

CURRENT EDGE

CSE (Pre.) 2026

CURRENT EDGE

Monthly Magazine

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sessions | Workbooks | Test Series | k-Snippet 365+

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One-Stop Current Affairs Prelims 2026

Sessions || TESTS || WORKBOOKS || k-Snippet 365+ *Comprehensive Coverage*

Sessions: 31 Sessions (Roughly 50 hours)



- ★ Phase 1: 10 sessions (Month-by-Month CA)
- ★ Phase 2: 12 sessions (Subject-wise CA)
- ★ Phase 3: 9 sessions (Snippets + Rapid Revision)

Materials: 22 Weekly Materials + CA Snippet



- ★ Phase 1: 10 Workbooks (\approx 50 pages each)
- ★ Phase 2: 12 Subject-wise Compilations
- ★ Phase 3: 1 Snippet Booklet (\approx 200 pages)

Tests: 10 Tests (8 HLTs & 2 FLTs) | 600 MCQs



- ★ Phase 1: 3 Tests (150 MCQs)
- ★ Phase 2: 5 Tests (250 MCQs)
- ★ Phase 3: 2 Full-Length Tests (200 MCQs)

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CURRENT EDGE SCHEDULE

Phase-I: Month-by-Month Mastery

Session	Date	Coverage	Material	Test (Q)
SESSION 1	1 Nov (Sat)	Jan + Feb 2025	Workbook 1	—
SESSION 2	8 Nov (Sat)	Mar + Apr 2025	Workbook 2	—
SESSION 3	15 Nov (Sat)	May 2025	Workbook 3	—
SESSION 4	22 Nov (Sat)	June 2025	Workbook 4	23 Nov (Sun) – Test 1 (50 MCQs)
SESSION 5	29 Nov (Sat)	July 2025	Workbook 5	—
SESSION 6	6 Dec (Sat)	Aug 2025	Workbook 6	—
SESSION 7	13 Dec (Sat)	Sep 2025	Workbook 7	14 Dec (Sun) – Test 2 (50 MCQs)
SESSION 8	20 Dec (Sat)	Oct 2025	Workbook 8	—
SESSION 9	27 Dec (Sat)	Nov 2025	Workbook 9	—
SESSION 10	3 Jan (Sat)	Dec 2025	Workbook 10	4 Jan (Sun) – Test 3 (50 MCQs)

Phase-II: Subject-wise CA Modules

Week	Date	Coverage	Material	Test (Q)
01	5–10 Jan	Polity – Part 1	Polity CA Part 1	—
02	12–17 Jan	Polity – Part 2	Polity CA Part 2	18 Jan (Sun) – Test 4 (50 MCQs)
03	19–24 Jan	Geo. & Env. Part 1	Geo-Env CA Part 1	—
04	27–31 Jan	Geo. & Env. Part 2	Geo-Env CA Part 2	1 Feb (Sun) – Test 5 (50 MCQs)
05	2–7 Feb	Eco. & Agr. Part-1	Eco-Agri CA Part 1	—
06	9–14 Feb	Eco. & Agr. Part-2	Eco-Agri CA Part 2	15 Feb (Sun) – Test 6 (50 MCQs)
07	16–21 Feb	Science & Tech	Sci-Tech CA	—
08	23–28 Feb	International Relations	IR CA	1 Mar (Sun) – Test 7 (50 MCQs)
09	2–7 Mar	History & Art–Culture	History CA	—
10	9–14 Mar	Government Schemes	Schemes CA	—
11	16–21 Mar	Society & Social Issues	Society-Social Issues CA	—
12	23–28 Mar	Updation	CA Update	29 Mar (Sun) – Test 8 (50 MCQs)

Note: Session Date will be notify

Phase-III: CA Snippet Sessions

Date	Snippet Focus	Test (Q)
6 Apr (Mon)	Polity	—
8 Apr (Wed)	Geography	—
10 Apr (Fri)	Environment	12 Apr (Sun) – CA FLT 1 (100 MCQs)
13 Apr (Mon)	Economy	—
15 Apr (Wed)	Science & Tech	—
17 Apr (Fri)	International Relations	19 Apr (Sun) – CA FLT 2 (100 MCQs)
20 Apr (Mon)	History & Art–Culture	—
22 Apr (Wed)	Government Schemes	—
24 Apr (Fri)	Society & Social Issues	—

Complete CA Snippet File Launch Release in 1st Week of April 2026

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One-Stop Current Affairs Prelims 2026

Other Details

- Start: **1st Nov, 2025**
- Test Time: **10:00 AM**
- Class Time: **05:00 PM**
- Mode: **Online | Offline**
- Medium: **English**

**FEE
₹4,000/-**



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Concession Details

Kalam IAS Students: 10%

UPSC Interview Student: 20%

Selected Students: 25%

CSE 2024 TOPPERS



Abhishek Vashishtha



Devansh M. Dwivedi



Aayushi Chaudhary



Tanishi Kalra



SARTHAK SINGH



MANISH KUMAR

CSE 2021

17



MEHAK JAIN

62



POOJA TIRUMANI

CSE 2022

27



YADAV SURYABHAN

64



ANIRUDHA PANDEY

CSE 2023

1



ADITYA SRIVASTAVA

10



AISHWARYAM PRAJAPATI

MONTHLY MAGAZINE – SEPTEMBER 2025

Sl. No.	Topics
Quotes Of The Day	
What The Others Say	
History, Art & Culture	
1	Vivekananda's 1893 speech in Chicago
2	WWII Battles of Imphal & Kohima
3	77th anniversary of Operation Polo
4	Sarnath nominated for UNESCO World Heritage List
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	Teacher's Day 2025
2	Prime Minister recalls vision of Sree Narayana
3	PM Launches Gyan Bharatam Mission for Manuscript Digitisation
Polity & Governance	
1	SC hearing petition on restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir
2	Constitutional debate on reservation policy, 50% cap, and creamy layer
3	C.P. Radhakrishnan elected Vice-President of India
4	Five key issues persisting in Manipur conflict
5	Amendment to RTI Act's Section 8(1)(j) via DPDP Act, 2023
6	Hindi Diwas and the Constituent Assembly decision on official language
7	SC interim order on challenges to Waqf
8	SC stayed select provisions of Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025
9	SC reserves opinion on Presidential reference regarding timelines for Bill assent
10	Census delay and outdated electoral representation debate
11	Procedure for deletion of voters' names (Form 7)
12	Ladakh protests for statehood and inclusion under Sixth Schedule
13	SC hint on time to decriminalise defamation
14	Detailed background on Ladakh's demand for Sixth Schedule
15	UPSC enters its centenary year
16	Karnataka HC dismissed X Corp's plea against Sahyog portal
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	Reservation in Private Educational Institutions
2	Centre-Manipur-Kuki Agreement & NH-2 Opening
3	SC directs poll panel to accept Aadhaar for Bihar SIR
4	Manki-Munda Self-Governance system
5	Govt employees can opt for Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)
6	Kurmi ST agitation issue

Society & Social Justice	
1	SC questions exemption of minority schools from RTE Act
2	Separate enumeration of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in upcoming Census
3	Global and Indian debate on capitalism vs socialism
4	UP govt bans caste-based political rallies and caste mention in police records
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	PRS Legislative Brief on Rajasthan Coaching Centres Bill, 2025
2	Himachal declared 'fully literate state' (ULLAS Programme)
3	Former PM Manmohan Singh posthumously honoured with P V Narasimha Rao Memorial Award
4	Prime Minister marks the seventh anniversary of Ayushman Bharat scheme
International Relations	
1	Key outcomes of Modi-Xi meeting on SCO summit sidelines
2	The concept and characteristics of the 'Axis of Upheaval'
3	Historical debate on India–China boundary alignments
4	New phase in India-Japan strategic partnership
5	India's SCO Vision: Security, Connectivity, and Opportunity pillars
6	Nepal: PM K.P. Sharma Oli resigned after Gen Z street protests
7	Indonesia: Nationwide protests after the killing of a delivery driver
8	Regional democratic crises in South Asia
9	France's government collapsed after confidence vote
10	European states moving to recognise Palestine
11	India's high tariff profile and US pressure
12	Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed a Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement
13	China withdraws from seeking Special and Differential Treatment (SDT) in WTO
14	India–EU 5-pillar agenda for bilateral ties
15	UN sanctions on Iran "snapped back"
16	Wassenaar Arrangement's control gaps in the cloud era
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	Jaishankar red-flags 'linking of trade measures to non-trade matters' at BRICS
2	Trump's H-1B Visa Fee Proclamation
3	US withdraws sanctions waiver to Chabahar port

4	Palestinian state recognised by U.K., Australia and Canada
Economy & Agriculture	
1	Impact of Trump's 50% tariffs on Indian goods
2	India's Q1 GDP growth potentially overstated due to low GDP deflator
3	SC directs clearance of regulatory assets by DISCOMs
4	GST Council approves GST 2.0 with simplified two-slab structure
5	Detailed changes in GST structure and rates
6	Launch of 'GST Savings Festival' and price impact
7	Foreign capital inflows hit 15-year low despite strong GDP growth
8	Income-Tax Act, 2025 digital search powers vs privacy rights
9	India unlikely to cut tariffs or allow GM corn imports
10	Low CPI/WPI inflation boon for consumers, strain on govt finances
11	SEBI reviewing FPIs in non-cash settled commodity derivatives
12	Rupee hits fresh record lows
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	APEDA launches BHARATI initiative to boost agri-food exports
2	Bima Sugam portal launched (single digital marketplace for insurance)
3	GSTAT Launched (Unified GST Appellate Tribunal)
Science & Technology	
1	Microsoft's Majorana 1 chip achievement in quantum computing
2	India unveils first fully indigenous microprocessor "Vikram 3201"
3	LIGO-India observatory and gravitational-wave research
4	Ant reproduction discovery: Queens give birth to males of another species
5	Discovery of Extreme Nuclear Transients (ENTs)
Geography & Environment	
1	AMOC collapse risk significantly higher than previously estimated
2	Total lunar eclipse (Blood Moon) on September 7-8, 2025

3	World Bank report on investment needs for climate-resilient cities
4	Confirmation of massive freshwater aquifer beneath the sea-floor
5	Vulture population collapse raises human mortality and pandemic spillover risk
6	World Environment Day 2025 focused on "Ending Plastic Pollution"
7	Himalayan disaster management: Floods exposed both strengths and gaps
8	Noise pollution flagged as a serious public health crisis
9	Stampede at political rally in Karur, TN
10	India signs 2nd ISA contract for Polymetallic Sulphides (PMS) exploration
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	Environment (Construction and Demolition) Waste Management Rules 2025
2	Afghanistan earthquake (6.0 magnitude)
Internal Security	
1	Army fast-tracks procurement of new radars after Operation Sindoar
2	DRDO successfully test-fired Agni-P missile from a rail-based mobile launcher
NEWS IN SHORT	
1	Exercise ZAPAD 2025
2	Defence Chief's Tenure Extended
3	Defence exports surge (₹23,622 crore)
Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude	
1	Charlie Kirk shot dead in US: Ethical issues on political violence and free speech
2	Gaza Crisis: Genocide allegations and disproportionate civilian casualties
3	Ethical and legal debates on the right to die (Assisted Death)
Miscellaneous	
1	Upcoming F1 rule changes in 2026
2	Mohanlal dedicates Phalke award to Indian film industry
3	India clinches 9th Asia Cup title



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QUOTES OF THE DAY

September 2025

SI No	Quote
1	"The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it." – NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON
2	"Opportunities multiply as they are seized." – SUN TZU
3	"Hypocrisy, double standards and 'buts nots' are the price of universalist pretensions." – SAMUEL P HUNTINGTON
4	"A law is valuable not because it is law, but because there is right in it." – HENRY WARD BEECHER
5	"I stand as witness to the common lot, survivor of that time, that place." – ANNA AKHMATOVA
6	"Jeans represent democracy in fashion." – GIORGIO ARMANI
7	"Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the ability to cope with it." – MAHATMA GANDHI
8	"Bigotry does not consort easily with free trade." – PETER ACKROYD
9	"The revolution is not an apple that falls when it is ripe. You have to make it fall." – CHE GUEVARA
10	"Only the dead have seen the end of war." – GEORGE SANTAYANA
11	"The universe is monstrously indifferent to the presence of man." – WERNER HERZOG
12	"Man is the only creature who refuses to be what he is." – ALBERT CAMUS
13	"The heart of a statesman should be in his head." – NAPOLEAN BONAPARTE
14	"The end of law is not to abolish or restrain but to preserve and enlarge freedom." – JOHN LOCKE
15	"Information is a negotiator's greatest weapon." – VICTOR KIAM
16	"The single raindrop never feels responsible for the flood." – DOUGLAS ADAMS
17	"The best way to predict the future is to create it." – PETER DRUCKER
18	"If you can't accept losing, you can't win." – VINCE LOMBARDI
19	"The United States should be an asylum for the persecuted lovers of civil and religious liberty." – THOMAS PAINÉ
20	"Acting is behaving truthfully under imaginary circumstances." – SANFORD MEISNER
21	"Cricket to us was more than play, it was a worship in the summer sun." – EDMUND BLUNDEN
22	"One of the key qualities an umpire must possess is humility – The ability to know and accept the role that we play." – SIMON TAUFEL
23	"If the world doesn't exist, invent it; But first be sure it doesn't exist." – CHARLES BAUDELAIRE
24	"I should like to be able to love my country and still love justice." – ALBERT CAMUS
25	"Look and see which way the wind blows before you commit yourself." – AESOP
26	"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." – PABLO PICASSO

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

September 2025

SI No	Quote
1	"The Kremlin sent a clear message with its lethal overnight raid on the Ukrainian capital. Will US heed it?" – THE GUARDIAN
2	"Marcon is right on all counts. A normal government would have welcomed initiatives that promote peace and held friends such as France in high esteem. But, alas, we are dealing with Netanyahu's Israel." – HAARETZ, ISRAEL
3	"The White House wanted India to bow. Instead, Narendra Modi flew to China, shook Xi Jinping's hand and left Washington sidelined." – THE GUARDIAN
4	"All relevant parties must set aside maximalist demands and unite behind the commitment to the February polls, as the stability of Bangladesh depends on it." – THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH
5	"Israel is walking with eyes open into a steady expanding disaster. The war in Gaza has crossed all bounds of reason, from both the military and the humanitarian perspective." – HAARETZ, ISRAEL
6	"Images of the autocrats at Wednesday's military parade reflected the shifting global order. But Donald Trump is hastening Beijing's rise." – THE GUARDIAN
7	"As President Trump pushes to reverse that history, raising new barriers to limit imports, it is increasingly clear that the world is no longer persuaded by America's approach to economic policy." – NEW YORK TIMES
8	"Netanyahu is betraying not only the hostages. He is turning Israel into a pariah state in the eyes of Europe, the US and Arab states. Boycotts and sanctions have already started." – HAARETZ, ISRAEL
9	"The young folks, or members of Gen Z, are gathering today at Maitighar Mandal in Kathmandu to say 'enough is enough'. They will no more silently tolerate one after another injustice heaped upon them. The government would be foolish to take them lightly." – THE KATHMANDU POST, NEPAL
10	"Today, we stand at the threshold of a new Nepal. A Nepal where transparency must replace corruption, where accountability must silence impunity and where the sacrifices and murder of 19 young martyrs must never be forgotten." – THE HIMALAYAN TIMES
11	"Formal recognitions of Palestinian statehood carry a welcome symbolism. But as Me Netanyahu's bombs destabilise the wider Gulf region, Gaza's civilian population braces for the worst once again, and the effective annexation of parts of the West Bank continues, symbolism is not nearly enough." – THE GUARDIAN
12	"Israel is gradually losing legitimacy around the world, being placed in a group that includes other reviled pariah states. Even its oldest, most loyal friends are finding it increasingly uncomfortable to be associated with it." – HAARETZ, ISRAEL
13	"General Assembly resolutions are not binding, but they blaze the path to realizing the idea of a Palestinian state. Israel must stop the war in Gaza, obtain the release of the hostages, withdraw from the Strip and reopen the political path." – HAARETZ, ISRAEL

14	"The conviction of Bolsonaro has sent a powerful signal heard not only in his country but more broadly' that leaders must be held accountable if they undermine democratic norms." – THE GUARDIAN
15	"Instead of raising the walls of the ghetto, Israel must do the opposite. It must sign a hostage deal, stop the war, say yes to regional partnership, listen to the world and accept its willingness to be a guarantor for the 'day after' in Gaza." – HAARETZ, ISRAEL
16	"The interim government, inherently weak as it is, cannot provide the long-term stability needed to tackle these challenges. Public confidence in governance in general seems quite low. The cost of a delayed democratic transition has also been evident in rising social unrest." – THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH
17	"There should be a global, UN-backed arms, economic and diplomatic embargo of Israel until it stops its campaign of extermination in Gaza. And if states refuse to cooperate and continue to arm and fund Israel, they must be considered partners in crime with Tel Aviv." – DAWN, PAKISTAN
18	"If Mr Trump refuses to stand up for the basic American right to disagree without fear of oppression, others still can. The ability to disagree with other people on raw, difficult issues, without fear of repression, is the essence of American freedom." – THE NEW YORK TIMES
19	"If the American ideal of freedom means anything, it is that Americans engage in an extremely wide range of political speech, including the tasteless and the offensive." – THE NEW YORK TIMES
20	"Promoting a mirage of a Palestinian state without meaningful action to halt the annihilation would be cruel, cowardly and self-serving." – THE GUARDIAN
21	"It is likely that Americans will feel the effects of tariffs on their purchasing power long before they see the gains from AI... Should the AI bubble now forming burst, the emperor would have no clothes." – LE MONDE, FRANCE
22	"Palestinians themselves have welcomed the recognition but stressed, rightly, that it must translate into changes on the ground... the international community... must help create the path to a genuine statehood." – THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH
23	"The UN, after all, is the only global forum we have for resolving conflict and safeguarding peace... There is a need to restore its credibility through reforms, including making the Security Council more representative of the wider membership." – SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST
24	"The test is in the future, not the past, Israel must listen to Abbas and most of the countries of the world, join the international consensus and declare its willingness to establish a Palestinian state in the 1967 territories." – HAARETZ, ISRAEL
25	"It is particularly disturbing, however, to see how the intense clan mentality and the climate of fear established by Trump... have paralysed the 'checks and balances' that normally ensure the healthy functioning of democracy in the US." – LE MONDE, FRANCE
26	"Trump and Netanyahu will face each other on Monday. The responsibility now lies with the US President: he must insist, as he knows how to, and finally bring a deal that will release the hostages and end the bloodbath." – HAARETZ, ISRAEL

History, Art & Culture

September 2025

News / Explained / Explained History / How Vivekananda introduced America to Hinduism

How Vivekananda introduced America to Hinduism

In a landmark speech on September 11, 1893 at the Parliament of World's Religions in Chicago, a 30-year-old Vivekananda preached about religious tolerance and called for an end to fanaticism.

IE Explained; By Arjun Sengupta;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – History, Ethics [Link](#)



Why in News?

Vivekananda's 1893 speech in Chicago is being commemorated as a milestone in India-America religious/intellectual exchange.



Context & Arrival in America

- Arrived USA in 1893 to represent India at the **Parliament of World's Religions**.
- At that time Western audience had some interest in Eastern philosophy (**Transcendentalism, Dar-winism, biblical criticism, etc.**), so fertile ground.

Key Speech at Parliament, Chicago (11 Sept 1893)

- Salutation “**Sisters and Brothers of America**” (unusual, warm, drew applause).
- Emphasis on religious tolerance: “**accept all religions as true**”; end fanaticism/separatism.
- Presented **Vedānta (Advaita)** as inclusive, universal, non-dual philosophy.

After-Effects & Legacy in America

- Toured USA for ~2 years lecturing widely; visited universities such as Harvard.
- Founded the **first Vedānta Society in New York** (1894); later others (e.g. San Francisco) established.
- Popularised yoga, meditation, Eastern spirituality among both intellectuals and general public.

Significance & Broader Impact

- Opened Western awareness to Hinduism not merely as exotic ritualistic religion but philosophical, ethical, spiritual system.
- Enabled **inter-faith dialogue**; catalysed Vedānta societies in America which persist today.
- Influence on Western thinkers, culture; shaped how India's spiritual philosophies were received globally.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. The Parliament of the World's Religions (1893) is significant in world history because:

- It provided a global platform for Eastern philosophies amidst Western intellectual crisis.

2) It was the first attempt at organised inter-faith dialogue at an international scale.
 3) It was convened by the United Nations in Chicago to promote religious tolerance.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
 (b) 2 only
 (c) 3 only
 (d) 1, 2 and 3

Hint: The 1893 Chicago meeting is recognised as the first formal/global inter-faith gathering and launched Eastern religions (Vivekananda) onto the world stage — the UN didn't exist then.

News / Explained / Explained History / Story of World War II Battle of Imphal, mentioned by Modi in Manipur

Story of World War II Battle of Imphal, mentioned by Modi in Manipur

The Battles of Imphal & Kohima gave the Japanese Army one of its biggest ever defeats, and put a nail in the coffin in its imperial ambitions

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

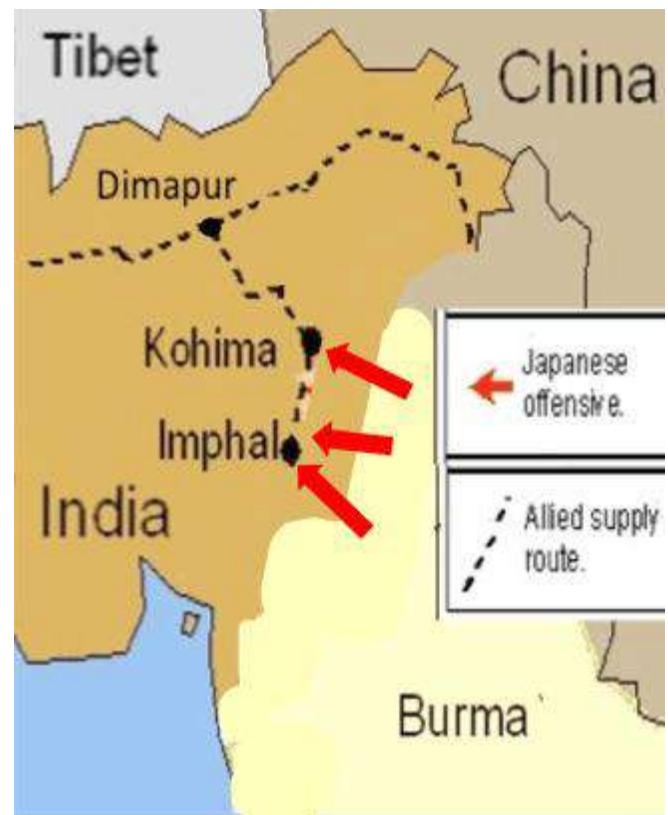
Why in News?

PM Modi in Manipur (Sept 13, 2025) recalled Netaji's words calling Manipur "door to India's freedom", linking to WWII Battles of Imphal & Kohima.



Background: WWII & India

- **WWII reached India:** Andaman & Nicobar (Japanese occupation, 1942–45), Northeast (Imphal-Kohima battles, 1944)
- **India:** logistics hub, manpower, resources, finance for Allies
- **Indian Army** crucial in both World Wars



Strategic Importance of Imphal

- **Imphal plain:** only major flat ground between Burma & India
- **Staging base for Allied Burma campaign:** supply hub for China (Chiang Kai-shek)
- **Dimapur-Imphal road:** lifeline for supplies
- **Airfields critical for Allied logistics**

Japanese Offensive, 1944

- **Japanese 15th Army** launched March 1944 invasion of Northeast
- **Two-pronged thrust:** Imphal (main objective), Kohima (cut Dimapur-Imphal road)
- **Goal:** isolate Imphal, disrupt China supply, gain India foothold

Role of INA

- **6,000 INA troops** with Japanese 15th Army
- **Bose's vision:** INA "vanguard" of Indian liberation
- **Hoped dual pressure** (inside + outside India) would collapse British rule
- **INA participation militarily limited, symbolically powerful**

The Battles

Kohima (Apr–Jun 1944)

- **Phase 1:** 1,500 Allied troops held ridge vs 15,000 Japanese
- **Phase 2:** Allied reinforcements, tanks cleared Japanese
- **Fierce fighting:** “tennis court” battle, hand-to-hand combat

Imphal (Mar–Jul 1944)

- **Japanese encircled valley** by April
- **Continuous assaults** on “spokes of wheel” (roads into Imphal)
- **Slim’s defence:** mobility, logistics, Allied air superiority

Outcome & Significance

- **Japanese 15th Army:** 85,000 troops → 53,000 casualties (combat, starvation, disease)
- **Allied casualties:** ~12,500 (Imphal), ~4,000 (Kohima)
- **Turning point:** halted Japanese advance into India, secured Burma recapture
- **Netaji, INA** retreated to Burma–Singapore, later collapse after Japan’s surrender
- **Bose died Aug 1945** (plane crash, 3 days after Hiroshima-Nagasaki)

Legacy

- Battles ranked among fiercest WWII land battles
- Seen as **Japan’s greatest defeat**, “**Stalingrad of the East**”
- **Locals (Nagas, Meiteis, Kukis)** fought and suffered on both sides
- Under-remembered in West, complex in Indian historiography (INA vs British Indian Army)
- **Critical in ensuring Allied victory in Asia**, blocking Japanese imperial ambitions

Test Your Knowledge

Q. Why are the Battles of Imphal and Kohima considered turning points of World War II in Asia?

- (a) They marked the first instance of Indian troops defeating German forces on Asian soil.
- (b) They prevented Japanese advance into India and ensured eventual Allied recapture of Burma.

- (c) They led directly to the surrender of Japan and the end of World War II in Asia.
- (d) They forced Britain to accept Indian independence after the war.

Hint: These battles checked Japan’s India advance, broke its Burma hold, and reversed momentum in Asia.

News / Explained / Explained History / Why Operation Polo was launched to take over Hyderabad, 77 years ago

₹ Premium

Why Operation Polo was launched to take over Hyderabad, 77 years ago

Sardar Patel had famously said that an independent Hyderabad would constitute a “cancer in the belly of India”.

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

Why in News?

77th anniversary of **Operation Polo (13–17 Sept 1948)**, India’s military action to annex Hyderabad.



Background

- **Hyderabad:** largest princely state, 80,000 sq miles, 16 million population
- **Linguistic groups:** Telugu, Kannada, Marathi; majority Hindu, ruler Muslim (Nizam VII, Mir Usman Ali)
- **Nizam:** extremely wealthy, cultural centre of Islam, aided British in WWI, only ruler with title “His Exalted Highness”
- **Refused Chamber of Princes**, aimed for independence, sought direct ties with Crown
- **Legal aid:** Sir Walter Monckton; threat of aligning with Pakistan
- **Standstill Agreement** (Nov 1947) with India

Internal Strife

- **Agrarian exploitation**, communal feudal system
- **Andhra Jan Sangham** → Andhra Mahasabha → Communist influence
- **Peasant uprisings** (since 1920s, peaked 1946)
- **Hyderabad State Congress** supported accession to India
- **Ittihad-ul-Muslimeen** led by Kasim Razvi; paramilitary Razakars formed
- **Razakars**: armed suppression, loot, killings; worsened instability

Indian Concerns

- **Hyderabad's central geography**: potential to cut north-south link
- **Patel**: “cancer in belly of India”
- **Fears of Pakistan link**, communal violence, instability
- **Failed negotiations**, worsening law & order
- **Patel to Nehru** (June 1948): only unconditional accession + responsible government acceptable

Operation Polo (13–17 Sept 1948)

- **Commander**: Maj Gen J N Chaudhuri
- **Force**: 2 infantry brigades, 1 armoured brigade, strike force, provincial police
- **Indian Air Force**: bombing support
- **Quick success**: overwhelmed Hyderabad forces + Razakars
- **Sept 17**: Nizam surrendered; radio appeal for peace, banned Razakars

Aftermath

- **Military administration** under Chaudhuri till Dec 1949
- **Nizam remained titular** head till 1949
- **Unelected civilian govt** (Ministry of States) → elections in 1952
- **Consolidated Indian Union**; foiled separatist/communal ambitions

Test Your Knowledge

Q. Consider the following events:

- 1) Annexation of Junagadh

- 2) Operation Polo
- 3) Accession of Jammu & Kashmir

What is the correct chronological order?

- (a) 1 → 2 → 3
- (b) 3 → 1 → 2
- (c) 1 → 3 → 2
- (d) 3 → 2 → 1

Hint: J&K (Oct 1947), Junagadh (Nov 1947), Hyderabad (Sept 1948).

News / Explained / Explained History / Tracing history of Sarnath: from Buddha's first sermon to emblem of Indian republic

Tracing history of Sarnath: from Buddha's first sermon to emblem of Indian republic

Earlier this year, India officially nominated Sarnath for the UNESCO World Heritage List for the 2025-26 cycle. We take a brief look at its history

IE Explained; By Arjun Sengupta;

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

Why in News?

India nominated **Sarnath** for **UNESCO World Heritage List (2025-26 cycle)**; ASI to install corrected plaque crediting **Babu Jagat Singh (1787-88)** for rediscovery.

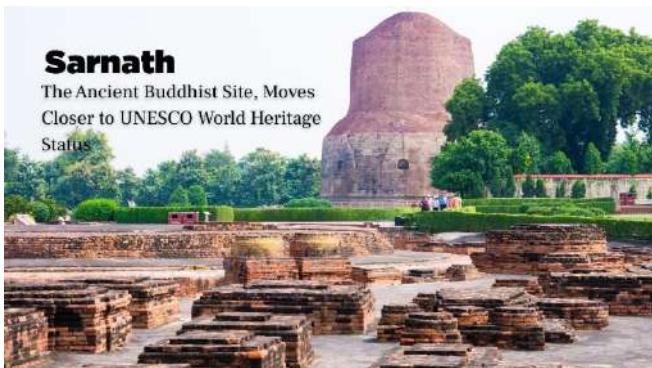
Origins & Early History

- **Buddha's first sermon**: c. 528 BCE, Mrigadava/Rishipatana
- **Formation of Sangha** (first Buddhist community)
- **Ashoka (268–232 BCE)**: lion capital pillar (now Indian emblem), Dhamek Stupa, monasteries, pilgrimage centre
- Pre-Ashokan habitation evidence



Later Patronage & Decline

- **Kushana (1st–4th CE) & Gupta (3rd–6th CE):** refurbishments, new structures
- Flourishing monastic centre till 12th CE
- **Destruction (12th CE):**
 - Likely 1193, Qutb-ud-din Aibek invasion → temples destroyed, monks fled
 - Alternative theory: mid-12th CE Saivite temple project (unfinished) → later Muslim invasion
- Site abandoned ~7 centuries; Buddhism declined in India



Rediscovery & Excavations

- **1787–88:** Jagat Singh's workers uncover relics while digging for Jagatganj market
- **1799:** Jonathan Duncan reports findings
- **1835–36:** Alexander Cunningham excavations, statues removed, site identified as Buddha's first sermon location
- **1904–05:** Friedrich Oertel systematic excavation → 476 relics, 41 inscriptions
- Sarnath established as major archaeological & religious site

Modern Importance

- Among four holiest Buddhist sites (with Lumbini, Bodh Gaya, Kushinagar)
- **National emblem:** Lion Capital of Ashoka
- **Tourism & Pilgrimage:** ~8.4 lakh visitors (2024–25)
- Pending **World Heritage status** (27 years on tentative list)

Test Your Knowledge 01

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Sarnath:

- 1) It is the place where the Buddha delivered his first sermon and the Sangha was formed.

- 2) The Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath is the National Emblem of India.
- 3) The Dhamek Stupa at Sarnath is believed to mark the exact spot of Buddha's Mahaparinirvana.
- 4) Sarnath remained a thriving monastery until the 12th century CE.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1, 2 and 4 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

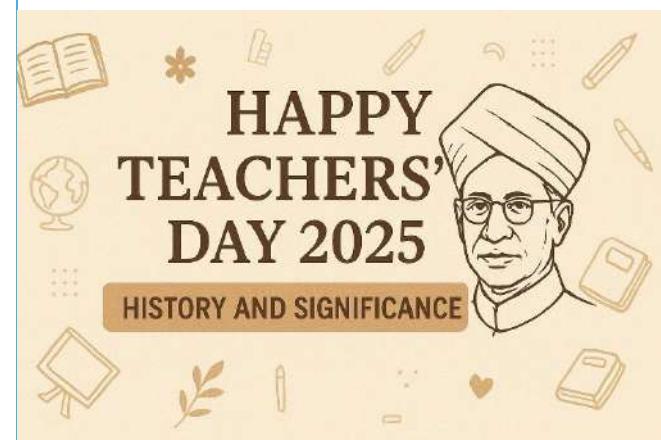
Hint: Mahaparinirvana took place at Kushinagar, not Sarnath.

NEWS IN SHORT: HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

Teacher's Day 2025

Why in News?

September 5, 2025 marks Teacher's Day in India, celebrated annually to honor Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's birth anniversary, India's second President and renowned educator.



Key Points:

- **Historical Significance:** India has celebrated Teacher's Day on September 5 since 1962 to honor Dr. Radhakrishnan, a distinguished philosopher, teacher, and scholar
- **PM's Tribute:** Prime Minister Modi greeted teachers nationwide, stating that "the dedication of teachers to nurturing minds is the foundation of a stronger and brighter future"
- **National Recognition:** President Droupadi Murmu will confer National Awards to Teachers to 46 selected awardees on this occasion

- **Global Difference:** While India celebrates Teacher's Day on September 5, World Teachers' Day is observed on October 5 as per UNESCO, UNICEF, and ILO guidelines

Prime Minister recalls vision of Sree Narayana on his birth anniversary

Why in News?

PM Modi paid tribute to Sree Narayana Guru on his birth anniversary (September 7th, 2025) through social media posts.

“

Sree Narayana Guru envisioned a society free from discrimination.

Today, the nation is moving forward with a saturation approach, eliminating every scope of discrimination

— Narendra Modi

PM Modi at the Centenary Celebration of Sree Narayana Guru-Mahatma Gandhi Dialogue, New Delhi, 24 June 2025



Sree Narayana Guru - Key Overview

Life & Background

- Born 22 August 1856 in Chempazhanthy village, Kerala to Madan Asan and Kuttiyamma.
- From the Ezhava caste (lower caste), experienced caste discrimination firsthand.
- Died 20 September 1928.

Education & Spiritual Journey

- Studied Sanskrit and Ayurveda, learned Vedic philosophy and Upanishads.
- Spent 8 years in meditation at Maruthwamala cave after wandering through Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

- Emerged as enlightened spiritual leader.

Revolutionary Temple Movement

- 1888: Consecrated Shiva temple at Aruvippuram - first non-Brahmin to install temple deity.
- Broke centuries-old caste barriers in temple worship.
- Built 40+ temples across Kerala open to all castes.
- Temple message: "One caste, one religion, one God for mankind".

Social Reforms & Organizations

- 1903: Founded SNDP Yogam with Dr. P. Palpu focusing on education, organization, economic empowerment.
- Led Vaikom Satyagraha against caste discrimination.
- 1904: Established Sivagiri Ashram near Varkala.
- 1924: Created Sivagiri Foundation.

Educational Revolution

- Opened schools for lower castes regardless of background.
- Founded Sanskrit school in Varkala for poor boys and orphans.
- Created education facilities at temple premises.

Core Philosophy

- "One in Kind, One in Faith, One in God, is Man"
- "Whatever be the religion, it suffices if it makes a better man"
- Promoted universal brotherhood, social equality, and non-violent philosophy.

Legacy & Recognition

- Influenced Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore.
- Transformed Kerala society through spiritual and social reforms.
- Wrote philosophical works, poems, hymns in Malayalam and Sanskrit.

PM Launches Gyan Bharatam Mission for Manuscript Digitisation

Why in News?

On 12 September 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Gyan Bharatam Mission and its digital portal to accelerate nationwide

manuscript digitisation, preservation and public access.

Details

- Nodal **Ministry of Culture** has approved the mission as a **Central Sector Scheme** (2024-31) with an outlay of ₹482.85 crore.
- Goal is to survey, catalogue and digitise over one crore manuscripts, expanding on the 44.07 lakh already listed in the **Kriti Sampada repository**.
- Programme sets up **Manuscript Resource Centres** for documentation, Manuscript Conservation Centres for restoration, and uses AI-based Handwritten Text Recognition to build a searchable national repository.

- Youth-focused initiatives like the **Gyan-Setu AI Innovation Challenge** invite start-ups to create heritage-tech solutions.
- Launch formed the highlight of a three-day international conference, “**Reclaiming India’s Knowledge Legacy through Manuscript Heritage**,” at Vigyan Bhawan (11–13 Sept 2025)—timed to honour Swami Vivekananda’s 1893 Chicago address anniversary.
- **Supports NEP 2020** by integrating Indian Knowledge Systems into education and fulfils the constitutional duty to preserve cultural heritage under **Article 51A(f)**.



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Abhishek Vashishtha, AIR-14 [CSE 2024]

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

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 Vashishtha
UPSC CSE Rank 14.*

Devansh M. Dwivedi, AIR-228 [CSE 2024]

Hello everyone.
I am Devansh Mohan Dwivedi AIR 228 (UPSC CSE 2024). Kalam IAS's PYQ module with face-to-face evaluation was very helpful during mains preparation. The team was very helpful and kind.

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

Sarthak Singh, AIR-393 [CSE 2024]

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

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Polity & Governance

September 2025

EXPLAINER

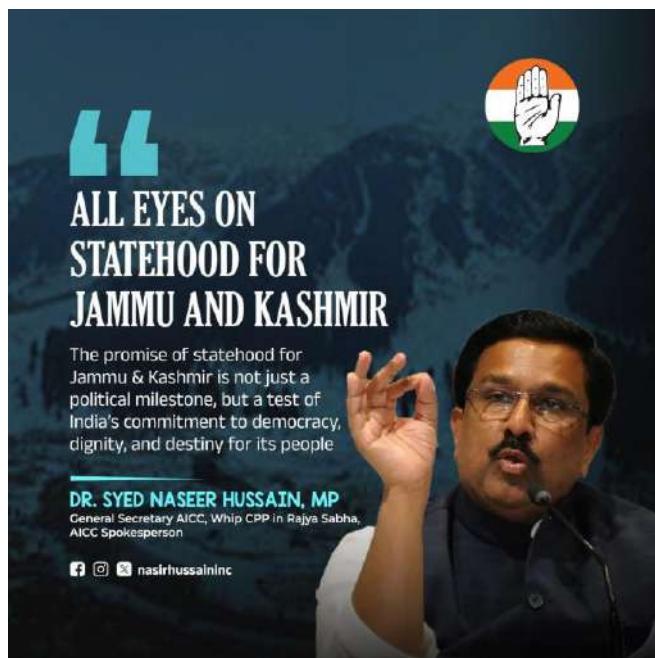
The importance of India's federal design

What is the status of the demand to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir? What are the processes enshrined in the Constitution of India for creating States? How are States reorganised? Have Legislative Assembly elections been held in J&K?

TH Text & Context; By C. B. P. Srivastava;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity [Link](#)

Why in News?

Supreme Court hearing petition demanding time-bound restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, with Centre given 8 weeks to respond in August 2025.



What is the Statehood Demand About?

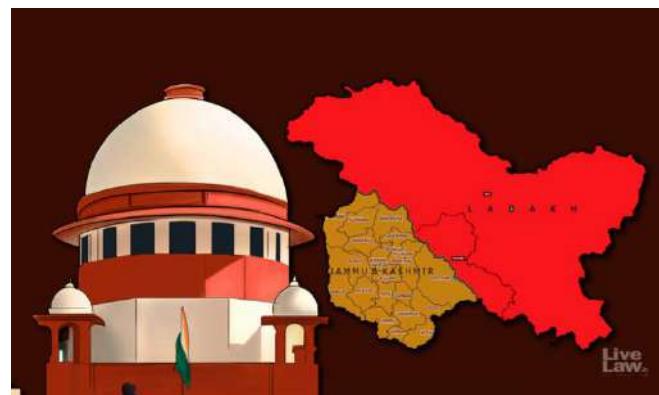
Current Situation

- **Timeline:** J&K converted from state to Union Territory in August 2019 after Article 370 abrogation

- **Supreme Court Promise:** December 2023 verdict directed statehood restoration "at the earliest" but no action taken in 20+ months
- **Political Push:** CM Omar Abdullah leading nationwide campaign, Cabinet passed resolution in October 2024 demanding restoration
- **Legislative Elections:** First Assembly elections in 10 years held September-October 2024, JKNC-Congress won majority

What Changes with Statehood?

- **Power Shift:** Lieutenant Governor's extensive control over police, bureaucracy, anti-corruption agencies returns to elected CM
- **Legislative Authority:** Full state powers instead of current limited Union Territory status
- **Federal Rights:** Restoration of constitutional position as equal partner in Indian federation



How States Are Created in India?

Three Constitutional Methods

- **Admission:** New organized political units join India (like J&K in 1947 through Instrument of Accession)
- **Establishment:** Territory acquired through international law (like Goa, Sikkim)
- **Formation:** Most common - reorganizing existing states under Article 3 (expanded India from 14 to 29 states)

Article 3 Powers Allow Parliament To

- Create new states by separating territory or merging states
- Change state boundaries, areas, or names

- **Key Limitation:** Cannot permanently convert state to Union Territory - violates federal structure

Process Requirements

- Presidential recommendation needed
- State legislature consultation (advisory only)
- Simple parliamentary majority sufficient

Why India's Federal Structure Matters?

Unique Design Features

- **"Union of States":** Chosen over "federation" to balance unity with diversity
- **Dual Character:** Strong Centre for national integrity + federal distribution for welfare
- **Cultural Unity:** "India" shows unitary federation, "Bharat" represents composite culture

Federal Protections

- **Rajya Sabha:** Permanent house ensuring continuous state representation at Centre
- **Power Division:** Clear separation between Union, State, and Concurrent subjects
- **Independent Judiciary:** Resolves Centre-state disputes
- **Basic Structure:** Federalism protected as core constitutional principle

Why Restoration is Constitutionally Required?

- **Federal Principle:** States cannot be permanently downgraded to Union Territories
- **Supreme Court Direction:** Clear mandate for restoration given in 2023
- **Democratic Rights:** Current setup limits elected government's powers in J&K
- **Basic Structure:** Continued Union Territory status allegedly violates constitutional federalism

Current Legal and Political Status

Court Proceedings

- **Petition Filed:** By J&K residents citing violation of federal structure and citizen rights
- **Centre's Response:** Claims security situation needs consideration, references Pahalgam incident
- **Timeline Demand:** Petitioners seek 2-month deadline for restoration

Political Developments

- **Government Speculation:** Reports suggest possible bill introduction in Parliament (though unconfirmed)

- **Cross-Party Support:** CM Abdullah wrote to all national parties including BJP seeking statehood support
- **Constitutional Argument:** Restoration viewed as "course correction" not concession to prevent dangerous precedent

Should reservations exceed the 50% cap?

What do Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution guarantee? How are formal and substantive equality different? Are reservations an exception to the idea of equality of opportunity or a continuation? Are reservation benefits concentrated within specific sub-castes in OBCs, SCs and STs?

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

Why in News?

Bihar opposition leader Tejashwi Yadav declared 85% reservation if voted to power, while Supreme Court issued notice on petition demanding creamy layer system for SC/ST reservations.

Constitutional Framework

Articles 15 & 16 Provisions

- Article 15: Prohibits discrimination, enables special provisions for backward classes in education
- Article 16: Guarantees equality in public employment, allows reservations for advancement
- Current central reservation: OBC (27%), SC (15%), ST (7.5%), EWS (10%) = 59.5% total
- State-wise variation based on demographic profile and policies

Formal vs Substantive Equality

- Formal equality: Uniform treatment for all, reservations seen as exception to equality principle
- Substantive equality: Different treatment to achieve equal outcomes, reservations as continuation of equality
- Courts evolved from formal approach (Balaji 1962) to substantive approach (N.M. Thomas 1975)

Judicial Evolution on 50% Cap

Key Court Rulings

- **Balaji vs Mysore (1962):** Established 50% ceiling, reservations should be within reasonable limits
- **N.M. Thomas (1975):** Introduced substantive equality concept, reservation as assertion of equality
- **Indra Sawhney (1992):** Reaffirmed 50% cap except in extraordinary circumstances, introduced OBC creamy layer
- **Janhit Abhiyan (2022):** Upheld EWS 10% reservation as separate category, not counting toward 50% limit

Current Legal Status

- Most states already exceed 50%: Chhattisgarh (82%), MP (73%), Nagaland (80%), Mizoram (80%)
- EWS reservation itself breaches 50% cap established in Indra Sawhney judgment
- Supreme Court considering review of 50% ceiling through various pending cases

The journey of reservations

A brief summary of important developments with respect to reservations at the central level

Year	Key development
1950 and 1951	Commencement of the Constitution and the First Amendment – enabling provisions in Articles 15 and 16 for the advancement of OBCs, SCs and STs
1982	Reservations for SCs and STs fixed at 15% and 7.5% respectively in central educational institutions and public sector undertakings
1990	The introduction of 27% reservation for OBCs in central government employment based on the recommendation of the Mandal Commission
2005	Article 15(5) inserted by the 93rd constitutional amendment that enabled reservations for OBCs, SCs and STs in educational institutions, including private ones
2019	Articles 15(6) and 16(6) inserted by the 103rd constitutional amendment which enabled up to 10% reservation for the EWS among the unreserved category in educational institutions and public employment

Arguments For Exceeding 50% Cap

Population Proportion Logic

- Backward classes constitute majority population requiring proportional representation
- Demand for caste census to determine actual demographic data rather than estimates
- 40-50% reserved seats in central government remain unfilled annually

Constitutional Flexibility

- Constitution as living document adaptable to changing circumstances
- Indra Sawhney judgment is 30-year-old, laid down possibility of relaxation in extraordinary circumstances
- Social justice requires affirmative action for historically disadvantaged communities

Concentration of Benefits Problem

Within OBC Category

- Rohini Commission findings: 97% benefits captured by just 25% of OBC castes/sub-castes
- Around 1,000 of 2,600 OBC communities have zero representation in jobs/education
- Sub-categorization needed based on demographic data

SC/ST Creamy Layer Debate

- No current creamy layer exclusion for SC/ST unlike OBCs
- Punjab vs Davinder Singh (2024): Four judges impressed need for SC/ST creamy layer policies
- Central government reaffirmed August 2024: creamy layer doesn't apply to SC/ST
- Supreme Court issued notice on petition demanding two-tier reservation system within SC/ST

Arguments Against Exceeding Cap

Equality of Opportunity Concerns

- Fundamental right violation if reservation reaches 85%
- Merit principle compromise affecting overall community interests
- Formal equality requires equal treatment regardless of group membership

Practical Implementation Issues

- Risk of converting unfilled reserved seats to unreserved category
- Increased vacancy backlog in SC/ST categories with creamy layer exclusion
- Limited public sector opportunities versus growing youth population aspirations

Way Forward Recommendations

Data-Driven Approach

- Implement Census 2027 caste enumeration for empirical basis
- Wide stakeholder consultations based on demographic data
- Review reservation levels according to actual population proportions

Targeted Implementation

- Sub-categorization among OBCs per Rohini Commission report
- Two-tier reservation system prioritizing most marginalized within SC/ST
- Skill development mechanisms for gainful employment beyond public sector
- Periodic review mechanism for economic progress assessment

C.P. Radhakrishnan elected Vice-President

The NDA nominee got 452 first preferential votes against Opposition candidate who got 300 votes

While 14 MPs abstained, 15 votes were found to be invalid; full electoral college comprises 788 electors

Voting pattern shows that the nationalistic ideology has emerged victorious, says Radhakrishnan

TH Frontpage; By Sobhana K Nair;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Polity [Link](#)

Why in News?

NDA nominee C.P. Radhakrishnan elected Vice-President of India, defeating Opposition candidate B. Sudershan Reddy by 152 first-preference votes.

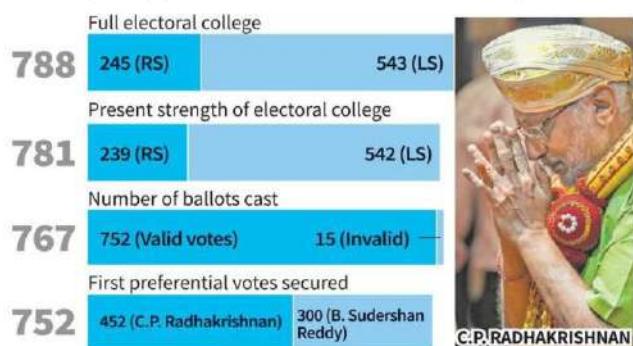


Results & key numbers

- Votes (first preferences): Radhakrishnan 452 — Reddy 300.
- Margin: 152 votes.
- Electoral college full strength 788; reduced to 781 due to vacancies; 767 MPs voted.
- Ballots: 15 invalid; 14 abstentions; valid votes 752 (turnout \approx 98.2%).

Comfortable victory

NDA candidate C.P. Radhakrishnan won the Vice-Presidential polls by defeating the Opposition candidate B. Sudershan Reddy



Cross-voting, claims & arithmetic

- Opposition short of its own estimate (\approx 324), suggesting defections/cross-voting.
- BJP claims at least 15 (some say \approx 40) Opposition MPs voted for NDA candidate; Opposition rejects the scale of cross-voting.
- Some invalid votes possibly include ballots from dissenting MPs.

Reactions & immediate implications

- **Radhakrishnan:** called result a victory of “nationalistic ideology”; emphasised development and Viksit Bharat-2047.
- PM Modi and BJP leaders congratulated; BJP frames outcome as broader acceptance beyond party lines.
- **Opposition:** Congress thanked its candidate, called result a “moral” fight and warned against erosion of Opposition space; Jairam Ramesh highlighted 40% vote share for their candidate.
- **Political read:** signals limited Opposition unity/discipline, potential impact on parliamentary tone and state-level electoral arithmetic ahead.

Vice President Election 2025

Why in News?

C.P. Radhakrishnan elected Vice-President of India in the 2025 poll, defeating Opposition nominee B. Sudershan Reddy.

Office & constitutional powers

- Ex-officio Chairperson of Rajya Sabha.
- Acts as President on vacancy/absence/illness; enjoys full Presidential powers and emoluments while so acting.
- Ranks second in order of precedence.

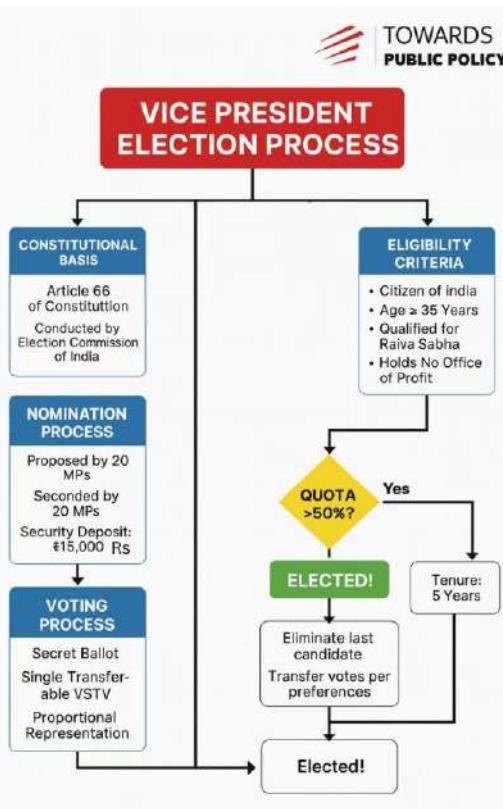
Electoral college & voting method

- **Composition:** 233 elected Rajya Sabha members, 12 nominated Rajya Sabha members, 543 elected Lok Sabha members — total 788 (subject to vacancies).
- **System:** Proportional representation by single transferable vote; secret ballot.

- **Ballot rules:** First preference mandatory for validity; further preferences optional; preferences may be in Indian/roman numerals or recognised Indian languages.
- If an MP is elected Vice-President, seat in Parliament vacated on assuming office.

Eligibility, term & removal

- **Eligibility:** Indian citizen; minimum age 35; qualified for Council of States; must not hold an office of profit.
- **Term:** 5 years; continues until successor assumes office.
- **Exit:** Resignation to President; removal by Rajya Sabha resolution (majority of all then members) and agreement by Lok Sabha.



Disputes & legal finality

- Election disputes decided by Supreme Court; its decision final.
- Acts done before a voiding judgment remain valid.

News / Explained / Explained Politics / As PM Modi visits Manipur, 5 key issues in conflict-torn state

As PM Modi visits Manipur, 5 key issues in conflict-torn state

Twenty seven months after the conflict in Manipur began in 2023, a number of key issues remain unresolved in the state. Here's what you need to know

IE Explained; By Sukrita Baruah;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Governance, Security
[Link](#)

Why in News?

PM Modi visiting Manipur (Sept 2025) to meet internally displaced people and inaugurate large projects as unresolved fallout from the May 2023 Meitei–Kuki-Zo conflict persists.

Five key issues

Rehabilitation of displaced population

- **≈57,000 IDPs in >280 relief camps** (living >2 years);
- **State three-phase resettlement plan** (July / Oct / Dec) aiming to close camps by Dec 2025;
- **Small returns so far** (~5,000 pre-plan); prefabricated houses promised after "full normalcy".



Free movement inside the state

- Valley–hills boundaries hardened into heavily guarded "**buffer zones**";
- Meiteis restricted to valley; Kuki-Zo denied valley/airport access;
- **Centre's "free movement" push** triggered clashes (notably Mar 8 incident); limited agreement for essential goods but no mutual free-movement accord.

Dialogue and ceasefire arrangements

- Violence ebbed since Nov 2024 but risk persists; **both communities heavily armed**;
- Ministry of Home Affairs engaging groups separately; **Suspension of Operations** renewed with Kuki-Zo umbrellas (KNO, UPF);
- **Kuki-Zo demand for “separate administration” / UT** with legislature remains a flashpoint despite SoO clause on “territorial integrity”; strong objections from Meitei groups.

Government formation and political stability

- Former CM N. Biren Singh resigned (Feb 2025); President’s Rule imposed and continued;
- Valley/Naga NDA MLAs pushing for restoration of elected govt; Centre cautious about lifting President’s Rule to avoid destabilisation.

Border and cross-border issues with Myanmar

- Free Movement Regime with Myanmar scrapped; plan to fence porous border;
- Meitei concerns about **alleged illegal Chin immigration** cited as a cause of volatility;
- Nagas and Kuki-Zo oppose fencing; United Naga Council’s trade embargo (routes closed) later temporarily suspended.

Test Your Knowledge 0

Q. “Arambai Tenggol”, seen in Manipur news during the ethnic conflict, is:

- (a) A Meitei armed civilian group alleged to have state patronage.
- (b) A cultural troupe promoting Manipuri martial arts.
- (c) A Kuki-Zo political organisation demanding UT status.
- (d) A Naga insurgent umbrella council.

Hint: This group emerged during the Manipur ethnic violence as an armed Meitei civilian formation, often in headlines due to allegations of state patronage — not a cultural troupe or a Naga/Kuki organisation.

The RTI’s shift to a ‘right to deny information’



Shailesh Gandhi

is a former Central Information Commissioner

Citizens and the media need to challenge the Digital Personal Data Protection Act’s amendment of Section 8(1)(j) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act

TH Opinion; By Shailesh Gandhi;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Governance [Link](#)

Why in News?

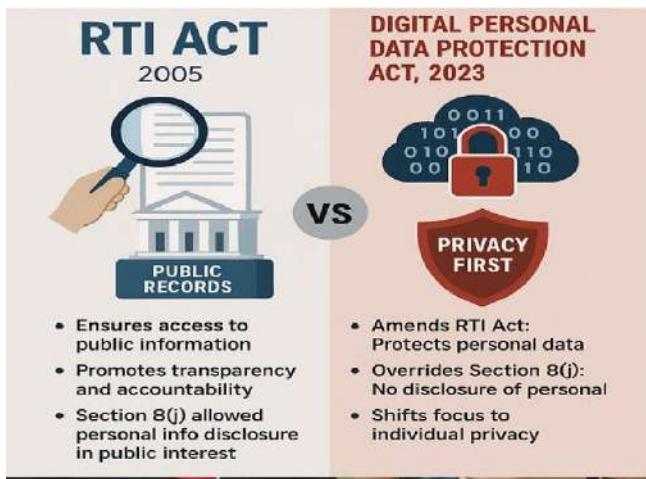
The RTI Act’s **Section 8(1)(j)** was amended via the **DPDP Act, 2023**, weakening safeguards & enabling wider denial of information.

Original RTI Provision & Its Safeguards

- **Section 8(1)(j) exempted personal info** if not connected to public activity or where privacy is invaded.
- **Included a proviso:** if info cannot be denied to Parliament or State Legislature, it cannot be denied to any person.
- **Allowed “larger public interest” override** where disclosure was important despite privacy concerns.

What the Amendment Changed?

- **Section 8(1)(j) truncated:** detailed definition & safeguards removed; now simply “information which relates to personal information.”
- **Proviso re:** Parliament/State Legislature removed.
- **DPDP Act gives itself power to override** other laws in case of conflict.



Key Concerns / Criticisms

- **Definition of “person” under DPDPA** is very broad — includes firms, companies, State etc. That makes “personal information” potentially almost everything.
- **Public Information Officers (PIOs) will tend to deny information** to avoid risk of penalties.
- **Many important documents might be withheld** (e.g. corrected marksheets, beneficiary data, orders signed by officials) under “personal information.”
- **Use of the “larger public interest” override** is rare and difficult in practice; hence not a reliable safeguard.

Impacts on Transparency & Corruption Control

- **Citizens lose monitoring ability**; RTI becomes weak tool in fighting corruption.
- Information about schemes, corruption, ghost employees etc., may get shielded under this exemption.
- **Example:** data of pension beneficiaries or ration card distribution being made public in some states helps catch fraud; that may now be denied.

Call to Action & Warnings

- **Need for media & citizen engagement** to expose & debate the change.
- **Demand political accountability**; include reversal of these amendments in party manifestos.

- **Civil society groups (e.g. IFF, NCPRI) campaign** against Section 44(3) of DPDPA Act that effects this change.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. The phrase “provided that the information which cannot be denied to the Parliament or a State Legislature shall not be denied to any person” was part of:

- Article 75 of the Constitution
- Original Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act
- Rules of Procedure of Parliament
- Prevention of Corruption Act

Hint: The proviso ensuring parity between citizens and Parliament was built into the original RTI Act, not the Constitution or other laws.

Q. With reference to the relationship between the Right to Information Act, 2005 and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, consider the following statements:

- 1) The DPDPA Act contains an overriding clause, giving it primacy in case of conflict with other laws, including RTI.
- 2) The RTI Act explicitly states that no law can override its provisions.
- 3) After the amendment, Section 8(1)(j) of RTI is reduced to a single phrase: “information which relates to personal information.”

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Hint: RTI never claimed overriding power; DPDPA does, and the amendment shortened Section 8(1)(j) to just “personal information.”

News / Explained / Explained History / Hindi Diwas 2025: How Constituent Assembly decided on Hindi as the official, and not national, language of India

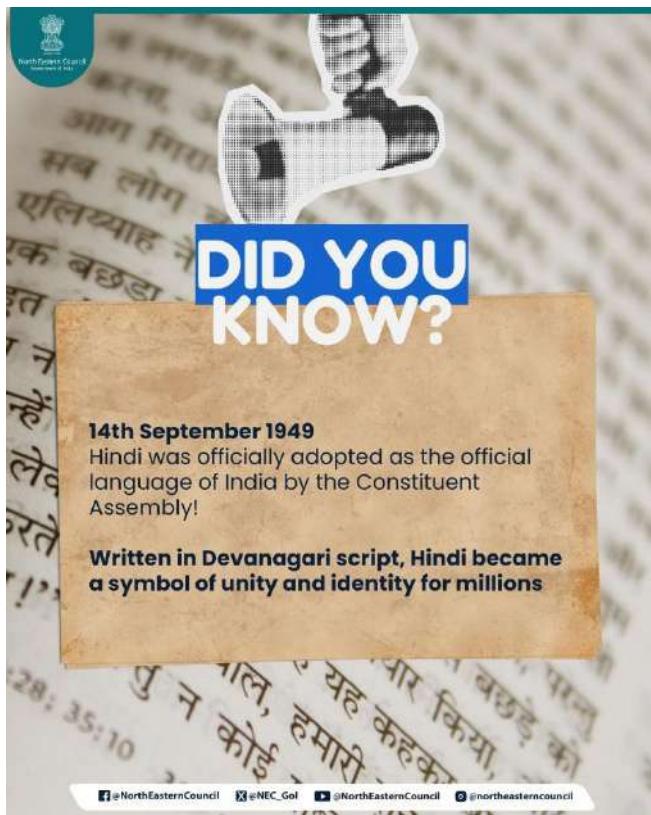
Hindi Diwas 2025: How Constituent Assembly decided on Hindi as the official, and not national, language of India

Official language of India, Hindi Diwas 2025: What debates did the Constituent Assembly see on the adoption of Hindi, Hindustani, or Sanskrit as the official language? What was the Munshi-Ayyangar formula?

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

Why in News?

September 14, 2025: Hindi Diwas marks Constituent Assembly's 1949 decision to adopt Hindi (not national, but official language) with **Munshi-Ayyangar formula** compromise.



Constituent Assembly Decision

- **Official, not National:** Hindi in Devanagari as official; “national” rejected to avoid alienation.
- **Munshi–Ayyangar Formula:** Hindi in Devanagari; international numerals; English

retained for 15 years; later continued via Official Languages Act (1963).

- **Compromise Outcome:** Balanced Hindi promotion with English continuity; prevented North–South linguistic divide.

Key Debates & Positions

- **RV Dhulekar (UP)**
 - Wanted Hindi as national language.
 - Criticized delay in replacing English.
 - Dismissed Hindustani/Urdu demands.
- **Frank Anthony (Central Provinces)**
 - Advocated retention of English.
 - English as international asset, not colonial baggage.
- **Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Bengal)**
 - Proposed Sanskrit as official/national.
 - Argued lack of trained Hindi teachers, resources.
- **Qazi Syed Karimuddin (Central Provinces)**
 - Supported Hindustani (Hindi + Urdu scripts).
 - Invoked Gandhi's support, inclusive Hindu–Muslim link.
- **T A Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras)**
 - Accepted Hindi only due to numerical strength, not merit.
 - Denied Hindi as national; all regional languages equally national.

Aftermath

- **Protests (1965):** Tamil Nadu, non-Hindi states resisted Hindi imposition.
- **Official Languages Act:** Ensured continued dual use of Hindi + English.
- **Current Framework:** Hindi + English official at Union; 22 languages in 8th Schedule recognised as national richness.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. With reference to the official language provisions of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

- 1) Article 343 declares Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union.

2) The Constitution originally allowed English to continue for all Union official purposes for 10 years.
 3) The form of numerals to be used for Union purposes was the international form of Indian numerals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
 (b) 1 and 3 only
 (c) 2 and 3 only
 (d) 1, 2 and 3

Hint: Constitution permitted English for 15 years, not 10 → so statement 2 is wrong.

Q. The Munshi–Ayyangar formula in the Constituent Assembly primarily dealt with:

(a) Distribution of legislative subjects between Union and States
 (b) Special provisions for minorities and backward classes
 (c) Official language and continuation of English
 (d) Financial relations between Union and States

Hint: Munshi–Ayyangar formula was a compromise on official language (Hindi + English).



Key Issues and Court's Reasoning

- **Waqf by user:** Abolition upheld; justified due to govt land encroachment; setback to petitioners
- **Ownership rights:** Non-Muslims barred from creating waqf; Court upheld despite past HC/SC rulings (Nagpur 1956, Madras 1930, Lahore 1940)
- **Limitation law:** Applied uniformly; unlike Hindu endowment exemptions (AP, Telangana, TN)
- **Practising vs professing Islam:** Shift empowers officials to judge religiosity; risk of moral policing
- **Registration window:** No extension beyond 6 months; petitioners disappointed
- **Council/Board composition:** Fixed no. of non-Muslims; diversity vs Art. 26 right of denomination
- **Comparison with trusts:** Waqf perpetual, irrevocable, inalienable; distinct from trust

SC's interim order offers no relief from several problematic provisions of Waqf law

The biggest setback to the petitioners was on waqf by user. The Court found the abolition of such a waqf perfectly justified on the ground that a lot of government lands have been encroached upon.

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

Why in News?

SC issued interim order on challenges to **Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025**; stayed only limited provisions, leaving most intact.

Court's Interim Order

- Lengthy 128 pages, unusual for interim order
- **Stayed Section 3(r) – “practising Muslim” rule**, pending rules (5 yrs)
- **Stayed Section 3(c) – executive determination of title** (violation of separation of powers)
- Refused stay on most other provisions

Implications

- Petitioners gained **small relief only** (Sec 3(c), 3(r))
- **Major setbacks** on user waqf, ownership rights, limitation period
- **Waqf Boards = statutory authorities** (Art. 12), not private land mafia
- **Implementation of Waqf Act 2025 continues** with minor modifications
- **Missed chance for uniform law** across religious endowments (possible UCC link)

EPFO



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- Materials [Notes+CA]

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Day 04	Books of Accounts (2)
Day 05	Financial Statements (Basics: Trading A/c, P&L)
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
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Day 17	Insurance
Day 18	Pension
Day 19	Compensation claims

20 Hours Approx

These lectures are pre-recorded by Shubham Jain, AIR152 (CSE 2022), NLU Delhi

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Test Code	Date	Topic/Theme
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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
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EPFO_2510	02 NOV	FULL SYLLABUS
EPFO_2511	09 NOV	FULL SYLLABUS

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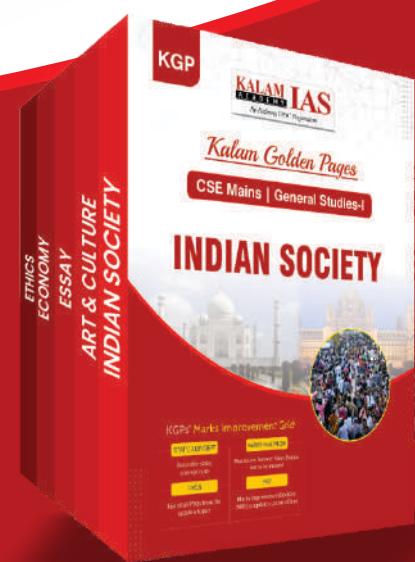
CSE Mains | General Studies I-IV & Essay

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Test Your Knowledge

Q. In the context of waqf and related property rights, which of the following statements is correct?

- A waqf, unlike a trust, vests ownership of property in God and is perpetual, irrevocable, and inalienable.
- A waqf is similar to a trust, as both allow the founder to retain personal benefits from the property.
- Both waqf and trust laws in India allow non-Muslims to create waqf freely.
- Waqf property is managed by private religious leaders and not statutory bodies under Article 12.

Hint: Waqf ≠ Trust; in waqf, property belongs to God, not the founder, and management is by statutory waqf boards (Art. 12), not private clerics. (Answer a)

News / Explained / Explained Law / Explained: Issues in SC hearings on timeline for the President and Governors to assent to Bills

Premium

Explained: Issues in SC hearings on timeline for the President and Governors to assent to Bills

Whether the Supreme Court can set a timeline for the President and state Governors to give their assent to legislative Bills has become a contested federalism issue. What have the states and the Centre argued?

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

Why in News?

SC reserved opinion on Presidential reference (Art. 143) regarding whether timelines can be fixed for President/Governors to assent to Bills.

Nature of Reference

- Art. 143:** President may seek SC opinion on questions of law/public importance.
- SC not bound to answer:** past refusals exist.
- States' view:** Reference = disguised appeal/review of April ruling; undermines stare decisis.
- Centre's view:** Advisory jurisdiction distinct; can clarify constitutional doubts despite past rulings.

THE PRESIDENT'S 14 QUESTIONS

1 What are the constitutional options before a guv when a Bill is presented to him under Art 200?	take SC's opinion when the guv reserves a Bill for President's assent or otherwise?
2 Is guv bound by the aid and advice tendered by the council of ministers while exercising all the options available with him when a Bill is presented before him?	9 Are decisions of the guv and Prez under Articles 200 and 201, respectively, justiciable at a stage anterior into the law coming into force? Is it permissible for courts to undertake judicial adjudication over contents of a Bill, in any manner, before it becomes law?
3 Is the constitutional discretion by the guv under Art 200 justiciable?	10 Can the exercise of constitutional powers and orders of/by Prez/guv be substituted in any manner under Art 142?
4 Is Art 361 an absolute bar to judicial review in relation to actions of a guv under Art 200?	11 Is the law made by the state legislature a law in force without the assent of the guv?
5 In the absence of a constitutionally prescribed time limit, and the manner of exercise of powers by the guv, can timeline be imposed and the manner of exercise be prescribed through judicial orders for the purpose of exercise of all powers under Art 200 by the guv?	12 In view of Art 145(3) is it not mandatory for any bench of SC to first decide whether the question involved in the proceedings before it is of such nature which involves substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of Constitution and to refer to it to a bench of minimum five judges?
6 Is exercise of constitutional discretion by President under Art 201 justiciable?	13 Do the powers of SC under Art 142 limited to matters of procedural law or Art 142 extend to issuing directions/passing orders contrary to or inconsistent with the existing substantive or procedural provisions of the Constitution or law in force?
7 In the absence of a constitutionally prescribed timeline and the manner of exercise of powers by the Prez, can timelines be imposed and manner of exercise prescribed through judicial orders for the exercise of discretion by Prez under Art 201?	14 Does Constitution bar any other jurisdiction of SC to resolve disputes between Union govt and state govt except by way of a suit under Art 131?
8 In the light of the constitutional scheme governing powers of Prez, is Prez required to seek advice of SC by way of a reference under Art 143 and	

Governor's Powers

- States:** Bound by aid & advice (Art. 163); primacy of elected govt; Governors ≠ Viceroys.
- Centre:** Not mere “postman”; discretionary powers exist; Constituent Assembly rejected removal of discretion.
- Example:** 2004 Punjab River Water Termination Act → struck down in 2016.

Governor's Veto / Withholding Assent

- SC April ruling:** No “pocket veto”; must act.
- Centre:** Withholding = Bill lapses; echoes colonial GOI Act, 1935 “absolute veto.”
- States:** Colonial veto powers intentionally omitted; Governors must act.

- **Data:** 1970–present → ~17,000 Bills, only ~20 withheld; 90% assented within 1 month.

Timelines for Assent

- **Centre:** SC cannot fix timelines; Constituent Assembly deleted 6-week limit; “as soon as possible” = flexible; judicial timelines = “judicial amendment.”
- **Political resolution preferable** over judicial diktat.
- **States:** “As soon as possible” implies immediacy; timelines in April ruling = trigger for judicial review, not automatic assent.

States & Fundamental Rights

- **Centre:** Art. 32 remedies for individuals, not states; Governors ≠ Union agents.
- **States:** Right to move SC essential; Governors = Union-State link; denial weakens federal balance.
- Even NDA ally Andhra Pradesh supported states’ writ rights.

Centre's/State's Arguments in Governor's or President's Veto Powers - Summary		
Issue	State's Argument	Centre's Argument
Nature of Reference (Art. 143)	Reference = disguised appeal/review of April ruling; violates stare decisis	Advisory jurisdiction distinct; SC can clarify constitutional doubts even after rulings
Governor's Powers (Art. 163)	Bound by aid & advice; primacy of elected govt; Governors ≠ Viceroys	Not mere “postman”; discretionary powers exist; Assembly rejected removal of discretion
Veto / Withholding Assent	Governors cannot sit indefinitely; colonial veto powers omitted	Withholding = Bill lapses; echoes colonial GOI Act 1935 absolute veto

Timelines for Assent (Art. 200)	Bound by aid & advice; primacy of elected govt; Governors ≠ Viceroys	Not mere “postman”; discretionary powers exist; Assembly rejected removal of discretion
States & Fundamental Rights (Art. 32)	States must have right to move SC; Governors = Union-State link	Art. 32 remedies only for individuals; Governors not Union agents

Test Your Knowledge

Q. Consider the following pairs of cases and their relevance to Governor's powers:

- 1) Shamsher Singh v. State of Punjab (1974) – Limited scope of Governor's discretionary powers.
- 2) B.K. Pavitra case (2019) – Reaffirmed Governor's wide discretion in reserving Bills.
- 3) State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu (2025) – Held that “pocket veto” by Governor is unconstitutional.

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Hint: Pavitra (2019) had confusion; later called per incuriam.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Article 143 (Presidential Reference):

- 1) The Supreme Court is constitutionally bound to provide its opinion when the President refers a question of law or fact.
- 2) In the past, the Supreme Court has declined to answer Presidential References.
- 3) The opinion given by the Supreme Court under Article 143 is binding on the President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 2 only
- 1 and 3 only

- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Hint: Opinion is advisory, not binding; SC may refuse.

EXPLAINER

How does SC's order affect Waqf law?

What is the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025? On what grounds was the law challenged? Which provisions did the court uphold, and on which did it impose a stay? What are the broader implications for minority rights?

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

Why in News?

SC (15 Sept 2025) stayed select provisions of **Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025**, citing risk to property rights & minority autonomy.



The Interim Order at a Glance

No Blanket Stay: The bench, headed by CJI B R Gavai, refused to stay the entire Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

Presumption of Constitutionality: The court cited the legal principle that a law passed by Parliament is presumed to be constitutional and can only be stayed in the "rarest of rare cases."

However, the court found that a "prima facie" case was made to put some specific, contentious sections on hold to provide protection.

FILE PHOTO

Waqf Law & 2025 Amendments

- **Waqf:** Permanent charitable endowment under Islamic law.
- **Key amendments:**
 - Collector power to decide govt vs waqf land.

- Only property owner + practising Muslim (≥ 5 yrs) can create waqf.
- Abolition of "waqf by user."
- Non-Muslim representation on Waqf Boards/Council; CEO need not be Muslim.
- Central digital registration of properties.
- Limitation Act applicability.

What Has Been Stayed?

PTI

'Practicing Muslim' Clause: The requirement for a person to be a "practicing Muslim for the last five years" to dedicate a property as Waqf. The court noted the lack of a mechanism to determine this could lead to arbitrary decisions.

Collector's Power to Adjudicate: The power given to a government officer (Collector) to declare a property as government land and alter revenue records. The court said this violates the separation of powers.

Waqf Status Pending Report: The clause stating a property would not be deemed Waqf until an officer's report confirmed there was no encroachment.



Grounds of Challenge

- **Article 26:** Right to manage religious affairs.
- **Article 30:** Minority right to manage institutions.
- Arbitrary 5-yr practising Islam clause.
- Collector powers violate separation of powers.
- Non-Muslim inclusion undermines autonomy.
- Deletion of waqf by user → loss of traditional recognition.

SC Interim Order

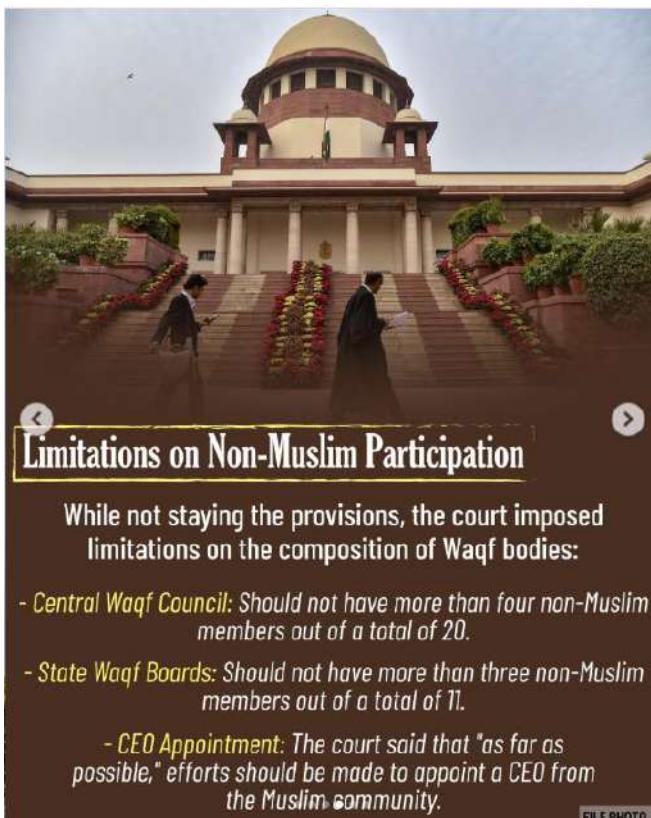
Stayed

- Collector's unilateral inquiry into waqf property (Sec 3C).
- Automatic loss of waqf status once inquiry begins.
- 5-yr practising Islam requirement → suspended till rules framed.

- Cap on non-Muslims: max 4 in Central Council, 3 in State Boards.
- Advisory: CEO of Waqf Board preferably Muslim.
- Waqf cannot cover ST land, protected monuments.

Upheaved

- Abolition of waqf by user (prospective).
- Central digital registration of properties.
- Limitation Act, 1963, applies to waqf properties.
- Dedication allowed only from one's own property.



Broader Implications

- **Minority Rights:** Balancing autonomy vs transparency; intrusion fears remain.
- **Separation of Powers:** Judicial check on executive property adjudication.
- **Religious Freedom:** 5-yr clause risks policing religiosity; subject to future scrutiny.
- **Accountability:** Digital registry, limitation law → transparency, curb misuse.
- **Pluralism:** Limited non-Muslim representation—oversight vs autonomy tension.
- **Property & Tribal Rights:** Protection for ST land, monuments reaffirmed.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. The "Waqf by user" doctrine, recently in news, refers to:

- Recognition of land as waqf based solely on continuous religious or charitable use, even without formal deed.
- Dedication of property by any Muslim, regardless of ownership, through oral declaration.
- Automatic vesting of any unused land in the Waqf Board.
- Government's power to reassign waqf land for public use after prolonged non-use.

Hint: Historical recognition principle, now abolished prospectively.

India's Census delay and the problem of unequal representation

Parliament must introduce legal timelines that make both census and delimitation time-bound and predictable

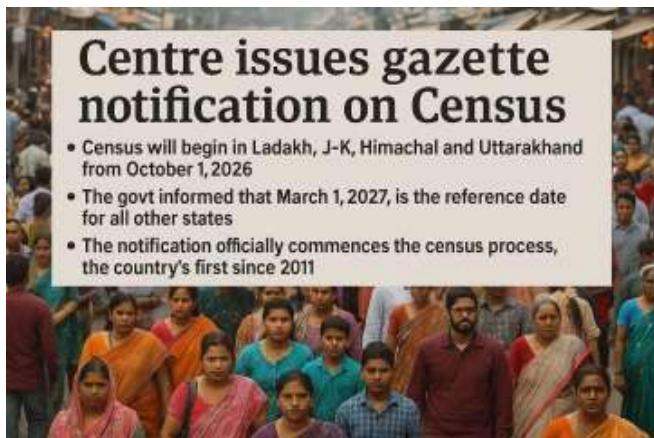
IE Opinion; By Anshul Dalmia and Mayuri Gupta; Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Governance [Link](#)

Why in News?

Census delayed since 2011; next in 2027 → 16-year gap → unequal electoral representation.

Problem

- **Delayed Census:** 2021 postponed (Covid-19); 16 years since 2011.
- **Outdated Constituencies:** Based on 2011 data → mismatch with current population.
- **Political Equality Issue:** Weakens "one person, one vote, one value".
- **No Deadlines:** Census Act, 1948 & Delimitation Acts → vague, no timelines.
- **Representation Crisis:** Fast-growing cities under-represented; slow-growth regions over-represented.



Constitutional & Legal Context

- **Art. 82:** Delimitation after every Census.
- **Delimitation Commission:** Ad hoc, no strict time limits.
- **2002 Case:** Initially based on 1991 data; amendment allowed 2001 data → revealed flaw.

Global Best Practices

- **Indonesia:** Census every 10 yrs, timely redistricting.
- **Philippines:** Census every 5 yrs, quick adjustments.
- **Thailand:** Census cycle linked directly to redistricting.

Implications of Delay

- **Urban Under-representation:** Population ↑ but seats unchanged.
- **Rural Over-representation:** Population growth slower but same seat strength.
- **Democratic Deficit:** Electoral map detached from present realities.
- **Cascading Effect:** Delimitation stalled → fair elections undermined.

Reform Measures (Proposed 4 Steps)

1. Amend **Census Act, 1948** → mandatory every 10 yrs.
2. Publish Census data for delimitation **within 1 yr.**
3. Amend **Art. 82** → delimitation to begin within **6 months** of data release.
4. New **Delimitation Act** → hard **2-yr deadline** for completion.

Core Idea – Conclusion

- Predictable, time-bound Census + Delimitation = uphold **political equality** & democratic legitimacy.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. With reference to the Census in India, consider the following statements:

- 1) The Census Act, 1948 makes it mandatory to conduct a Census every ten years.
- 2) The Census Commissioner of India functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 3) The Census data must be published within one year of enumeration, as per law.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Hint: The Act does not fix periodicity or publication timeline, only gives framework; administrative control is with MHA.

News / Explained / Explained: Can voters be deleted without consent? The law behind Rahul Gandhi's allegation on Aland seat

Explained: Can voters be deleted without consent? The law behind Rahul Gandhi's allegation on Aland seat

Electoral registration officers (EROs) of Parliamentary constituencies are empowered by Section 22 of the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1950, to make corrections and deletions to the electoral roll either on their own or acting on applications made to them.

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

Why in News?

Rahul Gandhi alleged 6,018 voters' names in Karnataka's Aland constituency were attempted to be deleted online without their consent in 2023.

Legal Basis

- **RP Act, 1950 (Sec 22)** – EROs empowered to correct/delete entries.
- **Grounds for deletion** – Death, not ordinarily resident, underage, not citizen, already enrolled elsewhere.
- **Due process** – Inquiry, notice, 7 days for reply, hearing, order.

Claims and counterclaims

ALLEGATIONS BY RAHUL GANDHI

Attempts made to delete 6,018 voters in Aland, Karnataka in 2022, add 6,850 "fake voters" in Rajura, Maha in 2024

ALAND	RAJURA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deletion process involved people from outside Karnataka, the use of software, huge resources and was done at scale Karnataka CID has started investigation seeking details from EC on deletions, but EC not providing details <p>...Ganesh Kumar is protecting people who are doing this. This is being done in a centralised way, on a scale with large resources... They are defending murderers of democracy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fake voters added online with addresses of 'sasti' and names consisting of jumbled works such as "UQjjw"
POLL BODY'S RESPONSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allegations are "incorrect and baseless" No deletion "can be done online by any member of public" "Unsuccessful attempts" to delete voters took place in Aland in 2023 	
KARNATAKA CEO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6,018 applications to delete voters received, only 24 were found genuine and accepted Based on inquiry, Aland ERO filed FIR; details of findings submitted to Kalaburagi SP 	
PROCESS TO DELETE VOTERS FROM ELECTORAL LIST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The process begins with EC's Form 7, which may be filed offline or online through the National Voters' Service Portal and state portals The forms can be filled by the voters themselves, a relative in cases of death, or another voter of the constituency who has reason to believe that an entry is invalid The ERO then scrutinises the application. If it is, <i>prima facie</i>, found valid, a notice is issued to the voter concerned. BLOs may conduct field verification A hearing is held where the ERO hears both the applicant and the voter before passing an order on the deletion request 	

Forms & Procedure

- **Form 7** – For objection/deletion (self or others).
- **Submission** – Online (voter portal/app/ECINet) or offline via BLO.
- **Applicant details** – Own name, EPIC, phone + details of objected voter.
- **Reasons available** – Death / Underage / Shifted / Already enrolled / Not citizen.
- **Declaration** – False info punishable.
- **Processing** – ERO issues notice, BLO field verification, hearing, final order.

Online System

- **ERONet (2018), ECINet (2025)** – Centralised portals for processing.
- **Access** – Applicants (voters portal), officers (ERONet/ECINet).
- **Workflow** – Forms reach ERO/Asst. ERO → notice → inquiry → order.

Gaps & Risks

- **No proof required at filing** – Vulnerable to misuse.
- **Phone-EPIC mismatch possible** – Linking of others' EPIC with different numbers.
- **Safeguards** – Final deletion only after ERO inquiry + BLO field check.

- **Aland case** – Attempted misuse detected during inquiry; CID flagged 18 times to ECI.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. Consider the following with respect to Form 7 under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960:

- 1) It can be filed only for deletion of one's own name.
- 2) It can be filed both offline through BLOs and online via ECINet portal.
- 3) No documentary proof is mandatory at the time of filing.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Hint: Others' names too can be objected against.

News / Explained / What to know about Ladakh protests demanding statehood, autonomy from Centre

What to know about Ladakh protests demanding statehood, autonomy from Centre

Ladakh protests, Sonam Wangchuk hunger strike: The issue dates back to 2019, since Article 370 was repealed and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 was passed.

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

Why in News?

Ladakh protests (Sept 24, 2025): 4 killed, 30 injured; BJP office set on fire; triggered shutdown; Sonam Wangchuk ended 15-day hunger strike.



Background of Issue

- **2019 J&K Reorganisation Act** → J&K bifurcated into 2 UTs: J&K (with legislature) & Ladakh (without legislature).
- **Direct Centre rule** → Local population feels excluded from decision-making.
- **Loss of powers** → Hill Development Councils weakened, job recruitment issues post-separation from J&K.

Key Demands

- **Statehood** → Full legislative powers, not just UT status.
- **6th Schedule inclusion** → Autonomous District Councils for tribal-majority Ladakh (90% ST population).
- **Decentralisation** → Safeguard land, jobs, resources from industrial exploitation.
- **PSC & Jobs** → Early recruitment, Ladakh Public Service Commission.
- **Political representation** → Separate LS seats for Leh & Kargil.

Sixth Schedule Context

- **Provision** → Art. 244, 6th Schedule → ADCs in NE (Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura).
- **Powers** → Control over land, forests, water, agriculture, policing, health, etc.
- **Precedent** → 10 ADCs functional in NE; strong demand for similar setup in Ladakh.

Role of Sonam Wangchuk

- **Identity** → Engineer, innovator, Ramon Magsaysay Awardee (2018), inspiration for “3 Idiots.”
- **Advocacy** → Since 2019, demanded Scheduled Area status under 6th Schedule; backed by LAB & KDA.
- **Symbolic protests** →
 - 2024: 21-day fast in sub-zero temps.
 - Planned ‘Pashmina March’ (blocked by Sec. 144).
 - 2024: “Delhi Chalo Padyatra” with 4-point agenda.
- **Current stand** → Urging peaceful movement, warns against corporates & mining lobby exploitation.

Protest Trajectory

- **2019** → Student-led protests, LAB & KDA formed.

- **2023–24** → Hunger strikes, failed MHA talks, shepherds’ issues (land loss, Chinese activity on LAC).
- **2024 Sept** → Delhi Chalo Padyatra with 4-point charter.
- **2025 Sept** → Violent escalation, police firing, fatalities; Wangchuk ends fast to prevent derailment.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. With reference to the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, consider the following statements:

- 1) It is applicable only to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram.
- 2) ADCs under it can levy certain taxes and regulate land transfer.
- 3) The Governor of the concerned State has the power to increase or decrease the area of an ADC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Hint: All three correct.

[News](#) / [Explained](#) / [Explained Law](#) / Supreme Court to decriminalise defamation? What the law says, how this may be possible

Supreme Court to decriminalise defamation? What the law says, how this may be possible

As the present bench has signalled, the question of whether this colonial-era offence continues to serve a purpose in a democracy remains open. In 2016, the Supreme Court had upheld criminal defamation as constitutional.

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

Why in News?

SC (Sept 22, 2025) hinted → "time to decriminalise defamation"; reconsidering 2016 *Subramanian Swamy v. UoI* ruling upholding criminal defamation.

Defamation in Law

- **Definition (BNS §356)** → words/signs/publications harming reputation.
- **Scope** → dead persons, companies, associations, ironic/alternative remarks.
- **Harm test** → lowers moral/intellectual/caste/occupation character, credit, or dignity.



Civil vs Criminal Defamation

- **Civil** → private wrong → damages/compensation.
- **Criminal** → public offence → fine + imprisonment.
- **Conditions** → defamatory nature + identifiable target + publication.
- **Mens rea** → intent/knowledge of harm essential.
- **Truth defence** → civil = absolute; criminal = only if “public good”.
- **Criticism** → chilling effect on media/activists; misuse to silence dissent.

Present Case (JNU Prof. vs The Wire)

- **2016** → Wire linked prof. to dossier (sex racket/separatist claims).
- **2017** → Magistrate summons.
- **2023** → SC sent matter back for review.
- **2024** → fresh summons upheld by Delhi HC.
- **2025** → Appeal before SC, reopening debate.

2016 SC Ruling (*Subramanian Swamy v. UoI*)

- **Held** → criminal defamation constitutional.
- **Reasoning** →
 - Art.19(1)(a) not absolute; Art.19(2) allows restriction.
 - Reputation = dignity = part of Art.21 (life & liberty).

- Harm to individual → harm to society.
- Proportionality test satisfied (exceptions for fair comment, reports, criticism).
- Truth + “public good” as safeguard.
- **Rejection** → chilling effect argument dismissed; emphasized dignity, fraternity, stability.

Path to Decriminalisation

- **Current hurdle** → 2016 precedent + 2024 Law Commission reaffirmation.
- **Procedure** →
 - Fresh constitutional challenge by accused.
 - Two-judge bench can't overrule; must refer to CJI.
 - CJI may constitute ≥ 5 -judge Constitution Bench (Art.145(3)).
- **Shift needed** → Court must rethink balance: free speech (Art.19(1)(a)) ♦ reputation (Art.21).

Test Your Knowledge

Q. In the context of Indian constitutional law, the principle of proportionality is applied to determine whether:

- Fundamental Rights can be suspended during national emergency.
- A restriction on a Fundamental Right is reasonable under Article 19(2).
- Directive Principles can override Fundamental Rights.
- Parliament can amend Fundamental Rights under Article 368.

Hint: Think → how SC tests "reasonableness" of restrictions on rights (esp. Art.19 cases).

Q. Which of the following correctly distinguishes civil defamation from criminal defamation in India?

- 1) Civil defamation requires proof of malice, whereas criminal defamation does not.
- 2) In civil defamation, truth is an absolute defence; in criminal defamation, truth must also serve public good.
- 3) Civil defamation is treated as a private wrong; criminal defamation is considered a public offence.

Select the correct answer:

(a) 1 and 2 only

- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Hint: Recall → difference lies in (i) truth defence rule and (ii) private vs public wrong; “malice” is not mandatory in civil law.

News / Explained / Why does Ladakh want to be part of the Sixth Schedule?

Why does Ladakh want to be part of the Sixth Schedule?

The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 provides for the formation of autonomous administrative divisions — Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) — that have some legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy within a state.

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

Why in News?

Massive protests in Leh (Sep 24, 2025) → Demand for statehood & inclusion of Ladakh under Sixth Schedule → Violence, deaths, shutdown.



Sixth Schedule Basics

- **Constitutional basis** → Art. 244(2) & Sixth Schedule.
- **Applies to** → Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram (3 ADCs each), Tripura (1 ADC).
- **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)** → 30 members (↑ to 40+ in BTC), 5-yr term.
- **Powers** → Legislation on land, forest, water, agri, customs, inheritance, local policing, mining etc.
- **Purpose** → Protect tribal identity, self-rule, socio-cultural autonomy.

Why Ladakh Demands Sixth Schedule?

- **Loss of representation** → UT of J&K has legislature; Ladakh UT doesn't. Earlier: 4 MLAs in J&K Assembly → now ruled by bureaucrats.
- **Identity fears** → 97% tribal (Buddhist & Shia Muslim). Domicile policy in J&K fuels fear of land alienation, demographic change.
- **Weak local councils** → Leh & Kargil Hill Councils exist but limited powers (minor taxes, land allotment). Not equivalent to ADCs.
- **Development neglect** → Earlier felt dominated by J&K politics (Kashmir/Jammu-centric). Now more alienation from Centre.
- **Cultural & linguistic concerns** → Distinct Ladakhi identity (Tibetan-Buddhist heritage) under threat.
- **Political promises** → PM's 2019 assurance of respecting aspirations; expectations not met.

Support for Inclusion?

- **NCST recommendation (2019)** → Sixth Schedule for Ladakh due to tribal majority, cultural uniqueness, land safeguards.
- **Precedent of special protections** → Similar to NE tribal belts → restrict outsider land ownership.

Challenges to Inclusion

- **Constitutional limit** → Sixth Schedule confined to NE states. Rest of India → Fifth Schedule applies.
- **No precedent** → Even Nagaland & Arunachal (100% tribal) not under Sixth Schedule.
- **Centre's hesitation** → Home Ministry cites legal-constitutional barrier; would need constitutional amendment.

Way Forward

- Govt options → (i) Extend Sixth Schedule via amendment; (ii) Strengthen Hill Councils with ↑ autonomy; (iii) Statehood demand under consideration.
- Stakes → Balancing national integration, local aspirations, tribal identity protection.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. With reference to the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

- 1) It provides for Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) with legislative, judicial, and financial powers.
- 2) It applies to certain tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Manipur only.
- 3) The Bodoland Territorial Council is the only ADC with power to make laws on more than 30 subjects.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Hint:

- Stmt 1 True → ADCs have legislative, judicial, financial powers (land, customs, inheritance, local taxes, etc.).
- Stmt 2 Trap → Applies to Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura (not Manipur).
- Stmt 3 True → Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) → lawmaking on 39 subjects (exception).

UPSC @ 100: The story of India's top recruiter

Before its current name, between 1937 and January 26, 1950, it was called the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC). On October 1 this year, the highest recruiter of officials to the Indian government will enter its centenary year.

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

Why in News?

UPSC enters its centenary year on Oct 1, 2025 (founded 1926 as Public Service Commission).



Origins & Evolution

- 1600s → EIC mercantile servants, no bureaucracy
- 1757 (Plassey), 1764 (Buxar) → shift to ruling role
- Cornwallis, Hastings, Wellesley → bureaucracy reshaped
- 1854 Macaulay Report → merit-based recruitment
- 1855 Civil Service Commission (UK) → extended to ICS (1858)
- 1922 → ICS exams held in India, Indian entry allowed
- 1924 Lee Commission → rec. Public Service Commission
- 1926 PSC estd. → Sir Ross Barker (first chair)
- 1937 → Federal PSC (Govt. of India Act, 1935)
- 1947 → FPSC under H.K. Kripalani (first Indian chief)
- 1950 → FPSC → UPSC; ICS → IAS

Constitutional Mandate

- Article 320 → UPSC to conduct exams for Union/State services
- Independent constitutional body → estd. credibility in democracy

Institutional Development

- HQ: Dholpur House, New Delhi (since 1952; erstwhile Raja of Dholpur's palace)
- Reform commissions →
 - ARC (1966), Thorat (1967), Kothari (1976)
 - Satish Chandra (1989-90), Alagh (2001), P.C. Hota (2004), Nigavekar (2012)
- RTI → forced exam transparency (initial resistance)

Current Challenges

- Malpractice & ethics crisis → e.g., Puja Khedkar IAS dismissal (2024)
- Credibility ↓ for both UPSC & State PSCs
- Debate → relevance of colonial-era recruitment model vs needs of 21st century governance

Test Your Knowledge 02

Q. The Macaulay Committee (1854) is often seen as a watershed in the evolution of India's bureaucracy because it:

- Recommended the Indianisation of civil services through simultaneous exams in India and England
- Introduced merit-based recruitment through open competitive examinations
- Created the first provincial-level public service commissions
- Abolished the patronage-based system of the East India Company

Hint: Think of how the 1854 report transformed recruitment from patronage and nomination → to an open competitive exam system.

Why was X's 'censorship' challenge rejected?

Why has the Karnataka High Court dismissed X Corp's petition against the Union government's Sahyog portal? What is the function of this portal, operated by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre? Has X complied with similar rules in other countries?

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

Why in News?

Karnataka HC dismissed X Corp's plea against Union govt's **Sahyog portal**, upholding its legality for content takedown under **Sec. 79(3)(b) IT Act**.



Sahyog Portal: Function & Legal Basis

- Launched: Oct 2024 by MHA, run by I4C
- Centralised platform → takedown orders to ISPs, social media, web hosts

- Purpose** → operationalise Sec. 79 safe harbour limits
- Safe harbour conditional** → lost if unlawful content not removed post govt notice
- Case link → *Shabana v. Govt of NCT Delhi (2024)* revealed need for real-time coordination

X Corp's Arguments

- Called Sahyog a "censorship portal"
- Govt using Sec. 79(3)(b)** → bypass Sec. 69A safeguards
- Sec. 69A** → due process: committee, hearing, reasoned order, judicial review
- Relied on Shreya Singhal v. UoI (2015)** → SC upheld 69A as only valid framework
- Claimed parallel regime** → arbitrary powers to thousands of officials
- Supported by DigiPub (92 news outlets)** → disproportionate impact on journalism

Govt's Defence

- Internet ≠ traditional media** → faster virality → stricter oversight needed
- Safe harbour** = statutory privilege, not right
- Sec. 79 ≠ censorship** → only loss of immunity if non-compliant
- Sahyog** = **administrative tool**, not blocking regime
- X lacks locus standi** → Art. 19 applies only to citizens
- X complies abroad** (e.g., US) but resists India
- 38 intermediaries** (Google, Amazon, Microsoft, Telegram) already onboard

HC Ruling

- Petition "devoid of merit"** → Sahyog = "instrument of public good"
- Article 19 rights only for citizens** → X cannot claim
- India ≠ "playground" for platforms** to evade accountability
- Entry into Indian market** → privilege tied to responsibility
- X complies with US laws** (Take It Down Act 2025) → hypocrisy in India
- Rejected claim Sahyog lacked legal basis** → 2021 IT Rules = new framework, old precedents not applicable

Implications

- Expands govt control over online content** → risk of broader censorship

- **Criteria for “unlawful content” remain vague** → selective enforcement risk
- **May curb political accountability** & critical reporting
- **Enforcement inconsistency** → not sustainable solution
- **X plans appeal** → possible larger HC Bench or SC review
- **Conflict with Bombay HC 2023 ruling** (struck down PIB fact-check unit for violating natural justice)

A brief into key legal provisions and rulings mentioned

⚖️ Section 79 IT Act, 2000 – Safe Harbour

- Shields intermediaries (social media, ISPs, web hosts) from liability for user content.
- ♦ Exemption lost if:
 - They aid/abet unlawful activity, OR
 - They fail to remove unlawful content after govt/court notice (Sec. 79(3)(b)).

⚖️ Section 69A IT Act, 2000 – Blocking Power

- Empowers Central Govt to block online content.
- Grounds → same as Art. 19(2) restrictions (sovereignty, security, public order, etc.).
- Procedural safeguards:
 - Govt committee examines,
 - Intermediary given hearing,
 - Reasoned written order issued,
 - Judicial review possible.

⚖️ Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)

- SC struck down Sec. 66A IT Act (vague & arbitrary).
- Upheld Sec. 69A as only valid framework for blocking, with safeguards.
- Clarified → takedown under Sec. 79(3)(b) valid only if based on court order/govt notification.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. With reference to the Sahyog portal recently upheld by the Karnataka High Court, consider the following statements:

- 1) It is operated by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- 2) It enables real-time takedown orders under Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act, 2000.
- 3) Safe harbour protection is automatically available to intermediaries, irrespective of compliance with takedown notices.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only

Hint:

- Operator = MHA (I4C), not MeitY
- Sec. 79(3)(b) → real-time takedown notices
- Safe harbour = conditional, not automatic

NEWS IN SHORT: POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Reservation in Private Educational Institutions (Article 15(5) Implementation)

Why in News?

Parliamentary Standing Committee unanimously recommended mandatory central legislation for SC/ST/OBC reservations in private higher education institutions on August 20, 2025.

Article 15(5)

the Government can make any special arrangements for the advancement of disadvantaged classes of citizens, socially or educationally, as well as ST and SC communities, for admission in educational institutions, including private institutions. Minority educational institutions are to be an exception.

This particular Article 15 of Indian Constitution Amendment was incorporated in the 93rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 2005. The Supreme Court upheld the legality of the 93rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 2005 in the case of *Ashok Kumar Thakur v. Union of India*.

Current Representation Crisis

- Abysmally low representation in private institutions:** BITS Pilani shows 10% OBC, 0.5% SC, 0.8% ST among 5,137 students
- Three private Institutions of Eminence** averaged 0.89% SC, 0.53% ST, 11.16% OBC students
- High fees** creating insurmountable barriers for marginalized communities
- 65.3% colleges are private unaided with 517 private universities existing
- Public sector incapable of accommodating growing student population under NEP's 50% gross enrollment target

Committee Recommendations

- Reservation percentages:** 15% SC, 7.5% ST, 27% OBC in private higher educational institutions
- Central legislation:** Parliament must pass law mandating Article 15(5) implementation across all private institutions
- Reimbursement model:** Government should compensate private institutions similar to RTE Act's 25% reservation mechanism
- Infrastructure support:** Adequate funding, public-private partnerships, low-interest loans for seat expansion
- Quality maintenance:** Increase total seats rather than reducing general category admissions

Centre-Manipur-Kuki Agreement & NH-2 Opening

Why in News?

The Centre, Manipur government, and Kuki-Zo groups signed a landmark tripartite peace agreement on September 4, 2025, ending a two-year blockade of National Highway-2 amid ethnic violence that has plagued Manipur since May 2023.

Key Points:

- Suspension of Operations Renewed:** A one-year tripartite Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement was signed with revised ground rules, reaffirming Manipur's territorial integrity
- Highway Reopens:** National Highway-2, the vital supply route connecting Manipur with Nagaland and rest of Northeast, will reopen for free movement of commuters and essential goods after being blocked for over two years

- Camp Relocation:** Seven designated militant camps will be relocated away from conflict-prone areas, with weapons transferred to nearest CRPF/BSF facilities for better oversight
- Peace Process:** The agreement aims for a negotiated solution to restore lasting peace in Manipur, which has witnessed ethnic violence since May 2023, claiming over 260 lives and displacing 50,000 people

Revised terms and conditions

The Centre and the Manipur govt signed the Suspension of Ops agreement with Kuki National Organisation, United People's Front

- KNO, UPF and their constituents to not partake in violence, abide by territorial integrity of Manipur
- No association with any armed group
- No offensive operations against security forces, or public
- Security forces will not launch operations against KNO, UPF and their constituents
- KNO, UPF to reduce designated camps, relocate camps from vulnerable areas

Monitoring group to check enforcement of rules, act against violations

Kuki-Zo Council to open NH-2 for free movement of commuters, essential goods.

PM Visit Context: This breakthrough comes ahead of Prime Minister Modi's expected first visit to Manipur on September 12-13 since the ethnic violence began

'Not citizenship proof': SC directs poll panel to accept Aadhaar as 12th document in Bihar SIR

Why in News?

Supreme Court (on Sep 8, 2025) directed Election Commission to accept Aadhaar as the 12th identity document for Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls, clarifying it is not proof of citizenship.

Key Details

Decision by the Court

- Aadhaar now included as 12th document to verify identity during Bihar's SIR.
- Election Commission (EC) must issue instructions to officials immediately.
- However, Aadhaar cannot be used as proof of citizenship.
- EC retains the authority to verify authenticity of Aadhaar, and request additional proofs.

Court Proceedings

- **Kapil Sibal (RJD)** highlighted ground-level non-compliance—Booth Level Officers (BLOs) refusing Aadhaar, issuing show-cause notices.
- SC emphasized Aadhaar may serve identity or residence, not citizenship.
- EC argued it has power to verify citizenship, but court held that citizenship decisions must adhere to constitutional process.
- SC urged clear communication: labels like "12th document" necessary to ensure implementation by field staff.



Statutory Context

- **Section 23(4) of the Representation of the People Act** recognizes Aadhaar as identity/residence document.
- **The Aadhaar Act (2016)** itself asserts that Aadhaar is not citizenship proof.
- Court stressed identity inclusion shouldn't lead to over-inclusive rolls, and flagged risks of forged documents—but this applies to all documents.

Implications

- **Inclusion benefits:** Aadhaar covers ~99% of population—helps prevent disenfranchisement of voters lacking other documents.

- **Guardrail:** Upholds electoral integrity by enabling verification and preventing misuse.
- **Process clarity:** Establishes clear framework for ground officers, ensuring prior orders don't remain unimplemented.
- **Final electoral roll** scheduled for September 30, 2025.
- **Next court hearing** on the matter set for September 15, 2025.

Manki-Munda Self-Governance

Why in News?

Sept 9, 2025: Ho adivasis in West Singhbhum, Jharkhand, protested against DC's alleged interference in Manki-Munda self-governance.



Traditional System

- **Munda:** hereditary village head; settles socio-political disputes.
- **Manki:** head of 8–15 villages (pir); hears unresolved cases.
- **Decentralised, internal:** no tax/revenue role originally.
- **Hereditary succession:** posts also include assistants.

Colonial Transformation

- **East India Company:** taxation post-Plassey (1757), Buxar (1764), Permanent Settlement (1793).
- **Ho, Kol revolts** (1821–22, 1831–32) against land seizure.
- **Compromise:** British recognised system under Wilkinson's Rules (1833, 31 rules).
- **Kolhan Government Estate** (1837) created; Mundas/Mankis became intermediaries.
- **Impact:** influx of outsiders (dikkus) → 1,579 (1867) → 15,755 (1897); private property concept; raiyats, pattas introduced.

Post-Independence Continuity

- Kolhan Government Estate dissolved 1947**, but Wilkinson's Rules continue.
- Courts upheld customs** (till 2000); Mora Ho vs State of Bihar: rules = customs, not law, but allowed continuation.
- Jharkhand govt 2021**: Nyaya Panch recognised for revenue, law & order, land disputes.

Present Conflict

- Complaints**: Mundas blocking OBC/SC livelihoods, absenteeism, delay in documents.
- DC's 9-point directive**: transparency, based on Hukuknama 1837; misinterpreted as removal.
- Administration view**: no interference, only clarification.
- Vacant posts**: 1,850 sanctioned; ~200 vacant; 50 filled via Gram Sabhas.

Larger Issues

- Tribal autonomy vs state oversight**: fear of erosion of self-rule.
- Hereditary leadership**: uneducated leaders struggle in modern bureaucracy.
- Youth voices**: demand reforms, merit-based selection.
- Non-tribal raiyats**: sometimes bypass system → resentment.
- DC's role today**: limited but crucial in succession, land disputes, interpretation.

Significance

- Cultural survival**: symbol of Ho identity, resistance to outsiders.
- Legal anomaly**: pre-colonial/colonial rules still valid; partial exemptions from civil laws.
- Federal/tribal governance debate**: autonomy, integration, reform.

Govt employees can opt for UPS till September 30

Why in News?

Govt employees have time till Sept 30, 2025 to opt for **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)**; uptake remains very low.

What is UPS?

- Announced**: Cabinet, Aug 2024; effective Apr 1, 2025.
- Coverage**: Central govt employees under NPS (post-Jan 1, 2004 entrants).

Unified Pension Scheme
Deadline Extended!

New Last Date: 30th September 2025

Eligible subscribers now have 3 more months to opt for the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).

- Existing Central Govt. employees under NPS
- Past retirees
- Legally wedded spouse of deceased retirees

Don't miss the revised deadline!

- Nature**: Optional (not mandatory like NPS).
- Assured pension**: 50% of average basic pay (last 12 months) with 25 yrs service.
- Family pension**: 60% of pension to spouse on death.
- Minimum guarantee**: ₹10,000/month after 10 yrs service.
- Corpus**: Govt contribution 8.5% of basic + DA.
- Lump sum**: 1/10th of last basic + DA for each completed 6 months.
- Ineligible**: Dismissed employees.

	Old pension scheme (OPS)	New pension scheme (NPS)	Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)
Pension received	50% of last basic & DA	up to 60% commutation + 40% to invest in Pension annuity plans	50% of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months
No. of Years to serve for full pension	Minimum 20 years	NA	Minimum 25 years
Minimum Pension	Rs. 9000	NA	Rs. 10000
No. of Years to serve for minimum pension	Minimum 10 years	NA	Minimum 10 years
Family Pension	60% of last Pension	NA	60% of last Pension
Employee's contribution	No contribution	10% of (Basic + DA)	10% of (Basic + DA)
Employer's contribution	Full responsibility	14% of (Basic + DA)	18.5% of (Basic + DA)
GPF facility	Yes	No	No
Commutation allowed	Full amount of GPF	up to 60% of the amount	The employee can withdraw up to 60% of the individual pension corpus
Gratuity	Yes	Yes	Yes
Inflation indexation	DR revised 2 times a year, based on AICPIN-IW	No	DR revised 2 times a year, based on AICPIN-IW
Lump sum amount on Retirement	100% of Employee's contribution	No	1/10 th of monthly emoluments (pay + DA) for every completed six months of service
VRS	50% of last basic & DA (minimum 20 years of service)	NA	Pension at the age of 60
For employees of	Central govt. employees, State govt. employees	Both government and private sector employees	Central govt. employees, State govt. employees

UPS vs NPS vs OPS

- OPS**: No contribution; 50% of last drawn pay + DA; fully govt funded.
- NPS**: Employee 10% + Govt 14%; market-linked, no assured payout, corpus-based.
- UPS**: Employee 10% + Govt 10% + Govt 8.5% corpus; assured payout (50% avg basic of last yr).
- Flexibility**: UPS subscribers can revert to NPS once (before superannuation/VRS).

Why Slow Uptake?

- Low trust**: Employees still demand OPS restoration.

- Perception:** UPS ≠ OPS (lower benefits, contribution burden).
- Awareness gap:** Ongoing govt outreach (Sep 9 meeting with ministries).
- Short window:** Initial deadline June 30, extended to Sept 30.
- Data:** Only 40,000 opted out of 23.94 lakh NPS employees (as of Sep 15).

Kurmi ST agitation issue

Why in News?

Kurmis in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha revived agitation (Sept 20, 2025) demanding ST status & Kurmali language in 8th Schedule.



Background

- Listed as ST in 1931 Census → excluded in 1950 ST list (no notification).
- Classified as OBC post-1950.
- 2004: Jharkhand govt recommended ST inclusion.
- 2022–23: Multiple rail/road blockades, protests.

- 2024: WB CM met Kurmi reps, promised review.

Community Profile

- Agrarian/peasant community.
- Population: ~50 lakh in WB; presence in Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar.
- Concentrated: Junglemahal, Chota Nagpur plateau.
- Claim: aboriginal status, British-era docs list as tribe, ST-like rituals.
- Occupation: ~80% farming, ~20% jobs/business.

Current Agitation

- Led by Adivasi Kurmi Samaj (AKS).
- Indefinite blockade in WB (Jhargram, Bankura, Paschim Medinipur, Purulia).
- Support from AJSU (BJP ally) in Jharkhand; Sudesh Mahto joined protest.
- Calcutta HC (Sept 18, 2025): agitation illegal, unconstitutional.

Political Impact

- WB:** Bipolar contest TMC vs BJP (2021 polls).
 - 40 seats in Kurmi belt: TMC 24, BJP 16.
 - BJP margins low (avg 6k); TMC larger margins (avg 17k).
 - Kurmi voting can swing ~30 seats.
- ST opposition:** Existing STs resist Kurmi inclusion.
- Jharkhand:** Strong Kurmi presence (Palamu, N. & S. Chotanagpur, Kolhan).
- Bihar:** Smaller presence (Purnia, Katihar, Araria), kinship with OBC Kurmis.



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Reference Study Material



Prelims Sectional Tests

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

Mains Sectional Tests

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



Other Details

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

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

Fee
₹15,000/-

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

Concession Details

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

September 2025

News / Explained / Why Supreme Court wants to revisit Right to Education exemption for minority schools

Why Supreme Court wants to revisit Right to Education exemption for minority schools

Enacted in 2009, the Right to Education introduced several norms, like a quota in schools for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. However, it allowed some exemptions.

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

Why in News?

Supreme Court questions its 2014 judgment that exempted minority schools from Right to Education Act, referring matter to larger bench for reconsideration.



Background: Right to Education Act 2009

- **Core mandate:** Free elementary education for children aged 6-14 under Article 21A
- **Key requirements:** 25% quota for disadvantaged students in private schools, qualified teachers, proper infrastructure, no corporal punishment
- **Original exemption:** Only religious instruction institutions like madrasas excluded, not minority-run schools
- **Child-centric approach:** Focused on individual child's right rather than institutional autonomy

The 2014 Pramati Judgment Problem

- **Blanket exemption granted:** All minority schools (aided/unaided) freed from RTE compliance including 25% quota
- **Constitutional conflict:** Court prioritized Article 30(1) minority rights over Article 21A education rights
- **Immediate misuse:** Many private schools sought minority status to escape RTE obligations
- **Elite shield:** So-called minority institutions continued as exclusive schools without admitting poor children from own community

Current Supreme Court Concerns (September 2025)

- **Undermined universal education:** 2014 ruling fragmented common schooling vision and weakened inclusivity
- **Regulatory loophole:** Created surge in institutions seeking minority status to bypass RTE requirements
- **Quality compromise:** Minority school children denied benefits like trained teachers, infrastructure, mid-day meals
- **Social division:** Reinforced divides instead of creating integrated classrooms across communities

Court's New Position

- **Case-by-case approach:** 25% quota impact on minority character should be judged individually, not blanket exemption
- **Same community admission:** Suggested fulfilling quota through disadvantaged children from same minority group
- **Teacher standards apply:** All schools including minority must follow Teacher Eligibility Test for hiring
- **Balance needed:** Article 21A and Article 30(1) can coexist without destroying minority identity

Next Steps

- **Larger bench review:** Matter referred to Chief Justice for 7-judge constitution bench
- **Four key questions framed:** Whether 2014 exemption needs reconsideration and how to balance minority rights with universal education
- **Potential outcome:** If overturned, minority schools may need to comply with RTE provisions including 25% quota

News / Explained / Who are particularly vulnerable tribal groups, which the govt wants to be counted separately in the Census?

Who are particularly vulnerable tribal groups, which the govt wants to be counted separately in the Census?

This category was created based on the recommendations of the Dhebar Commission (1960-61) — led by former Member of Parliament U N Dhebar — which had investigated the various issues faced by STs, and in

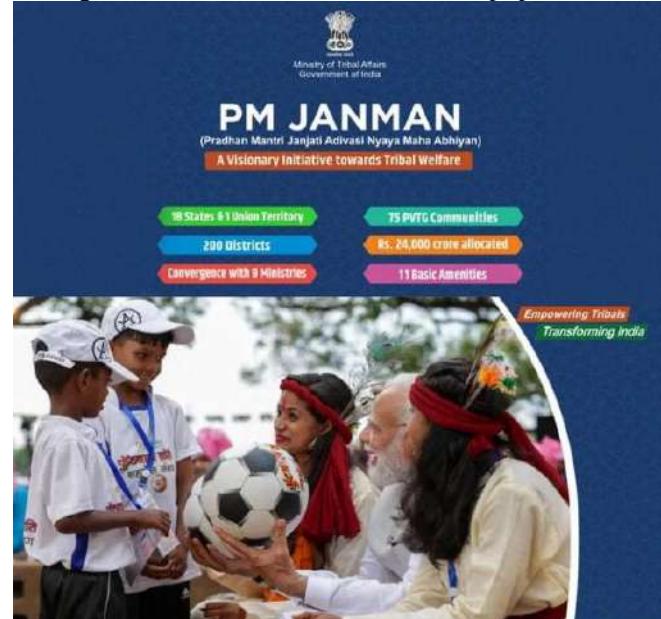
IE Explained; By Nikhil Ghanekar;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Society & Social Justice
[Link](#)

Why in News?

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has requested the Registrar General and Census Commissioner to enumerate Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups separately in the upcoming Census for the first time. This marks a significant step toward better demographic data collection for India's most vulnerable tribal communities.

What are PVTGs?

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups represent a **subcategory of Scheduled Tribes** that exhibit greater vulnerability compared to other Scheduled Tribes. These communities face unique challenges that distinguish them from the broader tribal population.



Key Identifying Criteria

- Declining or stagnant population trends
- Geographical isolation from mainstream society
- Pre-agrarian economic practices including hunting and gathering
- Severe economic backwardness
- Extremely low literacy rates

Current Classification

- 75 tribal groups are currently classified as PVTGs
- Distributed across **18 states and Andaman & Nicobar Islands**
- Despite being a distinct category, they have **never been enumerated separately** in any previous census

Historical Development

Dhebar Commission Foundation

The concept of PVTGs emerged from the **Dhebar Commission (1960-61)** recommendations, led by former MP U N Dhebar. The Commission identified significant disparities in socio-economic conditions between different tribal groups, highlighting the need for special attention to the most vulnerable communities.

Evolution of Classification

- **1974-1979:** Initially 52 groups were identified as **Primitive Tribal Groups** during the Fifth Five-Year Plan
- **2006:** 23 more groups were added to the list
- **2006:** Terminology changed from "Primitive Tribal Groups" to "Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups" to remove the derogatory connotation

Constitutional Status

Out of the 75 PVTGs, only **40 have single entry status** under Article 342 of the Constitution, indicating the complex legal framework surrounding these communities.

Current Population Demographics

Overall Statistics

- **Estimated 47.5 lakh PVTGs** across India as per 2023 government survey
- **13 PVTGs had population less than 1,000** as per 2011 Census

State-wise Distribution

- **Madhya Pradesh:** Highest with 13.22 lakh PVTGs
- **Maharashtra:** 6.7 lakh
- **Andhra Pradesh:** 5.18 lakh

Population Range

- **Smallest group:** Sentinelese with just **15 individuals**
- **Largest group:** Baiga with **4,14,526 people**

Primary Livelihoods

- Food gathering and collection
- Non-timber forest produce harvesting
- Hunting and fishing
- Livestock rearing
- Shifting cultivation
- Traditional artisan works

Government Welfare Initiatives

PM JANMAN Scheme (2023)

The government launched the **PM JANMAN scheme** with a substantial outlay of **Rs 24,104 crore** specifically for PVTG development.

Scheme Targets

- **Safe housing** provision
- **Clean water** access
- **Sanitation** facilities
- **Education** infrastructure
- **Healthcare** services
- **Road connectivity** development
- **Telecommunication** access

- **Sustainable livelihood** opportunities

Coverage

- More than **200 districts** included
- Focus on **22,000 PVTG habitations** across the country

Significance of Separate Census Enumeration

The decision to conduct separate enumeration of PVTGs in the upcoming census represents a crucial policy shift that will:

- Enable **better implementation of targeted schemes**
- Provide **accurate demographic data** for policy planning
- Help track development progress more effectively
- Facilitate resource allocation based on specific community needs
- Support evidence-based policy formulation for these vulnerable populations

This initiative reflects the government's commitment to ensuring that India's most vulnerable tribal communities receive focused attention and resources for their socio-economic development while preserving their unique cultural identities.

Shashi Tharoor writes: Rethinking capitalism and socialism in India and beyond

When young people in Noida or New York question capitalism, they are not necessarily calling for collectivised farms or five-year plans. They are expressing a yearning for fairness, for dignity, for a system that does not leave them behind

IE Explained; By Sashi Tharoor;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Society [Link](#)

Why in News?

Shashi Tharoor writes on capitalism vs socialism in India and globally, amid rising youth dissatisfaction with capitalism.

Global Debate

- **Gallup Poll (US):** Only 54% positive on capitalism (lowest ever); rising support for socialism, esp. youth.
- **Zohran Mamdani:** Democratic Socialist, NY mayoral front-runner, immigrant & underclass appeal.

- **Generational divide:** Republicans → capitalism; Democrats/young → socialism.
- **Youth discontent:** Capitalism = rigged for rich; socialism = fairness, dignity, security.

- **Continuum, not binary:** India to find middle path on capitalism–socialism spectrum.
- **Moral complexity:** Economic choices guided by lived realities, not dogma.

Indian Context

- **Nehruvian socialism:** State-led dev., PSUs, planned economy, foreign investment cautious. Goal = self-reliance + equity.
- **1991 reforms:** Crisis-driven liberalisation; market growth, FDI, tech boom, middle-class rise.
- **Post-reforms issues:** Inequality, jobless growth, corporate concentration, farmers' protests, gig workers, youth unemployment.
- **Hybrid model:** Private hospitals + Ayushman Bharat, MNCs + PDS, billionaires + MGNREGA, welfare + startups.

Key Arguments

- **Not binary:** Most nations = hybrids (markets + welfare).
- **Pragmatism:** State provides public goods (edu, health, food) out of necessity, not ideology.
- **Discontent = fairness demand:** Youth seek opportunity, dignity, protection from misfortune.
- **Historic parallels:** Post-WWII welfare states; NHS (Bevan: healthcare not commodity). India → public edu, cooperatives, rural dev.
- **Modern framing:** Outcomes > ideology. Questions: Does system deliver, protect vulnerable, reward effort fairly?
- **Right-wing critique:** Socialism → dictatorship (Venezuela, Stalin).
- **Left critique:** Capitalism = exploitative; ignores welfare, regulation, redistribution already present.

India-Specific Complexities

- **Identity politics:** Caste, region, religion shape opportunity, social justice.
- **Colonial legacy:** Institutional scars persist.
- **Regional variations:** Different meanings of social justice across states.

Way Forward

- **Balance, not purity:** Efficiency + empathy, innovation + inclusion.
- **Dissatisfaction = engagement:** Demand for change, not rejection of system.

News / Explained / Explained Law / UP caste-based rallies banned: The HC ruling behind the state govt order

UP caste-based rallies banned: The HC ruling behind the state govt order

Caste Based Political Rallies Banned In Uttar Pradesh: The HC did not issue directions to ban caste-based political rallies, but the UP govt has prohibited them. The HC directions came in a case that had nothing to do with caste discrimination.

IE Explained; By Bhupendra Pandey;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Society [Link](#)

Why in News?

UP govt issued order banning caste-based political rallies, caste display on vehicles/signboards, and caste mention in police records → based on Allahabad HC judgment (Sept 16, 2025).

HC Case Background

- Case: *Praveen Chetri v. State of UP* → liquor smuggling accused
- FIR/seizure memo recorded caste of accused (Mali, Thakur, etc.)
- Court: caste mention “regressive, anti-secular, anti-modern”
- Directed DGP affidavit → rejected justification (ID purpose)

Reactions on the HC Verdict

 “We welcome this judgement. Samajwadi Party does not organise such rallies. We are not a caste-based party”
MULAYAM SINGH YADAV
SP Supremo

“It's welcome... Regional parties are organising caste-based rallies over the last few years”
RITA BAHUGUNA
UP Congress Chief

 “The decision will help end caste politics... SP is indulging in appeasement of Muslims, BSP is holding Brahmin rallies...”
LAXMIKANT BAJPAI
UP BJP President

 “I have not seen the order, hence can't comment. Party president Mayawati will issue a statement after going through the order”
BRRIJESH PATHAK
BSP MP

HC Observations

- Caste system = threat to secularism, national unity, integrity
- Caste identifiers on vehicles/homes/social media = “cultural narcissism,” “toxic digital masculinity”
- Caste bias embedded in State, esp. police practices
- Invoked reformers: Ambedkar, Phule, Narayana Guru, Vivekananda, Roy, Dayanand, Vinoba, Veerasingam
- Promotion of caste identity = “anti-national”

HC Directions (Binding)

- Delete caste/tribe column in police forms, notices, CCTNS portal
- FIRs, arrest memos, recovery memos → no caste mention
- Remove caste-based signboards in public spaces
- Frame SOPs → prohibit caste disclosure in investigation

HC Recommendations (Non-Binding)

- Amend MV Rules → ban caste slogans/identifiers on vehicles
- Amend IT Rules 2021 → flag caste-glorifying/hate content
- Media literacy + anti-casteism campaigns (youth platforms)
- Citizen monitoring/reporting portals, mobile apps

UP Govt Order (Sept 22, 2025)

- **Ban:** caste-based political rallies (public order, unity)
- **Vehicles:** challan caste stickers/emblems under MV Act
- **Public spaces:** remove caste signboards/“caste territories”
- **Police:** caste not in FIRs/records; mother’s name added
- **Exception:** cases under SC/ST Act
- **Social media:** monitor caste-hatred; strict action

Key Constitutional & Legal Links

- Art. 14 → Equality before law
- Art. 15(1) → No discrimination by caste
- Art. 17 → Abolition of untouchability

- Art. 19(1)(a) → Free speech vs. caste hate speech limits
- Art. 21 → Dignity & privacy
- SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 → exception for caste mention
- MV Act 1988, IT Rules 2021 → relevant for enforcement

Test Your Knowledge

Q. Which of the following best explains the constitutional basis for the ban on caste-based political rallies by a State Government?

- (a) Directive Principles of State Policy under Part IV
- (b) Restriction on free speech in the interest of public order under Article 19(2)
- (c) Fundamental Duty under Article 51A(e)
- (d) Residual powers of the State Legislature under Article 248

Hint: Caste rallies = political expression (Art. 19(1)(a)) → State can curb only under “reasonable restrictions” → specifically, in interest of public order (Art. 19(2)).

NEWS IN SHORT: SOCIETY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

PRS Legislative Brief on Rajasthan Coaching Centres (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2025

Why in News?

PRS Legislative Research published a detailed Legislative Brief on September 2, 2025, analyzing the revised Rajasthan Coaching Centres (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2025 after the Select Committee submitted its report.

KEY POINTS IN THE BILL

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regulatory authority: 12-member body with civil court-like powers ➤ No misleading ads: Institutes can't fake toppers or inflate success rates ➤ Public transparency: Mandatory disclosure of faculty, infrastructure, and ownership ➤ Mandatory fee refunds: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students leaving mid-term get refunds within 10 days ➤ Mental health focus: Centres must hire psychologists, counsellors, and advisors ➤ Teacher training: Resilience training for handling student stress ➤ Penalties: Rs 50,000 fine for first violations, Rs 2 lakh for repeat offences
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Background

- **Bill Introduction:** Introduced in Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on March 19, 2025
- **Committee Review:** Referred to Select Committee on March 24, 2025 (Chair: Dr. Prem Chand Bairwa)
- **Committee Report:** Submitted on September 1, 2025
- **PRS Brief:** Published on September 2, 2025, based on Committee's revised version

Key Provisions

- **Mandatory Registration:** All coaching centres with 50+ students must register separately for each branch
- **Infrastructure Standards:** Specified infrastructure requirements and counselling systems
- **Fee Regulation:** Fair and reasonable fees, payment in minimum 4 installments, pro-rata refunds
- **Teaching Limits:** Maximum 5 hours daily classes, weekly offs mandatory
- **Two-tier Structure:** District Committees (headed by DM) and State Authority for regulation

Regulatory Framework

- **District Level:** District Magistrate-led committees for registration and complaint handling
- **State Level:** Rajasthan Coaching Centres Control and Regulation Authority for monitoring
- **Penalties:** Rs 2 lakh first violation, Rs 5 lakh second violation, registration cancellation for repeated violations

Key Issues Highlighted by PRS

- **Scope Limitation:** Does not cover online coaching centres providing similar services
- **Cost Impact:** Regulatory compliance may increase costs ultimately borne by students
- **Broader Context:** Addresses coaching centre symptoms rather than underlying education system issues

Himachal declared 'fully literate state', achieves 99.30% literacy

- Himachal Pradesh was in the news because it has been declared a "fully literate state" after reaching a 99.30% literacy rate.

- Under the **ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) programme**, a region qualifies as fully literate once at least 95% of people aged 15+ can read, write and handle basic numeracy.
- With this feat Himachal joins **Tripura, Mizoram, Goa and Ladakh** in the elite group of states/UTs that have crossed the full-literacy threshold.
- The state's literacy has risen from just 7% in 1947 to 99.3% in 2025, a change driven by community volunteerism and sustained government campaigns.
- Himachal also now ranks first in the country for its student-teacher ratio, illustrating the education infrastructure that supported the jump to full literacy.

Fully Literate State Declared

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu declared the state fully literate on International Literacy Day, celebrating a 99.30% literacy rate. This milestone was achieved well ahead of the national target of 95%.



HIMACHAL PRADESH ACHIEVES 99.3% LITERACY, BECOMES FOURTH FULLY LITERATE STATE IN INDIA

About ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) Programme

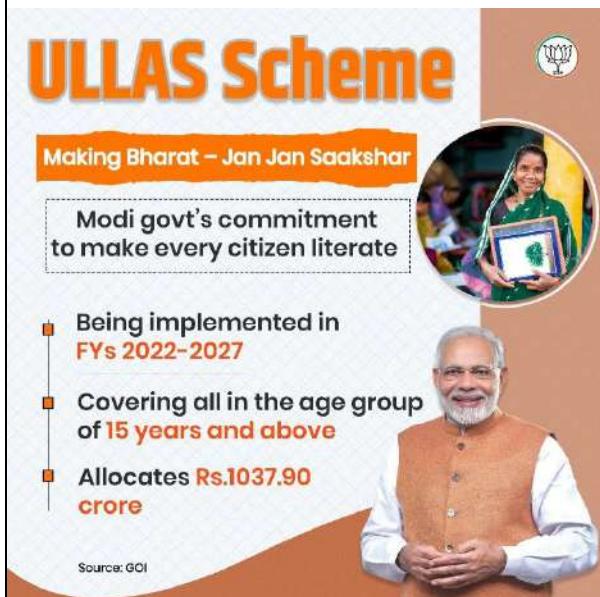
Programme Overview

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** launched by **Ministry of Education** for FY 2022-27 (5 years duration)
- Also known as **Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram** (New India Literacy Programme)

- **Financial outlay:** Rs. 1,037.90 crore (Central share: Rs. 700 crore, State share: Rs. 337.90 crore)

Target & Objective

- **Target group:** Adults aged 15 years and above who missed formal schooling opportunities
- **Goal:** Cover 5 crore learners (1 crore per year) across all states/UTs
- Focus on females and educationally backward states



Full Literacy Definition

- **Literacy:** Ability to read, write, and compute with comprehension plus critical life skills like digital and financial literacy
- **Full Literacy:** Achieving 95% literacy rate in a State/UT is considered equivalent to being fully literate

Programme Components

- 1) Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)
- 2) Critical Life Skills (health, hygiene, nutrition, environment, gender equality)
- 3) Basic Education (equivalent to Class 3, 5, or 8 level)
- 4) Vocational Skills Development
- 5) Continuing Education

Implementation Method

- Volunteer-based teaching through students, community members, and educators
- Uses schools as implementation units and community infrastructure

- Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment System (OTLAS) in collaboration with NIC, NCERT, and NIOS

Assessment & Certification

- FLNAT (Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test) - 150-mark test
- Certification provided by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)
- 90% average pass rate nationally, with 1.03 crore people certified so far

Former PM Manmohan Singh posthumously honoured with P V Narasimha Rao Memorial Award

Why in News?

Former PM Dr Manmohan Singh has been posthumously conferred the P V Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics.



Late PM Dr. Manmohan Singh conferred posthumous PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economic contributions

The award was received on his behalf by his wife Gursharan Kaur

Key Details

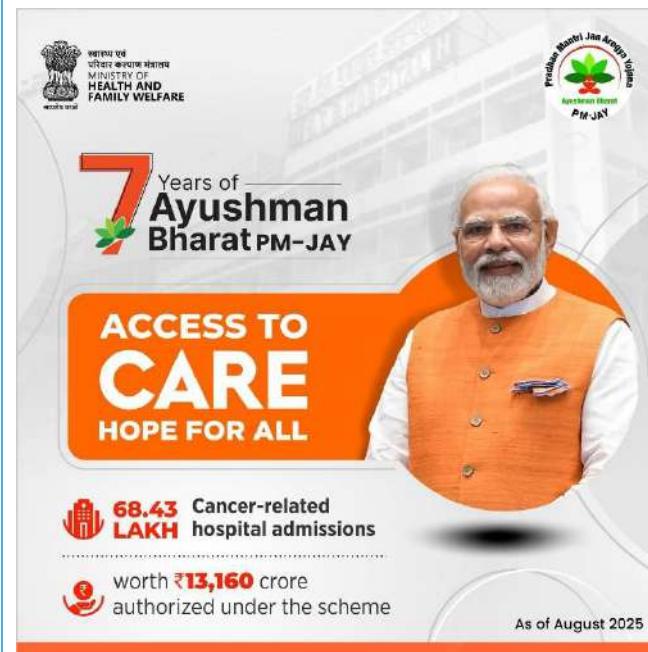
- The Hyderabad-based P V Narasimha Rao Memorial Foundation (PVNMF) instituted the award to recognise outstanding contributions in economics and nation-building.
- The citation lauds Singh's pivotal role in the 1991 economic reforms that set India on a higher growth trajectory.

- His wife Gursharan Kaur accepted the honour in New Delhi, where it was presented by former Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

Prime Minister marks the seventh anniversary of Ayushman Bharat scheme

Why in News?

Prime Minister Modi marked 7th anniversary of Ayushman Bharat scheme on September 23, 2025, celebrating world's largest government-funded health assurance program that revolutionized Indian healthcare.



Coverage & Scale

- World's largest health insurance scheme
- 55 crore beneficiaries covered
- 12 crore families eligible
- Rs 5 lakh annual health cover per family

Achievements in 7 Years

- 10.30 crore+ hospital admissions authorized
- Rs 1.48 lakh crore cashless care provided
- 42+ crore Ayushman cards issued
- 1.8 lakh+ Ayushman Arogya Mandirs operational

Financial Impact

- Out-of-pocket health costs reduced: 63% to 39%
- Government health expenditure increased: 29% to 48%
- 6+ crore families protected from poverty annually
- Prevents catastrophic health expenditure

Recent Expansions

- All senior citizens 70+ covered (October 2024)
- ASHA workers, anganwadi workers included (2024)
- 1 crore gig/platform workers being added

Key Features

- Cashless, paperless treatment nationwide
- 1,350+ medical/surgical procedures covered
- Pre-existing diseases covered
- Portable across all states



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GS + ESSAY

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 - **12-Full Length Tests**
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International Relations

September 2025

Modi-Xi meet reflects a thaw. But issues that have bedeviled ties for decades remain

The territorial-cum-border dispute that goes back to the birth of India and China as independent nations is at the core of the bilateral security dissonance

IE Opinion; By C. Uday Bhaskar;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
[Link](#)

Why in News?

Modi and Xi Jinping met on SCO summit sidelines in Tianjin amid unexpected US-India trade tensions triggered by Trump's 50% tariffs on Indian goods.



Key Outcomes of Modi-Xi Meeting

- **Partnership Reaffirmation:** Both leaders declared countries as "development partners, not rivals" with differences not turning into disputes
- **Border Progress Acknowledged:** Successful disengagement from 2020 Galwan clash and maintenance of peace along border areas
- **Dialogue Restoration:** Resumption of contact at various levels after deep freeze since 2020 military confrontation
- **Direct Flights Resumed:** Modi announced restoration of direct flights between countries, though details pending
- **Trade Deficit Discussion:** Modi raised India's \$99.2 billion trade deficit with China for reduction

Persistent Border Dispute Challenges

- **Historical Root:** Territorial dispute dating back to 1947-49 independence of both nations remains core security issue
- **Previous Conflicts:** 1962 border war and 2020 Galwan confrontation created lasting tensions
- **Ongoing Process:** Border talks remain "work in progress" with Special Representatives continuing efforts
- **Elusive Resolution:** Repeated attempts at consensual solution have failed over seven decades
- **Limited Breakthrough:** Current meeting addresses symptoms but not fundamental territorial disagreements

Geopolitical Context & Strategic Implications

- **US-India Strain:** Trump's 50% tariffs on Indian goods due to Russian oil purchases damaged decades of partnership
- **Strategic Balancing:** India historically maintained delicate balance between Washington and Moscow since 1947
- **Non-Alignment Tradition:** Delhi's policy of not being camp-follower while protecting core interests
- **Contra-Polar World:** Major powers grappling with complex contradictions in current global order
- **Japan Ties Maintained:** Modi's prior Tokyo visit reaffirmed Indo-Pacific commitment, noted by Beijing

News / Explained / Explained Global / What is the 'axis of upheaval', and what does it mean for the US and India?

What is the 'axis of upheaval', and what does it mean for the US and India?

The term first appeared in an April 2024 article on the Foreign Affairs website by Andrea Kendall-Taylor and Richard Fontaine

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

Why in News?

Xi Jinping championed a "multipolar world" at the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit attended by Modi and Putin, highlighting the growing challenge to US global dominance by the "axis of upheaval" countries.



What is the 'Axis of Upheaval'?

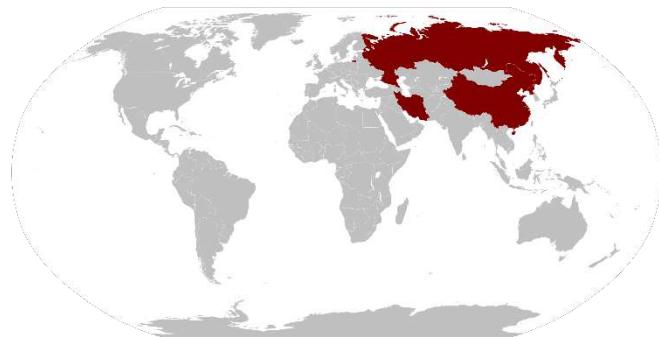
Origins & Definition

- Term coined by Andrea Kendall-Taylor and Richard Fontaine in April 2024 Foreign Affairs article
- Describes loose alignment of China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea (CRINK)
- Not formal alliance but "collection of dissatisfied states" seeking to overturn US-dominated international system
- Shared purpose of creating alternative to current Western-led global order

Key Characteristics

- Deepening economic, military, political and technological cooperation
- Anti-Western sentiments binding factor rather than formal treaties
- Accelerated cooperation after Russia's 2022 Ukraine invasion

- Also called "quartet of chaos" or "axis of autocracies"



CRINK Countries & Internal Dynamics

China-Russia Relations

- "No-limits" partnership since 2022
- Massive pipeline deal for Russian gas to China as Europe phases out Russian energy
- Russia increasingly isolated, pushing closer to China since 2014 Crimea annexation
- China maintains distance from Ukraine war to avoid complete Western abandonment

Iran's Role

- 90% of Iranian oil imports go to China amid Western sanctions
- Supplies drones to Russia for Ukraine war
- 20-year defense pact with Russia signed January 2025
- Strategic partnership with China since 2021

North Korea's Position

- Deployed 11,000+ soldiers to support Russia in Ukraine
- Mutual defense pact with Iran signed
- Move strains China-North Korea ties as Beijing loses regional influence
- Kim Jong Un's first international trip since 2023 to China military parade

Implications for the United States

Strategic Challenges

- Undermines effectiveness of Western sanctions and export controls
- Erodes US military advantages in key regions like Middle East
- Creates alternative economic forum diluting US foreign policy tools
- Third major challenge to US power after Axis Powers (1937-41) and Cold War (1948-62)

Global Impact

- Emboldens other anti-Western states and actors
- Contributes to more unstable global environment

- Pushes transformation toward two opposing international orders
- Creates opportunities for regional conflicts and coups in Africa

India's Complex Position

Current Tensions with US

- Trump imposed 50% tariffs on India, higher than China
- 25% penalty on Russian oil purchases plus 25% reciprocal levy
- Trade talks stalled since reciprocal tariffs took effect
- Trump criticism of India's high tariffs and trade barriers

Engagement with Axis Countries

- Modi's first China visit in 7 years at SCO summit
- Bilateral meetings with both Xi and Putin
- Member of SCO and BRICS alongside China, Russia, Iran
- India-China called each other "partners, not rivals" at summit

Strategic Balancing

- Distances itself from anti-Western views of axis countries
- Maintains engagement with US despite tariff disputes
- Values strategic autonomy over alignment with single bloc
- Democrats criticize Trump for "singling out" India and "sabotaging" ties
- Challenge is maintaining sovereignty while preserving US relationship

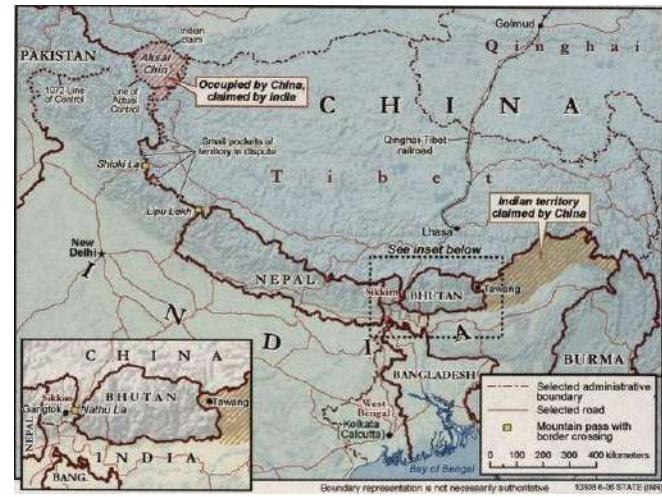
The mapping of the India-China border

During the Simla Conference, the delegate from the Republic of China categorically maintained that Tibet had no claim to the territories of the tribal belt (corresponding to present day Arunachal Pradesh) on the Assam side of the Himalayan divide, for they were not ethnically Tibetan and were self-governing

TH Text & Context: By Sunil Khatri;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations
[Link](#)

Why in News?

Debate on India–China boundary alignments revived after *The Hindu* series (Sept 2025) → counterview citing historical Manchu maps & Simla Conference evidence.



Historical Mapping

- **Manchu Rule (1644–1911)** → 2 major official maps with Jesuit help
- **Kang-hsi Map (1721)** → Tibet's boundary ended at Himalayas; Tawang (south) = non-Tibetan, not part of Tibet
- **Ch'ien-lung Map (1761)** → Eastern Turkestan not trans-Kunlun; no claim south of Kunlun to Hindu Kush–Karakoram

Simla Conference (1913–14)

- RoC delegate → Tibet had no claim on tribal belt (now Arunachal Pradesh)
- Belt = non-Tibetan, self-governing
- Delegate didn't claim for China; left to India (already in Assam's sphere of influence)
- Indo–Tibetan agreement → 1914 alignment

Later Claims & Shifts

- **1899 Proposal** → watershed division → Kashmir–Sinkiang boundary (Aksai Chin basis)
- **1943 RoC map** → new claims; called "unprecise draft"
- **1947 RoC repetition** → during India–Pakistan conflict
- **PRC continuation** → followed KMT map-making pattern

Chinese Leadership Positions

- **Chou En-lai (1954, Peking)** → admitted printing old maps; no deliberate boundary change
- **Talks with Nehru (1960)** → dismissed evidence, avoided Chinese-origin proof
- Strategy → shift to "principles" not documents; trap as per Vijay Gokhale (*The Long Game*)

- No public evidence of territorial swap proposal (Aksai Chin vs. Arunachal)

Way Forward (then envisioned)

- Package deal → cover entire boundary + trade/geopolitics
- Solution → “no defeat, reasonable, equitable, friendly”
- Possible basis → acceptance of **1899 alignment (Aksai Chin)** + **1914 alignment (Arunachal)**
- With territorial swap to address security concerns

Core Takeaways

- Manchu maps (1721, 1761) never conceived Tibet/E. Turkestan as trans-Himalayan/trans-Kunlun
- Simla Conference: Tibet/China did not claim Arunachal tribal belt
- Post-1943 → RoC/PRC expanded territorial claims
- Negotiations (1950s–60s) → principles-based resolution attempts; package deal suggested but unresolved

Test Your Knowledge 02

Q2. With reference to the 1914 Simla Convention, consider the following:

- 1) It involved representatives from British India, Tibet, and the Republic of China.
- 2) The Republic of China delegate initialled but refused to sign the final agreement.
- 3) The McMahon Line emerged as a part of this convention.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Hint: RoC delegate participated, initialled draft but withheld signature → still McMahon Line drawn.

The Modi-Ishiba moment: Can India and Japan lead a new Indo-Pacific order?

With economic, strategic, and trilateral ties deepening, the summit signals a growing ambition to shape regional dynamics without waiting on Washington. Execution on trade, minerals and defence will test the partnership's maturity

IE Opinion; By Gurjit Singh;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations

[Link](#)

Why in News?

Modi's eighth visit to Japan and the first summit with PM Ishiba signals a new phase in India-Japan ties focused on co-creating an Indo-Pacific order amid shifting US policies.



1. Strategic & Regional Alignment

- Indo-Pacific stability, Quad dialogue continuation
- US disengagement, rise of India-Japan-Australia trilateral importance
- ASEAN engagement: Japan cautious, potential for India-led expansion
- African trilateral: economic development, Indo-Pacific connectivity

2. Economic Cooperation & Trade

- Bilateral trade at \$23 billion (imports: \$18B, exports: \$5B)
- Target for doubled Japanese investment in India: JPY 10 trillion by 2035
- New Economic Security Initiative: supply chain resilience, critical minerals, tech, energy, pharma, telecom
- Joint Fact Sheet: cooperation in new/emerging technologies
- Direct Japanese investments—Maruti Suzuki EV plant as example
- Offset US tariffs and trade friction

3. Critical Minerals & Supply Chains

- Joint exploration, mining, processing, stockpiling MoU
- African countries source critical minerals, processed in India, supplied to Japanese industry

- Support for Japanese semiconductors, green tech, defence electronics
- Reducing China dependency

4. Defence & Security Collaboration

- Joint R&D: defence electronics, naval hardware
- Unicorn antennas ready for deployment
- Japanese naval armament exports—possible warship collaboration
- Increased trust and operational partnership

5. Mobility & Infrastructure

- Bullet train project revived—latest E10 Shinkansen coaches supply
- Interim use of E5/Indian-made coaches
- Prospects for expanded high-speed rail based on Japanese models
- Mobility partnership for technology sharing

6. Investment & Business Engagement

- Growing Japanese business community presence in India
- Enthusiasm among Japanese business leaders for India-focused growth
- Incentives for Japanese visitors, professionals
- Japanese support for TICAD and Africa outreach

Core Takeaway

India-Japan ties move beyond traditional economic cooperation to a multidimensional, trilateral and strategic partnership, aiming to lead a more resilient Indo-Pacific order amid global uncertainties and US policy unpredictability.

Modi-Xi meet reflects a thaw. But issues that have bedeviled ties for decades remain

The territorial-cum-border dispute that goes back to the birth of India and China as independent nations is at the core of the bilateral security dissonance

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

Why in News?

PM Modi addressed the 25th SCO Summit in China outlining India's vision based on Security, Connectivity, and Opportunity pillars while condemning terrorism and calling for global institutional reforms.

India's SCO Vision: Three Pillars Framework

Security Pillar

- Terrorism, separatism, extremism major challenges to regional development
- Referenced Pahalgam terror attack as assault on humanity, not just India
- Condemned double standards on terrorism with Pakistan PM present
- India leading joint operations against Al-Qaeda and affiliated groups
- Enhanced coordination proposed against terror financing and radicalization
- Four decades of terrorism scars - mothers losing children, children orphaned
- No country can consider itself completely safe from terrorism



Connectivity Pillar

- Strong connectivity opens doors to trust, development beyond mere trade
- India backing Chabahar Port and International North-South Transport Corridor
- Enhanced linkages with Afghanistan and Central Asia through these projects
- Connectivity must uphold sovereignty and territorial integrity principles
- Indirect reference to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor concerns
- Connectivity bypassing sovereignty loses trust and meaning

Opportunity Pillar

- 2023 Indian presidency introduced fresh cooperation areas
- Start-ups, innovation, traditional medicine, youth empowerment initiatives
- Digital inclusion and shared Buddhist heritage programs

- Proposed Civilizational Dialogue Forum for cultural exchanges
- Platform to share ancient civilizations, art, literature, traditions globally
- Moving SCO beyond governments to connect people, scientists, scholars

Reform and Global Positioning

Institutional Reforms

- Welcome four new SCO centers for organized crime, drug trafficking, cybersecurity
- Called for UN reforms on 80th anniversary occasion
- SCO should guide multilateralism and inclusive world order
- Global South aspirations confined to outdated frameworks denies future justice
- Time to change from black-and-white screen to display colorful dreams



Immediate trigger

- Government blocked 26 platforms (Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, X, YouTube etc.).
- Youth-organised rallies (mostly under 28) mobilised online → mass street turnout.
- Police crackdown on Monday's rallies → at least 19 protesters killed, hundreds injured.

Deeper, simmering causes

- Chronic corruption allegations across senior leadership; culture of impunity.
- Limited quality job creation; large informal workforce; youth unemployment/under-opportunity (Unemployment 20%, Remittances 33% of GDP).
- Perceived nepotism/“Nepo Babies” — visible elite wealth + few new political faces.
- Social-media-enabled political rise of younger leaders → youth expectations of change.

News / Explained / Explained Global / Nepal PM resigns: Apart from social media ban, what led to the 'GenZ' agitation

W Premium

Nepal PM resigns: Apart from social media ban, what led to the 'GenZ' agitation

Nepal Gen Z protests, Nepal social media ban: This was the first time the youth of Nepal, the 'GenZ', mobilised on the streets like this. While the social media ban is the immediate trigger, unrest has been simmering in Nepal for a while now. We explain the full picture

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

Latest updates & immediate consequences

- Social-media ban withdrawn; major platforms restored.
- PM Oli resigned; Home Minister also quit on moral grounds.
- Protesters set fire to parliament and other political offices; Kathmandu airport affected / curfew imposed; army/police deployed.
- President called for dialogue; government announced probe / compensation measures amid demands for deeper political reform.

Why in News?

Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli resigned after mass “Gen Z” street protests — sparked by a government ban on 26 social media platforms — that turned deadly and forced a political collapse.

Bottom line

Social-media ban ignited a pre-existing youth anger — over corruption, jobs and elite privilege — producing a Gen-Z street movement that toppled the PM and left Nepal in acute political crisis.

Why was Indonesia rocked by protests?

How did the protests start and what led to its escalation across the country? How many people have been arrested or detained by the police? What did Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto say about the looting and rioting by protestors on the streets? What fuelled such anger against the elites?

TH Text & Context; By Joan Sony Cherian;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations

[Link](#)

Why in News?

Nationwide protests erupted after parliamentarians' large housing allowance sparked anger and then escalated into violent unrest when a police armoured vehicle ran over and killed 21-year-old delivery driver Affan Kurniawan on 28 Aug 2025.



How it started & escalated?

- **25 Aug 2025:** student and labour protests outside Parliament over MPs' perks, wages, education cuts.
- **28 Aug:** killing of Affan during crowd dispersal; footage circulated, inflamed public outrage.

- **Rapid spread to multiple cities:** attacks on public buildings, arson/looting of officials' houses (including Finance Minister's residence).

Scale, casualties & detentions

- **Arrested/detained:** more than 3,000 nationwide.
- **Deaths:** around 10 reported (including Affan and several civilians).
- **Missing/incommunicado:** ~20 people reported missing in several cities.
- **Injuries:** hundreds, including police personnel; numerous campuses and offices disrupted.

Government response & key official actions

- **President Prabowo:** ordered "strongest possible action" against looting/rioting, said some actions bordered on "terrorism and treason."
- **Accountability steps:** probe into Affan's death, at least one officer fired/demoted; Parliament agreed to reduce housing allowance and suspend overseas visits for MPs.
- **Cabinet change (latest):** 5 ministers removed/replaced (including Finance Minister Sri Mulyani) in a reshuffle to calm unrest and stabilise markets.
- **Rights watchdogs:** called out mass detentions and urged investigations into excessive force.

Root causes that fuelled the anger

- Visible elite perks vs. precarious livelihoods for youth/gig workers.
- Recent fiscal austerity: large budget cuts to public works, education and investment; local tax hikes increasing living costs.
- High inequality and insecure, low-paid gig work (motorbike taxi/delivery drivers common).
- Pre-existing student movements earlier in 2025 over cuts, pointing to simmering discontent.

Immediate consequences & outlook

- **Market and credit risk:** stock and rupiah volatility; rating agencies warning on sovereign risk.
- **Social ripple:** international solidarity actions (food orders for drivers), sustained campus activism, nationwide security lockdowns.
- **Near term:** criminal prosecutions of some protesters, investigations into police violence, political recalibrations after cabinet reshuffle.

From Nepal to Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, a crisis of democracy that has lessons for India

The recent popular uprisings in our neighbourhood were fueled by youth discontent with rising unemployment, rampant corruption and the shattered promise of democracy

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

Why in News?

Recent uprisings in Sri Lanka (2022), Bangladesh (2024) and Nepal (2025) toppled elected governments, raising concerns about democratic crises in South Asia and lessons for India.



Regional Democratic Crises

- **Sri Lanka (2022)**
 - Aragalaya protests → corruption, economic collapse, Rajapaksa misrule
 - Palace stormed, PM's house torched
 - Only 10 deaths, 250 injured
 - New govt 2024 → leftist youth leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake elected
- **Bangladesh (2024)**
 - Sheikh Hasina accused of autocracy, 4th rigged election

- July Uprising: 21 days, triggered by student Abu Sayed's killing
- Violence: 834–1,581 dead, including children
- Hasina fled to India, interim govt under Muhammad Yunus

• Nepal (2025)

- Youth anger: corruption, unemployment, elite "nepo-kids" vs poor masses
- Oli govt banned social media → triggered protests
- Mobilisation via Discord, VPNs, Instagram
- Youth "digitally elected" ex-CJ Sushila Karki as PM

Common Drivers

- Rising youth unemployment
- Rampant corruption across parties
- Autocracy, election rigging, weak institutions
- Social media & digital natives as mobilisation tools
- Disconnect: electoral democracy ≠ real public will

Lessons for India

- **Youth Unemployment**
 - 35.9% (ages 20–24, CMIE July 2025) + underemployment crisis
- **Corruption & Money Power**
 - All parties dependent on corporate, trade, local "goon" funding
 - Quid pro quo politics entrenched
- **Institutional Weakness**
 - No inner-party democracy; parties as "private limited companies"
 - Bureaucracy compromised for posts
 - Judiciary timid/vacillating; some compromised
- **Elections & Trust Deficit**
 - Opposition alleging "vote theft" by Election Commission
 - Growing public disaffection with entire political class

Broader Concerns

- Plato: democracy prone to mob rule, tyranny
- Aristotle: swayed by emotion/demagogues
- Warning signals: collapse of "functional democracies" next door
- Without internal democracy in parties → cannot sustain real democracy

Test Your Knowledge

Q. Which of the following statements best describes the nature of political parties in India?

- Parties operate as open, democratic institutions with regular internal elections.
- Parties are largely like “private limited companies” tightly controlled by leadership.
- Parties are regulated and controlled directly by the Election Commission to ensure transparency.
- Parties have successfully reduced dependence on industry and local funding.

Hint: No inner-party democracy; family/leader-centric control.



Structural and Political Context

- Hung parliament** since 2024 snap legislative election; no majority for Macron’s coalition
- Government in **minority rule**, reliant on cooperation from left and far-right blocs—**fragile alliances**
- Fiscal pressure: **deficit ≈ 5.8% of GDP** (well above EU’s 3% limit), **debt ≈ 114% of GDP**

News / Explained / Explained Global / Why France's govt collapsed, again

Why France's govt collapsed, again

With four prime ministers in the past 20 months, and a fifth likely to be appointed now, the fall of French governments, once unusual, has become close to mundane. Here's what is happening.

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

Why in News?

France’s government collapsed after Prime Minister François Bayrou’s minority administration was ousted in a confidence vote, following rejection of his €44 billion deficit-cutting budget plan.

Immediate Cause of Collapse

- Proposed **€44 billion austerity plan** for 2026
 - Included **freezing welfare spending** and **scrapping two public holidays**
- Faced overwhelming parliamentary opposition (vote: **364 against, 194 in favour**)
- Bayrou gambled on a confidence vote to force acceptance—**backfired**

Broader Instability Trends

- Fourth prime minister in 20 months** (fifth likely soon)—chronic instability
- Similar patterns before: Barnier government collapsed in December 2024 over budget dispute
- Growing **public discontent**, protests, and strikes fueling political uncertainty

Consequences and Stakes Ahead

- President Macron must appoint **new prime minister** (likely fifth in under two years)
- Urgent need to **pass 2026 budget** amid divided parliament
- Investor nervousness**—rising bond yields and credit-rating concerns
- Calls increasing for **snap elections**; Macron currently resisting that option

Why are European nations now moving to recognise Palestine?

Can the European Union coordinate a unified response to Palestine?

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

Why in News?

France plans to recognise Palestine in September 2025 at UN General Assembly.

Several smaller / mid-sized European countries (Spain, Ireland, Norway, Slovenia, Malta) already recognised Palestine or moving to do so.

Key drivers pushing European states to move faster

- Humanitarian crisis in Gaza after October 7 attacks, with large scale destruction and civilian suffering.
- Strong pressure from domestic public opinion: protests, youth movements, civil society demanding action.
- Legal and moral consistency: comparisons with Ukraine war, international law arguments (occupation, war crimes, humanitarian law).
- Diplomatic initiative & leadership (France, Saudi Arabia organising conferences pushing recognition).

France set to recognize Palestine as first in G7

Current positions of G7 nations regarding Palestinian statehood



Variations & cautions between countries

- Some countries (Germany, UK, etc.) are supportive of a two-state solution but hesitate to recognise formally yet; waiting for “useful moment” or for Israeli actions (ceasefire, better humanitarian access).
- Concerns over security, diplomatic backlash (from Israel, U.S.), and domestic political costs.

Can the EU coordinate a unified response?

- EU Common Foreign & Security Policy demands unanimity for a collective foreign policy decision like recognition. Hard to get all 27 members in agreement.
- There is increasing pressure within EU institutions: proposals for sanctions, suspending parts of association agreements with Israel, freezing funds.
- But deep divisions persist among member states on how far and fast to go. Some fear diplomatic fallout; some are more cautious.
- “Like-minded coalitions” (smaller group of EU states acting together) are emerging as an interim approach.

Likely outcomes & implications

- Formal recognition by additional EU members at UN General Assembly under conditional criteria (e.g. humanitarian access, ceasefire).
- EU might adopt limited collective measures (sanctions, trade or funding suspensions, donor group for Gaza) rather than unified recognition.
- Shifting credibility stakes: EU’s global image & consistency in applying international law are increasingly seen as tied to its stance.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. The term “Consistency Gap,” often used in recent debates refers to:

(a) Disparity in trade benefits offered to Palestine compared to Israel under EU agreements

- (b) Inconsistency in EU's application of international law between the Ukraine conflict and Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories
- (c) Gap in humanitarian aid commitments and actual delivery by EU countries to Gaza
- (d) Difference between recognition of Palestine by Eastern and Western European states

Hint: “Consistency gap” is used to criticise inconsistency/double-standards in EU responses — notably between its posture on Ukraine vs its stance on Israel/Palestine.

Q. Recently, France announced readiness to recognise Palestine but “only at a useful moment.” Recognition of states in international law is primarily based on which of the following doctrines?

- (a) Doctrine of Lapse
- (b) Montevideo Convention criteria
- (c) Helsinki Accords principles
- (d) Hague Convention on Recognition of States

Hint: State recognition generally rests on the Montevideo test — permanent population, defined territory, government, capacity for international relations.

Rationalise tariffs, independent of US pressure, and raise productivity

Irrespective of Trump's charges, India should take a rational approach towards imports, invest in innovation and build efficient value chains.

IE Explained; By Ashok Gulati, Tanay Suntwal; Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations, Economy [Link](#)

Why in News?

India is under pressure from the US for having high tariffs, especially on agricultural goods, being labelled “tariff king / tariff maharaja”—sparking debate over reform.

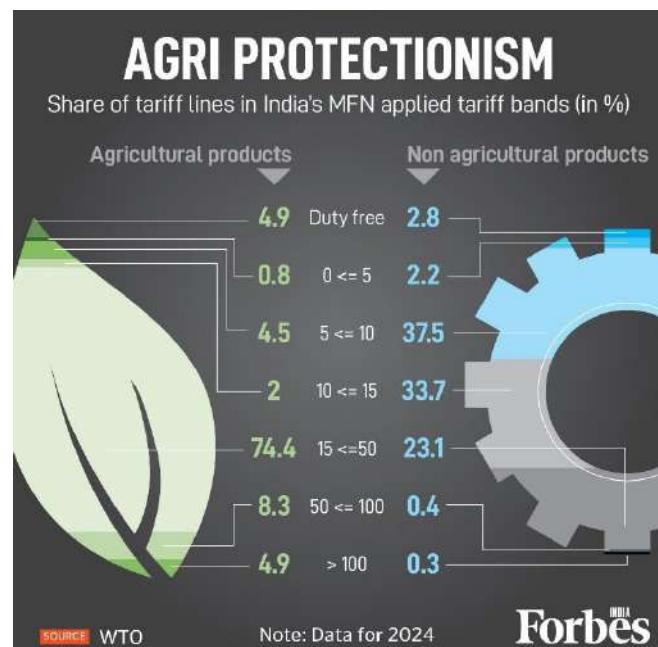
India's Tariff Profile Compared Globally

- Among G20, **India has high simple average tariff** (~16.2%) and very high trade-weighted average tariff (~12%) on all goods.
- **For agriculture:** trade-weighted tariff ~64.3%, simple average ~36.7%, much above US (~4-5%) and EU/China.

- **For non-agriculture:** India ~9.2% (trade-weighted), less extreme but still high relative to major trading partners.

Examples of Irrational / Uneven Tariffs

- Edible oils (~ one-third of agri-imports) get only ~10% duty.
- Cotton, yellow peas: negligible tariffs.
- Almonds <15%, whereas walnuts & chicken legs >100%.
- Apples ~50%, blueberries ~30%, skimmed milk powder ~60%.
- Food preparations (e.g. soft drink concentrates, custard powder, lactose syrup) ~150%.
- Rice imposes ~70% duty despite India being the world's largest exporter of rice.



Agri vs Industry: India's agricultural imports face a much steeper tariff curve than industrial goods. Over 8 percent of farm products attract tariffs between 50–100 percent, compared to just 0.4 percent for non-agri items. Here's how India's trade barriers stack up.

Proposed Reforms & Recommendations

- **Rationalise tariff structure independent of US pressure:**
 - Cap duties: raw materials at 0-10%; non-sensitive goods 10-20%; sensitive

goods 20-35%; luxury items 35-50%, no duty to exceed 50%.

- Use tariff rate quotas (TRQs) for sensitive agricultural goods to protect farmers while allowing some imports.
- **Raise domestic productivity:**
 - Double agricultural R&D to at least 1% of agri-GDP.
 - Focus on precision agriculture.
 - Rationalise fertiliser subsidy via direct benefit transfer (DBT); free up fertiliser pricing.
- **Strengthen value chains:** enhance efficiency in post-harvest, logistics, “farm to fork” movement.

Key Trade-Offs & Justifications

- **Agriculture protection is high** due to large share of workforce ($\approx 46\%$) in agriculture, small farm sizes (~ 1 hectare), food security concerns.
- **But excessive protection hurts** competitiveness, trade negotiations, invites retaliation.
- **Imports can be part of growth strategy:** comparative advantage, not just shield domestic producers

Test Your Knowledge

Q. In the context of tariff policies, “tariff rate quotas (TRQs)” are best understood as:

- (a) A system where tariffs are imposed only on luxury goods, not on essential goods.
- (b) A mechanism that allows a specified quantity of a commodity to be imported at lower duty, with higher duty imposed on imports beyond that quantity.
- (c) A WTO provision under which developed countries can unilaterally impose duties on agricultural imports.
- (d) A subsidy scheme for exporters to neutralize the effect of import tariffs.

Hint: TRQs combine both quota and tariff features—lower duty up to a limit, higher duty beyond it.

News / Explained / Explained Global / Saudi Arabia-Pakistan defence pact: What it means for the two countries

Premium

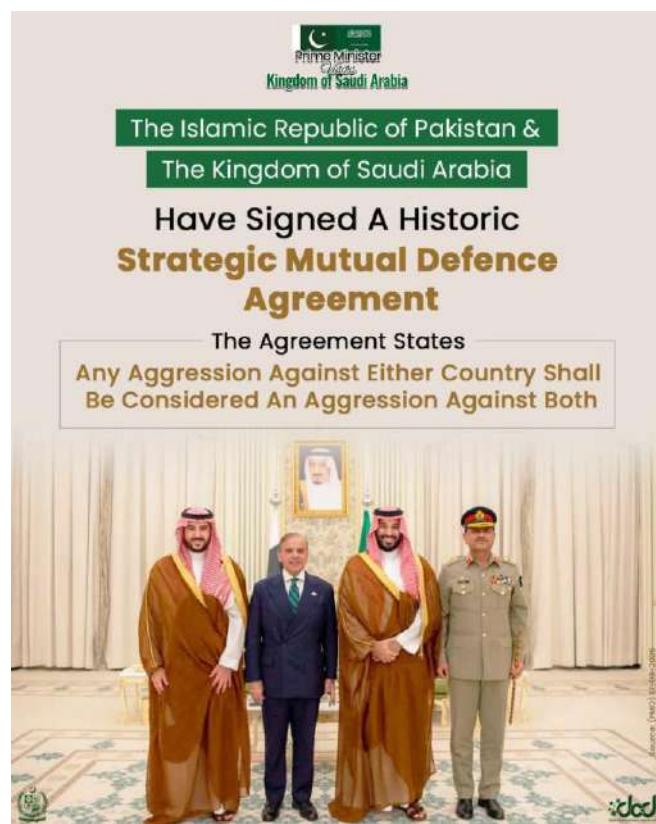
Saudi Arabia-Pakistan defence pact: What it means for the two countries

Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Mutual Defence Agreement Explained: The Saudi Arabia-Pakistan agreement states that ‘any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both’. What is the context in which it has been signed, and where does India stand?

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

Why in News?

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed a “Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement” on 17 September 2025 under which both commit to treat “any aggression against either country” as aggression against both.



Context

- **Long-standing military cooperation** Defence, training, advisory and deployment links since the 1960s; Pakistan has supported Saudi Arabia militarily on several occasions (e.g. after the 1979 Grand Mosque incident).

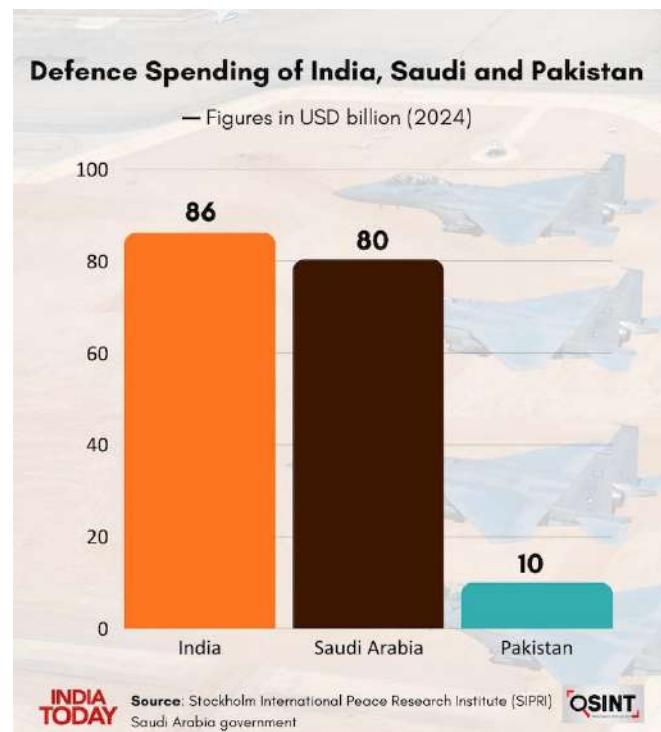
- Regional insecurity and shifting alignments**
Rising instability in the Middle East (e.g. Israeli strikes, tensions with Iran, uncertainty about US reliability in some Gulf state security) making Gulf states revisit their security guarantees.
- Pakistan's fiscal needs**
Saudi investment, funding and security cooperation are particularly beneficial for Pakistan as it faces economic and fiscal constraints. Formalising the pact helps to translate informal ties into more predictable guarantees.

Key Features of the Pact

- Mutual defence clause**
If one party is attacked, the other treats it as an attack on itself.
- Scope & ambiguity**
Details on how the pact is operationalised (which threats qualify, what triggers action) are not fully public. It is not clear how nuclear sharing or deterrence works under this. Some statements suggest Pakistan's capabilities "will be available" under the pact, yet official Pakistani line also says nuclear weapons are not on the radar.
- Defensive rather than aggressive framing**
Pakistan has emphasised this is not a pact aimed at offense or naming specific enemies — more an umbrella for deterrence.

Implications for Saudi Arabia & Pakistan

- Saudi Arabia:** enhances deterrence, supports security assurances beyond just buying arms; gains backing in case of external threats (from Iran, Yemen, or spillovers from Israel-Palestine conflicts) with a nuclear-armed partner.
- Pakistan:** gets formal guarantees, possibly financial backing, and increased strategic importance; consolidates its role as a security actor in the Islamic world.



India's Position & Concerns

- Cautious reaction:** The Indian government has acknowledged the pact, said it was under consideration, and is studying its implications for India's national security and regional stability.
- Concern over nuclear umbrella aspect:** Some media reports quote Pakistani defence officials saying Pakistan's "capabilities will be available under this pact," raising fears in India that Saudi Arabia could, in effect, gain access to Pakistan's nuclear deterrent. India would see that as a strategic risk.
- Political reactions:** Opposition parties in India are expressing worry; Congress, for instance, calls this a challenge to India's security.
- Expectation from Saudi Arabia:** India is urging Saudi Arabia to "mind sensitivities" — that is, consider Indian perceptions and interests even as it deepens ties with Pakistan.
- Strategic balancing:** India will likely respond via diplomatic means, possibly engaging Gulf partners more deeply, reinforcing its own security and regional relationships, and watching for operationalisation of the pact more than rhetoric.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. Consider the following about mutual defence agreements:

- 1) NATO's Article 5 is an example of a collective defence clause.
- 2) The recently signed Saudi–Pakistan pact has a similar “attack on one is attack on all” clause.
- 3) The SEATO treaty (1954) also had a collective defence clause, binding all members to automatic military action.

Which of the above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Hint: SEATO's clause was weaker, no automatic military obligation.

India needs a plan

China has said it will not seek 'Special and Differential Treatment' at WTO. What does this mean for Delhi?

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

Why in News?

China announced it will not seek **Special and Differential Treatment (SDT)** in future WTO negotiations → raises pressure on India to follow.

China's Move & Global Context

- **Tactical retreat** → avoids US tariff heat, keeps "developing" tag perks.
- **WTO praises as reform**, but critics → symbolic only, China keeps subsidy leeway.
- Developed nations ↑ \$850 bn farm subsidies (OECD 2023) → yet target India.
- **Trump tariffs** → 100% on pharma, plus on furniture, trucks → ↑ pressure on India.

India's WTO Dependence

- **SDT** = backbone since 1995 accession → tariff flexibility, longer timelines.
- **India** = 136th per capita income rank, needs SDT for vulnerable groups.
- **Agriculture** → 50% workforce, MSP & PDS feed 800m; \$40 bn subsidies yearly.

- **AoA caps:** 10% AMS for dev. nations vs 5% for developed → India often accused of breach (1986-88 ref. prices inflate AMS).
- **Without SDT** → 20-30% subsidy cut over decade → 10-15% ↓ rural incomes → food price volatility & ↑ malnutrition (already 35% of U-5 children).

Risks if India Loses SDT

- **WTO disputes** → ex. 2023 sugar subsidy case, saved by SDT.
- **Coerced graduation** → AoA compliance cuts, NSFA undermined.
- **Services** (55% GDP) = leverage, but agriculture = political redline.

Strategic Options for India

1. Agriculture

- **Lead G33** → extend “peace clause” (public stockholding shield) till 2030.
- **Push developed nations** → eliminate export subsidies (2005 Hong Kong pledge).
- Shift subsidies → Green Box: research, climate-resilient crops, extension.
- Update AoA reference prices → reflect market, ↓ AMS distortions (ICRIER 2024: 50% reduction possible).
- Expand DBT (already 90% fertiliser subsidies DBT).

2. E-commerce

- Join plurilateral talks → offer data flow & consumer rules (with security carve-outs).
- Use ONDC → empower MSMEs in global digital trade.
- Demand tiered data rules → longer transition for developing nations.

3. Gradual SDT Recalibration

- Phase out non-core SDT → gain reciprocal market access.
- Retain SDT for vulnerable segments (agri, food security).
- Use Green Box → fund cold storage, processing, competitiveness.

4. Intellectual Property (TRIPS)

- Retain compulsory licensing & patent opposition → cite Doha Declaration 2001 (public health).
- Phase stricter IP compliance only in non-critical areas.
- ↑ biotech R&D funding → reduce generic export dependency.

5. Tiered SDT Framework

- Link SDT rights to per capita GDP/sectoral competitiveness.

- Helps India keep agri flexibilities while opening selectively elsewhere.

Way Forward

- China's exit from SDT asks → India next in line.
- India must balance → food security, rural livelihoods, export ambitions.
- Smart pivot → trade non-core SDT, strengthen core protections.
- Better to adapt now → than be coerced later.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. With reference to Special and Differential Treatment (SDT) under WTO, consider the following statements:

- 1) SDT allows developing countries higher permissible de minimis levels for trade-distorting agricultural subsidies compared to developed nations.
- 2) Under SDT, developing countries are exempt from the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) subsidy disciplines.
- 3) India has historically invoked SDT to justify its Minimum Support Price and Public Distribution System programmes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Hint:

- Stmt 1 → Think: de minimis cap → 10% for developing vs 5% for developed.
- Stmt 2 → Careful: SDT ≠ total exemption, only flexibilities & peace clause.
- Stmt 3 → India's MSP & PDS defended via SDT (esp. Bali peace clause).

News / Explained / Explained: India-EU strategic agenda

Premium

Explained: India-EU strategic agenda

A document issued by the European Union earlier this month, outlines its agenda for ties with India. It is based on five pillars: economy, emerging tech, security, global connectivity, and people-to-people ties

IE Explained; By Shubhajit Roy;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations

[Link](#)

Why in News?

EU issued a document (Sept 2025) outlining 5-pillar agenda for India-EU ties ahead of leaders' summit (Feb 2026).



Economy & Trade

- EU = India's largest trading partner → Goods €120bn (↑90% in decade), Services €60bn (2024)
- 6,000 EU firms in India → 3m direct jobs, FDI €140bn (2023, 2x in 5 yrs)
- India <2.5% in EU trade; Indian investment in EU €10bn (low)
- Ongoing: FTA (by end-2025), Investment Protection Agreement, GI pact, Air Transport Agreement
- EU = Top investor; India = EU's biggest Global South partner

Global Connectivity

- EU Global Gateway → €300bn infra fund; India → MAHASAGAR initiative
- EU-India Connectivity Partnership (2021) → basis for expansion
- Flagship: IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe Corridor) → maritime, rail, digital, energy, green hydrogen
- Blue Raman cable (11,700 km) → secure, resilient EU-Africa-India data corridor

Pratibimb PYQ Mentorship Program 2026



What is Pratibimb Mentorship?

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

Highlights of the Programme



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



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



Face 2 Face Evaluation for Internalization of Personal Feedback



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



Answer Sheet Points (ASP) from Model Answer



Workshop: Learning by doing approach

Salient Features of Mentorship Program

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

SECTIONAL TESTS

Detailed Test Syllabus &
Reference Study Material



Prelims Sectional Tests

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

Mains Sectional Tests

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



Other Details

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

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

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₹15,000/-

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Concession Details

Kalam IAS Students: 20%	UPSC Interview Student: 30%	Selected Students: 50%
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- Green Shipping Corridors → sustainable maritime links, ↓ carbon dependence

Emerging Technologies

- EU strengths: R&D infra, regulation, green/digital tech
- India strengths: skilled workforce, big data, startups, frugal innovation
- Proposals → EU-India Innovation Hubs; Startup Partnership (EIC + Startup India)
- Focus → AI (LLMs, multilingual NLP, datasets, AI for healthcare, agri, climate)
- Safeguards → prevent misuse/unauthorized tech transfers
- Euratom-India R&D pact → nuclear safety, waste, security, fusion research

Security & Defence

- Strategic Dialogue on Foreign & Security Policy (launched Jun 2025)
- Cooperation → maritime security, cybersecurity, CT, non-proliferation
- Negotiations → Security of Information Agreement (classified data exchange)
- EU-India defence industry ties → joint R&D, supply chain resilience, competitiveness
- Proposed EU-India Defence Industry Forum (industry-led cooperation)
- Indo-Pacific alignment → EU naval coordination with Indian Navy in W. Indian Ocean
- Joint CT efforts → terror financing, online propaganda, narco-trafficking

People-to-People Ties

- Indians in EU (2023) → 8.25 lakh; EU Blue Card holders = largest group
- 2024 → 1m Schengen visas issued in India (many multi-entry)
- Migration mgmt → curb illegal flows, support balanced talent mobility
- Student exchanges → Erasmus+, Union of Skills, satellite campuses in India
- Qualification recognition & vocational training → systemic collaboration
- Context: EU attracting Indian students as US restricts visas (Trump policies)

Test Your Knowledge

Q. Which of the following initiatives exemplify India-EU cooperation on global connectivity?

- 1) India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)
- 2) Blue Raman submarine cable system
- 3) EU's Global Gateway programme
- 4) MAHASAGAR initiative

Select the correct answer using the code below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2, and 3 only
(c) 2, 3, and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Hint: All four are part of the India-EU connectivity partnership →

- IMEC = flagship corridor project.
- Blue Raman = digital submarine cable.
- Global Gateway = EU's €300bn infra fund.
- MAHASAGAR = India's maritime/infra initiative.

The Iran sanctions snapback: A diplomatic collapse and its wider consequences

India stopped importing Iranian oil years ago, but Chabahar remains vital for accessing Afghanistan and Central Asia while bypassing Pakistan. The US waiver allowed progress despite wider sanctions. Its revocation means we have to reconcile our Eurasian strategy with the new developments

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

Why in News?

UN sanctions on Iran “snapped back” after UNSC rejected Russia-China resolution for delay → collapse of 30-day diplomacy window.



Trigger & Diplomatic Collapse

- **Israel strikes** (Fordow, Natanz, Isfahan) → US bombing → E3 push diplomacy
- **E3 conditions** → full IAEA inspections, 408.6 kg uranium accounting, talks w/ US
- **Iran** → uranium “trapped under ruins,” rejected US talks, limited IAEA gestures
- **Aug 28** → **E3 invoked UNSC 2231** snapback → countdown
- **Russia-China tried 6-mo extension** → failed (4–9–2 vote)
- **Timing:** avoided Oct (Russia UNSC presidency)

Sanctions Re-Imposed

- **Nuclear & missile embargo** → back in force
- **Ban on conventional arms transfers** → asset freeze, banking restrictions
- **No explicit oil embargo**, but US secondary sanctions → decisive
- **UN call for financial vigilance** → ↑ risk for banks/shippers
- **Net effect:** Washington tighter global enforcement grip

Impact on Iran

- **Economy** → ↑ crisis, inflation, social discontent
- **Oil** → China still main buyer, but tougher terms → Beijing ↑ leverage
- **Politics** → Pezeshkian: sanctions “unfair/illegal” (blames 2018 US JCPOA exit)
- **Nuclear path risk** → parallels w/ N Korea under “max pressure”
- **Likely:** suspend IAEA Cairo agreement, but not NPT exit (Moscow/Beijing constraint)

Geopolitical Dimensions

- **Divide:** West vs Russia–China–Iran axis
- **Snapback strengthens rationale** for future Israeli/US strikes
- **Moscow–Beijing influence limited** (failed UNSC resolution)
- **Sanctions ripple effects beyond Iran** → energy, shipping, global markets

India’s Stakes

- **Oil:** imports from Iran already stopped
- **Chabahar Port** (IPGL at Shahid Behesht Terminal) → vital for Afghanistan, Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan
- **US waiver allowed continuity** → now revoked under snapback

- **Strategic dilemma:** reconcile Eurasian connectivity w/ US pressure

Takeaway

- **For Iran** → deeper squeeze, possible nuclear hardening
- **For West** → tactical win, strategic uncertainty
- **For Russia–China** → limited leverage exposed
- **For India** → Chabahar connectivity at risk, strategy recalibration needed

Test Your Knowledge

Q. With reference to the recent “snapback” of UN sanctions on Iran, consider the following statements:

- 1) The snapback mechanism is provided under UNSC Resolution 2231 (2015), which endorsed the JCPOA.
- 2) It allows any permanent member of the Security Council to veto the re-imposition of sanctions.
- 3) Once invoked, it restores all prior UN sanctions without the need for a fresh UNSC vote.

Which of the above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Hint: The mechanism under UNSC 2231 is automatic once invoked → no fresh vote, no veto possible.

The Wassenaar Arrangement: the need to reform export control regimes

While the Arrangement has expanded to include controls on ‘intrusion software’, the structure of the Arrangement is such that control means physical exports of devices, chips, and hardware modules. As a result, many information flows related to cloud services fall in grey areas

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

Why in News?

Microsoft Azure contracts with Israel sparked debate on gaps in Wassenaar Arrangement’s export controls in cloud era.



Wassenaar Arrangement: Basics

- **Multilateral voluntary regime (1996)** → 42 states → controls on conventional arms & dual-use tech
- **Commitments** → common control lists, info sharing, national discretion in licensing/enforcement
- **Expansion 2013** → added “intrusion software” controls
- **Limitation** → designed for physical exports (devices, chips), weak for SaaS/cloud

Key Gaps

- **Cloud services** → info flows in grey zone, not always “export”
- **SaaS model** → remote use ≠ traditional export
- **Consensus-based** → 1 member can block reform
- **Domestic laws differ** → patchy enforcement, loopholes (e.g. defensive security research)
- **Weak on human rights risk** → focus remains WMD/military use

India's Position

- **Joined 2017** → aligned with SCOMET (export control framework)
- **Role** → more legitimacy seeking than pushing reform
- **Current stance** → little focus on cloud/surveillance risks

Reform Needs

- **Scope expansion** → include cloud infra, surveillance, biometric & cross-border data systems
- **Export definition** → treat API calls, remote admin rights, cloud access as exports
- **End-use controls** → license decisions based on specs + user identity, jurisdiction, oversight, HR risk

- **Binding nature** → treaty-level rules, peer review, denial mandates in atrocity-prone contexts
- **Global coordination** → shared watchlists, red alerts, technical interoperability standards
- **Agility** → technical secretariat, interim updates, sunset clauses, domain-specific regimes (AI, cyber weapons)

Challenges to Reform

- **State resistance** → innovation concerns, sovereignty, private industry lobbying
- **Intricacy** → mapping cloud to control categories, benign vs malign use, cross-border licensing
- **Consensus hurdle** → few holdouts can block changes

Emerging Pathways

- **EU dual-use regulation** → treats cloud service transmission as export
- **UN Guiding Principles leverage** → corporate HR duties + procurement rules as incentives
- **U.S. EAR & EU rules** → still draw legitimacy from WA lists
- **Industry reference** → Microsoft compliance cites WA, but SaaS realities expose major gaps

Test Your Knowledge 03

Q. With reference to the Wassenaar Arrangement, consider the following statements:

- 1) It is a binding treaty under the United Nations Security Council aimed at controlling weapons of mass destruction.
- 2) Its control lists include dual-use goods, conventional arms, and since 2013, certain categories of “intrusion software.”
- 3) Decisions in the Arrangement are based on consensus among member states.
- 4) India is a founding member of the Arrangement and incorporated its lists into SCOMET at the time of joining.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 4 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only

Hint: WA is voluntary (not binding, not UNSC, not WMD-specific) → India joined only in 2017 (not founding) → lists expanded in 2013 to intrusion software → decisions by consensus.

NEWS IN SHORT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

At BRICS, Jaishankar red-flags 'linking of trade measures to non-trade matters'

Why in News?

Jaishankar flagged the risks of tying trade measures to non-trade issues at a BRICS summit, amid the 50% US tariffs on India and Brazil.

Key highlights

Global context & call for stability

- World grappling with pandemic aftermath, Ukraine and Middle East conflicts, climate shocks, SDG slowdown
- Multilateral system appears weak
- Urgent need for constructive, cooperative, fair, transparent trade environment

Warning against protectionism & politicisation

- Increasing barriers and linking trade with political/non-trade concerns are counterproductive
- Advocated open, rules-based, inclusive trading system with special treatment for developing countries

EAM AT BRICS VIRTUAL SUMMIT

“

- India strongly believes international trading system should be open, fair and transparent
- Linking of trade measures to non-trade matters will not help either
- Increasing barriers and complicating transactions will not help
- World requires constructive, cooperative approaches to promote trade that is sustainable
- Imperative that economic practices are fair, transparent, to everyone's benefit
- BRICS must look to create resilient supply chains

S JAISHANKAR

BRICS as a platform for solutions

- BRICS should review intra-group trade to reduce imbalances—India has major deficits with partners
- Can set an example for equitable, sustainable trade among developing economies

Supply chains & resilience

- Need more resilient, reliable, shorter, redundant supply chains
- Democratise manufacturing across geographies to ease regional anxieties and boost self-sufficiency

Broader geopolitical signal

- **India balancing relations:** Jaishankar substituting for Modi underscores tightrope between BRICS and the US
- **Summit hosted by Brazil, with leaders including Xi and Putin,** focused on multilateral counter to protectionism

Trump's H-1B Visa Fee Proclamation

What happened?

- Trump signed proclamation on September 19, 2025 requiring a **\$100,000 annual fee for H-1B visa applications**, effective September 21, 2025
- **Fee structure:** \$100,000 per year for each of the three years of visa duration, paid by employers on top of existing processing costs
- **Entry restriction:** H-1B workers will be denied entry unless their employer pays this fee
- **Part of "Project Firewall":** Department of Labor enforcement initiative to crack down on H-1B visa abuse



Implications for India

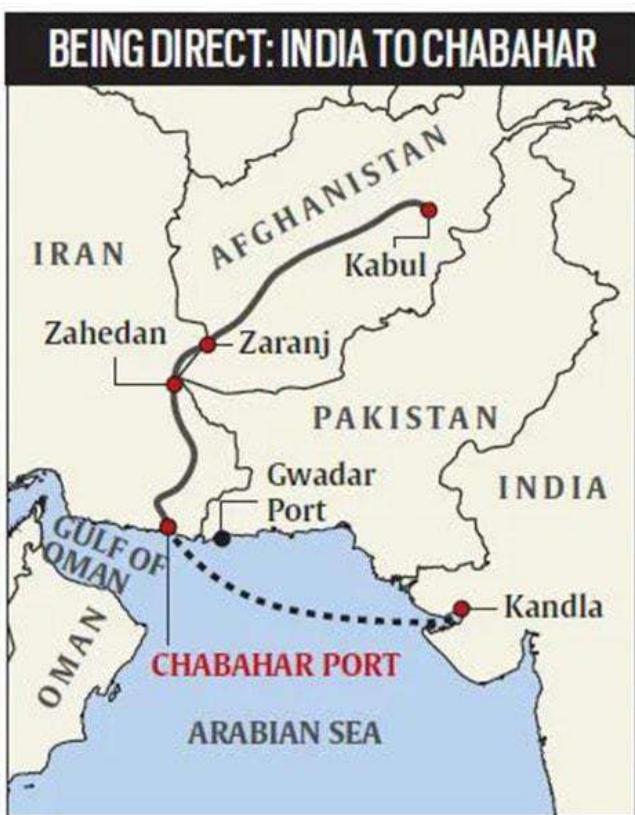
- **Impact on Indian Tech Workers:** 71% of H-1B visa holders are Indian

- Current Indian professionals may face limited job mobility and costly renewals
- **Indian IT Companies Face Major Business Model Disruption:** Companies like TCS, Infosys, and Wipro that rely heavily on H-1B transfers for client projects will be severely impacted
- **Dramatic Decline in US Education Appeal for Indians:** 78% of Indian students would abandon US study plans if H-1B opportunities disappear, according to recent polls
- **Startup and SME Sector Opportunities Vanish:** Small companies and startups cannot afford \$100,000 annual fee, eliminating opportunities for thousands of Indian professionals
- **Brain drain reversal potential:** Highly skilled Indians may increasingly choose to remain in India or move to more welcoming countries

US withdraws sanctions waiver to Chabahar port

Why in News?

US revoked sanctions waiver (2018) for India-developed Chabahar port (Iran), effective Sept 29, 2025.



Chabahar Port – Basics

- **Location:** Gulf of Oman, Iran's first deepwater port.
- **Components:** Shahid Beheshti (India's focus), Shahid Kalantari.
- **Linked Corridors:** INSTC (India–Iran–Russia–Europe), access to Afghanistan/Central Asia bypassing Pakistan.
- **Rival:** Pakistan's Gwadar (China's BRI).

India's Role

- **2002–03:** Strategic cooperation roadmap (Khatami–Vajpayee).
- **2016:** India–Iran–Afghanistan trilateral agreement.
- **2017:** 1st phase of Shahid Beheshti inaugurated; India sent wheat to Afghanistan.
- **2018:** IPGL took partial operations.
- **Planned capacity:** 82 MTPA, 32 jetties (4 phases).

Strategic Importance

- **For India**
 - Alternative to Pakistan land route.
 - Gateway to Afghanistan, Central Asia, Russia, Europe.
 - Balancing China's Gwadar port.
- **For Iran:**
 - Global trade access despite sanctions.
 - Leverage against isolation.
- **For Region:** Key node in INSTC, Eurasian connectivity.

Delays & Challenges

- India's slow project execution in neighbourhood.
- Geopolitical friction: US "axis of evil", sanctions on Iran.
- JCPOA (2015) relief → Trump withdrawal (2018) reimposed sanctions.
- Difficulties in procurement under sanctions regime.
- Taliban return (2021) disrupted Afghan connectivity; India re-engaged (2022).

US Withdrawal of Waiver – Reasons

- Part of "maximum pressure" policy against Iran.
- Linked to recent US strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities (June 2025).

- Revocation under Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act (IFCA).

Implications for India

- Restricted access to Afghanistan, Central Asia.
- Major setback to INSTC and Eurasian outreach.
- Weakens counter to China's Gwadar/BRI.
- Strains India-Iran strategic cooperation.
- Need for alternative connectivity:
 - Bandar Abbas port (Iran),
 - Russia via Caspian,
 - Chahbahar-Zahedan rail project stalled.

Palestinian state recognised by U.K., Australia and Canada

Why in News?

UK, Australia, and Canada officially recognised the State of Palestine, marking a major policy shift in the West.



Significance

- First G7 members** to recognise Palestine (UK, Canada)
- Adds to 140+ UN members** already recognising
- Boosts Palestinian bid** for UN membership, legitimacy
- Seen as revival of two-state solution** vision

Motivations

- UK PM Keir Starmer:** peace, ceasefire, no West Bank annexation
- Canada PM Mark Carney:** partnership for peaceful future
- Australia:** alignment with international consensus
- Historical responsibility:** UK role via 1917 Balfour Declaration
- Pressure from Gaza war** (since Oct 2023 Hamas attack)

Reactions

- Palestinians:** watershed, "not symbolic", supports statehood, ends occupation narrative
- Israel:** Netanyahu opposed, called reward for terrorism, vows UN resistance
- US:** still opposed, maintains negotiations path
- Other countries:** Portugal to follow, France may join at UNGA

Implications

- Deepens West divide: G7 split vs. US stance
- Strengthens Palestinian Authority diplomatically
- Adds pressure for Gaza ceasefire, hostages release, humanitarian aid
- Possible EU momentum towards broader recognition
- Risk of Israeli pushback: settlement expansion, sanctions, UN lobbying



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5-Mains Full Length Tests

Enroll: <https://kalamias.academy/upsc-mentorship/>

Concession Details

Kalam IAS Students: 20%

UPSC Interview Student: 30%

Selected Students: 50%

Abhishek Vashishtha, AIR-14 [CSE 2024]

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

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 Vashishtha
UPSC CSE Rank 14.*

Devansh M. Dwivedi, AIR-228 [CSE 2024]

Hello everyone,
I am Devansh Mohan Dwivedi AIR 228 (UPSC CSE 2024). Kalam IAS's PYQ module with face-to-face evaluation was very helpful during mains preparation. The team was very helpful and kind.

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

Sarthak Singh, AIR-393 [CSE 2024]

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

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



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- Materials [Notes+CA]

Pre-Recorded Classes

Date	Topic/Theme
Day 01	Accounting theory
Day 02	Rules of Debit and Credit
Day 03	Books of Accounts (1)
Day 04	Books of Accounts (2)
Day 05	Financial Statements (Basics: Trading A/c, P&L)
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 lectures are pre-recorded by Shubham Jain, AIR152 (CSE 2022), NLU Delhi

Test Schedule

Test Code	Date	Topic/Theme
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
EPFO_2510	02 NOV	FULL SYLLABUS
EPFO_2511	09 NOV	FULL SYLLABUS

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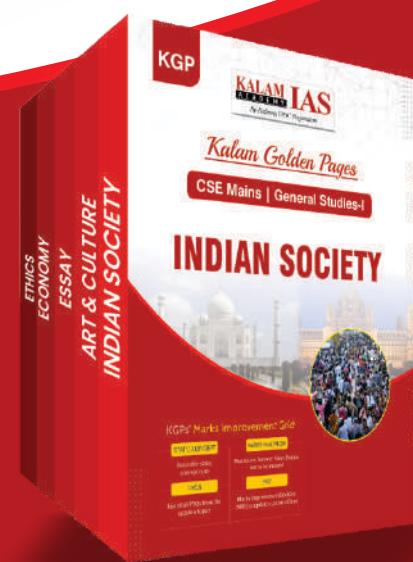
CSE Mains | General Studies I-IV & Essay

KGPs' Marks Improvement Grid

STATIC CONCEPT	MARKS MAXIMIZER
Revisable static concept note	Maximizer Answer Sheet Points not to be missed
PYQs	MIB

List of all PYQs from the syllabus topics

Marks Improvement Booklet (MIB) to update current affairs



20 KGP Booklets

Economy and Agriculture

September 2025

'Exports good, imports bad' is the flawed logic driving Trump's tariff politics

Trade brings prosperity among trading nations. The only thing one has to ensure is that trading is based on rules, not export subsidies

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

Why in news?

Trump has imposed 50% tariffs on Indian goods, escalating from 25% in August 2025, primarily targeting India's trade deficit and Russian oil purchases.



Trump's Tariff Impact on India

- **Massive export losses expected:** \$40-50 billion potential damage to Indian exports to US
- **H-1B visa cuts threatened:** India holds 70% share of H-1B visas, facing potential restrictions described as "scam" by senators
- **Strategic relationship damaged:** 25 years of diplomatic progress undone in two months, trust fundamentally broken
- **Court challenge ongoing:** Federal appeals court ruled Trump overstepped powers, but enforcement delayed till mid-October pending Supreme Court appeal
- **Sectoral impact widespread:** Textiles, gems, jewelry, shrimp, carpets facing 70% export decline, threatening hundreds of thousands of jobs

India's Strategic Response Options

- **No retaliation recommended:** India lacks China's leverage with rare earth minerals monopoly

- **Export diversification urgently needed:** Fast-track FTAs with EU, Russia, ASEAN, African Union, and CPTPP membership
- **BRICS trade activation:** Expanded BRICS should resurrect WTO rules-based trading system
- **Pragmatic negotiations:** Reduce Russian oil imports (\$6-7 billion benefit) to save larger US exports (\$40-50 billion)
- **Domestic reforms required:** Reduce import duties to counter "India tariff king" narrative
- **Alternative markets:** Government supporting exporters to explore China, Latin America, Middle East

The Flawed Export-Import Logic

- **Political misunderstanding widespread:** Most politicians globally view exports as good, imports as bad, justifying higher import duties
- **Comparative advantage ignored:** Politicians fail to understand trade brings prosperity among all trading nations
- **Rules-based trading essential:** WTO's role critical in banning export subsidies and ensuring fair competition
- **Stagflation risk for US:** Economists predict high inflation and low growth within 6-12 months from Trump's policies

Root Cause: Exchange Rate Distortions

- **China's currency manipulation:** Yuan pegged at 8.28 to dollar from mid-1990s to mid-2000s, 20% undervalued as hidden export subsidy
- **WTO oversight gap:** Export subsidies banned but exchange rate distortions never scrutinized
- **Trade deficit origins:** China's undervalued currency during trillion-dollar accumulation period created current overblown trade deficits
- **Fundamental imbalance:** US trade deficit reflects spending more than earning, not bilateral trade relationships
- **Currency impact quantified:** 20% real effective appreciation could increase Chinese purchasing power by 3%

News / Explained / Explained Economics / The 'noise' in April-June GDP: Taking a closer look at the numbers

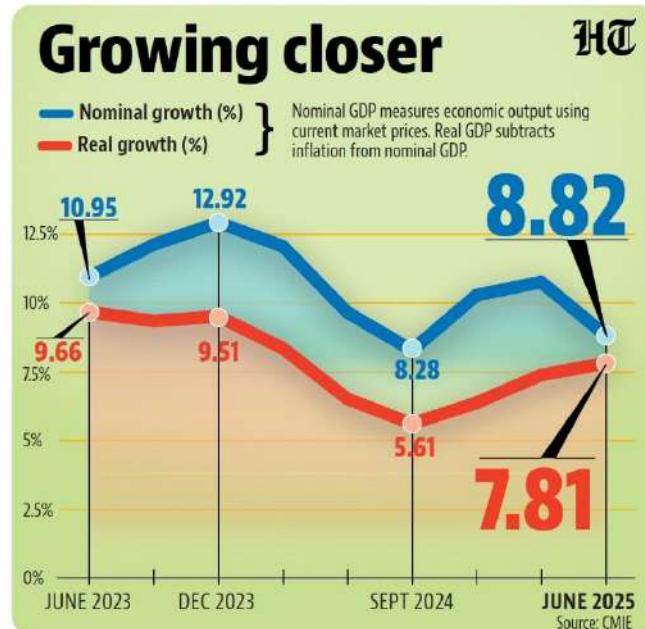
The 'noise' in April-June GDP: Taking a closer look at the numbers

While India's GDP grew by 7.8% in real terms in April-June – the fastest pace in five quarters – the growth rate was at a three-quarter low of 8.8% without adjusting for inflation.

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

Why in News?

India's April-June 2025 GDP growth of 7.8% may be overstated due to exceptionally low GDP deflator of 0.9%, creating disconnect between real and nominal growth figures.



GDP Growth Paradox

- Real GDP growth at 7.8% - highest in five quarters, beating all expectations
- Nominal GDP growth only 8.8% - three-quarter low, indicating weaker underlying activity
- Real GDP calculated at ₹47.89 lakh crore vs nominal GDP of ₹86.05 lakh crore
- Gap between real and nominal unusually narrow due to minimal inflation adjustment

The Deflator Problem

- GDP deflator dropped to just 0.9% - lowest in roughly six years

- WPI inflation averaged below 0.3% in April-June, turning negative in June (-0.13%)
- CPI inflation fell to 2.7% - lowest in over six years
- Single deflation method used for most sectors instead of more accurate double deflation
- Manufacturing profit margins from lower input costs not properly adjusted in calculations

Sectoral Impact Analysis

- Services sector:** Real growth 9.3% (eight-quarter high) but nominal only 11.3%
- Services deflator at 1.9% much lower than actual CPI services inflation of 3.4%
- Manufacturing:** Growth may be overstated by 150 basis points due to deflation methodology
- Agriculture:** Grew 3.7% vs 1.5% in previous year, supported by good monsoon
- If correct deflators applied, overall GDP growth would be around 7% instead of 7.8%

Future Growth Outlook

- WPI inflation turned further negative in July (-0.58%) - first negative in 20 months
- CPI inflation hit eight-year low of 1.55% in July
- RBI expects CPI inflation to average 3.1% in FY26 - 150bps lower than FY25
- GDP deflator likely to remain low, continuing disconnect with high-frequency economic indicators
- Nominal GDP may be better metric to track actual economic momentum this year

Decoding the SC order on regulatory assets

What are regulatory assets and how are they used by DISCOMS to defer costs? What is the difference between a DISCOM's Annual Revenue Requirement and Average Cost of Supply? Do regulatory assets prevent DISCOMs from modernising the grid? What should be the way forward?

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

Why in News?

Supreme Court directed State Electricity Regulatory Commissions and DISCOMs to clear existing regulatory assets within four years and new assets within three years, with 3% ARR cap.

Understanding Regulatory Assets

Definition and Mechanism

- Unrecoverable revenue gap between Average Cost of Supply (ACS) and Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR)
- Created when DISCOM's cost per unit exceeds revenue collected from tariffs and subsidies
- Deferred cost recovery mechanism to avoid sudden tariff shocks to consumers
- Recorded as future receivables with carrying interest costs

Scale of Problem

- Delhi DISCOMs: BSES Rajdhani ₹36,057 crore, BSES Yamuna ₹22,040 crore, Tata Power ₹8,227 crore
- Tamil Nadu: ₹89,375 crore (FY 2021-22)
- National estimate: ₹1.6-1.7 trillion accumulated regulatory assets
- Punjab's early case: ₹487 crore gap with ₹150 crore converted to regulatory asset

ACS-ARR Gap Causes

Primary Factors

- Non-cost reflective tariffs set below actual supply costs
- Delayed subsidy releases from state governments for agriculture/low-income consumers
- Sudden fuel price increases leading to higher power purchase costs
- Political pressure preventing adequate tariff adjustments

Consumer and DISCOM Impact

Consumer Effects

- Immediate tariff stability but eventual steeper increases during recovery
- Additional burden of carrying costs/interest on deferred amounts
- Delhi example: ₹16,580 crore annual recovery needed = ₹5.5 per unit additional cost

DISCOM Consequences

- Severe cash flow pressures affecting generator payments
- Increased borrowing and debt burden
- Limited investment capacity for grid modernization and renewable integration
- Vicious cycle of operational challenges and efficiency deterioration

SCC BLOG

Supreme Court explains what qualifies as 'Change in Law'; directs DISCOMS to compensate Power Generators for all additional charges levied by State instrumentalities



Supreme Court Directions

Key Guidelines

- Existing regulatory assets: liquidation within 4 years from April 2024
- New regulatory assets: liquidation within 3 years, capped at 3% of ARR
- Transparent recovery roadmaps with intensive audits required
- APTEL to monitor implementation through suo moto petitions

Way Forward

Financial Discipline Measures

- Cost-reflective tariffs with targeted subsidies for vulnerable consumers
- Timely subsidy releases from state governments
- Automatic fuel cost adjustment mechanisms for input cost variations
- Regular annual true-up exercises to prevent backlogs

Regulatory Reform

- Strict enforcement of asset limits and recovery timelines
- Enhanced transparency in accounting practices
- Clear regulatory commission accountability framework
- Coordinated action across sector stakeholders for sustainable electricity pricings

GST 2.0 unveiled: Two-slab structure cleared, new rates will come into effect September 22

No GST on individual health insurance policy, FM says, after marathon 56th meeting of the GST Council lasted for 10.5 hours, in which the Centre and states thrashed out key tax proposals.

IE Business; By Aanchal Magazine;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News?

GST Council's 56th meeting approved GST 2.0 with simplified two-slab structure (5% and 18%) and zero GST on individual health/life insurance, effective September 22, 2025.

Key Structural Changes

- **Two-slab system replacing four slabs** - 5% (merit goods), 18% (standard rate), elimination of 12% and 28% slabs
- **Special 40% demerit rate** - super luxury goods, sin products, pan masala, cigarettes
- **Tobacco products exception** - current GST rates and compensation cess continue until loan obligations discharged
- **Implementation date** - September 22, 2025 (first day of Navratri)
- **Marathon council meeting** - 10.5 hours, consensus decision without voting

Major Tax Exemptions & Reductions

- **Zero GST on insurance** - individual life insurance (term, ULIP, endowment), health insurance including family floater and senior citizen policies, down from 18%
- **Food items to 5%** - butter, cheese, condensed milk, pasta, coconut water, soya milk, nuts, dates, sausages from 12%
- **Zero GST on basic foods** - UHT milk, paneer, pizza bread, khakra, chapati, roti, erasers
- **Personal care to 5%** - hair oil, soap bars, shampoos, toothbrushes, toothpaste from 12-18%
- **White goods to 18%** - air conditioners, TVs, dishwashers from 28%

- **Small vehicles to 18%** - cars under 1200cc petrol/1500cc diesel and under 4 meters, motorcycles under 350cc
- **Services to 5%** - gyms, salons, barbers, yoga centres from 18%

Sectoral Impact & Corrections

- **Inverted duty structure resolved** - textiles (manmade fiber 18% to 5%, yarn 12% to 5%), fertilizer inputs (acids, ammonia 18% to 5%)
- **Working capital relief** - automated 90% provisional refunds, reduced classification disputes
- **Revenue implications** - net impact Rs 48,000 crore, states initially concerned about Rs 80,000 crore to Rs 1.5 lakh crore loss
- **Industry assurance** - CII and companies committed to pass benefits to consumers

Administrative Reforms

- **Ease of doing business** - automated refunds and registration process
- **Classification clarity** - reduced disputes from differential rates, especially automotive and food sectors
- **CBIC implementation** - administrative measures for provisional refunds using data analysis and risk evaluation
- **PM endorsement** - benefits for farmers, MSMEs, middle class, women, youth



Historic Diwali Gift for the Nation

NEXT-GEN GST REFORM

for Ease of Living & to build *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*

From farmers to enterprises, from households to businesses,
the Next-Gen GST brings happiness for all!

Save Big on Daily Essentials

Items	From	To
Hair Oil, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toilet Soap Bar, Tooth Brushes, Shaving Cream	18%	5%
Butter, Ghee, Cheese & Dairy Spreads	12%	5%
Pre-packaged Namkeens, Bhujia & Mixtures	12%	5%
Utensils	12%	5%
Feeding Bottles, Napkins for Babies & Clinical Diapers	12%	5%
Sewing Machines & Parts	12%	5%

Uplifting Farmers & Agriculture

Items	From	To
Tractor Tyres & Parts	18%	5%
Tractors	12%	5%
Specified Bio-Pesticides, Micro-Nutrients	12%	5%
Drip Irrigation System & Sprinklers	12%	5%
Agricultural, Horticultural or Forestry Machines for Soil Preparation, Cultivation, Harvesting & Threshing	12%	5%

Relief in Healthcare Sector

Items	From	To
Individual Health & Life Insurance	18%	Nil
Thermometer	18%	5%
Medical Grade Oxygen	12%	5%
All Diagnostic Kits & Reagents	12%	5%
Glucometer & Test Strips	12%	5%
Corrective Spectacles	12%	5%

Automobiles made affordable

Items	From	To
Petrol & Petrol Hybrid, LPG, CNG Cars (not exceeding - 1200 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
Diesel & Diesel Hybrid Cars (not exceeding - 1500 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
3 Wheeled Vehicles	28%	18%
Motor Cycles (350 cc & below)	28%	18%
Motor Vehicles for transport of goods	28%	18%

Affordable Education

Items	From	To
Maps, Charts & Globes	12%	Nil
Pencils, Sharpeners, Crayons & Pastels	12%	Nil
Exercise Books & Notebooks	12%	Nil
Eraser	5%	Nil

Save on Electronic Appliances

Items	From	To
Air Conditioners	28%	18%
Television (above 32") (including LED & LCD TVs)	28%	18%
Monitors & Projectors	28%	18%
Dish Washing Machines	28%	18%

PROCESS REFORMS

Registration

Automatic registration within 3 working days for applicants:
 • Identified by the system based on data analysis
 • Who determines that he would not pass Input Tax Credit exceeding ₹2.5 Lakh per month and opts for the Scheme

Refund

Sanction of Provisional Refunds by proper officer, through system based risk evaluation for:
 • Zero Rated Supplies
 • Supplies with Inverted Duty Structure



“
The next generation of GST reforms are a gift for every Indian this Diwali. Taxes for the general public will be reduced substantially. Our MSMEs & small entrepreneurs will get huge benefit. Everyday items will become cheaper and this will also give a new boost to the economy.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Next-Gen GST - Better & Simpler!

Prelims Factsheet

GST Council

Constitutional Basis: Article 279A (101st Amendment, 2016)

Composition:

- Chairperson: Union Finance Minister
- Members: Union Minister of State (Revenue) + Finance Ministers of all states/UTs with legislature

Voting System:

- Union Government: 1/3rd weightage
- All States combined: 2/3rd weightage
- Quorum: 50% of total members
- Decision by 3/4th majority of votes cast

Important Facts:

- Meets at least once every quarter
- Joint forum of Centre and States (cooperative federalism)
- Decisions binding on both Centre and States

Input Tax Credit (ITC) Mechanism

Definition: Tax paid on inputs can be set off against output tax liability

Core Principle: Avoid cascading effect of taxation (tax on tax)

Eligibility Conditions:

- Must have valid tax invoice
- Goods/services received
- Tax paid to supplier/government
- Return filed by supplier

ITC Flow:

- Purchase inputs → Pay GST → Use ITC against output GST
- Excess ITC can be refunded or carried forward

Restrictions:

- No ITC on personal consumption items
- Motor vehicles (unless for specific business use)
- Food, beverages for employee consumption
- Works contract services for personal use

Time Limit: ITC can be claimed till September 30 of following financial year

Inverted Duty Structure

Definition: When tax rate on inputs is higher than tax rate on finished products

Problem Created:

- Accumulates ITC (cannot be fully utilized)
- Working capital blockage
- Cash flow issues for manufacturers

Common Examples:

- Textiles: Man-made fiber (18%) → Yarn (12%) → Fabric (5%)
- Fertilizers: Industrial acids (18%) → Fertilizers (5%)
- Food Processing: Packaging materials (18%) → Processed food (5%)

Solutions:

- Refund mechanism for excess ITC
- Rate rationalization (as in GST 2.0)
- Automated refund processing

GST 2.0 Resolution:

- Man-made fiber: 18% → 5%
- Textile yarn: 12% → 5%
- Fertilizer inputs: 18% → 5%
- Automated 90% provisional refunds

Impact: Improved cash flow, reduced compliance burden, enhanced competitiveness

[News](#) / [Explained](#) / [Explained Economics](#) / GST rate changes: Why was this done, who is impacted how, explained in 5 points

GST rate changes: Why was this done, who is impacted how, explained in 5 points

New GST Slab 2025-26: Will the new GST rules really make your Diwali brighter? What will be the impact of the govt's revenue loss? Also, what exactly is GST? We answer all your questions, starting from the simplest.

IE Explained;

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

Why in News?

GST Council approved major tax reforms on September 3, 2025, simplifying four-tier structure to mainly two slabs with new rates effective from September 22 (Navratri).

SHAMPOO TO HEALTH INSURANCE, ACs TO TVs		
DAILY ESSENTIALS	FROM	TO
■ Hair oil, shampoo, toilet soap bar, toothpaste, toothbrush, shaving cream	18%	5%
■ Butter, ghee, cheese & dairy spreads	12%	5%
HEALTHCARE		
■ Individual health & life insurance	18%	Nil
■ Corrective spectacles	12%	5%
EDUCATION		
■ Maps, charts & globes	12%	Nil
■ Exercise books & notebooks	12%	Nil
AGRICULTURE		
■ Tractors	12%	5%
■ Drip irrigation system & sprinklers	12%	5%
AUTOMOBILES		
■ Petrol & petrol hybrid, LPG, CNG cars (not exceeding 1200 cc & 4000 mm)	28%	18%
■ Motorcycles (350 cc & below)	28%	18%
ELECTRONIC APPLIANCES		
■ Air conditioners	28%	18%
■ TV (above 32", including LED & LCD TVs)	28%	18%

What Changed in GST Structure?

- Four slabs reduced to two main slabs:** 5% (merit rate) and 18% (standard rate) replacing earlier 5%, 12%, 18%, 28% system
- New 40% luxury/sin tax introduced:** High-end cars, tobacco, aerated beverages, premium bikes face highest taxation
- Daily essentials moved to lower brackets:** Hair oil, shampoo, butter, cheese, nuts, packaged food shifted from 12%/18% to 5%
- Electronics become cheaper:** TVs, ACs, refrigerators reduced from 28% to 18%; small cars and bikes below certain limits also at 18%
- Some items become tax-free:** Personal health/life insurance, exercise books, notebooks moved to 0% from 18%/12%

Who Benefits Most?

- Middle-class families:** Significant savings on daily consumables, electronics, small vehicles
- Small car/bike buyers:** Vehicles under 1200cc/350cc respectively taxed at 18% instead of 28%
- Construction sector:** Cement rates drop from 28% to 18%, reducing building costs
- Agriculture sector:** Tractors, irrigation equipment moved to 5% from 12%
- Hotel industry:** Accommodations up to Rs 7,500 taxed at 5% instead of 12%

Government Revenue Impact

- Expected revenue loss:** Rs 48,000 crore annually due to rate reductions

- Consumption boost strategy:** Lower prices expected to increase demand and overall economic activity
- Virtuous growth cycle:** More spending → higher production → more employment → increased consumption
- Long-term gain expectation:** Revenue losses compensated by expanded tax base and economic growth
- Timing consideration:** Pre-Diwali implementation to maximize festive season consumption

Economic Logic Behind Changes

- Demand stimulation:** Cheaper goods leave more money in consumer pockets for additional spending
- Tax simplification:** Two-tier system reduces compliance burden and classification disputes
- Formalization push:** Simplified structure encourages more businesses to join formal economy
- Anti-luxury measure:** 40% rate discourages consumption of harmful/luxury products while generating revenue
- Political timing:** Festive season launch ensures maximum visibility and consumer appreciation

News / Explained / Explained Economics / PM Modi says 'GST savings festival' begins: with lower prices, how household budgets are set for boost

PM Modi says 'GST savings festival' begins: with lower prices, how household budgets are set for boost

GST Savings Festival, New GST Rates 2025: In an address to the nation on Sunday evening, PM Modi said that from the middle class to the youth, many sections of Indians will benefit from 'next generation' GST reforms.

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

Why in News?

PM Modi announced launch of 'GST Savings Festival' as new GST rates (GST 2.0) took effect from **Sept 22, 2025**, reducing taxes on 375+ common-use goods and services.

Key Features of GST 2.0

- GST Council decision:** 56th meeting (Sept 3, 2025).
- Coverage:** FMCG, household items, cement, durables, automobiles, insurance.
- Monitoring:** Finance Ministry to track price pass-through.
- Aim:** Boost consumption, reduce inflation, support middle class & youth.

WHAT'S CHEAPER AND BY HOW MUCH

Nil GST:

	Old Price (Rs)	New Price (Rs)	% change
Mother Dairy tetrapack toned milk (1L)	77	75	-3
Amul milk Gold (1L)	83	80	-4
Mother Dairy paneer (200gm)	95	92	-3
Amul paneer (200g)	95	92	-3
Amul butter khakra (200g)	100	95	-5
Amul cheese onion paratha (500g)	240	200	-17

GST cut to 5% from 12%

	Old Price (Rs)	New Price (Rs)	% change
Mother Dairy milkshake (180ml)	30	28	-7
Amul butter (100g)	62	58	-6
Kissan ketchup (850gm)	100	93	-7
Mother Dairy cheese spread (180gm)	120	110	-8
Safal mixed fruit jam (1kg)	125	115	-8
Pringles Original (107g)	125	110	-12
Safal pickle (400g)	130	120	-8
B Natural Mixed Fruit juice (750ml)	158	148	-6
Mother Dairy cheese slices (200gm)	170	160	-6
B Natural Mixed Fruit juice (750ml)	158	148	-6
Mother Dairy cheese slices (200gm)	170	160	-6
ITC Master Chef Veggie Pizza Pocket (340g)	195	180	-8
Mother Dairy butter (500g)	305	285	-7
ITC Master Chef Crunchy Chicken Nuggets (1kg)	650	605	-7
Himalaya Adult Diapers	650	609	-6
Amul pure ghee (1L)	650	610	-6
Mother Dairy ghee carton (1L)	675	645	-4
Aashirvaad Svasti Pure Cow Ghee (1L)	1080	1010	-6

Cheaper Essentials

- Milk products:** Paneer exempt ($\downarrow 3\%$), UHT milk ($\downarrow 3\%$), butter & cheese slices ($\downarrow 6\%$), Amul paratha ($\downarrow 17\%$).
- Packaged foods:** Pringles ($\downarrow 12\%$), Kellogg's cornflakes ($\downarrow 11\%$), Sunfeast biscuits ($\downarrow 12\%$).

- Ice creams:** Mother Dairy vanilla cup ($\downarrow 10\%$), Butterscotch cone ($\downarrow 14\%$).
- Condiments:** Ketchup, ghee, pickles, jams ($\downarrow 4\text{--}8\%$).

Household & Personal Care

- Items:** Shampoo, soap, toothpaste, hair oil.
- Rate cut:** 18% \rightarrow 5%.
- Impact:** Prices $\downarrow 11\text{--}13\%$ (brands: Dove, L'Oréal, Himalaya, Close-Up).

GST cut to 5% from 18%			
	Old Price (Rs)	New Price (Rs)	% change
Mother Dairy vanilla cup (50ml)	10	9	-10
Mother Dairy Butterscotch cone (100ml)	35	30	-14
Dove serum bar soap (75gm)	45	40	-11
Gillette Regular Shaving Cream (93g)	80	71	-11
Amul butter cookies (200g)	85	75	-12
Head & Shoulders Smooth and Silky Shampoo (72ml)	89	79	-11
Shower to Shower Prickly Heat Powder (150g)	145	135	-7
Close-Up toothpaste (150gm)	145	129	-11
Sunfeast Marie Light (956g)	170	150	-12
L'Oreal Total Repair 5 shampoo (200ml)	219	190	-13
Vivel Aloe Vera Soap (150gx4)	280	248	-11
Himalaya Baby Hair Oil (200ml)	300	267	-11
Old Spice After Shave lotion (150ml)	349	310	-11
Dark Fantasy Choco Fills (460g)	370	328	-11
Clinic Plus Strong & Long shampoo (355ml)	393	340	-13
Kellogg's original cornflakes (900g)	399	355	-11
L'Oreal Absolut Repair Shampoo (300ml)	845	750	-11

GST cut to 18% from 28%			
	Old Price (Rs)	New Price (Rs)	% change
Whirlpool AC (1tn)		Rs 4,509-5,259 cheaper	
Whirlpool dishwashers		Rs 3,282-4,336 cheaper	
JKCement (50 kg bag)	510-630	465-575	-9

Non-Food & Services

- Cement:** 28% \rightarrow 18%, $\downarrow \sim 10\%$ (JK Cement, UltraTech).
- Insurance:** Health & life premiums exempt ($\downarrow \sim 15\%$).
- Durables:** ACs cheaper by ₹4.5k–₹5.2k, dishwashers \downarrow ₹3.2k–₹4.3k.

Automobiles

- Small cars:** GST 18% vs earlier 28%+cess.
- Maruti Suzuki:** Cuts ₹46,400–₹1.29 lakh.

- **Dealer issue:** Stock at old rates → unsold, est. loss ₹2,500 crore.
- **Bigger cars:** Now 40% GST vs ~50% earlier.

Economic Impact

- **Boost to demand:** FMCG, housing, autos, durables.
- **Lower inflation:** Household budgets eased.
- **Savings channel:** Extra income can shift to savings/investment.
- **Sectoral ripple:** Cement & construction → MSME growth, jobs.

Test Your Knowledge 01

Q1. Which of the following items became GST exempt (0%) after the September 2025 reforms?

- Packaged paneer
- Amul cheese onion paratha
- Cement

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Hint: Paneer & paratha exempt; cement only reduced to 18%, not exempt.

GST 2.0: Reform at the cost of informal workers

While GST 2.0 promises a unified market and formal economy in theory, in practice, it risks deepening inequalities, burdening informal workers, and marginalising vast sections of civil society.

IE Opinion; By Boddu Srujana and Anagha Tobi; Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News?

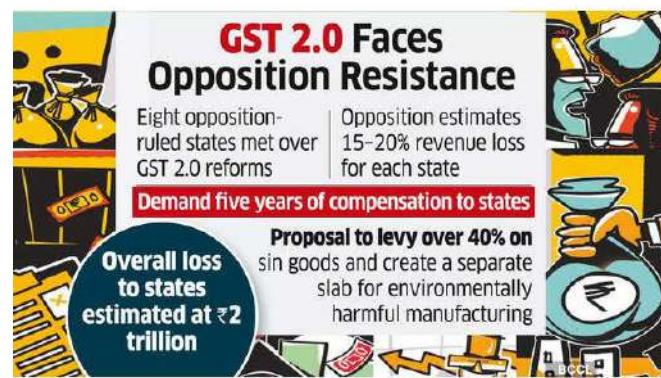
GST 2.0 launched with promises of simplification, lower rates, and formalisation, but risks worsening inequalities and burdening informal workers.

Promises of GST 2.0

- Fewer slabs, simplified structure
- Lower tax on essentials → boost demand
- Goal: unified market, formalised economy
- Reformist narrative: efficiency, self-reliance

Exclusionary Impact

- Compliance costs → heavy for MSMEs, small traders, artisans
- Informal workers → wage cuts, job loss, retrenchment
- “Premature formalisation” → unsustainable for many
- Digital burden → excludes tech-illiterate, marginalised
- Regressive tax burden → poor pay more proportionally



Political & Social Dimensions

- Benefits concentrated in formal firms, upper castes
- Dalits/OBCs in low-capital sectors hit hardest
- Civil society (formal, literate) vs. political society (informal, marginalised)
- GST → tool of selective incorporation, fiscal discipline over rights

State-Level Experiences

- **Gujarat:** textile/diamond clusters, Dalit-OBC weavers face compliance burden, casualisation
- **Punjab:** excise rebates lost, informal subcontracting rises, contract jobs increase
- **Tamil Nadu:** MSMEs (leather/engineering) overburdened; reduced welfare funding
- **Kerala:** welfare focus, but revenue shortfalls constrain labour protection

Fiscal Federalism Strain

- Reduced compensation → state revenue losses
- Cuts in welfare & employment schemes
- MSME-heavy states disproportionately affected
- Centralisation erodes states' fiscal autonomy

Governance & Inequality

- GST = not neutral, but governance tool
- Fiscally disciplined “citizen” privileged
- Informal workers doubly excluded → no compliance benefit + welfare cuts
- Reinforces caste/class hierarchies under modernisation rhetoric

Way Forward

- Simplify compliance for MSMEs
- Exempt labour-intensive sectors
- Strengthen fiscal transfers, welfare funding
- Equity-oriented fiscal federalism
- Pair tax reform with worker protections & social safety nets

Test Your Knowledge

Q. Which of the following best explains the term “premature formalisation” in the context of GST 2.0?

- (a) Forcing large corporations to file returns more frequently.
- (b) Integrating informal enterprises into a tax-compliance regime before they are ready.
- (c) Expanding GST to cover international e-commerce.
- (d) Formalising welfare schemes into direct tax credits.

Hint: Informal MSMEs struggle with compliance without adequate handholding.

Foreign Investors Still Cautious

- Capital inflows **dropped by over 40%** in April–June 2025 vs. same period in 2024

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS: CAPITAL VERSUS CURRENT

	Capital Inflows (Net)	Trade Balance (1)	Invisibles Balance (2)	Current Account (1-2)
2007-08	107.9	-91.47	75.73	-15.74
2008-09	7.84	-119.52	91.60	-27.91
2009-10	51.62	-118.20	80.02	-38.18
2010-11	61.10	-127.32	79.27	-48.05
2011-12	65.32	-189.76	111.60	-78.16
2012-13	91.99	-195.66	107.49	-88.16
2013-14	47.80	-147.61	115.31	-32.30
2014-15	88.27	-144.94	118.08	-26.86
2015-16	40.06	-130.08	107.93	-22.15
2016-17	35.97	-112.44	98.03	-14.42
2017-18	92.29	-160.04	111.32	-48.72
2018-19	53.92	-180.28	123.03	-57.26
2019-20	84.15	-157.51	132.85	-24.66
2020-21	63.37	-102.15	126.07	23.91
2021-22	86.27	-189.46	150.09	-38.77
2022-23	57.92	-265.29	198.24	-67.06
2023-24	89.81	-244.91	218.80	-26.11
2024-25	18.34	-287.21	263.85	-23.37
Apr-Jun 24	13.11	-63.80	55.13	-8.68
Apr-Jun 25	7.70	-68.46	66.09	-2.37

Figures in billion dollars. Source: Reserve Bank of India.

- Net capital into India in FY 2024–25 was **\$18.3 billion**—the weakest since financial crisis 2008–09
- Foreign investment (FDI + FPI) plunged from **\$80.1 billion in 2020–21 to just \$4.5 billion in 2024–25**
 - FDI nearly negligible at **~\$1 billion**
 - FPI dominated by debt inflows; equity suffered large exits
- PE/VC investors chasing exits: **\$24 billion exits in 2022 → \$33 billion in 2024**, aided by rich valuations
- **Domestic investors stepped in**, enabling profitable exits but not new foreign bets

News / Explained / Explained Economics / Why foreign investors are not bullish on India

W Premium

Why foreign investors are not bullish on India

India may be the world's fastest-growing economy. Yet, it is not attracting commensurate foreign capital inflows, which are actually at a decade-and-a-half low.

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

Why in News?

India's exceptional GDP growth isn't matched by foreign capital, which hit a **15-year low** in early FY 2025–26—even as growth nearly hit 8%.

Global & Policy Headwinds

- **U.S. imposed steep tariffs** (up to 50%) on Indian exports over Russian oil purchases → investor jitters
- **Result: Rupee hits record lows**; capital outflows accelerate
- **Moody's forecasts** GDP growth trimmed by ~0.3 percentage point due to tariffs
- **Compare:** Foreign flows redirected toward China amid its stimulus-driven optimism

Weak Corporate Fundamentals

- **Corporate earnings disappoint**, failing to justify asset valuations

- **High stock market valuations** deter fresh foreign capital
- **FPI selling persists** despite GST reforms and macro strength

Domestic Buffer, But Not a Solution

- Domestic investment surged (e.g. 53% real estate inflows in H1 2025)
- But foreign capital remains essential for deficits, reserves, infrastructure

What Could Help?

- **Clearer GST regime & fairer valuations** could revive investor confidence
- **SEBI exploring smoother capital inflow channels** while maintaining discipline
- **Sustained improvements** in earnings and policy stability remain key

New Income Tax Act 2025 expands state's digital surveillance powers, marks a constitutional overreach

By extending search powers into virtual domains without adequate safeguards, the new law risks violating the Puttaswamy privacy judgment and the DPDPA Act

IE Opinion; By Kumar Kartikeya, Ishaan Ahuja;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News?

Income-Tax Act, 2025 grants **sweeping digital search powers to tax officials**, raising concerns of constitutional overreach, privacy violations, and conflict with Puttaswamy & DPDPA Act.

Key Provisions & Changes

- **Repeals IT Act, 1961** → modernised structure, tax year system

- **Section 261(e):** “computer system” includes virtual digital space
- **Section 132 powers** extended from physical premises → cloud, emails, WhatsApp, social media
- **Claimed safeguards:** higher authority approval, recorded reasons, judicial review (ex post facto)

Constitutional & Legal Concerns

- **Puttaswamy (2017):** legality–necessity–proportionality test violated
- **Pooran Mal (1974)** precedent outdated (pre-privacy era)
- **No judicial warrant** → officers as judge & executor
- **Conflict with DPDPA Act, 2023** → breaches purpose limitation, data minimisation
- **Routine tax probes** wrongly equated with national security exemptions

Risks & Implications

- **Privacy erosion:** intrusion into personal/professional communications
- **Chilling effect on free speech:** online dissent, political mobilisation
- **Potential misuse:** target opponents, surveillance tool
- **Weak oversight:** sanctioning authorities rubber-stamp approvals
- **Disproportionate means:** social media data rarely relevant to taxable income

Democratic & Legislative Issues

- **Hasty passage:** limited debate, Select Committee sidelined
- **Lost chance:** pruning arbitrary powers, introducing judicial oversight
- **Enlarges surveillance powers** instead of reforming them
- **Risks undermining democratic freedoms & constitutional rights**

Comparative Perspective

- **US, UK, EU:** judicial warrants mandatory for digital search/seizure

- **Safeguards:** proportionality, minimisation, confidential handling
- **Indian model:** ex post facto review only, inadequate protection

Test Your Knowledge

Q. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act) is in conflict with provisions of the Income-Tax Act, 2025 because:

- 1) DPDP Act is based on principles of purpose limitation and data minimisation.
- 2) Tax department's unfettered access to social media and private communications breaches these principles.
- 3) DPDP Act allows no exemptions for government agencies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Hint: DPDP Act has broad exemptions but not meant for routine tax probes. (Answer a)

News / Explained / Explained Economics / India US corn trade: Why does India not import corn from the US?

India US corn trade: Why does India not import corn from the US?

Corn import tariffs India: For now, it is unlikely that India will relent to the US demand to cut tariffs or allow imports of GM corn. That likelihood is even less ahead of assembly elections in Bihar: the state is India's third-largest maize producer

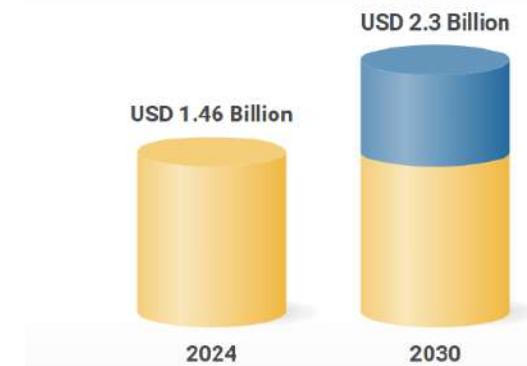
IE Opinion; By Harish Damodaran;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Economy [Link](#)

Why in News?

India unlikely to cut tariffs or allow GM corn imports despite US pressure, amid Bihar elections and domestic sensitivities.

Indian Corn Market

Market forecast to grow at a CAGR of 7.9%



India's Import Policy & Barriers

- **Tariff:** up to 0.5 mt at 15%, beyond 50% duty
- **GM ban:** no GM corn import or cultivation allowed
- **Small US share:** only 1,100 tonnes (2024–25); imports mainly from Myanmar, Ukraine
- **NITI Aayog proposal withdrawn:** GM maize for ethanol only

US Concerns & Push

- **World's largest corn producer & exporter**
- 2024–25: 377.6 mt produced, 71.7 mt exported
- 2025–26 projections: 427.1 mt production, 75 mt exports
- **Losing China:** imports fell from \$5.2 bn (2022) to \$0.33 bn (2024) → desperation for new markets
- **US corn 94% GM:** cheap price \$4.29/bushel (<₹15/kg) vs India MSP ₹24/kg

India's Domestic Context

- **Rising demand:** USDA projects corn consumption 34.7 mt (2022–23) → 62–200 mt by 2050
- **Demand drivers:** livestock, poultry, dairy, ethanol
- **Bihar elections:** state 3rd largest maize producer (after Karnataka, MP) → tariff cuts politically sensitive
- **Farmer protection:** MSP ₹24/kg, wholesale ₹22–23/kg vs US cheaper imports

Test Your Knowledge

Q6. Why is the United States pushing India to open its corn market?

- China has drastically reduced its corn imports from the US.
- India's domestic corn demand is projected to rise sharply with income growth.
- US corn is largely non-GM and easily exportable.
- India is already the largest importer of US corn in Asia.

Hint: India's projected demand growth is the core reason; China's exit triggered urgency, but not the main structural driver.

Answer: (a) and (b) are true, but UPSC format expects one correct → (a) is factually correct, but (b) is the main long-term reason.

News / Explained / Explained Economics / Why low inflation is a problem for government's finances, Budget targets

Why low inflation is a problem for government's finances, Budget targets

Inflation has fallen sharply in recent months and is expected to stay subdued. But while this is a plus for consumers, it's an issue for the government. Here's why.

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

Why in News?

CPI inflation (Aug 2025) at **2.07%**, WPI at **0.52%** → boon for consumers, strain on govt finances & Budget math.



Impact on Govt Finances

- Nominal GDP Link**
 - Govt uses **nominal GDP** for tax, fiscal deficit, debt ratios.

- Budget FY26 assumed **10.1%** growth; actual Q1 nominal growth **8.8%**.
- Weak price growth → lower nominal GDP despite real GDP at **7.8%**.

- Tax Revenue**

- Apr-Jul: gross tax rev +1% YoY; net tax rev **-7.5%**.
- Budget expected ~11% growth.
- GST rate cuts → further dampening inflation & revenues.

- Fiscal Targets**

- Revised FY25 GDP base: ₹331 lakh cr (↑2%).
- FY26 target: ₹357 lakh cr → needs only **8% growth**.
- Fiscal deficit target 4.4%, debt-GDP 56.1% achievable if nominal GDP met.
- Risk: slower growth → revenue shortfall, higher deficit.

Why Low Inflation Matters?

- Positive Side**

- Relief to households.
- Better purchasing power.

- Negative Side for Govt**

- Slows nominal GDP growth → weakens tax buoyancy.
- Past 13 yrs: Budget nominal GDP overstated in 9 yrs.
- Nominal growth likely **8.3% FY26** (below target).

Structural Concerns

- Corporate Profits**

- Apr-Jun: sales +5.5%, profits +17.6%.
- Manufacturers: sales +5.3%, profits +27.7%.
- Profit margins strong, cash piles large.

- Investment Sentiment**

- Weak capex despite profits.
- Not driven by productivity gains; oversupply/demand weakness suspected.
- Low inflation sustainable only if from productivity, not demand slack.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. Consider the following statements:

- Real GDP is adjusted for inflation, while nominal GDP is not.
- Government's fiscal deficit and debt-to-GDP ratios are calculated using nominal GDP.

3) A fall in inflation always benefits government's tax revenue collection.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Hint: Real vs Nominal → adjustment; Fiscal ratios use Nominal; Low inflation reduces tax buoyancy.

Q. Assertion (A): Low CPI and WPI inflation are good for consumers but may pose a challenge for government finances.

Reason (R): Fiscal deficit and debt ratios are measured against nominal GDP, which slows down when inflation is subdued.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) A is false, but R is true.

Hint: Low inflation ↓ nominal GDP → weaker tax revenues & fiscal ratios.

- Not permitted: base metals, ferrous metals, precious metals (physically settled)

Proposed Changes

- FPIs entry into physically settled non-agri commodities
- Coverage: gold, silver, zinc, lead, other base/ferrous metals
- Aim: expand investor base, deepen commodity markets

Rationale

- Broader participation → efficient price discovery
- FPIs' financial strength + research → better market depth
- Liquidity beyond near-month contracts → helps real users hedge
- Reduced hedging costs for corporates
- Domestic hedging option vs global exchanges
- Strategic importance amid geo-political uncertainties

Potential Market Impact

- ↑ Liquidity in commodity derivatives market
- Longer-tenor contracts viable → hedging for 2–3 months+
- Risk capital infusion by FPIs
- Stronger alignment with global commodity trading practices
- Boost to India's role in gold/silver markets (where India major player)
- Post-3:30 pm trading extension → better capital churn for FPIs

Challenges / Concerns

- Delivery risks in physically settled contracts
- Need for strong warehousing & settlement infra
- Volatility risks with large speculative FPI inflows/outflows
- Monitoring for market manipulation & excess speculation

Test Your Knowledge

Q. At present, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in India are permitted to trade in which of the following?

- 1) Gold futures
- 2) Crude oil futures
- 3) Silver futures
- 4) Natural gas futures

News / Explained / Explained Economics / FPIs may trade in gold, silver: SEBI's proposal, potential market impact

FPIs may trade in gold, silver: SEBI's proposal, potential market impact

The current regulations permit foreign investors to trade in natural gas, crude oil and index futures and index options. Why are rules likely to change, and what could be the impact?

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

Why in News?

SEBI reviewing proposal to allow FPIs in non-cash settled, non-agricultural commodity derivatives (gold, silver, base metals).

Current Regulatory Framework

- FPIs → allowed in cash-settled non-agri commodity contracts
- Permitted: crude oil, natural gas, index futures, index options

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Hint: FPIs are allowed only in cash-settled non-agri commodities like crude oil & natural gas; not in physically settled metals like gold/silver.

News / Explained / Explained Economics / GDP (Graphs, Data, Perspectives): On the weakness of the Rupee

GDP (Graphs, Data, Perspectives): On the weakness of the Rupee

While a weaker currency makes imports from the rest of the world costlier, it has a silver lining, too. What do data tell us about the rupee's position in recent months, and what would it take for things to turn around?

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

Why in News?

Rupee hit fresh record lows in late-Sept 2025 (\approx ₹88.6–88.8/USD), prompting questions on causes, impact and reversal conditions.

INR slips while competing economies gain against USD

Indian rupee has weakened against the US dollar in 2025 even as the currencies of comparable economies have strengthened.

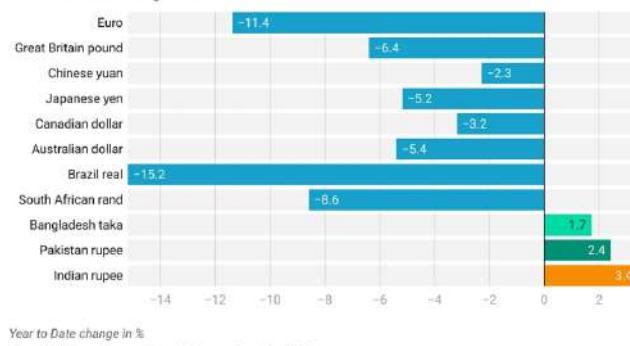


Chart 1: Since Jan 2025, USD \downarrow vs EU, China, Japan, Brazil, S.Africa, but INR \downarrow >3% \rightarrow weaker than peers. INR with B'desh & Pak, yet slid more. Past 1 month alone: INR \downarrow 1.3%.

Slide – Quick Facts

- **Peak levels:** intraday \approx ₹88.6–88.8/USD (23–24 Sep 2025).
- **2025 YTD:** INR \downarrow ~3–3.6% vs USD; \downarrow \approx 1.3% in past month (per IE chart).
- Also weaker vs EUR/GBP — not USD-only.

Impacts

- **Imports \uparrow cost** \rightarrow fuel, tech imports pricier \rightarrow inflationary pressure.
- **Exports \uparrow competitiveness** \rightarrow exporters benefit amid global protectionism.
- **Markets:** foreign investors selling Indian equities/bonds \rightarrow capital outflows exacerbate FX pressure.

Rupee weakness

More and more rupees required to buy major international currencies

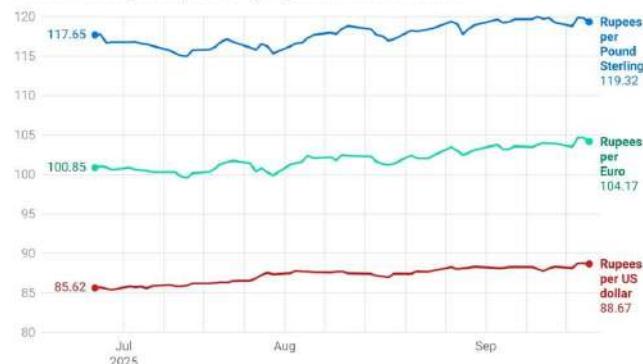


Chart 2: Rupee's slide is not just against the US dollar; it has become weaker against other major currencies such as the euro and the pound.

Key drivers (why it fell)

- **External policy shocks:** steep US tariffs on Indian goods + H-1B fee hikes \rightarrow hit export demand, IT profits, remittances.
- **Capital flows:** FPIs/FDI weak or net outflows ($>\sim$ \$15bn pulled YTD reported).
- **Stronger USD** (global data \rightarrow slower Fed cuts) raising dollar demand.
- **RBI stance:** measured intervention, allowing controlled depreciation to support exporters.

What would reverse the slide (conditions to watch)?

- **Capital return** \rightarrow sustained FPI/FDI inflows (policy/earnings confidence).
- **Trade shock fade** \rightarrow rollback/clarity on US tariffs, visa rules \rightarrow export/remittance recovery.
- **RBI action** \rightarrow decisive FX intervention or hawkish domestic policy to attract inflows.
- **Global dollar weakness** \rightarrow Fed guidance or weaker US data reducing dollar demand.

Conclusion

Rupee weakness = mix of external shocks + capital outflows; fixes require restored investor flows, easing trade/visa frictions or decisive policy action.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. Which of the following factors can lead to the appreciation of the Indian Rupee in the foreign exchange market?

- 1) Increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows
- 2) Rise in crude oil imports
- 3) Strong demand for Indian goods in global markets
- 4) Reduction in US interest rates

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Hint:

- FDI inflows $\uparrow \rightarrow$ more dollar inflow \rightarrow rupee appreciation
- Crude oil imports $\uparrow \rightarrow$ more dollar outflow \rightarrow rupee depreciation
- Demand for Indian goods $\uparrow \rightarrow$ higher forex inflows \rightarrow rupee appreciation
- US interest rates $\downarrow \rightarrow$ capital shifts to EMs (like India) \rightarrow rupee appreciation

NEWS IN SHORT: ECONOMY & AGRICULTURE

APEDA launches BHARATI initiative to boost agri-food exports

Why in News?

APEDA launched BHARATI initiative on September 2, 2025 to empower 100 agri-food startups and achieve \$50 billion agri-exports by 2030.

Program Overview

- Full form: Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement
- Target beneficiaries: 100 agri-food and agri-tech startups in pilot cohort

- Export goal: \$50 billion by 2030 for APEDA scheduled products
- Launch timeline: Pilot cohort starting September 2025
- Program duration: Three-month acceleration program per cohort
- Future scope: Scalable annual incubation model for continuous innovation

Focus Areas & Technologies

- High-value categories: GI-tagged products, organic foods, superfoods, processed Indian agri-foods, livestock products, AYUSH products
- Advanced technologies: AI-based quality control, blockchain traceability, IoT-enabled cold chains, agri-fintech solutions
- Critical challenges addressed: Product development, value addition, quality assurance, perishability, wastage, logistics
- Innovation areas: Packaging solutions, sustainability protocols, sea transportation standards

Implementation Strategy

- Selection process: Application through APEDA website beginning September 2025
- Partnership network: State agricultural boards, agricultural universities, IITs, NITs, industry bodies, existing accelerators
- Program components: Product development, export readiness, regulatory compliance, market access, collaborative solutions
- Ecosystem building: Connect agri-food innovators with tech-driven solution providers
- Alignment: Atmanirbhar Bharat, Vocal for Local, Digital India, Startup India initiatives
- Awareness campaign: Nationwide stakeholder engagement across India

Bima Sugam portal launched: Single digital marketplace for all kinds of insurance

Why in News?

Bima Sugam portal launched (Sept 2025) as India's first unified digital marketplace for all types of insurance.

Key Features

- **Single platform:** Life, health, general (motor, travel, property, agriculture).
- **Functions:** Buy, sell, renew, manage, claim.

- Integration:** Insurers, agents, brokers, banks, aggregators under one roof.
- Storage:** Secure digital policy repository.
- Model:** Low-cost, minimal charges; equity participation by insurers.
- Phased rollout:** Info hub → full transactions.

Significance

- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** for insurance (like UPI for payments).
- Transparency:** Standardized processes, minimal commissions.
- Innovation:** Sandbox products, faster adoption.
- Customer benefit:** Compare, access, service at one place.
- Industry benefit:** Inclusive, tech-driven ecosystem.

GSTAT Launched: Unified GST Appellate Tribunal Launched by FM

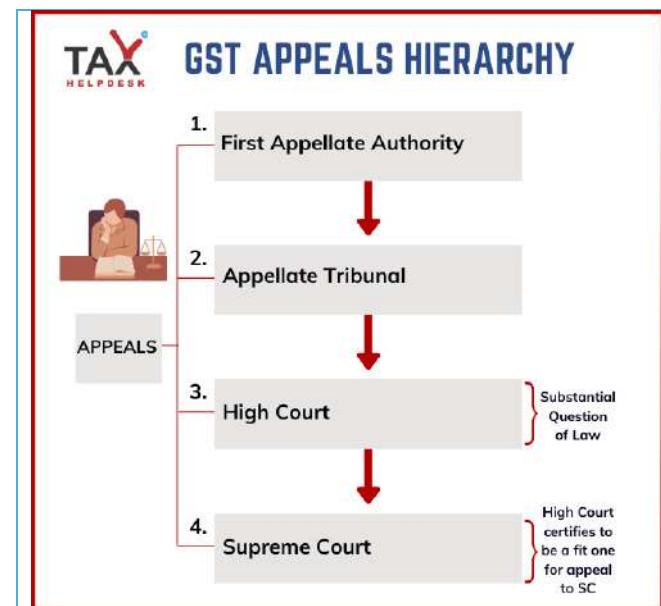
Why in News?

FM Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Goods & Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) to streamline GST dispute resolution.

GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)

Background & Need

- GST law had envisaged an appellate tribunal, but it was never operationalized since 2017
- Multiple High Courts used to be the forum for GST appeals, causing fragmentation, delays, and inconsistent rulings
- Backlog is significant: ~4+ lakh appeals pending before existing appellate authorities



Key Features & Structure

- Unification:** First and only national tribunal for GST appeals, integrating central & state jurisdictions
- Composition:** Judicial + technical members; representation from Centre & States
- Benches & Reach:** 116 members envisaged, 32 benches, 45 locations nationwide
- Principal Bench:** In New Delhi, with state benches across the country
- Digital & Procedural Reforms:**
 - e-Courts portal for e-filing, case tracking & virtual hearings
 - Simplified formats, checklists, plain language rulings
 - Time standards for listing, hearing & pronouncement emphasized



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Science and Technology

September 2025

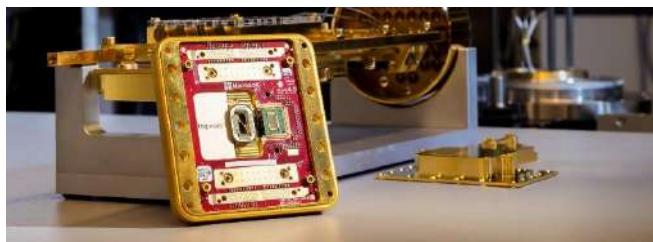
How Majorana particles promise to shield quantum computers from noise

In our everyday world, swapping two oranges changes nothing; in the quantum world, bosons don't change their wavefunction when swapped, fermions change only by a minus sign; if you exchange two non-Abelian anyons, however, the joint quantum state changes in a deeper way

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

The Achievement

Microsoft's **Majorana 1** chip successfully created and controlled Majorana particles, offering a potential solution to quantum computing's fundamental noise problem. The palm-sized chip can distinguish between a billion and billion-plus-one electrons with unprecedented precision.



The Problem It Solves

Current quantum computers face critical limitations:

- **Fragile qubits** lose information within microseconds due to environmental noise
- **Massive overhead** requires hundreds to thousands of physical qubits to create one stable logical qubit
- **Decoherence** from heat, light, or any environmental interaction destroys quantum states

Majorana Particles: The Solution

What they are: Self-antiparticles proposed by Italian physicist Ettore Majorana in the 1930s, artificially created as collective excitations in superconducting materials at near absolute zero temperatures.

Key advantage: Unlike natural particles, they can be studied in tabletop condensed matter experiments rather than requiring high-energy physics facilities.

Topological Protection Advantage

Non-Local Encoding

- Single qubit information **split between two widely separated Majorana modes**
- Local noise cannot destroy information—both halves must be disrupted simultaneously
- Like storing half a secret in Paris, half in Tokyo

Braiding Operations

- Majorana modes are **non-Abelian anyons**—rare quantum particles where exchange sequence matters
- **Topological computation** through braiding patterns naturally resists errors
- Results depend on topology, not precise physical movements

Current Status & Challenges

Progress Made:

- Successful creation and measurement of Majorana particles
- Digital voltage pulse control rather than fine-tuning individual qubits
- Compact design fitting standard datacenter quantum computers

Remaining Hurdles:

- Must demonstrate actual **braiding operations** for ultimate proof
- Need **2D structures** for braiding (current devices mostly 1D wires)
- Requires **atomically precise** superconductor-semiconductor interfaces

Future Impact Potential

- **Dramatic reduction:** From million-qubit requirements to potentially thousands for same computational tasks
- **Hardware-level protection** eliminating need for complex error correction layers
- **Accelerated timeline** bringing practical quantum computing years closer to reality
- **New computational possibilities** currently impossible due to noise limitations

This breakthrough represents 17 years of Microsoft's research and could fundamentally change quantum computing's scalability trajectory.

News / Explained / Explained Sci-Tech / India gets its first indigenous microprocessor: What are semiconductor chips and why are they significant?

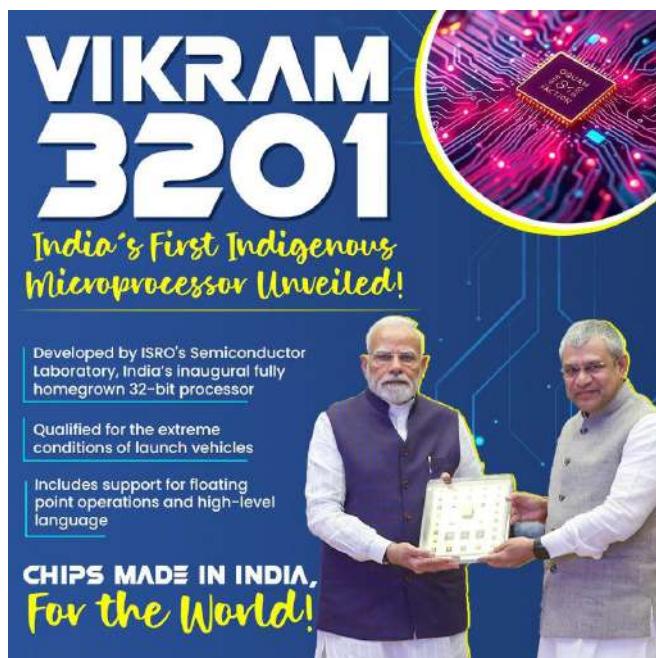
India gets its first indigenous microprocessor: What are semiconductor chips and why are they significant?

Semiconductor chips are the building blocks of modern computation. From smartphones to the vast datacentres powering the Internet, from electric cars to cruise missiles, from high-end luxury products to weather-predicting supercomputers — all of them run on these tiny chips.

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

Why in News?

India unveiled its first fully indigenous microprocessor “**Vikram 3201**”, developed by ISRO’s Semiconductor Laboratory, presented to PM at Semicon India 2025.



What are Semiconductors?

- Materials with properties between conductors and insulators
- Conduct weakly in pure form, conductivity altered by doping (e.g., silicon + phosphorus)
- Enable control of electric current → foundation of modern electronics

Significance of Semiconductors

- **Building block of computation:** power smartphones, data centres, supercomputers
- **Strategic use:** defence systems, missiles, satellites, AI, quantum computing
- **Everyday use:** electric vehicles, consumer electronics, healthcare devices
- **National importance:** supply chain resilience, digital sovereignty, economic security

Evolution of Chips

- **Vacuum tubes (1940s):** bulky, inefficient, prone to failure (e.g., ENIAC with 18,000 tubes)
- **Transistor (1947):** compact, efficient, enabled binary storage & processing
- **Integrated Circuit (1958):** Jack Kilby's innovation → multiple transistors on one silicon slab
- **Robert Noyce (1959):** scalable IC design → mass production → Intel
- **Microprocessor (1971):** Intel 4004 as first “computer on a chip” → computing revolution

Vikram 3201, the first made-in-India microchip

Union IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw presented India's first fully indigenous microprocessor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Semicon India 2025. A look at the microchip's features and why it represents a key milestone

Space-grade engineering

Developed by Isro's semiconductor laboratory, the Vikram 3201 is a special-purpose processor. Built on 180nm technology it features:

- **32-bit architecture** with floating-point computation (handles complex calculations and larger data chunks better than 16-bit)
- **152 custom instructions** optimised for space applications (specialised commands for spacecraft operations, unlike generic processors)
- **Extreme temp tolerance** (-55°C to +125°C—from Antarctic winter to boiling water temperatures)
- **Low power consumption** (<500mW—less than a typical smartphone charger)



Indigenous design-to-manufacturing pipeline

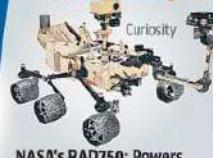
The Vikram 3201 represents a rare achievement: complete indigenous control from conception to production. Isro's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre designed the processor architecture, instruction set, and specialised features, while the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Chandigarh manufactured it using their 180nm CMOS fabrication facility.

"The Isro chip goes in the rocket. There are not many countries in the world which can say that their students in educational institutions have designed chips. And India has 20 such institutes where our students are designing."
— Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union minister

How it fares, in context

The Vikram 3201 won't compete with consumer chips in smartphones or laptops—these are much more advanced, at 3-5nm architecture compared to Vikram's 180nm. But that's not its purpose. Space processors prioritise reliability over raw speed, using deliberately mature technologies that can survive radiation and extreme temperatures.

Int'l space processor comparison



NASA's RAD750: Powers Mars rovers Curiosity and Perseverance, runs at **200MHz on 150nm** technology



Europe's LEON processors: SPARC-based chips used in BepiColombo and Solar Orbiter missions, operate at **50-100 MHz on 180nm** process

Vikram 3201: 100MHz on 180nm technology, with 16+ years of flight heritage through its predecessor

Space processors must withstand radiation levels that would instantly destroy consumer electronics, operate in temperature swings from -270°C to +120°C, and function reliably for decades without repair. Advanced 3-5nm chips used in smartphones are actually more vulnerable to radiation—smaller transistors mean higher susceptibility to cosmic ray strikes.

Structure of Modern Chips

- Layers of transistors, diodes, capacitors, resistors
- Built on circular silicon wafer, “chipped” into dies
- Billions of transistors in a few centimetres (Moore's Law scaling)

Manufacturing of Chips

- **Wafer fabrication process:** slicing silicon → polishing → circuit design → layering
- **Clean rooms:** sterile, particle-free environments
- **Steps:** up to 1,500 involving lithography, etching, doping, deposition
- **Foundries:** highly capital-intensive (costs in billions, requiring precision tech)
- **Global supply chain:** design (US), fabrication (Taiwan, South Korea), materials (Japan), packaging (ASEAN/India emerging)

Why Important for India?

- **Strategic autonomy:** reduces dependence on global supply chain disruptions (e.g., US-China chip war)
- **Economic growth:** semiconductor market projected to cross \$100 bn in India by 2030
- **Technology leadership:** supports AI, 5G/6G, defence, space, EV ecosystem
- **Employment & skill boost:** fab ecosystem generates high-value R&D and manufacturing jobs
- **Geopolitical leverage:** positions India as a trusted chip hub in Indo-Pacific supply chain realignment

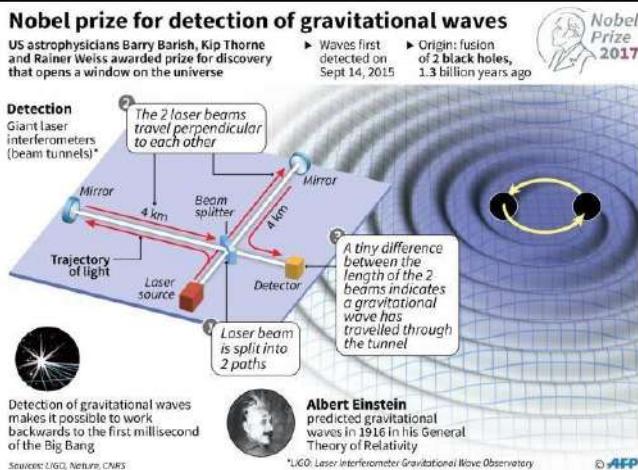
Global science, Indian leadership: 10 years of gravitational-wave astronomy and India's opportunity

From Einstein's equations to black hole collisions, the story of gravitational waves is one of theory, doubt, and discovery — with India set to play a major role in its future. LIGO-India will also give us early access to a host of advanced technologies involving lasers, precision optical systems and quantum metrology

IE Opinion; By Parameswaran Ajith;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Science & Tech [Link](#)

Why in News?

10 years since first gravitational-wave detection (2015), India set to play key role through upcoming LIGO-India observatory.



Gravitational Waves: Concept & History

- **Einstein's General Relativity (1915)** → spacetime curvature, ripples = gravitational waves
- Initial doubts (Einstein, others); consensus only post-1950s
- **Joseph Weber's aluminium bar detectors** (1960s–70s) → unverified claims
- **Binary pulsar (Hulse–Taylor, 1974)** → orbital decay matching GR prediction → indirect proof (Nobel 1993)
- **Interferometry idea (Rainer Weiss, Kip Thorne, 1970s)** → foundation of LIGO

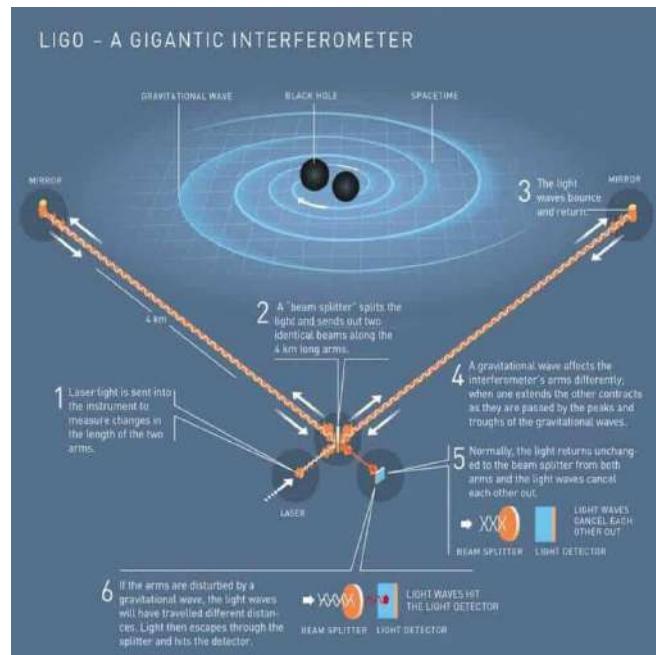
LIGO & Global Discoveries

- **First detection:** Sept 14, 2015 → black hole merger, Nobel Prize 2017 (Weiss, Thorne, Barish)

- **200 events detected** (black-hole mergers, neutron star collision)
- **Multi-messenger astronomy** (GW + light) → cosmic expansion rate, element formation (gold, platinum)
- **GR tested in extreme regimes** (near-light-speed collisions, massive objects)
- **Open puzzles:** massive black holes, possible primordial black holes

Global Collaboration

- GW detection needs **extreme precision** (disturbances < size of proton)
- **Single detector insufficient** → global triangulation needed
- **LIGO (US) + Virgo (Europe) + KAGRA (Japan)** → 1200+ scientists, 18 nations
- **Ongoing upgrades** → higher sensitivity, 1000s of signals expected



India's Role & Opportunity

- **30+ years of Indian contributions** (theory, data analysis, simulation)
- **100+ Indian scientists**, 17 institutions in LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA
- **LIGO-India** (Maharashtra) under construction → collaboration with US, global partners
- **Geographic advantage** (antipodal to north observatories) → sharper sky localisation

- **Technology spillovers** → lasers, precision optics, quantum metrology
- **Boost to Indian science ecosystem**, global leadership in frontier physics
- **Challenges:** cost, infrastructure, skilled manpower, long timelines

Test Your Knowledge 06

Q7. With reference to gravitational waves, consider the following statements:

- 1) They were first directly detected by LIGO in 2015 from a black hole merger.
- 2) Their existence was first indirectly confirmed through binary pulsar observations.
- 3) Gravitational waves travel slower than light because they are disturbances in gravity, not radiation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Hint: Einstein's predictions - GW = ripples in spacetime → travel at speed of light (so statement 3 is wrong).

Q8. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- 1) Joseph Weber – First experimental attempts with resonant bars
- 2) Rainer Weiss – Idea of interferometric detection
- 3) Hulse & Taylor – Binary pulsar evidence of GW emission
- 4) Kip Thorne – Discovery of the first gravitational-wave signal

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 4 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

Hint: The 2015 detection was by LIGO collaboration, not by Kip Thorne personally

News / Explained / Explained Sci-Tech / How scientists found an ant which gives birth to two species

How scientists found an ant which gives birth to two species

The research was published in the journal *Nature* earlier this month. It was carried out by a team of international scientists based at different institutes in France, Italy, Bulgaria, and Austria.

IE Explained;

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

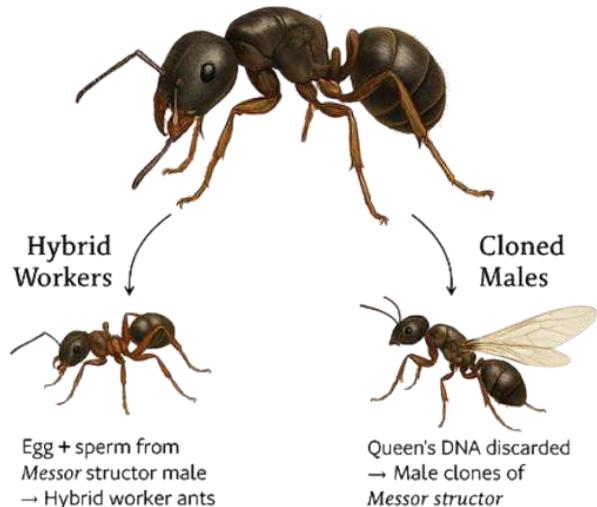
Why in News?

Study in *Nature* (Sept 2025): Queens of **Mediterranean harvester ant *Messor ibericus*** can give birth to males of another species (***Messor structor***).

Key Discovery

- First known case: single organism → offspring of **two species**.
- *M. ibericus* queens produce:
 - **Female queens (*M. ibericus*)**
 - **Hybrid sterile workers (*M. ibericus* × *M. structor*)**
 - **Male drones (*M. structor*)**

•

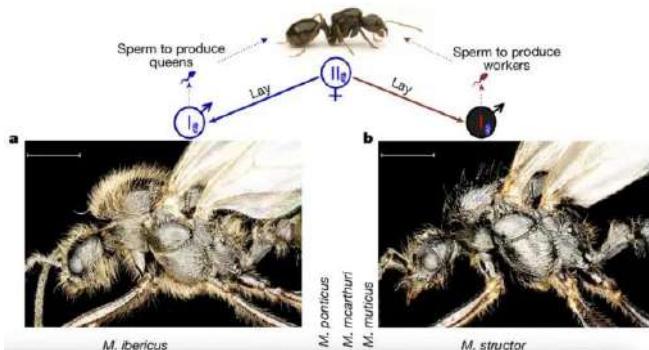


Suspicion & Evidence

- Workers = **hybrids**, 50% DNA of *M. structor*.
- Colonies existed where **no *M. structor* colonies nearby**.
- DNA tests: ***M. structor* males inside *M. ibericus* colonies, with *M. ibericus* mitochondrial DNA** → maternal origin.

Mechanism

- Queens store sperm in **spermatheca**.
- ~10% eggs = **entirely M. structor**, not hybrid.
- Process: **cloning sperm genome** + maternal mitochondria → pure M. structor males.



Evolutionary Advantage

- Producing two species of males:
 - M. ibericus sperm → new queens.
 - M. structor sperm → hybrid workers + new M. structor males.
- Ensures **colony survival, diversity, resilience**.

Significance

- Challenges classical rule: **offspring = same species as parents**.
- Parallel drawn: "**human having chimp babies**".
- New insight into **speciation, hybridisation, reproductive strategies** in evolution.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. In the context of recent scientific discoveries, what is unique about the reproduction of Messor ibericus ants?

- Queens can reproduce without fertilisation (parthenogenesis).
- Queens can give birth to offspring of two different species.
- Queens produce only sterile worker ants through cloning.
- Male ants carry both paternal and maternal mitochondrial DNA.

Hint: The “two species offspring” aspect is the unique discovery.

Astronomers have spotted the biggest bangs since the Big Bang

Black holes are one of nature's most inscrutable creations, and supermassive black holes that lurk near the centres of galaxies are the biggest of them all. As a star nears a black hole's event horizon, extreme forces stretch and compress the star into a long, thin stream, releasing enormous amounts of electromagnetic energy

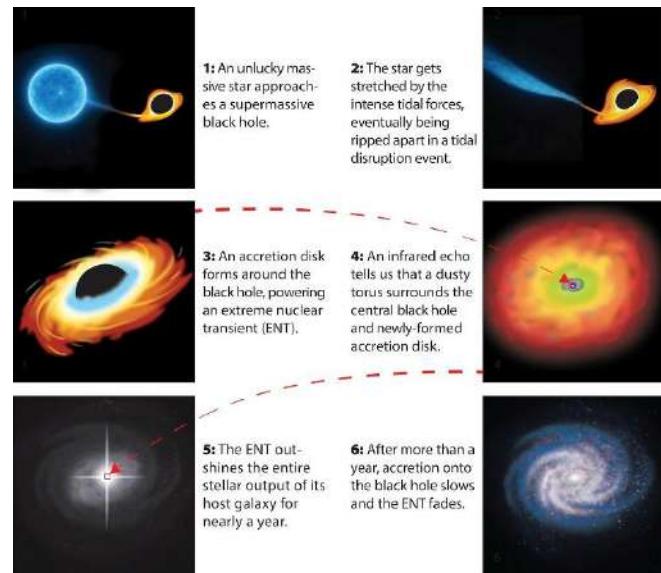
IE Explained; By Prakash Chandra;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Science & Tech [Link](#)

Why in News?

Astronomers discovered **Extreme Nuclear Transients (ENTs)** – most energetic explosions since the Big Bang, surpassing gamma-ray bursts.

Key Concepts

- Black Holes**
 - Supermassive BHs at galactic centres (e.g., Sagittarius A* in Milky Way).
 - Event horizon: point of no return, extreme tidal forces.
- Tidal Disruption & Spaghettification**
 - Star stretched into thin stream when nearing BH.
 - Huge electromagnetic energy release → transient phenomena.



The life of an Extreme Nuclear Transient Event.

Extreme Nuclear Transients (ENTs)

- New class of transients (brightness changes over short times).
- Powered by accretion of debris of **massive stars** (>3 solar masses) devoured by supermassive BHs.
- **Energy:** up to $10\times$ GRBs.
- **Observability:** luminous in radio wavelengths for years.
- Host galaxies \rightarrow larger, with more massive BHs.
- Rarer than TDEs; essentially TDEs of very massive stars.

Comparison with Other Explosions

- **Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs):**
 - Earlier record holders for energy.
 - Produced by BH formation, most luminous EM events before ENTs.
- **Tidal Disruption Events (TDEs):**
 - Star torn apart by BH; energy $\approx 100+$ supernovae.
 - Similar hot spectra & emissions but **less energetic, more common** than ENTs.
- **Fast X-ray Transients (FXTs):**
 - Short-lived X-ray bursts.
 - Origin: jets trapped inside supernova (vs. GRB jets breaking out).
 - Lower energy, fleeting \rightarrow different from ENTs.

Discovery & Research

- First identified by University of Hawaii's IfA (Jason Hinkle).
- Data sources: **Gaia spacecraft, Zwicky Transient Facility.**
- 2016–2018 candidates, confirmed with 2023 ZTF event.

Significance

- ENTs \rightarrow **most energetic transients ever observed.**
- Tool to study:
 - Massive BHs in early universe.
 - Non-accreting BH populations.
- Future scope: Vera C. Rubin Observatory, Nancy Grace Roman Telescope (2027), AI-powered analysis.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. With reference to Extreme Nuclear Transients (ENTs), consider the following statements:

- 1) They are produced when white dwarfs are swallowed by stellar-mass black holes.
- 2) They are more energetic than gamma-ray bursts.
- 3) They remain luminous in radio wavelengths for years, enabling long-term observation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Hint: ENTs need massive stars (>3 solar masses), not white dwarfs.



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Geography and Environment

September 2025

News / Explained / Explained Climate / Collapse of critical Atlantic current is no longer low-likelihood: What a new study says

Collapse of critical Atlantic current is no longer low-likelihood: What a new study says

The analysis has said the tipping point that makes an Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) shut down inevitable could be breached within a few decades. However, the collapse of the current itself may not happen until 50 to 100 years later

IE Explained;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Geography Link

Why in News?

New study finds AMOC collapse risk significantly higher than previously estimated, with tipping point possible within decades.

What is AMOC?

- Large Atlantic ocean current system, part of global conveyor belt

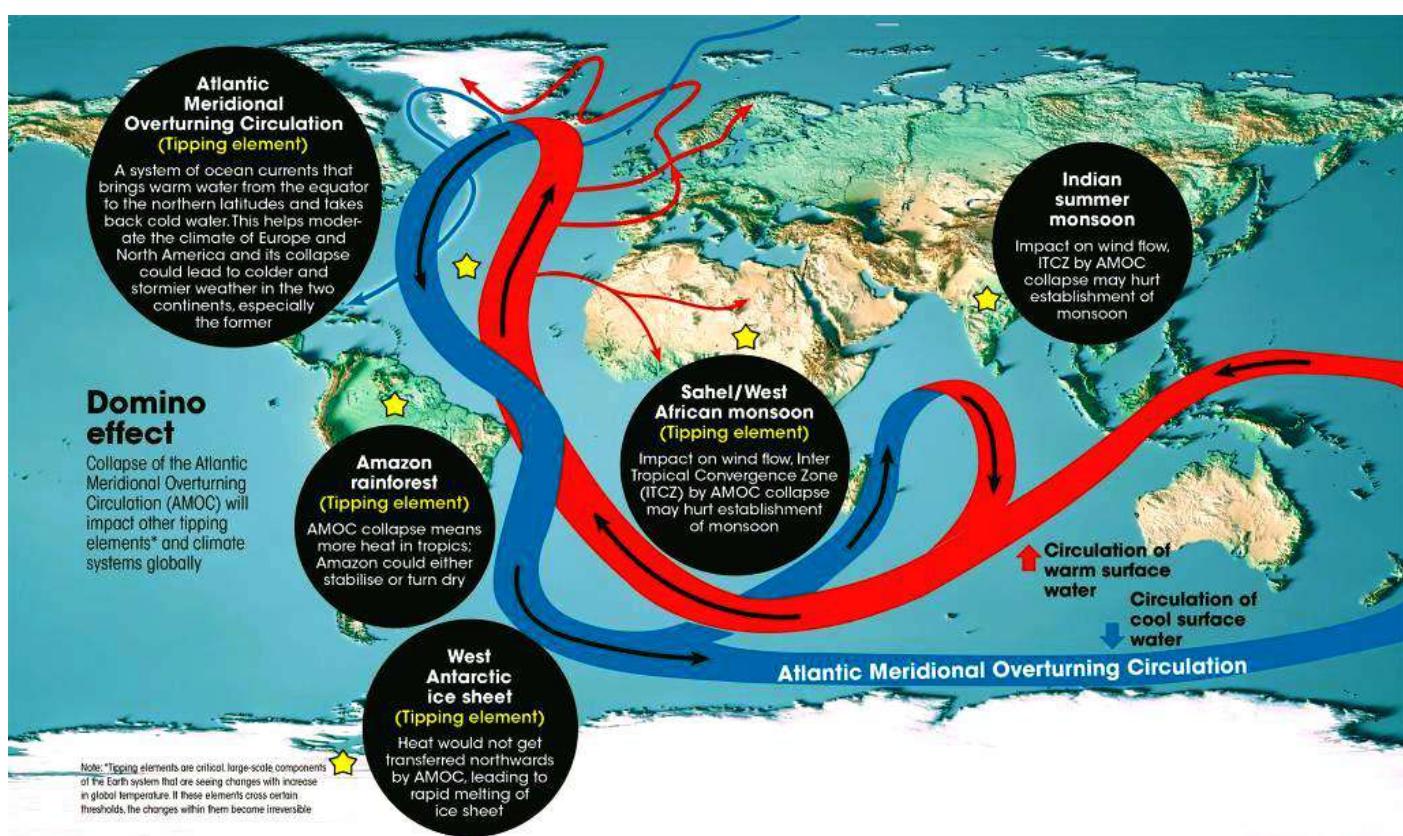
- Transports warm tropical waters northward to cool and sink
- Returns southward as deep current distributing heat globally
- Currently weakest in 1,600 years due to climate crisis

New Study Findings

- Tipping point for inevitable shutdown could occur within few decades
- Actual collapse may take 50-100 years after tipping point breached
- No longer considered low-probability event (previously <10% chance)
- Climate models show 34-45% weakening by 2100
- Published in Environmental Research Letters, August 28, 2025

Collapse Consequences

- Europe:** Severe cooling, loss of Gulf Stream's warming effect



- **Temperature drops:** 4-10°C regional cooling in Europe, some areas -55°F in winter
- **Precipitation changes:** Reduced European rainfall, southward tropical rain belt
- **Sea ice expansion:** Increased ice around Greenland-Iceland-Norwegian seas
- **Agriculture impact:** UK farming area suitable for crops drops from 32% to 7%
- **Global effects:** Northern Hemisphere cooling, potential El Niño disruption

Causes of AMOC Weakening

- **Freshwater influx:** Melting Greenland ice and Arctic reducing water density
- **Global warming:** Disrupts density differences driving circulation
- **Reduced sinking:** Less dense freshwater doesn't sink like saltwater
- **Indian Ocean factor:** Rapid warming increases Indian Ocean precipitation, reducing Atlantic rainfall, temporarily strengthening AMOC through higher salinity
- **Future uncertainty:** If Pacific warming matches Indian Ocean, AMOC advantage disappears

News / Explained / Explained Sci-Tech / Blood Moon tonight: What is it, how to watch, why you should care, in 5 points

Blood Moon tonight: What is it, how to watch, why you should care, in 5 points

Total Lunar Eclipse September 2025 Time: How is a Blood Moon related to the colour of the sky and of sunrises and sunsets? What is a lunar eclipse in the first place? We explain, in 5 points.

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

Why in News?

Total lunar eclipse (Blood Moon) occurred on September 7–8, 2025, offering a rare, long 82-minute totality visible across India and much of the Eastern Hemisphere.

What is a lunar eclipse?

- Earth aligned between Sun & Moon
- Moon passed through Earth's **umbra** (darkest shadow) → total eclipse
- Safe to watch with naked eye, unlike solar eclipse

Blood moon



Sky show: The blood moon atop Bhubaneswar during the lunar eclipse on Sunday. The total eclipse phase which began at 11:01 p.m. caught the attention of skywatchers across India and other nations. **DEEPMALA JAN ROY**

What makes it a Blood Moon?

- Sunlight filtered through Earth's atmosphere
- **Rayleigh scattering:** blue light scattered away, red/orange reach the Moon
- Atmosphere's dust/pollution makes hue deeper red

Eclipse timeline (India, IST)

- Penumbral begins ~ 8:58 PM
- Partial begins ~ 9:57 PM
- Total begins ~ 11:00 PM
- Peak (max totality) ~ 11:41 PM
- Total ends ~ 12:22 AM
- Partial ends ~ 1:25 AM; Penumbral ends ~ 2:25 AM

Why it matters?

- One of the longest totalities of the decade (~82 minutes)
- Photogenic and communal spectacle—wide public interest, no special gear needed
- Scientific insight: hue depth hints at Earth's atmospheric conditions (e.g. volcanic ash)
- Same physics explains blue skies and red sunsets

What India should do to build climate-resilient cities

To address climate challenges, cities need to build institutional capacity, promote collaboration, and get the support of both the government and the citizens.

IE Opinion; By Auguste Tano Kouame, Asmita Tiwari, Natsuko Kikutake;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Environment [Link](#)

Why in News?

The World Bank's new report "Towards Resilient and Prosperous Cities in India" estimates Indian cities need \$2.4 trillion by 2050 (rising to ~\$10.9 trillion by 2070) for climate-resilient, low-carbon urban infrastructure amid escalating threats from heatwaves and flooding.

Key Themes & Subpoints

Urgent Scale & Risk

- Urban population projected to nearly double: ~480 million (2020) → ~951 million (2050), ~1.1 billion (2070)
- Over 50% of urban infrastructure for 2050 is yet to be built
- Heat: night-time urban temps are 3–4 °C hotter than rural areas
- Flood risks (pluvial, coastal, fluvial) rising; annual flood losses may grow from ~\$4 billion now → ~\$5 billion (2030) → \$14–30 billion (2070)
- Heat-related deaths could more than double (>144 k → >328 k by 2050)
- Job generation: ~70% of new jobs by 2030 expected in cities

Investment Needs & Financing

- \$2.4 trillion needed by 2050; ~\$10.9 trillion by 2070 (conservative)
- Current urban infrastructure spending ≈ 0.7% of GDP—far below global norms
- Less than 5% of investment is from private sector





Rising Urban Flooding Costs Demand Action

- Current Flooding Losses: Urban flooding causes \$4 billion in annual losses in India, per the World Bank report.
- Projected Cost Surge: Without action, flooding losses could rise to \$5 billion by 2030 and \$30 billion by 2070.
- Report's Focus: The "Towards Resilient and Prosperous Cities in India" report emphasizes the need for resilient urban systems.

Urban flooding already imposes a \$4 billion annual economic burden on India, a figure set to grow dramatically without intervention. The World Bank's report, prepared with India's urban development ministry, underscores the critical need for infrastructure upgrades to mitigate escalating climate-related damages.



Long-Term Investment Needs Soar

- Conservative Estimates: \$2.4 trillion by 2050 and \$10.9 trillion by 2070 are needed for resilient urban infrastructure under conservative growth scenarios.
- Moderate Urbanization Costs: With moderate urbanization, investment needs rise to \$2.8 trillion by 2050 and \$13.4 trillion by 2070.
- Key Areas for Investment: Housing, transport, water, and waste management systems require urgent funding.

The World Bank's projections highlight the massive financial commitment needed to make India's cities climate-resilient, with costs escalating under higher urbanization scenarios. Investments in housing, transport, and utilities are critical to safeguarding urban populations against climate impacts.

Strategic Responses

Urban design & infrastructure:

- Better storm-water regulation
- Green spaces, cool roofs, early warning systems
- Flood-resilient transport networks, resilient municipal services (water, waste)

Institutional reforms:

- Strengthen coordination across federal, state, and local levels
- Enhance autonomy of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)

- Create dedicated urban resilience programmes, financing roadmaps

Private sector mobilization:

- Green bonds, blended finance, international climate funds
- Engage as key partners in service delivery and innovation



India's Urban Infrastructure Funding Falls Short

- Low Current Spending: India spends only 0.7% of GDP on urban infrastructure, well below global benchmarks.
- Private Sector Gap: Private finance accounts for just 5% of urban infrastructure investment, limiting funding capacity.
- Coordination Needed: Federal, state, and municipal governments must align to enhance project financing and climate-linked transfers.

India's current urban infrastructure spending is insufficient compared to global standards, with minimal private sector involvement. The World Bank urges stronger coordination across government levels and increased private financing to meet the massive investment demands for climate resilience.



Scaling Up Solutions for Resilient Cities

- Private Sector Partnerships: India must boost private investment in energy-efficient water, sanitation, waste management, and green buildings.
- Timely Action Benefits: Proactive investments can avert billions in annual flood and heatwave damages, per the report.
- World Bank's Call: Scaling up public and private financing is essential to build efficient, resilient municipal infrastructure.

The World Bank emphasizes that timely investments in resilient infrastructure can significantly reduce climate-related losses. By fostering private sector partnerships in key areas like water and green buildings, India can build sustainable cities capable of withstanding extreme weather challenges.

Impact & Opportunities

- Flood adaptation could avert ~\$5 billion losses annually by 2030, ~\$30 billion by 2070

- Heat mitigation measures could save ~130,000 lives and boost GDP by up to 0.4%
- Resilient cities attract investment, generate jobs, foster innovation, and build inclusive prosperity

News / Explained / Explained Sci-Tech / Scientists uncover hidden freshwater under sea floor: What are offshore aquifers and why are they significant?

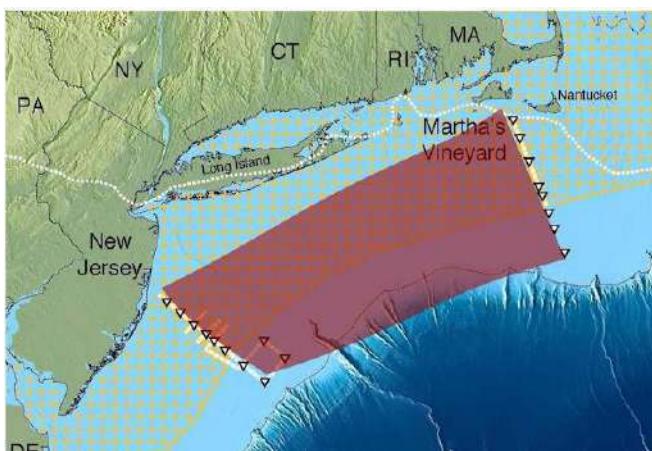
Scientists uncover hidden freshwater under sea floor: What are offshore aquifers and why are they significant?

Over the years, scientists have confirmed the existence of offshore aquifers at several locations, including off the coasts of Australia, China, North America, and South Africa. However, they have not been really explored primarily due to an exclusive focus on aquifers on land and logistical reasons

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

Why in News?

Expedition 501 has confirmed a massive freshwater aquifer beneath the sea-floor off the U.S. northeast coast, from New Jersey → Maine, via drilling ~1,289 ft below sea floor, collecting ~50,000 litres of water.



What are Offshore Aquifers & Key Findings?

- Bodies of porous rock/sediment beneath the sea floor holding fresh or “freshened” water unlike typical saline seawater.

- **Extent:** up to ~30-50 km off the coast in this case; depths ~400 m below seabed.
- **Salinity:** some water samples very low salt (~1 parts per thousand), some slightly higher but still far fresher than sea (~35‰).

How Freshwater Might Get There (Origins)?

- **Past ice ages:** sea levels were lower, lands now submerged were dry → rain or meltwater infiltrated sediments; glacial weight pushed water into offshore porous zones.
- **Connection with onshore aquifers:** possibility of subsurface flow from land to offshore sediments.
- **Isolation via cap rock or clay layers:** compacted sediment-layers prevent mixing with overlying salt water, preserving fresher water.

Why They Matter (Significance)?

- **Potential untapped freshwater reserves** to help combat water scarcity, especially in coastal / drought-prone regions.
- **Could supply large urban centres** for long periods if sustainable (e.g. enough water for New York City “for centuries” in this case).
- **Offers resilience:** as land aquifers degrade (due to saltwater intrusion, overuse), offshore aquifers might provide alternatives.

Challenges & Unknowns

- **Renewable vs finite:** need to establish age, recharge rate of water; if ancient (“fossil”) water, extraction must be careful or minimal.
- **Technical & financial costs:** drilling undersea, designing wells, avoiding saltwater contamination, transporting water onshore; expensive project (~ US\$25 million) just to explore.
- **Environmental/ecological risks:** disturbance of marine ecosystems; possible unintended flows or loss of nutrients; impact on adjoining coastal groundwater.
- **Governance & legal issues:** rights over undersea water, community involvement, regulation, ownership.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. Consider the following statements regarding offshore aquifers:

- 1) They are located beneath the sea floor and contain freshwater in porous sediments or rocks.
- 2) They are primarily recharged by direct rainfall over the ocean surface.
- 3) Offshore aquifers may contain more freshwater than all water withdrawn so far from land aquifers.
- 4) Clay-rich cap rock prevents mixing of freshwater with saline water.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Hint: Offshore aquifers are fresh water in porous sediments under the seafloor (1); recharge is mainly from land/palaeo-recharge (not direct ocean rainfall) so (2) is false; they may hold vast freshwater volumes (3) and are often capped by clay layers that limit mixing (4).

Can vultures help prevent pandemics?

How do vultures reduce the risk of disease spillover? What does their decline mean for public health? Why is protecting vultures cheaper than fighting outbreaks? Can communities be frontline actors in their protection?

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

Why in News?

India's vulture populations collapsed (~95%) since 1990s due to veterinary use of **diclofenac**; new research shows this collapse raised human mortality and pandemic spillover risk.

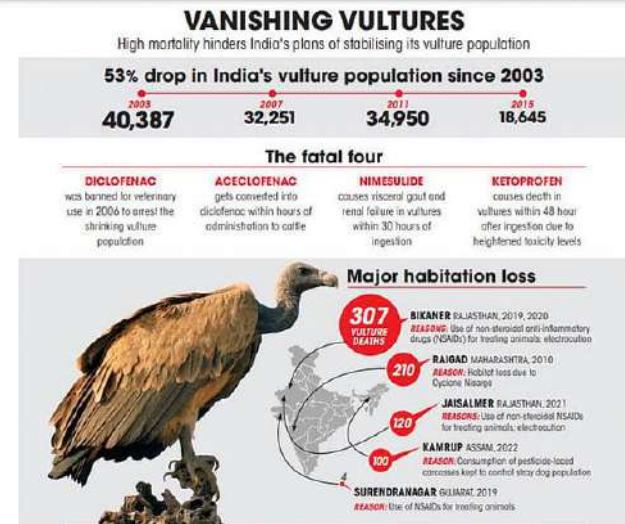
Role of Vultures in Disease Prevention

- **Efficient removal of carcasses** → reduces decay, pathogen growth.
- **Limits alternative scavengers** (dogs, rats) that spread zoonoses (e.g. rabies).

- **Prevents water contamination and microbial spread** from decomposing animal remains.

Key Facts

- In India in the early **1980s**, ~40 million vultures; by **2000s collapsed by over 95%**.
- **Diclofenac** introduced veterinary use in 1990s; caused kidney failure in vultures feeding on treated livestock.
- After bans on diclofenac, vulture decline has slowed; some recovery observed.



Consequences of Vulture Decline for Public Health

- **Human deaths** ↑ ~4-5% in districts where vultures declined most heavily.
- **Estimate: ~100,000 extra deaths per year** between 2000-2005 attributable to vulture loss.
- **Rise in feral dog population** → more dog bites, more rabies cases.
- **Economic damages large:** e.g. ~\$70 billion/year in mortality costs.

Why Protecting Vultures Is Cheaper Than Fighting Outbreaks?

- Prevention via vulture conservation **avoids the high costs** of medical treatment, outbreak containment.
- **Small investments** (bans on harmful drugs, breeding centres, safe carcass disposal) yield

large returns in lives saved and reduced disease burden.

- **Natural scavengers** are free, always present; replacing them (dog vaccination, carcass removal infrastructure, etc.) is costly and slower.

What India & Communities Can Do / Are Doing?

- **Ban veterinary use of diclofenac**; promote safer alternatives (e.g. meloxicam).
- **Breeding & reintroduction programmes** (e.g. Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre).
- **Mapping vulture habitat / carcass dump spots**; integrating into One Health strategies.
- **Engaging local communities** as stewards: carcass reporting, monitoring, awareness.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. Consider the following migratory routes of birds:

- 1) East Asian–Australasian Flyway
- 2) Central Asian Flyway
- 3) East Atlantic Flyway

Vultures in India are part of which of the above?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Hint: India lies mainly in the Central Asian Flyway; most Indian vulture species are resident or move locally rather than following the East Asian-Australasian or East Atlantic flyways.

How serious is the global plastic pollution crisis?

What role should governments and individuals play in curbing plastic use?

TH Text & Context; By Prakash Nelliyan;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Environment [Link](#)

Why in News?

World Environment Day 2025 focused on “**Ending Plastic Pollution**”, highlighting urgent need for global action.

Scale of the Crisis

- **Rising production & waste:** Plastics doubled 2000–2019; 460 MT produced, 353 MT waste.
- **Short lifespan:** 2/3rd used <5 yrs; 40% packaging, 12% consumer goods, 11% textiles.
- **Poor waste handling:** 9% recycled, 19% incinerated, 50% landfilled, 22% unmanaged.
- **Future risk:** Waste may triple to 1.2 billion tonnes by 2060.
- **Marine impact:** 11 MT enter oceans yearly; 200 MT already present; plastics may exceed fish by mid-century.



Why It Matters?

- **Non-biodegradable:** Breaks into micro- & nano-plastics, contaminating soil, water, air.
- **Health hazards:** Enters food chain, drinking water, human bloodstream.
- **Climate link:** Plastics = 3.4% of global GHG emissions; may reach 19% of carbon budget by 2040.
- **Ecosystem loss:** Threat to biodiversity, fisheries, tourism, agriculture.
- **Socio-economic cost:** Impacts food security, livelihoods, public health expenditure.

Solutions Proposed

- Global treaty: UN resolution for legally binding pact to end plastic pollution.
- Production limits: Reduce virgin plastic, phase out single-use, promote alternatives.
- Waste management: Recycling innovations, profitable secondary plastic markets.

- Economic tools: Landfill/incineration taxes, deposit-refund, pay-as-you-throw, Extended Producer Responsibility.
- Design shift: Eco-friendly packaging, biodegradable materials, circular economy.
- Individual role: Reduce consumption, prefer reusables, support recycling.
- Awareness & media: Behaviour change, campaigns, nudging sustainable lifestyle.



Test Your Knowledge

Q. With reference to global plastic pollution, consider the following:

- 1) Plastics production has more than doubled between 2000 and 2019.
- 2) Nearly half of global plastic waste generated is from clothing and textiles.
- 3) Less than 10% of plastic waste is recycled worldwide.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Hint: Production has surged since 2000 (true); packaging, not textiles, dominates waste (false); recycling rate is below 10% (true).

A future-ready disaster management in the Himalaya requires a massive technology scale-up

This monsoon has revealed both the strength of India's disaster response and the gaps that remain.

IE Opinion; By Syed Ata Hasnain;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Disaster Management
[Link](#)

Why in News?

Monsoon 2025 floods across J&K, Himachal, Punjab, Uttarakhand exposed both strengths and gaps in Himalayan disaster management.

Current Response: Strengths

- **Multi-agency action:** Army, IAF, ITBP, NDRF, SDRF, BRO, local police, volunteers.
- **Examples:**
 - Army Bailey bridges (J&K), 36-hr DC trek (Uttarakhand).
 - Pilgrim evacuations: Machail, Vaishno Devi, Manimahesh Yatra.
 - BRO road/bridge restoration.
 - Drone imagery, satcom revival, Chinook heavy lifts, aerial cableway.
 - NDMA–CWC–IMD coordination (Punjab dams).
- **Innovation:** Drones, OneWeb satcom, Doppler radars, IMD nowcasting.

Gaps & Challenges

- **Tech limits:** Inadequate landslide mapping, sparse doppler network, weak glacial lake monitoring.
- **Human behaviour:** Low awareness despite SMS/Sachet app alerts; continued pilgrim footfall during red alerts.
- **Development risks:** Riverbed construction, slope destabilisation, poor enforcement of building norms.
- **Institutional gaps:** Mock drills tokenistic, NDMA outreach shallow, limited community penetration.

Technology Scale-Up: Future Needs

- **Mapping & monitoring:** GSI slope/soil studies, NRSC 24x7 glacial lake watch.
- **GIS risk mapping:** Valley-wise hazard zoning.
- **Predictive tools:** AI + local hydro-met data → flash flood/cloudburst forecasts.
- **Drone use:** Move beyond damage assessment → predictive slope/glacier surveillance.
- **Dense radar grid:** Valley-specific dopplers, localised warning systems.
- **Urban flood models:** Replicate Gorakhpur model.

Community & Governance

- **Citizen preparedness:** Know evacuation routes, shelters, response steps.
- **Training:** Expand *Aapda Mitra* to schools, panchayats, RWAs.
- **Mock drills:** Regular, mandatory, realistic.
- **Civil society role:** Local knowledge integration in DDMA.
- **Enforcement:** Seismic codes, no-build river zones, regulate mining.

Recovery & Resilience

- **Build Back Better:** Slope-stabilised roads, reinforced embankments.
- **Sustainable practices:** Eco-sensitive construction, resilience-based planning.
- **Professional cadre:** Disaster-tech specialists across states.
- **Armed forces:** Ongoing disaster management training, integration with civilian systems.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. With reference to disaster management in the Himalaya, which of the following technologies are already in use in India's response efforts (2025)?

- 1) Drone imagery for damage assessment
- 2) Satellite communication links (OneWeb, satcom)
- 3) Doppler radars for nowcasting
- 4) Artificial intelligence-based flash flood prediction

Select the correct answer:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Hint: AI forecasts are a “future need,” not yet mainstream in 2025.

Q. The *Aapda Mitra* programme primarily aims at:

- (a) Developing early warning systems using AI and GIS tools.
- (b) Training community volunteers in disaster preparedness and response.
- (c) Providing insurance cover to disaster-affected households.
- (d) Financing resilient infrastructure in fragile Himalayan states.

Hint: Focus is on community-level capacity.

News / Explained / Explained Health / Too loud to ignore: Why Indians should care about noise pollution in cities

Too loud to ignore: Why Indians should care about noise pollution in cities

Systemic gaps compound the problem. Noise monitoring is sparse, enforcement weak, and responsibility scattered across multiple authorities. As with air quality, symbolic fixes do little to tackle structural drivers.

IE Explained;

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

Why in News?

Noise pollution in Indian cities is now being flagged as a serious but neglected **public health crisis**, with systemic gaps in monitoring, enforcement, and governance.

Health Burden

- WHO safe limit → 55 dB (day), 45 dB (night)
 - ◆ India's rules similar
- Traffic corridors → often 70+ dB (10 dB ↑ = 10× intensity)
- Health impact → hypertension, sleep loss, stress, cognitive decline, premature death
- Occupational hazard → vendors, delivery staff, traffic police, informal settlements worst hit

THE LOUDEST ALLOWED

Under The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000

INDUSTRIAL AREAS:

75 dB(A) leq during daytime; 70 at night

COMMERCIAL AREAS:

65 dB during daytime, 55 at night

RESIDENTIAL AREAS:

55 dB during daytime, 45 at night

SILENCE ZONES:

50 dB during daytime, 40 dB at night

■ **Silence Zones** are defined as areas comprising up to 100 m around hospitals, educational institutions, courts, religious places, or any other area which is declared as such by the competent authority.

■ **Sound levels** are measured in dB (A) leq, which is the time-weighted average of the level of sound in decibels on scale A, which is relatable to human hearing.

DAYTIME IS DEFINED AS 6 am to 10 pm; NIGHTTIME IS 10 pm to 6 am.

Systemic Failures

- Monitoring → sparse, fragmented, reactive (unlike air pollution where sensors/satellites help)
- Enforcement → weak, cultural tolerance of noise, symbolic crackdowns only
- Governance → fragmented (Pollution Boards, Police, Municipalities), weak accountability

Path Ahead

- Treat noise = air/water pollution → integrate into clean-air & health policy
- Monitoring expansion → real-time sensors, ML-based source mapping
- Health studies → exposure data near schools, hospitals, low-income areas
- Urban planning → green buffers, noise zoning, EV buses, walking/cycling infra
- Governance reforms → enforceable rules, cross-agency coordination, transparent data
- Community engagement → awareness campaigns, religious/community leader partnerships
- Equity focus → protect vulnerable groups, avoid “quiet as luxury” trap

Conclusion

India cannot repeat its **air pollution mistake** → Noise must be treated as a **public health priority**, not a nuisance.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. Which of the following pollutants is legally recognised as an air pollutant under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981?

- Noise
- Ozone
- Radioactive substances
- Light

Select the correct answer:

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2, 3 and 4

Hint: The Act explicitly includes noise (non-traditional) along with classic air pollutants, but not ozone, radiation, or light.

News / Explained / Karur crush death toll mounts: What leads to stampedes, why India sees so many of them

Premium

Karur crush death toll mounts: What leads to stampedes, why India sees so many of them

Karur stampede deaths, Vijay rally crowd crush: Stampedes in India typically unfold at places of worship, sporting events, railways stations, and at large scale-gatherings such as the Maha Kumbh. There are a few reasons why these incidents happen frequently. We explain.

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

Why in News? → Karur, TN: Stampede at TVK chief & actor Vijay's rally; death toll mounting.

Causes of Stampedes in India

- **Overcrowding triggers** → Worship places, political rallies (esp. actor-politicians), festivals, railway stations, sporting events
- **Immediate sparks** → Fall from trees/structures (Karur), dropped luggage (NDLS), rumours (RCB victory parade)
- **Systemic lapses** → Poor planning, weak crowd-control, late rescue response, inadequate infrastructure
- **Psychological factors** → Panic spreads via non-verbal cues, ↑ density → ↓ personal space, delayed realisation of danger
- **Physical causes of death** → Mostly compressive asphyxia (rib cage pressure), domino falls → trampling



Recent Major Incidents (2025)

- **Karur (Sep)** → Vijay rally, crowd panic after tree fall → stampede deaths
- **Bengaluru (Jun)** → RCB IPL win parade; rumours + mismanaged entry → 12 deaths
- **Goa (May)** → Temple yatra stampede, multiple fatalities

- **Delhi Railway Station (Feb)** → Headload fall on FOB → 18 dead
- **Prayagraj Kumbh (Jan)** → Mauni Amavasya dip rush, 30 dead, 60+ injured

Scale & Data

- NCRB (2000–22) → 3,074 deaths; ~4,000 events since 1990s
- **Annual toll** → ~90 deaths in 2025 already
- **Global vs India** → Global examples (Seoul Halloween 2022, Germany Love Parade 2010) rare; India sees repetitive events due to larger scale + weak enforcement

Why India Sees More Stampedes?

- **Event magnitude** → Kumbh, yatras, political rallies → crowds in millions
- **Star-politics culture** → Actors-turned-politicians draw massive unmanaged gatherings
- **Regulation gaps** → Weak compliance, poor risk-mapping, limited emergency access
- **Societal behaviour** → Low regard for rules, high tolerance of dense crowds

Key Takeaways

- **Pattern** → Localised trigger → panic spread → delayed rescue → high casualties
- **Core issue** → Crowd size underestimation + lack of contingency planning
- **Lesson from abroad** → Rare repeats, corrective reforms; in India, recurrence persists

Preventive Measures: Way Forward

- **Advance Planning** → Crowd size mapping, scientific modelling, AI-based prediction
- **Infrastructure** → Wider exits, strong barricading, multiple entry/exit points, clear signage
- **Tech Use** → CCTV, drones, sensors for density monitoring, loudspeaker alerts
- **Regulation** → Strict event permits, liability norms, coordination b/w police–organisers–local admin
- **On-ground Control** → Trained marshals, volunteers, regulated queues, timed entry passes
- **Emergency Response** → Rapid medical teams, mobile hospitals, dedicated evacuation lanes

- **Public Awareness** → Stampede safety drills, do's & don'ts messaging, behavioural nudges
- **Learning from Global Models** → Post-incident audits, no-repeat policy (as in Korea, Germany)

Test Your Knowledge

Q. Which of the following are listed as responsibilities of State Governments under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, in relation to crowd-related disasters?

- 1) Formulation of State Disaster Management Plan
- 2) Ensuring district-level disaster preparedness
- 3) Deployment of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)
- 4) Regulation of crowd management at local events

Select the correct answer:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Hint:

☞ NDRF deployment = Union Govt responsibility (not State).

☞ State's role = planning (State DM Plan), ensuring district preparedness, regulating local events.

News / Explained / India wins second mineral exploration contract in the Indian Ocean: What is this, why it matters

India wins second mineral exploration contract in the Indian Ocean: What is this, why it matters

India now commands the largest area allocated in the international seabed for Polymetallic Sulphides exploration. Here's why that matters.

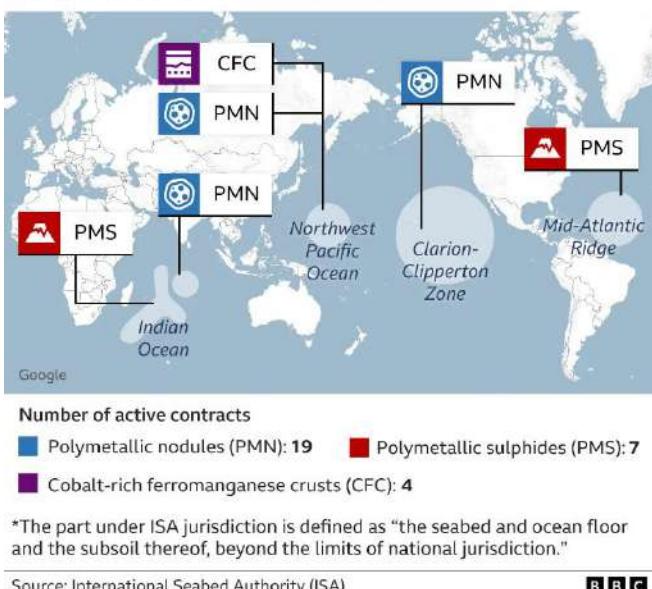
IE Explained; By Anjali Marar;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Geography & Environment [Link](#)

Why in News?

India signed 2nd ISA contract → exclusive rights for **Polymetallic Sulphides (PMS)** exploration in Carlsberg Ridge, Indian Ocean → 1st nation with 2 PMS contracts → largest PMS area allotted globally.

Exploration areas for minerals in the international seabed area*

Contracts with the ISA for exploration



BBC

PMS & Its Importance

- Composition** → Cu, Zn, Pb, Au, Ag + trace REEs/precious elements
- Uses** → high-tech, RE, EVs, green tech
- India's challenge** → land reserves limited, import dependence ↑
- PMS origin** → hydrothermal vents, deposition from mineral-rich hot gush

India's PMS Journey

- 2016 → 1st ISA contract (Central & SW Indian Ridge)
- NCPOR lead agency** → 3-phase exploration (survey → AUV/ROV mapping → resource eval)
- Deep Ocean Mission** → infra boost (deep-sea vessels, AUVs, ROVs)
- Samudrayaan & "Matsya" vehicle** → human-submersible support

Carlsberg Ridge Significance

- Location** → Mid-ocean ridge b/w Indian & Somali plates (~2°N, closer to India)
- Geology** → slow-spreading ridge (2.4–3.3 cm/yr), hydrothermal vent presence
- Strategic** → nearer than earlier contracts (~26°S) → easier ops, ↑ security value
- Research base** → 3 decades of Indian studies in region

PMS vs Other Underwater Minerals

- Terrain** → hard, uneven, 2000–5000m depth (more complex than nodules/crusts)
- Tech needs** → deep-sea vessels w/ dynamic positioning, precision nav & comms
- Tools** → ship-mounted geophysics, AUVs, ROVs, advanced samplers & labs
- Multidisciplinary** → geology, oceanography, biology, deep-sea tech

ISA Allocation Mechanism

- Legal base** → UNCLOS framework
- Process** → nation applies w/ work plan, env. baseline, tech/finance proofs
- Review** → Legal & Technical Commission → ISA Council approval
- India's edge** → proven capability + earlier track record

Future Outlook

- India eyeing cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts → Afanasy-Nikitin Seamount (CIO)
- Fits Govt. **Blue Economy** vision → strategic minerals + energy security

Test Your Knowledge

Q. With reference to Polymetallic Sulphides (PMS) found on the ocean floor, consider the following statements:

- PMS deposits are typically associated with hydrothermal vents along mid-ocean ridges.
- They are rich in copper, zinc, and gold but do not contain rare earth elements.
- Exploration of PMS is less technologically challenging than exploration of polymetallic nodules due to their shallower occurrence.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Hint:

- PMS → hydrothermal vents
- They do contain trace REEs
- PMS terrain harder & deeper (2000–5000m) → more challenging than nodules

NEWS IN SHORT: GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT

Environment (Construction and Demolition) Waste Management Rules 2025

Why in News?

New comprehensive rules notified on April 2, 2025, effective from April 1, 2026, replacing 2016 regulations with stricter Extended Producer Responsibility framework.

Scope and Application

- Coverage:** All construction, demolition, remodeling, renovation, repair activities
- Exemptions:** Atomic Energy Act projects, defense/strategic projects, natural disaster waste, war-related waste
- Producer definition:** Projects with 20,000+ square meter built-up area requiring portal registration
- Supersession:** Replaces Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules 2016
-

What is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)?



Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- Lifecycle responsibility:** Producers accountable for entire waste management cycle
- EPR targets:** Mandatory compliance through regulated waste management plans
- Certificate system:** Purchase EPR certificates from registered recyclers for target achievement
- Debris inclusion:** Cement, bricks, tiles count toward targets; iron, wood, plastic, glass excluded

Registration and Monitoring

- Mandatory registration:** Producers, intermediate storage operators, recyclers, collection points
- Online portal:** CPCB-developed system for registration, plan submission, compliance tracking
- Penalties:** Operating without registration prohibited; false information leads to revocation and compensation charges
- Monitoring authority:** CPCB and state pollution control boards oversee implementation

Recycling Framework

- Progressive targets:** 5% recycled materials by 2026-27, increasing to 25% by 2030-31
- Waste management plans:** Detailed documentation of expected waste generation and disposal measures
- Processing hierarchy:** Deposit at processing facility or Intermediate Waste Storage Facility if unavailable
- In-situ processing:** Remaining waste must reach registered processing facilities

Afghanistan earthquake

Why in News?

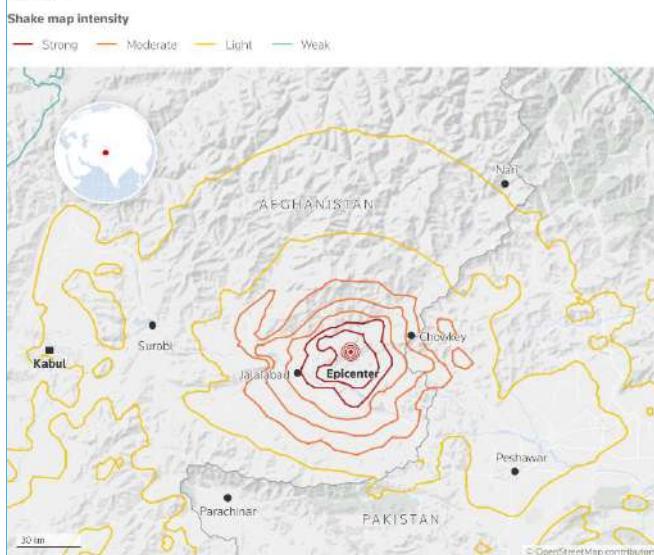
A 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck eastern Afghanistan on August 31, 2025, killing over 800 people and injuring more than 2,000.

Earthquake Details

- Magnitude: 6.0 on Richter scale
- Time: 11:47 PM local time on Sunday, August 31, 2025
- Location: Epicenter 27 km northeast of Jalalabad in Nangarhar province, near Pakistan border
- Depth: Just 8 kilometers (shallow earthquake)
- Casualties: Over 812 killed, 2,835 injured
- Damage: At least 600 homes destroyed, entire villages flattened

Earthquake in Afghanistan

A magnitude 6 earthquake struck Afghanistan's rugged northeastern province of Kunar on Monday.



Note: A shakemap represents the ground shaking produced by an earthquake. The information is different from the earthquake's magnitude and epicenter as a shakemap focuses on the variation in ground shaking produced by the earthquake, rather than describing the earthquake's source or strength.

Source: USGS

Why the Earthquake Was So Deadly?

Shallow Depth Impact

- Shallow earthquakes (less than 70 km depth) are more dangerous as they carry more energy to the surface
- This quake struck at only 8 km depth, causing maximum surface damage
- Tremors felt as far as 140 km away in Kabul and across Pakistan

Timing and Vulnerability

- Occurred at midnight when most people were sleeping indoors
- Many victims were crushed by collapsing buildings made of mud and stone
- Rural homes in Afghanistan are poorly constructed and cannot withstand seismic activity

Geographical Challenges

- Remote mountainous terrain made rescue operations difficult
- Roads blocked by landslides prevented quick access to affected areas
- Taliban government had to use helicopters for evacuations

Why Afghanistan Is Earthquake-Prone?

Tectonic Activity

- Located at collision zone where Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates meet
- India moves toward Eurasia at 45 mm per year, creating intense seismic activity
- This collision zone accounts for 15% of all seismic energy released globally each year

Complex Fault Systems

- Situated on multiple fault lines in Hindu Kush and Himalayan regions
- Same tectonic collision that formed the Himalayas continues to cause earthquakes
- 12 earthquakes above magnitude 7 have occurred since 1900 in Hindu Kush region

Recent Earthquake History

- 2023: Three major earthquakes in Herat province killed nearly 1,300 people
- 2022: 5.9 magnitude quake killed at least 1,300 people in southeast region
- 2011: Similar magnitude earthquake in New Zealand killed only 185 people due to better infrastructure



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Abhishek Vashishtha, AIR-14 [CSE 2024]

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

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 Vashishtha
UPSC CSE Rank 14.*

Devansh M. Dwivedi, AIR-228 [CSE 2024]

Hello everyone.
I am Devansh Mohan Dwivedi AIR 228 (UPSC CSE 2024). Kalam IAS's PYQ module with face-to-face evaluation was very helpful during mains preparation. The team was very helpful and kind.

*Devansh Mohan Dwivedi
CSE 2024.*

Sarthak Singh, AIR-393 [CSE 2024]

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

Highlights of the Program



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Internal Security

September 2025

News / Explained / Why Army is rushing to procure new radars after Operation Sindoor drone breaches

₹ Premium

Why Army is rushing to procure new radars after Operation Sindoor drone breaches

Radars are the eyes of modern air defence systems. Learning from the experience of Op Sindoor, the Army is acquiring upgraded radar systems to tackle swarms of low-cost drones with small radar signatures

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

Why in News?

Army fast-tracking procurement of new radars after **Operation Sindoor (May 2025)** exposed gaps against Pakistani drone swarms.

Radar Basics

- **RADAR** = Radio Detection and Ranging
- Components: transmitter + receiver
- Functions: detect, track, identify, calculate trajectory
- Types:
 - **Surveillance radars** → detect, monitor skies
 - **Fire control radars** → guide weapons to targets
- Key metric: **Radar Cross Section (RCS)** → detectability (low RCS = stealthy)



Current AD Radars

- **IAF**: High/Medium Power Radars (HPRs, MPRs) for long range, high altitude threats (jets, AWACS)
- **Army + IAF**: Low Level Light Weight Radars (LLLRs) for low altitude, small objects
- **IAF fire control radars**: 3D Central Acquisition, Rajendra
- **Army fire control radars**: Flycatcher (USFM upgrade), AD Tactical Control

Why Upgrade Needed?

- **Op Sindoor**: hundreds of cheap drones breached Indian airspace, camouflaged few attack drones
- Old radars struggled with low-RCS, low-altitude swarms
- Trend in modern warfare: drones, swarms, Hamas-Israel case
- Need: more LLLRs + advanced fire control radars capable of friend-foe ID

New Procurement

- 45 Low Level Light Weight Radars (Enhanced)
- 48 Air Defence Fire Control Radar – Drone Detectors (ADFCR-DD)
- 10 Low Level Light Weight Radars (Improved)
- Capabilities:
 - Detect + track small drones, swarms
 - Prioritise threats
 - Transmit target data to AD weapons (up to 10 km)
 - ADFCR-DD: detect, classify, control AD guns/missiles

India's AD Infrastructure

- **Systems**: Akash missile, S-400, AD guns
- **Army**: Akashheer → real-time common air picture, integrated ops
- **IAF**: Integrated Air Command & Control System (IACCS) → integrates all AD assets, controls offensive + defensive ops
- **Mission Sudarshan Chakra**: build comprehensive AD shield
- **Recent**: DRDO tested Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS)

Test Your Knowledge

Q. In the context of radar technology, the term Radar Cross Section (RCS) refers to:

- The area covered by radar beams in circular scanning
- The effective reflectivity of a target to radar signals
- The cross-sectional size of radar antenna dish
- The minimum distance at which radar can detect targets

Hint: RCS = detectability, key in stealth design.
(Reflectovoty)

News / Explained / Agni-P missile test: All you need to know about the successful rail-based launch

Agni-P missile test: All you need to know about the successful rail-based launch

India rail-based missile launch: Thus far, only Russia, the US, China, and possibly North Korea had the capability of launching long range ballistic missiles from rail-based platforms. India now joins this club.

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

Why in News?

DRDO successfully test-fired **Agni-P missile** from a **rail-based mobile launcher**, making India 5th nation with this capability.



Strategic Significance

- Second-strike assured** → Crucial for India's "No First Use" nuclear doctrine

- ↑ **Survivability** → Mobile launchers harder to target vs fixed silos
- Counter-satellite threat** → Avoids vulnerability from improved enemy ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance)
- Force multipliers** → Complements submarines, aircraft, road-mobile systems

Why Rail-based Launchers?

- Nationwide reach** → 70,000 km rail network, unlike limited road-based systems
- Concealment** → Tunnels, last-moment deployment → evades satellite tracking
- Cost-efficiency** → Cheaper & easier to scale vs submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs)
- Mobility advantage** → Can bypass road bottlenecks, weight restrictions

Agni-P Features

- Lineage** → Upgrade of Agni-I, tech from Agni-IV & V
- Specs** → 11,000 kg; 2-stage solid-fuel; range 1,000–2,000 km
- Payloads** → Nuclear, thermobaric, or high explosive
- Canisterised launch system** → Quick transport, storage, launch readiness
- Credible Deterrence** → Strengthens India's MRBM arsenal in South Asia security matrix

Test Your Knowledge

Q. Consider the following about Agni-P missile:

- It is a two-stage, solid-fuel propelled missile.
- It has an operational range of 1,000–2,000 km.
- It can only carry nuclear warheads.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Hint: Think of Agni-P's fuel type (solid, 2-stage), its range (1000–2000 km), and remember it can also carry non-nuclear warheads (thermobaric, HE).

NEWS IN SHORT: INTERNAL SECURITY

Exercise ZAPAD 2025

Why in News?

An Indian Armed Forces contingent of 65 personnel departed for Russia to participate in the multilateral joint military exercise ZAPAD 2025, scheduled from September 10-16, 2025.



Key Points

- What it is?** A multilateral joint military exercise hosted by Russia at Mulino Training Ground, Nizhniy, with participation from over 20 countries including India, Bangladesh, Iran, Mali, Niger, and Tajikistan
- Indian Participation:** 65-member contingent comprising 57 Army personnel (led by Kumaon Regiment), 7 Air Force personnel, and 1 Navy personnel

Objectives:

- Enhance military cooperation and interoperability between participating nations
- Exchange tactics, techniques and procedures in conventional warfare and counter-terrorism operations

- Integrate emerging technologies in multinational combat environment

Geopolitical Context: The exercise has raised concerns among NATO allies and European nations, as the previous Zapad 2021 exercise was followed months later by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022

Significance for India: Strengthens India-Russia defense cooperation and provides opportunity to operate alongside multiple nations in joint military scenarios

Defence Chief's Tenure Extended

Why in News?

General Anil Chauhan's tenure as Chief of Defence Staff extended until May 2026 to implement key military reforms including theaterisation.

Position Overview

- Established:** December 2019 as part of higher defence management reforms
- Rank:** Four-star General/Officer, senior-most uniformed military appointment
- Dual Role:** Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee + Secretary of Department of Military Affairs
- Age Limit:** Can serve until 65 years (extended from normal retirement age)
- Selection:** From serving or retired officers under 62 years from Army, Navy, Air Force



Key Responsibilities

- Principal Military Advisor:** To Defence Minister and PM on all tri-service matters
- Coordination Role:** Foster jointness between Army, Navy, Air Force to avoid duplication

- **Command Authority:** Head tri-service organizations, agencies, commands including cyber and space
- **Strategic Planning:** Prepare military strategy papers, oversee long-term planning, training, procurement, logistics
- **Reform Implementation:** Create theatre commands, implement Five-Year Defence Capital Acquisition Plan
- **Decision Making:** Member of Defence Acquisition Council and Defence Planning Committee

Defence exports surge from ₹686 crore in 2013-14 to ₹23,622 crore in 2024-25, marking 34-fold increase

Why in News?

Rajnath Singh announced record ₹23,622 crore defence exports in FY 2024-25

Growth Numbers

- 34-fold increase: From ₹686 crore (2013-14) to ₹23,622 crore (2024-25)
- 12.04% growth over previous year

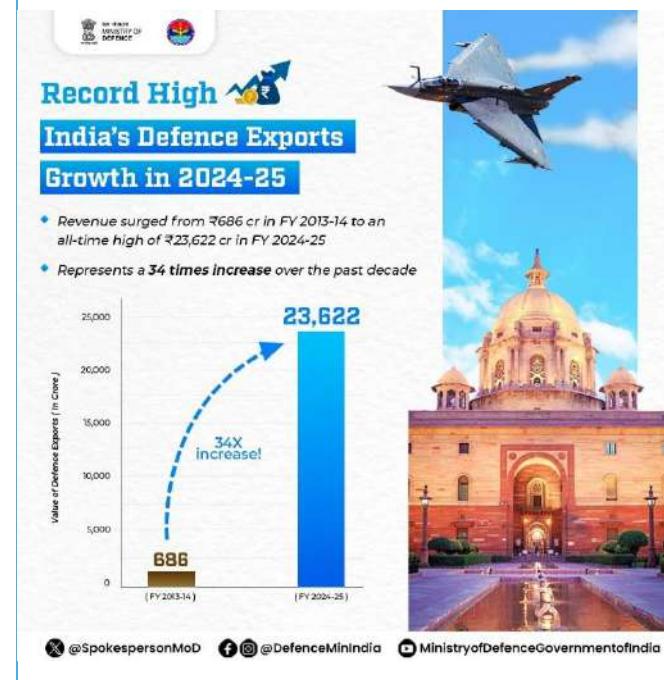
Sector Breakdown

- Private sector: ₹15,233 crore (64%)

- Defence PSUs: ₹8,389 crore (36%)
- Exports to **80+ countries** including USA, France, Armenia

Future Target

- ₹50,000 crore exports by 2029



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September 2025

ETHICS WEEKLY	
NEWS	ETHICAL ISSUES
<p>Charlie Kirk shot dead in US</p> <p>News: Conservative activist Charlie Kirk was fatally shot on September 10, 2025, at Utah Valley University, sparking widespread controversy over political violence, free speech suppression, and organized retaliation campaigns against his critics.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political Assassination Ethics: Using violence to silence political opponents undermines democratic discourse and rule of law Free Speech Suppression: Mass employment terminations (33+ people) for expressing political opinions violates First Amendment principles State-Sanctioned Retaliation: Pentagon and State Department tracking critics to punish speech through employment and immigration threats Coordinated Harassment Campaigns: Systematic doxxing and organized vigilante justice campaigns targeting Kirk's critics with death threats Justice System Politicization: Death penalty pursuit influenced by political pressure rather than legal merit before trial completion
<p>Gaza Crisis</p> <p>News: Israel launched a major ground offensive in Gaza City on September 15, 2025, after ordering 350,000 residents to evacuate, with total war casualties reaching 66,700 people (83% civilians) and a UN commission concluding Israel committed genocide.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genocide Allegations: UN commission officially concluded Israel committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza with systematic intent to destroy the population Disproportionate Civilian Casualties: Israeli military data shows 83% of Gaza war deaths are civilians, creating one of highest civilian casualty rates in modern warfare Starvation as Warfare: 422 Palestinians died from malnutrition including 130 children, indicating deliberate use of starvation as weapon of war Targeting Protected Persons: Systematic killing of 217 journalists, 224 humanitarian workers, and attacks on hospitals violates international humanitarian law Forced Mass Displacement: Evacuation orders affecting 350,000 people in Gaza City constitute forced displacement and ethnic cleansing under international law

News / Explained / Debate around assisted death: Should individuals have a right to die?

Debate around assisted death: Should individuals have a right to die?

Actress Ruth Posner, 96, died at a suicide clinic in Switzerland last week because she felt that life with her “failing senses...and lack of energy was not living but existing”

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

Why in News?

Ruth Posner (96) and her husband chose assisted death in Switzerland, renewing ethical and legal debates on the right to die.



Ethical Arguments For Assisted Death

- **Autonomy** ♦ death as ultimate personal choice, free from external mediation
- **Dignity in dying** ♦ prevents prolonged existence without quality of life
- **Relief from suffering** ♦ compassion > prolongation of pain
- **Consistency with refusal of treatment** ♦ patients already allowed to refuse life-support → assisted death a logical extension
- **Utilitarian benefit** ♦ resource allocation to patients with better survival prospects
- **Authenticity of agency** ♦ surveys show elderly fear dependence > death itself
- **Philosophical precedent** ♦ Plato: those without health should be allowed to die
- **Palliative care limits** ♦ medicine cannot always eliminate pain or indignity
- **Psychological peace** ♦ option itself provides comfort even if not exercised

Ethical Arguments Against Assisted Death

- **Autonomy paradox** ♦ no autonomy once life ends → undermines argument

- **Slippery slope** ♦ criteria expand → from terminal illness → disability → depression
- **Devaluation of life** ♦ risks creating societal pressure on elderly/disabled to “choose” death
- **Subjectivity of suffering** ♦ no clear threshold → teenager with depression vs cancer patient
- **Medical ethics** ♦ violates Hippocratic oath “do no harm”
- **Social coercion** ♦ vulnerable groups (elderly, disabled, poor) may be subtly pushed toward death
- **Normalisation risk** ♦ joint suicides once tragic, now socially acceptable in some cultures
- **Psychological distortion** ♦ short-term despair may lead to irreversible decision
- **Historical misuse** ♦ Nazi eugenics (“lives not worth living”) used suffering as justification
- **Alternative available** ♦ ↑ palliative/hospice care can reduce suffering without ending life

Legal Frameworks

India

- SC 2018: “Right to die with dignity” part of Art. 21
- Permits *passive euthanasia* (withdrawing life-support) + living wills
- No active assisted dying (positive act causing death)
- Concerns: misuse by families, weak oversight, cultural resistance

UK

- Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, 2024
- Age ≥ 18 , terminal illness only, excludes disability/mental disorder
- Court approval mandatory, reflection periods, 12-month residency rule

Switzerland

- Liberal regime, no residency requirement → “death tourism”
- Physician must confirm patient acted autonomously, not for selfish motives

Other Models

- Netherlands, Belgium, Canada: broader access (incl. some psychiatric cases) but strict monitoring
- US (few states): physician-assisted suicide allowed under “Death with Dignity” laws

Miscellaneous

September 2025

NEWS IN SHORT

What to know about upcoming F1 rule changes in 2026, biggest in a generation?

Why in News?

FIA introducing sweeping F1 rule changes from 2026, termed biggest in a generation.



Key Changes

- **Car Design & Performance**
 - Lighter, smaller, more agile cars
 - Aerodynamics simplified → closer racing
 - Reduced downforce drag; focus on efficiency
- **Engines (Power Units)**
 - Turbo-hybrid retained (since 2014)
 - 50% power from electric energy (vs ~20% now)
 - 100% sustainable fuels mandated
 - More standardised parts to cut costs
- **Competitiveness & Cost Cap**
 - Possible wider performance gaps (Pirelli: up to 4 sec/lap variance)
 - “107% rule” unlikely to disqualify cars
 - Cost cap strict, but exemptions for struggling manufacturers
 - FIA checks every 6 races → allow limited overspend for engine catch-up
- **Driver Skill & Energy Management**
 - Energy deployment (battery/turbo) key race skill
 - FIA balancing automation vs driver input
 - Goal: avoid “chess-like” over-management

• Safety & Sustainability

- Crash structures reworked → higher safety
- Cars ~30% more energy-efficient
- Ban on harmful materials; reduced emissions

• Rain & Visibility

- New floors → less spray
- Aim to enable proper wet racing (avoid 2021 Belgium GP repeat)
- Ongoing FIA projects for visibility solutions

Implications

- Mercedes likely engine leader; newcomers (Audi, Ford-Red Bull, Honda return) face learning curve
- Teams prioritising 2026 over 2025 car dev → possible performance disparities
- Regulations seek: closer racing, sustainable tech showcase, financial stability, better fan experience

Mohanlal dedicates Phalke award to Indian film industry

Why in News?

Mohanlal dedicates Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2023) to Indian film industry.



Significance

- Recognition of Malayalam cinema's contribution to Indian film.
- Symbol of endurance, versatility, adaptability in changing industry.
- Inspires future filmmakers, actors through humility & dedication.

About Dadasaheb Phalke Award



- Highest recognition in Indian cinema.
- Instituted: 1969, by Govt. of India.
- Named after Dhundiraj Govind Phalke (Father of Indian Cinema).
- Presented annually at National Film Awards.
- Lifetime achievement in Indian cinema.
- Open to all film industry contributors (actors, directors, technicians, producers).
- Components: Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus), shawl, cash prize ₹10 lakh.

- Past recipients: Devika Rani (first, 1969), Raj Kapoor, Satyajit Ray, Lata Mangeshkar, Amitabh Bachchan, Rajinikanth, Waheeda Rehman (2022).

India clinches 9th Asia Cup title defeating Pakistan

Why in News? India defeated Pakistan by 5 wickets in thrilling Asia Cup 2025 final to win record-extending 9th title.



Celebration without Trophy

Details

- **Venue:** Dubai International Cricket Stadium, September 29, 2025
- **Player of Match:** Tilak Varma: Unbeaten 69* off 53 balls (3 fours, 4 sixes)
- **Controversy:** India refused to accept trophy from Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi
- Trophy presentation delayed over 1 hour, India walked off without silverware
- BCCI cited political tensions as reason for refusal



Scan to get more Study Material



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CURRENT EDGE

One-Stop Current Affairs Prelims 2026

Sessions || TESTS || WORKBOOKS || k-Snippet 365+ *Comprehensive Coverage*

Sessions: 31 Sessions (Roughly 50 hours)



- ★ Phase 1: 10 sessions (Month-by-Month CA)
- ★ Phase 2: 12 sessions (Subject-wise CA)
- ★ Phase 3: 9 sessions (Snippets + Rapid Revision)

Materials: 22 Weekly Materials + CA Snippet



- ★ Phase 1: 10 Workbooks (\approx 50 pages each)
- ★ Phase 2: 12 Subject-wise Compilations
- ★ Phase 3: 1 Snippet Booklet (\approx 200 pages)

Tests: 10 Tests (8 HLTs & 2 FLTs) | 600 MCQs



- ★ Phase 1: 3 Tests (150 MCQs)
- ★ Phase 2: 5 Tests (250 MCQs)
- ★ Phase 3: 2 Full-Length Tests (200 MCQs)

Delhi Center: 57/13, Bada Bazaar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar

✉ Jaipur Center: Ridhi Sidhi Chauraha, Gopalpura Bypass

✉ Sikar Centre: Nawalgarh Road, Sikar, Rajasthan



Jaipur: +91- 86963-44044

Sikar : +91- 95497-44044

98878-44044



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CURRENT EDGE SCHEDULE

Phase-I: Month-by-Month Mastery

Session	Date	Coverage	Material	Test (Q)
SESSION 1	1 Nov (Sat)	Jan + Feb 2025	Workbook 1	—
SESSION 2	8 Nov (Sat)	Mar + Apr 2025	Workbook 2	—
SESSION 3	15 Nov (Sat)	May 2025	Workbook 3	—
SESSION 4	22 Nov (Sat)	June 2025	Workbook 4	23 Nov (Sun) – Test 1 (50 MCQs)
SESSION 5	29 Nov (Sat)	July 2025	Workbook 5	—
SESSION 6	6 Dec (Sat)	Aug 2025	Workbook 6	—
SESSION 7	13 Dec (Sat)	Sep 2025	Workbook 7	14 Dec (Sun) – Test 2 (50 MCQs)
SESSION 8	20 Dec (Sat)	Oct 2025	Workbook 8	—
SESSION 9	27 Dec (Sat)	Nov 2025	Workbook 9	—
SESSION 10	3 Jan (Sat)	Dec 2025	Workbook 10	4 Jan (Sun) – Test 3 (50 MCQs)

Phase-II: Subject-wise CA Modules

Week	Date	Coverage	Material	Test (Q)
01	5–10 Jan	Polity – Part 1	Polity CA Part 1	—
02	12–17 Jan	Polity – Part 2	Polity CA Part 2	18 Jan (Sun) – Test 4 (50 MCQs)
03	19–24 Jan	Geo. & Env. Part 1	Geo-Env CA Part 1	—
04	27–31 Jan	Geo. & Env. Part 2	Geo-Env CA Part 2	1 Feb (Sun) – Test 5 (50 MCQs)
05	2–7 Feb	Eco. & Agr. Part-1	Eco-Agri CA Part 1	—
06	9–14 Feb	Eco. & Agr. Part-2	Eco-Agri CA Part 2	15 Feb (Sun) – Test 6 (50 MCQs)
07	16–21 Feb	Science & Tech	Sci-Tech CA	—
08	23–28 Feb	International Relations	IR CA	1 Mar (Sun) – Test 7 (50 MCQs)
09	2–7 Mar	History & Art–Culture	History CA	—
10	9–14 Mar	Government Schemes	Schemes CA	—
11	16–21 Mar	Society & Social Issues	Society-Social Issues CA	—
12	23–28 Mar	Updation	CA Update	29 Mar (Sun) – Test 8 (50 MCQs)

Note: Session Date will be notify

Phase-III: CA Snippet Sessions

Date	Snippet Focus	Test (Q)
6 Apr (Mon)	Polity	—
8 Apr (Wed)	Geography	—
10 Apr (Fri)	Environment	12 Apr (Sun) – CA FLT 1 (100 MCQs)
13 Apr (Mon)	Economy	—
15 Apr (Wed)	Science & Tech	—
17 Apr (Fri)	International Relations	19 Apr (Sun) – CA FLT 2 (100 MCQs)
20 Apr (Mon)	History & Art–Culture	—
22 Apr (Wed)	Government Schemes	—
24 Apr (Fri)	Society & Social Issues	—

Complete CA Snippet File Launch Release in 1st Week of April 2026

Delhi Center: 57/13, Bada Bazaar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar

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CURRENT EDGE

One-Stop Current Affairs Prelims 2026

Other Details

- Start: **1st Nov, 2025**
- Test Time: **10:00 AM**
- Class Time: **05:00 PM**
- Mode: **Online | Offline**
- Medium: **English**

**FEE
₹4,000/-**



Enroll: <https://bit.ly/3WkWhj3>

Concession Details

Kalam IAS Students: 10%

UPSC Interview Student: 20%

Selected Students: 25%

CSE 2024 TOPPERS



Abhishek Vashishta



Devansh M. Dwivedi



Aayushi Chaudhary



Tanishi Kalra



SARTHAK SINGH



MANISH KUMAR

CSE 2021

17



MEHAK JAIN

62



POOJA TIRUMANI

CSE 2022

27



YADAV SURYABHAN

64



ANIRUDHA PANDEY

CSE 2023

1



ADITYA SRIVASTAVA

10



AISHWARYAM PRAJAPATI