kolkata from becoming Bangladesh
- **Current controversy:** Family objects to "vulgar" portrayal in Agnihotri's film

News / Explained / Explained History / Amit Shah honours Vithalbhai Patel: Role Vallabhbhai's brother played in shaping India's Parliament

Amit Shah honours Vithalbhai Patel: Role Vallabhbhai's brother played in shaping India's Parliament

When Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly, Vithalbhai Patel was presiding over it. What happened after this still has relevance today. We explain.

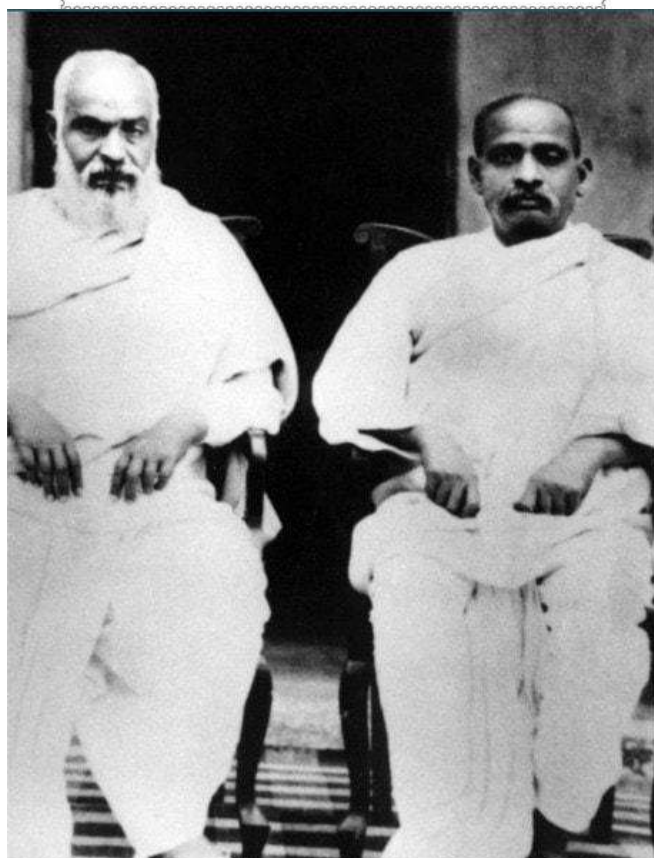
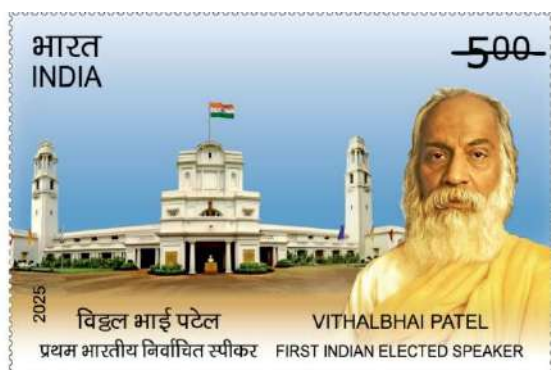
IE Explained; By Yashee;

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

Why in News?

Amit Shah inaugurated All India Speakers' Conference commemorating 100th anniversary of Vithalbhai Patel becoming first Indian President of Central Legislative Assembly.





Vithalbhai Patel with his younger brother, the 'Ironman of India', Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. (Photo: sardarpateltrust.org)

Vithalbhai Patel: Background

- **Family Connection:** Elder brother of Sardar Vallabhbhai
- **Education & Profession:** Studied law in England; successful lawyer in Bombay
- **Political Journey:**
 - Elected Bombay Legislative Council (1912), Imperial Legislative Council (1918)
 - Central Legislative Assembly member from Bombay city (1924)

- Co-founded Swaraj Party (1923) with C.R. Das after opposing Gandhi's suspension of Non-Cooperation Movement

Revolutionary Role as Assembly President (1925-1930)

Institutional Reforms

- **Independent Parliament Secretariat:** Established separate Legislative Assembly Department (January 10, 1929) ensuring staff reported only to President
- **Security Control:** Maintained Assembly security under Speaker's control through ward and watch system (continued till 2024 when CISF took over)
- **Dignity of Office:** Challenged British protocol - made Viceroy come to him rather than rising for Viceroy during annual address

Response to Bomb Incident (April 8, 1929)

- **Context:** Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw smoke bombs protesting Trade Disputes Bill and Public Safety Bill
- **Vithalbhai's Stand:** British government wanted to take over Assembly security post-incident
- **Firm Decision:** Remained adamant that security responsibility stays with President, not government

Final Years & Legacy

Health & Death

- **Arrest:** Detained as satyagrahi (August 28, 1930), released 1931 due to ill health
- **Treatment Abroad:** Traveled to Vienna and Switzerland for medical care
- **Death:** October 22, 1933, in Geneva/Gland, Switzerland

Controversial Will

- **Bequest:** Left significant portion of property to Subhas Chandra Bose for India's political activities
- **Legal Challenge:** Family contested will; court ruled in family's favor
- **Instructions:** Wanted body cremated on Chowpatty sands beside Lokmanya Tilak's cremation site

Lasting Impact

- **Legislative Traditions:** Established framework for democratic functioning based on Indian values
- **Speaker's Independence:** Created precedent for independent legislative departments in all states
- **Parliamentary Security:** Security model continued for nearly a century until 2024

NEWS IN SHORT: HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

PM Modi Pays Tribute to Kakori Revolutionaries - 100th Anniversary

PM Modi pays tribute to 1925 Kakori revolutionaries, calls their courage 'timeless'

BUSINESS TODAY AUGUST 10, 2025



PM Modi paid glowing tributes to the courage and patriotism of the revolutionaries who took part in the historic Kakori incident of 1925, as the nation marked its 100th anniversary. He said, "On this day, a hundred years ago, the courage shown by patriotic Indians at Kakori highlighted the resentment among people against colonial rule. We will keep working to fulfil their dreams for a strong and prosperous India."

Historical Significance

- Centenary commemoration of the famous Kakori train robbery incident that occurred on August 9, 1925
- Revolutionary freedom struggle milestone against British colonial rule

Prime Minister's Tribute

- PM Modi remembered the brave Kakori revolutionaries on this historic anniversary

- Praised their exceptional courage in fighting against British colonial oppression
- Acknowledged their supreme sacrifice for India's independence movement

Contemporary Relevance

- Inspirational legacy for modern India's development journey
- Motivation for national progress toward strength and prosperity
- Reminder of patriotic values that continue to guide the nation

Key Message

- Revolutionary spirit remains relevant for India's ongoing transformation
- Sacrifice and dedication of freedom fighters as guiding principles for current generation
- National commitment to honor their memory through continued progress

Pingali Venkayya: Architect of the Indian Tricolour

Why in News?

Pingali Venkayya was mentioned in a Press Information Bureau (PIB) release, in the context of national symbols and his contribution as the designer of the Indian flag.

Details

- **Inspiration:** While serving in the British Army in South Africa, he felt the need for an Indian national flag after being required to salute the Union Jack.
- **Initial Design:** He presented his initial two-color flag design, with red for Hindus and green for Muslims, to Mahatma Gandhi in 1921.
- **Evolution of the Flag:** On Gandhi's advice, a white stripe was added for other communities, and a spinning wheel (charkha) was placed in the center to symbolize self-reliance.

Legacy: The design was adopted by the Indian National Congress in 1931 and formed the basis for the current national flag; Venkayya was posthumously honored with a postage stamp in 2009.



DESIGNING THE NATION'S PRIDE

➤ Gandhian **Pingali Venkayya** designed the initial version. Hyderabad woman **Surayya Tyabji** finalised it

➤ Pingali Venkayya proposed the concept of a national flag in 1916. He was working as a lecturer in Vijaywada at the time

➤ The draft design was submitted in 1921 during an AICC session

➤ The design first served as the Congress flag. It was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on July 22, 1947 and was adopted as the national flag before Independence



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Day 06	Financial Statements (Balance Sheet)
Day 07	Partnerships
Day 08	Not-for-Profit Organisations
Day 09	Companies (Share Capital, Debentures, Financial Ratios)
Day 10	Companies (Financial Statements of Companies)
Day 11	Overview+ new laws/old laws
Day 12	Definition of workmen, employees
Day 13	Trade Unions
Day 14	Strikes and Lockouts, Retrenchment
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Day 17	Insurance
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20 Hours Approx

These lecture are pre-recorded by
Shubham Jain, AIR152 [CSE 2022], NLU Delhi

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EPFO_2503	07 Sept	ECONOMY & GLOBALIZATION (80)+ CA(20)+ ENGLISH(10)+GEN. SCIENCE (10)
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EPFO_2506	28 Sept	INDUSTRIAL AND LABOUR LAWS(60)+SOCIAL SECURITY(60)
EPFO_2507	05 Oct	GENERAL ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES,ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING(100)+ CA(20)
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EPFO_2509	26 Oct	FULL SYLLABUS
EPFO_2510	02 Nov	FULL SYLLABUS
EPFO_2511	09 Nov	FULL SYLLABUS

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Polity & Governance

August 2025

PM Modi's address to the nation on Independence Day: Atmanirbharta for a Viksit Bharat

Self-reliance is not confined merely to imports and exports, or to rupees, pounds, and dollars. It is linked to our capability

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

Why in News?

PM Modi delivered his Independence Day address from Red Fort emphasizing Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) as foundation for Viksit Bharat by 2047.



Operation Sindoor & Defense Self-Reliance

- Praised soldiers for Operation Sindoor after April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam
- Army penetrated hundreds of kilometers into enemy territory, destroying terrorist headquarters

- Defense self-reliance enabled swift action without dependency on external suppliers
- 10-year mission towards defense self-reliance showing results

Technology & Semiconductors

- India lost 50-60 years due to delayed semiconductor initiatives
- Six semiconductor units now taking shape with four new units approved
- 21st century requires technology-driven approach for national capability

Energy Independence

- Solar energy increased thirty-fold in last 11 years
- Mission Green Hydrogen with thousands of crores investment
- 10 new nuclear reactors progressing rapidly
- Target to increase nuclear energy capacity tenfold by 2047
- New dams for clean hydropower expansion

Manufacturing & Quality

- National Manufacturing Mission advancing rapidly
- Emphasis on "Zero Defect, Zero Effect" manufacturing
- MSMEs contributing to global products
- Quality standards essential for global market recognition

Vocal for Local Campaign

- Appeal to political parties, influencers, traders for "Vocal for Local" adoption
- Shopkeepers urged to display "Swadeshi goods sold here" boards
- Use Swadeshi products with pride, not compulsion

RSS Centenary Recognition

- Saluted Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's 100 years of service
- Called RSS world's largest NGO for nation-building through character-building

Demographic Mission

- Announced High-Power Demography Mission to address infiltration
- Concerns over demographic changes affecting national security, youth employment
- Infiltrators targeting women, misleading tribals, seizing lands
- Time-bound approach to address border area demographic crisis

SC ordering EC to publish details of 65 lakh deleted voters during Bihar SIR is welcome

The SC order recognises the complexity of the exercise, both in scale and due to its constricted timelines in the poll-bound state

TH Opinion;

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

Bihar SIR Issue Explained

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BIHAR?

In June 2025, the Election Commission launched a Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

Here's the catch: If you weren't on the 2003 voter roll, you must now submit proof of citizenship from a list of only 11 approved documents.

Deadlines:

- Submit Forms By July 25
- Draft Rolls By August 1
- State Elections: Oct–Nov 2025



What is SIR?

- 1) Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls - comprehensive voter verification exercise

- 2) First-of-its-kind "special" revision distinct from regular annual revisions
- 3) Initiated by Election Commission before Bihar Assembly elections

Core Issues

Documentation Requirements

- 1) Extensive proof needed: birth details of voter and parents
- 2) Applied citizenship verification norms from CAA 2003
- 3) Rejected Aadhaar, voter ID, and ration cards as valid proof
- 4) Required documents difficult for migrant workers, Dalits, small farmers

Mass Deletions

- 1) 65 lakh voters excluded from draft electoral roll
- 2) Breakdown: 22 lakh deceased, 36 lakh migrated/untraceable, 7 lakh duplicates
- 3) Over 53 lakh electors not found at addresses
- 4) Lack of constituency-wise data raises concerns

Legal & Constitutional Concerns

- 1) No legal basis for "Special Intensive Revision" in EC rulebooks
- 2) Uses CAA 2003 citizenship criteria while Act's constitutionality under SC review
- 3) Violates Articles 14, 19, 21 of Constitution according to petitioners
- 4) Arbitrary 2003 cutoff date lacks justification

Timeline Issues

Compressed Schedule

- 1) June 24–July 25, 2025: Enumeration phase
- 2) August 1: Draft electoral roll published
- 3) August 1–September 1: Claims and objections period
- 4) Challenge: Only 32 days for massive exercise in flood-prone monsoon season

Implementation Problems

- 1) Need to train 1 lakh Booth Level Officers, 20,000 still to be employed
- 2) 21.35 lakh electors hadn't received forms by July 22
- 3) ECI sought political parties' help to reach remaining voters

SC Orders Transparency in Bihar Electoral Roll Revision

Why in News?

Supreme Court directed Election Commission to publish detailed reasons for deleting 65 lakh voters during Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR).



Key SC Directives

- **Publication Requirements:**
 - District-wise lists of deleted voters with specific reasons (death, migration, duplication)
 - Available physically at local offices and searchable online
 - Wide publicity through vernacular/English newspapers and social media

Court's Stance

- **Balanced Approach:**
 - Didn't stay SIR process, recognizing EC's constitutional authority
 - Instituted transparency checks on EC's conduct
 - Emphasized "reasonable manner" giving "comfort to citizens"

- **Key Observation:**
 - Powers under Article 324 cannot justify opacity
 - Transparency not an inconvenience for constitutional bodies

Concerns Addressed

- **Vulnerable Groups Impact:**
 - Migrant workers, Dalits, small farmers, daily wagers affected
 - Burden of proof shifted to voters not in 2003 electoral roll
 - Fears of disenfranchisement due to difficult documentation requirements
- **EC's Resistance:**
 - Refused Court's suggestion to accept Aadhaar, Voter ID, ration cards as proof
 - Initial reluctance to provide transparency on deletions

Broader Implications

- Sets template for SIR exercise across other states
- Establishes "red lines" for future electoral roll revisions
- Balances EC's constitutional mandate with citizen rights

Express View on Rahul Gandhi's vote chori claims: The EC must answer

His campaign is self-serving and fraught. All the more why EC must address his claims with transparency, not sound like a peeved party spokesperson

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

Why in News?

Rahul Gandhi alleged massive vote theft in Karnataka's 2024 Lok Sabha elections, prompting Election Commission to demand proof or public apology.

Gandhi's Vote Theft Allegations

- **Claims over 1 lakh fraudulent votes in Mahadevapura constituency of Bangalore Central Lok Sabha seat**
- Alleged methods include duplicate entries, fake addresses, bulk registrations from single locations
- Cited specific case of 70-year-old Shakun Rani allegedly voting twice

- Claimed 11,965 duplicate voters, 40,009 with fake/invalid addresses, 10,452 "bulk voters" at same address
- Part of broader pattern - previously made "match-fixing" allegations in Maharashtra assembly elections
- Launched "Vote Chori" campaign with website votechori.in demanding digital voter rolls



- **Political Strategy:** Analysis suggests Congress using fraud claims to avoid introspection after defeats
- **Constitutional Bodies:** Debate over EC's institutional voice amid polarizing politics

Who decides nominations to UT Assemblies? | Explained

TH Premium

How should members be recommended to the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly? What does the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 state with respect to nominations to the Puducherry Assembly? What was the 'triple chain of command' opined by the Supreme Court in 2023?

TH Text & Context; By Rangarajan R.;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity & Governance [Link](#)

Election Commission's Response

- Rejected Gandhi's claims as "false and absurd"
- Fact-checked Shakun Rani case - found she voted only once, document shown by Gandhi was fake
- Demanded Gandhi either sign formal declaration under oath or apologize to nation
- Karnataka CEO issued notice asking for relevant documents to support allegations
- Similar notices issued by Maharashtra and Haryana CEOs
- Emphasized voter rolls are available to all parties for scrutiny before elections

Why in News?

Union Home Ministry submitted that J&K Lieutenant Governor can nominate 5 Assembly members without aid and advice of Council of Ministers.

Constitutional & Legal Framework

Parliament & States:

- Rajya Sabha: 12 nominated by President on Union Ministers' advice
- State Legislative Councils: One-sixth nominated by Governors on State Ministers' advice
- Anglo-Indian nominations discontinued in 2020

Political Fallout

- **Congress Support:** DK Shivakumar backed Gandhi, filed complaints alleging fraud across Karnataka
- **BJP Response:** Called allegations baseless, challenged Gandhi to submit formal complaint or resign
- **Limited Opposition Support:** Campaign has "hardly any takers among Congress allies"
- **Internal Criticism:** Some Congress leaders questioned strategy, saying it won't help party



Key Issues Highlighted

- **Electoral Roll Transparency:** Gandhi demands machine-readable digital voter lists for auditing
- **Institutional Trust:** Standoff raises questions about Election Commission's credibility

Union Territory Provisions:

- Delhi Assembly: 70 elected, no nominated members
- Puducherry Assembly: 30 elected + up to 3 nominated by Union government

- J&K Assembly: 90 elected + up to 5 nominated by LG (2 women, 2 Kashmiri migrants, 1 displaced from PoK)

Bills in focus | The three Bills tabled by the Home Minister propose the removal of Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and Ministers under certain conditions



1 Constitution (One Hundred And Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025	2 Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025	3 Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025
Conditions for removal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrested and detained for 30 consecutive days on serious criminal charges Facing charges of offences punishable with imprisonment of five years or more 	Removal authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President (for PM and Union Ministers) Governors (for CMs and State Ministers) Lieutenant-Governors (for Ministers in Union Territories) 	Additional provision: The legislation allows for the possibility of reappointment once the detained Minister or Chief Minister is released

Bills to oust arrested PM, CMs trigger chaos in Lok Sabha

The bills were referred to a Joint Committee after a voice vote; Centre says the bills are to bring morality back into politics; Amit Shah and K.C. Venugopal spar over the former's 2010 arrest

TH News; By Sandeep Phukan, Vijaita Singh, Sreeparna Chakrabarty;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity & Governance [Link](#)

Why in News?

Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced three bills in Lok Sabha on August 20, 2025, proposing automatic removal of Prime Ministers, Chief Ministers, and Ministers who remain in custody for 30 consecutive days on serious criminal charges.

Background and Context

- Constitutional Gap:** The Constitution currently lacks provisions to remove a Prime Minister or minister under serious criminal charges, creating a legal vacuum
- Recent Cases:** The bills come in the backdrop of former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's case, who refused to resign despite being in jail for over five months in the Delhi excise policy case
- Precedent:** Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain resigned in February 2023 after being arrested by ED in May 2022, while Manish Sisodia resigned shortly after his arrest in February 2023
- Supreme Court Intervention:** The Supreme Court had restrained Kejriwal from visiting the secretariat while granting him interim bail
- Parliamentary Process:** The bills have been referred to a Joint Committee of Parliament comprising 21 Lok Sabha and 10 Rajya Sabha members, with a mandate to submit reports by the first week of the next session

Key Provisions of the Bills

Three Bills Introduced

- Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025:** Amends Articles 75, 164, and 239AA for Union, state, and Delhi government ministers
- Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025:** Amends Section 45 to provide legal framework for UT minister removal
- Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025:** Amends Section 54 for J&K minister removal provisions

Judicial Precedents

Madras High Court (2018):

- Upheld Union government's power to nominate Puducherry members without UT Ministers' advice
- Recommended statutory amendments for clear nomination procedures
- Supreme Court later set aside these recommendations

Supreme Court (2023) - Delhi Case:

- Established 'triple chain of command': Civil servants → Ministers → Legislature → Electorate
- LG bound by Ministers' advice except where Assembly lacks legislative powers
- Democratic accountability principle emphasized

Key Concerns & Recommendations

Democratic Issues:

- Nominated MLAs can alter majority-minority dynamics in small assemblies
- Political differences between Centre and UT can disrupt democratic process
- J&K's unique status: former state with special autonomy, statehood restoration promised

Proposed Solution:

- J&K LG should nominate members based on Council of Ministers' advice
- Maintains democratic principles and popular mandate integrity
- Aligns with federal accountability structures

Removal Mechanism

- **30-Day Rule:** Ministers arrested and detained for **30 consecutive days** for offenses punishable with **five years or more imprisonment** will automatically cease to hold office on the 31st day
- **Automatic Process:** If they don't resign voluntarily, removal becomes automatic
- **Authority Structure:**
 - President removes the Prime Minister
 - Governor removes State Chief Ministers
 - Chief Minister removes State Ministers
 - Lieutenant-Governor removes UT Chief Ministers

Reappointment Provision

- **Post-Release Eligibility:** Ministers can be reappointed to their positions after release from custody
- **No Conviction Required:** Removal occurs even without conviction, based solely on custody duration

Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860	Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973	Indian Evidence Act, 1872
REPLACED BY	REPLACED BY	REPLACED BY
Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (second) Bill, 2023	Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (second) Sanhita, 2023	Bharatiya Sakshya (second) Bill, 2023
It will have 358 sections (instead of 511 sections in IPC)	It will have 531 sections (instead of 484 sections in CrPC)	It will have 170 sections (instead of 166 sections in IEA)

What the laws seek to do

- Introduce changes dealing with offences of terrorism and acts against the State
- Allow the registration of e-FIRs
- Factor in corruption in the election processes
- Make electronic evidence a form of primary proof
- Separately define crimes like mob lynching for the first time
- Include detailed provisions and enhanced punishment for crimes against women and children

"The new laws have been framed keeping in mind three basic principles -- civil liberty of citizens, human rights and equality. Some are unable to visualise this. The current (British) laws have no scope for justice -- punishment is seen as justice." — AMIT SHAH

Opposition to the Bills

Constitutional Concerns

- **Unconstitutional Nature:** Opposition MPs called the bills "unconstitutional" and against federalism

- **Anti-Democratic:** Termed "absolutely anti-constitutional, undemocratic and very unfortunate" by opposition leaders
- **Presumption of Innocence:** Critics argue removing ministers without conviction violates the principle of presumption of innocence

Political Motivations Alleged

- **Destabilization Tool:** Opposition claims bills will be used to destabilize opposition-ruled states through arbitrary arrests
- **Central Agency Misuse:** Congress MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi warned of "biased central agencies" being used to arrest opposition CMs
- **Police State Concerns:** AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi alleged the BJP government wants to create a "police state"

Specific Objections

- **PMLA Concerns:** The Prevention of Money Laundering Act allows ED arrests with potential 30-day custody denial, making the threshold easily reachable
- **Arbitrary Power:** Opposition argues it gives unbridled powers to the central government
- **Parliamentary Protests:** Opposition MPs tore copies of the bills and threw them at Amit Shah during introduction

Key Opposition Statements

- **KC Venugopal** questioned Amit Shah's moral authority, referencing his own past arrest as Gujarat Home Minister
- **Asaduddin Owaisi** called it the "last nail in the coffin"
- **Abhishek Banerjee** condemned it as showing "authoritarian attitude"

Conclusion

- **Government Justification:** Amit Shah defended the bills as necessary to preserve "constitutional trust," stating officials cannot be "shameless" while facing serious charges
- **Moral Precedent:** Shah cited his own resignation before arrest as Gujarat Home Minister, claiming he rejoined only after court discharge
- **Reform vs. Misuse Debate:** While the government frames it as anti-criminalization reform, opposition views it as a tool for political persecution
- **Parliamentary Committee Review:** The bills will undergo detailed scrutiny by the Joint Committee, allowing both sides to present arguments before the Winter session
- **Legal Challenge Expected:** Opposition may pursue legal remedies, particularly given

Supreme Court's past criticism of central agency functioning

- **Broader Impact:** The legislation could fundamentally alter the balance of power between center and states, making it one of the most contentious constitutional amendments in recent times

News / Explained / Explained Politics / Constitution 130th Amendment Bill 2025 sent to Joint Committee amid uproar: 5 things you need to know

Constitution 130th Amendment Bill 2025 sent to Joint Committee amid uproar: 5 things you need to know

Constitution 130th Amendment Bill 2025 Explained: What are the provisions of The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025, and why has it led to such outrage? What is a Joint Committee, which will now examine the Bill? We explain.

IE Explained;

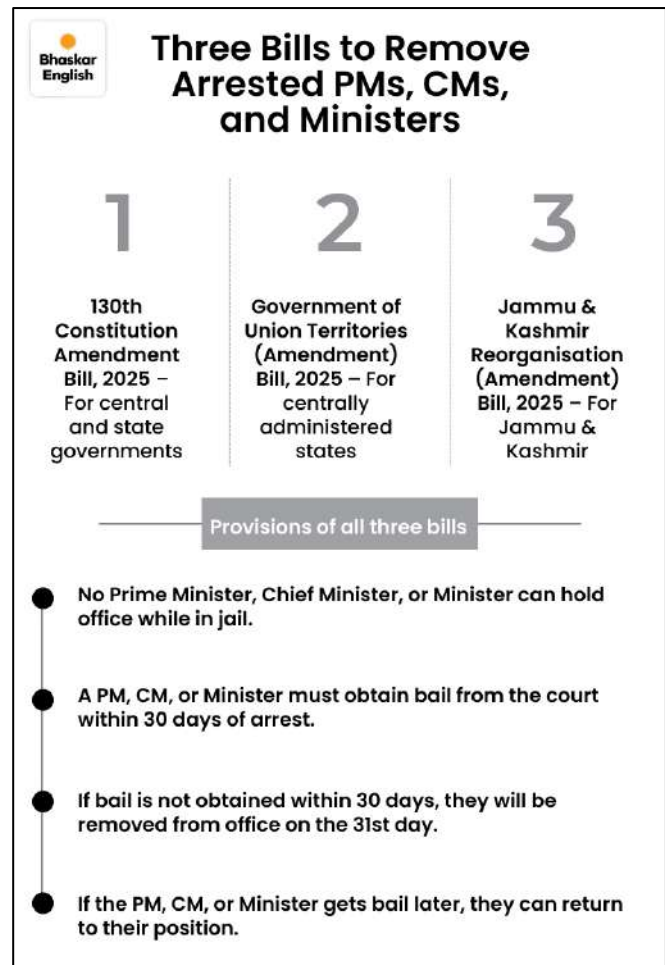
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Why in News?

Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill 2025 was introduced in Lok Sabha on August 20, 2025, amid chaotic scenes and sent to Joint Parliamentary Committee following strong opposition protests.

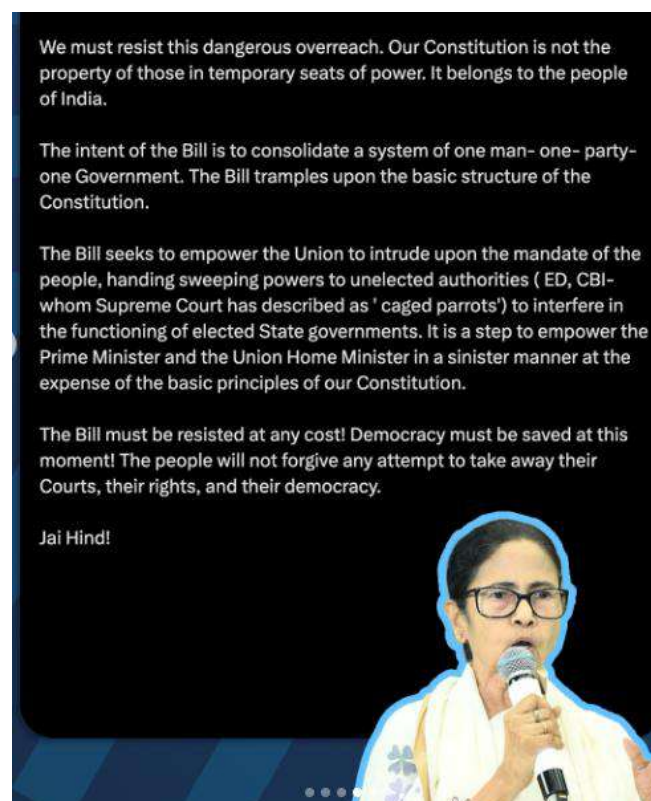
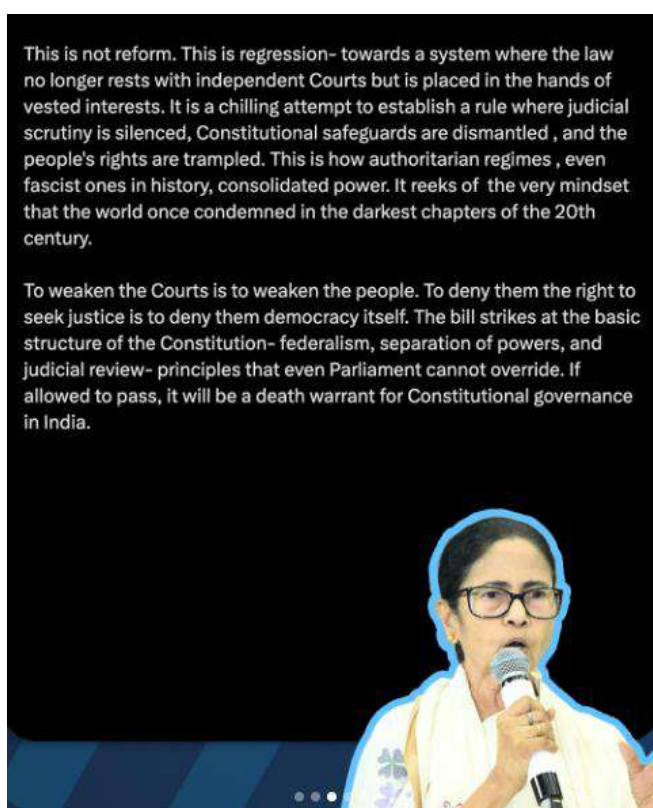
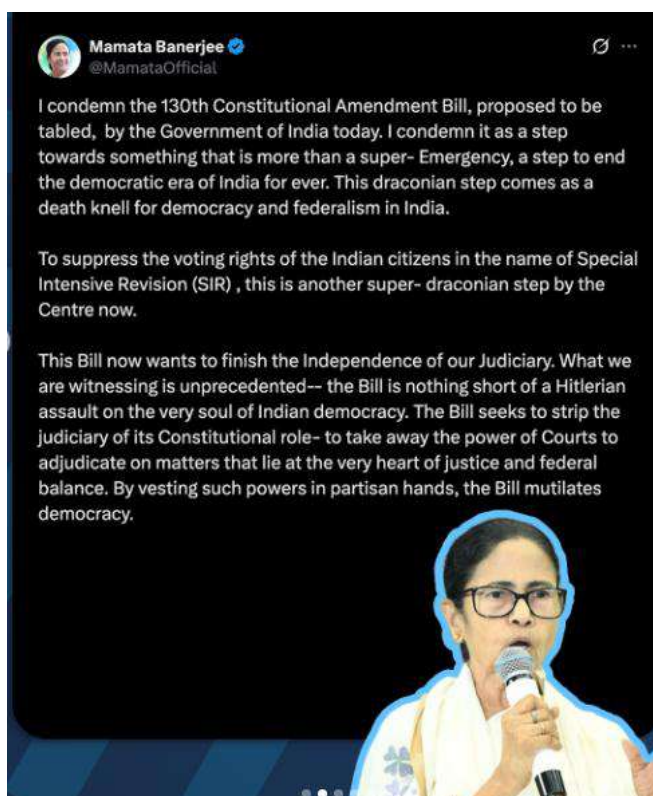
Key Provisions

- **Removal criteria:** Ministers arrested and detained for 30 consecutive days on charges punishable with 5+ years imprisonment must be removed
- **Articles amended:** Article 75 (Union Council of Ministers), Article 164 (State Councils), Article 239AA (Delhi special provisions)
- **Authority for removal:** President removes central ministers on PM's advice; Governor removes state ministers on CM's advice
- **Timeline:** Advice must be given by 31st day of custody, otherwise minister automatically ceases to hold office
- **Reappointment provision:** Ministers can be reappointed after release from custody
- **Coverage:** Applies to PM, CMs, and all Union/State ministers including UTs of Delhi, Puducherry, J&K



Opposition Arguments

- **Presumption of innocence violated:** Removal based on arrest rather than conviction contradicts "innocent until proven guilty" principle
- **Political misuse concerns:** Central agencies like CBI, ED under BJP government could selectively target opposition leaders
- **Constitutional violations:** Breaches Articles 14, 19, 21 guaranteeing equality, freedom of speech, due process
- **Separation of powers:** Makes executive agencies "judge and executioner" undermining judicial process
- **Federal structure threat:** Could destabilize opposition-led state governments
- **ED's low conviction rate:** Only 38 convictions in 5 years despite numerous arrests



Government's Rationale

- **Constitutional morality:** Prevents ministers under serious allegations from continuing in office
- **Good governance:** Upholds public trust and maintains integrity in politics
- **Historical precedent:** Addresses gap where leaders continued governing from jail
- **Public welfare:** Elected representatives should maintain character beyond suspicion

Joint Parliamentary Committee

- **Composition:** 31 members from both Houses chosen by Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairman
- **Mandate:** Detailed scrutiny of the Bill before final vote
- **Timeline:** Report to be submitted before next Parliament session
- **Authority:** Recommendations persuasive but not binding on government
- **Requirement:** Constitutional amendment needs two-thirds majority in both Houses

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 Premium

Centre's proposed amendment to remove ministers from office: What SC has previously said on the matter

When can a Minister be removed from office? How does the proposed amendment in the Constitution change the existing position? What questions of law and justice are involved, and what have the top court and Law Commission said on them earlier?

IE Explained; By Amaal Sheikh, Vineet Bhalla;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity & Governance [Link](#)

Why in News?

Home Minister Amit Shah introduced Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill 2025 to remove ministers who remain in custody for 30+ consecutive days on serious criminal charges.

Proposed Constitutional Changes

- **Articles targeted:** 75 (Union Ministers), 164 (State Ministers), 239AA (UT Ministers)
- **Removal criteria:** 30 consecutive days custody for offences with 5+ years imprisonment
- **Authority:** President removes on PM's advice by 31st day
- **Reversibility:** Reinstatement possible upon release from custody
- **Scope:** Includes Prime Minister and Chief Ministers
- **Parliamentary approval:** Requires two-thirds majority

Current Legal Framework vs Proposed Changes

- **Existing system:** RPA 1951 disqualifies legislators only after conviction + 2 years sentence
- **New approach:** Removal at custody stage (pre-conviction)
- **Constitutional concern:** Shifts from conviction-based to detention-based removal
- **Due process issue:** Acts before judicial determination of guilt
- **Presumption principle:** Challenges innocence until proven guilty doctrine

Previous

Reform

Recommendations

- **Law Commission reports (1999, 2014):** Disqualification at charge-framing stage
- **Rationale:** Prima facie judicial satisfaction of sufficient evidence
- **Election Commission support (2004):** Endorsed charge-framing standard
- **Rejected alternatives:** Chargesheet filing or cognizance taking deemed premature
- **Natural justice principle:** Required "application of judicial mind" before penalties

Supreme Court's Stance on Related Issues

General Position (2018 PIL)

- **Jurisdiction limit:** Cannot add disqualification grounds beyond Parliament's provision
- **Legislative domain:** Disqualification law-making rests with Parliament
- **Party responsibility:** Recommended mandatory membership revocation for charged members

Individual Cases

- **Manoj Narula (2014):** No constitutional bar on ministers with criminal background
- **V Senthil Balaji case:** "Choose freedom or post" ultimatum; stepped down to retain bail
- **Arvind Kejriwal case:** Court imposed office restrictions but refused resignation directive
- **Judicial restraint:** No jurisdiction to compel elected leaders' resignation

News / Explained / Jan Vishwas 2.0: Why Centre's Bill to amend 355 provisions across 16 laws matters

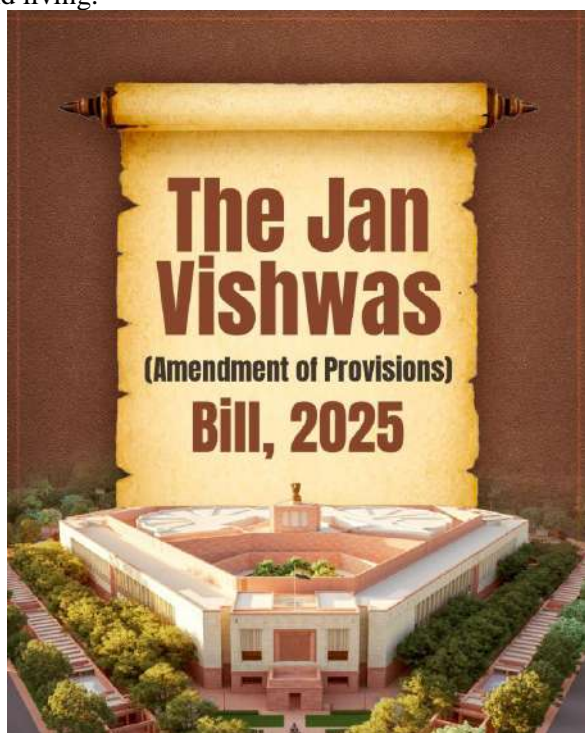
Jan Vishwas 2.0: Why Centre's Bill to amend 355 provisions across 16 laws matters

There are some inexplicably severe punishments mandated for seemingly routine offences in India. For instance, one can be arrested for milking a cow on the street or not providing proper exercise to one's pet dog.

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

Why in News?

Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill 2025 introduced in Lok Sabha to decriminalize 355 provisions across 16 Central Acts for ease of business and living.



Background & Legislative Need

Excessive Criminalization Problem:

- 882 central laws exist with 370 containing criminal provisions for 7,305 crimes
- Over 75% crimes defined under non-core criminal justice areas (shipping, taxation, financial institutions)
- Inexplicable severe punishments for routine offences (arrest for milking cow on street, not exercising pet dog properly)

- Previous Jan Vishwas Act 2023 decriminalized 183 provisions in 42 central acts under 19 ministries

Business Impact:

- 1,536 laws governing business in India with over half carrying imprisonment clauses
- 69,233 business compliances with 37.8% having imprisonment provisions
- More than half imprisonment clauses carry minimum one-year sentence
- Creates barriers to entrepreneurship, job creation, and GDP growth

Judicial System Burden:

- 3.6 crore pending criminal cases in district courts (as of August 2024)
- Over 2.3 crore cases pending for more than one year
- Technical/procedural lapses clog justice delivery system

Key Provisions of Bill 2025

Scope & Coverage:

- 288 provisions decriminalized for ease of doing business
- 67 provisions amended for ease of living
- 16 Central Acts covered under 10 ministries/departments
- Acts include: RBI Act 1934, Motor Vehicles Act 1988, Electricity Act 2003, Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940

Reform Mechanisms:

- Warning and improvement notice system for first-time offenders in 76 offences across 10 acts
- Removal of imprisonment clauses for minor/technical/procedural defaults
- Replacement with monetary penalties or warnings
- Example: Non-standard weights/measures gets improvement notice instead of Rs 1 lakh penalty

Penalty Structure:

- Fine ranges between Rs 10,000 to Rs 10 lakh replacing imprisonment terms
- Automatic 10% penalty increase every three years for repeat offences
- Deterrence mechanism without requiring legislative amendments

Implementation & Significance

Current Status:

- Bill referred to Lok Sabha Select Committee
- Committee to submit report by first day of next parliamentary session

- Part of NDA government's 11-year commitment to regulatory simplification

- Alignment with PM Modi's Independence Day 2024 commitment to eliminate unnecessary laws

Expected Impact:

- Enhanced trust-based governance model
- Reduced pressure on justice system and case pendency
- Improved business environment and ease of living

NEWS IN SHORT**What is the difference between civil & criminal cases?**

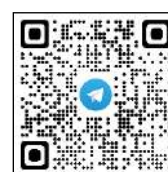
Supreme Court intervened twice (August 2025); stopped criminal proceedings in civil disputes

Dimension	Civil Case	Criminal Case
Core Difference	Rights/duties between individuals/organisations; remedy, compensation, injunction (not punishment)	Offences against state/society; punishment, deterrence, imprisonment, fines, death
Parties & Initiation	Plaintiff vs defendant; private parties initiate cases	State/prosecutor vs accused; state initiates prosecution
Types, Examples	Property disputes, money recovery, contract breach, divorce, child custody	Theft, cheating, assault, murder; criminal breach of trust if intent to defraud exists
Burden of Proof	"Preponderance of probabilities" (more likely than not)	"Beyond reasonable doubt" (very high standard)
Outcomes	Liable/not liable; compensation or court orders	Guilty/not guilty; conviction, punishment, penalties
Proceedings & Speed	Slower resolution: 37.91% within a year; average disposal = 4.91 years; delays common due to settlement efforts	Faster resolution: 70.17% within a year; average disposal: 2.45–4.65 years; urgency (life, liberty stakes)
Simultaneous Cases	Possible if facts justify (e.g., contract breach with actual fraud); SC bars misuse for criminal advantage	Only allowed if demonstrable criminality exists; civil findings not binding on criminal courts
Recent Examples	Unpaid consignment (Rajasthan), business transaction (Allahabad); disputes mainly civil, not criminal	Alleged cheating/breach of trust; SC blocked criminal proceedings due to lack of criminal intent



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NEWS IN SHORT: POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Parliament's Monsoon Session Conclusion

Why in News?

Parliament's Monsoon Session 2025 concluded as scheduled on August 21, marking the end of a 21-day legislative period with significant legislative activity.

Details

- **Duration & Performance:** Session functioned for the full scheduled 21 days with Lok Sabha working for 29% and Rajya Sabha for 34% of their scheduled time
- **Legislative Output:** 13 Bills were introduced and 14 Bills were passed during the session
- **Key Achievement:** Session concluded on time despite various disruptions and opposition protests

Monsoon Session 2025

Parliament's Monsoon session, which concluded on Thursday, saw frequent disruptions that overshadowed legislative business, with the lower house losing over 84 of the planned 120 hours to forced adjournments, the highest in the 18th Lok Sabha.

	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha
Sittings	21	21
Planned (hours)	120	~106
Hours functioned	37.1	41.9
Productivity (%)	29	39
Time spent in activities (hours)		
Question hour	4.7	1.2
Legislation	2.9	13.4
Financial	0.2	0
Non-legislation...	24.6	18.3
incl. debate (Op Sindhoor)	~19	~16
Other	4.7	9

Bills	12	15
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KEY BILLS PASSED

- The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025
- The Income-tax Bill, 2025.
- The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025

We agreed to 120 hrs... disruptions cut it to 37 hrs.
 LS Speaker **Om Birla**

Session deprived of meaningful debate... productivity just 38.8% calls for introspection."
 RS Dy Chairman **Harivansh**

Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025

Why in News?

The bill was introduced in Lok Sabha but referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee following intense opposition protests, indicating significant constitutional changes ahead.

Details

- **Parliamentary Process:** Bill faced strong opposition resistance leading to its referral to JPC for detailed examination
- **Political Significance:** Opposition protests suggest the amendment addresses contentious constitutional matters
- **Next Steps:** JPC will now examine the bill thoroughly before it returns to Parliament for consideration

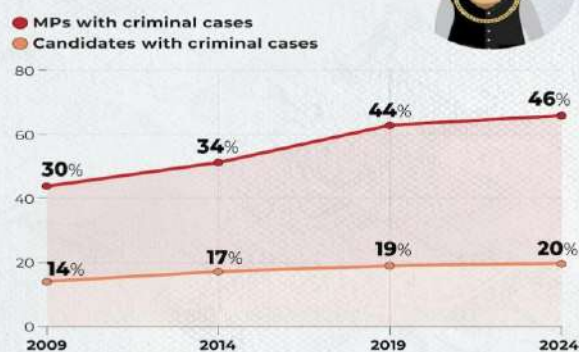
Criminal Cases Against Elected Representatives: Key Findings

Why in News?

A comprehensive analysis reveals that nearly one-third of India's MPs and MLAs face serious criminal charges, highlighting concerns about the criminalization of politics.

46% MPs Face Criminal Charges

Record 251 of 543 Members of Parliament have criminal cases registered against them



Source: ADR | Graphic: Jaipal Sharma & Nishant Agarwalla

Overall Statistics

- 31% of MPs and 29% of MLAs have declared serious criminal charges
- Serious charges include offences with 5+ years punishment or non-bailable cases
- Analysis covers over 1,200 MLAs with serious cases

Lok Sabha Trends

- Dramatic increase: Share of MPs with serious cases doubled from 14% (2009) to 31% (2024)

State-wise MP Analysis

- Highest proportion: Telangana (71%), followed by Bihar (48%)
- Highest absolute numbers: Uttar Pradesh with 34 MPs

Party-wise MP Breakdown

- BJP: 63 MPs (26% of party strength) – highest absolute numbers
- Congress: 32 MPs (32% of party strength)
- RJD: All 4 MPs (100%) face serious cases

State-wise MLA Analysis

- Highest proportion: Andhra Pradesh (56%), followed by Telangana (50%)
- Highest absolute numbers: UP with 154 MLAs (38% of state total)

Party-wise MLA Distribution

- Highest proportions: TDP (61%) and RJD (62%) of their MLAs
- Absolute numbers: BJP leads with 436 MLAs, Congress follows with 194 MLAs

Delhi High Court Overturns Order to Disclose PM's Degree Details



Why in News?

The Delhi High Court overturned a Central Information Commission order that had directed Delhi University to disclose Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bachelor's degree details under RTI.

Background of the Case

- An RTI application was filed in 2016 by Neeraj Sharma seeking records of all students who passed the Bachelor of Arts exam in 1978 from Delhi University

- PM Modi had declared in his election affidavit that he completed his BA in Political Science from Delhi University in 1978
- The Central Information Commission (CIC) in December 2016 had allowed inspection of records of all 1978 BA graduates
- Delhi University challenged the CIC order in 2017, and the High Court stayed the disclosure on the first hearing date itself

Court's Key Ruling

- **Personal Information Protection:** Justice Sachin Datta ruled that educational qualifications, degrees, marks, and academic records constitute "personal information" under Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act
- **No Overriding Public Interest:** The court found no implicit public interest in disclosing the information sought, as educational qualifications are not a statutory requirement for holding public office
- **Privacy Rights:** The judgment emphasized that holding public office does not render all personal information subject to public disclosure

Legal Arguments

- **University's Stand:** Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing Delhi University, argued that while records could be shown to the court, they shouldn't be made public due to privacy concerns
- **RTI Applicant's Argument:** The petitioner claimed educational qualifications of public figures, especially the PM, must be transparent
- **Court's Response:** The judge called the CIC's approach "thoroughly misconceived" and warned against opening "floodgates of indiscriminate demands motivated by idle curiosity"

Court's Broader Observations

- The 175-page judgment stated that RTI Act was enacted to promote government transparency, not to provide "fodder for sensationalism"
- The court noted that universities have an implicit duty of trust and confidentiality in handling students' academic records
- Justice Datta warned that disregarding privacy protections could lead to demands for personal information of all public officials without real public interest

Society & Social Justice

August 2025

For a successful digital revolution, India needs to fix the institutional neglect plaguing our school system

Vision of 'Viksit Bharat' must be based on the secular and scientific development of the young mind. It isn't just about imagination, but also institutional neglect

IE Opinion; By Vidyasagar Sharma;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Society & Social Justice
[Link](#)

Why in News?

Author critiques Smriti Irani's vision of creative economy-driven "Viksit Bharat" by highlighting severe infrastructural and institutional gaps in India's education system.

Key Arguments Against Creative Economy Vision

Infrastructure Crisis

- School roofs collapsing (recent Rajasthan incident)
- Missing basic facilities: separate toilets for girls, drinking water
- Decaying buildings in rural areas
- No functional science labs or libraries in most schools

Digital Divide Reality

- Only 32.4% of 1.47 million schools have functional computers
- Only 24.4% have smart classrooms
- Government and rural schools severely lag behind private/urban schools
- COVID-19 exposed reality: students climbing rooftops for internet signals

Educational Policy Concerns

- NEP lacks practical critical thinking implementation
- Social science textbooks redesigned for ideological interests
- Creativity separated from critical analysis becomes mere performance
- Current reforms reduce learning to design projects and poster-making

Author's Alternative Vision

Requirements for True Progress

- Strong public education foundation with adequate infrastructure
- Well-trained and well-paid teachers
- Critical pedagogy and scientific temperament in curriculum
- Digital inclusion and social justice focus
- Student-centered policies over imposed regulations

Preferred Terminology

- "Prabuddha Bharat" (Enlightened India) over "Viksit Bharat"
- Emphasis on secular and scientific development of young minds
- Institutional reform over mere imagination and storytelling

India's higher education institutions need autonomy. Depriving it will accelerate their decline

It would be no exaggeration to state that faculty appointments at universities are increasingly driven by RSS ideology and BJP preferences in politics

IE Opinion; By Deepak Nayyar;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Society & Social Justice
[Link](#)

Why in news?

Economist Deepak Nayyar argues that political intrusion and centralized control are eroding autonomy and quality in India's universities.

Core argument

- Autonomy is essential; depriving it accelerates institutional decline.
- Political interference (Centre/States) has intensified since 2014, worsening structural problems.

Historical context

- Interference began in 1970s at state level; expanded during Emergency and coalition era (1989–2014).
- Post-2014 majority governments magnified centralized control and ideological influence.

How autonomy is undermined?

- VC appointments: statutory checks (Visitor, search panels) circumvented via purposive choices.
- Downstream control: deans/HoDs by discretion (not seniority/rotation), weakening independent voices.
- Faculty hiring: manipulated expert selection; loyalty prioritized over merit.
-

Deepak Nayyar wants to abolish UGC and end political appointments at universities



Ideology and politicisation

- Increasing influence of RSS/BJP preferences in appointments and campus governance.
- Universities become arenas for political contests; unions and leadership often complicit or silent.

Role of UGC and allied bodies

- UGC concentrates licensing, regulation, funding—eliminating checks/balances; pushes one-size-fits-all standardisation.
- Research/funding control via ICSSR, ICPR, CSIR, DST amplifies central leverage.
- Admissions centralization (NTA: CUET/JEE/NEET) questioned over competence and integrity.

Consequences

- Erosion of merit in leadership and faculty damages teaching, research, and student outcomes.
- Standardisation stifles diversity, pluralism, differentiation—key to excellence.
- Long-term harm: easy to destroy institutions, slow to rebuild; appointments lock in decline (till retirement).

Responsibility within universities

- Leadership often partisan or risk-averse; faculty largely complicit or disengaged; few resist.
- Autonomy must be actively claimed and protected by university communities.

Prescriptions (implied)

- Restore genuine appointment safeguards and independent search processes.
- Separate powers: funding, regulation, and accreditation must not sit in one body.
- Re-enable institutional diversity and academic self-governance over curricula, staffing, research.

News / Explained / Explained Global / What's driving Japan's population fall, with record decline of 900,000 people in 2024

What's driving Japan's population fall, with record decline of 900,000 people in 2024

Japan and some of its East Asian neighbours frequently make headlines about population concerns, even as birth rates are now low in many countries. What makes their case unique?

IE Explained; By Rishika Singh;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Society & Social Justice
[Link](#)

Why in News?

Japan recorded its largest population drop since 1968 with over 908,000 people decline in 2024, marking the 16th consecutive year of population shrinkage.

Key Statistics

- **Population:** Fell to 120.65 million in 2024
- **Births:** Only 686,061 newborns (lowest since 1899 records began)
- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR):** 1.2 (well below 2.1 replacement level)

What's Driving the Decline?

Economic Factors

- High living costs making child-rearing expensive
- Economic slowdown since 1990s affecting young workers' prospects
- Long working hours and high professional pressure

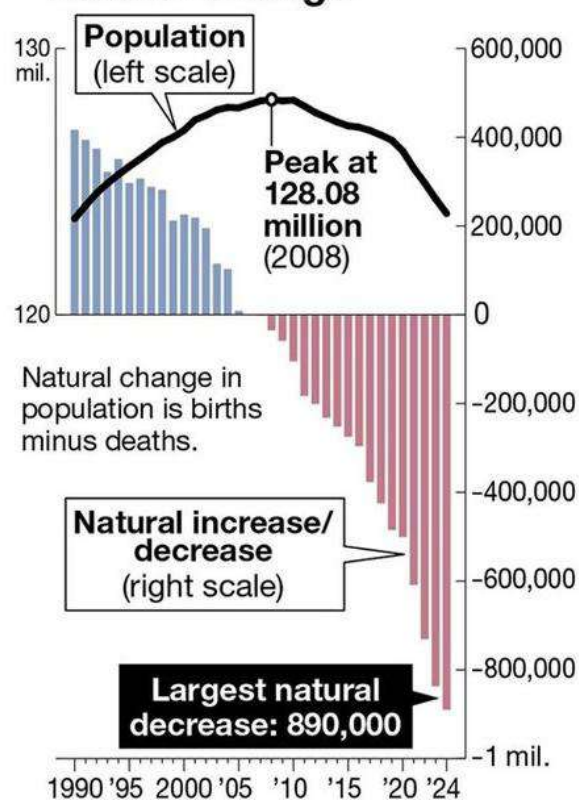
Social Changes

- **Double burden on women:** Managing both work and majority of household tasks
- **Education pressure:** Parents invest heavily in children's education, discouraging larger families
- **Individual aspirations:** Social liberalism prioritizing personal goals over family size
- **Traditional gender roles:** Still prevalent despite modernization

Cultural Factors

- Marriage and childbearing strongly linked (unlike Western countries)
- Historical reluctance toward immigration to preserve cultural homogeneity

Total population and natural change



Regional Context

East Asian Pattern: Similar trends across the region

- **South Korea:** 0.72 TFR (lowest globally)
- **China:** 1.0 TFR, population shrinking since 2022
- **Singapore:** 0.97 TFR

Global comparison: Japan's 1.2 TFR vs India (1.98), US (1.62), France (1.66)



Challenges Ahead

- **Aging burden:** Higher elderly population strain on working-age group (15-59)
- **Healthcare costs:** Increased taxes needed for elderly care
- **Limited solutions:** Monetary incentives show limited effectiveness
- **Irreversible trend:** Demographers suggest decline may be permanent beyond certain point

NEWS IN SHORT: SOCIETY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Kerala India's First Fully Digitally Literate State

Historic Achievement:

- Kerala became India's first state to achieve 100% digital literacy on August 22, 2025
- Announced by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at Central Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram

- Milestone achieved under Phase 1 of the Digi Kerala project

Project Scale:

- **Total surveyed:** 1.5 crore people across 83.46 lakh families
- **Initially digitally illiterate:** 21.87 lakh individuals identified
- **Success rate:** 99.98% of identified individuals successfully completed training and evaluation
- **Volunteers involved:** Over 2.5 lakh people worked to achieve this milestone

Kerala Becomes India's First Fully Digitally Literate State!


From Youngsters To Centenarians, Every Citizen Can Use Tech Effectively

Notable Highlights:

- **Oldest participant:** 104-year-old Abdullah Moulavi from Ernakulam district became the state's oldest digitally literate person
- **First panchayat:** Pullampara Panchayat in Thiruvananthapuram was the first to achieve complete digital literacy
- **Inclusive approach:** Even remote tribal hamlets like Edamalakudi were included in the program

Future Plans:

- **Phase 2 launch:** All personal documents of Kerala residents will be made available in DigiLockers
- **Internet access:** Kerala was first state to make internet access a legal right through K-Fone project
- **National comparison:** Achievement significant considering only 38% of Indian families have digital literacy



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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

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 of 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.

Thank you 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 PYA module with face-to-face evaluation 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

Hello aspirants,
I am Sarthak Singh AIR 393 UPSC CSE 2024. Kalam IAS's mains PYA 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).

International Relations

August 2025

Trump's 25 per cent tariff on India: An opportunity, and a step too far

It raises stakes for India but also presents a moment to seize the initiative. On the other hand, the US president threatening to impose an additional "penalty" for buying Russian oil and defence hardware is unacceptable

IE Opinion;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations

[Link](#)

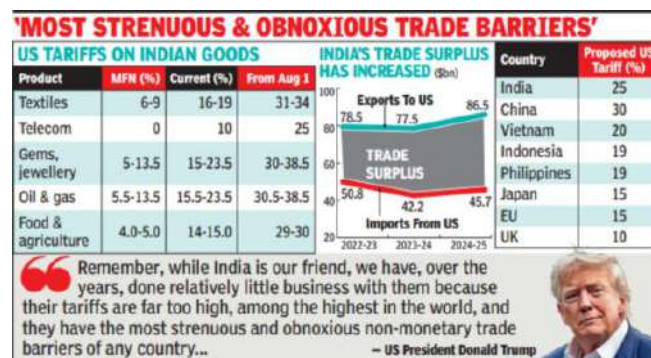
- **Affected Sectors:** Electronics, pharmaceuticals, gems/jewelry, textiles facing major disruption
- **Economic Impact:** Potential 0.2% GDP decline, growth forecast revised to 6.2% from 6.5%

Why in News?

US President Trump announced 25% tariff on Indian imports effective August 1, 2025, plus additional penalty for buying Russian oil and defense equipment.

Trump's Tariff Decision

- **Tariff Rate:** 25% on all Indian goods, higher than UK (10%), EU/Japan/Korea (15%), Indonesia (19%), Vietnam (20%)
- **Additional Penalty:** Unspecified penalty for Russian energy and military purchases
- **Justification:** India's high tariffs, non-tariff barriers, massive US trade deficit (\$45.7 billion)
- **BRICS Criticism:** Trump called BRICS "anti-US" group attacking the dollar



India's Strategic Response

- **FTA Opportunity:** Sees tariffs as pressure tactic to accelerate long-delayed free trade agreement
- **Export Focus:** Recommends export proactiveness over import defensiveness approach
- **Reform Push:** Tariffs could accelerate domestic economic reforms
- **Non-Negotiable Position:** Will continue Russian oil purchases for energy security needs

Key Concerns

- **Russian Oil Dependency:** India imports 2.08 million barrels/day from Russia (43.2% of total oil imports)
- **Defense Ties:** Continued military equipment purchases from Russia remain contentious
- **Competitive Disadvantage:** Higher tariffs than regional competitors may divert trade
- **Diplomatic Relations:** Strain in two-decade momentum of India-US strategic partnership



Trade Impact Analysis

- **India's US Exports:** \$86.5 billion in 2024-25, highest to any country
- **US Imports to India:** \$45.7 billion, below China (\$113.5B), Russia (\$63.8B), UAE (\$63.4B)

How much India should trade with Russia must not be guided by Western diktat

Pragmatic and matter-of-fact considerations have informed its expanding trade with Russia, even at the risk of Western displeasure, but at the same time, there are geopolitical costs

IE Opinion;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations

[Link](#)

- **Strategic need:** Diversify oil sources similar to China trade de-risking
- **Core principle:** Trade decisions must be guided by national interest, not Western diktat

Shyam Saran writes: India has to stand up to Trump

Resisting the US might cause short-term pain, but not doing so will hurt India's national interests

IE Opinion; Shyam Saran;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations

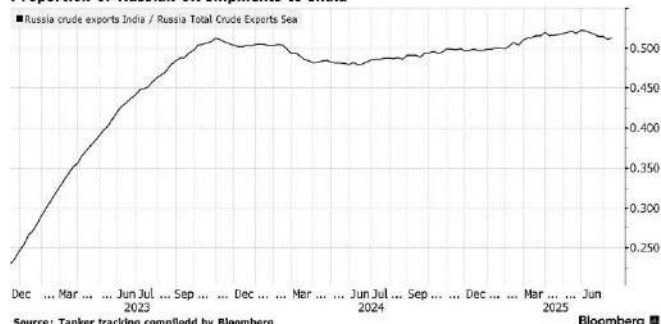
[Link](#)

Why in News?

Trump threatens penalty on Indian imports over India's expanding energy trade with Russia.

Big Share

Proportion of Russian oil shipments to India



India-Russia Trade Surge

- Imports jumped from \$5.5 billion (2020-21) to \$63.8 billion (2024-25)
- Mineral fuels increased from \$2.1 billion to \$56.9 billion
- Russia supplied 87.5 million tonnes of India's 244.5 million tonnes crude imports
- Russia became India's top crude supplier

Western Pressure Intensifies

- Trump announced 25% general tariff + additional penalty on Indian goods
- US Congress bill proposes 500% duty on imports from countries trading Russian oil/uranium
- NATO warned India, China, Brazil of secondary sanctions
- EU-US closing ranks against Russia's energy revenue

India's Position & Challenges

- **Justification:** Energy security priority; Russian oil purchases don't violate UN sanctions; oil available at discount
- **Geopolitical costs:** 36% crude imports from single country creates vulnerability

Why in News?

Former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran argues India should resist Trump's trade and geopolitical bullying despite short-term economic pain.



Donald J. Trump ✓
@realDonaldTrump

I don't care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care. We have done very little business with India, their Tariffs are too high, among the highest in the World. Likewise, Russia and the USA do almost no business together. Let's keep it that way, and tell Medvedev, the failed former President of Russia, who thinks he's still President, to watch his words. He's entering very dangerous territory!

Trump's Aggressive Approach

- Unleashed trade war using commercial instruments for geopolitical ends
- Targeting India's trade surplus and alleged high tariffs
- Threatening penalties over India's relations with Russia, Iran, and BRICS membership
- Actions threaten India's strategic autonomy policy maintained since Independence
- Similar pattern: imposed 50% tariff on Brazil over Bolsonaro indictment

China's Resistance Model

- China refuses to be bullied despite \$582.4 billion US trade (vs India's \$186 billion)

- Larger trade surplus with US but Trump backs down due to Chinese restrictions on rare metals
- China willing to suffer economic pain rather than submit to bullying
- Shows bullies respond to firm resistance

India's Strategic Options

- **Recognize adversarial relationship:** India-US ties becoming progressively hostile under Trump
- **Protect valuable cooperation:** Maintain intelligence, defense, and high-tech partnerships
- **Reject submission strategy:** Bullies demand greater obeisance after each capitulation
- **Leverage staying power:** Continue trade negotiations for mutual benefits, reject foreign policy diktats

Historical Precedent

- 1968: Refused NPT despite superpower pressure
- 1995: Lone holdout against discriminatory Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
- Climate negotiations: Held ground on Rio Convention until Paris Agreement acceptance
- India traditionally respected for standing up for convictions

Consequences and Recommendations

- **Economic impact:** Estimated 2% GDP growth reduction from tariffs
- **Diplomatic value:** India's credibility with developing countries provides significant ballast
- **Popular support:** Indian people historically support leaders making national interest appeals
- **Quad implications:** US backing out of summit would require strategy revision

Conclusion: Short-term resistance pain preferable to long-term submission damage to national interests.

To get most out of trade talks with US, India needs to diversify exports, reform agriculture

This is an overdue agenda, irrespective of Trump's tariff pressures today. Hope India can do it.

IE Opinion; By Ashok Gulati;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations

[Link](#)

Why in News?

US President Trump imposed 25% tariffs on most Indian goods, potentially reducing India's GDP growth by 20-30 basis points.



If PM Modi goes on a drive to diversify exports to other countries, the impact of US tariffs can be minimised. (Illustration by C R Sasikumar)

Trump's Tariff Impact on India

- GDP growth may drop from expected 6.5% to 6.2-6.3% in FY26
- Trump called India a "dead economy" despite India growing at 6%+ vs US at <2%
- India remains fastest-growing large G20 economy
- Trump-Modi personal relations proved ineffective; Trump is purely transactional
- Trump targeting countries trading with Russia, with India as soft target
- US buried WTO multilateral rules by imposing country-specific tariffs

India's Export Exposure

- Total goods exports (2024): \$442 billion, with \$80.7 billion (18%) to US
- Services exports: \$336 billion, only 14% (\$47.5 billion) to US (not yet targeted)
- Top US exports at risk:
 - Gems & jewellery (\$8 billion)
 - Pharmaceuticals (\$7.7 billion)
 - Smartphones (\$7.1 billion)
 - Frozen shrimps/prawns (\$2.2 billion)

India's Strategic Options

- **Diversify exports:** Reduce US dependence by expanding to other countries
- **Avoid retaliation:** India's tariffs already high (64.3% agriculture average); Trump calls India "tariff king"
- **Leverage services:** Focus on \$336 billion services sector not yet targeted

Negotiation Tools for India

- Increase crude oil/gas purchases from US
- Buy more US defence items and high-tech chips
- Lower duties on US goods: whiskey, luxury cars, walnuts, cranberries
- Consider import quotas on sensitive agricultural products
- Decide on GM crops: soya, corn, rapeseed-mustard, BT brinjal based on science

Long-term Agricultural Reforms

- Prioritize agri-R&D development regardless of US pressure
- Gradually reduce agricultural import duties
- Implement overdue agricultural modernization agenda

C Raja Mohan writes: Trump's techno-capitalism, tech brologarchy and India's challenge

There was a time when values, scientific internationalism drove India-US tech cooperation. Now, the White House and Silicon Valley's 'brologarchy' are pursuing strategic dominance, not ideals

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

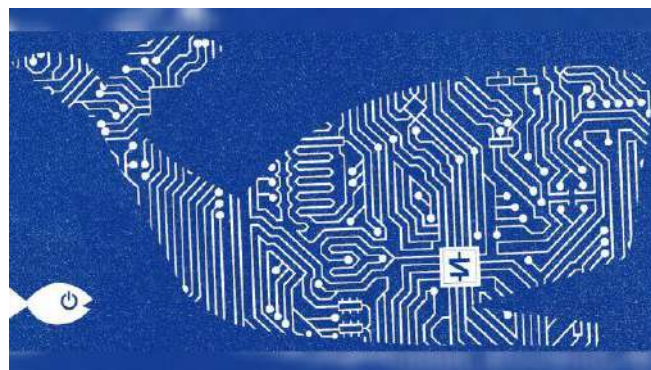
Why in News?

C. Raja Mohan analyzes how Trump's techno-capitalist revolution and Silicon Valley's "brologarchy" present new challenges for India's tech sector and bilateral cooperation.

Historical Context & Evolution

- **SITE Program (1975):** India-US collaboration using American ATS-6 satellite for educational programs in 2,400 villages
- **Shift from Idealism:** Post-1974 nuclear test, US technology cooperation declined due to non-proliferation concerns

- **Recent Revival:** Biden's ICET (2023) attempted to rebuild tech cooperation, now uncertain under Trump



While India finds its footing, the global tech landscape is being reshaped by dramatic developments in the US. In recent weeks, the Trump administration has unveiled two major initiatives — on AI and cryptocurrency — that symbolise a novel approach to techno-politics. (C R Sasikumar)

Trump's Techno-Capitalism Model

- **Philosophy:** Post-liberal, nationalist, deregulatory, and expansionist approach
- **AI Policy:** Dismantling regulatory barriers, building data infrastructure, mobilizing hundreds of billions in investment
- **Cryptocurrency:** GENIUS Act creates dollar-backed stablecoins framework to reinforce USD dominance against de-dollarization
- **Key Ideology:** Peter Thiel's vision - innovation through liberated entrepreneurs, not state regulation

Global Tech Landscape Comparison

- **US Model:** Private sector-led (SpaceX vs NASA), government as catalyst not controller
- **China Model:** State-driven since Deng's "scientific modernization," rapid advancement in AI and space
- **India Position:** Caught between models, recent space reforms but limited private sector mobilization

Challenges for India

- **IT Sector Vulnerabilities:** AI automation threatening traditional outsourcing jobs
- **Talent Export Risks:** H-1B visa restrictions, rising Western techno-nationalism

- **Structural Gaps:** Insufficient investment in scientific research and private enterprise integration
- **Urgent Needs:** Domestic tech overhaul, expanded R&D investment, better innovation strategies

News / Explained / Explained Politics / Jaishankar says Indus Waters Treaty was for 'appeasement': The exact terms of treaty, and what Nehru said

Jaishankar says Indus Waters Treaty was for 'appeasement': The exact terms of treaty, and what Nehru said

Indus Waters Treaty Explained: What is the rationale behind the claim that 'Pakistan got 80% of water' under the Indus Waters Treaty? What exactly did Nehru say in the speech Jaishankar cited? We explain.

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

Why in News?

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attacked Nehru in Rajya Sabha, claiming the Indus Waters Treaty was signed for "appeasement" rather than peace.



Jaishankar's Claims Against Nehru

- **Unique unfair agreement:** No other country allows major rivers to flow to another nation without retaining rights
- **Nehru prioritized Pakistan:** Cited Nehru's 1960 Parliament speech showing concern for Pakistani Punjab over Indian farmers
- **Key Nehru quotes cited:**
 - Parliament shouldn't judge quantum of water or money given to Pakistan
 - Turning West Punjab into wilderness would be wrong approach
 - "We purchased peace" - which Jaishankar called "appeasement"

Indus Waters Treaty Division

- **Pakistan's claim:** Got 80% of water (started by President Ayub Khan for political credit)
- **Reality:** Pakistan got larger volume due to western rivers having 4x more water than eastern rivers
- **Water allocation:**
 - Eastern rivers (Sutlej, Beas, Ravi): Exclusive to India - 32.6 million acre feet
 - Western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab): Mainly to Pakistan - 135.6 million acre feet
- **India's benefits:** Built Bhakra Nangal dam, Indira Gandhi Canal, irrigated Punjab/Haryana/Rajasthan
- **Financial terms:** India paid £62 million to Pakistan for canal/irrigation infrastructure

What Nehru Actually Said (1960)?

- **Technical complexity:** Decision based on 12 years of expert negotiations, not quick parliamentary judgments
- **Engineers' expertise:** Congratulated Indian engineers who "fought for India's interests strenuously"
- **Practical necessity:** Without treaty, India couldn't benefit from waters due to uncertainty
- **Partition reality:** Letting West Punjab become wilderness neither legal nor just approach
- **Long-term gains:** India gets "tremendous gain" of free water supply after 10-year period

One year after Sheikh Hasina's exit, where is Bangladesh today?

Today, Bangladesh is gripped by a politics far removed from the aspirations that fuelled her ouster

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

Why in News?

August 5, 2025 marks one year since Sheikh Hasina's 15-year rule ended during the July Revolution.

Current State Under Yunus Government

- **Religious extremism surge** and rule of law breakdown
- **Mass jailing** of Awami League leaders

- **Release of hundreds** accused/convicted in militancy cases
- **Destruction** of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's ancestral home and regime symbols
- **Minority violence** - Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council flags attacks
- **US Commission** notes worsening systematic pressure on religious minorities
- **Economic instability** - slowing growth and mounting public debt
- **Increased violent crime** according to government figures



Key Incidents

- **May 2025:** Thousands of Hefazat-e-Islam supporters rallied against Muslim women's equal rights recommendations
- **Ongoing:** Pluralistic culture under siege

Assessment & Outlook

- **Hasina regime** was flawed with democratic value disregard
- **Current extremist rise** strains secular Mujibist order fabric
- **Election timeline:** April 2026 announced by Yunus
- **July Declaration** unveiled Tuesday - commits to rule of law, human rights, moral values
- **India's role:** Keep Dhaka communication open, engage all political actors, insulate bilateral ties from domestic politics

Bottom line: Free and fair elections needed to fulfill Bangladeshi people's aspirations.

80 years since Hiroshima, in the wake of Operation Sindoor, the nuclear conversation

Since 1998, the Subcontinent has seen a few sporadic attempts at evolving confidence-building measures and nuclear risk reduction measures. But these are not enough, and a sustained dialogue is essential.

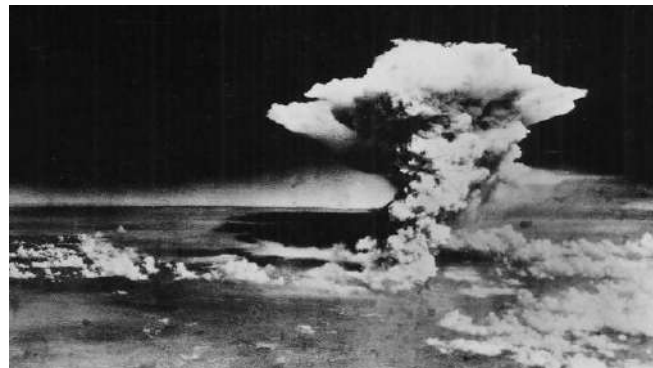
IE Opinion; By Arun Prakash;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
[Link](#)

Why in News?

PM Modi's references to Pakistan's "nuclear threats" during Operation Sindoor parliamentary debate, coinciding with 80th anniversary of Hiroshima bombing, highlights need for nuclear dialogue in South Asia.

Regional Nuclear Dynamics

- **Three-way deterrence:** China-India-Pakistan creating complex interlocking nuclear relationship
- All three nations modernizing and expanding nuclear arsenals
- Lack of transparency in doctrines creating regional instability risk
- Arms race ongoing with potential for accidental/intentional escalation



An American B-29 bomber named Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. (Source: Reuters)

Country-Specific Nuclear Postures

China

- Maintains "credible minimum deterrence" and "no first use" policy
- Rapidly expanding arsenal to 1,000 warheads by 2030
- Advanced missile systems: DF-41 (12,000-15,000 km range), hypersonic DF-17
- "Dual-capability" missiles raise questions about strategic posture

Pakistan

- Arsenal exclusively aimed at India
- Reserves "first use" right, no official doctrine declared
- Shifted from "minimum credible deterrence" to "full spectrum deterrence"
- Deploying tactical nuclear weapons to counter India's "Cold Start" doctrine

India

- Nuclear weapons solely for deterring nuclear attack
- "Massive retaliation" and "no first use" policies
- Maintains "credible minimum deterrent" as status quo power
- Doctrine unchanged since 2003 despite evolving challenges

Emerging Risks & Challenges

- **Technology blur:** AI, hypersonics making conventional-nuclear distinction difficult
- **Dial-a-yield warheads:** Variable explosive effects lowering nuclear threshold
- **Operation Sindoor implications:** Indian missiles reportedly near Pakistan's nuclear facilities
- **Escalation risks:** Conventional strikes on nuclear assets risk misinterpretation

Risk Reduction Measures Needed

- **Past efforts insufficient:** 1999 Lahore MoU, 2005 missile test agreement, 2007 nuclear risk reduction pact
- **Sustained dialogue essential:** Must be insulated from political vagaries
- **Transparency required:** To reduce suspicion and slow arms race
- **Command-control protection:** Avoid targeting nuclear assets to prevent "use or lose" scenarios

Nuclear	Weapons:	Ethical
Concerns		

Humanitarian Impact

- **Mass civilian casualties** - Indiscriminate destruction affecting non-combatants disproportionately
- **Medical system collapse** - Healthcare infrastructure overwhelmed, no treatment for radiation effects
- **Long-term suffering** - Cancer, genetic mutations, psychological trauma lasting generations

- **Violation of proportionality** - Damage far exceeds military objectives, breaks just war principles

Environmental Ethics

- **Radioactive contamination** - Persistent pollution making areas uninhabitable for decades
- **Nuclear winter potential** - Climate disruption affecting global ecosystems and agriculture
- **Intergenerational harm** - Environmental damage imposed on future generations without consent
- **Cross-border effects** - Fallout ignores national boundaries, harming neutral populations

Resource Allocation Morality

- **Opportunity cost** - Trillions spent on weapons while basic needs unmet globally
- **Healthcare trade-offs** - Nuclear budgets could fund cancer research, pandemic prevention
- **Development disparity** - Resources diverted from poverty reduction, education, infrastructure
- **Scientific brain drain** - Top minds focused on destruction rather than human advancement

Security Paradox

- **Proliferation risks** - More nuclear states increases accident/terrorism probability
- **Arms race dynamics** - Competitive buildups destabilizing rather than securing regions
- **First-strike temptation** - "Use or lose" pressure during crises reduces rational decision-making
- **Command system vulnerabilities** - Technical failures or rogue actors could trigger catastrophe

Moral Philosophy Issues

- **Intentional genocide capability** - Weapons designed specifically for mass human extermination
- **Deterrence morality** - Threatening innocent populations to influence government behavior
- **Democratic deficit** - Nuclear decisions made by few, consequences borne by many
- **Conditional ethics** - Making human survival dependent on leadership rationality

Intergenerational Justice

- **Irreversible consequences** - Current decisions creating permanent risks for descendants

- **Waste legacy** - Radioactive materials requiring management for thousands of years
- **Climate justice** - Nuclear testing disproportionately affected indigenous populations
- **Future autonomy** - Limiting options for peaceful conflict resolution in coming decades

International Law Tensions

- **Civilian protection** - Conflicts with Geneva Conventions on protecting non-combatants
- **Self-defense limitations** - Excessive response violates proportional self-defense principles
- **Treaty obligations** - NPT Article VI requires disarmament progress, largely unfulfilled
- **Customary law evolution** - Growing international consensus on illegality of use

Why India must rethink its Tibet policy

As China asserts its right to select the next Dalai Lama, India must clarify where it stands

IE Opinion; By Jabin T Jacob, Devendra Kumar;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
[Link](#)

Why in News?

The 14th Dalai Lama announced on July 2, 2025 that the traditional process of his reincarnation will continue.



India's Policy Confusion

- **No clear government position:** India has never answered key questions about next Dalai Lama's birth location and implications
- **Contradictory responses:**
 - Ministers claimed China has no business in succession matters
 - PM tweeted birthday greetings to Dalai Lama

- MEA stated "Government of India does not take position on matters of faith and religion"

- **Episodic actions:** Current support appears inconsistent without guaranteed policy continuation

China's Strategic Response

- **Diplomatic pressure:** Urged India to be "cognisant of sensitivity" and "act prudently"
- **Numbers game:** Over 375,000 Tibetan Communist Party members in Tibet (2.5x larger than exile population)
- **Narrative control:** Claims reincarnation must happen "within China" using economic and media resources
- **Internal control:** Heavy investment in security, religious institutions, and "sinicised Tibetan leaders"

Dalai Lama's Decision Impact

- **Chinese pressure worked:** Traditional process chosen over innovative alternatives he previously suggested
- **Disadvantages exile community:**
 - Will take years to find next reincarnation
 - Decades more for new Dalai Lama to gain acceptance if born outside China
- **Reduces immediate influence:** Sets aside institutional impact on India-China relations

What India Must Do?

- **Acknowledge Tibet's relevance:** Explicitly state that Tibetan region affects India's interests
- **Cultural connections:**
 - Tibetan Buddhism has adherents in Indian border communities
 - Kailash Manasarovar access important for Hindus
 - Historical linkages matter beyond exile community
- **Border dispute reality:** Tibet central to ongoing boundary issues due to China's insecurities
- **Clear communication:** Stop constraining itself and clarify policies toward China directly

Decoding China, the lessons for a vulnerable India TH Premium

China's determined moves to target India are part of a meticulously calibrated plan to safeguard its core economic interests and its internal stability

TH Editorial; By Shashi Tharoor;

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

Why in News?

Over 300 Chinese engineers withdrew from Foxconn's iPhone 17 manufacturing facilities in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka as part of China's calculated strategy to impede India's manufacturing growth.



China's Domestic Compulsions

- **Demographic Crisis:** Aging, shrinking population due to one-child policy legacy
- **Economic Pressures:** Property crisis, weak domestic consumption, rising social welfare costs
- **Export Dependency:** \$1 trillion trade surplus reflects industrial overcapacity and internal demand weakness
- **Fiscal Strain:** Heavy reliance on export revenues to fund security apparatus and military spending
- **Overcapacity Strategy:** Using excess production for aggressive global pricing and market capture



India's Manufacturing Reality Check

- **Structural Weaknesses:** Infrastructure gaps, bureaucratic red tape hampering manufacturing ambitions
- **Import Dependencies:** Reliant on external sources for chips, engines, semiconductors, sensors, basic assembly components
- **Limited Self-Sufficiency:** "Make in India" still requires significant foreign assistance
- **Competitive Disadvantage:** China controls entire supply chains in AI, quantum computing, 6G, electric vehicles

China's Strategic Economic Maneuvers

- **Technology Transfer Restrictions:** Recall of specialized technicians to prevent crucial manufacturing knowledge transfer to India
- **Raw Material Controls:** Restricting exports of rare earths (gallium, germanium, graphite), rare earth magnets critical for EVs and electronics
- **Equipment Curbs:** Informal restrictions on high-end manufacturing equipment, boring machines, solar equipment exports
- **Administrative Warfare:** Using verbal instructions and delays rather than formal bans to disrupt Indian supply chains
- **Market Protection:** Preventing India from developing self-reliant high-value manufacturing base to maintain Chinese export dominance

Strategic Implications

- **U.S. Tariff Impact:** 50% tariffs on India (vs China's 90-day exemption) reduces India's threat perception to China
- **Escalation Risk:** China likely to intensify countermeasures if India becomes genuine manufacturing competitor
- **Strategic Autonomy:** India needs independent capabilities rather than relying on Western alignment fragilities
- **Focus Required:** India must prioritize foundational development to compete globally

China is trying to stifle India's economic rise

China's strategic message to global firms is that India cannot be a reliable global supply chain partner. The intent is clear: Undermine India's economic security and curb its strategic and military strength

IE Opinion; By Harsha Vardhana Singh, Veena Jha;

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

- Goal: weaken India's economic security, and thus strategic/military strength.

Why this matters?

- Heavy dependence: 42% of India's electronic imports from China (2024–25); over two-thirds of India's electronics trade deficit is with China.
- China's cost advantage, deep ecosystem, and skills built over decades are hard to replace.
- CEOs prioritize stable, predictable output; may default to China or China-aligned hubs.

Why in news?

Authors argue China is deliberately undermining India's economic rise and supply-chain credibility.



Counterarguments noted—and rebuttal

- Yes, investments continue and non-China partnerships are sought.
- But near-term decoupling is unrealistic; full transition likely needs 5–7 years of focused effort.

Implications for India's policy

- Address higher “disabilities” (costs) via targeted reforms and support.
- Firms cannot transition alone; requires strong government handholding akin to China's playbook.

What's happening?

- Pullout of Chinese engineers from Foxconn India.
- Curbs/delays by China on rare earths, capital equipment, components, skilled labor, and training.
- Aim: raise India's capex/operational costs and inject uncertainty in GVC participation.

Strategic message from China

- India is “not a reliable” supply-chain partner or China+1.

Recommended response

- High-level, PMO-led, time-bound, inter-ministerial mechanism coordinating with industry.
- Build on 2019 precedent: PLI's smartphone success shows targeted schemes can work.
- Accelerate capability building in electronics: inputs, equipment, skills, and training pipelines.

Best of Both Sides: Reset with China is not a possibility

China remains India's primary strategic challenge with very little convergence of interests

IE Best of Both Sides; By Ashok K Kantha;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations [Link](#)

Why in News?

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to India in August 2025 produced a 10-point understanding including resuming direct flights and border trade, but structural challenges remain unresolved.

Best of Both Sides: Rivalry with China need not mean conflict

Better ties with China can help India build its own economic and military strength.

IE Best of Both Sides; By Kuldip Singh;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations [Link](#)

Why in News?

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India (August 18-19, 2025), leading to PM Modi announcing he will meet President Xi Jinping at the SCO summit, emphasizing “stable, predictable and constructive” India-China ties.

Geopolitical Context & Trump Factor

- **US Strategy Shift:** Trump's second term less coherent on China policy compared to first term's "strategic competitor" definition
- **China's Confidence:** Beijing believes it has stared down US in trade/tariff battles; Trump pursuing "beautiful deal" prioritizing short-term economic gains
- **India-US Strain:** Trump underplayed Delhi's geopolitical relevance, negative signals on tariffs (50% on India), Pakistan, Russian oil sourcing
- **Strategic Space:** Both India-China seeking more room amid relative thaw in fraught relations

Wang Yi Visit Outcomes & Limitations

- **10-Point Understanding:** Resume direct flights, reopen three border trade points, restart border discussions
- **Two-Track Approach:** Political engagement alongside military de-escalation from October 2024 Kazan Modi-Xi meeting
- **Limited Progress:** Tactical outreach without accommodating India's core interests and sensitivities
- **Future Engagement:** Modi's upcoming SCO summit visit to Tianjin, China with moderated expectations

Persistent Structural Challenges

Border Issues

- **Unfinished Disengagement:** Continuing restrictions on Indian troop patrolling and herdsman grazing in traditional buffer zones
- **De-escalation Stalemate:** Agreed to discuss principles and modalities but limited concrete progress since 2020 Galwan clash
- **LAC Infrastructure:** Competing infrastructure development along 3,440km disputed border triggering confrontations

US Strategic Approach & Impact on India-China Relations

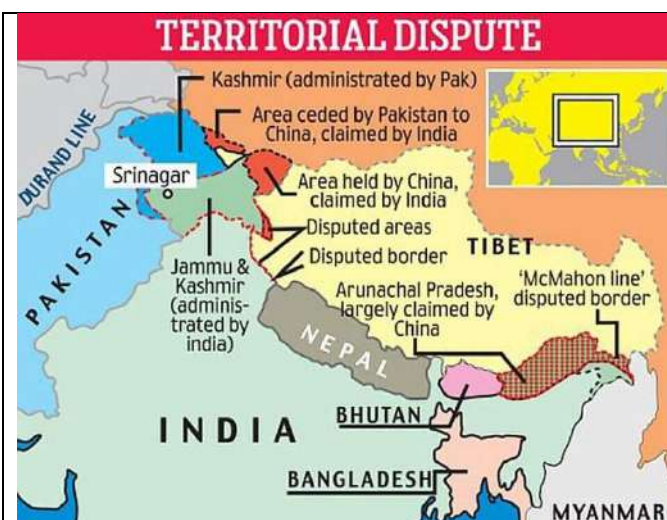
- **Historical US Balance of Power Strategy**
 - Maintains global preeminence by striking down rising powers through coalitions
 - WWII: Allied with USSR and Chinese KMT, later turned against USSR
 - Post-1949: Supported Taiwan as "real China" at UN, trained Tibetan fighters against China
 - 1972: Aligned with China through Pakistan-led rapprochement, replaced Taiwan at UN
- **Current US Pressures on Both Nations**
 - Trump demanding India stop Russian oil purchases, imposing tariffs on India
 - Temporary tariff reprieve given to China despite rivalry
 - US dependence on Chinese rare earths, supply chains limits confrontation scope
 - India failed to emerge as alternative economic-industrial destination to China



EAM Jaishankar with Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Delhi. (X/Jaishankar)

India-China Border: Geographic Reality vs Conflict Potential

- **Himalayan Geographic Constraints**
 - 2,400 km stretch: 500 km wide in Kashmir, 200 km in Arunachal Pradesh
 - Trans-Himalayas, Great Himalayas, Lesser Himalayas create formidable military obstacle
 - Neither side can conduct full-scale war, occupy large territories, or sustain extended operations
- **Limited Conflict History Since 1962**
 - Isolated incidents: 1967 Nathu La/Cho La, 1987 Sumdorong Chu, 2017 Doklam, 2020 Galwan



China-Pakistan Military Collusion

- **Operation Sindoor (May 2025):** First real-time military coordination between China-Pakistan confirmed by Lt. Gen. Rahul Singh
- **Advanced Support:** Real-time ISR sharing, integrated command-control systems, advisory inputs beyond traditional diplomatic backing
- **Grey-Zone Warfare:** Extended theatre with China's involvement without explicit military engagement
- **Historical Shift:** From passive diplomatic support (1965, 1971, 1999 conflicts) to active tactical alliance

Water Security Concerns

- **Mega Dam Project:** China's hydropower project on Yarlung Tsangpo, three times larger than Three Gorges Dam
- **Downstream Impact:** 25-35% contribution to Siang River flow from Tibet; potential ecosystem disruption in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh
- **India's Response:** Diplomatic representations made, limited satisfaction from Chinese side during Wang Yi talks

Economic Weaponization

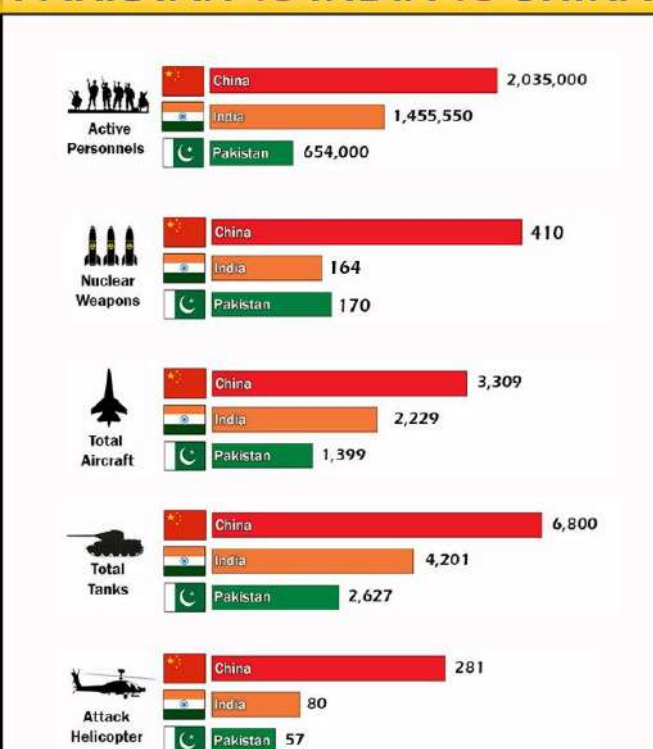
- **Supply Restrictions:** China denying rare-earth magnets, specialized fertilizers, tunnel boring machines
- **Investment Withdrawal:** Foxconn asked to withdraw hundreds of Chinese technicians from Indian factories
- **Trade Deficit:** \$101.02 billion deficit making economic ties source of concern rather than stability
- **Dependency Risk:** Weaponization of India's dependencies unlikely to change despite some promised easing

- Line of Actual Control largely quiet since 1962 war
- Recent progress through disengagement agreements easing LAC tensions
- **China's War Avoidance Since 1979**
 - Focused on economic and infrastructure building post-Sino-Vietnamese War
 - War no longer lucrative; losses would be economic, political, military even if China "wins"
 - Would disrupt China's "great power" status focus vis-à-vis US
 - Communist Party legitimacy tied to delivering continued prosperity

Strategic Case for India-China Rapprochement

- **Economic and Military Strength Building**
 - Mutually beneficial economic relationship allows India to build economic strength
 - Economic strength translates to military strength enhancement
 - Current military comparison: India 4th globally, China 3rd in Global Firepower Index
 - Defense spending gap: India \$73.9 billion vs China \$229 billion (2023-24)

PAKISTAN vs INDIA vs CHINA



Source : www.globalfirepower.com and Wikipedia

China's Strategic Calculations

- **Pressure Point Exploitation:** Chinese readouts claiming Indian assurances on Taiwan, One-China Policy; India clarified no position change
- **Anti-US Narrative:** Chinese claims of India joining opposition to "unilateral bullying" (veiled US reference)
- **Media Skepticism:** Chinese media views India's perceived softening as weakness due to US relationship turbulence
- **Strategic Opportunism:** Attempting to exploit India's US anxieties for tactical gains

India's Strategic Response

- **Primary Challenge Recognition:** China remains India's main strategic challenge with serious deficit of convergent interests
- **Calibrated Approach:** Normalization process needs careful calibration; reset not realistic without ground reality changes
- **Balanced Engagement:** Seeking stable, predictable, constructive relations while maintaining realistic expectations
- **US Relationship:** India's US anxieties don't justify making common cause with China

Diplomatic Precedents and Benefits

- UPA governments successfully convinced China to de-hyphenate India from Pakistan
- PM Modi previously cultivated good China relations
- Recent 24th Special Representatives dialogue on boundary question (August 19, 2025)
- Both sides maintaining peace and tranquility in border areas since 23rd SR talks

Geopolitical Stability Outcomes

- Rivalry need not descend into bitter conflict
- Managing differences can lead to stability, gradual normalization, prosperity
- Shared interest in fair, balanced, multi-polar world order
- Counter-terrorism cooperation and global economic stability priorities

News / Explained / Explained Global / How Israel's Gaza war has thrown future of IMEC up in the air

How Israel's Gaza war has thrown future of IMEC up in the air

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor is an ambitious idea that can cut shipping time by about 40%. But Israel's war in Gaza poses a fundamental challenge

IE Explained; By Bashir Ali Abbas;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations

[Link](#)

- **Benefits:** 40% reduction in shipping time from India to Europe compared to Red Sea route
- **Scope:** Trade, electricity, digital connectivity, clean hydrogen export
- **Announced:** G20 Summit in New Delhi, September 2023



Why in News?

India hosted envoys from multiple countries this week to discuss progress on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), highlighting how Israel's Gaza war has disrupted the ambitious connectivity project.

What is IMEC?

- **Two-corridor system:** India-Gulf and Gulf-Europe segments
- **Route:** India's western ports → UAE → Saudi Arabia → Jordan → Israel's Haifa port → Greece/Italy → Europe

Current Challenges

- **Gaza War Impact:**
 - Jordan-Israel relations at significant low

- Saudi-Israel normalization prospects diminished
- High insurance premiums due to regional conflicts
- **Economic Issues:**
 - No corridor-wide tariff standardization
 - Low financial integration among partners
 - Under-developed cross-Saudi/UAE railway
 - Saudi-UAE economic competition hindering cooperation

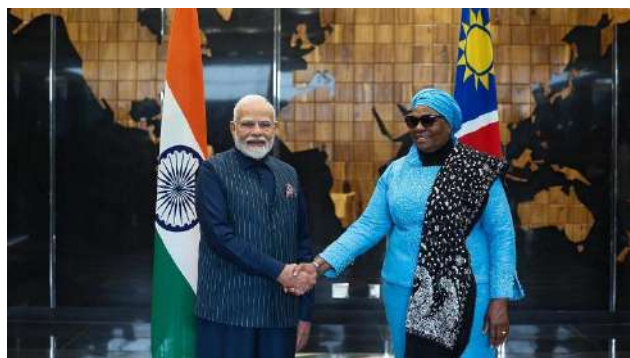
Future Prospects

- **Eastern Leg:** Viable due to strong India-UAE-Saudi partnerships
 - UPI integration for digital payments
 - Existing strategic partnerships since 2010
- **Western Leg:** Unlikely to materialize near-term due to Israel-Palestine conflict
- **Long-term:** Requires Middle East stability and Palestinian statehood resolution
- **Current Status:** Meetings focus only on modalities; implementation awaits conflict resolution

NEWS IN SHORT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

In Namibia, India shows a new way to engage Africa

Why in News? PM Modi's July 2025 visit to Namibia marked the first Indian Prime Ministerial visit in nearly three decades, demonstrating India's renewed diplomatic strategy for African engagement.



India's Strategic Three-Step Approach Historical Foundation

- Anchors diplomacy in shared anti-colonial heritage and liberation solidarity

- Highlights India's early UN support for Namibian independence (1946) and hosting SWAPO's first diplomatic office
- References Lt. General Diwan Prem Chand's UN peacekeeping command during Namibia's transition
- Creates long-haul engagement narrative vs episodic Western presence

Present-Day Pragmatic Cooperation

- Bilateral trade at \$568.40 million (2024-25), supported by \$12 billion Africa-wide development partnership
- India-Namibia Centre of Excellence in IT at NUST with supercomputer provision
- India Wing at University of Namibia's Ongwediva campus (\$12 million grant)
- Capacity-building through ITEC scholarships, defence training, Covid-19 vaccine support
- Cheetah translocation project (2022) - world's first intercontinental major carnivore transfer

Future-Oriented Tech Diplomacy

- Namibia becomes first African country to adopt India's UPI payment system
- Model for transferring digital tools, regulatory frameworks, institutional design
- Focus on knowledge-based cooperation leveraging India's IT strengths

Strategic Partnership Advantages

Namibia's Appeal

- Political stability, rich mineral resources (leading uranium producer), growing tech base
- President Nandi-Ndaitwah's vision aligns with India's inclusive governance approach
- Key Global South collaborator for reforming international economic systems
- Youthful population matching India's digital readiness focus

Implementation Gaps & Missed Opportunities

Modi Visit Outcomes (July 2025)

- Limited to 2 MoUs on entrepreneurship and health
- Namibia joined Global Biofuels Alliance and CDRI
- UPI system launch announcement
- Major Gap: No agreement on critical mineral reserves despite uranium producer status

- Missed opportunity for strategic resource access framework

Broader Challenges

- India's developmental ambitions face uneven implementation criticism
- Long lapses in Africa engagement historically
- Need for sustained investment and institutional coherence

Future Roadmap

Upcoming India-Africa Forum Summit

- Platform to formalize diplomatic efforts through institutional cooperation
- Opportunity to demonstrate enduring political resolve beyond symbolism
- Focus areas: pandemic preparedness, health infrastructure, vaccine manufacturing
- Need to match strategic ambitions with consistent follow-through

India's Differentiated Approach

- Contrasts with Western conditional aid, travel bans, migration-focused assistance
- Emphasizes trust through inclusive dialogue, acknowledging histories
- Lets African priorities shape agenda vs instruction-based engagement

US Trade Tensions - 50% Tariff on Indian Goods



Why in News?

Escalation in US-India trade dispute as America imposes significant tariffs amid breakdown in bilateral trade negotiations.

Tariff Details

- **Rate Imposed:** 50% tariff on select Indian goods entering US markets
- **Trade Talks:** Result of stalled bilateral trade negotiations between the two countries
- **Scope:** Affects specific product categories in the trade basket

Economic Implications

- **Export Impact:** Indian exporters face reduced competitiveness in US markets
- **Cost Burden:** Higher prices for Indian goods may reduce demand from American consumers
- **Trade Balance:** Potential negative effect on India's trade surplus with the United States

Strategic Concerns

- **Diplomatic Relations:** Trade tensions may spill over into broader bilateral relationship
- **Supply Chain:** Disruption to established trade routes and business partnerships
- **Alternative Markets:** India may need to diversify export destinations to offset US market losses

Policy Response

- **Retaliatory Measures:** India likely to consider reciprocal tariffs on US imports
- **Negotiation Strategy:** Diplomatic channels remain open for resolving trade disputes

Economic Diplomacy: Requires balancing trade interests with strategic partnership considerations



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Day 06	Financial Statements (Balance Sheet)
Day 07	Partnerships
Day 08	Not-for-Profit Organisations
Day 09	Companies (Share Capital, Debentures, Financial Ratios)
Day 10	Companies (Financial Statements of Companies)
Day 11	Overview+ new laws/old laws
Day 12	Definition of workmen, employees
Day 13	Trade Unions
Day 14	Strikes and Lockouts, Retrenchment
Day 15	Industrial Disputes, Employer vicarious liability for public damage
Day 16	Wages
Day 17	Insurance
Day 18	Pension
Day 19	Compensation claims

20 Hours Approx

These lecture are pre-recorded by
Shubham Jain, AIR152 [CSE 2022], NLU Delhi

Test Schedule

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EPFO_2501	24 Aug	INDIAN POLITY(80)+ CA(20)+ ENGLISH(10)+GEN. SCIENCE (10)
EPFO_2502	31 Aug	INDIAN CULTURE AND HERITAGE(40)+INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE (40)+ CA(20)+ ENGLISH(10)+GEN. SCIENCE (10)
EPFO_2503	07 Sept	ECONOMY & GLOBALIZATION (80)+ CA(20)+ ENGLISH(10)+GEN. SCIENCE (10)
EPFO_2504	14 Sept	ENGLISH(30)+ CA(60)+GEN. SCIENCE (30)
EPFO_2505	21 Sept	GENERAL MENTAL ABILITY AND QUANTATIVE APTITUDE(60)+ CA(30)+ ENGLISH(10)+GEN. SCIENCE (30)
EPFO_2506	28 Sept	INDUSTRIAL AND LABOUR LAWS(60)+SOCIAL SECURITY(60)
EPFO_2507	05 Oct	GENERAL ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES,ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING(100)+ CA(20)
EPFO_2508	12 Oct	FULL SYLLABUS
EPFO_2509	26 Oct	FULL SYLLABUS
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Economy and Agriculture

August 2025

News / Explained / Explained Economics / How India's farm exports are faring better than overall goods exports

How India's farm exports are faring better than overall goods exports

The country's merchandise exports are flat, if not declining, while agri exports are set to touch a new high this year. A lot, however, hinges on the Trump tariffs going ahead

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

- **Strong performers:** Marine products, non-basmati rice, buffalo meat, coffee, tobacco, fruits & vegetables

INDIA'S TOP AGRICULTURAL IMPORT ITEMS (in million dollars)

	2024-25	Apr-Jun 2024	Apr-Jun 2025	% Growth
Vegetable Oils	17333.14	4215.20	4280.95	1.56
Pulses	5477.28	1148.58	584.35	-49.12
Fresh Fruits	3043.70	672.28	736.65	9.57
Cashew	1669.43	319.29	621.02	94.50
Spices	1625.42	344.11	383.50	11.45
Alcoholic Beverage	1115.51	286.07	274.34	-4.10
Raw cotton	1219.32	152.01	262.92	72.97
Natural Rubber	1069.05	205.71	247.76	20.44
TOTAL	38509.32	8715.76	8702.19	-0.16

Why in News?

India's agricultural exports grew 6.4% to \$51.9 billion in 2024-25 while overall merchandise exports remained flat at \$437.4 billion.

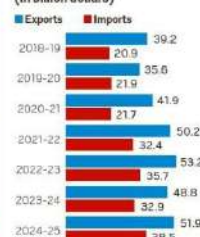
Current Export Performance

- **Farm exports:** \$51.9 billion (2024-25), up 6.4% from \$48.8 billion (2023-24)
- **Overall exports:** \$437.4 billion, just 0.1% growth
- **Q1 2025-26:** Farm exports up 5.8% year-on-year
- **Projection:** Could reach \$55 billion in 2025-26, surpassing 2022-23 record of \$53.2 billion

	2024-25	Apr-Jun 2024	Apr-Jun 2025	% Growth
Marine products	7405.00	1628.87	1945.70	19.45
Basmati rice	5944.48	1544.92	1404.40	-3.27
Non-Basmati rice	6527.58	1263.34	1413.02	11.85
Spices	4451.54	1088.89	1154.04	5.98
Buffalo meat	4050.54	793.28	805.82	13.05
Coffee	1805.57	519.80	588.07	13.14
Fruits & vegetables	2065.39	459.14	522.44	13.79
Tobacco	1979.01	426.85	509.19	19.29
Processed F&V	1805.76	384.37	429.90	11.62
Castor oil	1152.37	348.34	355.51	2.03
Oilseeds	1344.31	332.22	306.01	-7.89
Oilmeals	1344.39	330.69	290.19	-12.25
TOTAL	51940.67	12209.66	12922.32	5.84

Source: Department of Commerce

INDIA'S AGRICULTURE TRADE (in billion dollars)



Future Challenges

- **Trump's 50% tariffs** from August 27, 2025 threaten marine exports (US has 35% share)
- **Frozen shrimps/prawns:** \$1.9 billion out of \$4.5 billion exports go to US
- **Coffee competition:** Brazil's surplus may flood other markets if US tariffs hit coffee

Import Trends

- **Trade surplus:** \$13.4 billion (exports \$51.9B, imports \$38.5B)
- **Surplus declining:** From \$27.7 billion in 2013-14 due to faster import growth
- **Major imports:** Vegetable oils, pulses (\$5.5B), fresh fruits/nuts (\$1.7B from US)
- **Rising dependencies:** Palm oil, cotton, natural rubber imports increasing as domestic production lags

Key Growth Drivers

- **Recovery from 2023-24 drought** and easing of export restrictions on wheat, rice, sugar, onion
- **Better monsoons** in 2024-25 enabling production rebound
- **Global supply shortages:** Coffee (Brazil/Vietnam crops poor), tobacco (Brazil/Zimbabwe output falls)

Debunking the myth of job creation

III Premium

Although the ELI Scheme is an attempt to address India's unemployment crisis, the design of the policy could deepen structural inequalities in the labour market

TH Opinion; By Aurolipsa Das, Ubaid Mushtaq;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News?

Government approved Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme on July 1, 2025, with ₹99,446 crore outlay for employment generation.

Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme
 Who Gets Benefits & How?

PART A	PART B
Support to First-Time Employees	Support for Employers Creating Jobs
Who Benefits? First Timers with monthly gross salary up to ₹1,00,000	Who Benefits? EPFO-registered establishments hiring additional employees
What's Offered? One-month wage (upto ₹15,000) in two instalments	What's Offered? Upto ₹3,000/month per new employee
When? • 1st Instalment: Payable after 6 months • 2nd Instalment: Payable after 12 months + completion of financial literacy course	For How Long? • 2 years (all sectors) • 4 years (manufacturing)

A Strong Push to Fuel Jobs & a Stronger Economy

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- Excludes 90% informal sector workforce lacking social security
- Reinforces dual labor market inequalities
- Channels public resources to well-off enterprises while ignoring unregistered workers

Risk of Disguised Unemployment

- May normalize fake job creation for subsidies
- Enterprises could relabel existing positions as "new employment"
- Results in low productivity and stagnant wages

Sectoral Imbalance

- Overemphasis on manufacturing despite declining employment elasticity
- Manufacturing contributes <13% to total employment
- Agriculture and services employ 70% workforce
- Marginalizes women, rural youth, and informal workers

EMPLOYMENT LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME (ELI)
 Outlay
99,446 Crore
 Rupees

supporting generation of over **3.5 Crore jobs**

Ministry of Labour & Employment

@labourministry | www.labour.gov.in

Key Problems with ELI Scheme

Employer-Centric Approach

- Provides fiscal incentives to employers rather than addressing worker needs
- May strengthen employer bargaining power while weakening workers' position
- Could increase existing wage gaps

Skill Mismatch Crisis

- Only 8.25% of graduates employed in roles matching qualifications
- 53% graduates and 36% postgraduates underemployed in semi-skilled jobs
- Only 4.9% of youth (15-29) have formal vocational training
- 46% graduates in low-skill jobs earn less than ₹1 lakh annually

Formal Sector Bias

- Targets only EPFO-registered firms

Alternative Approach

Focus Areas

- Investment in skilling and education reforms
- Long-term sustainable employment over short-term generation
- Enhanced productivity without compromising labor rights
- Equitable development strategy beyond mere headcount increases
- Improved job quality and social security for informal sector workers

Planning the next leap forward

Carrying forward India's economy would require rationalising subsidies and increasing investments in agri-R&D and efficient value chains. Environmental sustainability has to be central to this journey.

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

- Development of efficient value chains needed
- Environmental sustainability central to growth strategy
- Protection of soil, water, air quality essential

Growth Projections and Outlook

Near-term Forecasts

- GDP growth projected 6.4-6.7% for FY26
- IMF estimates 6.2% growth in 2025, 6.3% in 2026
- Strong domestic demand expected in first half
- Private investments surge following business uncertainty resolution

Strategic Imperatives

- Per capita income enhancement for broad-based growth
- Employment generation and workforce upskilling
- AI and digital skills access across all worker categories
- Innovation, investment, sustainable income generation focus

Rupee-backed stable coin: An idea whose time has come

India can roll out a crypto-backed currency in three phases, and see substantial benefits — risks notwithstanding

TH Opinion; By Nilesh Shah;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy & Agriculture
[Link](#)

Why in News?

Nilesh Shah proposes India should develop a rupee-backed stablecoin following the US GENIUS Act example, outlining a three-phase implementation strategy.

Regulatory Framework

- Clear framework similar to US GENIUS Act treating stablecoins as distinct financial instruments
- Digital tokens backed 1:1 by INR through cash, bank deposits, or government securities
- Coordination between RBI, SEBI, and Ministry of Finance required
- RBI regulatory sandbox for pilot testing under controlled conditions
- Compliance with AML/KYC regulations mandatory
- Reserve requirements, regular audits, and redemption rights for transparency

Why in News?

Article published on India's 79th Independence Day analyzing economic progress and future challenges for achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Economic Transformation Since Independence

Progress Metrics (1947-2025)

- GDP surge from \$30 billion to \$4.19 trillion projected
- Population growth from 330 million to 1.46 billion
- Poverty reduction from 80% to 5.3% (World Bank estimates)
- Life expectancy doubled from 32 to 72 years
- Literacy rate increased from 18.3% to 77%
- Foodgrain production multiplied sevenfold to 353.9 MMT

Global Economic Standing

- Fourth-largest economy behind US, China, Germany (nominal terms)
- Third-largest economy in PPP terms at \$17.65 trillion
- World's largest rice exporter with 20.2 MMT shipments
- Net exporter of agriculture unlike US and China
- Modi government achieved 6.5% average GDP growth (FY15-FY25)

Current Challenges and Priorities

Subsidy Rationalization

- Combined food and fertilizer subsidies worth Rs 3.71 lakh crore in 2025-26 budget
- 20-25% subsidy leakage failing to reach intended beneficiaries
- Inefficiencies hindering productive investments

Nutritional Security Issues

- Child malnutrition under age five remains pressing concern
- Need for enhanced women's education and maternal health
- Improved sanitation critical for child nutrition outcomes

Agricultural Modernization

- Increased investments required in agri-R&D

What is a Stablecoin?

A stablecoin is a type of cryptocurrency designed to offer price stability by being pegged to a stable asset, such as a fiat currency (like the US dollar) or a commodity, ensuring minimal volatility compared to other cryptocurrencies.



- **Phase 3:** National scaling and cross-border applications aligned with global frameworks

Stakeholder Coordination

- RBI leading regulatory oversight
- Ministry of Finance and SEBI defining taxation/trading rules
- Fintechs, crypto exchanges, global players (PayPal, Visa) for development
- Banks providing reserve holdings and redemption services
- Reserve Bank Innovation Hub for technical infrastructure collaboration

Technology Infrastructure

- Permissioned/public blockchain deployment (Ethereum, Polygon, or custom like e-rupee)
- Integration with India's Digital Public Infrastructure (UPI, Aadhaar-based eKYC)
- Smart contracts for programmable payments (remittances, export contracts, DBTs)
- Offline functionality for rural/semi-urban areas with limited internet
- Regular third-party audits for reserve backing verification
- Distributed Ledger Technology ensuring transparency and immutability

Economic Benefits

- **Remittances:** 90% cost reduction on \$125 billion annual inflows with instant settlements
- **Cross-border Trade:** Streamlined payments for SMEs through tokenized export contracts
- **Financial Inclusion:** Digital finance access for underserved rural populations
- **Global Influence:** Enhanced rupee adoption reducing USD-stablecoin reliance
- **Lower Borrowing Costs:** Zero to low interest rate borrowing benefits for issuers
- Protection from foreign exchange volatility for Indian users

Implementation Roadmap

- **Phase 1:** Regulatory framework development, RBI sandbox pilots, UPI/e-rupee integration
- **Phase 2:** Remittance/SME payment expansion with regulated issuers and audited reserves

A tribute to M.S. Swaminathan, 'the man who fed India'

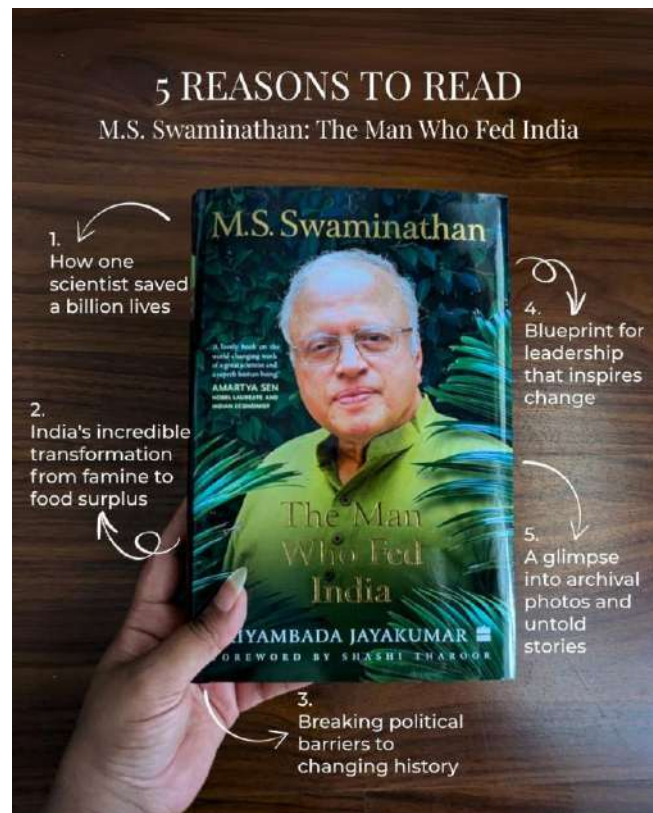
There is much to learn from one of India's most successful experiments — the achievement of food self-sufficiency in the 1960s and the scientist who made it possible

TH Opinion; By Montek Singh Ahluwalia;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Science, Agriculture [Link](#)

Why in News?

2025 marks M.S. Swaminathan's birth centenary with publication of new biography "M.S. Swaminathan: the Man who Fed India" by Priyambada Jayakumar.



The Green Revolution Genesis

Scientific Collaboration Network:

- Initial radiation experiments for genetic mutation failed to strengthen wheat stalks
- 1958: Japanese scientist informed about dwarf wheat variety with stronger, shorter stalks
- Connection to Norman Borlaug in Mexico developing suitable variety for Indian conditions
- Borlaug's Mexican seeds proved successful in Indian trials
- Bureaucratic delays: 2+ years to get approval for Borlaug's 1960 invitation, arrived March 1963

Political Leadership & Decision Making:

- C. Subramaniam (Agriculture Minister under Lal Bahadur Shastri) provided crucial support
- Direct scientist-politician interaction: Swaminathan directly told Minister about funding needs
- Immediate approval of field trial funding after ministerial meeting
- Shastri's farm visit convinced him despite opposition from Finance Ministry, Planning Commission, Left parties
- 18,000 tonnes seed import (largest in history) costing ₹5 crore foreign exchange approved

Implementation Results:

- Wheat production surge: 12 million tonnes (1964) to 20 million tonnes (1970)
- India declared grain self-sufficient by 1971
- Phased out PL 480 imports by 1968

Lessons for Viksit Bharat

Scientific Infrastructure Requirements:

- Enhanced international scientist connectivity and conference participation
- Reduced bureaucratic controls on scientific collaboration
- Direct access of top scientists to political decision-makers
- Independent monitoring systems with course corrections

Political Leadership Quality:

- Technical qualification preference (engineers/science graduates like Subramaniam - physics graduate)
- Direct consultation with scientists rather than relying on generalist bureaucracy
- Decision-making capability despite conflicting expert opinions
- Full backing once decisions are taken

Current Agricultural Research Challenges

Funding & Institutional Gaps:

- India spends only 0.43% of agricultural GDP on R&D vs China's double rate
- China has 8 agricultural institutions in world's top 10, India none in top 200
- Institutional autonomy and governance structure issues in recruitment/promotion
- Climate change impact requiring renewed scientific focus

Environmental Sustainability:

- Excessive water and fertilizer dependence created environmental problems
- Swaminathan's warnings about environmental sustainability corrections remain unimplemented
- Need for "Evergreen Revolution" concept to address climate challenges

What does the new online gaming Act outline?

What has the World Health Organization said about Real Money Games? How are e-sports and social gaming segments different from online money games? What are the penalties laid out in the Act with respect to engaging with online money games? Has the Supreme Court intervened?

TH Explained; By Virag Gupta;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News?

Lok Sabha passed Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025 on August 20, which became law after Presidential Assent on August 22

Act's Framework Three Gaming Categories

- **E-sports:** Games recognized under National Sports Governance Act, 2025; registered with regulatory authority; includes performance-based prize money; examples - Grand Theft Auto, Call of Duty
- **Social Gaming:** Recreational/educational games on electronic devices via internet; no legal definition provided; government can facilitate development under Section 4
- **Real Money Games (RMGs):** Games played after fee payment or expectation of winning

money/stakes; includes skill/chance-based variants; covers Poker, Rummy, Fantasy Cricket, Ludo; celebrity endorsements by Ranbir Kapoor, Aamir Khan, MS Dhoni, Hrithik Roshan

Regulatory Approach

- **Promotion:** E-sports and social gaming segments encouraged
- **Ban:** Complete prohibition on RMGs and their advertisements
- **Budget allocation:** From Consolidated Fund for social gaming promotion
- **No minor restrictions:** For social games or e-sports

Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025

Provisions To Prohibit Online Money Games	Offences & Penalties
Complete ban on offering, operating, or facilitating online money games, irrespective of whether based on skill, chance, or both	Offering or facilitating online money gaming: Imprisonment up to 3 years and/or fine up to INR 1 Cr
Ban on advertising and promotion of money games across all forms of media.	Advertising money games: Imprisonment up to 2 years and/or fine up to INR 50 Lakh
Ban on financial transactions linked to online money games; banks and payment systems barred from processing such payments.	Financial transactions related to money games: Imprisonment up to 3 years and/or fine up to INR 1 Cr.
Empowerment to block access to unlawful gaming platforms under the Information Technology Act, 2000.	Repeat offences attract enhanced penalties, including imprisonment of 3-5 years and fines up to INR 2 Cr.
Offences under key sections to be cognizable and non-bailable.	

Penalties & Regulation

Criminal Sanctions

- **RMG operations:** Up to 3 years imprisonment, ₹1 crore fine, or both
- **Unlawful advertisements:** Up to 2 years imprisonment, ₹50 lakh fine, or both
- **Legal status:** Cognizable and non-bailable offences under BNSS 2023
- **Player protection:** No penal action for players specified

Enforcement Mechanism

- **CERT-IN:** Tasked with blocking banned gaming apps
- **International cooperation:** Interpol involvement for offshore operators
- **Regulatory authority:** Central government to constitute for game recognition/registration
- **KYC compliance:** Required along with parental controls and age rating

Government's Rationale

Financial Impact

- **User losses:** ₹15,000 crore annually through RMGs
- **Tax evasion:** ₹2,000 crore (Financial Intelligence Report 2022), ₹30,000 crore GST evasion
- **Fraud cases:** Chinese app FIEWIN defrauded ₹400 crore with mule accounts/cryptocurrency

Security Concerns

- **Terror funding:** Gaming portals as agents for terror activities (Parliamentary Panel 2023)
- **Algorithm manipulation:** Opaque systems designed to prevent net winners long-term
- **Offshore operations:** Bypassing domestic laws, undermining state regulations

Health Impact

- **WHO linkage:** RMGs connected to compulsive behavior, psychological distress, financial hardship, family disruption
- **Suicide cases:** 32 gaming addiction-related suicides in Karnataka (31 months)
- **Industry impact:** Potential threat to 2 lakh jobs across 400+ companies

Legal Challenges

Constitutional Issues

- **State vs Central jurisdiction:** Entries 34 & 62 of State List place betting/gambling under state governments
- **Article 19(1)(g) concerns:** Critics argue Act violates Right to Trade and Occupation
- **Skill vs chance distinction:** Act doesn't differentiate, potentially erasing intelligible difference

Court Interventions

- **State precedents:** Telangana (2017), Andhra Pradesh (2020), Tamil Nadu (2022) banned various forms
- **GST disputes:** 28% uniform tax on entry fees; SC granted stay on notices to gaming companies
- **Pending decisions:** SC yet to decide on fantasy sports/poker/rummy as skill vs gambling
- **Previous rulings:** SC earlier recognized Rummy and Fantasy Sports as skill-based, not gambling

WHAT'S PROHIBITED?

All Online Money Games: A complete ban on any game involving monetary stakes or winnings, regardless of whether it is based on skill or chance.

This includes: Online Fantasy Sports and Lotteries.

Also Banned: All advertising, promotion, and financial transactions (via banks or payment apps) related to money games.

STRICT PENALTIES

Offering Money Games: Up to 3 years jail and/or ₹1 crore fine.

Advertising Money Games: Up to 2 years jail and/or ₹50 lakh fine.

Repeat Offences: Harsher penalties – 3-5 years of jail, fines up to ₹2 crore.

Key offences are cognizable and non-bailable.


THE REGULATOR: ONLINE GAMING AUTHORITY

A new national-level body will be established to:

- Categorise and register online games.
- Determine if a game is a prohibited 'money game'.
- Handle user complaints and ensure compliance.

THE PROMOTION AND REGULATION OF ONLINE GAMING BILL, 2025

The government, on Aug 20, introduced the Bill to promote legitimate gaming like e-sports while imposing a blanket ban on all online money games.



WHAT'S PROMOTED?

E-Sports: Recognised as a legitimate sport. The government will support training academies, research, and official events.

Social & Educational Games: A framework will be created to register and promote safe, age-appropriate games for recreation and skill development.

Capital Outlay

- Initial Setup: ₹50 crore
- Annual Cost: ₹20 crore

Implementation Challenges

- **Bypass mechanisms:** Companies may use VPNs, offshore operations to circumvent restrictions
- **Enforcement gaps:** Despite robust legal framework promise, actual enforcement mechanisms unclear



News / Explained / Explained Law / Why has the government banned online money games, and what could be the economic impact of the new law?

Why has the government banned online money games, and what could be the economic impact of the new law?

The law has removed the distinction between games of skill and games of chances, on which courts have pronounced a number of judgments. Several states have notified laws and regulations on online gaming.

IE Explained; By Vineet Bhallat;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy, Science & Tech
[Link](#)

Key Provisions of New Law

What's Banned?

- All online games with monetary stakes - skill, chance, or both combined
- Offering, facilitating, advertising, participating in online money games
- Financial institutions processing transactions for such platforms

What's Promoted?

- E-sports as legitimate competitive sport with training academies, guidelines
- Online social games without money staking
- Comprehensive regulatory framework through National Online Gaming Commission

Why in News?

Parliament passed Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill 2025, which received Presidential assent on August 22, banning all online games involving real money.

Penalties:

- Platform operators: 3 years jail + Rs 1 crore fine (5 years + Rs 2 crore for repeat offenses)
- Celebrity endorsers/influencers: 2 years jail + Rs 50 lakh fine
- Banks facilitating transactions: 3 years jail + Rs 1 crore fine
- Warrantless searches and arrests allowed

Legal Departure from Established Precedent

Previous Court Rulings on Skill vs Chance:

- 1967: Supreme Court held rummy as "mainly preponderantly game of skill"
- 1996: Horse racing betting allowed as skill-based activity
- 2021: Dream11 upheld as skill-based fantasy sport
- Multiple High Courts recognized fantasy sports requiring knowledge, judgment

Government's Earlier Stance:

- April 2023: IT Ministry created framework for "permissible online real-money games"
- Current law completely reverses pro-industry approach

Constitutional Protection:

- Article 19(1)(g) protects games of skill as legitimate trade/business
- New law faces potential constitutional challenge for blanket prohibition

State-Level Regulatory Landscape

States Allowing Skill-Based Games:

- Sikkim (2008): Licensed 13 game types + sports betting at designated parlours

- Nagaland (2015): Licensed 23 categories of skill-based games
- Chhattisgarh (2023): Banned gambling but excluded skill games

States with Complete Bans:

- Telangana (2017), Andhra Pradesh (2020), Karnataka (2021), Tamil Nadu (2022)
- Karnataka, Tamil Nadu laws partially struck down by High Courts for banning skill games
- Kerala notification banning online rummy struck down in 2021

Economic Impact Assessment

Market Size & Projections:

- 2024 revenue: \$3.7 billion, projected \$9 billion by 2029
- Real money gaming contributes 86% of sector revenue
- Over 1 lakh current jobs, projected 1.5 lakh by 2025

Government Revenue Loss:

- Annual GST loss: Rs 15,000-20,000 crores
- Industry annual tax contribution: Rs 20,000+ crore direct/indirect
- Foreign investment attracted: Rs 25,000+ crore

Industry Concerns:

- Potential shift to unregulated offshore platforms
- Job losses across 400+ companies
- "Death knell for legitimate, job-creating industry" - Industry federations

Government Rationale:

- National security risks: money laundering, terror financing, tax evasion
- Public health concerns: 47 suicides in Tamil Nadu (2019-2024) linked to gaming addiction
- Manipulative design features, addictive algorithms causing financial ruin

Best of Both Sides: Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025

Gaming Act corrects a wrongBy Sandeep Dwivedi [Link](#)**Arguments For the Ban****Gaming vs Gambling Reality**

- SC Case:** K.R. Lakshmanan v. State of Tamil Nadu (1996) – distinguishes skill/chance, but online = enhanced manipulation
- Data:** Millions lost in fantasy leagues, little transparency in algorithms

Social Harm Evidence

- NCRB data:** Dozens of suicides linked to online money gaming (2021-2024)

Gaming Act is a paternalistic move — and reeks of legislative overreachBy Malavika Prasad [Link](#)**Arguments Against the Ban****Constitutional/Legal Issues**

- Constitution:** Entry 33, List II - Gaming/Betting = State power (7th Schedule)
- SC Case:** State of Bombay v. R.M.D. Chamarbaugwala (1957) – gaming/gambling primarily state subject
- Precedent:** Public health also under state jurisdiction

- **Examples:** Kerala, Tamil Nadu reported numerous deaths and debts; Chennai teen suicide (2023)
- **NGOs (India):** Debt traps common in fantasy leagues/online rummy/poker

Legal Inconsistency

- **Sports betting ban:** Public Gambling Act, 1867 prohibits betting
- **Apps circumvent:** Dream11/others claim "skill" but mimic betting structure
- **Advertising:** Endorsements by Ganguly, Kohli brought legitimacy to hazardous platforms

Regulatory Necessity

- **WHO (2019):** Listed "gaming disorder" as a mental health issue
- **FATF reports:** Real-money gaming platforms used for money laundering
- **Tax vs. harm:** GST Council flagged evasion, but states reported social cost outweighs tax gain

Adult Liberty/Choice

- **Principle:** SC on personal liberty (Article 21) – State intervention must be minimal (e.g., Puttaswamy privacy verdict)
- **Comparison:** Alcohol, tobacco, lotteries allowed under regulation, not blanket bans

Alternative Solutions Ignored

- **UK Gambling Act, 2005:** Regulates, not bans; requires age/stake limits
- **Sikkim/Nagaland game laws:** State licenses, player KYC, fiscal controls
- **Mental health:** Example – NIMHANS clinics, but not blanket bans

Practical Concerns

- **China 2021 ban:** Kids use VPNs, gaming went underground; enforcement issues
- **Tax impact:** Unregulated market = no GST revenue

Let's reimagine GST

Going back to the original promise of a unified indirect tax structure could be the first step.

IE Opinion; By Shreya Pandey, Pinaki Chakraborty;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

- **Sin goods category:** New 40% slab for luxury/demerit goods replacing current 28% category
- **Low-rate retention:** 0-3% rates continue for bullion, jewelry, precious metals
- **Slab migration patterns:** 99% items from 12% slab moving to 5%, 90% items from 28% slab moving to 18%
- **Specific beneficiaries:** Health/life insurance premiums likely reduced from 18% to 5% or nil

Why in News?

PM Modi announced GST 2.0 reforms on August 15, 2025, promising implementation by Diwali 2025 to simplify tax structure from current 4-slab system to 2-slab system.



Proposed GST 2.0 Structure

- **Rate consolidation:** Current 5%, 12%, 18%, 28% slabs reduced to mainly 5% and 18% slabs

Economists' Concerns & Criticisms

- **Revenue base narrowing:** Moving 12% slab items to 5% reduces tax collection instead of broadening 18% standard rate base
- **Inverted duty structure risk:** Final goods at 5% while intermediate inputs at 18% creates liquidity constraints, refund delays
- **Administrative complexity persists:** Multiple rates still create classification disputes, compliance costs despite simplification
- **Design principle violation:** Ideal GST should have most goods at standard rate, not reduced rate for revenue optimization
- **Alternative recommendation:** Broaden 18% base to eventually lower standard rate without revenue loss

Revenue Impact & Implementation Challenges

- **Asymmetric state impact:** States derive 67% own tax revenue from GST vs Centre's 27.58%, making states more vulnerable to revenue loss
- **Post-compensation era:** GST compensation ended, requiring fiscal autonomy protection for states during restructuring
- **Administrative issues pending:** IGST settlement between Centre-states, compliance burden reduction for SMEs still unresolved
- **Timeline pressure:** GST Council consensus needed by October 2025 for Diwali implementation
- **Sin goods classification dilemma:** Unclear principles for determining 40% slab items - negative externalities vs luxury vs current irrational 28% classifications

Three Reform Pillars

- **Structural reforms:** Fixing inverted duty structures, resolving classification disputes, ensuring policy stability
- **Rate rationalization:** Simplifying slabs, lowering essential goods taxes, utilizing compensation cess fiscal space
- **Ease of living:** Pre-filled returns, faster refunds, smoother MSME registrations

News / Explained / How India is attempting to harness its marine fisheries potential

How India is attempting to harness its marine fisheries potential

A new enabling and regulatory framework will help tap into India's vast marine wealth

IE Explained; By Harikishan Sharma;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy & Agriculture

[Link](#)

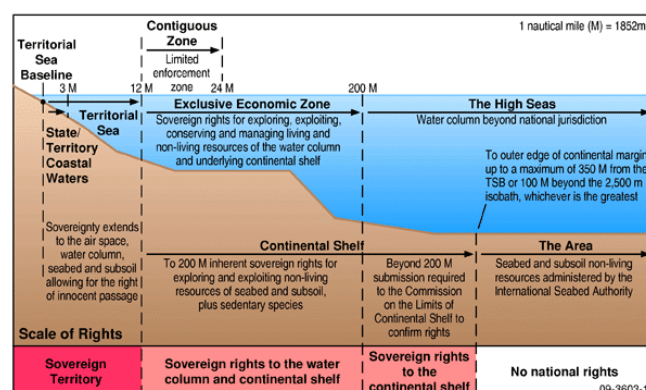
Why in News?

Ministry of Fisheries released draft rules and guidelines for sustainable fishing in India's Exclusive Economic Zone and High Seas to unlock untapped marine potential.

India's Untapped Marine Potential

- **Vast coastline infrastructure:** 8,118 km coast, 1,457 landing centres, 3,461 fishing villages
- **Massive EEZ capacity:** 2 million sq km with estimated annual potential of 5.31 million metric tons

- **Current underutilization:** Marine fish catch at 44.95 lakh tonnes (2023-24) - ten times less than estimated potential
- **Production inconsistency:** Uneven marine fish production over two decades with several contractionary years
- **High-value species focus:** Significant potential for tuna and tuna-like species harvesting
- **Economic dependence:** 50 lakh people depend on marine fisheries sector for livelihoods



New Regulatory Framework

- **Mandatory authorization:** LOA (Letter of Authorisation) required for Indian-flagged vessels in High Seas, valid for 3 years
- **Sustainable compliance:** Adherence to RFMO conservation measures including catch limits, gear restrictions, bycatch mitigation
- **IUU prevention:** Prohibition of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing practices
- **Training initiatives:** Capacity-building programs for traditional and small-scale fishers for High Seas fishing skills
- **Technology integration:** Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) management and voyage reporting systems

Strategic Island Focus

Andaman & Nicobar Development

- **EEZ utilization:** 6.60 lakh sq km (one-third of total Indian EEZ) with 1.48 lakh tonnes annual potential
- **Tuna cluster establishment:** 60,000 tons tuna potential with notified development cluster
- **Infrastructure development:** On-board processing facilities, freezing units, deep-sea vessel licensing
- **Administrative support:** Single window clearances by A&N Administration

- **Diversification opportunities:** Sea cage culture, seaweed, ornamental fish, pearl cultivation

Lakshadweep Initiatives

- **Marine area:** 4 lakh sq km EEZ (17% of Indian EEZ) plus 4,200 sq km lagoon area
- **Production target:** 1 lakh tonnes potential including 4,200 tonnes tuna fisheries
- **Seaweed cluster:** Notified development with island-wise area allocation and leasing policy
- **Community engagement:** Women Self Help Groups formation and capacity building through ICAR
- **Current production:** 16,891 metric tonnes in 2024-25, up from 500 tonnes in 1950s
- **Unique fishing method:** Pole and Line technique exclusively for tuna fishing

Government Investment & Support

- **Budget allocation:** ₹2,703 crore for fisheries sector in 2025-26 (3.3% increase)
- **PMMSY funding:** ₹2,465 crore under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana
- **Project investments:** ₹255.30 crore fisheries development projects across seven coastal states
- **Export performance:** Tuna exports surged 31.83% in 2023-24 to 51,626 tonnes worth \$87.96 million
- **Global market opportunity:** Access to \$41.94 billion global tuna market

NEWS IN SHORT: ECONOMY & AGRICULTURE

PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY) – Effective from 1 August 2025



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

Objective

- Generate 3.5 crore+ new jobs (2 years)
- Special focus: manufacturing sector
- Promote formal workforce entry, financial literacy, saving habits

Duration & Budget

- Implementation: 1 Aug 2025 – 31 July 2027
- Total outlay: ₹99,446 crore

Structure

- **Part A:** First-time employees (EPFO registration)
- **Part B:** Employers creating new jobs

Part A – Employee Incentives

- Target: First-time EPFO-registered employees
- Salary eligibility: up to ₹1 lakh/month
- Incentive: 1 month's EPF wage (max ₹15,000)
- Paid in 2 instalments
 - a) 1st: after 6 months continuous service
 - b) 2nd: after 12 months + financial literacy course completion
- Partial incentive deposited in savings account (withdrawal on maturity)
- Mandatory: Complete basic financial literacy course

Part B – Employer Incentives

- Eligibility: EPFO-registered employers
- New hiring requirements:
 - a) <50 employees: Hire at least 2 new, retain for 6+ months
 - b) ≥50 employees: Hire at least 5 new, retain for 6+ months
- Incentive duration:
 - a) All sectors: 2 years per additional employee
 - b) Manufacturing: up to 4 years
- Incentive amount per employee (monthly, for new joiners with salary ≤ ₹1 lakh):
 - a) ₹1,000 (≤₹10,000 salary)
 - b) ₹2,000 (₹10,001–₹20,000 salary)
 - c) ₹3,000 (₹20,001–₹1 lakh salary)
- Payment: Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to PAN-linked employer account

Coverage & Administration

- Implemented by Ministry of Labour & Employment via EPFO
- Jobs eligible: Created between 1 Aug 2025 and 31 July 2027

- Direct cash transfer: Employees (Aadhaar-ABPS), Employers (PAN-linked bank)
- Employees must generate/activate UAN, complete authentication (e.g., UMANG App)

Impact/Expected Outcomes

- 1.92 crore first-time workforce entrants targeted
- Formalisation of jobs, social security expansion
- Economic growth boost, industry strengthening
- Incentivises Make in India, SME hiring

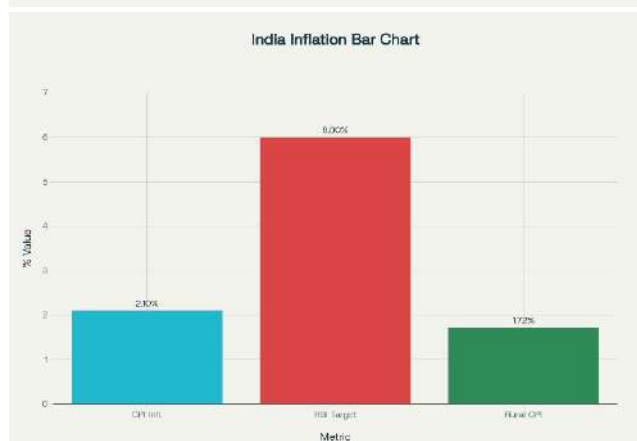
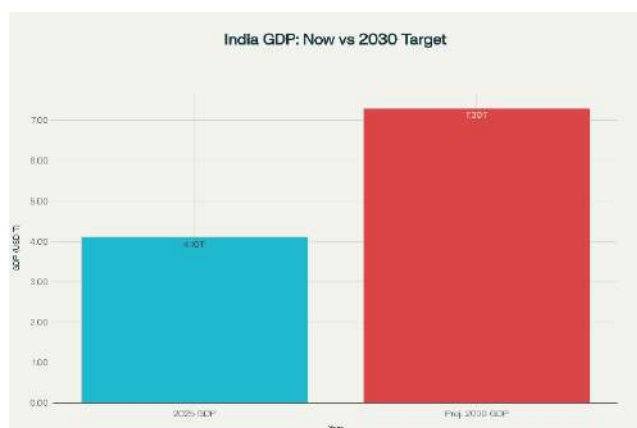
India's GDP Target & Historic Low Inflation

GDP Target 2030

- Projected GDP by 2030: \$7.3 trillion
- Third-largest economy status by 2030
- Real GDP growth 2024-25: 6.5% (MoSPI)
- Growth drivers: strong domestic demand, young population, reforms

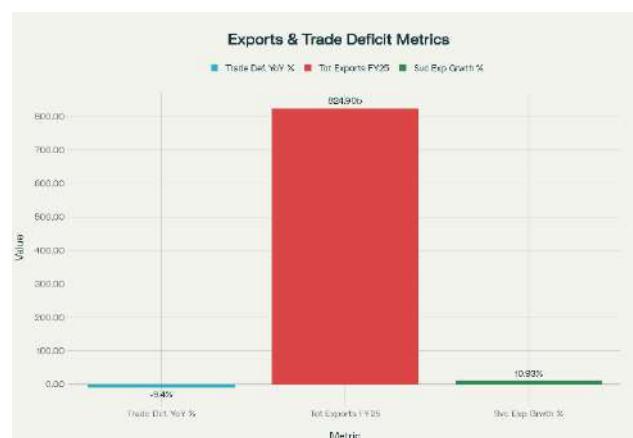
Inflation

- CPI Inflation: 2.10% (lowest since Jan 2019)
- RBI target: 4% \pm 2% range (within limit)
- Major decline in food price inflation
- Rural CPI: 1.72% (significant drop year-on-year)
- WPI Inflation June 2025: -0.13%
- Food WPI: -0.26%



Trade & Exports

- Trade deficit down 9.4% (YoY, Q1 FY26)
- Total exports FY25: \$824.9 billion (record high)
- Services exports Q1 FY26: 10.93% growth



Key Government Measures

- Repo rate reduced (now 5.5%, was 6.5%)
- Income tax relief up to ₹12 lakh (ordinary), ₹12.75 lakh (salaried)
- Import curbs, stock limits, open market sales for staple foods
- PLI schemes, National Logistics Policy, e-commerce support

Outlook

- Eased price pressure, stable inflation, strong external sector
- India set for rapid growth, macro stability, greater global role

How does the World Bank classify countries by income?

Classification Framework

- **Four income groups:** Low, lower-middle, upper-middle, and high income categories
- **Annual updates:** Classifications revised every July 1st based on previous year's data
- **Global coverage:** 189 World Bank member countries plus territories with populations over 30,000

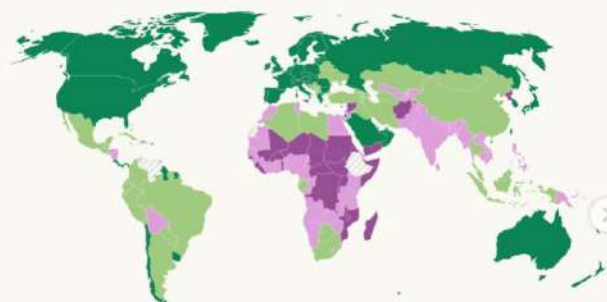
Current Income Thresholds (2024-2025)

- **Low income:** \$1,135 or less in GNI per capita
- **Lower-middle income:** \$1,136 to \$4,495 GNI per capita
- **Upper-middle income:** \$4,496 to \$13,935 GNI per capita

- **High income:** More than \$13,935 GNI per capita

How does the World Bank classify countries by income?

Countries are grouped into four categories based on their gross national income (GNI) per capita, measured in US dollars.



■ High income More than \$13,935 GNI per capita in 2024	■ Lower-middle income \$1,136 to \$4,495	■ Not classified
■ Upper-middle income \$4,496 to \$13,935	■ Low income \$1,135 or less	

Note: The World Bank revises income thresholds and releases a new classification each year.

Methodology and Calculation

- **GNI per capita basis:** Uses Gross National Income divided by population
- **Atlas method conversion:** Averages exchange rates over three years, adjusted for inflation to reduce currency fluctuations
- **US dollar denomination:** All figures expressed in USD using Atlas method conversion factors
- **Inflation adjustments:** Thresholds updated annually using Special Drawing Rights deflator

Global Distribution Trends

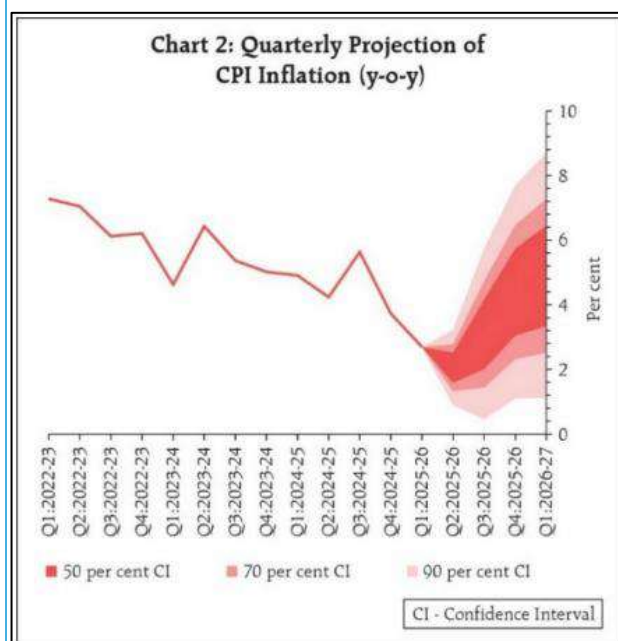
- **High-income expansion:** Share increased from 25% (1987) to 40% (2024)
- **Low-income decline:** Proportion decreased from 30% (1987) to 12% (2024)
- **Regional variations:** South Asia dropped from 100% low-income (1987) to 13% (2023)

RBI Monetary Policy Statement 2025-26

Interest Rate Decision

- Repo rate maintained at **5.50%** - no change from previous policy
- Accommodative monetary stance continues

- Focus on supporting economic growth while managing inflation



Economic Projections

- GDP growth forecast: **6.5%** for Financial Year 2026
- Balanced approach between growth promotion and price stability
- Cautious optimism despite global economic uncertainties

Policy Implications

- EMI rates remain unchanged for home, car, and personal loans
- Bank deposit rates likely to stay stable
- Continued support for credit flow to productive sectors

GST Evasion Detection Drive

Scale of Evasion

- **₹7 trillion** total evasion uncovered across 5-year period
- **91,000 cases identified** between April 2020 - March 2025
- Massive enforcement operation by tax authorities

Recovery Status

- Only **₹1.29 trillion** voluntarily paid back by defaulters
- Recovery rate: 18.4% of total detected evasion
- Significant gap between detection and actual collection

Enforcement Impact

- Enhanced tax compliance monitoring systems deployed
- Data analytics and AI used for pattern detection
- Deterrent effect on future tax evasion attempts
- Strengthened revenue collection mechanisms for government

Financial Significance

- Represents major revenue leakage for Indian economy
- Improved detection capabilities show stronger tax administration
- ₹5.71 trillion still pending recovery from identified cases

Coastal Shipping Bill, 2025 Passed by Lok Sabha

- Final approval today: Rajya Sabha passed the bill on August 8, 2025, completing parliamentary process
- Earlier passage: Lok Sabha had already approved it on April 3, 2025
- Voice vote: Passed amid Opposition protests over Bihar electoral roll revision
- Key objective: Create legal framework for vessels trading in coastal waters
- Replaces old law: Updates provisions from the older Merchant Shipping Act



Bill's Main Features

- **Coastline utilization:** Aims to unlock potential of India's 7,500-km coastline
- **Cargo target:** Support goal of increasing coastal cargo share to 230 million tonnes by 2030
- **Business-friendly:** Reduces compliance burden for Indian shipping operators
- **Environmental focus:** Promotes coastal shipping as eco-friendly transport mode

- **Structure:** Contains 6 chapters and 41 clauses covering licensing and regulation

Finance Minister Introduces Revised Income Tax Bill with Select Committee Recommendations

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the revised **Income Tax (No. 2) Bill, 2025** in the Lok Sabha on August 11, 2025. This came after the government formally withdrew the original Income Tax Bill, 2025, which was initially introduced on February 13, 2025. The revised bill incorporates 285 recommendations made by the Parliamentary Select Committee headed by BJP leader Baijayant Panda.



Select Committee's Role and Recommendations

The Parliamentary Select Committee, comprising **31 members**, conducted a thorough review and submitted a comprehensive **4,575-page report to Parliament**. The committee made around **285 suggestions**, including **32 major modifications**. The government has accepted almost all recommendations from the Select Committee.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduces revised Income-Tax Bill in Lok Sabha



Key Provisions

- Digital-first, faceless assessments to simplify compliance and curb corruption.
- Focus on creating a simplified and litigation-resistant direct tax code.
- Anonymous donations restricted only to religious trusts without other social services.
- Post-Deadline TDS refunds allowed without penalties.
- Mandatory notice-and-response before tax authorities take action.

Key areas addressed by the committee included:

- Multiple drafting errors and ambiguities in the original bill
- Technical, procedural, and practical aspects related to taxpayers
- Language simplification and removal of redundant provisions

Major Changes and Improvements

Tax Relief and Compliance Measures

- **Refund eligibility:** Taxpayers can now claim refunds even in case of late filing of returns
- **Nil-TDS certificates:** Taxpayers without tax liabilities can claim advance certificates
- **Penalty waiver:** Discretionary waiver of penalties for unintentional non-compliance
- **No penalty on late TDS filing:** Financial penalties eliminated for late TDS submissions

Property and Investment Related Changes

- **Commuted pension deduction:** Clear tax deduction added for lump sum pension payments from specific funds listed in Schedule VII
- **Standard deduction clarity:** 30% standard deduction applies after deducting municipal taxes
- **Pre-construction interest:** Extended deduction to let-out properties
- **House property income:** Modified wording to avoid taxing temporarily unused business properties

Corporate and Business Provisions

- **Alternate Minimum Tax removal:** Proposal to levy AMT on Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) has been removed
- **Charitable trusts:** Restrictions placed on charitable trusts in earlier draft have been rolled back

- **Transfer Pricing provisions:** Relaxed definitions of Associated Enterprises
- **Inter-corporate dividend:** Reinstated deduction that was absent in initial draft

Bill's Core Objectives

The legislation follows S.I.M.P.L.E principles:

- Streamlined structure and language
- Integrated and concise
- Minimised litigation
- Practical and transparent
- Learn and adapt
- Efficient tax reforms

Significance and Impact

Simplification Benefits

- The current Income Tax Act, enacted in 1961, has undergone more than **4,000 amendments** and contains over five lakh words
- The new bill **simplifies the law by nearly 50%**, making it far easier for ordinary taxpayers to understand
- **Digital-first, faceless assessment framework** to minimize corruption risks

Implementation Timeline

- The bill is set to come into force from **April 1, 2026**
- It will replace the six-decade-old Income Tax Act, 1961
- Represents the most significant reform of India's direct tax code in over 60 years

Parliamentary Passage

The **Lok Sabha** passed both the revised Income Tax (No. 2) Bill, 2025 and the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025 by **voice vote** on August 11, 2025. The bills were passed amid opposition protests over other issues, but without specific debate on the tax legislation itself.

The Finance Minister emphasized that the withdrawal and reintroduction were necessary to **avoid confusion** and present a single comprehensive draft incorporating all approved changes.

India's S&P Rating Upgrade

News / Business / Economy / S&P upgrades India's sov

S&P upgrades India's sovereign rating to BBB, says among 'best performing economies in the world'

"India remains among the best performing economies in the world. It staged a remarkable comeback from the pandemic with real GDP growth over fiscal 2022 to fiscal 2024 averaging 8.8 per cent, the highest in Asia-Pacific," said S&P Global Ratings.

Why the Upgrade Was Significant?

- Long overdue recognition of India's consistent performance
- Perfect timing to validate India as top-performing large economy
- Upgrade from BBB(-) to BBB reflects sustained excellence over 3-4 years

Areas That Impressed S&P

- **Growth Stability:** 6.8% projected for next 3 years (likely to exceed 7%) (6.5% actual in FY25, 6.5% projected for FY26)
- **Fiscal Discipline:** Aggressive consolidation without pandemic largesse (4.8% fiscal deficit in FY25, target 4.4% for FY26)
- **Quality Spending:** Focus shifted to capex and infrastructure (Rs 11.21 lakh crore capex allocation for FY26, 4.3% of GDP)
- **Inflation Control:** Maintained stability throughout economic cycles (2.82% in May 2025, lowest since Feb 2019, projected 3.7% for FY26)
- **Monetary Policy:** Effective growth-inflation balance management (Repo rate at 5.5% after 100 bps cuts since Feb 2025)
- **External Resilience:** Strong balance of payments, robust forex reserves (USD 698.95 billion forex reserves, 11 months import cover)

Market Attractiveness Indicators

- Consistent FDI and FPI inflows
- Inclusion in JP Morgan and Bloomberg global bond indices
- Research-backed investor confidence in political-economic dynamics
- Expected increase in foreign flows post-upgrade

What This Means for India?

- Government Victory: End of long intellectual battle with rating agencies
- Peer Pressure: May prompt Moody's and Fitch to reconsider their ratings
- Corporate Benefits: Lower borrowing costs for Indian companies in global markets
- Market Signal: Positive message amid tariff concerns

Future Outlook

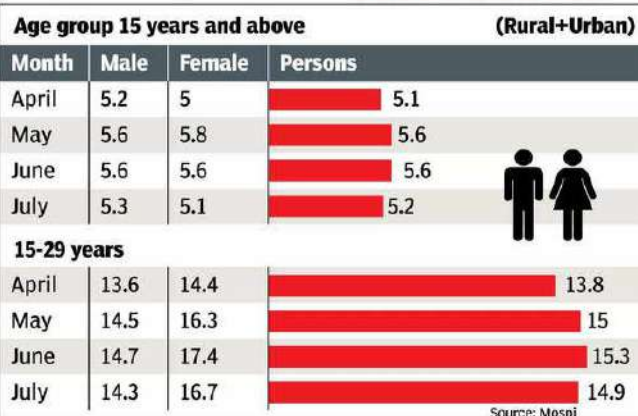
- Scope for further upgrade in 2-3 years
- Depends on continued fiscal consolidation progress
- State governments need similar fiscal discipline
- Stable outlook with potential shift to positive before next upgrade

Periodic Labour Force Survey shows unemployment rate eased to 5.2% in July

Key Findings of the Survey

- **Unemployment rate decreased to 5.2%** in July 2025, down from 5.6% in June 2025
- This marks a three-month low for the unemployment rate
- **Rural** areas drove the improvement with unemployment falling to 4.4% from 4.9%
- **Urban unemployment** slightly increased to 7.2% from 7.1%

JOBLESSNESS RATE COOLS IN JULY



Demographic Breakdown

- **Male unemployment: 5.3%** (slightly higher than female rate)
- **Female unemployment: 5.1%** (lower than male rate)
- **Youth unemployment (15-29 years):** Declined to 14.9% from 15.3%
- Rural youth: Improved to 13% from 13.8%
- Urban youth: Rose marginally to 19% from 18.8%

Labor Force Participation Improvements

- Overall LFPR increased to **54.9% in July** from **54.2% in June**
- Rural LFPR: 56.9%
- Urban LFPR: 50.7%
- Female participation rose to 33.3% from 32%

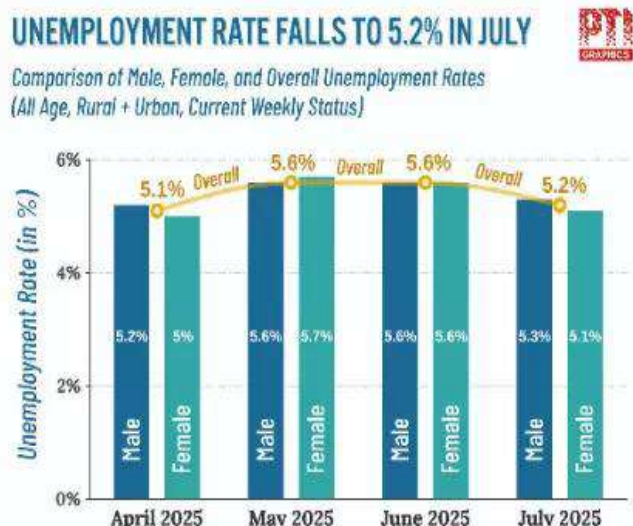
Keywords

Unemployment Rate (UR)

- Percentage of labor force that is unemployed but actively seeking work
- Measured for people aged 15 years and above

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)

- Share of population working or seeking work
- Indicates economic engagement of working-age population
- Q1 FY26: Overall 55%, Rural 57.1%, Urban 50.6%



Worker Population Ratio (WPR)

- Percentage of population that is employed
- Rural areas: 54.4%, Urban areas: 47.1%
- Overall country level: 52.0% during April-June 2025

Current Weekly Status (CWS)

- Activity status based on last 7 days preceding survey date
- Captures most recent employment situation
- Real-time assessment of labor market conditions

Labor Force Definition (CWS)

- People employed or unemployed on average in 7-day period
- Includes those who:
 - Actually worked during 7 days
 - Were available but didn't find work
 - Were actively seeking employment

Principal and Subsidiary Status (PS+SS)

Principal Activity Status (PS)

- Activity on which person spent major time during 365 days
- Based on longest duration of economic activity over entire year
- Reflects primary occupation/main economic engagement

Subsidiary Economic Activity Status (SS)

- Additional economic activity for 30+ days during 365-day period
- Must be in addition to usual principal status
- Captures secondary/part-time economic activities

Combined Status (PS+SS)

- Considers both PS and SS together
- Ensures all economic activities are captured
- Provides complete employment picture
- Part-time/seasonal work not overlooked

"Harnessing the Blue Economy: India's Fisheries at a Glance" Backgrounder

Why in News?

The Press Information Bureau released a comprehensive backgrounder highlighting India's remarkable transformation in fisheries sector performance and growth statistics.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR FISHERIES SECTOR



Key Highlights

Production Growth

- Fish production surged by 104% from 96 lakh tonnes (2013-14) to **195 lakh tonnes (2024-25)**
- Inland fisheries expanded dramatically by 142% from 61 lakh tonnes to **147.37 lakh tonnes**
- India ranks as the **second largest fish producing nation** globally, contributing 8% of world output

Financial Support

- Union Budget 2025-26 allocated highest ever annual support of ₹2,703.67 crores for fisheries sector
- Fisheries development projects worth ₹21,274.16 crore approved under **PMMSY** as of July 2025
- 4.76 lakh Kisan Credit Cards** issued to fishers with total disbursement of ₹3,214.32 crore

Sector Transformation

- Shift towards modern, sustainable and high-yield aquaculture practices
- Enhanced technology, improved infrastructure and stronger value chains
- Major source of food, jobs and income for millions, especially in coastal and rural areas

"PLI Scheme: Powering India's Industrial Renaissance" Backgrounder

Why in News?

The government released a major policy backgrounder showcasing the Production Linked

Incentive scheme's achievements in driving India's manufacturing transformation and industrial growth.

PLI Scheme: Key Achievements



Key Highlights

Investment and Scale

- Total incentive outlay of **₹1.97 lakh crore across 14 strategic sectors**
- Attracted **investments worth ₹1.76 lakh crore** since launch
- 806 applications approved across various industries

Economic Impact

- Total sales by PLI beneficiaries crossed ₹16.5 lakh crore as of mid-2025
- Generated over **12 lakh direct and indirect jobs**
- Contributed **₹4 lakh crore worth of exports**

Strategic Objectives

- Aims to raise manufacturing's contribution to **25% of GDP**
- Supports Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives
- Covers sectors from electronics and textiles to automobiles and food processing
- Targets India's vision of becoming a **\$5 trillion economy**

Sectoral Success

- Record growth in **mobile exports, pharmaceutical output, and electronics manufacturing**
- Focus on sunrise sectors and advanced technology adoption
- Reduced import dependencies while boosting domestic production

Ministry of Finance UPS to NPS Switch Facility

Why in News?

The Ministry of Finance has introduced a one-time, one-way switch facility allowing Central Government employees to move from the Unified

Pension Scheme (UPS) back to the National Pension System (NPS).

Key Features

- **Switch Timeline:** Employees can exercise this option any time up to one year before superannuation or three months before voluntary retirement
- **One-way Process:** Once switched, employees cannot revert back to UPS and will lose all assured UPS benefits
- **Government Contribution:** The government's 4% differential contribution will be credited to the individual's NPS corpus at exit

	NPS	UPS
Eligibility	Both govt & private sector	Govt sector
Pension guarantee	No	Yes
Pension Indexed to Inflation	No	Yes
Pension payable	As per accumulated corpus and prevailing annuity rates	50% of average pay for last 12 months on completing 25 years of service. Proportionate pension for lesser periods.
Minimum service for pension eligibility	No minimum service	10 years of completed service
Minimum pension	Not defined	₹10,000 after 10 years
Employee contribution	10% of basic + DA	10% of basic + DA
Employer contribution	14% of basic + DA	18.5% of basic + DA
Family pension on death of subscriber	As per accumulated corpus and prevailing annuity rates	60% of eligible pension amount

*Contribution under the UPS includes 8.5% towards guarantee reserve fund.

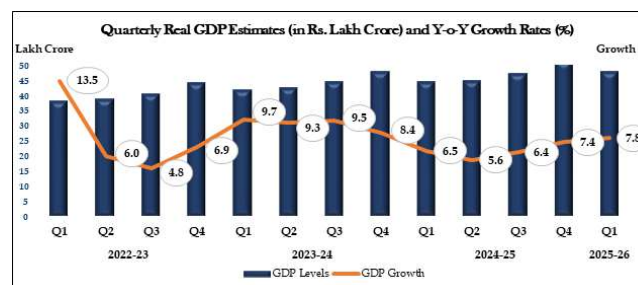
Eligibility Restrictions

- **Not Available For:** Employees facing removal, dismissal, compulsory retirement as penalty, or those under disciplinary proceedings
- **Exit Provisions:** PFRDA Exit & Withdrawal Regulations 2015 will apply after switching
- **Important Deadline:** Last Date: The option to initially enroll in UPS remains open until September 30, 2025.

India's GDP Growth - 7.8% in Q1 FY 2025-26

Why in News?

India's economic performance data for the first quarter released, showing robust growth momentum amid global economic uncertainties.



Key Growth Metrics

- **Real GDP Growth:** 7.8% year-on-year expansion in Q1 FY 2025-26
- **GVA Performance:** Real Gross Value Added (GVA) growth at 7.6%
- **Sector Leadership:** Services sector driving the economic expansion with buoyant performance

Economic Significance

- **Growth Trajectory:** Maintains India's position among fastest-growing major economies globally
- **Services Dominance:** Reinforces India's strength in IT, finance, and professional services
- **Policy Validation:** Reflects effectiveness of government's economic reforms and initiatives

Market Impact

- **Investor Confidence:** Strong GDP numbers likely to boost foreign investment sentiment
- **Currency Stability:** Positive growth data supports rupee stability against major currencies
- **Sectoral Opportunities:** Services sector growth creates employment and business expansion prospects



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Pratibimb PYQ Mentorship Mains Program 2026



What is Pratibimb Mentorship?

Pratibimb Mentorship Program 2026 is designed to guide and support students aiming for success in the UPSC CSE Mains 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



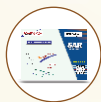
Kalam Golden Pages (KGP)
Thematic coverage of Mains syllabus of specified Topics



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

- 40 Half-Sectional Tests (5 Essay Tests)
- 5 Full Length Tests (after Prelims)
- 1 Half-Sectional Test = 10 Questions
- Static Subject wise Notes, Kalam Golden Pages (KGP)
- K-Snippet 365: Summary of Current Affairs
- Content: Kalam Golden Pages & Marks Improvement Booklets (MIB) on Mains Topics (Society, Governance, etc.)
- Answer Writing & Face 2 Face Evaluation
- Mentorship: CSE Selected Candidates
- SAR: Self-Assessment Report

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



**PYQ Answer Writing
& Model Answer**



**Face 2 Face
Evaluation**

Fee

₹8,000/-

Course Details

- Starting: **7th Sept, 2025**
- Course Completion: **8 Months**
- Mode: **Online/Offline**
- Validity: Till **Mains 2026**
- Test Timing: **5 PM – 6:30 PM**



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

Concession Details

Kalam IAS Students: 15%	UPSC Interview Student: 20%	Selected Students: 30%
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Science and Technology

August 2025

India's patent landscape: universities as changemakers

The country is steadily moving from being merely a consumer of global technology to becoming its creator

TH Data Point; By Twinkle Halder, Vidhya Soundararajan;

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

Why in news?

Indian patent filings hit record 90,000+ in 2023 with Indian applicants now accounting for 57% of all filings for the first time, marking India's transformation from technology consumer to creator.

India's Patent Revolution

Dramatic Shift in Patent Landscape

- Indian-origin filings surpassed any single foreign country for first time in 2023
- Indian applicants now 57% of all patent filings vs <20% in early 2000s
- India ranks 6th globally in patent applications with 64,480 filings in 2023
- Patent applications grew from 42,951 (2013-14) to 92,168 (2023-24)
- Over 103,000 patents granted in FY 2023-24

Technology Domain Evolution

- Computer science patents: 1.27% (2000) → 26.5% (2023)
- Electrical engineering: 8.27% → 16.41%
- Biomedical patents: 0.6% → 10%
- Physics-related: 2% → 4%
- Focus areas: AI, biotechnology, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals

Process Improvements & Government Support

- Patent pendency reduced from 53 months to 18 months
- Processing times improved from 8-10 years to 2-3 years
- Application fees reduced by 80% for educational institutions, MSMEs, startups
- KAPILA program (2020) promotes IP awareness in higher education
- Atal Innovation Mission (2016) fosters university entrepreneurship
- Budget 2025-26: ₹20,000 crore allocated for R&D and innovation



Chart 1: Country-wise share of patent filings (left axis, in %) and the total number of filings over time (right axis)

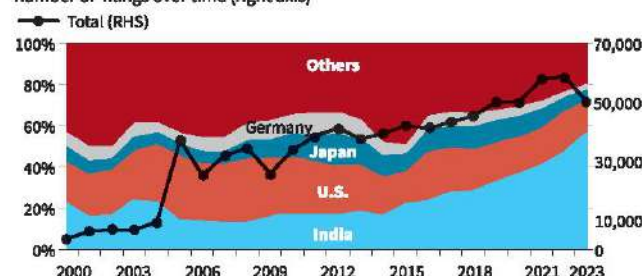


Chart 2: Average time taken to grant patents in India since 2000 (in number of years)

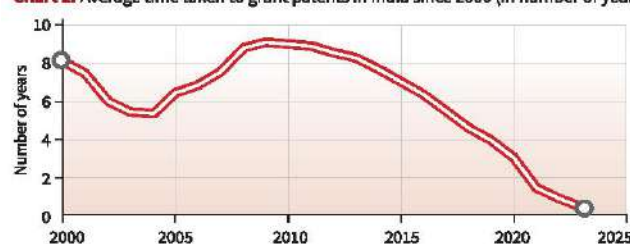
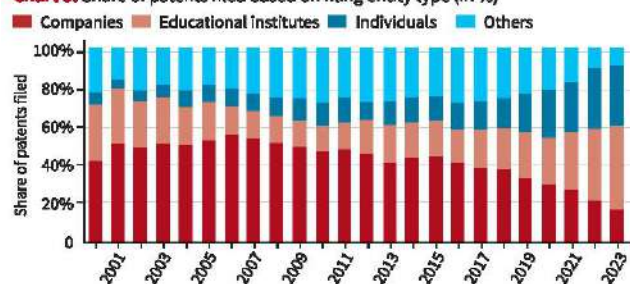


Chart 3: Share of patents filed based on filing entity type (in %)



Twinkle Halder and Vidhya Soundararajan are affiliated with Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning

Universities Leading Innovation

Changing Filing Patterns

- Educational institutions' share: steady growth to 43% in recent years
- Individual filings: <10% (2000) → 32% (2023)
- Company filings declined: 43% (2000) → 17% (2023)

Top Performing Institutions

- IIT Madras: patents doubled from 156 to 300 (2022-2023)
- IIT Bombay: led nationally with 421 patents granted (2023-24)
- Chandigarh University: 336 patents filed in single year
- All 27 IITs collectively: 557 patents filed
- Educational institutions' innovation contribution doubled from 15% to 31% over past decade

University Infrastructure Development

- Dedicated IP cells and legal support units established
- Technology transfer and IP monetization support
- Monthly awareness programs for students and faculty
- Industry-academia collaboration initiatives

Critical Investment Needs

R&D Expenditure Gap

- India's R&D spending: 0.67% of GDP
- US: 3.5%, China: 2.5% of GDP
- Target needed: ~2% of GDP for global leadership
- Department of Science & Technology budget: ₹23,290 crore (2025-26)
- CSIR allocation: ₹6,600 crore for 2025-26

Strategic Imperatives

- Self-sufficiency in consumer and advanced technologies essential
- Foundational research funding critical for sustained innovation
- Global trade uncertainty makes domestic innovation urgent
- Support for professors/researchers working with limited resources vital

News / Explained / Explained Sci-Tech / Scientists discover a rare quadruple star system in the Milky Way: Why is this significant?

Scientists discover a rare quadruple star system in the Milky Way: Why is this significant?

The system — known as UPM J1040–3551 AabBab — consists of a pair of cold brown dwarfs orbiting a pair of young red dwarf stars, a configuration never seen before

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

Why in News?

Scientists discovered UPM J1040–3551 AabBab, first-ever quadruple star system with two cold brown dwarfs orbiting two young red dwarf stars.



An artist's impression of a star system, UPM J1040–3551, against the backdrop of the Milky Way. (Photo: The NYT)

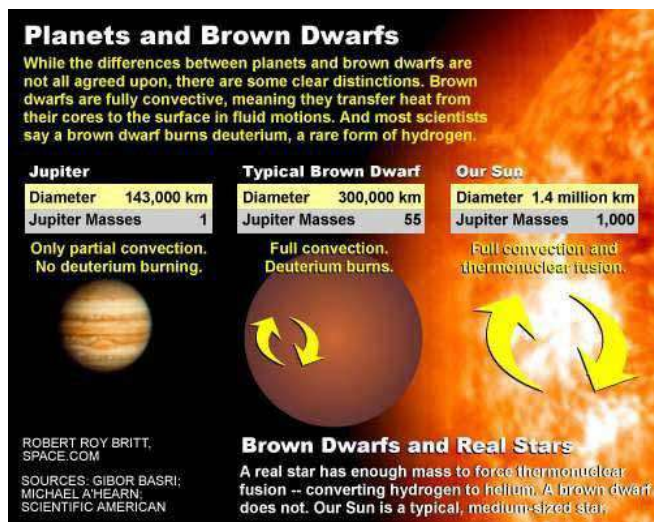
The Discovery

- **System designation:** UPM J1040–3551 AabBab in Milky Way
- **Unique configuration:** Two cold brown dwarfs + two young red dwarf stars (never seen before)
- **Research team:** Led by Professor Zenghua Zhang (Nanjing University)
- **International collaboration:** UK, Brazil, Chile, Spain institutions
- **Publication:** Monthly Notices of Royal Astronomical Society (September 2025)

Brown Dwarfs - Key Characteristics

- **"Failed stars":** Form from collapsing gas/dust clouds but insufficient mass for hydrogen fusion

- **Mass range:** Up to 70 times Jupiter's mass, both discovered brown dwarfs Jupiter-sized
- **Atmospheric composition:** Similar to gas giants with clouds, H₂O molecules
- **Luminosity:** Cold, faint objects emitting minimal visible light
- **Temperature classification:** T-type brown dwarfs (very cool substellar objects)



With Sci-Hub gone, will the 'One Nation, One Subscription' scheme step up?

Internationally, publishers such as Elsevier and Wiley have used the courtroom to buttress the legitimacy of their business model and portray shadow libraries like Alexandra Elbakyan's Sci-Hub as rogue actors rather than as symptoms of dysfunction

TH Text & Context; By Vasudevan Mukunth;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Science & Tech [Link](#)

Why in News?

Delhi High Court ordered blocking of Sci-Hub and mirror websites following copyright infringement lawsuit by publishers Elsevier, Wiley, and American Chemical Society.

Elsevier, Wiley and American Chemical Society succeed in plea against shadow library; Court directs DoT and MeitY to block Sci-Hub and Sci-Net within 72 hours.



Detection Challenges & Method

- **Primary difficulty:** Extremely cold and faint nature makes direct detection challenging
- **Companion star strategy:** Search for brown dwarfs orbiting brighter stars for easier study
- **Shared formation:** Companion systems form from same material, place, and time
- **Property estimation:** Brighter stars help determine age, temperature, composition of brown dwarfs
- **Rarity factor:** Less than 5% chance of low-mass brown dwarfs having companions

Scientific Significance

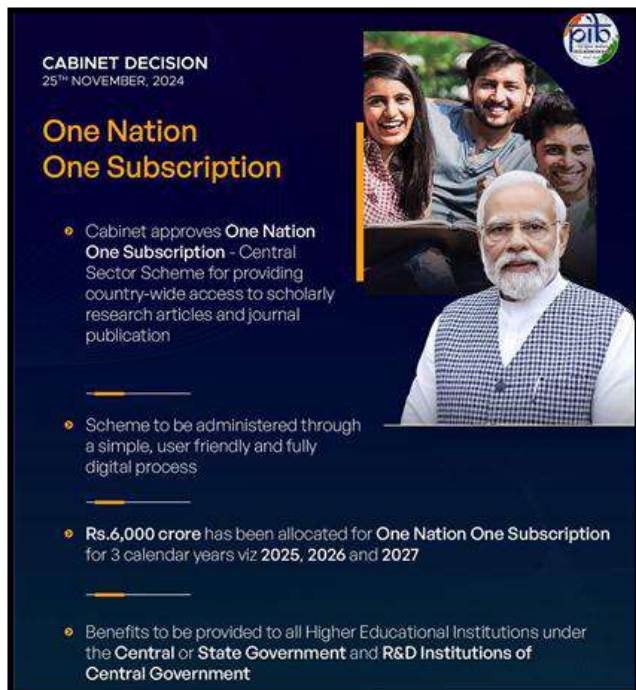
- **Formation studies:** Understanding star and planet formation conditions
- **Mass distribution:** Key data for universe's mass distribution analysis
- **Dark matter connection:** Contributes to undetectable mass research in universe
- **Stellar demographics:** Red dwarfs are most common Milky Way stars
- **Benchmark system:** Rare configuration provides unique laboratory for substellar object studies

Delhi High Court Verdict Against Sci-Hub

- **Legal Ruling:** Court held Alexandra Elbakyan violated undertaking not to upload publishers' articles
- **Blocking Order:** DoT and MeitY directed to block Sci-Hub, Sci-Net within 72 hours, ISPs to implement within 24 hours
- **Global Pattern:** Sci-Hub already blocked in 11 countries for copyright violations
- **Publishers' Argument:** Platforms provide unauthorized access to 88.34 million academic

papers including flagship journals like The Lancet

- **Contempt Finding:** Elbakyan found prima facie in contempt for uploading fresh 2022 publications despite 2020 undertaking



One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) Initiative

- **Scope:** ₹6,000 crore allocation (2025-2027) providing access to 13,000 journals from 30 major publishers
- **Coverage:** Benefits 1.8 crore students, faculty, researchers across 6,300+ government institutions
- **Digital Access:** Managed by INFLIBNET with off-campus access facility beyond library restrictions
- **Cost Efficiency:** Single national purchase replacing fragmented institutional subscriptions, eliminating duplication
- **Phase Implementation:** Starting January 1, 2025; private institutions included in Phase II
- **Previous Spending:** India earlier spent estimated ₹1,500 crore annually through individual institutional subscriptions

Scientific Publishing System Dysfunction

- **Publisher Profits:** 30%+ profit margins on publicly-funded research with voluntary peer review system
- **Access Inequality:** Exorbitant subscription fees (₹17-18 crore annually for top IITs) restrict access to tier 2/3 institutions
- **Copyright Transfer:** Researchers forced to transfer copyrights of their own publicly-funded work to journals
- **Global Trends:** 50%+ scientific papers now open access; US mandates open access for federally-funded research from 2026
- **Shadow Libraries:** Sci-Hub served as primary access route for researchers outside elite institutions

ONOS Limitations and Future Implications

- **Structural Issues:** ONOS doesn't address fundamental flaws in scholarly publishing or reduce foreign publisher dependence
- **Coverage Gaps:** Independent researchers, private institution members still excluded until Phase II
- **Alternative Solutions:** Need for institutional repositories, national rights retention policy like Harvard/MIT models
- **Redundancy Risk:** Rising open access trends may render expensive subscription model obsolete
- **Success Dependency:** ONOS must prove seamless delivery and fair cost to make shadow libraries unnecessary

News / Explained / Explained Sci-Tech / ISRO conducts air drop test for Gaganyaan: why is it crucial to the mission?

Premium

ISRO conducts air drop test for Gaganyaan: why is it crucial to the mission?

The first crewed mission under the Gaganyaan programme is scheduled for 2027, and the first uncrewed mission is likely toward the end of this year.

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

Why in News?

ISRO successfully conducted its first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-1) for Gaganyaan mission to evaluate parachute-based deceleration system crucial for crew module safety.

Test Overview & Significance

- **Purpose:** Recreates final leg of spacecraft's return journey to Earth



- **Critical for:** Safe recovery of crew module during re-entry and landing
- **Scenarios tested:** Mission abort at launch pad, parachute failure situations, spacecraft orientation during splashdown
- **Limitations:** Cannot simulate actual re-entry conditions (helicopters insufficient height)
- **Alternative:** Sub-orbital/orbital flights needed for full re-entry simulation

Test Execution Details

- **Method:** 4.8-tonne dummy crew module dropped from 3km height via Chinook helicopter
- **Simulation:** Launch pad abort scenario with crew ejection
- **Autonomous operation:** Onboard avionics triggered parachute deployment

- **Result:** Successfully decelerated capsule to 8 m/s splashdown speed
- **Recovery:** Crew module orientation and retrieval verified

Parachute System Components

- **Four parachute types:** Apex cover separation, drogue, pilot, main parachutes
- **Stage 1:** Two 2.5m apex cover separation parachutes remove heat protection cover
- **Stage 2:** Two 5.8m drogue parachutes stabilize module, reduce velocity significantly
- **Stage 3:** Three 3.4m pilot parachutes independently deploy main parachutes
- **Final stage:** Three 25m main parachutes achieve safe splashdown speed



Gaganyaan Mission Timeline & Status

Upcoming Tests:

- **TV-D2:** Q3 2025 - more complex crew escape system demonstration
- **G-1 (uncrewed):** Q4 2025 - unpressurized crew module, no life support
- **G-2, G-3:** 2026 - additional uncrewed missions

Completed Infrastructure:

- LVM3 rocket human-rated with safety redundancies
- Crew/service module structures manufactured
- Propulsion systems tested
- Training facilities, launch pad modifications completed
- Recovery plan developed

Target: First crewed mission by 2027 to send Indian astronauts to low-earth orbit

News / Explained / Explained Sci-Tech / How India's 'aquanauts' will undertake deep sea exploration under Samudrayaan Mission

How India's 'aquanauts' will undertake deep sea exploration under Samudrayaan Mission

There are presently only a few countries with deep sea exploration capabilities, including the United States, Russia, China, Japan, and France. India will join this select group of nations with the Samudrayaan mission.

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

Why in News?

Two Indian aquanauts completed record-breaking Atlantic Ocean dives (5,002m & 4,025m) in August 2024 as preparation for India's Samudrayaan deep-sea exploration mission.



Aquanauts Singh and Ramesh inside the spherical vessel.(Express Photo)

Samudrayaan Mission Overview

- **Mission scope:** Part of Rs 4,077 crore Deep Ocean Mission (2021-2026) with six components
- **Primary goal:** Send three humans to 6,000m ocean depth by 2027
- **Strategic positioning:** India to join elite group of five nations (US, Russia, China, Japan, France) with deep-sea exploration capabilities
- **Broader objectives:** Deep-sea mining technology, underwater robotics, ocean climate advisory, biodiversity conservation, mineral surveys, ocean energy/freshwater extraction
- **Coordinating agency:** National Institute of Ocean Technology

DEEP OCEAN MISSION

➤ Deep Sea Mining through 'Underwater Vehicles' and 'Underwater Robotics'

➤ Asserting exclusive rights to explore polymetallic nodules from seabed **over 75,000 sq km of areas in international water**

➤ Estimated polymetallic nodules resource potential: **380 million tonnes (MT)**

➤ Development of ocean climate change advisory services

➤ Technology for sustainable utilisation of marine bio-resources

THESE POLYMETALLIC NODULES CONTAIN

Manganese **92.6 MT**

Nickel **4.7**

Copper **4.3**

Cobalt **1**

(*figures are rounded off)

➤ Deep ocean survey and exploration

➤ Energy from the ocean and offshore-based desalination

➤ Krill fishery from southern ocean

Matsya-6000 Submersible

- **Design:** Fish-shaped vehicle with 2.1m diameter personal sphere
- **Capacity:** Three aquanauts for 12-hour missions, 96-hour emergency survival
- **Material challenge:** 80mm thick titanium alloy sphere (600x sea-level pressure resistance)
- **Manufacturing:** Electron beam welding for precise fabrication, ISRO developing sphere
- **Initial testing:** Steel sphere for 500m depth trials, titanium for full 6,000m missions

Technical & Human Challenges

- **Structural integrity:** Precise titanium thickness (0.2mm deviation could cause collapse)
- **Life support systems:** 20% oxygen maintenance, CO₂ scrubbers, emergency rebreather systems
- **Aquanaut conditioning:** Physical fitness requirements, dietary restrictions during missions
- **Communication barriers:** Radio waves ineffective underwater, indigenous acoustic telephone development
- **Environmental factors:** Water temperature, salinity affecting communication effectiveness

Strategic Importance

- **Blue Economy focus:** 7,517km coastline utilization for economic growth
- **Resource potential:** Unexplored deep-sea minerals, fuels, biodiversity

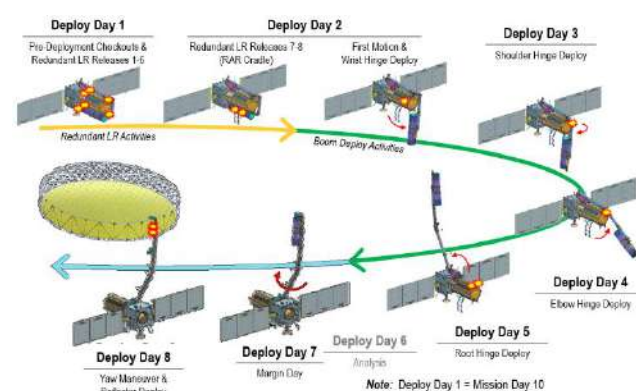
- **National vision:** Contributing to Viksit Bharat through deep-sea and space exploration
- **Technology sovereignty:** Indigenous development of critical deep-sea technologies
- **Economic benefits:** Sustainable ocean resource utilization, industrial application potential

NEWS IN SHORT: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India launches NASA-ISRO NISAR satellite for advanced Earth observation

Mission Overview

- Joint collaboration between NASA (USA) and ISRO (India) for satellite construction and mission operation
- NISAR stands for NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar, represents world's first satellite with dual-frequency SAR from both agencies
- Successfully launched on 31 July 2025, using Indian heavy-lift launch vehicle (likely GSLV or PSLV series)
- Placed in near-polar sun-synchronous orbit for consistent global coverage



Objectives & Focus Areas

- Comprehensive Earth observation: surface movement, land subsidence, tectonic plate shifts

- High-precision monitoring of glaciers, polar ice sheets, river deltas to assess climate impact
- Frequent data capture for early detection of floods, landslides, major agricultural shifts
- Carbon stock monitoring by mapping forest cover changes, ecosystem degradation
- Detailed agricultural monitoring enabling crop stress detection, seasonal productivity mapping
- Real-time disaster impact assessment supporting rapid government and international relief actions

Technical Features

- Dual-band radar payload: L-band (NASA) captures broad land deformation, S-band (ISRO) targets finer structures and freshwater resources
- Ultra-wide imaging swath (over 240 km per pass) and meter-scale resolution
- Advanced onboard data processing, high data download rates, cloud-ready interface for open access
- Near-global revisit every 12 days, continuous archive for environmental trends

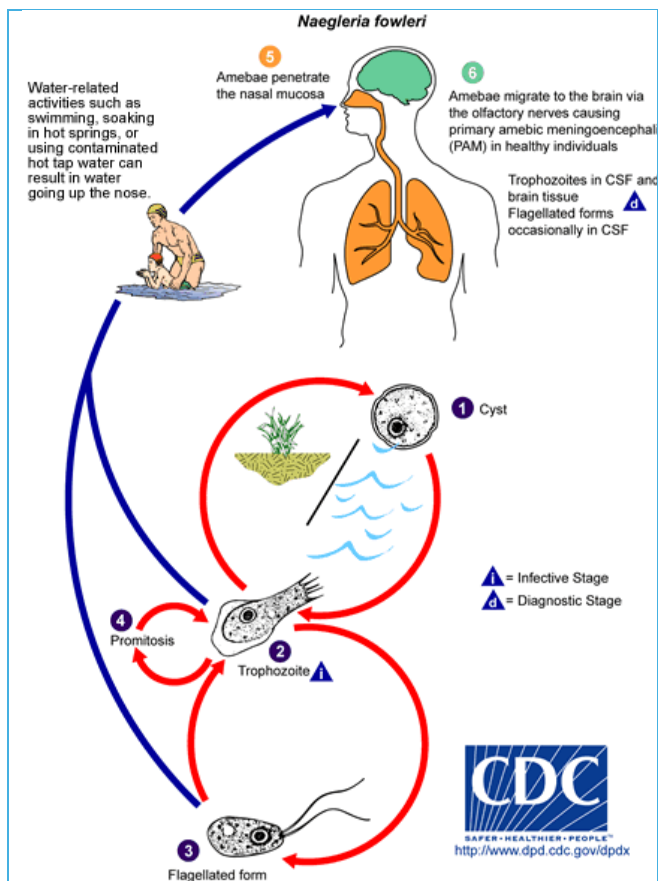
Key Benefits & Impact

- Foundation for climate research with decades-long, consistent, repeatable surface movement data
- Improved flood, cyclone, landslide, and earthquake management for Indian subcontinent and global partners
- Data democratization—free, open-data policy ensures scientists, governments, startups, and students global access
- Supports India's natural resource mapping, water management mission, precision agriculture efforts
- Strengthens India's position in international Earth observation, expands Indo-US strategic cooperation in advanced space technologies

Brain-Eating Amoeba Cases Surge in Kerala

Why in News?

Kerala reports three new cases of rare primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) caused by brain-eating amoeba, including the death of a 9-year-old girl.



Current Outbreak in Kerala

- **2025 cases:** 8 confirmed cases and 2 deaths reported this year
- **Recent cases:** Three new cases in Kozhikode district - 9-year-old girl died, 3-month-old baby infected, 40-year-old man under treatment
- **Historical surge:** Only 8 cases from 2016-2023, but 36 cases with 9 deaths in 2024
- **First cases:** India's first case in 1971, Kerala's first in 2016

About the Disease

- **Causative agent:** *Naegleria fowleri*, a free-living amoeba found in warm freshwater and soil
- **Temperature preference:** Thrives in temperatures up to 115°F (46°C)
- **Entry route:** Enters body through nose, travels to brain and destroys tissue
- **Non-communicable:** Cannot spread person-to-person or through drinking contaminated water

Symptoms and Timeline

- **Early symptoms (1-9 days):** Headache, fever, nausea, vomiting
- **Advanced symptoms:** Stiff neck, confusion, seizures, hallucinations, coma
- **Fatal progression:** Death within 5 days typically, can occur within 1-18 days
- **Global fatality rate:** 97% worldwide

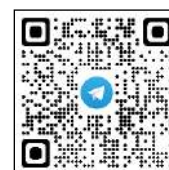
Treatment and Survival

- **No single cure:** Combination therapy with multiple drugs including amphotericin B, azithromycin, fluconazole
- **Kerala's success:** 25% fatality rate compared to 97% globally
- **First survivor:** 14-year-old boy in Kozhikode became first Indian survivor in July 2024, 11th worldwide



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Geography and Environment

August 2025

News / Explained / Explained Sci-Tech / How an earthquake can generate tsunami

How an earthquake can generate tsunami

There are several factors that are involved in the generation of tsunamis. These include location, depth, type of fault and magnitude of the earthquake

IE Explained;

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

Why in News

A magnitude 8.8 earthquake off Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula triggered 16-foot tsunami waves, prompting alerts across Hawaii, California, and several Pacific countries.

Major earthquake off Russia triggers tsunami in Japan, US

Tsunami advisories have also been issued in countries including the Philippines, Indonesia and New Zealand, warning people to stay away from beaches.



How Earthquakes Generate Tsunamis?

Earthquake Basics

- Earth's crust fragmented into tectonic plates with rough edges that get stuck
- When plates move far enough, edges unstick causing sudden slip and seismic waves
- Hypocenter: location below Earth's surface where earthquake starts
- Epicenter: location directly above hypocenter on surface

Key Factors for Tsunami Generation

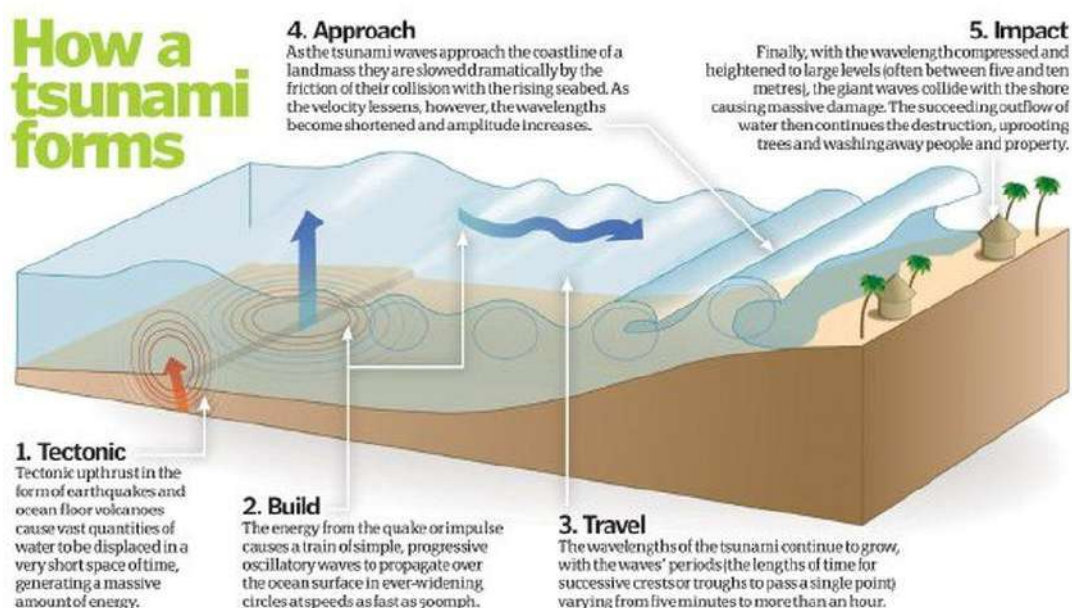
Location & Depth

- Must be marine event displacing sea floor
- Shallow earthquakes (0-70km depth) carry more energy to surface
- Kamchatka quake: 19.3km depth, 136km east of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky

Type of Fault

- Requires "reverse" faulting from compression forces
- Rock block above fault plane moves up relative to block below
- Causes sudden vertical displacement (uplift/subsidence) of ocean floor

How a tsunami forms



- Kamchatka region: Pacific Plate thrust beneath Okhotsk Plate at 86mm/year

Magnitude

- Usually generated by quakes >7.0 magnitude
- Most destructive tsunamis from earthquakes >8.0 magnitude
- Higher magnitudes travel longer distances, cause broader damage
- Kamchatka quake: 8.8 magnitude, among strongest since 1900

EU's carbon tax is unlikely to fix global warming. It will make global cooperation on climate change impossible

For India and other BRICS nations, this is not just about trade or emissions; it is about sovereignty, justice, and the right to grow on their terms. The carbon border tax, in its current form, is not a solution

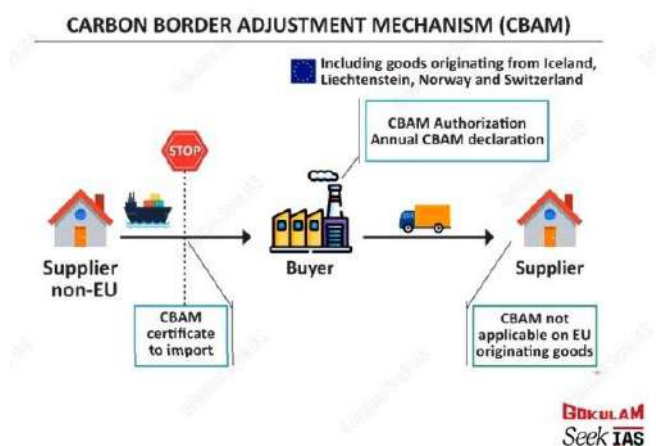
IE Opinion; Anil Trigunayat and Kaviraj Singh;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Environment [Link](#)

Why in News?

BRICS nations have united to condemn the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), calling it "carbon colonialism" that discriminates against developing countries.

What is CBAM?

- **Definition:** Tariff on carbon-intensive imports into EU starting 2026
- **Scope:** Steel, cement, aluminium, fertilizers, electricity
- **Cost:** 60-90 euros per tonne of CO₂ (matching EU ETS prices)
- **Purpose:** Prevent "carbon leakage" to countries with lax climate rules



BRICS Opposition

- **Key Argument:** Unilateral burden shift to developing economies
- **Violation:** Contradicts Paris Agreement principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities
- **Accusation:** "Carbon colonialism" weaponizing environmental standards
- **Coalition Strength:** BRICS represents 41% global population, 40% global economy

Impact on India

- **Steel Sector:** Potential losses of \$551 million by 2034
- **Export Exposure:** \$3 billion steel exports to EU (23.5% of total steel exports)
- **Disadvantage:** Indian aluminium emits 20 tonnes CO₂ vs EU's 6.5-7 tonnes per tonne
- **Government Response:** Minister Piyush Goyal threatens WTO retaliation

Strategic Options

- **Retaliation:** WTO dispute, tit-for-tat tariffs on European imports
- **Adaptation:**
 - Green hydrogen in steelmaking (60-70% emission reduction by 2040)
 - Waste heat recovery in cement
 - Low-carbon production processes
- **Diplomacy:** Work with US and BRICS for negotiating leverage against unilateral EU measures

News / Explained / Explained Climate / Increase in coal production capacity dipped in 2024: What does it mean for net-zero targets?

Increase in coal production capacity dipped in 2024: What does it mean for net-zero targets?

Last year, the amount of production capacity that came online stood at 105 mtpa — a 46% decline from 2023, when the amount was 193 mtpa. In fact, the 2024 increase was the smallest production capacity increase in a decade

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

Why in News

Global coal production capacity increase dropped 46% in 2024 to 105 mtpa, the smallest increase in a decade, raising concerns about future methane emissions and net-zero targets.

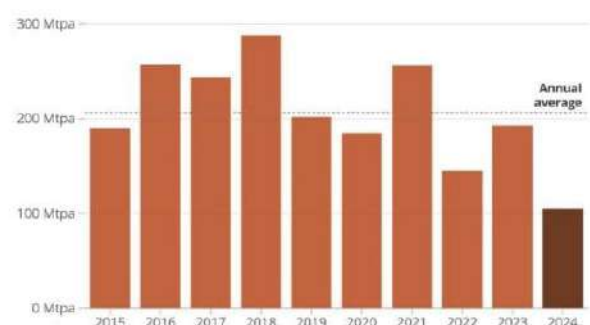
Key Findings

Production Capacity Decline

- 2024 capacity addition: 105 mtpa (46% decline from 2023's 193 mtpa)
- Smallest increase in a decade, over 100 mtpa below 2015-2024 average
- Primary decline driven by China and India slowing expansion plans
- Likely due to approval delays and easing post-pandemic supply-demand pressure

New coal mine additions in 2024 hit a decade low, well below annual average

New coal mine capacity added annually since 2015, measured in million tonnes per annum (Mtpa)



Source: Global Coal Mine Tracker, May 2025

Coal mine proposals are predominantly concentrated in the Asia-Pacific region

Proposed coal mine capacity by country or area, with bubble size representing total capacity—larger bubbles indicate greater capacity, in Mtpa

Proposed capacity: ~1 Mtpa ● 100 Mtpa ● 1,350 Mtpa



Source: Global Coal Mine Tracker, May 2025

Global Pipeline Concerns

- **Total proposed capacity:** 2,270 mtpa under development worldwide
- **Development stages:** 1,113 mtpa (early planning), 744 mtpa (construction/testing), 414 mtpa (approved)

- **Geographic concentration:** 90% in few countries - China (1,350 mtpa), India (329 mtpa), Australia (165 mtpa), Russia (98 mtpa)

India's Position

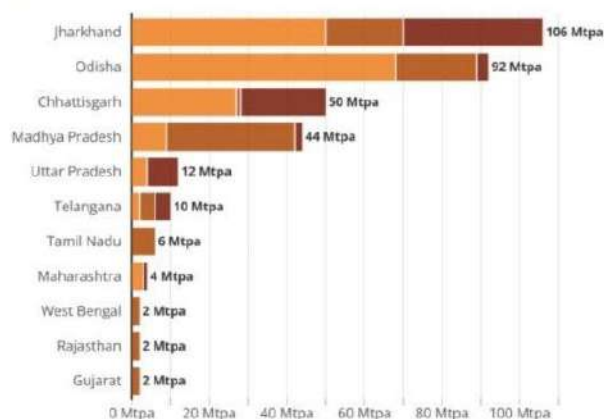
Current Development Status

- **Total under development:** 339 mtpa
- **By stage:** 163 mtpa (planning), 90 mtpa (permitted), 75 mtpa (construction)
- **State-wise concentration:** Jharkhand (106 mtpa), Odisha (92 mtpa), Chhattisgarh (50 mtpa), Madhya Pradesh (44 mtpa) account for 90%

Four states account for 90% of India's proposed coal mining capacity

Proposed capacity in India states by status, in million tonnes per annum (Mtpa)

Pre-permitted (announced, exploration) Permitted Construction



Source: Global Coal Mine Tracker, May 2025

Production Targets

- Current production: 1,048 mt (FY 2024-25)
- Target: 1.3 billion tonnes by FY 2026-27, 1.5 billion tonnes by 2030
- Plan: 100 new mines adding 500 mtpa capacity by 2030

Climate Impact

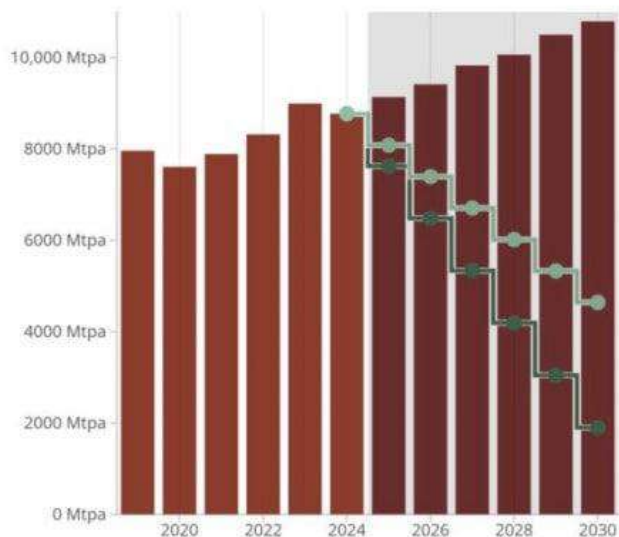
- **Methane threat:** Proposed capacity could release 15.7 million tonnes of methane emissions
- **Warming potential:** Methane 80x more potent than CO₂ over 20 years, responsible for 30% of warming since pre-industrial times
- **Gap with targets:** IEA/UN recommend 39-75% coal production cuts by 2030; current pipeline widens this gap

- **1.5°C risk:** Full development of proposed capacity would jeopardize Paris Agreement temperature targets

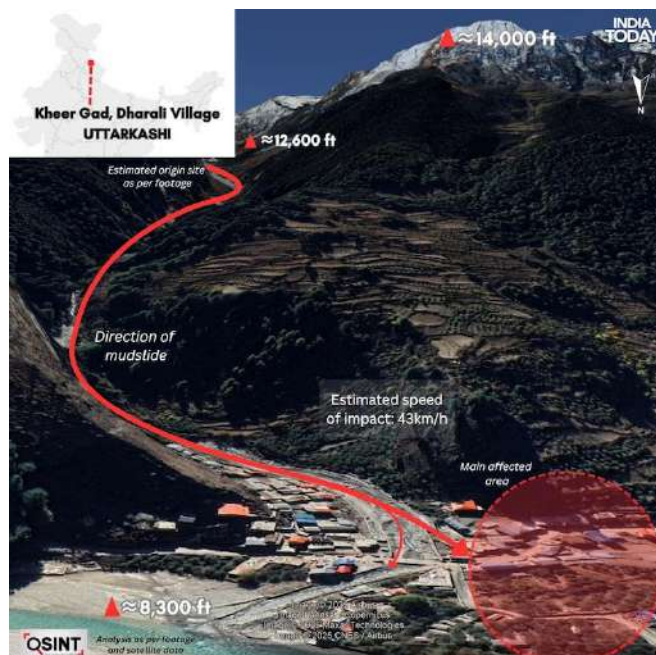
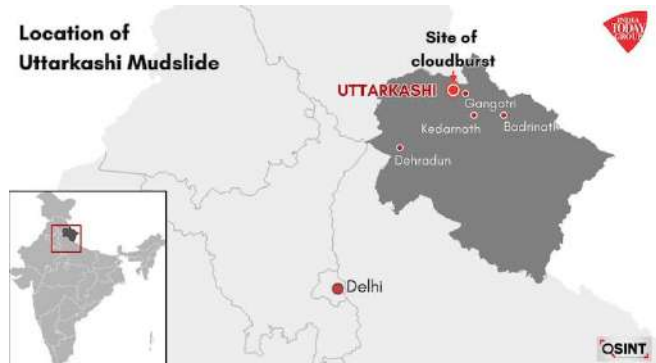
Planned coal mine capacity puts 1.5°C pathways further out of reach

Trajectory of planned global coal production capacity—with all proposed projects and expected retirements completed—compared to levels required for a 1.5°C pathway, in million tonnes per year (Mtpa)

■ Historic ■ Planned ■ 1.5°C pathway (UNEP) ■ 1.5°C pathway (IEA NZE)



Source: All planned additions and retirements (Global Coal Mine Tracker, May 2025); Historic data (IEA); 1.5°C pathway (UNEP) and (IEA NZE) from (Production Gap Report 2023)



News / Explained / Explained Climate / What caused Uttarkashi flash floods: Heavy rainfall, rugged topography

What caused Uttarkashi flash floods: Heavy rainfall, rugged topography

Uttarkashi flash floods 2025 explained: The primary reason is the topography of the area, where heavy rainfall often results in landslides, sending mud and concrete into the rivers.

IE Explained; By Anjali Marar;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Disaster Management
[Link](#)

Why in News?

At least four people died after flash floods and mudslides swept through Dharali village in Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand on Tuesday afternoon.

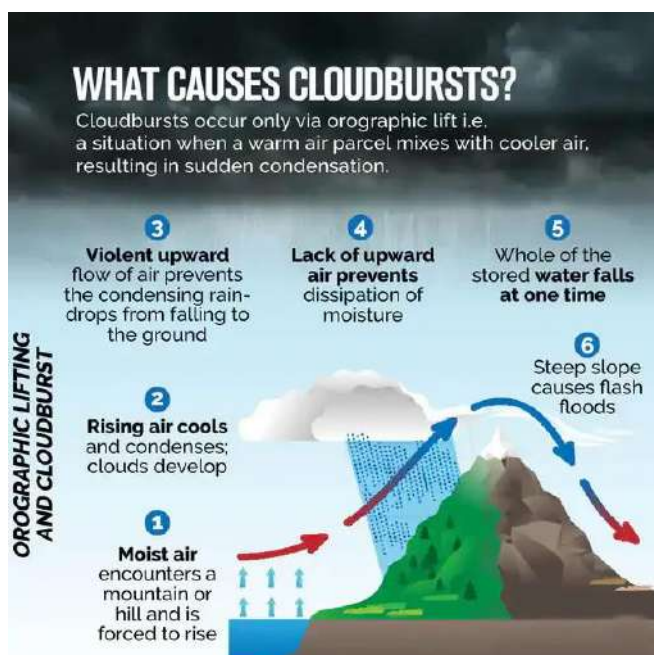
Causes of Flash Floods Topography & Terrain

- District located at 800-6,900 meters elevation above sea level
- Rugged topography with sharp undulations, high mountains, narrow valleys, deep gorges
- Land slopes towards southwest with elevation drops up to 800 meters in valleys
- Built on layers of mudslides accumulated over centuries
- Limited vegetation and no significant obstructions on southern Himalayan slope
- Contains upper reaches of Ganga and Yamuna rivers near Gangotri and Yamunotri

Rainfall Impact

- Heavy rainfall over past three days triggered landslides
- Mud and concrete materials flow into rivers with great force
- Continuous rainfall on high altitudes creates disaster conditions

- Climate change has increased rainfall intensity, accelerating deglaciation
- Annual average rainfall: 1,289 mm (July wettest month with 312 mm average)



The Climate Problem

- **Himalayan Vulnerability:** "Water Tower of Asia" sensitive to climate shifts with rising temperatures causing glacier melt and increased atmospheric moisture
- **Cloudburst Mechanics:** Warmer air holds 7% more water vapor per degree Celsius, leading to intense localized rainfall
- **Increasing Frequency:** Hindu Kush Himalayan cloudbursts have intensified over recent decades due to destabilized weather patterns
- **Terrain Amplification:** Steep slopes, loose soil, and narrow valleys worsen flood and landslide impacts

Current Response Gaps

- **Outdated Infrastructure:** Traditional dams, drains, embankments designed for historical weather patterns
- **Monitoring Deficit:** Sparse Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) in Himalayas and vulnerable regions
- **Fragmented Approach:** Sluggish and uncoordinated disaster response across levels

Solutions Required

Immediate Actions

- Expand AWS network and satellite-based observation systems in Himalayas
- Develop real-time early warning systems using predictive algorithms
- Integrate community traditional knowledge with official warning systems

Long-term Strategies

- **Nature-based Solutions:** Restore wetlands, mangroves, natural sponge zones instead of grey infrastructure
- **Mountain Conservation:** Prioritize forest preservation, reforestation in erosion-prone areas

Not a Technical Cloudburst

- Cloudburst definition: 100+ mm rainfall in 1 hour over 10x10 km area
- Uttarkashi received only 2.7 mm in 24 hours (as of Tuesday 8:30 AM)
- Rainfall between 8:30 AM-4:30 PM was below cloudburst threshold
- Heavier rainfall occurred elsewhere (Haridwar plains: 300 mm on Tuesday)

Uttarkashi Cloudburst: What India should do to avoid further climate catastrophe

India must recognise that climate change is a systemic challenge requiring coordinated action at all local, national, and international levels

IE Opinion; By Anjal Prakash;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Disaster Management
[Link](#)

Why in News?

Recent cloudburst in Uttarkashi's Dharali village highlights India's inadequate climate disaster preparedness amid increasing extreme weather events.

- **Policy Integration:** Mainstream climate adaptation into urban planning and infrastructure development
- **Community Empowerment:** Strengthen community-based disaster management in rural/hill areas

Systemic Changes

- Allocate dedicated climate risk assessment funds
- Foster regional cooperation and climate resilience technology innovation
- Ensure marginalized groups receive special rehabilitation attention

What has been the impact of ethanol blending?

How are petrol vehicle owners reacting to the E20 mandate? How environmentally friendly is India's dependence on sugarcane for ethanol? How has the U.S. reacted to India's booming ethanol economy? Why has the adoption of EVs in India been much slower compared to other large economies?

TH Science; By Kunal Shankar, S. Hariharan;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Science, Environment
[Link](#)

Why in News?

India achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol five years ahead of target, rising from 1.5% in 2014 to 20% in 2025.

Consumer and Vehicle Impact

- **Opposition from vehicle owners:** Two-thirds of 36,000 surveyed across 315 districts oppose E20 mandate; only 12% favor it
- **Performance issues:** Drop in mileage, increased maintenance costs, need for E20-compatible materials in older vehicles
- **Government response:** Calls consumer concerns "vilification campaign" by "vested interests"; admits "marginal drop" in engine efficiency
- **Economic benefits not passed on:** Despite ₹1.40 lakh crore foreign exchange savings claimed, only 2% petrol price reduction despite 65% oil price drop
- **NITI Aayog recommendation:** Compensate consumers through tax incentives on E10 and E20 fuel



Environmental and Agricultural Concerns

- **Water-intensive cultivation:** 60-70 tonnes water needed per tonne sugarcane; many regions lack required 1,500-3,000mm rainfall
- **Groundwater depletion:** Sugarcane districts in Maharashtra extract more groundwater than neighboring areas
- **Land degradation:** 30% of India's land already degraded; unsustainable practices accelerate deterioration
- **Supply diversification challenges:** Rice allocation jumped to 5.2 million metric tonnes; corn diversion forced 6x increase in imports (9.7 lakh tonnes)
- **Continued sugarcane dependency:** Area remains stable at 57.24 lakh hectares; OECD-FAO projects 22% of India's sugarcane for ethanol by 2034

Trade and Economic Implications

- **US trade pressure:** Trump administration pushing India to relax ethanol import restrictions; calls policy "significant trade barrier"
- **Industry concerns:** Indian Sugar Mills Association urges maintaining restrictions to protect domestic investments

- **Farmer payments:** Government claims ₹1.20 lakh crore paid to farmers since FY15
- **PSU dividends:** Oil PSUs contributed 42.3% of ₹3 lakh crore government dividends (2020-25) but minimal price benefit to consumers

EV Transition Challenges

- **Slow adoption rate:** Only 7.6% vehicle sales electric in 2024; needs 22%+ annual growth to reach 30% target by 2030
- **Rare earth dependency:** Critical reliance on China for REEs; Maruti Suzuki reduced e-Vitara production targets due to supply delays
- **Supply vulnerability:** China's export curbs threaten EV production; government engaging Beijing for germanium supply
- **Carbon reduction comparison:** E20 claims 700 lakh tonnes CO2 reduction, but EVs offer far higher emission reductions for transport decarbonization

NEWS IN SHORT: GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT

Environment (Construction and Demolition) Waste Management Rules, 2025

Notification & Implementation

- Notified on April 2, 2025 by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Effective from April 1, 2026 - replacing Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016
- Published under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 with comprehensive framework for C&D waste management

Scope & Application

- Covers all construction, demolition, remodeling, renovation and repair activities across India
- Exemptions include - Atomic Energy Act projects, defense/strategic projects, natural disaster waste, war-related waste
- Applies to projects with built-up area of 20,000 square meters and above for producer registration

India's Construction & Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2025

Redefining Sustainability in the Built Environment

At a Glance

- ✓ **Effective From**
April 1, 2026
- 🏛️ **Notified By:** MoEFCC under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- 🔄 **Purpose**
Strengthen C&D waste handling to reduce pollution, encourage recycling, and promote circular economy practices

Benefits

- ✓ Reduced use of virgin materials
- ✓ Conservation of natural resources
- ✓ Control of illegal dumping
- ✓ Cleaner cities & less urban flooding
- ✓ Boost to recycling innovation & green jobs

1 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- Applies to projects ≥ 20,000 sq. m.
- Producers must manage C&D waste throughout its lifecycle
- Targets for reuse & recycling in future projects

2 Waste Management Plans

- Mandatory submission to CPCB
- Must include volume estimates, segregation, and recycling steps

3 Online Portal for Compliance

- Producer registration
- Plan submission

4 Utilization Framework

- Mandatory recycler registration
- Use of processed C&D waste in future construction

⚠️ Challenges

- ⚠️ Enforcement & Monitoring
- ⚠️ Infrastructure Needs
- ⚠️ Stakeholder Coordination

A step forward for circular construction in India

These rules aim to transform waste into opportunity, making sustainable

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- Producers responsible for entire waste lifecycle - collection, recycling, disposal throughout project duration
- EPR targets: 25% recycling in 2025-26, 50% in 2026-27, 75% in 2027-28, 100% from 2028-29
- EPR certificates system - producers can purchase certificates from registered recyclers to meet targets
- Income sharing 50:50 between implementing agency and recycler for EPR certificate transactions

Registration & Monitoring

- Mandatory online portal registration for producers, recyclers, storage facilities, collection points
- CPCB issues registration certificates within 15 days of application receipt
- Registration revocation penalties - up to 5 years suspension plus environmental compensation for false information

- Corpus sharing 20:80 ratio between CPCB and State Pollution Control Boards

Waste Utilization Framework

- Minimum recycled material usage targets - 5% in 2026-27, rising to 25% from 2030-31 onwards
- Road construction mandates - 5% recycled waste in 2026-28, 10% in 2028-30, 15% from 2030-31
- Projects above 20,000 sq meters must use processed C&D waste as per specified schedules

Tsunami Alert Withdrawn in Russia After 7.0 Magnitude Quake

Earthquake Details

- 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck near Kuril Islands on August 3, 2025 (Sunday)
- Initial tsunami warning issued for three coastal regions of Kamchatka Peninsula
- USGS and Pacific Tsunami Warning System confirmed 7.0 magnitude with approximately 10km depth



Tsunami Alert & Response

- Warning quickly withdrawn by Russia's Ministry for Emergency Services after assessment
- Expected wave heights deemed minimal - maximum 19cm in Aleutian district, 15cm in Ust-Kamchatsky, 3cm in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky
- Precautionary evacuation advised - residents told to move away from shore despite low wave predictions
- No tsunami threat to Hawaii confirmed by Pacific Tsunami Warning System

Volcanic Activity Connection

- Krasheninnikov Volcano erupted overnight - first eruption in 600 years coinciding with earthquake
- Ash plume reached 6,000 meters height drifting eastward over Pacific Ocean away from populated areas

- Orange aviation code assigned indicating heightened aircraft risk from volcanic ash
- Possible connection to previous 8.8 magnitude quake on July 30, 2025 that triggered wider Pacific alerts

Regional Context

- Second major quake in one week following massive 8.8 magnitude earthquake that prompted alerts across Pacific
- Aftershock warnings issued - scientists predict strong aftershocks possible for several weeks
- Kuril Islands strategic location - stretch from southern tip of Kamchatka Peninsula along seismically active zone

Bird Deaths and Wind Energy in India - Environmental Concerns

Thar Desert Study Findings

- World's highest recorded bird mortality rates found at wind farms in Thar Desert, Rajasthan
- Wildlife Institute of India study conducted across 3,000 sq km desert landscape in Jaisalmer
- 900 wind turbines surveyed hosting over 270 bird species in the region
- 4,464 birds per 1,000 sq km annual mortality estimate - significantly higher than global averages



Mortality Statistics & Comparison

- 1.24 bird deaths per turbine per month in Thar Desert compared to 0.47 deaths per turbine annually in Kutch/Davangere
- 124 bird carcasses identified within 150-meter radius of 90 randomly selected turbines
- Zero bird deaths at control sites located 500-2,000 meters away from turbines, confirming turbines as primary cause

- Seven multi-season surveys conducted to account for carcass detection challenges like scavenging

Species Vulnerability & Impact

- Raptors most vulnerable - hawks, kites, eagles due to soaring flight patterns bringing them into blade rotation zones
- Great Indian Bustard critically endangered - Supreme Court constituted High Powered Committee in 2019 for protection
- Central Asian Flyway corridor - Thar Desert serves as crucial migration route and wintering ground for Eurasian birds
- Population-level impacts possible for endangered species due to slow reproduction rates of raptors

Mitigation Measures & Recommendations

- Blade painting strategy - painting one turbine blade black to increase bird visibility
- Timed shutdowns during high-risk periods - migration seasons, early morning hours when bird activity peaks
- Pre-installation site assessments using Avian Sensitivity Tool for Energy Planning (AVISTEP) to avoid high-sensitivity zones
- Environmental Impact Assessment gap - onshore wind projects currently not mandated to conduct EIAs before installation

Policy & Legal Developments

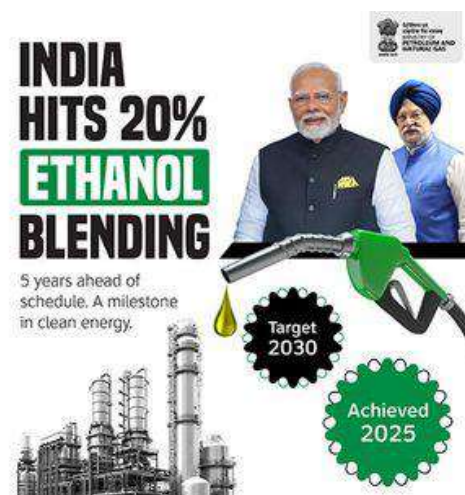
- Supreme Court intervention - urgent dismantling/under-grounding of turbines in critical habitats recommended
- Embargo on new projects near critical habitats for Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican protection
- Bird Sensitivity Map development by Bombay Natural History Society expected by end of 2022
- Offshore wind focus shift - India planning 30 GW offshore capacity by 2030 as land-intensive alternative

Government speeds up ethanol blending with expanded production and infrastructure

India achieved **19.93%** ethanol blending in July 2025, rapidly approaching the ambitious **E20 target of 20% blending by 2025**. The government has significantly accelerated production capacity and infrastructure development to meet this milestone.

Production Capacity Expansion

- **Massive capacity growth:** From 421 crore litres in 2013 to 1,810 crore litres currently
- **Current breakdown:** 816 crore litres from molasses, 858 crore litres from grains, 136 crore litres from dual-feed plants
- **Target requirement:** 1,350 crore litres needed for E20 implementation and industrial use
- **Average blending achievement:** 19.05% during ESY 2024-25 as of July 31, 2025



Infrastructure Development Initiatives

- **Expanded fuel stations:** E20 petrol available at 13,569 PSU outlets as of April 2024
- **Storage and distribution:** Investment in decentralized ethanol storage tanks and blending terminals
- **Supply chain enhancement:** Improved interstate movement and inventory management systems
- **Vehicle compatibility:** E20-compliant engines and flex-fuel vehicle development by automakers

Government Policy Support

- **Financial incentives:** Interest subvention scheme for molasses and grain-based distilleries
- **Tax benefits:** GST reduced from 18% to 5% for ethanol used in EBP programme
- **Feedstock diversification:** Extended beyond sugarcane to include maize, bajra, agricultural waste
- **Long-term procurement policy:** Provides revenue visibility for private investment

Economic and Environmental Impact

- **Foreign exchange savings:** ₹1.1 trillion saved over the last decade

- **Oil import reduction:** Replaced 181 lakh metric tonnes of crude oil between 2014-2024
- **Carbon emission cuts:** 544 lakh metric tonnes of CO₂ emissions prevented since 2014
- **Rural employment:** Each crore litre generates 290 direct jobs and 1,280 indirect jobs
- **Farmer benefits:** Better crop prices and diversified income sources through ethanol feedstock

Why Africa wants to ditch popular world map?

Why in News?

The African Union has officially backed the "Correct the Map" campaign to replace the 16th-century Mercator world map with the more accurate Equal Earth projection that shows Africa's true size.

About the Mercator Map

- **Created by:** Gerardus Mercator (1512-94), a mathematician and engraver, in 1569
- **Original Purpose:** Designed to help sailors navigate around the globe using compass directions
- **Design:** Projects Earth's surface as if unwrapped from a cylinder, with longitude and latitude lines at 90-degree angles

The True Size of Africa

Comparison of Africa's land area to selected countries/regions

African continent 30.4m km²



* excluding Russia.

Sources: CIA, World Population Review, Visual Capitalist

The Distortion Problem

- **Size Distortion:** Makes areas closer to poles (Canada, Russia, US, Europe) appear bigger than they actually are
- **Africa's Misrepresentation:** Makes Africa look much smaller than its actual size - appears only

slightly larger than Greenland when it's actually 14 times bigger

- **Other Examples:** India appears smaller, and Greenland seems the same size as all of Africa despite being about the size of Democratic Republic of Congo

Why This Matters?

- **Colonial Impact:** Critics argue the map's diminution of Africa contributed to its exploitation by colonial powers
- **Psychological Effect:** Perpetuates stereotypes that Africa is "marginal" despite being the world's second-largest continent with over 1 billion people
- **Educational Influence:** Affects media narratives, educational content, and policy-making

The Proposed Solution

- **Alternative Map:** 2018 Equal Earth projection that accurately depicts countries' true proportions
- **Campaign:** "Correct the Map" initiative by Africa No Filter and Speak Up Africa organizations
- **Goal:** Replace Mercator projection in schools, governments, and international organizations

Current Support and Progress

- **African Union:** Officially endorsed the campaign in August 2025 as part of reclaiming "Africa's rightful place on the global stage"
- **International Support:** Caribbean Community's Reparations Commission has also endorsed the Equal Earth projection
- **Tech Companies:** Google Maps offers both projections on desktop; World Bank is transitioning away from Mercator for online maps
- **Next Steps:** Campaign urging UN, World Bank, and major tech companies to adopt the new map

Internal Security

August 2025

News / Explained / DRDO successfully tests home-grown air defence system: All about IADWS and its 3 components

DRDO successfully tests home-grown air defence system: All about IADWS and its 3 components

DRDO QRSAM missile, VSHORADS missile India: The IADWS is an indigenous multi-layered air defence system. What exactly can it do, and what strategic advantage does it bring for India? We explain.

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

Why in News?

DRDO successfully conducted first flight-tests of indigenous Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) on August 23, 2025, simultaneously destroying three different targets at varying ranges and altitudes off Odisha coast.

IADWS System Architecture

- **Multi-layered indigenous air defense system** with three integrated components
- **Centralized Command & Control Centre** developed by DRDL Hyderabad for coordinated operations
- **Real-time coordination** between missile systems and directed energy weapons
- **360-degree coverage** with search-on-move and track-on-move capabilities

Component 1: QRSAM (Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missiles)

- **Range:** 3-30 kilometers operational coverage
- **Purpose:** Protective shield for moving armoured columns against aerial attacks
- **Mobility:** Fully mobile platform configuration with fire-on-short-halt capability
- **Radar systems:** Active Array Battery Surveillance Radar + Active Array Battery Multifunction Radar
- **Developer:** DRDO with fully automated command-control system



Component 2: VSHORADS (Very Short Range Air Defence System)

- **Range:** 300 meters to 6 kilometers engagement envelope
- **Type:** Fourth-generation miniaturized Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD)
- **Multi-service compatibility:** Army, Navy, Air Force deployment capability
- **Targets:** Drones, UAVs, rotary-wing and fixed-wing aerial threats
- **Developer:** Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad

Component 3: DEW (Directed Energy Weapon)

- **Range:** Under 3 kilometers laser engagement distance
- **Technology:** High-power laser-based vehicle-mounted system MK-II(A)
- **Proven capability:** Structural damage to fixed-wing UAVs and swarm drone neutralization

- **Global status:** India joins exclusive club of nations with operational laser weapons
- **Developer:** Centre for High Energy Systems and Sciences (CHESS), Hyderabad

Strategic Implications

- **Mission Sudarshan Chakra foundation:** Stepping stone toward comprehensive indigenous defense shield announced by PM Modi
- **Import substitution:** Reduces dependence on foreign air defense systems
- **Threat spectrum coverage:** 30-kilometer defensive envelope against high-speed to low-speed aerial threats
- **Force multiplication:** Seamless integration enables rapid response readiness across all threat categories
- **Indigenous defense leap:** Demonstrates advanced coordination between conventional missiles and directed energy weapons

- **Design Achievement:** INS Udaygiri is 100th ship designed by Navy's in-house Warship Design Bureau
- **Dimensions:** 149m length, 6,670 tonnes displacement, 28 knots maximum speed
- **Range:** 5,500 NM at economical speed, 1,000 NM at maximum speed
- **Personnel:** Crew complement of approximately 225
- **Stealth Features:** Smaller radar cross-section despite 4.54% larger hull than predecessor Shivalik-class



Combat Capabilities & Weapons Systems

- **Multi-Role Operations:** Anti-surface, anti-air, anti-submarine warfare capabilities
- **Missile Systems:** 8 vertically launched BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, Long Range Surface to Air Missiles (LRSAM), Barak 8 anti-aircraft missiles
- **Artillery:** 127mm main role gun, two AK-630 rapid fire guns, Indigenous Rocket Launcher (IRL)
- **Underwater Warfare:** Lightweight anti-submarine torpedoes, Sonar Humsa (NG)
- **Electronic Systems:** Multi-Mission Surveillance Radar, Shakti Electronic Warfare Suite, Airborne Early Warning Radar
- **Propulsion:** Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) main propulsion plants

Indigenous Manufacturing & Economic Impact

- **Local Content:** 75% of equipment and systems sourced from indigenous firms
- **MSME Ecosystem:** Over 200 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises involved
- **Employment Generation:** 4,000 direct jobs, 10,000+ indirect jobs created

News / Explained / Two warships from 2 shipbuilders: Features and legacy of INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri, now commissioned into the Indian Navy

Premium

Two warships from 2 shipbuilders: Features and legacy of INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri, now commissioned into the Indian Navy

With their range of versatile weapons and capabilities, these ships can play a crucial role in anti-surface warfare, anti-air warfare, and anti-submarine warfare.

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

Why in News?

Indian Navy simultaneously commissioned two Nilgiri-class stealth guided-missile frigates INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri at Visakhapatnam on August 26, 2025.

Key Specifications & Features

- **Project Details:** Part of Project 17A stealth frigates (7-ship class total)
- **Construction:** INS Udaygiri by MDL Mumbai, INS Himgiri by GRSE Kolkata
- **Historic Milestone:** First simultaneous commissioning from two different Indian shipyards

- **Construction Philosophy:** Integrated construction with extensive pre-outfitting at block stages
- **Make in India Success:** Demonstrates self-reliance in ship design and construction

Historical Legacy & Naval Heritage

- **Name Origins:** Udaygiri named after Andhra Pradesh mountain range; Himgiri refers to snow-clad Himalayas
- **Previous Service:** Earlier ships with same names served 1970s-2000s in multiple operations
- **Operational History:** Previous vessels participated in Op Pawan (Sri Lanka 1987), Op Cactus (1988), Op Madad (1991)
- **Command Structure:** INS Udaygiri joins Eastern Naval Command, INS Himgiri joins Western Naval Command
- **Mottos:** Udaygiri - "Sanyuktaha Paramojayaha" (togetherness brings victory); Himgiri - "Adrushyam Ajayam" (invisible and invincible)

Future Naval Expansion Plans

- **Remaining P-17A Ships:** Four more frigates (Taragiri, Mahendragiri, Dunagiri, Vindhayagiri) to be commissioned within 1.5 years
- **Next Generation Project:** P-17B (Project 17 Bravo) with seven Next Generation frigates approved by Defence Acquisition Council
- **Enhanced Indigenization:** P-17B ships will feature higher percentage of indigenous content than current Nilgiri-class
- **Advanced Systems:** Future frigates to have more sophisticated weapons, communication, and command systems

NEWS IN SHORT: INTERNAL SECURITY

Operation Muskaan

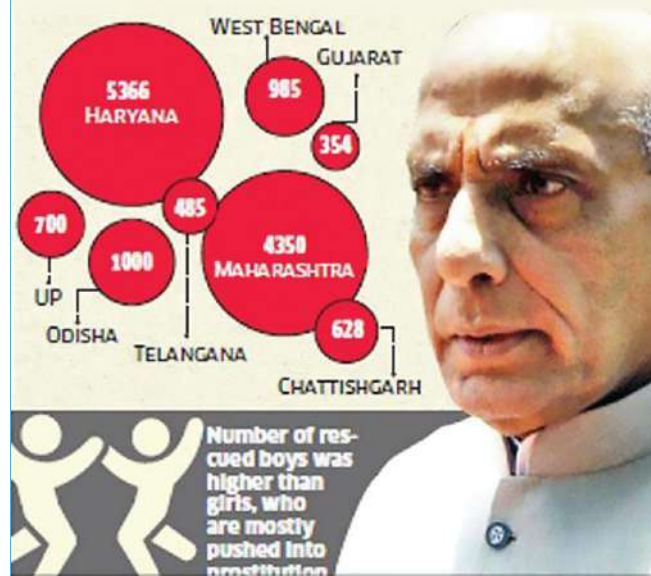
Operation Overview

- **Duration and scope:** Month-long drive conducted across Telangana from July 1-31, 2025
- **Primary objective:** Rescue children from exploitative labor, trafficking, and hazardous conditions
- **Multi-agency coordination:** Police, government departments, NGOs, and child welfare committees

Rescue Statistics

- **Total children rescued:** 7,678 children including 7,149 boys and 529 girls
- **Interstate cases:** 3,783 children from 12 different states including Odisha, Bihar, Rajasthan
- **Hyderabad numbers:** 1,247 children rescued in commissionerate limits (1,173 boys, 74 girls)

Most Rescues in Haryana, Maharashtra



Types of Exploitation Identified

- **Child labor majority:** 6,718 children engaged in various forms of child labor
- **Street children:** 357 found living or working on streets
- **Forced begging:** 42 children rescued from begging operations
- **Bonded labor:** 2 cases of bonded labor identified
- **Other employment:** 559 children in various hazardous or exploitative roles

Legal and Administrative Actions

- **Criminal cases filed:** 1,713 FIRs registered against violators
- **Arrests made:** 1,718 individuals arrested for child exploitation
- **Financial penalties:** ₹47.76 lakh fines imposed under Minimum Wages Act
- **Inspection reports:** 1,613 reports submitted by Labour Department

Rehabilitation and Reintegration

- **Family reunification:** 6,593 children successfully reunited with families
- **Institutional care:** 1,049 children admitted to rescue homes and child care institutions
- **Educational enrollment:** 2,600 migrant children enrolled in 29 urban bridge schools
- **Targeted locations:** Operations focused on railway stations, construction sites, brick kilns, mechanic shops

Coordination and Implementation

- **Women Safety Wing leadership:** Led by Chief Charu Sinha with extensive inter-department coordination
- **Technology integration:** Use of 'Darpan' app for uploading missing children information
- **Pre-operation planning:** Video conferences and coordination meetings streamlined efforts
- **Multi-state approach:** Collaboration across state boundaries for child repatriation

Conclusion of SLINEX 2025

Exercise Details:

- 12th edition of India-Sri Lanka bilateral naval exercise successfully concluded on August 18, 2025, at Colombo
- Duration: August 14-18, 2025, conducted in two phases - harbour phase (14-16 Aug) and sea phase (17-18 Aug)



Participating Forces:

- Indian Navy: INS Jyoti (tanker-class) and INS Rana (destroyer-class) from Eastern Fleet
- Sri Lankan Navy: SLNS Gajabahu and SLNS Vijayabahu (Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessels)

- Sri Lanka Air Force: Bell 412 helicopter

Strategic Significance:

- Strengthened maritime cooperation and interoperability between both navies
- Reaffirmed shared commitment towards safeguarding security in the Indian Ocean Region
- Part of India's MAHASAGAR policy (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)

The 'Sustainable Power 1404' Exercise



Exercise Overview:

- Iranian Navy's two-day major naval missile exercise launched on August 20, 2025
- Conducted across northern Indian Ocean and Sea of Oman
- First military drill since Iran's 12-day war with Israel

Strategic Purpose:

- Demonstrate Iran's deterrent power and combat readiness
- Project strength following recent conflict with Israel that damaged air defenses and nuclear facilities
- Message to adversaries, particularly the United States, against foreign intervention in regional affairs

Joint Doctrine for Multi Domain Operations Release

Why in News?

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the Joint Doctrine for Multi Domain Operations and Technology Perspective & Capability Roadmap at the Ran Samwad military conclave, marking a significant step toward armed forces integration.

Doctrines Released

- **Multi Domain Operations:** Charts integrated employment of armed forces across land, sea, air,



space, and cyber domains

- **Special Forces Operations:** Enhances interoperability among Army Para-SF, Navy Marine Commandos, and IAF Garuds
- **Airborne/Heliborne Operations:** Focuses on advanced technology integration and joint services cooperation

Strategic Significance

- **Jointness Drive:** Essential prerequisite for creation of theatre commands and military integration
- **Future Readiness:** Addresses multi-domain warfare where "technology defines the character of war"
- **Technology Focus:** Emphasizes that future wars will be shaped by technology, economy, and diplomacy as much as military power

Implementation Focus

- **Joint Training:** Establishment of Joint Service Training Institutes for specialized competencies
- **Force Structure:** Creates resilient, responsive and agile capabilities across all domains

Exercise Bright Star 2025

Why in News?

Over 700 Indian Armed Forces personnel from Army, Navy, Air Force, and Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff are participating in the exercise

EDUCATION
EBRO

Ex Bright Star

To be held in Egypt from 28
Aug to 10 Sep 2025



Exercise Details:

- Duration: August 28 to September 10, 2025
- Location: Egypt
- Host: Egypt in partnership with United States
- Total participants: Approximately 7,900 troops from 43 nations
- First conducted in 1980 as US-Egypt bilateral drill
- Now one of the largest tri-service multilateral exercises in the Middle East region
- Held biennially

Participation Structure: 13 countries directly deploying troops, while 30 countries participating as observers



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Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

August 2025

In Good Faith: Rabindranath Tagore's poetry, Adi Shankaracharya's teachings — one divine message

At first glance, these two great minds seem distinct: Tagore spoke poetically, from the heart, while Shankaracharya illuminated truth through reason and insight. Yet, together they show us two paths to the same destination — the realisation of our unity with the universe

IE Opinion; By Shambo Samrat Samajdar, Shashank R Joshi;

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

- Tagore approached through poetic heart, Shankaracharya through philosophical reason, yet both lead to same destination
- Universe is unified ocean of endless joy and consciousness

Key Teachings

Tagore's Approach:

- Life as dance of eternal bliss found in everyday moments
- Sacredness exists in ordinary experiences - sunlight through leaves, shared laughter, quiet compassion
- Divine devotion as silent communion beyond words and rituals

Shankaracharya's Approach:

- Pure awareness exists beneath layers of daily desires, sorrows, and experiences
- Humans are infinite consciousness, not limited struggling individuals
- Spiritual awakening means recognizing inherent freedom and bliss within

Shared Philosophy:

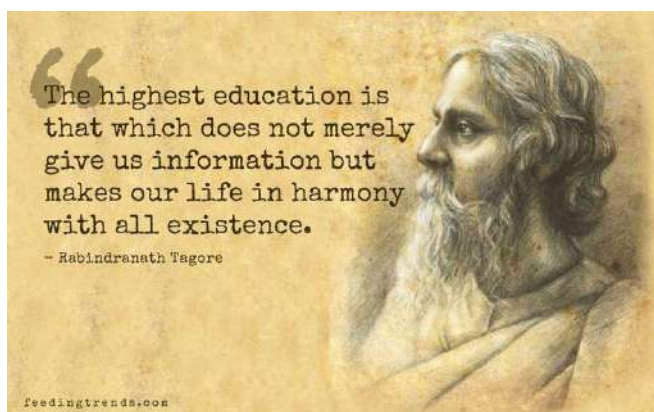
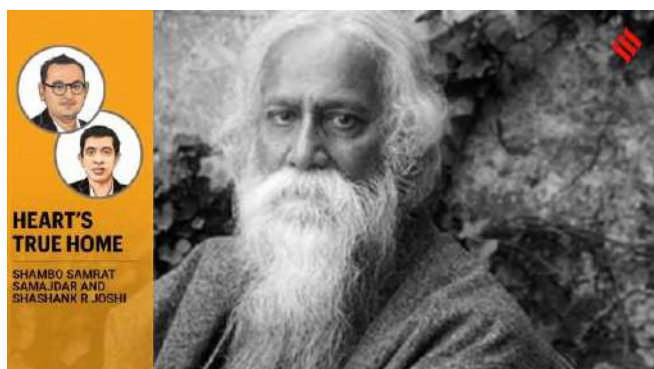
- Transcends religious boundaries and rituals
- Spirituality rooted in inner silence
- Each act of kindness becomes sacred when divine is seen in everyone
- Dissolves barriers creating loneliness and separateness

Modern Relevance

- Transforms daily life into spiritual practice for doctors, teachers, caregivers
- Every moment becomes significant when viewed through lens of universal connection
- Rediscovery of heart's true home as endless stream of joy and serenity

Why in News?

Opinion piece explores how Rabindranath Tagore's poetry and Adi Shankaracharya's teachings offer two distinct paths to the same spiritual truth of universal unity.



Core Message

- Both masters teach that humans are waves in the ocean of consciousness - appearing separate but eternally connected to the whole

The stray dog crisis is real. But the solution cannot be cruelty

The solution needs to take into confidence those who look after strays all over the country:

Ordinary people, NGOs

TH Opinion; By Anuradha Roy;
 Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Ethics [Link](#)

Why in news?

Opinion argues India's stray dog crisis needs humane, science-based solutions, not punitive crackdowns.



Core argument

- Cruelty isn't a solution; compassion and evidence-based policy are.
- India chose humane control but failed in execution due to corruption and apathy.
- Solutions must include citizens and NGOs who already shoulder care.

Myth, Morality, and Culture

- Mahabharata parable: Yudhishtira refuses heaven rather than abandon a loyal dog.
- Test of integrity: treatment of strays reflects societal dharma.
- Dogs lack religious/legal protection unlike bulls/tigers; this should change.

What's wrong now?

- Rising stray population, injuries, rabies deaths.
- Reactionary violence against dogs during outbreaks.
- Misunderstanding of animal behavior (territorial/homing instincts).
- Policies proposing removal/confinement risk de facto extermination.

SC on Stray Dogs Problem

Case name

IN RE: "City Hounded by Strays, Kids Pay Price" —
 Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 5 of 2025

ALL STRAY DOGS IN DELHI-NCR TO BE MOVED TO SHELTERS: SUPREME COURT

SC orders all stray dogs in Delhi to be rounded up and kept in shelters or pounds.

"No room for sentiments." — SC refuses to hear pleas from animal rights activists.

Warns of contempt action against anyone obstructing the process.

Shelters to be under CCTV monitoring to prevent release of dogs.



Core directions (11 Aug order)

- Immediate rounding up of all stray dogs across Delhi-NCR; relocate to designated shelters/pounds; start at once.
- Create dog shelters/pounds across NCR within eight weeks; ensure capacity (initially ~5,000), staff, CCTV monitoring.
- Capture–sterilise–deworm–immunise per ABC Rules, 2023, but do not release strays back to streets under any circumstances.
- Simultaneously build infrastructure and conduct pickups; no delay tolerated; contempt action for obstruction.
- Set up helpline and ensure prompt medical aid for bite victims; publish anti-rabies vaccine availability and monthly usage data.

Rationale cited by court

"Extremely grim" public safety situation from dog bites leading to rabies; priority to protect infants, children, elderly; "no sentiments" should interfere.

On Supreme Court order (Delhi strays)

- Seen as sweeping, authoritarian, and detached from on-ground realities.
- Ignores territorial return principle; mass caging/relocation is harmful.

What works (example: Ranikhet)

- NGO-led response: rapid capture–vaccinate–release (CVR), euthanize only infected.
- Community-funded sterilization/vaccination camps; dogs returned to original locales.
- Panic subsides when public health steps outpace fear.

Role of communities

- Ordinary people routinely feed, medicate, and monitor strays (Kolkata, East Delhi).
- Care for animals and human safety are not mutually exclusive.

Recommended approach

- Scale up sterilization and anti-rabies vaccination (ABC/ARV) with proper funding.
- Legally protect strays from cruelty; codify territorial return.
- Partner state–NGOs–citizens; transparent execution and audits.
- Targeted euthanasia only for confirmed rabies; no blanket removals.

Ethical Debates in Stray Dog Problem

Arguments for strict control and removal

- Duty to protect public from bites/rabies; prioritize vulnerable groups
- Collective right to safe public spaces over interests of free-roaming dogs
- Consequentialist view: tougher measures justified if net harm drops
- Permanent confinement avoids re-population and repeat incidents
- Curb public feeding to prevent pack formation and conflict
- Targeted euthanasia for confirmed rabies or unrehabilitatable aggression

- Strong state action when ABC/ARV programs fail; quick risk reduction
- Human-centric urban design for mobility, sanitation, commerce
- Cost–benefit: divert limited funds to human needs if necessary
- Majoritarian safety as primary state duty
- Centralized, uniform enforcement for accountability
- Act on urgent risks even if data are incomplete

Arguments for humane, coexistence-based management

- Animals have moral status; avoid suffering; use least-harm methods
- Sentient individuals' rights against cruelty shouldn't be traded for utility
- Means matter: cruelty erodes societal empathy regardless of outcomes
- ABC/ARV with territorial return stabilizes packs and prevents vacuum effect
- Regulated feeding (fixed spots, clean-up) supports care, vaccination, sterilisation
- Preserve life; focus on prevention, treatment, rehabilitation over killing
- Address governance gaps, not scapegoat animals; build humane infrastructure
- Cities as shared ecosystems; design for coexistence and behavior education
- Long-term cost-effectiveness of vaccination, waste control, and prevention
- Constitutional duty of compassion requires proportionate, humane policies
- Community-led, NGO–state partnerships reflect local knowledge and build trust
- Evidence-led programs outperform fear-driven crackdowns over time

Pratibimb PYQ Mentorship Mains Program 2026



What is Pratibimb Mentorship?

Pratibimb Mentorship Program 2026 is designed to guide and support students aiming for success in the UPSC CSE Mains 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



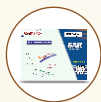
Kalam Golden Pages (KGP)
Thematic coverage of Mains syllabus of specified Topics



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

- 40 Half-Sectional Tests (5 Essay Tests)
- 5 Full Length Tests (after Prelims)
- 1 Half-Sectional Test = 10 Questions
- Static Subject wise Notes, Kalam Golden Pages (KGP)
- K-Snippet 365: Summary of Current Affairs
- Content: Kalam Golden Pages & Marks Improvement Booklets (MIB) on Mains Topics (Society, Governance, etc.)
- Answer Writing & Face 2 Face Evaluation
- Mentorship: CSE Selected Candidates
- SAR: Self-Assessment Report

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



**PYQ Answer Writing
& Model Answer**



**Face 2 Face
Evaluation**

Fee

₹8,000/-

Course Details

- Starting: **7th Sept, 2025**
- Course Completion: **8 Months**
- Mode: **Online/Offline**
- Validity: Till **Mains 2026**
- Test Timing: **5 PM – 6:30 PM**



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

Concession Details

Kalam IAS Students: 15%	UPSC Interview Student: 20%	Selected Students: 30%
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CSE RESULT 2024

60+ Selections



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(RLP+)



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AIR 14

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CHAKKA SNEHITH

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17



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62



POOJA TIRUMANI

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YADAV SURYABHAN

64



ANIRUDHA PANDEY

1



ADITYA SRIVASTAVA

10



AISHWARYAM PRAJAPATI

CSE 2022

CSE 2023