



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

25th January 2025



CONTEXT: The President of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto is the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations.

Basics:

- In 2024, India-Indonesia Relations marked 75 years of diplomatic ties
- Historic Ties
- Common membership- G20, East Asia Summit, UN, IORA, ASEAN.



Political Relations:

- Colonialism, democracy and pluralism, President Sukarno first Republic Day, **Bandung Conference (1955)**, establish NAM.

Cultural Relations:

- 2,000 years of cultural, commercial interactions, religious exchanges in **Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam**, adaptations, Indian epics - **Ramayana**

■ Its basic concept originates from the Asian-African Conference, also known as the Bandung Conference, which was held in Indonesia in 1955

■ The movement was founded at its first summit in Belgrade, Serbia (formerly Yugoslavia) in September 1961

MAIN PRINCIPLES

- 1 Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations
- 2 Recognition of the equality among all races and nations
- 3 Non-intervention or non-interference into the internal affairs of another country

FOUNDING FATHERS



#IndiaIndonesia

Key Partner of our Act East Policy

Indonesia is the **1st** country with which India has adopted **Shared Vision of Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific**

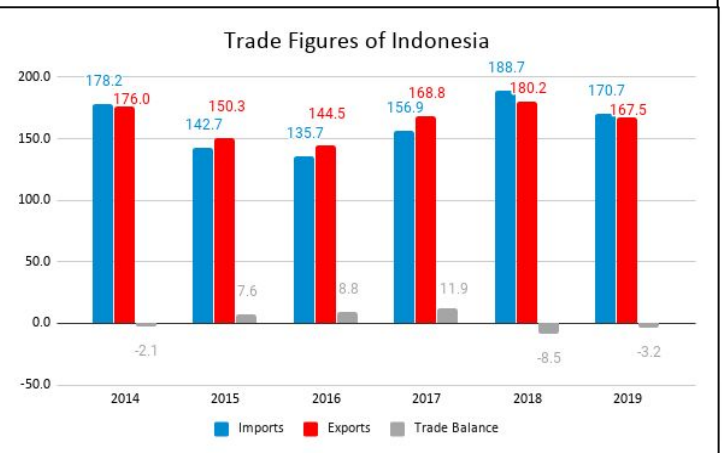
Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established in **May 2018** during PM Modi's visit to Indonesia

President Widodo was among one of the Chief Guests invited for India's Republic Day celebrations in Delhi in **2018**

Both leaders last met on the sidelines of G20 Rome Summit in **2021**

Economic Relations:

- Bilateral trade \$38.85 billion 2022-23
- (2000-2022) \$ 1,219 million across 4,750 projects



Defence Relations:

- Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2018), joint military exercises, GARUDA SHAKTI.



CONTEXT: The President of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto is the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations.

Challenges in India- Indonesia Relationship:

- **Unequal Trade Dynamics:** trade deficit with Indonesia, substantial imports of commodities like palm oil and coal. Palm oil imports 2022- \$11 billion
- **The Rise of Chinese Influence:** economic and political influence in Indonesia, investments, infrastructure projects railways, BRI.
- **Obstacles to Defense Cooperation:** Disparities in defense procurement procedures, limiting deeper military cooperation.
- **Dysfunctional Investor Window:** hindering business expansion in Indonesia.
- **Connectivity Issues:** Limited direct air connectivity, visa barriers- restrict people-to-people interactions, impeding tourism and business growth

What should be done?

- **Boosting Trade Ties: Accelerate CEPA**
- **Tourism Diplomacy : RICH initiative**
- **Enhanced Cooperation : Participation in ISA, CDRI, GBA etc.**
- **Multilateral Engagement : ASEAN, IORA etc**
- **Expand Connectivity : Expand educational and cultural exchange programs**

Mains Practise Question:

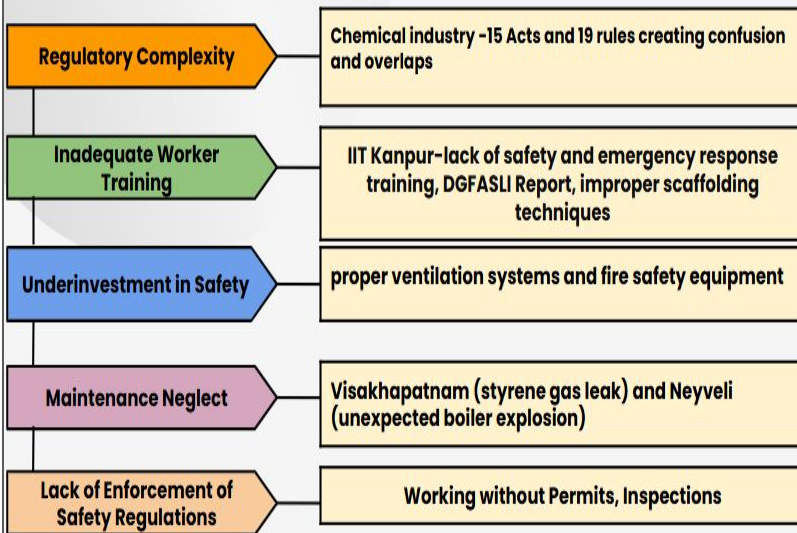
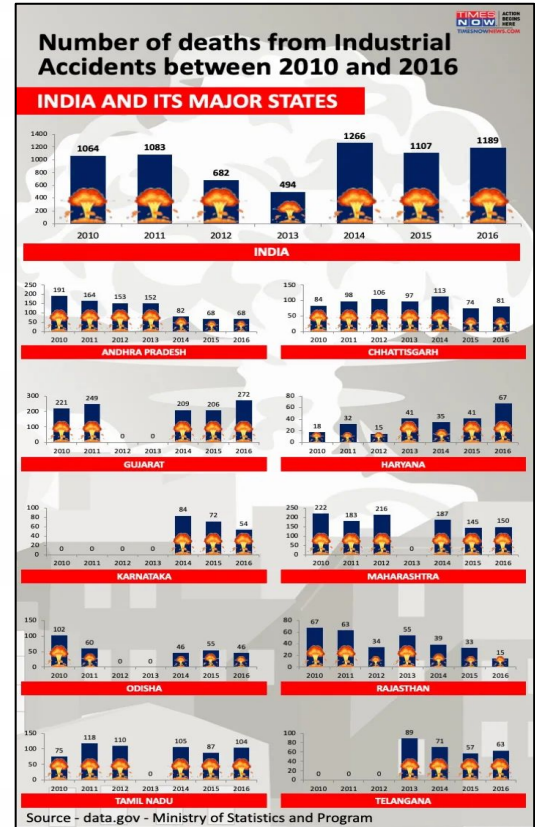
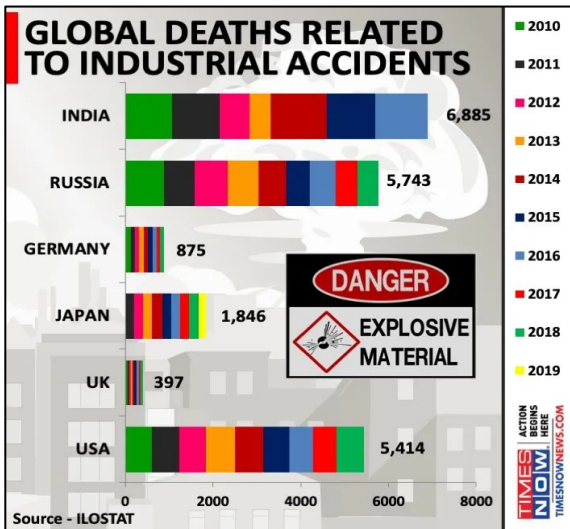
Question: Discuss the key challenges hindering deeper engagement between India and Indonesia. Suggest concrete measures to address these challenges and enhance bilateral relations. (10 Marks 150 Words)



CONTEXT: A massive explosion ripped through an ordnance factory in Maharashtra Bhandara district on Friday morning, leaving eight people dead and five injured

Industrial Disasters in India:

- **Industrial Disaster:** significant accident, industrial site, extensive damage, injuries, or fatalities.
- **Causes:** chemical, mechanical, civil, or electrical processes, accidents, negligence, or incompetence.
- **Types:** Chemical disasters, Explosions, Mining disasters, Falling objects, Radiological incidents.
- **NDMA:** over 130 significant chemical accidents in the country in the last decade, 250 lives.



Bhopal Gas Tragedy
Bhopal, India
3 Dec, 1984

Methyl isocyanate, a poisonous gas, escaped from the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, causing havoc in the area

HUMAN TOLL
Official figs put deaths at approx **4,000**
Survivors suffered respiratory problems, eye irritation or blindness

NEWS 18 creative



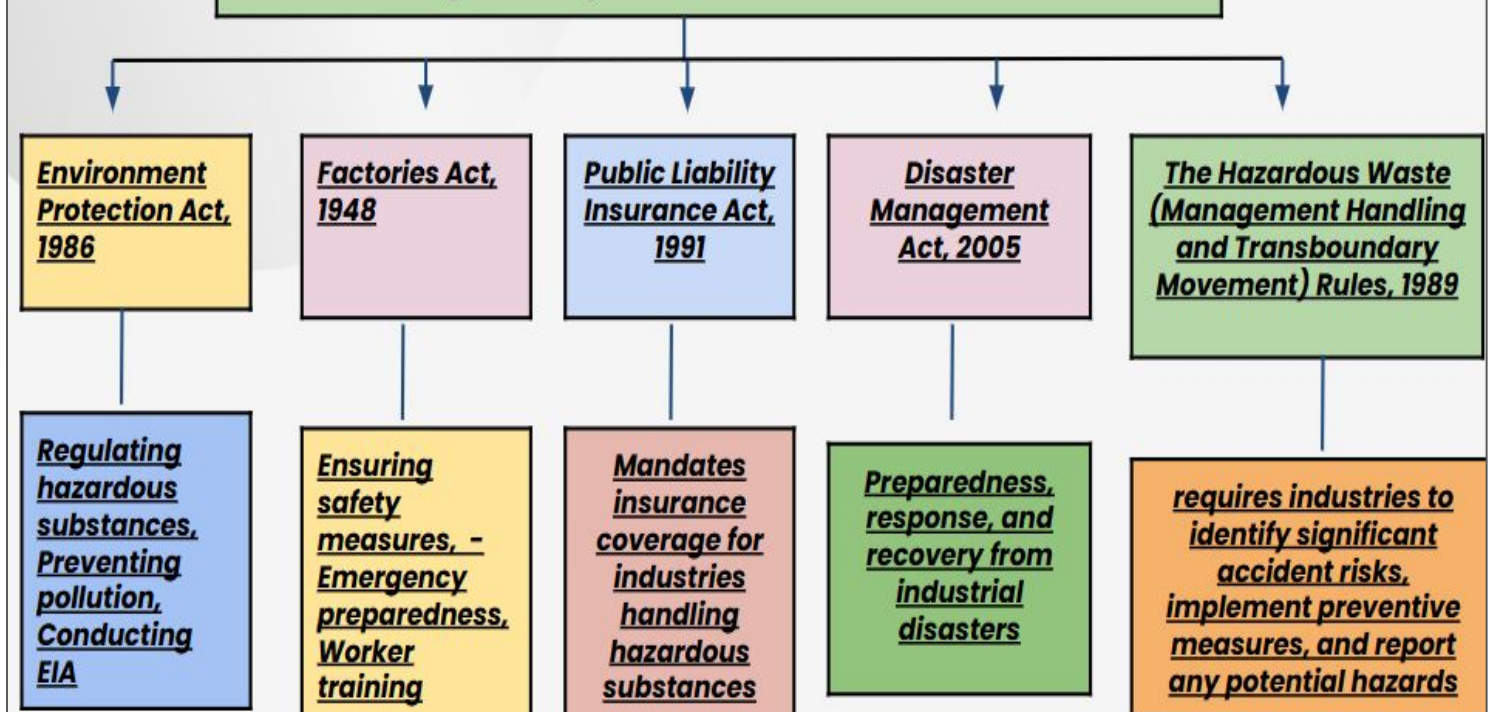
Industrial Disasters



CONTEXT: A massive explosion ripped through an ordnance factory in Maharashtra Bhandara district on Friday morning, leaving eight people dead and five injured

Disaster Name	Date	Location	Cause	Impact
Bhopal Gas Tragedy	December 3, 1984	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) gas leak from Union Carbide plant	Over 3,000 immediate deaths, thousands more with long-term health issues
Chasnala Mine Disaster	December 27, 1975	Dhanbad, Jharkhand	Mine collapse due to flooding	Over 375 miners killed
Visakhapatnam Gas Leak	May 7, 2020	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh	Styrene gas leak from LG Polymers plant	12 deaths, thousands affected by respiratory issues
Neyveli Boiler Blast	March 25, 2020	Neyveli, Tamil Nadu	Explosion in a boiler at a thermal power plant	Several deaths and injuries
Sukinda Valley Disaster		Odisha	Environmental degradation due to chromium mining	Severe air and water pollution, health impacts on local communities

Safeguards against Industrial Disasters India



Industrial Disasters



CONTEXT: A massive explosion ripped through an ordnance factory in Maharashtra Bhandara district on Friday morning, leaving eight people dead and five injured

What should be done?

Strengthened Enforcement: Independent Safety Audits

Promoting Best Practices and Technologies: Invest in ESTs (UNEP)

Enhanced Community Engagement

Investing in Worker Training

Incentives and Support for Upgrading Safety Measures

Question: "Industrial disasters in India have had devastating consequences, impacting lives, livelihoods, and the environment. Discuss the key reasons behind the occurrence of such disasters and suggest a comprehensive way forward to mitigate their impact." (10 Marks 150 words).



SYLLABUS: GS 2 Paper : Fundamental Rights

Newspaper: Indian Express **Page Number:** 16

OMKAR GOKHALE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 24

NO ONE can claim that their right to practise religion has been violated when permission to use a loudspeaker is denied, the Bombay High Court held on Thursday.

The use of loudspeakers and public address systems (PAS) cannot be deemed an essential religious practice that ought to be protected by law, the court said.

The Bench of Justices Ajay S Gadkari and Shyam C Chandak prescribed a graded penalty system when complaints of noise pollution are filed by citizens.

The HC was hearing a writ petition filed by two residents' associations in Mumbai's suburban Nehru Nagar, Kurla (East) and Chunabhatti areas against the use of loudspeakers by mosques and madrasas beyond

permissible decibel limits and during prohibited hours.

Law on noise pollution

Under The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, noise levels in residential areas during the day must not exceed 55 decibels and, at night, 45 decibels.

Section 38 of the Maharashtra Police Act allows police to stop music, sound, or noise, and to rescind, modify, or alter the permission to use loudspeakers.

In their affidavit of November 2023, the police submitted that noise levels at two mosques in the Kurla area were 79.4 and 98.7 decibels. The HC observed that in case several religious places in the vicinity were using loudspeakers, the cumulative sound levels of all loudspeakers/ voice amplifiers in use at a particular point of time – and not the individual ambient noise limit of 55 or 45

**EXPLAINED
LAW**

with complaints relating to noise pollution.

Since the plea was about noise pollution from places of worship, the court cautioned the police to act without identifying the complainant, "more so to avoid such complainants being targets of ill will and developing hatred".

■ The state should have an inbuilt mechanism to control decibel levels in loudspeakers and other sound-emitting gadgets used at any religious place. One way to do this would be to carry out "calibration or auto-fixation" of the decibel limit in these speakers, the court said.

■ The Mumbai Police Commissioner should ensure that police officers use a decibel level measuring mobile application to check for violations.

■ The HC laid down a four-step graded penalty system for the police to initiate. While first time offenders could be let off after a "caution", in case of repeat violations fines must be imposed on the concerned

The Essential Practices Doctrine:

- The essential practices doctrine owes its existence to a speech made by B.R. Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly.
- Ambedkar was striving to distinguish the religious from the secular, by arguing that the state should be allowed to intervene in matters that are connected to religion but are not intrinsically religious.
- **Shirur Mutt case (1954):** the Supreme Court held in the that the term "religion" will cover all rituals and practices **integral to a religion**.
- The test to determine what is integral is termed the "essential religious practices" test.
- What constitutes the essential part of a religion is to be determined with reference to the **doctrines of that religion itself**.
- **Ananda Marga sect no fundamental right** to perform **Tandava dance** in public streets, **Not an essential religious practice** - SC 2004



NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index



SYLLABUS: GS2 Paper: Health, Government Policies and Interventions
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 12

Mineral-rich Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa, and Jharkhand have emerged as top-performing 'achievers' among the States listed in NITI Aayog's first Fiscal Health Index (FHI) report released on Friday.

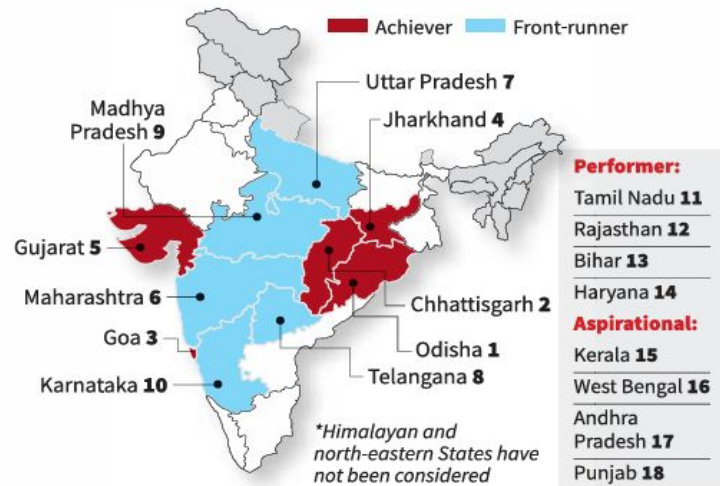
The report titled "Fiscal Health Index 2025" ranked States for 2022-23, covering 18 major States that drive the Indian economy in terms of their contribution to India's GDP, demography, total public expenditure, revenues, and overall fiscal stability.

According to the report, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Kerala were the worst-performing States in the Fiscal Health Index (FHI), each facing significant fiscal challenges, and listed under "aspirational" category.

Referring to top five achiever States, NITI Aayog said these States have higher capital outlay of up to 4% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), effective mobilisation of non-tax revenue, are revenue sur-

Fine balance

Analysis in the Niti Aayog's report on the fiscal health index for FY23 highlights that strong revenue mobilisation, effective expenditure management, and prudent fiscal practices are critical determinants of success



SDG India Index	Tracks the progress of States and UTs in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Export Preparedness Index	Ranks States and UTs based on their export performance and potential.
Composite Water Index	Assesses the water security of States and UTs.
Atal Innovation Ranking	Ranks States and UTs based on their innovation ecosystem.
State Energy Efficiency Index	Ranks States and UTs based on their energy efficiency performance.
Multidimensional Poverty Index	Measures poverty across multiple dimensions, including health, education, and living standards.
India Innovation Index	Ranks States and UTs based on their innovation performance.
District Human Development Index	Measures human development at the district level.



Spinal Muscular Atrophy



SYLLABUS: GS 2 Paper: Health, Government Policies and Interventions
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 12

Health activists and patients with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) have refuted the Union government's affidavit in the Kerala High Court and demanded urgent action to reduce the cost of medicines required for this genetic disorder.

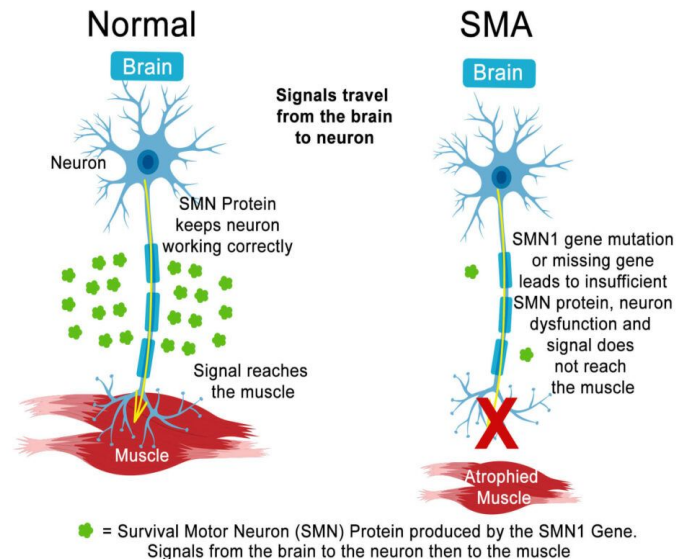
In the affidavit, the Union government acknowledges the staggering cost of SMA therapies – ranging from ₹50 lakh to ₹8 crore per patient annually, with gene therapies costing between ₹9 crore and ₹30 crore per patient. This results in an unbudgeted national expenditure of ₹6,400 crore to ₹34,000 crore each year.

WHAT IS SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY?

▶ Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a rare genetic disease that attacks the baby's nerves and muscles, and as it progresses, makes it extremely difficult for the child to carry out basic activities like sit up, lift their head and even breathe



▶ In a recent case on ImpactGuru, ₹14.93 cr was raised for Mumbai based 6-month-old Teera Kamat. Teera was administered Zolgensma on February 26



India's First Quasi Ballistic Missile



SYLLABUS: GS 3 Paper : Defence Technology
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number:** 10

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is set to showcase "Pralay", an indigenous short-range quasi-ballistic missile, at the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on Sunday.

Meant for the Army and the Air Force, Pralay is the first ballistic missile in India's arsenal for conventional strikes. The Army's Battle Surveillance System "Sanjay" will also be part of the parade.

With a range of 400 kilometres, Pralay adds to the BrahMos and Parahar missiles already in the inventory, giving the Indian military an option for stand-off



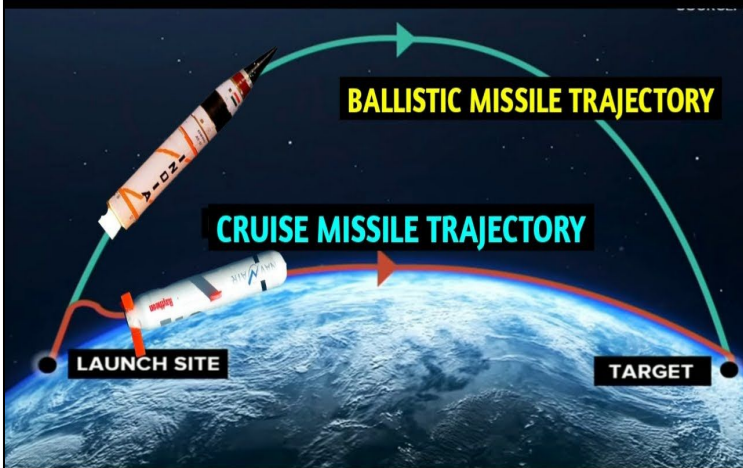
The Pralay Weapon System on display during a rehearsal for the Republic Day parade.

missile strikes across the border. It is meant for deployment along both the Line of Control (LoC) and the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The development trials of Pralay are over and it is

Cruise Missile	Ballistic Missile
Low-altitude, self-guided, and follows a relatively straight path.	High-altitude, ballistic trajectory (arc-shaped) after initial propulsion.
Jet engines or turbojets for sustained flight.	Rocket engines for initial boost, then relies on momentum and gravity.
Subsonic to supersonic speeds.	Hypersonic speeds during re-entry phase.
Hard to detect due to low-altitude flight	Easier to detect during boost phase due to heat and smoke trails
Highly maneuverable, can change course mid-flight.	Limited maneuverability after initial launch.
Typically shorter range (hundreds of kilometers).	Can have very long ranges (thousands of kilometers).

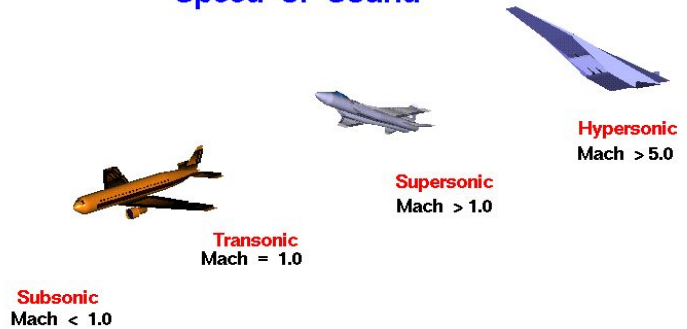
Ballistic Missile Vs Cruise Missile



Mach Number

Glenn Research Center

$$\text{ratio} = \frac{\text{Object Speed}}{\text{Speed of Sound}} = \text{Mach Number}$$



What is TDS?



SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper : Taxation, Mobilization of Resources
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 10

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a petition to scrap the tax deducted at source (TDS) framework under the Income Tax Act, saying the system was prevalent in many countries.

A Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna allowed advocate-petitioner Ashwini Upadhyay to approach the Delhi High Court.

The petition sought to scrap the TDS system, calling it “arbitrary and irrational”, and violative of various fundamental rights.

It challenged the TDS framework under the Income Tax Act, which mandates the deduction of tax at the time of payment by the payer, and its deposit with the Income Tax Department. The deducted amount is adjusted against the payee’s tax liability.

Tax Deducted at Source	Parameter	Tax Collected at Source
Tax deducted by the payer at the time of making payments to the receiver.	Meaning 	Tax collected by the seller from the buyer on sale.
Collect tax directly from the source of income.	Aim To 	Control tax evasion on specific goods.
Individuals and Businesses.	Applicable For 	Sellers
Rent, Commission, Interest, Rent, Salaries, Brokerage Etc.	Transactions Covered 	Selling of Forest Products, Motor Vehicles, Tendu Leaves, Minerals, Liquor, Scrap, License of Toll Plaza Etc.
Deducted by the buyer/payer.	Person Responsible 	Collected by the seller/payee.



Q1. India and Indonesia are members of how many of the following International Groupings?

1. G- 20
2. East Asia Summit
3. Indian Ocean Rim Association
4. ASEAN

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All Four

Answer: c

Q2. Consider the following Acts enacted by the Government of India:

1. Environment Protection Act 1986
2. Factories Act 1948
3. Public Liability Insurance Act 1991
4. Disaster Management Act 2005

How many of the above Act/s deal with safeguarding Industrial Disasters in India?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All Four

Answer: d

Q3. In which of the following landmark judgments, the Supreme Court held that "the term "religion" will cover all rituals and practices integral to a religion thus formulating "Essential Practises Doctrine"?

- a) Shirur Mutt Case
- b) Indira Sawhney Case
- c) SR Bommai Case
- d) Kesavananda Bharati Case

Answer: a

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding "Fiscal Health Index 2025":

1. It has been released by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. It covers 18 major states only.
3. According to the report, Andhra Pradesh & Kerala are among the best-performing states in Fiscal health.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: A

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. Cruise missiles are low altitude & self-guided missiles which are difficult to detect by radars.
2. Ballistic missiles are High-altitude & hypersonic missiles with very long ranges of attack.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c





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