

Current Affairs

Workbook

October 2025



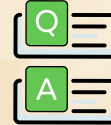
Mains Questions



Ethics Case Studies



Progress Tracking Table



MCQs



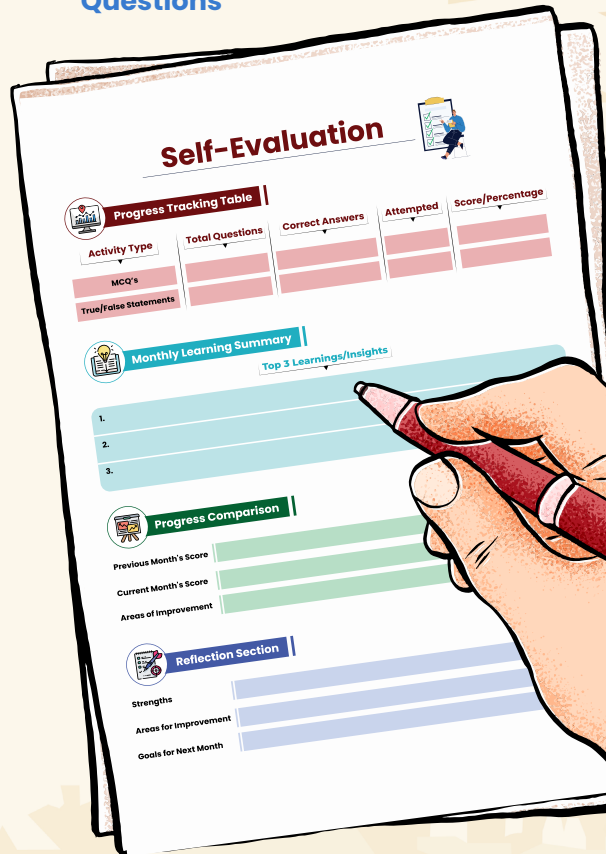
Quick facts



Comprehensive Summary



True/ False



Self-Evaluation

Activity Type	Total Questions	Correct Answers	Attempted	Score/Percentage
MCQ's				
True/False Statements				

Monthly Learning Summary
Top 3 Learnings/Insights

-
-
-

Progress Comparison

Previous Month's Score _____

Current Month's Score _____

Areas for Improvement _____

Reflection Section

Strengths _____

Areas for Improvement _____

Goals for Next Month _____



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI



VISION IAS INSPIRING INNOVATION SANDHAN

A VisionIAS Personalised Test Series

(An All India GS Prelims Test Series feature
for Smart Revision, Practice and Holistic Preparation
for UPSC Prelims)

➤ **Extensive Question Bank:**

Access 20,000+ VisionIAS and UPSC PYQ questions.

➤ **Current Affairs Integration:**

Practice with current affairs questions.

➤ **Personalized Test Creation:**

Customize tests by subjects and topics.

➤ **Timed Assessments:**

Enhance time management with timed tests.

➤ **Detailed Performance Analysis:**

Track overall, subject, and topic-level progress.

➤ **Targeted Recommendations:**

Receive personalized insights for specific improvement areas.



Admission Open



Scan to
know more

CONTENTS

1. POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

1.1. Prison Reforms	5
1.2. IT (Amendment) Rules, 2025	6
1.3. Regulation of India's Pharmaceutical Sector.	7
1.4. Tribal Governance	8
1.5. News in Shorts	9

2. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

2.1. Rise of Anti-Immigration Policies	10
2.2. India Afghanistan Relations: Strategic Resetting of Ties.	10
2.3. India-Russia Relations	11
2.4. Gaza Peace Summit	12
2.5. India-European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)	13
2.6. News in Shorts.	14

3. ECONOMICS

3.1. Multidimensional Poverty	17
3.2. Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2025	17
3.3. PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana	18
3.4. Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses	19
3.5. WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.	20
3.6. India's Approach to AI and Employment	20
3.7. Incentive Scheme for the Promotion of Critical Mineral Recycling	21
3.8. Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2023-24.	22
3.9. News in Shorts.	22

4. SECURITY

4.1. Left-Wing Extremism (LWE).	26
4.2. Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)	27
4.3. United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime	28
4.4. News in Shorts.	28

5. ENVIRONMENT

5.1. 10 Years of SDGs: India's Progress.	30
5.2. Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve	31
5.3. News in Shorts.	32

6. SOCIAL ISSUES

6.1. State of Social Justice	37
6.2. Global Hunger Index	38
6.3. News in Shorts.	39

7. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

7.1. Nobel Prize In Physiology Or Medicine 2025.	41
7.2. Nobel Prize In Chemistry 2025	41
7.3. Nobel Prize In Physics 2025	42
7.4. Astrosat	43
7.5. Non-Communicable Diseases	43
7.6. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)	44
7.7. News in Shorts	45

8. CULTURE

8.1. Sree Narayana Guru	47
8.2. News in Shorts.	47

9. ETHICS

9.1. Inclusive Growth.	49
--------------------------------	----

10. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

10.1. MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act)	50
--	----

11. QUICK FACTS

12. ACTIVITIES

12.1. MCQS	56
12.2. True/False Statements	58
12.3. Mains Practice Questions	59
12.4. Ethics Case Study	60

13. ANSWER & EXPLANATION

13.1. MCQs Answer and Explanation	61
13.2. True/False Answers	63
13.3. Approach to the Mains Practice Questions	63
13.4. Approach to Case Studies.	65

14. SELF- EVALUATION

From the Editor's Desk

Dear Readers,

The October edition of the Workbook continues our effort to offer a structured and analytically rich guide to current affairs.

This month's content covers major developments across governance, economy, international relations, security, environment, and society.

In Polity and Governance, the edition reviews the urgent need for prison reforms, insights from the latest national crime and accident reports, the IT (Amendment) Rules, 2025, and key regulatory issues in the pharmaceutical sector and tribal governance.

Under International Relations, we examine the rise of global anti-immigration policies and India's recalibrated engagements with Afghanistan, Russia, and major economic blocs.

The Economy section highlights India's progress in reducing multidimensional poverty, the 2025 Economics Nobel, and initiatives such as PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses.

In Security and Science & Technology, the edition covers trends in Left-Wing Extremism, debates around AFSPA, advances in cybercrime frameworks, and ongoing progress in defence technology, space science, and digital innovation.

The Environment section reviews India's SDG performance, biodiversity assessments, greenhouse gas intensity rules, and emerging conservation initiatives. Social Issues, Culture, Ethics, and Schemes provide concise insights into welfare trends, cultural heritage, ethical perspectives, and key government programmes such as MGNREGA.

How the Workbook is Organized?

1. **Summary of the Monthly Magazine** – Quick recall of essentials.

2. **Quick Facts Block** – Key data points consolidated.

3. **Activities Block:**



MCQs – To sharpen recall.



True/False Statements – For conceptual clarity.



Mains Practice Questions – To develop structured writing.



Ethics Case Studies – To test application in dilemmas.

4. **Answers and Explanations** – For self-evaluation.

5. **Progress Tracking Table** – To monitor consistency.

We encourage you to use this Workbook as an interactive tool, revising regularly and writing answers with discipline. Consistency, clarity of thought, and analytical depth are the keys to mastering current affairs for the Civil Services Examination.

Warm regards,
 Team Current Affairs,
 VisionIAS



“Before anything else, preparation is the key to success.”

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE



1.1. Prison Reforms

Why in the News?

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released the **Prison Statistics India (PSI) 2023 Report**.





Governance of Prisons in India

- ➔ Prisons/ Persons detained are a **State subject (Entry 4, Schedule VII)**; States/UTs handle their administration.
 - ➔ **Union Home Ministry** provides guidance and support.
- ➔ Earlier governed by the **Prison Act, 1894 and State manuals**.
 - ➔ The **Model Prisons Act, 2023** serves as a reform guide, **merging the Prisoners Act, 1900 and Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1950**.

Judicial Pronouncements related to Prisons

- ➔ **Suhas Chakma (2024)**: SC urged **establishment of open prisons** (e.g. in Rajasthan) to reduce overcrowding.
- ➔ **Hussainara Khatoon (1979)**: SC upheld speedy trial as a **right under Article 21**.

Need for Prison Reforms (PSI, 2023)

-  **High Undertrials**
73.5% of jail inmates.
-  **Overcrowding**
National occupancy: 120.8%; Delhi: 200.2%.
-  **Staff Vacancies**
32.78% of prison staff posts.
-  **Poor Staff Training**
Only 20.6% jail staff got refresher/specialise/re-orientation training (2023).
-  **Inadequate Women's Facilities**
Only 35 women's jails for 21,500+ inmates; No separate jails in 20 States/UTs.
-  **Weak Rehabilitation Efforts**
Only 2,245 convicted inmates rehabilitated.

Measures taken for Prison Reforms

- ➔ MHA amended **Model Prison Manual 2016** and **Model Prisons Act 2023** to curb caste-based discrimination, following the **Sukanya Santha vs Uol verdict**.
 - ➔ Ensures uniform prison laws and administration across States.
- ➔ **Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme: Financial aid** for those unable to secure bail or pay fines via States/UTs.
- ➔ **E-Prison Project: Centralized digital system** for managing prisoner data and reports.
- ➔ **Modernization of Prisons**: Upgrades **security and technology** in jails.
- ➔ **FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records) System**: Enables quick **digital transfer of bail orders** from courts to prisons.

Way Forward/ Recommendations

- ➔ **Follow Supreme Court Principles**: Human rights apply within imprisonment limits, suffering must not be worsened by custody, etc.
- ➔ **Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs**: Trackable bracelets for bail monitoring, **Renovate old prisons for heritage tourism**, etc.
- ➔ **Justice A.N. Mulla Committee**: Form Indian Prisons & Correctional Service, **Include after-care and rehabilitation in prison work**, etc.
- ➔ **Justice Amitava Roy Committee**: Set up **fast-track courts** for long-pending cases, **use video conferencing** for aged/sick prisoners, etc.

NCRB

- ➔ **Origin**: 1986 {based on Tandon Committee, National Police Commission (1977–1981) and the MHA's Task force (1985)}.

- ➔ **Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
- ➔ **HQ:** New Delhi
- ➔ **Key Functions:** **Data Repository** (crime and criminal records), **Nodal agency for Crime & Criminal Tracking Network, Annual reports** (e.g. Crime in India, Accidental Deaths & Suicides, and Prison Statistics).

1.1.1. Crime in India Report: 2023

Recently, the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** published the **Annual Crime in India report 2023**.

Key Highlights of the report

- ➔ **Overall Crime:** Cognizable crimes **rose by 7.2% over 2022** — roughly one crime every 5 seconds.
- ➔ **Cybercrime:** Cases increased **31.2%**, mainly due to fraud and sexual exploitation.
- ➔ **Crimes Against STs:** Up by **28.8%**, largely linked to Manipur ethnic violence.
- ➔ **Crimes Against Children:** Grew by **9.2%**; mostly kidnapping/abduction and POCSO cases.
- ➔ **Crimes Against Women:** Recorded a slight **rise of 0.7% over 2022**.

1.1.2. Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India 2023 Report

Recently, the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** published the **Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India 2023 Report**.

Key Highlights of Report

- ➔ **Suicides:** Increased by 0.3% in 2023 over 2022, though suicide rate fell by 0.8%.
- ➔ **Highest Suicide Rates:** A&N Islands > Sikkim > Kerala; cities recorded higher than the national average.
- ➔ **Top States (Share of Suicides):** Maharashtra > Tamil Nadu > Madhya Pradesh > Karnataka > West Bengal.
- ➔ **Gender Ratio:** Male: Female = 72.8: 27.2.
- ➔ **Major Causes:** Family problems (31.9%) > Illness > Drug/Alcohol addiction > Marriage issues.
- ➔ **Farmer Suicides:** 10,786 deaths (6.3% of total); zero cases in West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa.

Suicide Prevention Initiatives

- ➔ **National Suicide Prevention Strategy, 2022** (10% reduction target by 2030), **Tele-MANAS**, **National Mental Health Programme**, etc.

1.2. IT (Amendment) Rules, 2025

Why in the news?

The **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)** has proposed amendments to the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021** to curb misuse of synthetically generated content, including deepfakes.

More on the News






- ➔ The amended Rules will be called the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2025**.
- ➔ Aim to enhance due diligence by **Social Media Intermediaries (SMIs)** and **Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs)**.

About Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021

- ➔ Set a framework for **regulating online news**, OTT content, etc. and **due diligence duties for intermediaries to ensure accountability**.
- ➔ **Defines:**
 - ➔ **SMI:** Entities which enable **user interaction and content sharing**.
 - ➔ **SSMI:** SMIs with users **exceeding a threshold** set by the Central Government.
- ➔ **Key Features of the proposed Amendments**

Aspect	Details
Defines Synthetically Generated Information (SGI)	➔ Artificially or algorithmically created or modified information that appears authentic or true .

Need to Label AI Generated Content

-  Protect Intellectual Property (IP).
-  Prevent misinformation and deepfakes.
-  Strengthen accountability through traceability and liability assessment
-  Educational and Research Integrity to help uphold academic honesty.
-  To ensure authenticity and credibility of information used in sectors like healthcare, financial services, etc.

Due Diligence in Relation to SGI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermediaries must label or embed SGI with permanent metadata/identifier. Visual content labels must cover 10% surface area; audio labels, first 10% duration. Labels must clearly identify SGI and cannot be altered or removed.
Enhanced Obligations for SSIMs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSIMs must: (1) obtain user declaration on SGI; (2) use automated tools to verify it; (3) ensure clear labelling of SGI. Non-compliance may lead to loss of legal immunity for third-party content.
Senior-level Authorisation	Removal orders for unlawful information can be issued only by Joint Secretary-rank officers or above in Central/State ministries or DIG-level police officers.

Challenges in identifying AI Generated Content

- ➔ **No Benchmarks:** Lack of standard tests causes false positives (**human flagged as AI**) and **false negatives.**
- ➔ **Limited Capacity:** Volume of AI **content exceeds detection and storage ability**; scaling is costly.
- ➔ **Anonymity:** Deepfakes can be anonymously **created or hosted abroad**; **no unified laws** impede tracking.
- ➔ **Imperceptibility:** GenAI outputs mimic **human content**; tools like Midjourney, DALL-E, Stable Diffusion produce **hyper-realistic visuals.**
- ➔ **Balance Innovation vs Privacy:** Metadata-based **detection raises privacy issues**; **over-regulation hinders innovation, under-regulation fuels misinformation.**

Initiatives taken to tackle Deepfake

India

- ➔ **ECI Advisory:** Parties must label **AI-altered campaign content ("AI-Generated," etc.)** on 10% of screen/time and **remove fakes within 3 hours.**
- ➔ **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act 2023):** Penalizes **deepfakes using personal data** without consent; ensures lawful data use.
- ➔ **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C):** Enables removal of **unlawful deepfake content under IT Act & Rules 2021.**
- ➔ **Others:** SAHYOG Portal, **Cyber Crime Reporting Portal, and CERT-In.**

Global: EU's AI Act mandates watermarking of synthetic content, **Denmark's** proposed deepfake law, etc.

Way Forward

- ➔ **Digital Framework:** Build provenance system with **verifiable content signatures, ensure platform accountability,** and boost AI literacy.
- ➔ **Governance:** Create **regulatory and technical standards** balancing privacy and ethics.
- ➔ **Digital Watermarking:** To verify AI content (e.g., China's AI labels).
- ➔ Align with **Global Standards.**
- ➔ **Multi-Stakeholder Effort:** Engage government, **industry, academia, and civil society** to share best practices.

1.3. Regulation of India's Pharmaceutical Sector

Why in News?


WHO raised concern **over gaps in India's drug safety regulations after 20** child deaths linked to contaminated cough syrups.

More on News:

Three syrups **Coldrif (Sresan), Respifresh (Rednex), and ReLife (Shape Pharma)** – found contaminated.

Regulation of Pharma Products in India

- ➔ **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 & Rules, 1945:** Regulate import, manufacture, sale, quality, etc.
- ➔ **State Drug Regulators:** Grant licenses, **inspect facilities, etc.**
- ➔ **CDSCO (Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation):** **approves drugs, oversees clinical trials,** sets drug standards, etc.
- ➔ **NPPA (National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority):** Enforces **Drug Prices Control Order** to regulate prices.
- ➔ **Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP):** Schedule M mandates **GMP in line with WHO standards.**

 **Data Bank**

Status of India's Pharmaceutical Sector

- ➔ **Global Rank:** **3rd** largest producer globally by volume and 14th largest producer by value.
- ➔ **Market Value:** **\$50 billion** (2023-24)
- ➔ **Global Supply:** India supplies **20%** of the world's generic medicines.

Key challenges leading to cases of spurious drugs in India

- **Regulatory Gaps:** Inconsistent and fragmented **oversight by CDSCO and states.**
- **Toxic Contamination:** Some syrups contained **Diethylene Glycol (DEG), an industrial toxin.**
- **Poor Quality Control:** E.g. **inadequate lab testing.**
- **Storage Issues:** **Poor cold chain** and storage degrade drug quality.
- **No mandatory recall law** in India.
- **Online Spurious Drugs: 1 in 10 medicines** in low- and middle-income countries as per WHO.

Recommendations of Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (2024-25)

- **Strict Enforcement:** Enforce the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945** rigorously to curb spurious drugs.
- **Legally Binding Distribution Guidelines:** to ensure supply chain quality.
- **Better Coordination:** Between **CDSCO, law enforcement,** and **state regulators** to dismantle fake drug networks.
- Update **Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).**
- **Public Awareness:** **To help citizens and health workers** detect and report counterfeit drugs.

1.4. Tribal Governance

Why in the News?

Over 1 lakh tribal-dominated **villages and Tolas** adopted the **Tribal Village Vision 2030 Declaration** under the **Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan**.

Key Features of Tribal Village Vision 2030 Declaration

- **Village-Level Priorities:** Sets measurable goals in **education, health, livelihood, etc.**
- **Institutional Mechanism:** E.g. Creates **Adi Sewa Kendras** as **single-window service centres.**

About Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan

- National initiative to build **tribal leadership and governance.**
- **Covers 11 crore citizens** in 30 States/UTs — **world's largest tribal mission.**
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- **Goals:** Train 20 lakh changemakers, **implement Village Vision 2030, ensure last-mile service delivery,** and amplify tribal voices.
- **Three Pillars:** **Adi Karmayogi, Adi Sahyogi, Adi Saathi.**

Tribal Governance

- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (1999):** Ensures integrated **socio-economic development** of Scheduled Tribes.
- **PESA Act, 1996:** Empowers Gram Sabhas in **Scheduled Areas for self-governance over land, resources, and development.**
- **Fifth & Sixth Schedules:** Fifth — administration of **schedule areas; Sixth** — autonomy to tribal regions in **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura & Mizoram.**
- **Customary Institutions:** Bodies like **Adivasi Sabhas aid in governance, culture, etc.**

Reasons to promote grassroot population in governance

- **Inclusiveness:** Involvement in governance builds belonging — e.g., **MGNREGA social audits.**
- **Trust-building:** Programs like Gram Sabhas **enhance public trust in institutions.**
- **Accountability & Transparency:** RTI Act enables **citizens to monitor government actions.**
- **Public Voice:** EIA hearings allow citizens **to raise social and environmental** concerns.
- **Social Justice:** **Encourages representation of marginalized groups,** especially tribals, in decision-making.

Issues in Tribal Governance

- **Weak PESA Implementation:** E.g., Jharkhand yet to implement PESA (1996).
- **Limited Tribal Voice** in Gram Panchayats and Tribal Advisory Councils.
- **Land Alienation & Displacement:** to outsiders or projects despite constitutional protections.
- **Poor Welfare Execution:** E.g. 38% FRA claims rejected (2022).
- **Socio-Economic Marginalization:** E.g. **High poverty** (45% rural, 24% urban) and **low literacy** (72.1%).

Steps towards Tribal Development

- **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan** : Time-bound mission for **socio-economic upliftment of 75 PVTGs across 18 states & 1 UT**.
- **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan**: Develops **infrastructure and livelihoods** in tribal-majority and aspirational villages.
- **Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes**: 41 Ministries allocate **part of their budgets** annually for tribal development.
- **PM Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana**: Transforms tribal **villages into model villages, covering ~40%** of tribal population. Etc.





1.5. News in Shorts

1.5.1. Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2025 notified

The rules notified by the **Ministry of Electronics and IT** will operationalize the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025.

- **Scope**: Categorizes **online games as E-sports**, Online Social Games, and Online Money Games;
 - ➔ **Bans money games** like poker and fantasy sports.
- **Regulator**: Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI) to oversee registration, legality, and penalties; headed by a Chairperson + 5 members.
- **Registration**: All e-sports and social games must obtain a Certificate of Registration from OGAI.

Other Initiatives Against Online Gaming Risks

-  **IT Act, 2000 (Sec. 69A)**: Blocks illegal sites/apps (1,524 blocked during 2022–25).
-  **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023**: Penalises unlawful gaming, cybercrimes (Secs. 111, 112).
-  **IGST Act, 2017**: Regulates illegal/offshore gaming platforms.
-  **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**: Prohibits misleading and surrogate advertisements.

- **Grievance Redressal**: 3-tier system [game provider → Grievance Appellate Committee → OGAI].
- **Penalties**: Violations are **non-bailable offences**; company staff held personally liable.

1.5.2. Postal Ballot

The penultimate round of EVM counting will begin only after **postal ballot counting is fully completed**.

- **Postal Ballot Definition**: Enables eligible voters to **vote remotely using an electronically received postal ballot** without visiting polling stations.
- **Legal Basis**: Representation of the People Act, 1951 and Conduct of Election Rules, 1961.

Eligible Voters

- **Service Voters**: **Armed forces, central armed police forces**, and government staff posted abroad.
- **Special Voters**: President, Vice President, **Governors, Ministers, senior dignitaries**, and their spouses.
- **Absentee Voters**: Persons above 85 years, **those with disabilities, preventive detainees**, and election duty personnel.

“You are as strong as your Foundation”

FOUNDATION COURSE

GENERAL STUDIES

PRELIMS CUM MAINS

Approach is to build fundamental concepts and analytical ability in students to enable them to answer questions of Preliminary as well as Mains Exam

- ▶ Includes Pre Foundation Classes in 2027, 2028 & 2029
- ▶ Includes comprehensive coverage of all the topics for all the four papers of GS Mains, GS Prelims & Essay
- ▶ Access to LIVE as well as Recorded Classes on your personal student platform Includes All India GS Mains, GS Prelims, CSAT & Essay Test Series
- ▶ Our Comprehensive Current Affairs classes of PT 365 and Mains 365

2027, 2028 & 2029


DELHI : 12 NOVEMBER, 8 AM | 25 NOVEMBER, 5 PM

GTB NAGAR : 5 December, 8 AM

BENGALURU: 8 DEC	BHOPAL: 25 NOV	HYDERABAD: 5 NOV
JAIPUR: 21 NOV	JODHPUR: 10 NOV	LUCKNOW: 25 NOV

Live - Online / Offline Classes

Scan the QR CODE to download VISION IAS app



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



2.1. Rise of Anti-Immigration Policies

Why in the News?

A sharp rise in global anti-immigration **rhetoric, protests, and restrictive policies has emerged** across many parts of the world.

More on the News

- ➔ **Recent examples:** The US **raising H1B visa fees**; Japan's Sanseito Party calling immigration a **"silent invasion"**, etc.
- ➔ **Factors:** **Populism** leading to **curb to legal migration, tightening of borders**, etc.

Causes of rising Anti-Immigration Sentiment

- ➔ **Economic:** E.g., Loss of Job fears **boosted BREXIT support**.
- ➔ **Social & Cultural:** Threat to **identity, language, and traditions**.
- ➔ **Political:** For **electoral gains**. E.g., Italy's Meloni warns of a **migrant "invasion"**.
- ➔ **Security:** Linked to **illegal entry, terrorism, and crime**. E.g., Stricter **US laws** after 9/11.
- ➔ **Misinformation:** E.g., **Fake news** on **migrant crimes in Germany** fuelling panic.

Impact of Anti-Immigration

- ➔ **Economic Impact:** **Lowers labour supply** raising costs and slowing growth. **E.g.** Post-Brexit UK saw **farming shortages**.
- ➔ **Demographic Impact:** E.g. **Ageing-population** issues in **Japan and EU**, reducing workers and increasing dependency.
- ➔ **Socio-cultural:** Limits **multicultural exchange, intensify** polarization and xenophobia.
- ➔ **Reduced Innovation:** Due to **fewer skilled migrants**. **E.g.** 55% of U.S. \$1-billion start-ups had an immigrant founder.
- ➔ **Political Impact:** Strict laws can strain ties with source **countries and attract** human-rights criticism.

Measures taken to prevent illegal Immigration in India

- ➔ National Register of Citizens (NRC), Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, etc.

How should India respond?

- ➔ **Diplomatic engagement with host countries:** Like the **US, Australia**, to ensure legal safeguards.
- ➔ **Leveraging Diaspora Diplomacy:** To counter stereotypes and highlight Indians' global contributions.
- ➔ **Strengthening domestic opportunities:** In **IT, manufacturing, etc.** to reduce migration pressures with Make in India, Skill India, etc.
- ➔ **Countering misinformation and xenophobia:** E.g. Work with global digital platforms.

2.2. India Afghanistan Relations: Strategic Resetting of Ties

Why in News?

Afghanistan's **Foreign Minister visited New Delhi** for bilateral talks with **India's External Affairs Minister**.

More on News

- Visit enabled by a **UN Security Council** travel exemption.
- Marks the first **ministerial-level trip to India** since the **Taliban takeover in 2021**.

Key outcomes of the Visit

- **Diplomatic Engagement:** India upgraded its **Technical Mission** in Kabul back to a **full Embassy**.
- **Connectivity:** Launch of the **India–Afghanistan Air Freight Corridor**.
- **Infrastructure & Energy:** India agreed to help develop **new hydroelectric projects** just like Salma dam.

Why India is showing renewed interest in Afghanistan?

- **Safeguarding Strategic Interests:** To prevent **Afghanistan from hosting** groups like **Al-Qaeda, IS-KP, etc.**
- **Geopolitical Balancing:**
 - ➔ **Limiting Pakistan:** Leveraging strained **Pakistan–Afghanistan ties**.
 - ➔ **Checking China:** To curb **China’s growing influence** in Afghanistan.
- **Protecting Investments:** To secure its **USD 3 billion development** projects across Afghanistan.



Global and Regional Perspectives

- **Moscow Format Unity:** India joined the 7th Moscow Format, **stressing that Afghanistan’s stability is crucial for regional security**.
- **Russia’s Recognition:** Russia recognized the **Islamic Emirate**, **boosting Taliban legitimacy** and its own influence.
- **U.S. Strategic Posture:** The U.S. signaled renewed interest in **Bagram Air Base**.
- **China’s Initiative:** China is pushing **China–Pakistan–Afghanistan cooperation under BRI**, linking Afghanistan to CPEC.

Challenges for India: Navigating a Complex Political Landscape

- **Lack of Formal Recognition of Afghanistan:** Restricting **deeper diplomatic engagement**.
- **Diplomatic Dilemmas:** Risks losing **moral standing** if **seen as cooperating** mainly to counter Pakistan.
- **Balancing Interests and Humanitarian Concerns:** E.g. **women’s rights and religious freedoms**.

2.3. India–Russia Relations

Why in the News?

India and Russia marked the **25th anniversary of their Strategic Partnership Declaration**.

More on the News

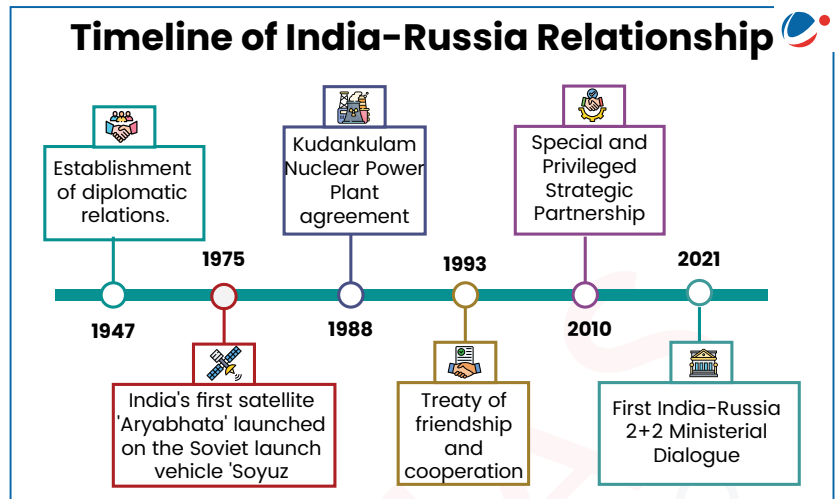
- The Declaration was **signed in 2000**.
- It created a **new framework** that deepened cooperation in **political, security, economic, defence, and cultural fields**.

Core pillars of the India–Russia partnership

- **Political & Diplomatic Convergence:** Annual summits like the **2+2 dialogue**, and **coordination in UN, G20, BRICS, SCO**.
 - ➔ Russia supports **India’s UNSC permanent seat bid**.
- **Defence & Security:** Russia remains **India’s top arms supplier** (36% of imports, SIPRI).
 - ➔ Joint development like **BrahMos**,
 - ➔ **Exercises** INDRA and Avia Indra.



- ➔ **Energy Security:** Russia is **India's largest crude supplier**, offering discounted oil.
 - ➔ Indian firms invest in the **Russian Far East; cooperation in nuclear** projects like Kudankulam.
- ➔ **Trade & Economic:** Bilateral trade reached **USD 68.7 bn in FY 2024–25**, with a target of USD 100 bn by 2030.
 - ➔ India exports **pharma, chemicals, and steel**;
 - ➔ 90% of trade uses rupee-rouble mechanisms.
- ➔ **Connectivity:** Projects like **INSTC, the Northern Sea Route, and the Chennai–Vladivostok corridor**.
- ➔ **Technology:** E.g. **Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission**.
- ➔ **Cultural Ties:** Cinema, ballet, and yoga.



Challenges in the India–Russia Relations

- ➔ **Trade Imbalance in favour of Russia:** Indian exports were only USD 4.88 bn.
- ➔ **Rupee Surplus Issue** due to trade imbalance in **Special Rupee Vostro Accounts**, which Russia cannot use internationally due to financial restrictions.
- ➔ **Declining Defence Imports:** India is **diversifying with US, France, etc.** along with **indigenisation**.
- ➔ **Diverging Geopolitical Priorities:**
 - ➔ **India–US ties** (e.g. **Quad**); **Russia–China proximity** (e.g. no limits partnership); **Russia–Pakistan outreach** (e.g. counterterror drills).
- ➔ **U.S. Sanctions Pressure:** E.g. No major defence deals since the **S-400 due to CAATSA**.

How India is balancing its relation with Russia and USA?

- ➔ **Strategic Autonomy:** India maintains **flexibility and avoids** taking sides. E.g. It abstained on UNSC resolutions condemning **Russia's actions** in Ukraine.
- ➔ **National-Interest–Driven Ties:** Quiet diplomacy in BRICS, SCO, and G20 **to act as a bridge between rival blocs**.
- ➔ **Internationalization of Rupee:** E.g. **Rupee–Rouble mechanisms** and rupee trade to navigate sanctions.

Way Forward

- ➔ **Enhancing Mutual Trust:** Rebuild confidence despite **Russia–China and India–US alignments**.
- ➔ **Tier-II Diplomacy:** Boost academia, **youth links, and media presence**.
- ➔ **Diversifying Trade:** Move **beyond oil into IT, textiles, and agriculture**.
- ➔ **Joint Development:** Expand collaboration on advanced defence technologies.
- ➔ **Finalizing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU):** Fast-track the agreement. Etc.

2.4. Gaza Peace Summit

Why in the News?

The US and Egypt co-hosted the **Gaza Peace Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh to promote peace in Gaza and stability in the Middle East**.

More on the News

- ➔ **US 20-point Peace Plan:** Signed by the **US, Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey** to resolve disputes through **diplomacy**, not force. It seeks
 - ➔ **Hamas's disarmament and** internationally monitored **reconstruction of Gaza**.
 - ➔ No **displacement of Palestinians** and **Israel will not occupy or annex Gaza**, though it does not guarantee a **two-state solution**.



- ➔ India's **Minister of State for External Affairs** attended and **welcomed efforts toward durable peace**.

Significance of Peace in the region

- ➔ **Regional Prosperity:** The peace plan may expand the **Abraham Accords and widen regional stability**.
- ➔ **Strategic Location requires stability:** E.g. **vast oil and gas** reserves and control of routes like the Red Sea, Suez, etc.
- ➔ **Contemporary Geopolitics:** E.g. **Russia's security push and China's economic role**—could deepen fragmentation without peace.
- ➔ **Global Trade:** A young, fast-growing population (**projected 580 million by 2030**) offers **major market** potential.
- ➔ **Importance for India:** **70% of India's oil imports, remittances and role via IMEC, I2U2, etc.**

India's Stance on the Palestinian issue		
1947–1991	1991–2014	2014– Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Strong support for a two-state solution, shaped by anti-colonial solidarity and NAM principles. ➔ Favoured a sovereign Palestine alongside Israel; recognized Palestine in 1988. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Shift toward strategic engagement with Israel; full diplomatic ties established in 1992. ➔ India became a major buyer of Israeli defence equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ De-hyphenation policy: Relations with Israel and Palestine pursued independently. ➔ PM's visits to Israel (2017) and Palestine (2018) showed support for both without altering India's core stance on Palestine.

Key Strategic Locations in the Region (See Map)

- ➔ **Gaza:** Small Mediterranean coastal **strip bordering Egypt**; under **limited Palestinian Authority control since 1993**.
- ➔ **West Bank:** Landlocked area between **Jordan and Israel**; **divided into Israeli-controlled, Palestinian-controlled, and shared zones**.
- ➔ **Golan Heights:** Plateau near the **Jordan River and Sea of Galilee**; disputed between Israel and Syria.
- ➔ **Sinai Peninsula:** Between the **Suez Canal and Gulf of Aqaba**, bordered by the Mediterranean (north) and Red Sea (south).
- ➔ **Jerusalem:** Historic city **under full Israeli control**; **sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims**.



2.5. India–European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)

Why in the News?

The **India–European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)**, signed on 10 March 2024, has officially come into force from 1 October 2025.

About EFTA

Overview: Intergovernmental organisation established in 1960 to promote free trade and economic integration globally.

- ➔ **Members:** Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland (in Schengen but not EU).
- ➔ **Economy & Population:** 13 million people; combined GDP over \$1 trillion.
- ➔ **India–EFTA Relations:** India is EFTA's fifth-largest trading partner; Switzerland leads trade with India, followed by Norway.

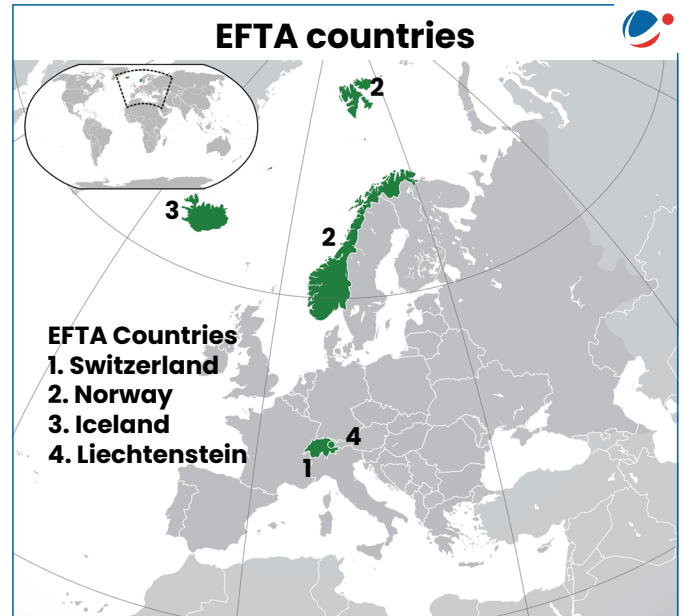
Key Features of the Agreement

- ➔ **Investment & Jobs:** EFTA to invest **USD 100 billion in India over 15 years, creating 1 million direct jobs**.
- ➔ **Market Access:** For Indian exporters in **machinery, textiles, etc.** E.g. concessions on **92.2% tariff lines, covering 99.6% of India's exports**.

- ➔ **Services & Mobility:** E.g. **Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)** for professions (nursing, CA, architecture).
- ➔ **IPR Protection:** TRIPS-level commitments while **safeguarding generic medicines** and **preventing patent evergreening**.
- ➔ **Sustainability & Ease of Trade:** Promotes transparency, **simplified procedures, and inclusive development**.
- ➔ **Technology Gains:** Access to advanced tech in **engineering, healthcare, etc.**
- ➔ **Global Standing:** Enhances India's position as **an equal partner to advanced economies**.

Issues with the agreement

- ➔ **Limited Benefits for India:** Due to **pre-existing low tariff rates in the EFTA bloc**.
- ➔ **Trade imbalances:** India exports **USD 1.97 billion** and imports **USD 22.44 billion** worth of goods.
- ➔ **Limitations of the pact:** Complex web of **tariffs, quality standards, and approval requirements**.
 - ➔ Key agricultural items **including dairy, soya, coal, etc., placed on the exclusion list**.
- ➔ **Limited Investment Options:** Deal **excludes pension and sovereign wealth funds**.



2.6. News in Shorts

2.6.1. India-ASEAN Relationship

The **47th ASEAN Summit** was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, such **Summits occur twice a year** and is hosted **by the chair country**.

Key Highlights of the Summit

- ➔ **Summit Highlights:** Timor-Leste became **ASEAN's 11th member**; theme was **Inclusivity and Sustainability**; Kuala Lumpur Accord **secured a Thailand-Cambodia ceasefire**.
- ➔ **22nd ASEAN-India Summit (held on sidelines):** 2026 declared **"Year of Maritime Cooperation"**; Joint Statement on **Sustainable Tourism adopted**; support extended for **ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2026-2030)**.

2.6.2. India-United Kingdom

India and UK released Joint Statement during the visit of **Prime Minister of England to India**.

Key highlights of the India-UK Joint Statement

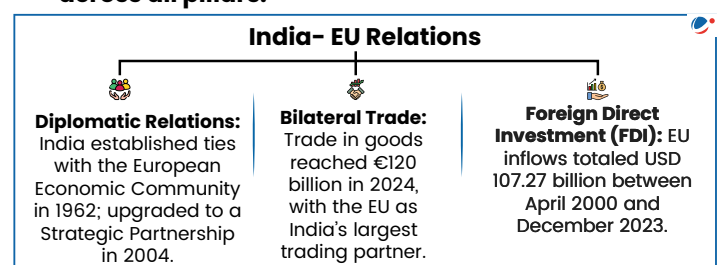
- ➔ **Technology:** E.g. new **AI centres and expanded Critical Minerals Observatory at IIT-ISM Dhanbad**.
- ➔ **Trade & Investment:** **Joint Economic and Trade Committee** to reset to strengthen **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement**.
- ➔ **Defence:** Maritime security cooperation and **Regional Maritime Security Centre under Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative**.

- ➔ **Education:** Migration Partnership reaffirmed; UK universities to **open GIFT City campuses**.
- ➔ **Climate & Energy:** Joint Climate Tech Fund; **collaboration via Offshore Wind Taskforce and Global Clean Power Alliance (GCPA)**.

2.6.3. New Strategic EU-India Agenda

The **European Council** has approved the EU-India Strategic Agenda, identifying **five priority pillars**.

- ➔ **Prosperity & Sustainability:** Economic growth, jobs, decarbonization, supply chains; **aims to finalize FTA and Investment Protection Agreement**.
- ➔ **Technology & Innovation:** Cooperation on emerging tech, **digital infrastructure, and research via Trade & Technology Council and Horizon Europe**.
- ➔ **Security & Defence:** Tackle global threats and geopolitical tensions; **coordinate on Indo-Pacific** and maritime rules.
- ➔ **Connectivity & Global Issues:** Enhance regional connectivity and **global governance**; **support projects like IMEC and Global Gateway**.
- ➔ **Enablers:** Promote skills mobility, knowledge exchange, **business engagement, and institutional cooperation across all pillars**.



2.6.4. India–Mongolia

The two countries celebrated the **10th anniversary of their Strategic Partnership**.

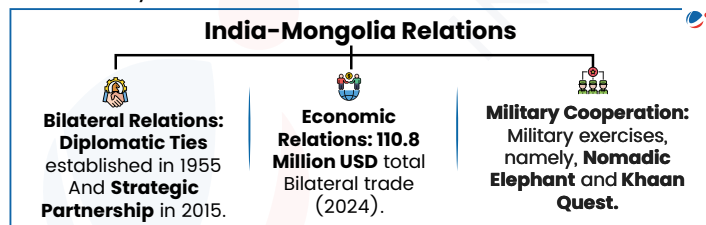


Key MOUs signed

- **Development:** Commitment to **Mongol Oil Refinery Project (\$1.7B Line of Credit from India)**.
- **Cultural:** MoU between Ladakh Council and **Mongolia's Arkhangai Province**.
- **Spiritual:** India to send Buddha relics, **digitize 1M Buddhist manuscripts**, link Nalanda and Gandan Monastery.
- **Others:** Free e-visas, **trade via third-country ports**, cooperation in uranium, supply chains, and critical minerals.

Significance of Mongolia for India

- **Strategic:** Key for geopolitical balance and **regional stability**.
- **International Cooperation:** Support free, open, **rule-based Indo-Pacific and multilateral engagement**.
- **Energy & Economy:** Rich **coking coal reserves** aid steel industry.



2.6.5. Sevilla Forum on Debt launched

The forum is launched at the 16th session of the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD16)**.

About Sevilla Forum on Debt

- **Leadership & Support:** Led by Spain, supported by UNCTAD and **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)**.
- **Purpose:** Brings together creditors, borrowers, **financial institutions, and academia** to explore debt sustainability, management, and innovative solutions.

- **Background:** Outcome of **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development** and part of **Sevilla Platform for Action, alongside Debt Swaps Hub, Debt-for-Development Programme**, and Debt “Pause Clause” Alliance.
- **Sevilla Commitment:** Aims to close the **\$4T annual SDG financing gap**; first inter-governmental financing framework since 2015.

Debt Crisis

- **Global public debt in 2024:** \$102T (developing countries \$31T).
- Developing **countries spend \$1.4T annually** on debt servicing.
- **3.4B people live in nations** spending more on **debt than health or education**.

2.6.6. Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement (PMDA)

Russia's lower house **approved withdrawal from the PMDA** with the U.S., which it had suspended in 2016 **citing U.S. sanctions**.

About PMDA

- **Signed in 2000**, the agreement required both nations to **irreversibly dispose of at least 34 metric tons** of weapons-grade plutonium.
- **Plutonium:** Atomic number **94**, **radioactive, high melting point**, heaviest naturally occurring element.
- **Disposition Goal:** Convert plutonium into safer forms such as **MOX fuel or via reactor irradiation**.

2.6.7. UN Human Rights Council

India was elected unopposed to the **UN Human Rights Council for the seventh time**, serving a three-year term (2026–28).

About UN Human Rights Council

- **Overview:** UN body **promoting and protecting** global human rights.
- **Genesis:** Established in 2006, replacing the **Commission on Human Rights**.
- **Membership:** 47 members elected annually for **three-year terms** (max two consecutive terms).
- **Function:** Adopts resolutions, reviews states, **mandates investigations**, and provides a global human rights forum.

2.6.8. International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism

Iran Ratified **International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism**:

- **Overview:** Adopted by the UN in 1999, effective from 2002.
- **Purpose:** Criminalizes financing of **terrorism and holds funders accountable**.
- **India:** Has also ratified the convention.

2.6.9. Areas in Conflict in News

Areas in Conflict	Key Geographical Features
Myanmar (Sagaing Region) Reason Over a million Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar live as refugees in Bangladesh, facing human rights violations.	Location & Borders: Northwestern mainland Southeast Asia; borders China (N, NE), Laos (E), Thailand (SE), Bangladesh (W), India (NW – Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh). Water Bodies: Andaman Sea (S), Bay of Bengal (SW). Topography: Rakhine Mountains, Shan Plateau, Dawna Range, Tenasserim Mountains; highest point Mount Hkakabo Razi . Rivers: Irrawaddy, Chindwin, Sittang, Salween, Yangon River.



Madagascar (Antananarivo, the capital city) Reason Anti-government Gen Z protests led to government collapse.	Location & Borders: Off East Africa in the Indian Ocean; near Mauritius, Réunion (France), Mayotte, and Comoros. Size & Biodiversity: Second-largest island country; ~90% of flora and fauna are endemic.
--	--



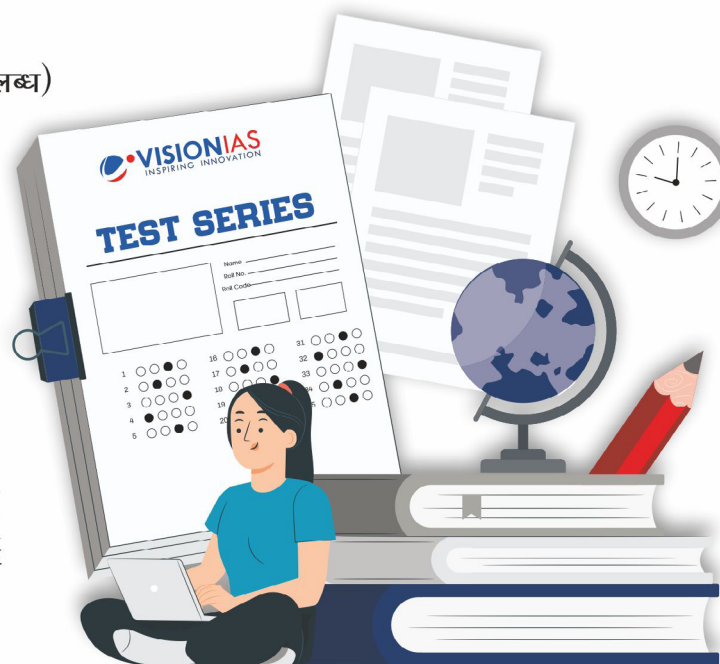
ALL INDIA PRELIMS TEST SERIES

Get the Benefit of Innovative Assessment System from the leader in the Test Series Program

- **General Studies** (हिन्दी माध्यम में भी उपलब्ध)
- **CSAT** (हिन्दी माध्यम में भी उपलब्ध)
 - VISION IAS Post Test Analysis™
 - Flexible Timings
 - ONLINE Student Account to write tests and Performance Analysis
 - All India Ranking
 - Expert support - Email / Telephonic Interaction
 - Monthly Current Affairs

2026
ENGLISH MEDIUM
23 NOVEMBER
हिन्दी माध्यम
23 नवंबर


Scan QR code for instant personalized mentoring





3.1. Multidimensional Poverty

Why in the News?

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Initiative (OPHI) released the **2025 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** report.

Key Highlights of Report

- **Global Poverty:** 1.1 billion people (18.3%) across 109 countries live in acute multidimensional poverty.
- **Children Affected:** **27.8% of children** live in multidimensional poverty, double the adult rate (13.5%).
- **Poverty–Climate Link:** **887 million** poor people face direct exposure to climate hazards like heat, floods, drought, and air pollution.
 - ➔ **309 million** experience **multiple overlapping hazards**, with limited protection and assets.
 - ➔ **High heat (608 million)** and **air pollution (577 million)** are the most common threats.
 - ➔ **Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia** are major hotspots.
- **India's Progress:** Poverty rate fell from **55.1% (2005–06)** to **16.4% (2019–21)**, lifting **around 414 million people** out of poverty.

Methodology of Global MPI

- **Deprivation Indicators:**
 - ➔ **Health (1/3):** Nutrition (1/6), Child mortality (1/6).
 - ➔ **Education (1/3):** Years of schooling (1/6), School attendance (1/6).
 - ➔ **Standard of living (1/3):** Cooking fuel (1/6), Sanitation (1/6), Drinking water (1/6), Electricity (1/6), Housing (1/6), Assets (1/6).

NITI Aayog National Multidimensional Poverty Index

- **Indicators:** 10 indicators from Global MPI and **two additional indicators: Maternal Health and Bank Accounts.**

3.2. Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2025

Why in the news?

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences 2025 (Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences) was awarded to Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt for **explaining innovation-driven economic growth.**

About Nobel Prize of economics

- **Establishment:** In 1968 by Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden's central bank).
 - ➔ It is **not one of the five Nobel Prizes** established by Alfred Nobel's.
- **Awarded by:** The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
- **First recipients:** To Ragnar Frisch and Jan Tinbergen in 1969.
 - ➔ **Amartya Sen** (1998, First Indian for **welfare economics and social choice theory**).

Specific Contributions of the Laureates

➔ Joel Mokyr: 3 Prerequisites for Sustained Growth

- ➔ A joint evolution of science and technology,
- ➔ Mechanical competence,
- ➔ A society open to change.

➔ Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt: The Theory of Creative Destruction

- ➔ **Creative destruction** describes the process where a new and better product enters the market, making older products obsolete and causing companies selling them to lose out.
- ➔ **Key element:** Companies are incentivized to invest in R&D.

Role of innovation and knowledge in growth

- ➔ **Boosts productivity:** In OECD countries (UK, USA), 2/3rd to 3/4ths of labour productivity growth came from intangibles.
- ➔ **Standard of living:** New medicines, transport, better food, internet etc.
- ➔ **Transforms Economies:** investing in education, ICT, and R&D experience **faster GDP growth** and higher income mobility (World Bank's Knowledge Economy Index).
- ➔ **Entrepreneurship and High-Value Jobs:** 1.5 lakh startups and 17 lakh direct jobs.
- ➔ **Promotes Sustainable and Inclusive Growth:** E.g. Renewables (onshore Wind and solar).

Role of Creative Destruction in growth

- ➔ **Innovation and Technological Upgrading: Transition to electric vehicles (EVs).**
- ➔ **Entrepreneurship and Competition: India's digital revolution** (UPI, fintech, e-commerce).
- ➔ **Reallocation of Resources:** Improves **labor productivity growth.**
- ➔ **Economic Resilience:** Remote work and e-commerce growth.

Government Initiatives for Innovation and technological progress

- ➔ **RDI Scheme:** Promotes private sector research with a 1 Lakh Crore fund.
- ➔ **Atal Innovation Mission:** Develops innovation infrastructure in educational institutions by NITI Aayog.
- ➔ **Deep Tech Fund of Funds:** 10,000 crore for cutting-edge research and startup scaling.
- ➔ **Thematic Missions:** National strategies on Blockchain, AIRAWAT, Quantum Mission etc.

3.3. PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

Why in the News?

The Prime Minister launched The **Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)** initiative.

About PMDDKY

- ➔ **Announced:** During **Union Budget 2025-26** and inspiration from NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Programme.
- ➔ It consolidates **36 existing agricultural schemes** across **11 ministries**, including **PM-KISAN** (cash transfers), **PMFBY** (crop insurance), **state schemes** and **local partnerships with the private sector.**
- ➔ **Aim:** Support **1.7 crore farmers** (owning less than 2 hectares of land~86%) (Economic Survey 2024-25).
- ➔ **Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- ➔ **Duration:** 6 Years (2025-26 to 2030-31).
- ➔ **Financial Outlay:** Annual budget of **₹24,000 crore** for 6 years, totaling **₹1.44 lakh crore.**
- ➔ **Coverage:** **100 underperforming districts** with **low yields** (minimum of 1 district from each state, Uttar Pradesh 12 districts).
- ➔ **Beneficiaries:** Small and Marginal Farmers, Women, Young Farmers, Farmers in Low-Productivity Areas.
- ➔ **Significance of Consolidation of agricultural schemes under PMDDKY:** It will resolve Duplication, inefficiency and asset formation.
- ➔ **Benefits:**
 - ➔ **Crop Yields:** high-yielding seeds, bio-fertilizers will lead to 20-30% more output.
 - ➔ **Financial aid:** short term loans will lead to 20-40% profit increase.
 - ➔ **Storage:** village and block-level warehouses will save 20% of crops.
 - ➔ **Irrigation:** drip and sprinkler system will save 30-50% water.
 - ➔ **Market Access, Modern skills, global exposure, mechanization etc.**

Structural Design and Institutional Mechanism of the scheme

- ➔ **National level:** Oversight from a **National Steering Committee** (Under Union Minister);
- ➔ **State level:** Nodal committees.
- ➔ **District level:** **District Dhan Dhaanya Samitis** led by District Collectors.
 - ➔ **District-level plans, Use of digital dashboard, farmer app, and district ranking system, Central Nodal Officers for field visits.**

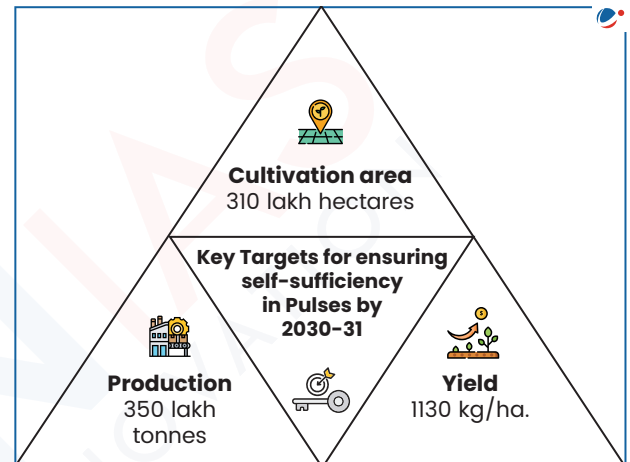
3.4. Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses

Why in the News?

Prime Minister launched the **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses (Dalhan Aatmanirbharta Mission)**.

Key Features of Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses

- ➔ **Aim:** Boosting domestic production, reduce import dependence and achieving self-sufficiency (Aatmanirbharta) in pulses by December 2027.
- ➔ **Duration:** 6 Years (2025-26 to 2030-31).
- ➔ **Financial Outlay:** Rs. 11,440 crore.
- ➔ **Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India
- ➔ **Focus Crops:** Tur/Arhar (pigeon pea); Urad (black gram) & Masoor (red lentil).
- ➔ **Cluster-based approach:** Tailoring interventions to the specific needs of each cluster.
- ➔ **Benefit:** 2 crore farmers from guaranteed procurement, seed distribution and value chain support.
- ➔ **Other intended benefits:** Promote climate-resilient and soil health-friendly practices, employment opportunities, and intercropping and crop diversification.
- ➔ **Operational Strategy:**
 - ➔ **Seed Development and Distribution:** Production and distribution of **high-yielding, pest-resistant seeds**.
 - ➔ **Assured Procurement:** 100% procurement of Tur, Urad, and Masoor at MSP for four years **under PM-AASHA**.
 - ➔ **Role of states:** To ensure effective implementation, states will prepare **rolling five-year seed production plans** via SATHI portal.
 - ➔ **Post-harvest value chain:** Establishing **1,000 processing and packaging units**.



Status of Pulses production in India

- ➔ India is **world's largest producer, consumer, and importer of pulses**.
- ➔ **Top 3 pulses-producing states:** Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.
- ➔ **Season:** **Kharif crops** (pigeon pea, green gram); **Rabi crops** (chickpea, lentil); **Summer crops** (green gram and black gram).
- ➔ **Top crops:** Chickpea (47.4%), pigeonpea (15.4%), etc.
- ➔ **Production trend:** Rose from 192.55 lakh tonnes in FY14 to 244.93 FY24 lakh tonnes.

Need for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses

- ➔ **Insufficient Domestic Production:** 15-20% increase in pulse imports recently.
- ➔ **Addressing Malnutrition:** Protein less than the recommended 85 grams per day.
- ➔ **Increasing Demand:** Total demand is projected to reach **46.33 MT by 2030 and 50.26 MT by 2047**.
- ➔ **Environmental and Soil Health Benefits:** Pulses enhance soil fertility.
- ➔ **Price and Market Stabilization.**

Other initiatives for promoting pulse production

- ➔ **National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Pulses (2007):** Area expansion, productivity enhancement, and the adoption of modern technologies.

- ➔ **Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (2010–2014):** Cluster demonstrations of advanced agricultural practices.
- ➔ **PM–AASHA (Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan) (2018):** Price assurance for pulse, oilseeds, and copra.

3.5. WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

Why in the News?

WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies has officially entered into force after two-thirds of WTO members submitted their instruments of acceptance.

About WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

- ➔ **Overview:** The first broad, **binding**, multilateral agreement on **ocean sustainability**.
- ➔ **Adoption:** At the **12th WTO Ministerial Conference** and **entered into force** on **September 15, 2025**.
- ➔ **Aligned with SDG 14:** to **protect marine ecosystems** through the **elimination of harmful fisheries subsidies**.
 - ➔ **SDG 14.6** aims To eliminate harmful fisheries subsidies that support Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- ➔ **India:** India has **not yet ratified the Agreement**.

Key Provisions of the Agreement

- ➔ **Prohibition of Harmful Subsidies:** E.g. Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- ➔ **Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT):** **Developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** are granted a **two-year transition period**.
- ➔ **WTO Fish Fund (Voluntary):** To **support developing and least-developed countries (LDCs)**.
- ➔ **Transparency obligations:** Members to **notify WTO** about **subsidies, stock**.
- ➔ **High Seas Fishing:** The Agreement also **prohibits providing subsidies for fishing on high seas**.
- ➔ **Implementation:** A **Committee** will oversee the Agreement's implementation.

Why India has not ratified the Agreement?

- ➔ **Low Subsidies:** India's fishing practices are **small-scale create livelihood**.
- ➔ **PPP and CBDR:** India advocates the '**Polluter Pays Principle**' and '**Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)**'.
- ➔ **Moratorium of 25-year:** Demanded by India on all subsidies for fishing-related activities beyond their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs).
- ➔ **Other issues:** Flawed Over Capacity and Over Fishing, long coastal line, population of small fishers etc.

Implementation Issues

- ➔ **Capacity Constraints:** **Developing countries lack the technical and institutional capacity**.
- ➔ **Data Gaps:** **Incomplete or unreliable data**.
- ➔ **Enforcement Challenges:** Monitoring of **high seas and distant-water fleets** remains difficult.
- ➔ **Financial Dependence of** Small-scale fishers in developing countries rely on limited subsidies.
- ➔ **Unequal Obligations:** **Disproportionately affect developing nations**.

Way Forward

- ➔ **Strengthen Capacity Building:** Enhance **technical and financial support**.
- ➔ **Improve Data and Monitoring Systems:** **national databases** and use **satellite-based tracking**.
- ➔ **Promote Equity:** **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)** and **Global Cooperation**.

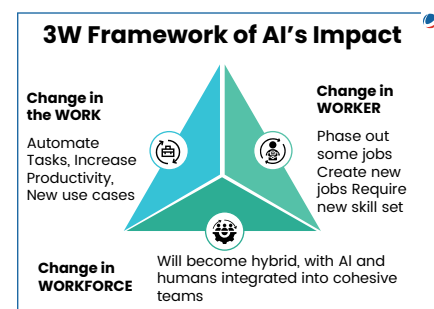
3.6. India's Approach to AI and Employment

Why in the News?

Recently, two reports highlighting India's approach to AI and employment were **released by NITI Aayog**.

About The NITI Aayog Reports

- ➔ **"Roadmap for Job Creation in the AI Economy":** It highlights the 3W framework for AI and the associated impact.



- ➔ **“Roadmap on AI for Inclusive Societal Development”:** This report aims to leverage frontier technologies to transform informal workers into a formal, empowered, future-ready labour force.

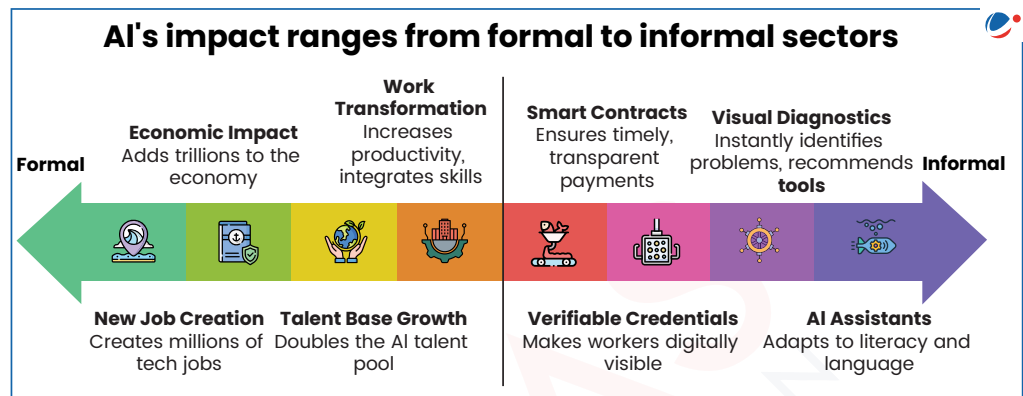
AI related risks in India

➔ Operational Risks:

- ➔ **Job Displacement:** Over **60% of formal jobs** may face automation by 2030.
- ➔ **Talent Migration:** India faces **net negative AI talent migration (-1.55 per 10,000)**.

➔ Structural Risks:

- ➔ **Education & Skill Gaps:** Outdated curricula and limited computer science education.
- ➔ **Research Lag:** India's **AI patent share** dropped from **8–10% (2010)** to **<5% (2023)**.
- ➔ **Talent Shortage:** AI talent supply meets only **50% of demand**, with the gap widening.
- ➔ **Informal Workforce Exclusion:** Lack of verifiable IDs and contracts.
- ➔ **Digital Access Barriers:** Low digital literacy, language issues, and complex platforms.



Recommendations

- ➔ **To establish National AI Talent Mission:** As recommended by **NITI Aayog**, making AI literacy a foundational skill across schools and universities.
 - ➔ **Key features:** Building India as a **Global AI Talent Magnet**, Building a **national reskilling engine**.
- ➔ **To establish Mission Digital ShramSetu:** To empower informal workers by harnessing **frontier technologies**.

3.7. Incentive Scheme for the Promotion of Critical Mineral Recycling

Why in the News?

Ministry of Mines has issued detailed guidelines for **Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Critical Mineral Recycling**.

Key features of the scheme

- ➔ It is part of the **National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)**.
- ➔ **Ministry:** The Ministry of Mines
- ➔ **Aim:** To **incentivize the development of recycling capacity** for the separation and extraction of critical minerals from eligible waste streams within the country.
- ➔ **Tenure:** 6 years (from FY 2025–26 till FY 2030–31).
- ➔ **Financial Outlay:** ₹1,500 crore.
- ➔ **Eligible Feedstock:** Includes e-waste, Lithium-Ion Battery (LIB) scrap, and other scraps.
 - ➔ Schemes covers **27 critical minerals** including Antimony, Cadmium, Cobalt, etc.
- ➔ **Beneficiaries:** Both large and small/new recyclers (including start-ups).
- ➔ **Incentive Mechanism:**
 - ➔ **Capital expenditure (capex) subsidy**
 - ➔ **Operational expenditure (opex) subsidy**
 - ➔ **Incentive Ceilings:** ₹50 crore for large entities and ₹25 crore for small entities, within which Opex subsidy of Rs.10 crore and Rs.5 crore respectively.

Significance of Recycling of Critical Minerals

- ➔ **Strengthening Domestic recycling Infrastructure**
- ➔ **Securing Supply and Mitigating Geopolitical Risk**
- ➔ **Saving forex reserves**
- ➔ **Environmental and Sustainability Goals (e.g. E-Waste Management)**
- ➔ **Formalization of industry:** Expected to bring Rs.8,000 crore of investment and creating 70,000 direct and indirect jobs.

3.8. Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2023-24

Why in the news?

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) FY 2023-24.

About Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)

- ➔ **Conducted by:** **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, under MoSPI.
- ➔ **Mandated By:** Conducted **annually** under the **Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Act, 2017**.
- ➔ **Industries covered:** Factories registered under Sections 2m (i & ii) of Factories Act, 1948, Bidi and cigar manufacturing establishments, etc.
- ➔ **Industries Excluded:** Defense establishments, oil storage and distribution depots, railway workshops, gas storage, etc.

Key Findings from the ASI 2023-24 Report

- ➔ **Gross Value Added (GVA):** Increased by 11.89% at current prices from the previous year.
 - ➔ **Top States:** Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu.
- ➔ **Industrial Output:** Grew by 5.80% over the previous year.
- ➔ **Employment Growth:** The industrial sector added over 5.7 million jobs during the last decade.
 - ➔ **Top States:** Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra.

3.9. News in Shorts

3.9.1. Payments Regulatory Board constituted by RBI

The 6-member Board constituted under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007** and replaced **Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS)**.

- ➔ Act Regulates and supervises payment systems in India, from manual clearing to electronic transfers like RTGS and NEFT.

About the Payments Regulatory Board

- ➔ **Composition:**
 - ➔ **Ex officio:** **RBI Governor** (Chairperson), **Deputy Governor** (in charge of Payment Systems), **One RBI officer** nominated by the Central Board.
 - ➔ **Nominees:** **Three Central Government** (experts in payment systems, IT, cybersecurity, law).
 - ◆ **Tenure & Eligibility:** Members serve **4 years** (no re-nomination); disqualified if **over 70**, insolvent, criminally convicted, or holding elected office.
 - ➔ **Advisers:** RBI's **Principal Legal Adviser** is a permanent invitee; other experts may be invited.
- ➔ **Meetings:** Held **at least twice a year**; **quorum of 3**, including Chairperson/Deputy Governor and one nominee.
- ➔ **Decisions:** Taken by **majority vote**; Chairperson (or Deputy Governor in his absence) has **casting vote** in case of a tie.

3.9.2. Internationalisation of Rupee

The RBI has unveiled new measures to **promote wider international use of the Indian Rupee (INR)**.

Key Measures Announced

- ➔ **Loans in Indian Rupees to Non-Residents:** Authorised dealer banks to lend in INR to Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- ➔ **Establishing Transparent Reference Rates:** By Financial Benchmarks India Limited (FBIL).
- ➔ **Widening Use of Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs):** SRVA balances can now be used to invest in **corporate bonds and commercial papers**.

Benefits of Internationalization of Currency

- ➔ Reduces Requirement of Forex Reserves
- ➔ Reduced Exchange Rate Risk (Protects against US dollar fluctuations and global liquidity pressures.)
- ➔ Ensures Economic Autonomy
- ➔ Boosts Trade Influence

3.9.3. Self-Regulatory Organisation for NBFCs

RBI granted Self-Regulatory Organisation status to Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) to oversee NBFCs.

- ➔ FIDC is a **representative body of non-banking financial companies (NBFC)** registered with the RBI.
- ➔ NBFCs are registered under the Companies Act, 1956, focuses on lending and investing in shares, bonds, etc., while avoiding agriculture, industry.

About Self-Regulatory Organisation

- ➔ **Objective:** Promote sectoral growth, good practices, and address key industry issues within the financial system.
- ➔ **Legal Basis:** Governed by **RBI's Omnibus Framework (2024)** for recognising SROs for regulated entities.

- ➔ **Eligibility:** Must be a **not-for-profit company (Section 8, Companies Act, 2013)** with adequate net worth, **diversified ownership** (no entity holding $\geq 10\%$), and sector representation.
- ➔ **Responsibilities:**
 - ➔ **Members:** Establish code of conduct, grievance redressal, and dispute resolution systems.
 - ➔ **Regulator:** Ensure compliance, promote innovation, support sector development, and flag early risks.
- ➔ **Governance:** Articles of Association/**byelaws** shall define structure and duties; at least **one-third of board members**, including **Chairperson**, must be **independent**.

3.9.4. Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021

The Central and State Co-operative Banks have been brought under the ambit of Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021.

About Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021 (RB-IO, 2021)

- ➔ **Objective:** Offers a **speedy, cost-effective grievance redress mechanism** for customers of RBI-regulated entities.
- ➔ **Coverage:** Applies to **banks (commercial, RRBs, urban co-ops)**, **NBFCs** (with deposits or customer interface, assets $\geq ₹100$ cr), **system participants**, and **credit information companies**.
- ➔ **Integration:** Merged three earlier schemes – **Banking Ombudsman (2006)**, **NBFC Ombudsman (2018)**, and **Digital Transactions Ombudsman (2019)**.
- ➔ **Approach:** Implements **"One Nation, One Ombudsman"**, removing jurisdictional limits.
- ➔ **Powers:** Can grant up to **₹20 lakh compensation**, plus **₹1 lakh** for time, expenses, or mental distress.

3.9.5. New Initiatives by RBI

RBI unveiled key initiatives like **Unified Lending Interface (ULI)**, **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) retail sandbox**, pilot for **tokenisation of Certificates of Deposit (CDs)**.

About Initiatives

- ➔ **ULI (Unified Lending Interface):** A **Digital Public Infrastructure** aggregating data from multiple sources to enable **better credit assessment** and **improve credit delivery**.
- ➔ **CBDC Retail Sandbox:** A platform for **fintech firms** to **test innovations** using the **digital version of fiat currency** issued by the RBI.
- ➔ **Tokenisation of Certificates of Deposit (CDs):**
 - ➔ Converts CDs into **digital tokens** on blockchain for **faster settlement, transparency, and liquidity**.
 - ➔ CDs are **short-term money market instruments** (maturity: **7 days-1 year**) issued against deposits with banks or financial institutions.

3.9.6. SWAMIH Fund

RBI has exempted **SWAMIH (Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing) Fund**, a **government-backed fund** from its tightened rules of **Alternate investment fund (AIF)**.

About SWAMIH, 2019

- ➔ It is a **Category II AIF**.
 - ➔ **AIF** means a privately pooled investment fund which collects funds from sophisticated investors, whether Indian or foreign, for investments.
 - ➔ SEBI regulates **AIF**. E.g., Venture capital funds (Including Angel Funds).
- ➔ **Objective:** Provide priority debt financing for completion of stalled housing projects.
- ➔ **Fund Manager:** SBI Ventures Limited.

3.9.7. Engels' Pause

Geoffrey Hinton who was awarded the **2024 Nobel Prize**, warned that **AI could trigger a modern Engels' pause**.

About Engels' Pause

- ➔ Coined by **Robert Allen**, inspired by **Friedrich Engels'** study of 19th-century Britain.
- ➔ Describes the **Industrial Revolution paradox (1780-1840)** – rapid output growth but **stagnant real wages**.
- ➔ Raises concern that the **AI-driven economy** may mirror this pattern, with **unequal benefit distribution** despite overall growth.

3.9.8. Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR)

RBI would continue to use overnight weighted average call rate (WACR) as the operating target for monetary policy.

About WACR

- ➔ It is the average interest rate at which **banks lend and borrow money from each other overnight**, just for one day.
- ➔ It reflects the **short-term cost of money** in the banking system.

3.9.9. World Economic Outlook (WEO)

IMF projected India's GDP growth rate for 2025-26 to **6.6%** (**6.4% earlier**) and **6.2% for 2026-27** in its **WEO**.

- ➔ Global growth is projected to **slow from 3.3% in 2024 to 3.2% in 2025 and 3.1% in 2026**.

About World Economic Outlook

- ➔ **Published by:** International Monetary Fund (IMF), **twice a year**.
- ➔ **Purpose:** It presents **analyses and projections** of the world economy in the near and medium term.

3.9.10. Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR)

International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently released the **Global Finance Stability Report (GFSR)**, April 2025.

About GFSR

- **Purpose:** Provide a regular assessment of **global financial markets** and identify **potential systemic weaknesses** before they lead to crises.
- **Key Findings (Risk Factors):**
 - ➔ **Tightened Global Financial Conditions.**
 - ➔ **Role of Major geopolitical risk events** Especially **military conflicts.**

3.9.11. PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation Through Upgraded ITIs) Launched

The scheme will be implemented under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.**

About PM-SETU

- **Type & Budget:** ₹60,000 crore **centrally sponsored scheme.**
- **Aim:** Modernise **1,000 ITIs** into **industry-aligned training centres.**
 - ➔ ITIs are State-run institutions serving as the backbone of Vocational Education and Training.
- **Model:** **Hub-and-spoke** setup, **200 hub ITIs** connected to **800 spokes**; hubs host innovation, incubation, training, and placement facilities.
- **Components:**
 - ➔ Launch **demand-driven courses** with industry collaboration.
 - ➔ Form **Special Purpose Vehicles with anchor industries** for cluster management and outcome-based training.
 - ➔ Offer **long-term diplomas and short-term programs.**
 - ➔ Upgrade **five National Skill Training Institutes** as **Centres of Excellence** with global tie-ups.

3.9.12. Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme

Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme has been extended till March 2026.

About RoDTEP Scheme

- **Launched:** January 2021 by Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Objective:** To **reimburse taxes, duties, and levies** at central, state, and local levels.
- **Scope:** Covers taxes incurred during **manufacture and distribution** of exported products

3.9.13. 'We Rise' Initiative

'We Rise' (**Women Entrepreneurs Reimagining Inclusive and Sustainable Enterprises**) initiative was launched recently.

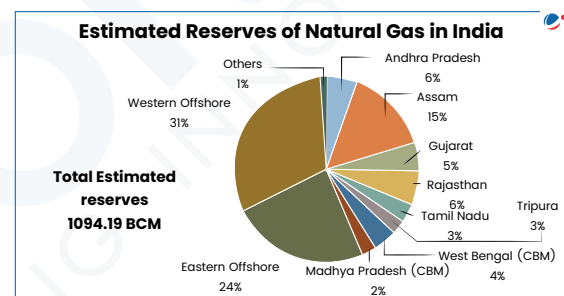
About We Rise Initiatives

- **Launched by:** **NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** under its **Award to Reward (ATR) initiative** along with **DP World.**
- **Objective:** To **help women entrepreneurs** to **scale their businesses globally.**

3.9.14. Discovery of Natural Gas in Andaman Basin

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas informed about the occurrence of natural gas in the Sri Vijayapuram 2 well on the east coast of the Andaman Islands.

- **Findings:** Estimated **371 million Metric Tons** of Oil Equivalent (**MMTOE**) hydrocarbon resources in the **Andaman-Nicobar Basin.**



- **Geology:** Located at the **Indian-Burmese plate boundary**, part of the **Bengal-Arakan system**, with **stratigraphic traps** favorable for hydrocarbons; nearby **Sumatra (Indonesia)** and **Irrawaddy (Myanmar)** basins already have gas finds.
- **Significance:** Supports India's **Gas-Based Economy Vision 2030**, aiming to raise **natural gas share to 15%** of energy mix.
- **Current Status:** Domestic output meets only **~50% of demand**; main **LNG imports** from **Qatar, US, and UAE.**

3.9.15. State Mining Readiness Index

Ministry of Mines releases **State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI)**

About State Mining Readiness Index

- **Objective:** Assesses and promotes **States' performance and reforms** in developing India's **mining sector.**
- **Criteria:** Evaluates **auction outcomes, mine operationalization, exploration efforts,** and **sustainable practices** for **non-coal minerals.**
- **Classification:** States grouped by **mineral endowment**
 - ➔ **Category A:** Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat
 - ➔ **Category B:** Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Assam
 - ➔ **Category C:** Punjab, Uttarakhand, Tripura

3.9.16. Major and Minor Minerals

Ministry of Mines classified limestone as a major mineral completely earlier classified as minor and major.

About Major and Minor minerals

- Under the **MMDR Act, 1957**, minerals are classified as **major** or **minor**.
- **Major minerals:** Include **fuel minerals** (coal, lignite, petroleum, natural gas) and **metallic/non-metallic minerals**, including **atomic minerals**.
- **Minor minerals:** Comprise **building materials** like **marble, slate, shale**, etc.; **States** have the power to **frame rules** for their regulation.

3.9.17. Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA) - MedTech Mission launched

MAHA-MedTech Mission has been launched by the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Gates Foundation.

About MAHA-MedTech Mission

- **Aim:** Boost **innovation in medical technology**, reduce **import dependence**, and ensure **affordable, high-quality healthcare access**.
- **Funding:** Supports **R&D institutions, startups, MSMEs, hospitals, and industry collaborations** with **₹5-25 crore per project** (up to **₹50 crore** in special cases).
- **Support Initiatives:** Includes **Patent Mitra** (IP & tech transfer), **MedTech Mitra** (regulatory guidance), and a **Clinical Trial Network** for validation.
- **Focus Areas:** **Medical devices and diagnostics**, using **deep-tech** like **AI/ML, robotics, imaging, radiotherapy, and implant technologies**.



A.I.T.S
 ALL INDIA GS PRELIMS TEST SERIES 2025

"Personalise Your UPSC Prelims Preparation"

2026

ENGLISH MEDIUM
23 NOVEMBER

हिन्दी माध्यम
23 नवंबर

HINDI & ENGLISH MEDIUM



Access **25000+** questions



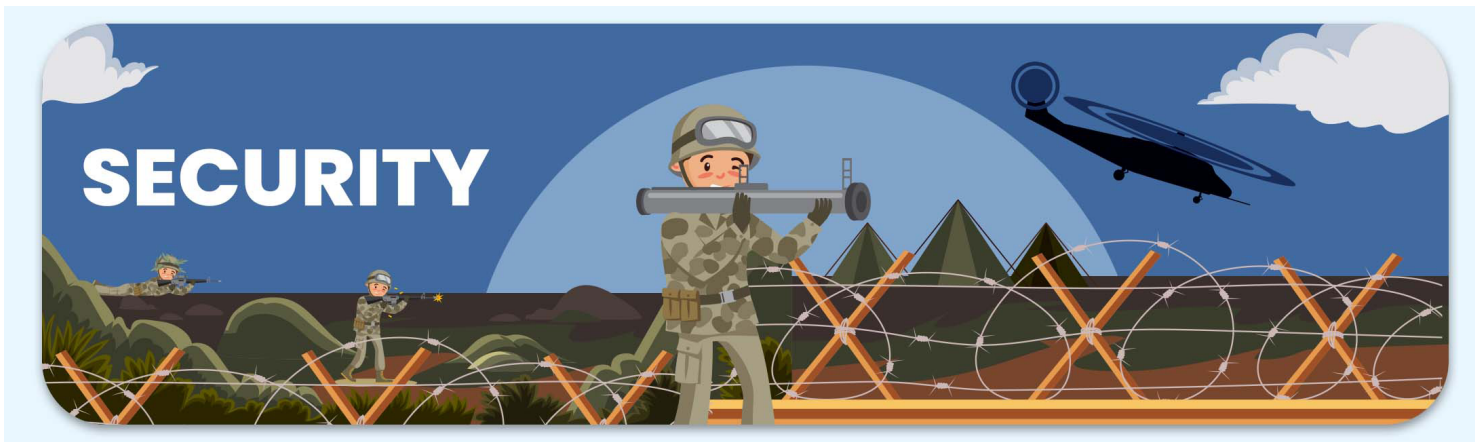
Choose your **subject** and topic



Create your test from **VisionIAS** or UPSC PYQs



Performance and Progress Analysis



4.1. Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)

Why in the News?

The MHA reported that the number of most affected LWE districts has reduced **from six to three (Bijapur, Sukma, Narayanpur in Chhattisgarh)**.

More on the News

- **States:** **Andhra Pradesh and Telangana** are no longer LWE-affected.
- **Target:** Eliminate Naxalism by March 31, 2026.
 - ➔ Affected districts reduced **from 18 to 11**.

LWE determinants

- **Socio-economic Disparities** – Poverty, low literacy, poor health, etc.
- **Tribal Exploitation & Displacement** – Under Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980 and development/mining projects.
- **Governance Vacuum** – Weak administration, discrimination, and limited state presence enable Maoist influence.
- **Maoist Manipulation** – Maoists recruit vulnerable people using weapons, money, and targeted exploitation.

About LWE

- **Ideology:** Based on **Maoist principles and socio-economic grievances, using violence to** challenge the state.
- **Origin:** Naxalbari uprising, 1967 (West Bengal).
- **Spread:** Across the historical "Red Corridor" in **Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, Kerala, West Bengal, etc.**

Threats Posed by LWE

- **Human Cost:** 8,895 people killed (**2004–2025**) as per Union Home Ministry.
- **Infrastructure Damage:** Frequent attacks on **schools, roads, railways, etc.**
- **Democratic Disruption:** E.g. violence prevented **polling in Bijapur for 17 years**.

Measures by Government to eradicate LWE

- **Developmental Initiatives (3Cs: Roads, Mobile & Financial Connectivity)**
 - ➔ E.g. 1,000+ bank branches, 178 **Eklavya Model Residential Schools**, **Dharti Aaba Abhiyan (2024)**, Civic Action Programme, etc.
- **Security Initiatives**
 - ➔ **SAMADHAN Framework:** Comprehensive **strategy to counter LWE (since 2017)**.
 - ➔ **Financial Choking:** **NIA and ED** acting against Maoist finances under PMLA.
 - ➔ **Other:** Fortified police stations, **increased force deployment, surrender & rehabilitation policy, and stronger community rights under PESA and Forest Rights Act**.

8 Pillars of fighting Left Wing Extremism

	S	Smart Leadership
	A	Aggressive strategy
	M	Motivation and training
	A	Actionable Intelligence
	D	Dashboard based KPIs
	H	Harness technology
	A	Action plan for each theatre
	N	No access to financing

Way forward

- **Sustained Holistic Approach:** Maintain combined **security, development, and rights-based efforts.**
- **Local Capacity:** Modernize and train **local police and joint task forces.**
- **Grievance Redressal:** E.g. **implement the Forest Rights Act** effectively.
- **Judicial Accountability:** Expedite **LWE case investigations** and trials.
- **Countering Propaganda:** Engage **civil society and media; use Civic Action Programme to build trust.**

4.2. Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)

Why in the News?

The Ministry of Home Affairs has extended the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 in parts of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland** for six more months.

About AFSPA, 1958

- AFSPA is a **special law giving armed forces sweeping powers** to maintain order in “**disturbed areas.**”
- **Current Coverage:** Parts of Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh.
 - ➔ Withdrawn earlier **from Tripura (2015), Meghalaya (2018), and Mizoram (1980s).**
- **In Jammu & Kashmir, a similar law operates** under the Armed Forces (**Jammu and Kashmir**) Special Powers Act, 1990.

Key Provisions of the Act

- **Declaration of Disturbed Area (Section 3):** Governor, Administrator, or Centre can declare any area “disturbed” if the situation requires armed forces support.
- **Special Powers of Armed Forces (Section 4):** Use of **lethal force**, arrest and **search without warrant** on suspicion, **restrict assembly** of five or more persons, **etc.** against violators.
- **Immunity (Section 6):** No prosecution of **armed forces personnel** without prior Central Government sanction.
- **Treatment of Arrested Persons:** must be **handed over to the nearest police station** at the earliest.

Landmark Judicial Decisions

- **Naga People’s Movement of Human Rights v. Union of India (1997):** AFSPA upheld but with strict safeguards on force and immunity.
- **Extra-Judicial Execution Victim Families Association v. Union of India (2016):** **Section 6** immunity is limited.
- **Sebastian Hongray v. Union of India (1984):** Security personnel **can be held responsible even under AFSPA.**

Critical analysis of AFSPA

Arguments in Favor of AFSPA	Arguments Against AFSPA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ National Security: Action against insurgency in sensitive border regions. ➤ Support to Civil Authorities during crisis. ➤ Operational Flexibility: E.g. Warrants-free arrest, and use of force prevent delays. ➤ Prevents frivolous or politically driven prosecution of soldiers. ➤ Judicial Backing: SC (1997) upheld AFSPA’s constitutionality, noting forces act in aid of civil power. ➤ Stabilization Success: Helped restore normalcy in states like Mizoram and Tripura. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fundamental Rights Concerns: Shoot-to-kill and immunity conflict with Articles 14, 21, and 22. ➤ Weak Accountability: Often protects personnel even in serious cases. ➤ Long-term Militarization: Fuels alienation and distrust among locals. ➤ Federal Strain: Central intervention may undermine state authority. ➤ Democratic Image Damage: Seen as inconsistent with global human rights commitments (UDHR, ICCPR). ➤ Human Rights Allegations: Reports of extrajudicial killings, torture, etc.

Way Ahead

- **Restrict & Phase Out:** Apply AFSPA only in **truly disturbed areas.**
- **Improve Accountability:** E.g. add safeguards against **extra-judicial force.**
- **Alternative Policing:** E.g. let CRPF/state police handle **most duties.**
- **Human Rights Focus:** Ensure operations **follow human rights norms.**
- **Build Local Trust:** Between **civil society, administration, and armed forces.**
- **Follow Key Committees:**
 - ➔ **Jeevan Reddy (2005):** Repeal AFSPA; shift powers to UAPA.
 - ➔ **2nd ARC (2007):** Repeal after consultations, etc.

4.3. United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime

Why in the News?

72 UN member states recently **signed the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime in Hanoi, Vietnam.**

About United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime

- Adopted by the **UN General Assembly on 24 December 2024.**
- Will take effect **90 days after 40 ratifications.**
- Signing open **until 31 December 2026.**
 - ➔ India has not signed yet.
- **UN Office on Drugs and Crime** acted as the negotiating secretariat.
- **First global legally binding framework** for collecting, sharing, and using electronic evidence for serious crimes.
 - ➔ **The Budapest Convention (2001) was** the earlier cybercrime treaty but limited to **Council of Europe.**
 - ➔ Countries like **Russia and China** opposed the Budapest Convention and pushed for a new UN-led treaty.

Key features of the Convention Against Cybercrime

- **Broader Cybercrime Coverage:** Criminalizes **cyber-dependent crimes, online fraud, etc.**
- **Stronger Global Cooperation:** Sets up a **24/7 international coordination network.**
- **Sovereignty Safeguards:** Ensures obligations respect **state sovereignty and non-intervention.**
- **Victim-Centric Measures:** Promotes **access to recovery services, compensation, etc.**
- **Human Rights Compliance:** Requires implementation **consistent with international human rights** standards.

Significance of the Convention

- **Boost to Multilateralism:** Shows global consensus on tackling cybercrime.
- **Addresses Growing Threats:** Critical amid rising cybercrime costs (projected \$10.5 trillion by 2025).
- **Supports Developing Nations:** Helps countries with limited cybersecurity capacity.
- **Ready for New Threats:** Provides a framework to counter AI-driven attacks, deepfakes, and disinformation.

4.4. News in Shorts

4.4.1. Anant Shastra Air Defence System

- Indigenous Quick Reaction **Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) system.**
- **Developed by: DRDO with BEL and BDL, highly mobile, agile,** and has a 30 km range.
- **Integrates with: MR-SAM, Akash, Spyder, and S-400 air-defence systems.**
- **Planned deployment:** Along western and northern borders after approval.

4.4.2. SAKSHAM System for Real-Time Counter-Drone Defence

Indian Army begins procurement of **indigenous SAKSHAM (Situational Awareness for Kinetic Soft and Hard Kill Assets Management) Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (CUAS) Grid System.**

About SAKSHAM System

- **A modular Command & Control (C2)** system operating on the secure Army Data Network (ADN).
- Detects, tracks, **identifies and neutralises** hostile drones/UAS in real time.
- Provides **airspace security across the Tactical Battlefield Space (TBS)** – up to 3,000 m (10,000 ft) above ground.
- Developed in collaboration with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).**

4.4.3. Drone Wall

Triggered by suspected Russian drone incursions in Denmark, **EU is working on an AI-based multilayered defence system called Eirshield.**

- Designed to counter **fast-flying unmanned targets carrying warheads.**
- Offers early warning, **real-time threat detection, and protection against drone incursions,** GPS jamming, and other unconventional attacks.

4.4.4. Scheme for Innovation and Technology Association with Aadhaar (SITAA)

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched SITAA.

About SITAA

- **Aim:** Strengthen India's digital identity ecosystem and counter threats **like deepfakes, spoofing, and presentation attacks.**
- **Implementing Agency:** UIDAI, **Ministry of Electronics & IT.**
- **Focus Areas:** Enhanced biometric authentication, **AI/ML-based solutions, data privacy tools, and advanced biometric security measures.**

4.4.5. INS Androth

The Indian Navy commissioned **INS Androth** at the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.

About INS Androth

- ➔ **Second Anti-Submarine Warfare** Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) after INS Arnala.
 - ➔ Part of the **8 ASW-SWCs being** built by **GRSE, Kolkata**.
- ➔ Named after **Androth, the northernmost island** of Lakshadweep.
- ➔ **Roles:** Maritime surveillance, search & rescue, **coastal/anti-submarine defence, etc.**

4.4.6. Exercise in News

- ➔ **Exercise Pacific Reach:** Biennial multinational submarine-rescue exercise; **hosted by Singapore** with 40+ nations.
- ➔ **KONKAN-25:** India-UK bilateral naval exercise.
- ➔ **AUSTRALIND 2025:** India-Australia annual military exercise.
- ➔ **Samudra Shakti:** India-Indonesia bilateral maritime exercise.
- ➔ **JAIMEX-2025:** Biennial India-Japan naval exercise.
- ➔ **Exercise Ocean Sky:** Multinational air exercise hosted by Spain; India participates for the first time as a non-NATO nation.



PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION - 2025

11 NOVEMBER



Scan **QR CODE** to watch How to Prepare for UPSC Personality Test

FEATURES OF THE PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Pre-DAF Session: For a nuanced understanding of DAF entries and how to fill it mindfully to reflect desired personality traits.



Mock Interview Sessions: With Senior Faculty, Ex-Bureaucrats and Educationists for enhanced interview readiness and instilling confidence.



Interaction with toppers and serving bureaucrats: Interactive Session for facilitating query resolution, interactive learning, and motivation from the experience of Topper and serving bureaucrats.



DAF Analysis Session: Thorough DAF analysis and discussion with Senior Experts and Faculty Members on expected questions and their answers.



Personalized Mentorship and Guidance: Holistic interview preparation management and performance maximization with a dedicated Senior Mentor.



Performance Evaluation and Feedback: Identification of strengths and growth areas coupled with positive recommendations for further enrichment and improvement



Elocution Session: For the development and refinement of communication skills and honing desirable personality traits through guided discussions and peer learning.



Current Affairs Classes: To develop a comprehensive and analytical view of important issues of current affairs.



Recordings of Mock Interviews: Video of Interview sessions for Self-evaluation

For queries regarding DAF analysis and Mock interview contact at

📞 7042413505, 9354559299
✉️ interview@visionias.in

Scan **QR CODE** to know more and Register



ENVIRONMENT



5.1. 10 Years of SDGs: India's Progress

Why in the News?

UN SDG (Global Goals) completed 10 years since adoption (Sep 2015).

About SDGs

- ➔ **Defined in Brundtland Report (1987):** Meet present needs without compromising future.
 - ➔ **2015:** UN's 2030 Agenda – 17 SDGs, 169 targets to end poverty/inequality, protect planet, ensure health/justice/prosperity; no one left behind.

Global Progress (SDR 2025): Finland ranked **first**, followed by Sweden and Denmark; **East/South Asia fastest progress (socioeconomic)**.

- ➔ Only **17% targets on track** for 2030.
 - ➔ Strong gains: Basic services – internet/broadband (SDG9), electricity (SDG7), child mortality (SDG3).
- ➔ **India's Progress:** Ranks 99 (score 67/100) in SDG Index 2025 – first in top 100.

SDG	Achievement(s)
SDG-1 (No Poverty)	135M+ escaped multidimensional poverty (2015-21; NITI 2023-24)
SDG-2 (Zero Hunger)	Undernourishment : 13.7% (2021-23; SOFI 2024)
SDG-3 (Good Health)	MMR: 80.5/100,000 (2023) from 130 (2014-16)
SDG-4 (Quality Education)	Net primary enrolment: 99.9% (2024)
SDG- 5 (Gender Equality)	Family planning (modern): 77.5% (2024)
SDG- 7 (Clean Energy)	Electricity access: 99.2% (2022)
SDG- 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)	886 million internet users (2024)

Integration of SDGs into India's Development Planning

- ➔ **Whole-of-Government Approach:** Integrating SDGs vertically (Centre-State-Local) & horizontal (ministries); NITI Aayog coordinates.
- ➔ **Data-Driven Competitive Federalism:** SDG India Index, Health/Education/Water Indices.
- ➔ **Localization:** NER District SDG Index has targeted investment in Northeastern states.
- ➔ **Institutionalization:** States have set up dedicated **SDG Coordination and Acceleration Centres**.
- ➔ **Inclusive and Equitable Focus:** **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)** – rapid gains (UNDP).

Issues faced in achieving SDGs

- ➔ **Data Availability:** E.g., **SDG India Index 2023-24 does not measure indicators of SDG 17** due to data gaps.
- ➔ **Regional Disparities:** Bihar/Jharkhand/UP high poverty; Kerala/Sikkim low (MPI 2023).
- ➔ **Financial Constraints:** Domestic/private/international gaps.
- ➔ **Institutional and Governance:** Uneven capacity/coordination; state schemes overlooked.

- ➔ **Sustainability Challenges:** Growth vs. environment balance.
- ➔ **COVID setbacks:** Learning/health reversals.

Way Forward

- ➔ Strengthening data systems.
- ➔ Mobilise domestic and private **finances**.
- ➔ Promoting **cooperative federalism; integrating SDGs into sectoral policies** and budgets.
- ➔ Encouraging multi-sectoral & societal partnerships for more inclusive implementation.
- ➔ Integrate environmental sustainability by promoting clean energy, efficient water management, waste reduction, and conservation of natural ecosystems.

Conclusion

India shows strong social/infra gains in SDG decade. Sustained coordination & inclusion can meet 2030 targets.

5.2. Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve

Why in the news?

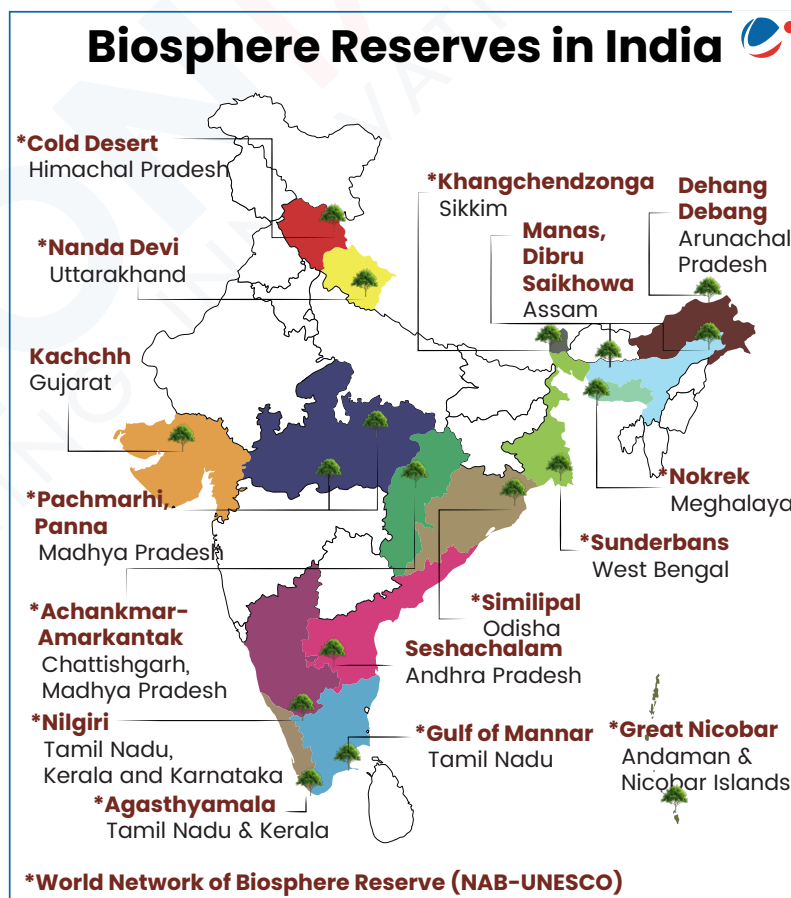
UNESCO added Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve to WNBR as one of 26 new sites.

More in the news

- ➔ India now has **13 UNESCO BRs** in global **network of 785**.
- ➔ **São Tomé and Príncipe: first State with entire territory as BR.**

About Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve

- ➔ **Location:** India's first high-altitude cold desert BR; **coldest/ driest ecosystems in WNBR.**
 - ➔ In **Himalayas**, from **Ladakh** (Leh/ Kargil) to **Kinnaur/ Spiti valley** in Himachal Pradesh.
- ➔ **Protected Areas:** Pin Valley National Park, Chandratol, Sarchu, Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ➔ **Biome:** Cold Desert; harsh due to Himalayan rain-shadow & high elevation
- ➔ **Soil:** Thin, sandy-loamy, low organic matter.
- ➔ **Hydrology:** Glacier melt feeds **Spiti/Pin** rivers.
- ➔ **Flora:** Caragana, Ephedra, Juniperus, Artemisia, Seabuckthorn (soil stabilizer, carbon sink, livelihood aid).
- ➔ **Fauna:** Snow Leopard (flagship), Ibex, Argali, Bharal, Red Fox, Lynx, Wolf.
- ➔ **Buddhist Culture:** **Gompas, Chorten, Mani Walls.**
- ➔ **Human Settlements:** **Bhotia, Changpa, and Spiti tribes**, practicing **pastoralism, yak and goat rearing, etc.**



About World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

- ➔ **Launched 1976;** managed by UNESCO's MAB Programme (1971: **Science for human-environment relations**).
- ➔ Promotes human-ecosystem synergies for sustainable development.
- ➔ **How are Biosphere reserves (BRs) designated under MAB?**
 - ➔ **Designated by:** Director-General of UNESCO as per MAB International Coordinating Council (MAB ICC).
 - ➔ **Methodology:** Seville Strategy/ Statutory Framework.
 - ➔ **Proposal:** From UNESCO members; sites under state sovereignty; removable by notification.
 - ➔ **Review:** **Every 10 years; withdrawal** if standards meet.

5.3. News in Shorts


5.3.1. Environmental Accounting on Forest 2025 Report

MoSPI's 8th environment accounts issue; first dedicated forest accounting as per **UN System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA) Framework**.

Key Findings

- **Physical Asset:** Forest cover increased to 7.15 lakh sq km (21.76% GA) in 2010-22; top: Kerala, Karnataka, TN.
- **Extent:** Net increase in forest; top Recorded Forest Area (RFA) gains: Uttarakhand, Odisha, Jharkhand.
- **Condition:** Growing stock +305.53M cum (7.32%, 2013-23); top: MP, Chhattisgarh, Telangana.
- **Services:**
 - ➔ **Provisioning (timber and non-timber products):** ~0.16% of GDP in 2021-22; top: Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala.
 - ➔ **Regulating (carbon):** ~2.63% of GDP; top: Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam.

UN System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA) Framework

 Developed by: United Nations, European Commission, and FAO in 2012.	 About: International statistical framework integrating economic and environmental data to evaluate mutual impacts.	 Adoption in India: First adopted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in 2018.
---	--	--

5.3.2. Government notifies First Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI) Target Rules




First legally binding rules target four high-emission sectors – **aluminium, cement, pulp & paper, and chlor-alkali**.

- Facility must cut GHG/unit output vs 2023-24 baseline.
- **GEI:** GHGs emitted per unit product (e.g., tCO₂e/tonne).

Rules:

- **Issued under:** Compliance mechanism of **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), 2023**.
- **Enforced by:** Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- **Objective:** Reduce **GHG emissions** per unit of output (CO₂e per tonne of product) in **carbon-intensive sectors** and **facilitate carbon credit trading**.

Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), 2023

 Purpose: Establishes India's first domestic carbon market to reduce GHG emission intensity in line with NDCs.	 Legal Basis: Notified under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 .	 Structure: Includes a compliance mechanism for energy-intensive industries with set emission targets and a voluntary offset mechanism for other entities.
--	---	--

Mechanism

- **Compliant:** Below-target emitters earn BEE-issued tradable carbon credits.
- **Non-compliant:** Buy credits or pay compensation (2x avg credit price).

Significance: Market-based compliance, transparency via Indian Carbon Market portal, compensation funds market infrastructure and supports Paris Agreement commitments.

5.3.3. Ozone Pollution

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report found that Delhi NCR **worst hit** by high Ozone (O₃) pollution, followed by Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).




About Ozone

- **O₃:** Three oxygen atoms; in **stratosphere (protective) & troposphere (pollutant)**; **Safe limits:** 100 µg/m³ (8-hr), 180 µg/m³ (1-hr).

Ground-level Ozone (GLO)

- **Nature:** Secondary, short-lived pollutant (hours – weeks).
- **Formed by:** Chemical reactions between **oxides of nitrogen (Nox)** and **volatile organic compounds (VOC)**.
- **Sources:** Anthropogenic (transport, power, residential, agri); Natural (soil NO_x, wildfires, biospheric methane).

Impact of Ground-level Ozone (GLO)

 Health: Aggravates bronchitis, triggers asthma, and causes respiratory issues.	 Climate: Acts as a strong greenhouse gas by absorbing radiation and is a major component of smog .	 Agriculture and Ecosystems: Disrupts photosynthesis and hampers plant growth.
---	--	--

5.3.4. NATPOLREX-X

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted 10th edition of **National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-X)**.

- **NATPOLREX is a biennial flagship exercise** which aims to evaluate and enhance India's national preparedness to respond to **marine oil spill incidents**.

5.3.5. New Ramsar Sites in Bihar

Gokul Reservoir and **Udaipur Lake** new Ramsar Sites.

- **India:** 93 Ramsar sites; **Bihar: 3 sites** – **Kabar Jheel (Kabar Taal)** and **Nagi** – **Nakti bird sanctuaries**.

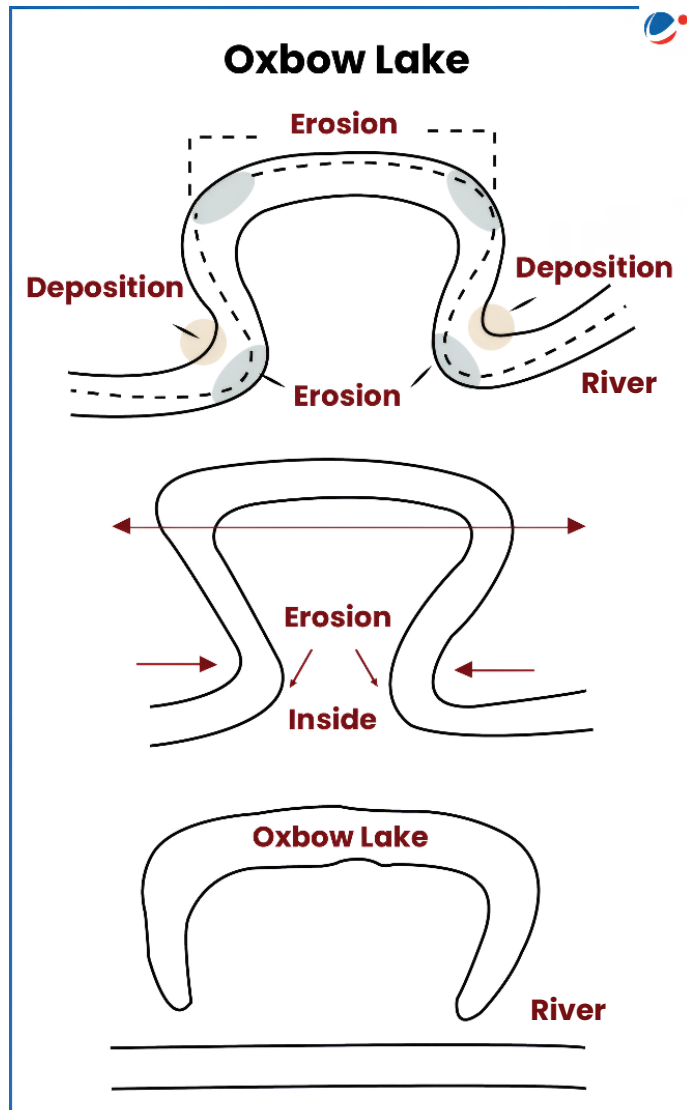
About New Wetlands

- Both **oxbow lakes** (crescent-shaped, river- adjacent).
- **Gokul:** Southern edge of the **Ganga**.

- ➔ **Udaipur Lake:** In **Udaipur Wildlife Sanctuary**; key wintering for migratory bird (eg. pochard).

Ramsar Convention

- ➔ **Adopted:** 1971; **India ratified:** 1982; **UNESCO** treaty.
- ➔ **Objective:** Conserve & wisely use wetlands; **Criteria:** Meet at least 1 of 9 criteria;



5.3.6. Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Launches Multiple Initiatives

Launched 5 Species Conservation and Conflict Management initiatives:-

Initiatives	Details
Project Dolphin (Phase-II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Action plan for riverine (Ganges/ Indus) & marine cetaceans. ➔ National Aquatic Animal ➔ Protection Status (Both): Endangered (IUCN); Schedule I (WPA, 1972).

Project Sloth Bear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Found in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. ➔ Vulnerable (IUCN), Schedule I (WPA 1972) ➔ Eats termites/ ants, carries cubs on backs.
Project Gharial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Found in Nepal and India ➔ Critically Endangered (IUCN), Schedule I (WPA1972). ➔ Males have "ghara" for vocal resonator.
Tigers Outside Tiger Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Found in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, China and Myanmar. ➔ Endangered (IUCN), Schedule I (WPA1972). ➔ Landscape approach, tech, capacity, community support to reduce conflicts. ➔ Their unique stripes make each tiger identifiable.
Centre of Excellence for Human-Wildlife Conflict Management (CoE-HWC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ National center at SACON for HWC policy, research, and field-based mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts.

5.3.7. Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025

FRO's GFRA (**every 5 years**), released at **Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) Plenary, Bali, Indonesia.**

- ➔ **GFOI: Group on Earth Observations (GEO) flagship programme**, network to harness power of Earth Intelligence.
 - ➔ India is a member.

Key highlights

- ➔ **Global Forests:** 4.14B ha (32% land); half tropical; **India:** 9th globally (2% world forest); 5th in rubber plantation.
- ➔ **Deforestation:** Down to 10.9M ha/yr (2015-25) from 17.6M (1990-2000).
- ➔ **Natural Regeneration:** More than 90% of world's forest.
- ➔ **Carbon Stock:** 714 gigatonnes, with soil holding majority, followed by living biomass/ litter/ deadwood.
- ➔ **Disturbances: Fire** (subtropics); **insects, diseases and severe weather** (temperate/ boreal).

5.3.8. State of Finance for Forests 2025

UN Environment Programme released **first State of Finance for Forests 2025 report**, providing global overview of public and private forest finance in 2023.

Findings

- ➔ Annual forest finance gap of US\$ 216 billion between current financial flows and investment required to achieve global forest goals by 2030.
- ➔ Governments were primary source of forest funding, accounting for 91% of total flows in 2023.

5.3.9. IUCN World Conservation Congress

IUCN World Conservation Congress concluded in Abu Dhabi, UAE; Held every 4 years; hosts **Members' Assembly (IUCN's top body)**.

Key Resolutions

- **Abu Dhabi Call to Action:** Accelerate in 5 **areas** – nature as well-being base, multilateralism, justice/inclusion, knowledge/innovation, scaled resources.
- **New Members:** Over 100, including Armenia, Tajikistan, Marshall Islands, Gabon, Tuvalu, and Zimbabwe.
- **First-ever Policy on Synthetic Biology and Nature Conservation** to balances benefits (restore diversity, eradicate invasives) & risks (ecological cascades).
- **Crime of Ecocide:** Recognized as international crime under International Criminal Court.



International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Gland, Switzerland.

📌 **Founded:** In 1948, IUCN is now the **world's largest and most diverse environmental network**.

👤 **Membership:** 1,400+ members (states, NGOs, research institutions). **India is a member.**

📋 **Governance:** The **IUCN World Conservation Congress** is the highest governing body, while the **IUCN Council** acts as the principal body between its sessions.


🔑 **Key Instruments:** IUCN Red List, World Heritage Outlook, The World Database on Protected Areas.

5.3.10. Update to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species


IUCN Congress update status of 12 Indian bird species: 8 downlisted (improved), 4 uplisted (worsened).

- **Uplisted species:** **Indian Courser**, **Indian Roller**, **Rufous-tailed Lark** (Near Threatened) and **Long-billed Grasshopper-warbler** (Endangered).
- **Habitats:** Open natural ecosystems (grasslands, semi-arid, desert, croplands, scrub, fallow).
- **Threats:** Power infra, agri intensification, invasives, afforestation converting grasslands.

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species



Overview:
Established in 1964, it is the world's most comprehensive source on the global conservation status of animal, fungi, and plant species.



Categories:
Classifies species into nine groups – from Not Evaluated to Extinct

Global Update

- More than 50% **bird species declining**; **main cause:** habitat loss (agri expansion, logging)
 - ➔ **Birds' roles:** Pollinators, seed dispersers, pest control, scavengers, ecosystem engineers.

- 3 **Arctic seals** – closer to extinction (sea ice loss due to warming); **keystone** in food web.
- **Green Sea Turtle**, Endangered to Least Concern, due to sustained conservation efforts.

5.3.11. First IUCN Green Status of Species assessment for the Tiger Released

Assessment classified **Tiger** as '**Critically Depleted**,' due to habitat loss, prey depletion, poaching, and regional extinctions.

Key Findings

- **Population:** Decreasing (mature individual- 2608-3905); **Extinct:** in 9 of 24 areas; threatened everywhere else.
- **Conservation Legacy:** high; **Recovery Potential:** Medium.

About IUCN Green Status of Species

- **Launched:** 2012, optional in Red List since 2020.
- **Assesses:** Recovery & conservation impact beyond extinction risk.
- **Categories:** Largely/ Moderately/ Slightly Depleted, Fully Recovered, etc.

Species Recovery Defined

- **Fully recovered if:** Present in **all historical range**, **viable** across range, performs **ecological functions** everywhere.

About Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

- **Largest wild cat;** **Global population:** India has almost **75%**
- **Range:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, etc.
- **Habitat:** Forest, Savanna, Shrubland, Grassland, Wetlands (inland), etc.
- **Conservation Status:** Endangered (IUCN Red List); Schedule I (Wildlife Protection Act, 1972); CITES Appendix I

5.3.12. Status of Elephants in India: DNA Based Synchronous All India Population Estimation of Elephants (SAIEE) 2021-25

SAIEE is India's first DNA-based elephants census conducted by Wildlife Institute of India, under **Project Elephant**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Findings

- **Asian Elephant population: 22,446** and India has **largest wild population** (60% of global).
- **Regions:** Himalayan foothills, Northeastern states, East-central India, and Western/Eastern Ghats, small feral population in Andaman Islands; **Top states: Karnataka, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.**

- **Threats:** Habitat loss/fragmentation (plantations, fencing, encroachments); rising **Human–Elephant Conflict** (Central/East); linear infrastructure (roads, rails, power lines).
- **Recommendations:** Secure corridors, restore habitat, and mitigate projects.

Asian Elephants

- **Largest Asian land mammal;** 13 range countries; forest/grassland habitat.
- **Characteristics:** **Complex social structures** led by matriarch (female), **longest gestation period** (22 months).
- **Role in Ecosystem:** Create pathways, micro ecosystems, seed dispersal.
- **Status:** Endangered (IUCN Red List), Schedule I (Wildlife Protection Act 1972), Appendix I (CITES).

5.3.13. Indian Wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*)

IUCN for first time evaluated Indian Wolf separately as **potential distinct species within the Canis genus (had seven species)**.

About Indian Wolf

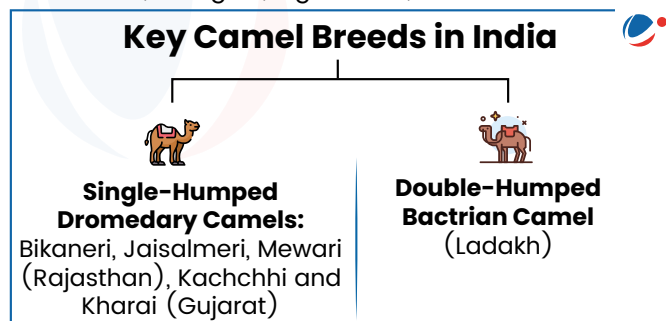
- **Habitat:** Thorn forests, scrublands, arid and semi-arid grassland habitats in **India** (few found in Pakistan).
 - ➔ One of **common large carnivores** found in agro-pastoral regions of semi-arid India.
- **Threats:** Habitat loss, conflict with humans, and diseases; **Conservation Status:** Vulnerable (IUCN).

5.3.14. Draft Policy Paper on Camels proposes National Camel Sustainability Initiative (NCSI)

Draft by Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Key Highlights of Draft Policy Paper

- Population **declined by more than 75%** since the 1970s.
- **Causes:** Reduced utility, grazing loss, desertification, invasives, droughts, legal curbs, weak markets.



- **Recommendations:** Launching National Camel Sustainability Initiative (NCSI), securing grazing rights, strengthening camel dairy value chains, reviving camel-based tourism, and introducing veterinary and genetic conservation programs.

About Camels

- **Ship of the Desert,** 90% in Rajasthan/Gujarat; reared by Raika, Rabari, Fakirani Jat, Manganiyar.
- **Characteristics:** Survive days without water, travel long distances, feed on thorny desert plant species.
 - ➔ **Camels' humps store fats** and **blood stores water.**
- **Ecological Role:** Low water use, selective grazing, soft hooves prevent desertification; dung enriches soil.

5.3.15. India's Dugong Conservation Reserve recognized by IUCN

IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 adopted motion for **India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve** (Palk Bay); urges global extension of model.

Dugong Conservation Reserve

- **Established:** 2022, by Tamil Nadu government under **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.**
- **Features:** Over 12,250 hectares of **seagrass** meadows; supports **marine biodiversity, carbon sequestration.**

About Dugong (Sea Cow)

- **Feature:** Only marine herbivorous mammals, seagrass-dependent.
- **Distribution:** Palk Bay (highest), Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, etc; **Population:** About 200.
- **Status:** Vulnerable (IUCN); Schedule I (WPA); **Threat:** Habitat degradation, hunting, unintentional captures.

5.3.16. Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)

Central Asian countries have come together **under CAMI to protect 17 shared species like Saiga, Bukhara Deer etc.**

Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)

- **Launched:** **2014** at COP11 of **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).**
- **Objective:** To coordinate conservation efforts for 17 key migratory mammal species in Central Asia.

5.3.17. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Congress calls for accelerated implementation of Early Warnings for All (EW4All)

Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative

- **Aim:** Ensure **universal protection** from hazardous hydrometeorological, climatological and related environmental events through **life-saving multi-hazard early warning systems by 2027.**
- **Launched:** At **COP27** of UNFCCC in **2022** by the UN Secretary-General.
- **Organizations:** WMO, UNDRR, ITU and IFRC.
- **Coverage:** Initially **30 high-risk countries**, now more than **100.**

About Early Warning System (EWS)

- ➔ **Integrated** system of **hazard monitoring, forecasting, disaster risk assessment and preparedness** aiming early action to save and protect lives, livelihoods and assets of people at risk.
- ➔ **Need for Early Warning:** Damage can be **reduced by 30%**, reduce mortality number and economic damages.

Early Warnings for All (EW4All): Four Pillars

- ➔ **Disaster Risk Knowledge:** Data collection & risk assessment (Led by UNDRR).
- ➔ **Detection, & Forecasting:** Hazard monitoring & early warning services (Led by WMO).
- ➔ **Warning Dissemination:** Effective communication to all at risk (Led by ITU).
- ➔ **Preparedness & Response:** Build response capacity at national/community level (Led by IFRC).

5.3.18. Arabian Sea Mini Warm Pool

Scientists have uncovered that Arabian Sea MWP acts as self-correcting mechanism that helps the monsoon recover from disruptions caused by previous El Niño.

About Arabian Sea Mini Warm Pool (MWP)

- ➔ It is **small patch** of unusually warm sea surface temperatures (SST) in Arabian Sea, especially southeastern part (**near Kerala coast**).
 - ➔ A warm pool is defined as **body of very warm water**, typically with sea surface temperatures exceeding 28.5°C, that plays **significant role in influencing regional climate and weather patterns**.
 - ➔ **Duration:** Forms every year during April and May, just before monsoon.

5.3.19. Maitri II

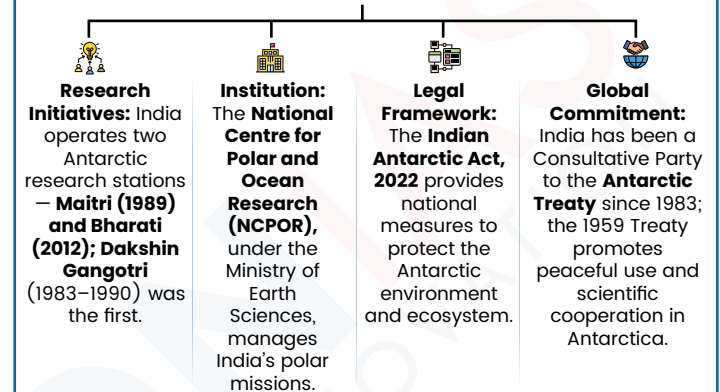
Government approval to Maitri II, station in Eastern Antarctica.

- ➔ India's 4th research base expected by **January 2029**.
- ➔ It would be established as **green research base** powered using renewable energy sources (solar and wind) and would house **automated instruments**.

Importance of the Antarctica Region

- ➔ **World's Natural Laboratory:** 5th largest continent, holds key to understanding Earth's climate and ocean systems, acting as **natural tracker** of global climate change.
- ➔ **Natural Resources:** Holds nearly **75 percent of earth's freshwater reserves** and houses edible algae, fish species, etc.
- ➔ **Geopolitical Significance:** Overlapping **territorial claims**, China's expansion with **dual-use critical infrastructures** raises global concerns.

India's initiatives in Antarctica



5.3.20. Mud Volcano

India's only **Mud Volcano in Baratang Island** in Andamans and Nicobar Islands erupts after 20 years.

About Mud Volcano

- ➔ It is geological formation where **mixture of mud, water, and gases** (methane, carbon dioxide or nitrogen) **erupts to the surface**, creating cone-like structures that resemble true volcanoes without molten lava.
- ➔ They are generally **encountered in areas where natural gas is present**.
- ➔ Eruptions are caused by pressure from **Earth's tectonic forces or by accumulation of hydrocarbon gases**.

ALL INDIA MAINS TEST SERIES

2026
ENGLISH MEDIUM
23 NOVEMBER
हिन्दी माध्यम
23 नवंबर


Scan QR code for
instant personalized
mentoring

SOCIAL ISSUES



6.1. State of Social Justice

Why in the News?

International Labour Organization (ILO) released a report titled 'The state of social justice: A work in progress'.

More on the News

- The report was released before the **Second World Summit for Social Development**, marking **30 years since the 1995 Copenhagen Summit**.
- The **Copenhagen Declaration** and **Programme of Action** set **ten key commitments**, including **poverty eradication, full employment, social integration, and gender equality**.

What is Social Justice?

- Ensures **equal rights and opportunities** for all, regardless of **race, caste, creed, or gender**, promoting **freedom, dignity, and economic security**.
- Strengthens **trust, legitimacy**, and supports **inclusive growth, peace, and long-term stability**.
- **Four foundational pillars of Social Justice**
 - ➔ Fundamental human rights and capabilities
 - ➔ Equal access to opportunities
 - ➔ Fair distribution
 - ➔ Fair transitions

Key Achievements in social Justice (According to Report)

- **Extreme poverty** fell from **39% (1995)** to **10% (2025)**; **working poverty** from **28% to 7%**.
- **Social protection** now covers **over half of the global population**.
- **Gender gap** in labour participation narrowed from **26 to 24 percentage points (2005–2025)**.
- **Inequality between countries** declined, driven by higher productivity in **middle-income nations**.
- **Child labour** reduced from **20.6% (1995)** to **7.8% (2024)**.

Key Achievements in Social Justice in India

- **Extreme poverty** dropped from **16.2% (2011–12)** to **2.3% (2022–23)**.
- **Female labour participation** rose from **23.3% (2017–18)** to **41.7% (2023–24)**.
- **Social protection coverage** expanded from **19% (2015)** to **64.3% (2025)**.
- **Income inequality** declined; India ranks **4th globally** with a **Gini score of 25.5**.
- **Access to services:** Over **15.7 crore rural homes** now have **tap water** under **Jal Jeevan Mission**.

Key Concerns to Achieve Social Justice in recent times

- **Fundamental Rights:**
 - ➔ **Wage gap:** Women earn **78% of men's income**; gap may persist **50–100 years**.
 - ➔ **Child labour:** **138 million** children still work, half in **hazardous jobs**.
 - ➔ **Forced labour:** Rose from **24.9 million (2016)** to **27.6 million (2021)**.

- ➔ **Equal Opportunity:**
 - ➔ **Inequality:** Top 1% hold 20% of income and 38% of wealth.
 - ➔ **Informal work:** Covers 58% of total employment.
 - ➔ **Basic services:** 1 in 4 people lack clean water access.
- ➔ **Fair Transitions:**
 - ➔ **Environmental:** Transition could cost 6 million fossil fuel jobs.
 - ➔ **Digital:** 1 in 4 jobs may be transformed by AI.
 - ➔ **Demographic:** Need to boost productivity and decent jobs in developing nations and address ageing workforce in richer ones.

Key Initiatives for Social Justice

- ➔ **Global:**
 - ➔ **Global Coalition for Social Justice**
 - ➔ **Decent Work Agenda**
 - ➔ **ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization**
 - ➔ **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)**
- ➔ **India**
 - ➔ **Constitutional Measures:** E.g., Preamble ensures social, economic, and political justice, Fundamental Rights (E.g. Article 23), Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 38), etc.
 - ➔ **Legislative Measures:** E.g., Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 etc.
 - ➔ **Institutional Measures:** E.g., National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), National Commission for Women (NCW), etc.

Way Forward

- ➔ **Fair Distribution:** Promote collective bargaining, update minimum wage policies, and ensure a living wage per ILO norms. Strengthen non-discrimination laws and expand social protection coverage.
- ➔ **Equal Access to Opportunities:** Enhance labour market policies, training, and job matching, Support formalisation of MSMEs and provide employment subsidies (e.g., wage/hiring incentives).
- ➔ **Fair Transition:** Invest in renewable energy in regions losing traditional industries, Introduce anti-age discrimination laws, partial retirement options, and paid family care leave to retain older workers.

6.2. Global Hunger Index

Why in the news?

Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2025 ranks India under 'serious' category.

About Global Hunger Index (GHI)

- ➔ Index has been released by Irish humanitarian organization 'Concern Worldwide' and German aid agency 'Welthungerhilfe' (with FAO, UNICEF, WHO, IFPRI).
- ➔ Each country's GHI score is calculated based on a formula combining four indicators: Undernourishment (Insufficient caloric intake); Child stunting (Children with low height under age 5); Child wasting: (Children with low weight for their height under age 5); Child mortality: (Children who die before their fifth birthday).

Key Findings of the report

- ➔ **India Findings:**
 - ➔ Ranked 102nd of 123 countries with a GHI score of 25.8 (serious).
 - ➔ 1 in 3 children is stunted; 172 million people are undernourished, up 13.5 million since 2016.
- ➔ **Global Findings:**
 - ➔ **SDG-2 (Zero Hunger by 2030)** is off-track; 56 countries unlikely to reach even low hunger levels.
 - ➔ **Global GHI score: 18.3 (moderate)**, only slightly better than 19.0 (2016).
 - ➔ **Severe hunger:** In Africa and South Asia; alarming in Somalia, DRC, South Sudan, etc.
- ➔ **Causes:**
 - ➔ **GLOBAL:** Conflicts, climate shocks, weak economies, low commitment.
 - ➔ **INDIA:** Poverty, inequality, poor maternal nutrition, child-health gaps, and chronic malnutrition.

Consequences of Hunger

- ➔ **Higher child mortality, Lower productivity, Rising healthcare burden,** Poor learning outcomes, Violation of Human Right to adequate food, Famine and Catastrophe & Deepening inequalities etc.

Initiatives taken for Tackling Hunger in India

- ➔ **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY):** Provides free food grains to 80 crore poor people across India.
- ➔ **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna:** Offers ₹5,000 to pregnant and lactating women for wage support and nutrition during and after pregnancy.
- ➔ **POSHAN Abhiyan (National Nutrition Mission):** Aims to achieve improvement in key nutrition parameters for children and women.

Way Forward

- ➔ **Ensure political commitment and good governance.**
- ➔ **Increase and diversify financing.**
- ➔ **Build resilient and inclusive food systems:** Promote **climate-resilient agriculture** etc.
- ➔ **Adopt multisectoral, locally led strategies:** Link hunger reduction with health, education, WASH.
- ➔ **Other Ways for Zero Hunger:** Strengthen **social safety nets**, connect **farmers to markets**, **reduce food loss**, and **prevent maternal-child malnutrition**.

6.3. News in Shorts

6.3.1. Vital Statistics Of India Based On Civil Registration System (CRS) Report (2023) Released

The report is compiled by the Registrar General of India (RGI), **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

Key highlights of the report

- ➔ **Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB):** 928 females per 1000 males; highest in Arunachal Pradesh (1,085), lowest in Jharkhand (899).
- ➔ **Institutional Births & Deaths:** 74.7% births and 24% deaths occurred in institutions.
- ➔ **Births:** Registered births fell by 0.9% from 2022; **LoR:** 98.4%; higher in urban areas.
- ➔ **Deaths:** Registered deaths rose by 0.1%; **LoR:** 97.2%; higher in rural areas.
- ➔ **Infant deaths:** Increased from 2022.
- ➔ **Full registration achieved:** 21 States/UTs for births, 19 for deaths; male registrations higher than female across regions.

6.3.2. Children In India 2025 Report

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released 4th Children in India 2025 Report.

Key Highlights of the Report

- ➔ **Infant Mortality Rate:** Fell from 44 (2011) to 25 (2023).
- ➔ **Under-Five Mortality Rate:** Declined from 30 (2022) to 29 (2023).
- ➔ **Birth Rate:** Down to 18.4 per 1,000 (Rural: 20.3; Urban: 14.9).

- ➔ **School Dropout Rates:** Major decline — Preparatory (8.7%→2.3%), Middle (8.1%→3.5%), Secondary (13.8%→8.2%).
- ➔ **Child Marriage:** Reduced to 23.3% (2019–21) from 26.8% (2015–16).
- ➔ **Adoptions:** Rose from 3,927 (2017–18) to 4,515 (2024–25).
- ➔ **Gender Parity Index:** Achieved parity across all education levels in 2024–25.

6.3.3. Who Global Report On Trends In Prevalence Of Tobacco Use 2000–2024

Key Highlights

- ➔ **Global Trend:** Tobacco use among adults fell from 26.2% (2010) to 19.5% (2024), yet 1 in 5 adults still use tobacco.
- ➔ **E-Cigarettes:** Over 100 million global users.
- ➔ **India's Status (2024):** Around 243.48 million tobacco users (15+).
- ➔ **Progress:** India projected a **43% reduction** in tobacco use (2010–2025), surpassing the **WHO target of 30%**.
- ➔ **Key Measures:**
 - ➔ **Cigarettes & Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003:** Bans smoking in public and sales to minors.
 - ➔ **Labelling Rules, 2022:** Mandated pictorial health warnings.
 - ➔ **National Tobacco Control Programme:** It promotes awareness and control.
 - ➔ **E-Cigarette Ban, 2019.**

About Tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*)

- ➔ **Origin:** Native to South America.

- ➔ **Climatic Conditions:** Requires a frost-free period of 90-120 days, ideal temperature range of 20°C-30°C, at least 500 mm rainfall, and well-drained sandy loam or alluvial soils.
- ➔ **India's Status:** Second-largest producer after China and second-largest exporter after Brazil.
- ➔ **Major Producing States:** Gujarat (30% share), Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.

6.3.4. Swachh Shehar Jodi

The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has launched the Swachh Shehar Jodi (SSJ) initiative.

About SSJ initiative

- ➔ Implemented under **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U)**.
- ➔ A **mentorship program** with **72 mentor cities** guiding **~200 mentee cities**.
- ➔ Enables mentee cities to **learn and replicate best sanitation and waste management practices**.
- ➔ **Aim:** Promote **knowledge sharing, peer learning**, and **scaling up successful urban sanitation models** across India.

"You are as strong as your Foundation"

FOUNDATION COURSE

GENERAL STUDIES

PRELIMS CUM MAINS

- ▶ Includes comprehensive coverage of all topics for all the four papers of GS Mains, GS Prelims, CSAT and Essay
- ▶ Include All India GS Mains, Prelims, CSAT and Essay Test Series
- ▶ Comprehensive Current Affairs classes : Monthly Current Affairs classes (MCAR), Mains 365 & PT365
- ▶ Access to Sandhan Personalized Test Series with extensive collection of 25000 plus questions.
- ▶ Personalised Mentors for assessing performance of the students regularly
- ▶ Continuous Assessment: Daily assignment & weekly Mini Tests
- ▶ Access to Live as well as Recorded classes on your personal online Student Platform
- ▶ Includes Comprehensive, relevant and updated Study material
- ▶ Includes Personality Development Programme
- ▶ Duration: 12 months and 15 months (With Pre Foundation Program)
- ▶ Duration of each class: 3-4 hrs, 5-6 days a week (If need arises, classes can be held on Sundays also)



Live - online / Offline Classes

2027, 2028 & 2029

DELHI : 12 NOVEMBER, 8 AM | 25 NOVEMBER, 5 PM

GTB NAGAR : 5 December, 8 AM

BENGALURU: 8 DEC

BHOPAL: 25 NOV

HYDERABAD: 5 NOV

JAIPUR: 21 NOV

JODHPUR: 10 NOV

LUCKNOW: 25 NOV



Scan QR code for
instant personalized
mentoring

*: Pre-foundation classes are designed to provide a strong foundation in core UPSC CSE subjects, utilizing NCERTs and basic textbooks. They serve as the initial step in the comprehensive preparation journey for the UPSC Civil Services Examination by providing conceptual clarity in core GS subjects such as History, Polity, Geography, Economy, and Environment. Further, Pre-Foundation Classes act as a transition platform toward the VisionIAS Regular Foundation Course Program, 2027.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



7.1. Nobel Prize In Physiology Or Medicine 2025

Why in the News?

Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi have been awarded for discoveries in **peripheral immune tolerance**.

- Immune system protects from pathogens, must avoid attacking own cells using **central tolerance** and **peripheral tolerance** to achieve this.

Central Tolerance

- In **thymus**: Produces and trains T cells, removes **self-reactive T cells**.
- Imperfect process**: Some self-reactive T cells **escape to periphery**.

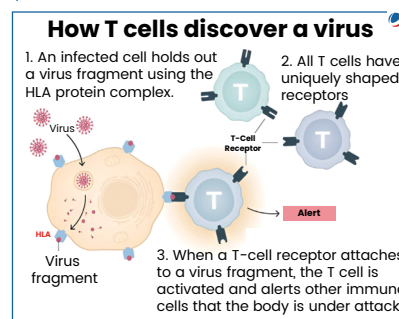
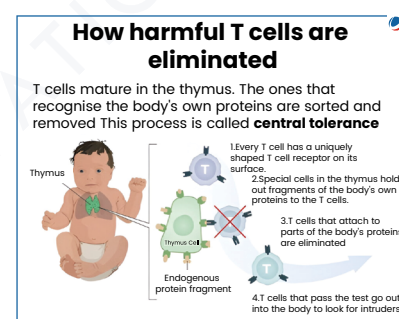
Peripheral Tolerance

- Regulatory T cells or Treg cells** (Sakaguchi) patrol & suppress escaped self-reactive T cells; **security guard**.

Role of FOXP3 Gene

- Discovered by Brunkow & Ramsdell; **controls Treg development**.
- Mutation in FOXP3 gene**, T cells don't perform properly, causing **rare autoimmune disease (IPEX)**.

Significance: Autoimmune diseases, preventing organ transplant rejection, Type 1 diabetes, Asthma, Skin related diseases, etc.



T cells

- Type of white blood cell that protects our body from infections.
- Two types of T cells: Cytotoxic** (Kill infected/tumor cells), **Helper** (Coordinate immune response).
- Regulatory T cells:** Suppress overactive immunity.
- All T cells possess **T-cell receptors (TCRs)** – sensors for threats.

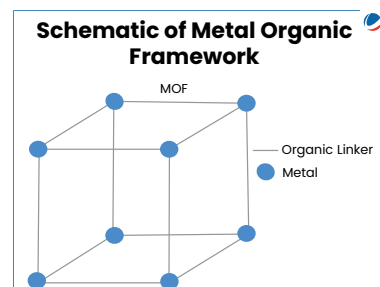
7.2. Nobel Prize In Chemistry 2025

Why in the News?

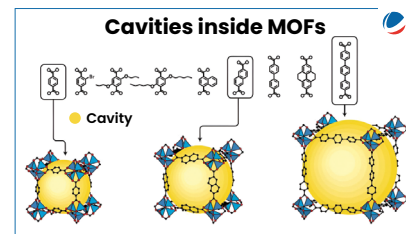
Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson & Omar M. Yaghi awarded for **metal-organic frameworks (MOFs)**.

What is MOF?

- Structure:** Metal ions (joints or connecting points) & organic molecules (links or bridges) form **1D, 2D or porous 3D network with cavities**; Cavities makes material **highly porous**.
 - Example-** Metals are like *bricks* in a wall and organic molecules are like *pillars* which connect one brick to another.



- ◆ When *bricks* and *pillars* are arranged periodically they form spacious molecular rooms.
- ◆ Size and shape of these molecular rooms can be changed by changing bricks (metals) and pillars (organic molecules).



Origin: Inspired by diamond's tetrahedral carbon network.

Key Features: Highly porous, absorbent; act as molecular storehouses for gases/liquids.

Applications: Water Harvesting, food preservation, pollution control, rare-earth recovery & gas storage.

7.3. Nobel Prize In Physics 2025

Why in the News?

John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret and John M. Martinis awarded for discovery of macroscopic quantum tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit.

Background

- ➔ **Quantum physics** explains behaviour of microscopic particles (atoms, electrons) **showing wave-particle duality**.
- ➔ Leads to effects like **energy quantisation** and **quantum tunnelling**, normally absent in macroscopic objects.
- ➔ The 2025 Nobel recognises experiments proving quantum effects in **macroscopic circuits** with many particles.

Quantisation of Energy

- ➔ Particles **absorb/ emit energy in discrete quanta**, like standing only on fixed rungs of a ladder.
- ➔ **Atoms, electrons, and protons** occupy **specific energy levels**, not in-between known as **energy quantisation**.

Quantum Tunnelling

- ➔ Unlike classical objects bouncing back from barriers, quantum particles have a **finite probability** of passing through them.
- ➔ Seen in **radioactive decay** (e.g., alpha decay), Traditionally considered microscopic.

About the Experiment and Result

- ➔ In 1984–85, Clarke, Devoret & Martinis built a **Josephson Junction** (superconductors + insulator).
- ➔ Circuit unexpectedly shifted from **zero to finite voltage** due to **quantum tunnelling**.
- ➔ Charged particles behaved as **one collective quantum particle**.
- ➔ Demonstrated **energy quantisation** in a macroscopic electric circuit.

Significance: Proved **macroscopic quantum states**, **Josephson Junction** acts as an **artificial atom**, enabling quantum simulations, foundation for **superconducting qubits**, etc.

Conclusion

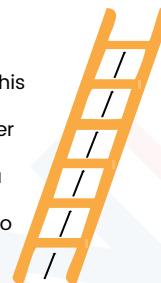
Quantum behavior, once thought limited to microscopic scales, now underpins modern technologies and continues to reshape our understanding of nature.

Quantum Echoes Algorithm

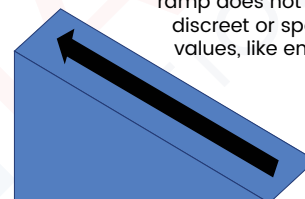
- ➔ Google Quantum AI demonstrated **Quantum Echoes** on the **105-qubit Willow processor**, claiming first **verifiable quantum advantage**; **Performance: ~13,000× faster** than top classical algorithms.
- ➔ **Works like an advanced quantum "echo"; Application:** Medicine, material science, scalable quantum computing.

Quantisation of Energy

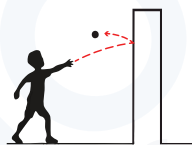
Energy is quantized or restricted to specific levels. This is like how climbing a ladder must be done using rungs. You cannot step between rungs to climb.



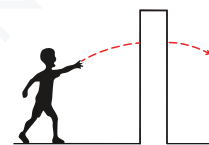
Energy is not continuous. Climbing this ramp, you can stop at any point. A ramp does not have discrete or specific values, like energy.



Quantum Tunnelling



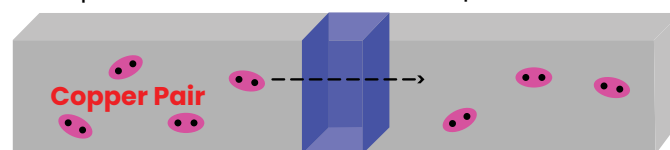
When you throw a ball at a wall, you can be sure it will bounce back at you.



You would be extremely surprised if the ball suddenly appeared on the other side of the wall. In quantum mechanics this type of phenomenon is called tunnelling and is exactly the type of phenomenon that has given it a reputation for being bizarre and unintuitive.

Josephson Junction

Superconductor Insulator Superconductor



7.4. Astrosat

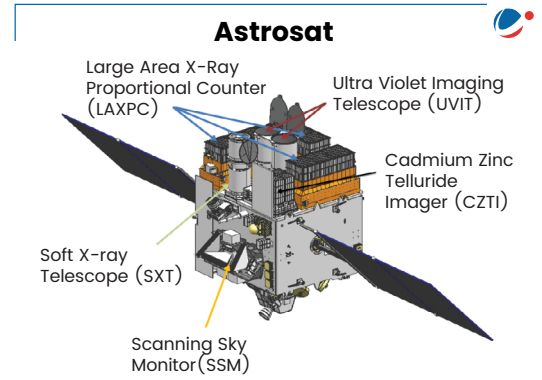
Why in the News?

India's first dedicated space observatory, AstroSat, has completed 10 years since its launch.

About Astrosat

- ➔ **Objective:** India's first multi-wavelength astronomy mission studying celestial objects in **X-ray, UV, and optical** bands simultaneously.
- ➔ **Orbit:** Low Earth orbit at **650 km**; designed for **5-year** life.
- ➔ **Spectral Range:** **0.3 - 100 keV**, covering near/ far UV and **high-energy sources**.

Scientific Objectives: Study **High-Energy** processes in systems with **neutron stars/black holes**, **estimate** magnetic fields of neutron stars, explore **star-forming regions** and extra-galactic star systems, etc.



Other Indian Observatories

- ➔ **XPoSat:** ISRO's dedicated X-ray polarimetry satellite.
- ➔ **Aditya-L1:** India's first solar mission at **L1**.
- ➔ **IAO, Hanle (Ladakh):** Optical/IR/gamma-ray facilities..
- ➔ **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (TN):** Long-term solar observations.

Significance for India: Strengthened multi-wavelength astronomy, demonstrated strong indigenous space-science capability, astrophysics research, international collaboration.

Conclusion

AstroSat remains a landmark in India's space-science journey, advancing astronomy and national self-reliance.

7.5. Non-Communicable Diseases

Why in the News?

India's Disease Burden has shifted to NCDs according to Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Report.

- ➔ Report by **Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)** at **World Health Summit, Berlin**.

Findings:

- ➔ **NCDs are largest global disease burden:** 1.80 billion global DALYs (Disability-Adjusted Life Years) in 2023, an increase from 1.45 billion in 2010; **nearly two-thirds of global DALYs**.
- ➔ **Leading Causes:** Ischaemic heart disease, stroke and diabetes; **Fastest rising:** Anxiety, depression, diabetes.

Causes of Rising NCD Burden

- ➔ **Epidemiological transition:** Urbanisation, ageing & shift to lifestyle diseases.
- ➔ **Unhealthy Lifestyle:** Processed foods, physical inactivity, tobacco/alcohol use.
- ➔ **Environmental Risk Factors:** High **air pollution** causing cardio-respiratory illnesses.
- ➔ **Biological Risks:** Obesity, high BP, **Hereditary predisposition**.
- ➔ **Psychosocial stress:** Urban pressures, social media-driven behavior **e.g. FOMO Culture (Social Media)**.
- ➔ **Socioeconomic Factors:** Inequality, migration, low awareness. E.g. **tobacco use is normal in rural areas**.

Impact: Leading Cause of Death, premature mortality (30-70 years), long-term morbidity, disability, and reduced quality of life, economic loss, strain on health system and slowdown in SDG progress.

Government steps

- ➔ **National Program for Prevention and Control of NCDs (NP-NCD)** for early diagnosis, and awareness.
- ➔ **Community Screening** for **diabetes, hypertension, and cancers**.

Know the term

- **Disability-adjusted life years (DALYs):** It is a measure of the overall burden of disease that combines years of life lost due to premature mortality (YLLs) and years lived in a state of less than full health due to disability (YLDs)

- ➔ NCD Clinics & Cardiac Care Units at district/CHC levels.
- ➔ **Lifestyle Campaigns:** Eat Right India, Fit India, Yoga.
- ➔ **Sin tax** on sugary drinks (**40% Tax Slab**), tobacco control via **National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP)**.
- ➔ **National Program for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Stroke (NPCDCS):** To combat NCDs (2010).

Way Forward

- ➔ **Promote healthy behaviour:** Diet, exercise, tobacco/alcohol reduction.
- ➔ **Digital Health** for remote monitoring and teleconsultation; Early Screening for adults.
- ➔ Fiscal measures to reduce risk factors (tobacco, salt, sugar).
- ➔ Ensure sustainable financing aligned with **SDG 3.4** (one-third reduction in premature NCD deaths by 2030).

7.6. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Why in the News?

WHO released the **Global Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance Report 2025**.

Key Findings

- ➔ **Antibiotic Resistance:** In 2023, 1 in 6 infections globally was **antibiotic-resistant**.
- ➔ **Resistance** increased in **40%** of tracked bacteria–drug pairs (2018–23).
- ➔ **Gram-negative bacteria** (e.g., *E. coli*) pose the highest threat.
 - ➔ **Regional Hotspots:** Highest AMR in **Southeast Asia** and **Eastern Mediterranean**.
 - ➔ **India:** 41% of global bloodstream infection reports came from China, India, and Pakistan.
- ➔ **Surveillance:** Participation in **WHO's Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS)** increased **four-fold** since 2016.
 - ➔ **GLAAS (2015):** Designed to monitor antimicrobial resistance and support appropriate use of antibiotics.

WHO Access, Watch, Reserve (AWaRe) classification of antibiotics



Access

- Work against a wide range of **commonly encountered susceptible pathogens**
- Comparatively **lower resistance potential**
- E.g., Amikacin, Doxycycline



Watch

- **Highest priority agents** among Critically Important Antimicrobials
- **Relatively high risk** of selection of bacterial resistance
- E.g., Cefbuperazone, Levofloxacin



Reserve

- To be treated as **"last resort" options**
- **Reserved for treatment** of confirmed/suspected infections due to **multi-drug-resistant organisms**.
- E.g., Telavancin, Colistin_IV

What is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)?

- ➔ **Bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites** evolve to **withstand drugs; designed to kill them**; highly resistant strains are **superbugs**.
- ➔ Leads to ineffective treatments and harder-to-control infections (e.g., **MDR-TB**).
- ➔ AMR develops naturally but accelerates due to human actions.
- ➔ Recognized by WHO as a **top 10 global health threat** and a **silent pandemic**.

Key Drivers of AMR

- ➔ **Human Misuse:** Self-prescription, overuse (OTC availability).
- ➔ **Pharma Waste:** API manufacturing effluents.
- ➔ **Poor Waste Management:** Landfill leachate, untreated wastewater, etc.
- ➔ **Agriculture:** Antimicrobials as growth promoters in livestock/farming.
- ➔ **Healthcare:** Improper disposal of unused/expired drugs, patient excretion.
- ➔ **Other:** Premature treatment discontinuation.

Measures Taken

National

- ➔ **National Program on AMR containment (2012–17)** by NCDC
- ➔ **National Action Plan on AMR (2017): One Health approach.**
- ➔ **Schedule HI:** Antibiotics only with prescription.
- ➔ **Red Line campaign:** Discourages misuse.
- ➔ State initiatives like **Kerala's Operation AMRITH**.

Global

- ➔ **Global Action Plan (2015)** by WHO.
- ➔ **Quadripartite Secretariat (WHO, FAO, UNEP, and World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)).**
- ➔ **United Nations General Assembly Political Declaration on AMR (2024):** It aims to reduce deaths associated with **bacterial AMR** by at least 10% and ensure that at least 70% of overall human antibiotic use is from the WHO AWaRe Access group.
- ➔ **Other:** World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW), AWaRe (Access, Watch, Reserve) classification of antibiotics (by WHO), etc.

Why AMR is a Global Threat?

- ➔ **Mortality and Morbidity:** 1.27 million deaths directly.
- ➔ **Economic Impact:** Could cause \$3 trillion/ year GDP loss by 2030.
- ➔ **Other:** Makes surgeries and treatments risky; affects **food security** through livestock and crop infections.

Way Forward

- ➔ **Implement packages: IPC, WASH, vaccination, stewardship, labs.**
 - ➔ **Antimicrobial stewardship** aims to educate and support **healthcare professionals** to follow **evidence-based guidelines** for prescribing and administering antimicrobials.
- ➔ Enforce **prescription-only** antibiotic sales.
- ➔ Control antibiotic use in **agriculture & veterinary** sectors.

Conclusion

AMR threatens global health and food security. A coordinated **One Health** strategy, rational antibiotic use, and stronger surveillance are essential to protect current and future generations.

7.7. News in Shorts

7.7.1. Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project

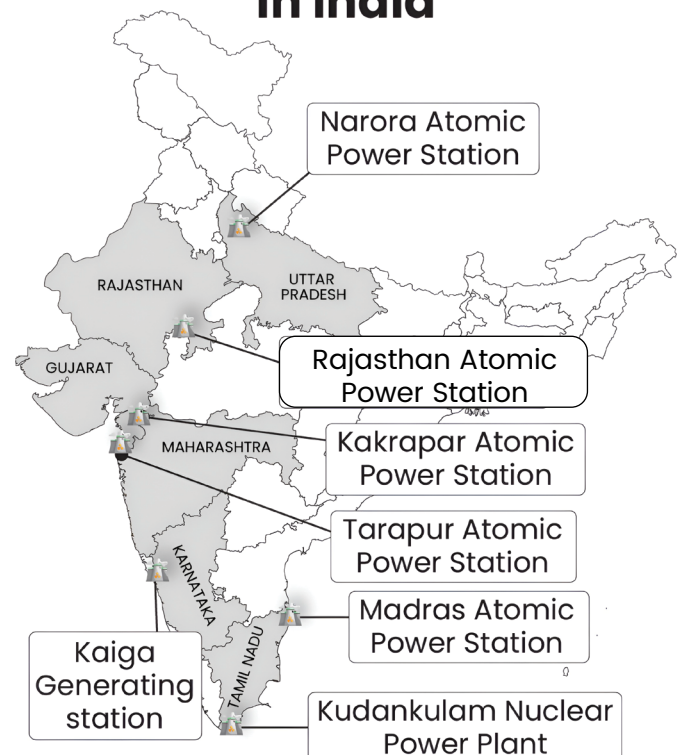
PM laid foundation of Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Projects.

- ➔ **Location:** Banswara, Rajasthan near the Mahi Dam on River Mahi.
- ➔ **Developer:** **Anushakti Vidhyut Nigam (ASHVINI)**, a joint venture between Nuclear Power Corporation India Limited (NPCIL) and National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC).
- ➔ **Fleet mode initiative:** One of ten identical 700 MW reactors being built with standardised design and procurement.

Nuclear Power Capacity in India

- ➔ India has **24 reactors in 7 plants** with **8180 MW capacity (Jan 2025); target 22,480 MW by 2031-32.**
- ➔ **Nuclear power** contributed **3.61%** of electricity generation in 2022-23; 5th-largest non-fossil source.
- ➔ India is in **stage 1** of its **3-stage Nuclear Power Programme (NPP)** - Uranium-based PHWRs (Stage 1), Fast Breeder Reactors (plutonium-based, Stage 2) & Thorium-based reactors (Stage 3).

Nuclear Power Plants in India



7.7.2. Launch Of First Fully Indigenous 4g (5g-Ready) Network

India's first fully indigenous 4G (5G-ready) network has been **deployed by BSNL**, developed by C-DOT, Tejas and TCS.

- ➔ It enables faster development of 5G and forms the base for future 6G.
- ➔ 5G and 6G Technologies in India
- ➔ **5G Launched:** 2022; Available across all states, UTs, and most districts in India.
- ➔ **6G:** Currently under development and expected by 2030, **supported by initiatives** like Bharat 6G Vision, 100 5G labs in academic institutions, and the Bharat 6G Alliance.

Significance of indigenous 4G Stack

- ➔ **Strategic Autonomy:** Reduces dependence on foreign vendors and strengthens national security.
- ➔ **Cloud native:** Enables rapid upgrades, scalability and easier migration to 5G.
- ➔ **Accessibility:** Improves digital services in tribal, remote, and hilly regions.
- ➔ **Supply Chain Boost:** Promotes local manufacturing, jobs, and skilled workforce
- ➔ **Technological Capability:** Places India among the few nations able to deploy fully indigenous 4G.

7.7.3. Guidelines And Special Purpose Fund (Spf) For Research Development And Innovation (RDI) Scheme Approved

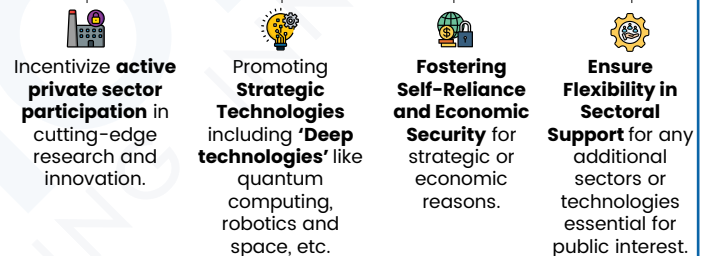
Approved by **Executive Council** of the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** to enable smooth scheme execution, effective private sector participation and long term innovation.

- ➔ ANRF established under **ANRF Act, 2023**, is an **apex body** guiding national scientific research.
- ➔ **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)** have been merged into **ANRF**.

RDI Scheme

- ➔ **About:** Establishes **₹1 Lakh crore RDI Fund; Department of Science & Technology (DST)**.
- ➔ **Funding Structure:** Special Purpose Fund (SPF) and second-Level Fund Managers (SLFMs) via AIFs, DFIs, NBFCs, etc.
- ➔ **Exclusions:** No **Grants and short-term loans**.
- ➔ **Coverage:** Up to **50% financing** for transformative RDI projects at Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) 4 and above.

Key Objectives of the RDI Scheme



NEWS TODAY


A **daily current affairs bulletin** that simplifies newspaper reading and keeps you updated with daily events.



Daily 4 pages bulletin to simplify newspaper reading.



Segments: Primary News of the Day Also in News and Special Focus on Personalities/Places in News

Watch
News Today video bulletin everyday at 9 PM.



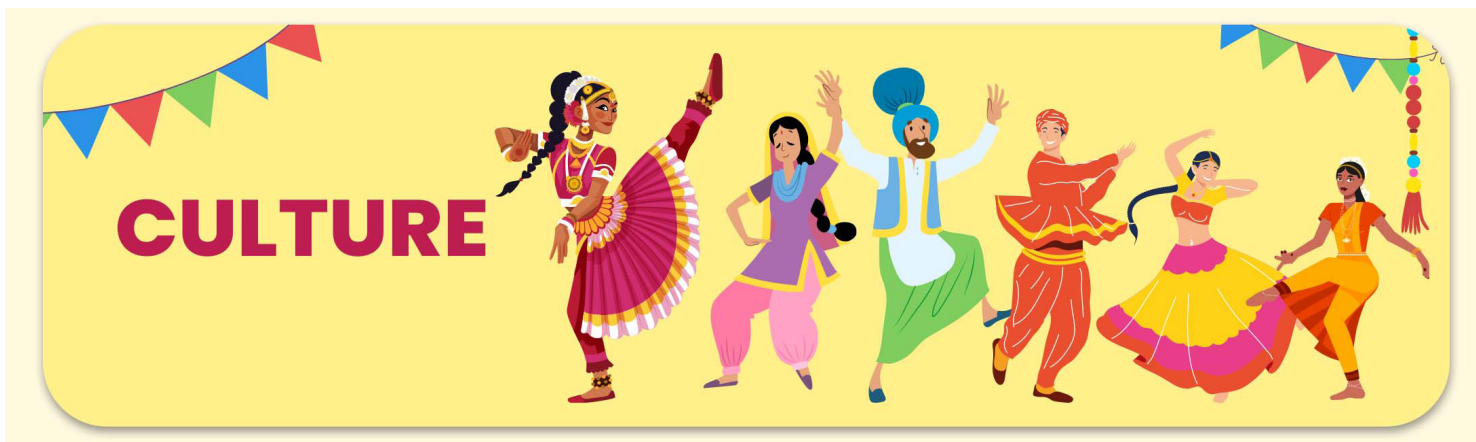
Covers multiple sources such as The Hindu, Indian Express, PIB, the Mint, Economic Times etc.



Covers recent developments and helps to understand the terms, complex phenomenon in news.




Scan to **download** to Pdf



8.1. Sree Narayana Guru

Why in the News?

President inaugurated **Mahasamadhi centenary** observance in Kerala.

About Sree Narayana Guru (1856–1928)

➤ **Born:** Chempazhanthy (near Thiruvananthapuram) in Ezhava (**backward untouchable**) family facing caste injustice; known as **Gurudevan**.

Key Contributions

- **Teachings: One caste, One Religion, One God for all human beings.**
 - ➔ **Liberation** via **knowledge, compassion, education** as panacea for all social evils like superstitions.
 - ◊ Advocated equal opportunity for women; founded schools across Kerala.
 - ➔ **Advaita Ashram, Aluva** (1913): Dedicated to Om Sahodaryam Sarvatra (all equal before God).
- **Contributions:**
 - ➔ **Temple Entry: Aruvipuram movement (1888)** – Consecrated Sivalinga, broke caste barriers in worship.
 - ➔ **Ezhava upliftment:** Founded **Sri Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam** (1903) for self-respect, **reinterpret Hindu religion, protest Brahminical** hierarchy; created **parallel** institutions (priest, monks).
 - ➔ **Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–25):** Supported **non-violent temple entry** protest against untouchability; led by **T.K. Madhavan, K.P. Kesava Menon and K. Kelappan**.
- **Works:** Anukamba Dasakam, Atmopadesa Satakam, etc.

Conclusion

Symbol of **social equality, spiritual enlightenment, and human dignity**; challenged **caste hierarchies** and **inspired justice and harmony**.

8.2. News in Shorts

8.2.1. Vande Mataram

Union Cabinet announced nationwide celebration **150th anniversary** celebration of the national song.

About Vande Mataram

- **Composed:** In **sanskrit** by **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee**; **Published:** in Anandamath (1882).
- **Jan 24, 1950:** Declared equal status with **National Anthem** (Tagore's Bengali composition adopted in Hindi).
- **Theme: Tribute to Mother India**, inspires devotion, courage, unity; **First recited:** By **Tagore** at 1896 INC session.

8.2.2. Bamiyan Buddhas

Bamiyan Buddhas statues in news recently.

About Bamiyan Buddhas statues

- **Location:** sandstone cliffs, Bamiyan valley, central Afghanistan; 6th century; **Destruction:** By Taliban in 2001.
- **Artistic Significance:** Exemplified Gandharan Buddhist art, linked to Central Asian spread.
- **UNESCO Recognition:** Valley as World Heritage Site (2003).

8.2.3. Bathukamma Festival

Celebrations in **Telangana** create 2 Guinness World Records.

About Bathukamma Festival

- **Floral festival** by **Telangana/AP women**; **9 days** during **Durga Navratri**; Declared **Telangana State Festival**.
- **Meaning:** Come back to life-Mother; dedicated to **Goddess Parvati**.

8.2.4. Nobel Peace Prize 2025

Nobel Peace Prize for 2025 awarded to **Maria Corina Machado** for her struggle for just, **peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy** in **Venezuela**.

Nobel Peace Prize

- Since WW-II (started 1901): Honour efforts in **arms control/ disarmament, peace negotiation, democracy/ human rights and better organized/ peaceful world**.
- **Indian winners:** Mother Teresa (1979), Kailash Satyarthi (2014)

Nobel Prize

An **international award** administered by the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden, and based on the last will of **Alfred Nobel (in 1895)**.

Categories	Awarded By
Physics	Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
Chemistry	
Economics	
Literature	Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden
Medicine or Physiology	Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
Peace	Norwegian Nobel Committee

Winners Receive

- A Nobel Diploma (A unique work of Art)
- A Nobel Medal
- A Cash Prize of 10 Million Swedish Kroner

8.2.5. World Para Athletics Championship

India won **22 medals (6 Gold)**; best-ever performance; India first-time host (fourth Asian nation).

About World Para Athletics

- Largest Paralympic sport; first competition: 1952
- Governed by **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)**, includes **Paralympic Games** (every 4 years), **World Para Athletics Championships** (biennially) and **Grand Prix** (annually, since 2013).

फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन

प्रारंभिक एवं मुख्य परीक्षा 2027

इनोवेटिव क्लासरूम प्रोग्राम



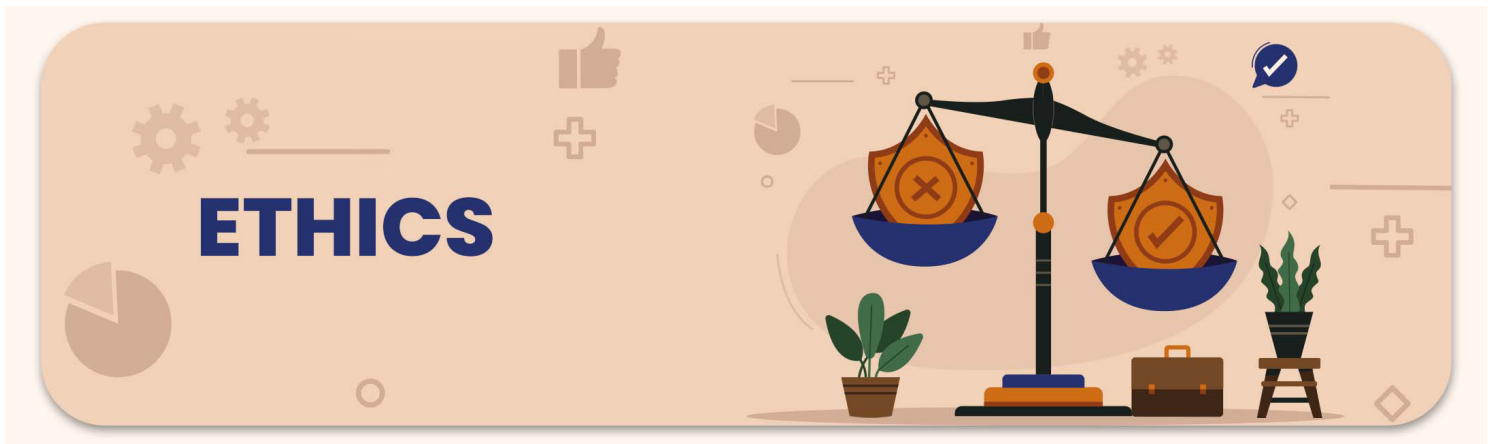
- प्रारंभिक परीक्षा, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक का विस्तृत कवरेज
- मौलिक अवधारणाओं की समझ के विकास एवं विश्लेषणात्मक क्षमता निर्माण पर विशेष ध्यान
- एनीमेशन, पॉवर प्वाइंट, वीडियो जैसी तकनीकी सुविधाओं का प्रयोग
- अंतर - विषयक समझ विकसित करने का प्रयास
- योजनाबद्ध तैयारी हेतु करंट ओरिएंटेड अप्रोच
- नियमित क्लास टेस्ट एवं व्यक्तिगत मूल्यांकन
- प्री फाउंडेशन कक्षाएं
- सीसैट कक्षाएं
- PT 365 कक्षाएं
- MAINS 365 कक्षाएं
- PT टेस्ट सीरीज
- मुख्य परीक्षा टेस्ट सीरीज
- निबंध टेस्ट सीरीज
- सीसैट टेस्ट सीरीज
- निबंध लेखन - शैली की कक्षाएं
- करंट अफेयर्स मैगजीन

नोट: ऑनलाइन छात्र हमारे पाठ्यक्रम की लाइव वीडियो कक्षाएं अपने घर पर ऑनलाइन प्लेटफॉर्म पर देख सकते हैं। छात्र लाइव चैट विकल्प के माध्यम से कक्षा के दौरान अपने संदेह और विषय संबंधी प्रश्न पूछ सकते हैं। वे अपने संदेह और प्रश्न नोट भी कर सकते हैं और दिल्ली केंद्र में हमारे कक्षा सलाहकार को बता सकते हैं और हम फोन/मेल के माध्यम से प्रश्नों का उत्तर देंगे।

DELHI : 25 नवंबर, 11 AM

JAIPUR : 7 नवंबर

JODHPUR : 10 नवंबर



9.1. Inclusive Growth

Introduction

Despite poverty reduction to 2.3% and lower **consumption inequality Gini coefficient of 25.5** (World Bank), India's **income Gini coefficient of 61** (World Inequality Database) reveals persistent disparities, highlighting the need for inclusive growth.

Key Ethical Principles underlying Inclusive Growth

- **Gandhian Ethics**
 - ➔ **Trusteeship Theory:** Wealth as a social trust; surplus for community welfare.
 - ➔ **Talisman:** Judge Actions by their impact on the poorest.
 - ➔ **Sarvodaya:** Development must uplift all.
- **Kant's Categorical Imperative:** Excluding the marginalised fails the moral test of universal fairness.
- **Rawls' Difference Principle:** Inequalities are justifiable only if they benefit the least advantaged (e.g., **progressive taxation, CSR**).
- **Constitutional Morality:** Upholds **justice, equality, and dignity** beyond the text of the Constitution.
- **Religious Ethics:**
 - ➔ **Mahabharata:** Wealth's purpose is to aid the poor.
 - ➔ **Jainism (Aparigraha):** Rejects hoarding, promotes sharing.
 - ➔ **Islam (Zakat):** Mandatory charity ensures redistribution.
 - ➔ **Stewardship Principle:** Wealth as divine trust, to serve all.

Key Stakeholders and their role

- **Government:** Serve constitutional duty (e.g. DPSPs) and fulfill policy role (e.g. progressive taxation).
- **International Institutions (UNDP, World Bank, etc.):** Reducing global inequalities (North vs. South).
- **Civil Society:** Acting as moral voice and playing advocacy role.
- **Corporates / Private Players:** Shareholder perspective, Stakeholders' perspective.

Way to Inclusive Growth

- Accountability and transparency in governance: E.g. CPGRAMS.
- Adopting the capability approach of Amartya Sen.
- Promote Ethical Corporate Practices. E.g. CSR
- Sustainable Development (e.g. Mission LIFE) & Inculcating inclusive values (e.g. National Education Policy, 2020).

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES



10.1. MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act)

Why in News?

Centre amended **Schedule-I**, prioritising water conservation in rural blocks.

Objectives

- ➔ Guarantee **atleast 100 days unskilled work/year** to rural households on demand.
- ➔ Strengthen poor's livelihood base, social inclusion, Panchayati Raj.

Salient Features of the Scheme

Major Amendments

- ➔ **Priority:** 'Over-exploited', 'Critical', 'Semi-critical', and 'Safe' blocks.
- ➔ **Minimum water-works share:** 65% (Over-exploited/Critical), 40% (Semi-critical) and 30% (Safe).
- ➔ **Categorisation per CGWB** Dynamic Ground Water Report.

Stage of Ground Water Extraction	Category
≤ 70%	Safe
> 70% and ≤ 90%	Semi-Critical
> 90% and ≤ 100%	Critical
> 100%	Over Exploited

About MGNREGA

- ➔ **Launched:** 2005, Centrally Sponsored (**60:40**); **Ministry:** Rural Development.
- ➔ **Beneficiaries:** >18 yrs rural households, ≥1/3 women beneficiaries; **Coverage:** All except 100% urban districts.
- ➔ **Monitoring:** Gram Sabha Social Audit; **Wages:** CPI-AL base; States may exceed Centre's rate.
- ➔ **Extra 50 days:** Drought/calamity areas; ST forest households (FRA rights only).
- ➔ **Unemployment allowance in 15 days; Delay compensation: 0.05%/day post 15 days.**
- ➔ **Vulnerable Groups:** PwD, PTG, nomads, de-notified tribes, special women, >65 yrs, HIV+, IDPs, bonded labour.
- ➔ **GeoNREGA:** Asset geotagging (before/during/after); **UNNATI:** Skill upgrade for full employment.

Achievements: World's largest welfare scheme; Women's participation: **48% (2014) to 58% (2025).**



A.I.T.S
 ALL INDIA GS PRELIMS TEST SERIES 2025

2026

ENGLISH MEDIUM
23 NOVEMBER

हिन्दी माध्यम
23 नवंबर

HINDI & ENGLISH MEDIUM

"Personalise Your **UPSC** Prelims Preparation"



Topics	Key facts/Data
Prison Reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prisons/ Persons detained are a State subject (Entry 4, Schedule VII); States/UTs handle their administration. ➤ The Home Ministry provides guidance and support on prison matters. ➤ Earlier governed by the Prison Act, 1894 and State manuals. ➤ The Model Prisons Act, 2023 serves as a reform guide, merging the Prisoners Act, 1900 and Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1950.
CRIME IN INDIA REPORT: 2023	<p>Key Highlights of the report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overall Crime: Cognizable crimes rose by 7.2% over 2022 – roughly one crime every 5 seconds. ➤ Cybercrime: Cases increased 31.2%, mainly due to fraud and sexual exploitation. ➤ Crimes Against STs: Up by 28.8%, largely linked to Manipur ethnic violence. ➤ Crimes Against Children: Grew by 9.2%; mostly kidnapping/abduction and POCSO cases. ➤ Crimes Against Women: Recorded a slight rise of 0.7% over 2022.
ACCIDENTAL DEATHS & SUICIDES IN INDIA 2023 REPORT	<p>Key Highlights of Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Suicides: Increased by 0.3% in 2023 over 2022, though suicide rate fell by 0.8%. ➤ Highest Suicide Rates: A&N Islands > Sikkim > Kerala; cities recorded higher rates than the national average. ➤ Top States (Share of Suicides): Maharashtra > Tamil Nadu > Madhya Pradesh > Karnataka > West Bengal. ➤ Gender Ratio: Male: Female = 72.8: 27.2.
Postal Ballot	<p>Eligible Voters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Service Voters: Armed forces, central armed police forces, and government staff posted abroad. ➤ Special Voters: President, Vice President, Governors, Ministers, senior dignitaries, and their spouses. ➤ Absentee Voters: Persons above 85 years, those with disabilities, preventive detainees, and election duty personnel.
Regulation of India's Pharmaceutical Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 & Rules, 1945: Regulate import, manufacture, sale, and distribution of drugs; ensure quality, safety, and efficacy. ➤ State Drug Regulators: Grant licenses, inspect facilities, and enforce compliance at the state level. ➤ CDSCO (Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation): India's National Regulatory Authority under the Health Ministry; approves drugs, oversees clinical trials, sets drug standards, and monitors import quality. ➤ NPPA (National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority): Enforces Drug Prices Control Order to regulate prices. ➤ Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP): Schedule M mandates GMP in line with WHO standards.

India-ASEAN Relationship	Key Highlights of the Summit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Summit Highlights: Timor-Leste became ASEAN's 11th member; theme was Inclusivity and Sustainability; Kuala Lumpur Accord secured a Thailand-Cambodia ceasefire. ➤ 22nd ASEAN-India Summit (held on sidelines): 2026 declared "Year of Maritime Cooperation"; Joint Statement on Sustainable Tourism adopted; support extended for ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2026-2030).
India-United Kingdom	Key highlights of the India-UK Joint Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Technology: Advances in AI, telecom, health tech, and critical minerals; new AI centres and expanded Critical Minerals Observatory at IIT-ISM Dhanbad. ➤ Trade & Investment: Joint Economic and Trade Committee to reset to strengthen Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. ➤ Defence: Maritime security cooperation and Regional Maritime Security Centre under Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. ➤ Education: Migration Partnership reaffirmed; UK universities to open GIFT City campuses. ➤ Climate & Energy: Joint Climate Tech Fund; collaboration via Offshore Wind Taskforce and Global Clean Power Alliance (GCPA).
Multidimensional Poverty	Key Highlights of Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Global Poverty: 1.1 billion people (18.3%) across 109 countries live in acute multidimensional poverty. ➤ Children Affected: 27.8% of children live in multidimensional poverty, double the adult rate (13.5%). ➤ Poverty-Climate Link: 887 million poor people face direct exposure to climate hazards like heat, floods, drought, and air pollution. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ 309 million experience multiple overlapping hazards, with limited protection and assets.
WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies	Key Provisions of the Agreement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT): Developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are granted a two-year transition period. ➤ WTO Voluntary Fish Fund: To support developing and least-developed countries (LDCs). ➤ Transparency obligations: Members to notify WTO about subsidies, stock. ➤ High Seas Fishing: The Agreement also prohibits providing subsidies for fishing on high seas.
Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2023-24	Key Findings from the ASI 2023-24 Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gross Value Added (GVA): Increased by 11.89% at current prices from the previous year. Top States: Maharashtra (16%), Gujarat, Tamil Nadu. ➤ Industrial Output: Grew by 5.80% over the previous year. ➤ Employment Growth: The industrial sector added over 5.7 million jobs during the last decade. Top States: Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra.
SWAMIH Fund	About SWAMIH, 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is a Category II AIF. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ SEBI regulates AIF E.g., Venture capital funds (Including Angel Funds) ➤ Objective: Provide priority debt financing for completion of stalled housing projects. ➤ Fund Manager: SBI Ventures Limited.
Engels' Pause	About Engels' Pause <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Describes the Industrial Revolution paradox (1780-1840) – rapid output growth but stagnant real wages. ➤ Raises concern that the AI-driven economy may mirror this pattern, with unequal benefit distribution despite overall growth.
Major and Minor Minerals	About Major and Minor minerals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Under the MMDR Act, 1957, minerals are classified as major or minor. ➤ Major minerals: Include fuel minerals (coal, lignite, petroleum, natural gas) and metallic/non-metallic minerals, including atomic minerals. ➤ Minor minerals: Comprise building materials like marble, slate, shale, etc.; States have the power to frame rules for their regulation.

Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve	About Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ India's first high-altitude cold desert biosphere reserve, from Ladakh to Kinnaur. ➤ Covers Pin Valley National Park, Chandratal and Sarchu and the Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary. ➤ Cold Desert biome, Buddhist culture dominates the region.
Ozone Pollution	About Ozone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ozone (O₃) is a variant of oxygen composed of three oxygen atoms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ In the stratosphere, ozone protects life on Earth from the sun's ultraviolet radiation. ➔ In the troposphere, it is an air pollutant.
New Ramsar Sites in Bihar	About Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adopted in 1971; treaty under UNESCO; India ratified in 1982. ➤ Provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. ➤ Gokul Reservoir and Udaipur Lake in Bihar designated as new Ramsar Sites.
First IUCN Green Status of Species assessment for the Tiger Released	About IUCN Green Status of Species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Launched in 2012, it builds upon IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. ➤ Provides a tool for assessing the recovery of species' populations and conservation impact alongside extinction risk. ➤ Categories: Largely Depleted, Moderately Depleted, Slightly Depleted, Fully Recovered, etc.
Status of Elephants in India: DNA Based Synchronous All India Population Estimation of Elephants (SAIEE) 2021-25	About Asian Elephants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Largest land mammal on Asian continent. ➤ Elephants are organized into complex social structures led by matriarch (female leads group). ➤ Have longest gestation period of any mammal, lasting 22 months. ➤ Endangered (IUCN Red List); Schedule I (WPA, 1972) and appendix I (CITES).
Indian Wolf (Canis lupus pallipes)	About Indian Wolf <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Habitat: Thorn forests, scrublands, arid and semi-arid grassland habitats in India & Pakistan. ➔ Common large carnivores found in the agro-pastoral regions. ➤ Vulnerable (IUCN).
Draft Policy Paper on Camels proposes National Camel Sustainability Initiative (NCSI)	About Camels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Called Ship of the Desert, suited to dryland ecosystems; reared (90%) in Rajasthan and Gujarat. ➤ Camels' humps store fats providing them energy and store water in their blood cells.
India's Dugong Conservation Reserve recognized by IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ About Dugong Conservation Reserve ➤ Established in 2022, by Tamil Nadu government under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. ➤ Home to seagrass meadows, role in carbon sequestration. About Dugong (Sea Cow) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Only marine herbivorous mammals that depend on seagrass. ➤ In India: Palk Bay (highest), Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, etc. ➤ Vulnerable (IUCN) & Schedule I (WPA).
Arabian Sea Mini Warm Pool	About Arabian Sea Mini Warm Pool (MWP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is a small patch of unusually warm sea surface temperatures (SST) in the Arabian Sea. ➤ A warm pool is defined as a body of very warm water, typically with sea surface temperatures exceeding 28.5°C, that plays a significant role in influencing regional climate and weather patterns. ➤ Forms every year during April and May, just before the onset of Monsoon.
State of Social Justice	Key Achievements in social Justice (According to Report) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Extreme poverty fell from 39% (1995) to 10% (2025); working poverty from 28% to 7%. ➤ Social protection now covers over half of the global population. ➤ Gender gap in labour participation narrowed from 26 to 24 percentage points (2005-2025).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inequality between countries declined, driven by higher productivity in middle-income nations. ➤ Child labour reduced from 20.6% (1995) to 7.8% (2024).
Global Hunger Index	<p>About Global Hunger Index (GHI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Index has been released by Irish humanitarian organization 'Concern Worldwide' and German aid agency 'Welthungerhilfe' (with FAO, UNICEF, WHO, IFPRI). ➤ India Findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Ranked 102nd of 123 countries with a GHI score of 25.8 (serious). ➔ 1 in 3 children is stunted; 172 million people are undernourished, up 13.5 million since 2016.
Children In India 2025 Report	<p>Key Highlights of the Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Infant Mortality Rate: Fell from 44 (2011) to 25 (2023). ➤ Under-Five Mortality Rate: Declined from 30 (2022) to 29 (2023). ➤ Birth Rate: Down to 18.4 per 1,000 (Rural: 20.3; Urban: 14.9).
Who Global Report On Trends In Prevalence Of Tobacco Use 2000–2024	<p>Key Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Global Trend: Tobacco use among adults fell from 26.2% (2010) to 19.5% (2024), yet 1 in 5 adults still use tobacco. ➤ E-Cigarettes: Over 100 million global users. ➤ India's Status (2024): Around 243.48 million tobacco users (15+).
Vital Statistics Of India Based On Civil Registration System (CrS) Report (2023) Released	<p>Key highlights of the report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB): 928 females per 1000 males; highest in Arunachal Pradesh (1,085), lowest in Jharkhand (899). ➤ Institutional Births & Deaths: 74.7% births and 24% deaths occurred in institutions. ➤ Births: Registered births fell by 0.9% from 2022; LoR: 98.4%; higher in urban areas. ➤ Deaths: Registered deaths rose by 0.1%; LoR: 97.2%; higher in rural areas.
Nobel Prize In Physiology Or Medicine 2025	<p>About Immune System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It protects the body from harmful pathogens and make sure not to attack its own cells. ➤ Uses two types of tolerance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Central Tolerance: In the thymus, self-reactive T cells are removed which are harmful cells that could attack the body's own proteins. Some escape to periphery. ➔ Peripheral Tolerance: Regulatory T cells identify self-reactive T cells and stop them from attacking our own tissues.
Nobel Prize In Chemistry 2025	<p>About Metal–Organic Framework (MOF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ MOFs are special materials made up of Metal ions (acting as joints/ connecting points) & Organic molecules (acting as links/ bridges), forming network structure with empty spaces or cavities. ➤ These cavities inside the network make the material highly porous, with several applications like in food processing, water conservation, etc.
Nobel Prize In Physics 2025	<p>About Quantum Tunnelling and Energy Quantisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quantisation of Energy: At the microscopic level, particles absorb and emit energy in discrete packets, known as quanta, visualized as climbing a ladder. ➤ Quantum Tunnelling: At microscopic scale, when a particle encounters a barrier, there exists a finite probability that it may pass through the barrier and appear on the other side.
Astrosat	<p>About Astrosat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ India's first dedicated astronomy mission to study celestial objects across multiple wavelengths. ➤ Launched in 2015, aboard PSLV–C30, in low Earth orbit. ➤ Orbit: Placed at 650 km altitude for a minimum lifespan of 5 years.

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD)	Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NCDs remain the largest contributor to global disease burden, accounting for 1.80 billion global DALYs. While Infectious diseases have declined. ➤ Disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) measures overall burden of disease that combines years of life lost due to premature mortality (YLLs) and years lived in a state of less than full health due to disability.
Guidelines And Special Purpose Fund (Spf) For Research Development And Innovation (Rdi) Scheme Approved	About RDI Scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establishes ₹1 Lakh crore RDI Fund in 2025. ➤ Department of Science & Technology (DST) ➤ Excludes grants and short-term loans. ➤ Coverage: Financing can cover up to 50% of assessed project cost for transformative RDI projects at Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) 4 and above.
Sree Narayana Guru	About Sree Narayana Guru (1856–1928) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Launched Aruvipuram movement for equal rights to temple entry. ➤ Established Sri Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam organisation for upliftment of Ezhava community in 1903. ➤ Founded Advaita Ashram at Aluva in 1913. ➤ Support to Vaikom Satyagraha for temple entry (1924–25) in Travancore.
Vande Mataram	About Vande Mataram <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Composed in Sanskrit by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and first published in Anandamath (1882). ➤ It was recited by Rabindranath Tagore in 1896 at the annual session of the Indian National Congress.
Bathukamma Festival	About Bathukamma Festival <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is a floral festival celebrated by the women folk of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. ➤ Bathukamma means “come back to life–Mother” and dedicated to Goddess Parvati. ➤ It is declared as Telangana State Festival.
Nobel Peace Prize	About Nobel Peace Prize <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nobel Peace Prize for 2025 is awarded to Maria Corina Machado for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy’ in Venezuela. ➤ Indian citizen who won Nobel peace prize: Mother Teresa (1979) and Kailash Satyarthi (2014).
World Para Athletics Championship	About World Para Athletics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ India won a record 22 medals including 6 Gold. ➤ 1st held in 1952. ➤ Governed by International Paralympic Committee (IPC). ➤ Includes Paralympic Games (every four years), World Para Athletics Championships (biennially) and World Para Athletics Grand Prix (held annually)

ALL INDIA MAINS TEST SERIES

2026

 ENGLISH MEDIUM
 23 NOVEMBER

 हिन्दी माध्यम
 23 नवंबर

 Scan QR code for
 instant personalized
 mentoring

ACTIVITIES



12.1. MCQS

1. With reference to Prison administration in India, consider the following:

- Prisons are a State subject under the State List.
- The Model Prisons Act, 2023 repeals the Prison Act, 1894.
- The Union Home Ministry directly administers prisons in Union Territories.

Which of the statements are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding Tribal Governance structures:

- PESA Act applies to Fifth Schedule areas.
- Sixth Schedule areas include tribal regions in Assam and Meghalaya.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- None of the above

3. With respect to the eligibility for Postal Ballot under the Representation of People Act, 1951, who is/are considered as Absentee voters?

- Persons above 85 years
- Persons with disabilities
- Election duty staff
- Overseas Indian workers

Choose the correct option given below

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

4. Consider the following statements about the Sevilla Forum on Debt:

- It was launched at UNCTAD16 and led by Spain.
- It aims to close the \$4 trillion annual SDG financing gap.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- None

5. Consider the following statements regarding the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC):

- It was established in 2006, replacing the Commission on Human Rights.
- India was recently elected to the UN Human Rights Council for the seventh time.
- Elected members can serve consecutive three-year terms.

Which statements are correct?

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

6. Consider the following statements regarding India-Russia relations:

- Russia is India's largest crude supplier.
- Russia supports India's bid for UNSC permanent seat.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- None

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2025 Report:

- The report is jointly released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank.
- It measures poverty across three dimensions health, education, and standard of living.
- India has lifted over 400 million people out of multidimensional poverty between 2005–06 and 2019–21.

4. The report identifies climate hazards such as heat and air pollution as major threats to the poor.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

8. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY), consider the following statements:

- The scheme aims to consolidate existing agricultural schemes across various ministries to enhance efficiency and reduce duplication.
- It focuses primarily on large landholding farmers owning more than 5 hectares of land.
- The scheme draws inspiration from NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Programme.
- It provides both financial and institutional support through multi-tier committees from the national to district level.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

9. With reference to the Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) Fund, consider the following statements:

- It is a Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.
- Its primary objective is to provide priority debt financing for completion of stalled housing projects.
- The fund is managed by SBI Capital Ventures Limited.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

10. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Skill Enhancement, Training and Upskilling (PM-SETU) Scheme, consider the following statements:

- It will be implemented by the Ministry of Education.
- The scheme aims to modernise Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) through a hub-and-spoke model.
- It provides for the establishment of Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) with anchor industries for cluster-based management and training.
- It will upgrade select National Skill Training Institutes as Centres of Excellence with global partnerships.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

11. Consider the following statements regarding the UN Convention Against Cybercrime:

- India is one of the signatories.
- It is the first global legally binding cybercrime framework under the UN.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
 (b) 2 only
 (c) Both 1 and 2
 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

12. Consider the following statements with reference to Armed Forces Special Powers Act

- Section 3 empowers the Governor or Centre to declare disturbed areas.
- Section 4 allows arrest without warrant.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
 (b) 2 only
 (c) Both 1 and 2
 (d) Neither

13. With reference to India's progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), consider the following statements:

- East and South Asia have shown the slowest global progress on SDGs since 2015 due to persistent socio-economic challenges.
- Regional disparities in SDG outcomes persist within India, with states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu recording the highest levels of poverty.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
 (b) 2 only
 (c) Both
 (d) None

14. With reference to the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve and UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), consider the following statements:

- The Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve spans regions of Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.
- Once a biosphere reserve is designated by UNESCO under the MAB Programme, it cannot be removed from the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- The Seville Strategy forms the methodological basis for designating sites under the WNBR.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

15. With reference to ground-level ozone (GLO) pollution in India, consider the following statements:

- Ground-level ozone is a primary pollutant directly emitted from combustion sources such as vehicles and industries.

- Delhi–NCR experiences the highest impact of ozone pollution in India, as reported by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- Ground-level ozone is formed due to reactions involving nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the presence of sunlight.
- The permissible one-hour standard for ozone concentration in India is 180 µg/m³.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only two
- Only three
- All four
- Only one

16. The “Vital Statistics of India based on Civil Registration System (CRS) Report 2023” is compiled by which of the following?

- Registrar General of India (RGI), Ministry of Home Affairs
- National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- NITI Aayog
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

17. With reference to the Swachh Shehar Jodi (SSJ) initiative, consider the following statements:

- It has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) under the Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban (SBM-U).
- The initiative pairs mentor and mentee cities to promote knowledge sharing and replication of best sanitation practices.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

18. The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded for which of the following discoveries?

- Higgs Boson decay into photons
- Macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling
- Energy quantisation demonstrated in an electric circuit
- Discovery of graphene’s quantum Hall effect

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

19. With reference to Sree Narayana Guru, consider the following statements:

- The Aruvipuram movement (1888) involved consecration of a Sivalinga to challenge caste-based temple entry restrictions.
- He led Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–25).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- Only 1
- Only 2
- 1 & 2 both
- None

20. With reference to the Bamiyan Buddhas, consider the following statements:

- They were carved into the sandstone cliffs of Bamiyan Valley in central Afghanistan during the 6th century CE.
- The site was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003, before their destruction by the Taliban in 2005.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both
- None

12.2. True/False Statements

- National Crime Records Bureau was established in 1986 on recommendations of the Tandon Committee. (T/F)
- Tele-MANAS is a mental health initiative. (T/F)
- The 47th ASEAN Summit admitted Timor–Leste as the 11th member. (T/F)
- India was elected unopposed to the UN Human Rights Council for the first time. (T/F)
- West Bank is the area landlocked between Jordan and Israel. (T/F)
- Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR) is the average interest rate at which banks lend and borrow money from each other overnight. (T/F)
- ‘We Rise’ Initiative has been launched by the NITI Aayog to help women entrepreneurs. (T/F)
- The World Economic Outlook (WEO) is published twice a year by the World Bank and provides analysis and projections of the global economy. (T/F)
- Exercise Pacific Reach is India–Japan bilateral naval exercise. (T/F)
- Samudra Shakti is a bilateral maritime exercise between India–Indonesia. (T/F)
- SAKSHAM (Situational Awareness for Kinetic Soft and Hard Kill Assets Management) Detects, tracks, identifies and neutralises hostile drones/UAS in real time. (T/F)
- NATPOLREX is an annual pollution response exercise conducted by the Indian Coast Guard to strengthen preparedness for marine oil spill incidents. (T/F)
- Sloth Bears are categorized as Endangered under the IUCN Red List and are listed under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. (T/F)
- Camels store water in their humps, which helps them survive long periods without drinking in desert ecosystems. (T/F)

15. Global Hunger Index (GHI) is released by Irish humanitarian organization 'Concern Worldwide' and German aid agency 'Welthungerhilfe'. (T/F)
16. Tobacco requires a frost-free period of 90-120 days, ideal temperature range of 20°C-30°C, at least 500 mm rainfall, and well-drained sandy loam or alluvial soils. (T/F)
17. Gram-negative bacteria pose a severe threat because they are hard to kill and resistant to multiple drugs. (T/F)
18. A mutation in the FOXP3 gene can prevent proper formation of regulatory T cells, leading to autoimmune disorders like IPEX. (T/F)
19. 'Vande Mataram' was originally written in Bengali and later translated into Sanskrit. (T/F)
20. Only Indian citizen to receive Nobel Peace Prize is Mother Teresa (1979). (T/F)

12.3. Mains Practice Questions

1. Prison Reforms in India remain slow despite multiple Supreme Court directives. Comment. (10 Marks, 150 Words)
2. Discuss the causes and impacts of rising anti-immigration sentiment globally and India's approach to protect its migrant workers abroad. (10 Marks, 150 Words)
3. "The Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses reflects India's transition from food security to nutritional and import self-reliance." Discuss the features and need of this mission in the context of India's agricultural diversification, farmers' welfare, and sustainable growth. Also mention steps to be taken by Government. (10 Marks, 150 Words)
4. "Recycling of critical minerals is essential for India's resource security and green industrial transition." In the light of the Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Critical Mineral Recycling, discuss its significance and potential challenges in implementation. (10 Marks, 150 Words)
5. "The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies marks a landmark step in global ocean governance, but its implications pose serious challenges for developing countries like India." Critically examine. (10 Marks, 150 Words)
6. Discuss how improving local governance and community engagement can help counter Left-Wing Extremism (LWE). (10 Marks, 150 Words)
7. "Despite significant global progress in poverty reduction and gender equality, the goal of achieving comprehensive social justice remains a work in progress." Explain the key challenges to achieving social justice in India. Also, suggest measures to strengthen social justice. (10 Marks, 150 Words)
8. Discuss the causes behind the rising burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in India. Highlight their socio-economic impact and evaluate the steps taken by the government to address this growing challenge. (10 Marks, 150 Words)
9. Discuss the structural features and tunability of Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs). How do these properties enable their application in areas such as water harvesting, food preservation, and environmental remediation? (10 Marks, 150 Words)
10. "Sree Narayana Guru was a revolutionary social reformer who used spiritual legitimacy to dismantle caste oppression." Discuss his role in Indian social renaissance. (10 Marks, 150 Words)
11. Discuss the significance and challenges of regulating synthetic and AI-generated content in India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)
12. Analyze India-Russia strategic partnership in the context of India's foreign policy balancing between the US and Russia. (15 Marks, 250 Words)
13. "Innovation and creative destruction are at the heart of modern economic growth." In light of the 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, discuss the role of innovation and knowledge in promoting sustainable and inclusive growth in India. Also discuss the Government Initiatives taken. (15 Marks, 250 Words)
14. AFSPA has been a subject of intense debate. Discuss its necessity and the concerns associated with its implementation. (15 Marks, 250 Words)
15. What makes the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve ecologically and culturally significant? Discuss its key features, biodiversity, and the importance of its inclusion in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). (15 Marks, 250 Words)
16. Despite strong economic growth, India continues to face serious levels of hunger as reflected in the Global Hunger Index 2025. Discuss the key factors contributing to this paradox and evaluate the effectiveness of government measures taken to ensure food and nutritional security. (15 Marks, 250 Words)
17. What makes Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) a major global health threat? Discuss the factors accelerating AMR and evaluate the national and global measures undertaken to address it. (15 Marks, 250 Words)
18. AstroSat has played a transformative role in advancing India's astronomical research. Discuss the multi-wavelength capabilities, key scientific objectives, and the broader national significance of AstroSat in strengthening India's space science ecosystem. (15 Marks, 250 Words)
19. Discuss the significance of the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics in understanding macroscopic quantum behaviour. Explain the applications of modern quantum technologies? (15 Marks, 250 Words)
20. The recent amendment to MGNREGA Schedule-I reflects a strategic shift towards sustainable rural development through groundwater conservation. Critically examine the amendment's provisions, implementation challenges, and its potential to strengthen both ecological security and rural livelihoods. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

12.4. Ethics Case Study

1. India has achieved remarkable progress in poverty reduction – with extreme poverty down to 2.3% and a consumption-based Gini coefficient of 25.5, placing it among the more equal nations in consumption terms. However, the income-based Gini coefficient remains high at 61, indicating widening income inequality and exclusionary growth patterns.

The government has launched various initiatives—such as Skill India Mission, Digital India, PM-KISAN, and social protection schemes—to make growth more equitable. Despite these, concerns persist about unequal access to opportunities, concentration of wealth, and inadequate ethical accountability among corporate and political actors.

At the same time, civil society groups demand stronger corporate social responsibility (CSR), transparent governance, and inclusion of marginalised voices in decision-making. The debate centres on how to achieve “Sarvodaya” (welfare of all) while maintaining high growth rates and fiscal prudence.

As a senior public servant in the Ministry of Finance, you are tasked with preparing a framework for ethical and inclusive economic growth.

Based on the above case, answer the following Questions:

1. What are the major ethical challenges involved in promoting inclusive growth in a rapidly developing economy like India?
2. How can Constitutional morality guide administrators and policymakers in promoting justice and equality beyond mere legal compliance?
3. Suggest institutional and behavioral measures that can foster ethical corporate practices and social responsibility in pursuit of inclusive growth.



"Personalise Your UPSC Prelims Preparation"

2026 | **ENGLISH MEDIUM** | **हिन्दी माध्यम**
23 NOVEMBER | **23 नवंबर**

HINDI & ENGLISH MEDIUM



Access **25000+** questions



Choose your **subject** and topic



Create your test from **VisionIAS** or UPSC PYQs



Performance and Progress Analysis

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATION



13.1. MCQs Answer and Explanation

1. Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Prisons are a State subject (Entry 4).
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** Model Prisons Act merges old Acts
- **Statement 3 is correct:** UT prisons are administered by MHA.

2. Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** PESA Act, 1996 empowers Gram Sabhas in fifth Scheduled Areas for self-governance over land, resources, and development.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** Sixth scheduled areas include autonomy to tribal regions in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

3. Answer: A

Explanation:

- With respect to the eligibility for Postal Ballot, Absentee Voters include Persons above 85 years, those with disabilities, preventive detainees, and election duty personnel.

4. Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The forum is led by Spain, supported by UNCTAD and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Sevilla Commitment aims to close the \$4T annual SDG financing gap.

5. Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** UNHRC was established in 2006, replacing commission on Human rights.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** India was recently elected to the UN Human Rights Council for the seventh time.

- **Statement 3 is not correct:** Elected members can serve a consecutive term for 2 years.

6. Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Russia is India's largest crude supplier,
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Russia supports India's bid for UNSC permanent seat.

7. Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** The Global MPI Report is jointly released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)**, not the World Bank.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** The Global MPI measures **deprivation in three dimensions – Health (nutrition, child mortality), Education (years of schooling, school attendance), and Standard of Living (cooking fuel, sanitation, water, electricity, housing, assets).**
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** As per the 2025 report, **India's poverty rate declined from 55.1% (2005–06) to 16.4% (2019–21)**, lifting around **414 million people** out of multidimensional poverty.
- **Statement 4 is Correct:** The report highlights that **887 million poor people** face direct exposure to **climate hazards**, especially **heat and air pollution**, which are the most common threats.

8. Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** PMDDKY consolidates **36 existing agricultural schemes across 11 ministries** (including PM-KISAN, PMFBY, etc.) to eliminate **duplication, inefficiency, and improve asset formation.**

- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The scheme **specifically targets small and marginal farmers** owning **less than 2 hectares** of land – not large landholders. It aims to benefit **1.7 crore such farmers**, who make up 86% of India's farming population.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** The scheme is **inspired by the NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Programme** and covers **100 underperforming districts**, ensuring at least one district from every state (12 from Uttar Pradesh).
- **Statement 4 is Correct:** A **three-tier institutional framework** ensures coordination in both financial and institutional support.

9. Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** SWAMIH Fund is a **Category II Alternate Investment Fund (AIF)**, but **AIFs are regulated by SEBI**, not by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. RBI recently **exempted** SWAMIH Fund from certain AIF investment norms, but it does **not regulate** AIFs.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** The **objective** of the SWAMIH Fund is to **provide priority debt financing for the completion of stalled housing projects**, especially in the **affordable and mid-income segments**.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** The **Fund Manager** of the SWAMIH Fund is **SBICAP Ventures Limited (a subsidiary of SBI Capital Markets Ltd)**.

10. Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** The **PM-SETU Scheme** will be implemented under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, not the Ministry of Education.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** The scheme adopts a **hub-and-spoke model**, with **200 hub ITIs** linked to **800 spoke ITIs**. The hubs will function as centres for **innovation, incubation, advanced training, and placement**.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** It proposes to create **Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)** with **anchor industries** for cluster-level management, ensuring **industry-relevant, outcome-based training**.
- **Statement 4 is Correct:** The scheme includes **upgrading five National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs)** as **Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** with **global tie-ups** to enhance international collaboration in skilling.

11. Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** India has not yet signed the UN Convention Against Cybercrime yet.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is the first global legally binding cybercrime framework under the UN.

12. Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under section 3 Governor, Administrator, or Centre can declare any area "disturbed" if the situation requires.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under section 4 use of lethal force, arrests without warrant is allowed.

13. Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** India has ranked 99th in the SDG Index 2025 for the first time with a score of 67. East and South Asia have shown the fastest progress, not the slowest.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Regional disparities exist, but **Kerala, Sikkim, and Tamil Nadu have the lowest poverty**, not the highest.

14. Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Cold Desert BR stretches from **Ladakh (Leh & Kargil)** to **Spiti and Kinnaur in Himachal Pradesh**. India's first high-altitude cold desert biosphere reserve.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** **UNESCO can withdraw** the designation, and **member states can voluntarily remove** a site by notifying the MAB Secretariat.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Designation is based on the **Seville Strategy** and the **Statutory Framework of WNBR**.

15. Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Ground-level ozone (GLO) is **not a primary pollutant**. It is a **secondary pollutant**, created through photochemical reactions involving NOx and VOCs. It is not released directly from combustion sources.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** According to CPCB, **Delhi-NCR is the worst-impacted region** in India in terms of high ozone pollution, followed by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** GLO forms when **NOx and VOCs react in the presence of sunlight**, making it a typical photochemical smog component.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** India's national air quality standards specify a **one-hour ozone limit of 180 µg/m³** and an **8-hour limit of 100 µg/m³**.

16. Answer: A

Explanation

- The report is compiled by the **Registrar General of India (RGI), Ministry of Home Affairs**.

17. Answer: C**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Swachh Shehar Jodi (SSJ)** initiative has been launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** under the **Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban (SBM-U)**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is designed as a **mentorship-based programme**, where **72 mentor cities** guide around **200 mentee cities** in improving **urban sanitation and waste management practices**.

18. Answer: B**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It was awarded in 2013.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Nobel Prize was awarded to **John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret and John M. Martinis** for demonstrating quantum tunnelling in a macroscopic electric circuit.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The experiment also confirmed **quantisation of energy** in the circuit. Quantum physics states that particles can exist only at discrete energy levels. The Josephson Junction acted as an **artificial atom**, showing the same quantised energy states familiar from microscopic quantum systems

- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The original quantum Hall effect was discovered in **1980** by Klaus von Klitzing, who received the Nobel Prize for it in **1985**.

19. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Aruvipuram (1888) broke temple entry barriers. Sree Narayana Guru founded the Sri Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP) in 1903 to reinterpret Hindu religion for self-respect and protest Brahminical hierarchy.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Vaikom Satyagraha pioneers were T.K. Madhavan, K.P. Kesava Menon, K. Kelappan (Kerala Gandhi); Guru supported but did not lead. Periyar joined later.

20. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** 6th century CE, Bamiyan Valley, Afghanistan. They represent the Gandharan school of Buddhist art, which blended Greco-Roman and Indian styles.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** UNESCO designation in 2003, after Taliban destruction in 2001.

13.2. True/False Answers

Answers

1. T 2. T 3. T 4. F 5. T 6. T 7. T 8. F 9. F 10. T
 11. T 12. F 13. F 14. F 15. T 16. T 17. T 18. T 19. F 20. F

13.3. Approach to the Mains Practice Questions

1. Approach:

- **Introduction:** You can start by stating the facts like prison is a state subject.
- **Body:** Then mention issues faced by prisons like overcrowding, caste bias, slow trials etc, also explain the relevant judgments and reforms that is done till now. Explain what are challenge that still persists in prison reforms.
- **Conclusion:** You can conclude by talking about maintaining uniform standards for humane prison administration.

2. Approach:

- **Introduction:** Start by defining anti-immigration sentiment through some data, facts or example.

- **Body:** You can mention the cause for such sentiment, then what are its impacts and what is India's response to that sentiment.
- **Conclusion:** You can provide way forward in the conclusion as to how this sentiment can be dealt with.

3. Approach:

- **Introduction:** Begin by introducing about the Mission.
- **Main Body:** Discuss the features and need of the Mission.
- **Conclusion:** Conclude with steps taken by the government.

4. Approach:

- **Introduction:** Begin by introducing the Critical Minerals and their recycling.

- **Main Body:** Discuss the features of Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Critical Mineral Recycling. Also highlight its Significance and potential challenges in implementation.
 - **Conclusion:** Conclude with the importance of scheme.
- 5. Approach:**
- **Introduction:** Begin by introducing about the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.
 - **Main Body:** Discuss key provisions of WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. Bring out the challenges of WTO agreement for developing countries.
 - **Conclusion:** Conclude with a way forward.
- 6. Approach:**
- **Introduction:** You can start by providing data, facts related to LWE in India.
 - **Body:** Mention causes behind it then mention measures taken in India to counter LWE like Strengthening local institutions, ensuring FRA/PESA implementation etc. Then mention what are the challenges that still persists.
 - **Conclusion:** You can conclude with mentioning measures like sustained grassroot participation and inclusive development as way forward.
- 7. Approach:**
- **Introduction:** Begin by introducing about Social Justice and its foundational pillars.
 - **Main Body:** Discuss the challenges to achieve social justice and measures to be taken to strengthen social justice.
 - **Conclusion:** Conclude with highlighting the significance of social justice.
- 8. Approach:**
- **Introduction:** Mention shift from communicable to non-communicable diseases as per Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Report. NCDs now responsible for 63–65% of all deaths in India.
 - **Body:** Enlist causes of rising ncd burden in india like epidemiological & demographic factors, unhealthy lifestyles, etc and impact of ncds in detail. highlight various government measures to address it.
 - **Conclusion:** Suggest way forward for government & people.
- 9. Approach**
- **Introduction:** Define MOFs as hybrid crystalline structures made from metal ions and organic ligands. Mention the 2025 Nobel Prize awarded for their development.
 - **Body:** Explain its structure and composition; detail its features like high porosity, etc. Then discuss its applications as water absorbent, removal of PFAS, etc.
 - **Conclusion:** Highlight various in future use & how it will impact life of common people.
- 10. Approach**
- **Introduction:** Give details on Sree Narayana Guru.
 - **Body:** Give highlights of key movements like Aruvipuram, Vaikom, etc and explain his ideologies.
 - **Conclusion:** Highlight importance of his principles & movements in today's society.
- 11. Approach:**
- **Introduction:** Mention the rapid rise of deep fakes threatens democratic discourse, prompting India to amend IT Rules in 2025.
 - **Body:** Mention the need of regulating synthetic and AI generated in content in India, then mention challenges in its implementation.
 - **Conclusion:** You can conclude by mentioning balanced regulatory framework.
- 12. Approach:**
- **Introduction:** Start with mentioning 25-year strategic partnership between India and Russia.
 - **Body:** Mention the Pillars of relation like Political, defense, energy etc. Then mention Challenges. Explain India's balancing strategy between US and Russia like Strategic autonomy, rupee trade, diplomatic positioning
 - **Conclusion:** You can conclude by mentioning how the ties can be sustained while pursuing national interest.
- 13. Approach:**
- **Introduction:** Begin by introducing what is meant by Creative destruction and Innovation and the Nobel Prize given this aspect.
 - **Main Body:** Write about the role of innovation and knowledge in promoting sustainable and inclusive growth in India. Mention the government Initiatives taken in this regard.
 - **Conclusion:** Conclude with highlighting the significance of Innovation and knowledge.
- 14. Approach:**
- **Intro:** Start with definition of AFSFA, its provisions.
 - **Body:** Mention both the sides of debate as to arguments against and aruments in favor of AFSPA.
 - **Conclusion:** Conclude with reforms needed in AFSPA to make it effective without hurting human rights.

15. Approach:

- **Introduction:** Define Biosphere Reserves under UNESCO's MAB Programme and mention Cold Desert BR's recent inclusion among 26 new sites in WNBR.
- **Body:** Highlight key features; enlist ecological & cultural significance of cold desert biosphere reserve and importance of UNESCO WNBR inclusion.
- **Conclusion:** UNESCO designation strengthens India's conservation efforts and global outreach.

16. Approach:

- **Introduction:** Begin by introducing about Hunger and GHI.
- **Main Body:** Discuss the factors leading to hunger. Also write measures taken by government.
- **Conclusion:** Conclude with way forward such as Ensure political commitment and good governance. Increase and diversify financing.

17. Approach:

- **Introduction:** Define AMR briefly and WHO recognises AMR as a top global health threat and calls it a silent pandemic.
- **Body:** Explain why AMR is a global health threat, enlist factors accelerating it like anthropogenic factors, etc. Then discuss how effectively national initiatives and global initiatives had addressed amr.
- **Conclusion:** Suggest way forward for several stakeholders.

18. Approach:

- **Introduction:** Briefly introduce AstroSat as **India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory**, launched in 2015.

- **Body:** Give details on its multi-Wavelength Capabilities, scientific objectives and national significance of AstroSat.
- **Conclusion:** Highlight how the mission strengthens India's position in global astronomy and supports long-term scientific development.

19. Approach:

- **Introduction:** Define quantum behaviour (quantisation of energy, tunnelling). Mention the 2025 Nobel Prize recognising macroscopic manifestation of such phenomena.
- **Body:** Explain classical vs. quantum domains. Explain various modern quantum technology applications in detail.
- **Conclusion:** Highlight contemporary relevance & application in medicines, etc.

20. Approach:

- **Introduction:** Begin with MGNREGA's core mandate (100 days guaranteed work) and recent amendment (2025) prioritising water conservation in groundwater-stressed blocks.
- **Body:** Explain in details pros & cons of provisions of the Amendment, highlight implementation challenges and give recommendations.
- **Conclusion:** The amendment transforms MGNREGA from mere wage support to a climate-resilient rural development engine, if implemented with convergence and accountability.

13.4. Approach to Case Studies

1. Approach:

Present the case as ethical dilemma balancing the growth and welfare of the people and key ethical dilemmas.

- **Discuss the major ethical challenges involved in promoting inclusive growth in a rapidly developing economy like India.**
- **Discuss how Constitutional morality guide administrators and policymakers in promoting justice and equality.**
- **Propose the institutional and behavioral measures that can foster ethical corporate practices and social responsibility in pursuit of inclusive growth.**

14. Self-Evaluation



Progress Tracking Table

Activity Type	Total Questions	Correct Answers	Attempted	Score/Percentage
MCQ's				
True/False Statements				



Monthly Learning Summary

Top 3 Learnings/Insights

1.

2.

3.



Progress Comparison

Previous Month's Score

Current Month's Score

Areas of Improvement



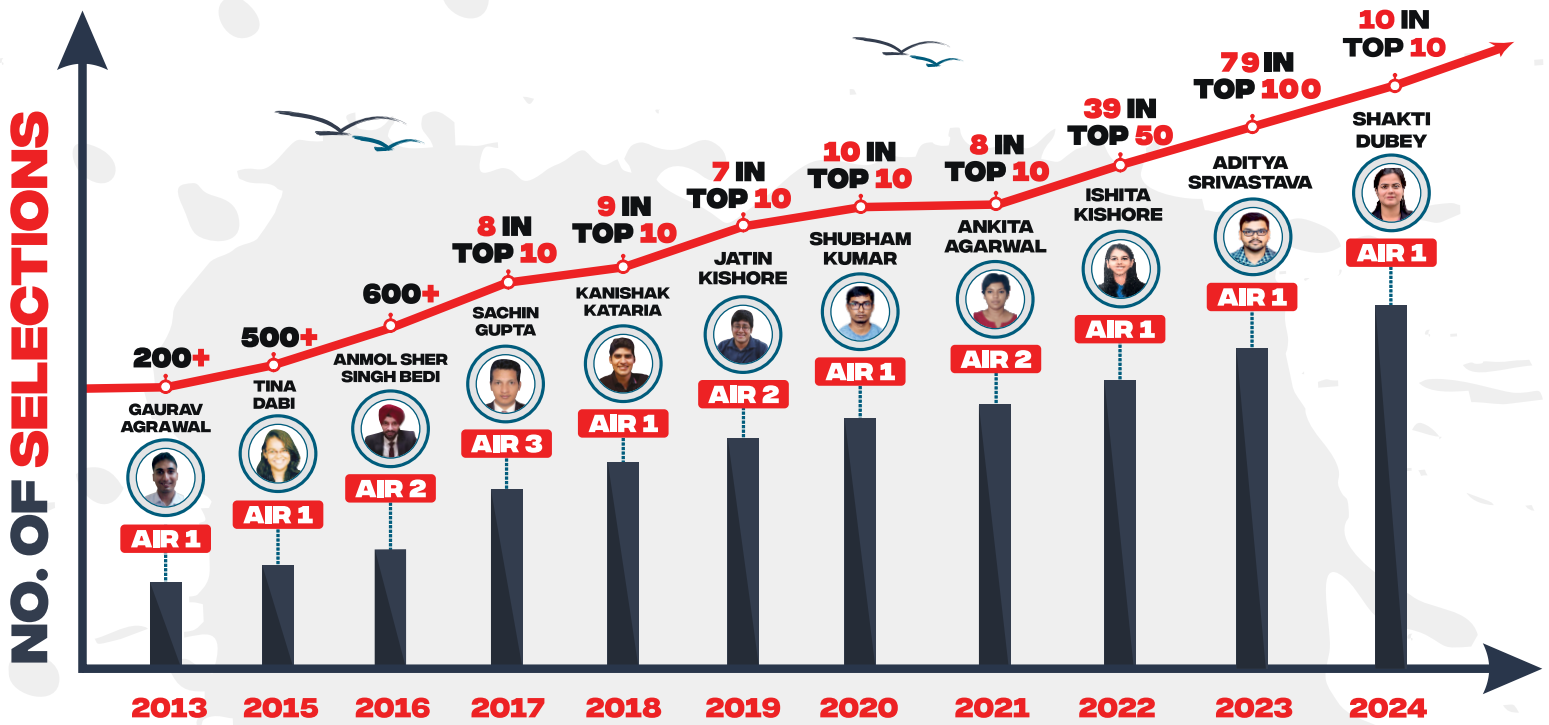
Reflection Section

Strengths

Areas for Improvement

Goals for Next Month

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



LIVE/ONLINE
Classes Available

www.visionias.in



Scan QR code for instant personalized mentoring

Foundation Course

GENERAL STUDIES

PRELIMS cum MAINS

2027, 2028 & 2029

DELHI : 12 NOVEMBER, 8 AM | 25 NOVEMBER, 5 PM

GTB NAGAR : 5 December, 8 AM

BENGALURU: 8 DEC

BHOPAL: 25 NOV

HYDERABAD: 5 NOV

JAIPUR: 21 NOV

JODHPUR: 10 NOV

LUCKNOW: 25 NOV

फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2026

▶ प्रारंभिक, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक का विस्तृत कवरेज

DELHI : 25 नवंबर, 11 AM

JAIPUR : 7 नवंबर

JODHPUR : 10 नवंबर



Scan the QR CODE to download VISION IAS App. Join official telegram group for daily MCQs & other updates.

[/visionias.upsc](https://www.facebook.com/visionias.upsc)

[/c/VisionIASdelhi](https://www.youtube.com/c/VisionIASdelhi)

[/c/VisionIASdelhi](https://www.instagram.com/c/VisionIASdelhi)

[/t.me/s/VisionIAS_UPSC](https://t.me/s/VisionIAS_UPSC)

Heartiest Congratulations

to all Successful Candidates

10

in TOP 10 Selections in CSE 2024

from various programs of Vision IAS



1
AIR

Shakti Dubey



2
AIR

Harshita Goyal



3
AIR

Dongre Archit Parag



4
AIR

Shah Margi Chirag



5
AIR

Aakash Garg



6
AIR

Komal Punia



7
AIR

Aayushi Bansal



8
AIR

Raj Krishna Jha



9
AIR

Aditya Vikram Agarwal



10
AIR

Mayank Tripathi

79
Selections

in TOP 100

in CSE 2023



1
AIR

Aditya Srivastava



2
AIR

Animesh Pradhan



5
AIR

Ruhani



GMMR ENQUIRY & CLASSROOM CENTRE

33, Pusa Road,
Near Karol Bagh Metro Station,
Opposite Pillar No. 113,
Delhi - 110005

DELHI

MUKHERJEE NAGAR CENTER

Plot No. 857, Ground Floor,
Mukherjee Nagar, Opposite Punjab
& Sindh Bank, Mukherjee Nagar

GTB NAGAR CENTER

Classroom & Enquiry Office,
above Gate No. 2, GTB Nagar
Metro Building, Delhi - 110009

FOR DETAILED ENQUIRY

Please Call:
+91 8468022022,
+91 9019066066

 enquiry@visionias.in

 [/c/VisionIASdelhi](https://www.youtube.com/c/VisionIASdelhi)

 [/visionias.upsc](https://www.facebook.com/visionias.upsc)

 [/vision_ias](https://www.instagram.com/vision_ias)

 [VisionIAS_UPSC](https://www.telegram.com/VisionIAS_UPSC)



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI