



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

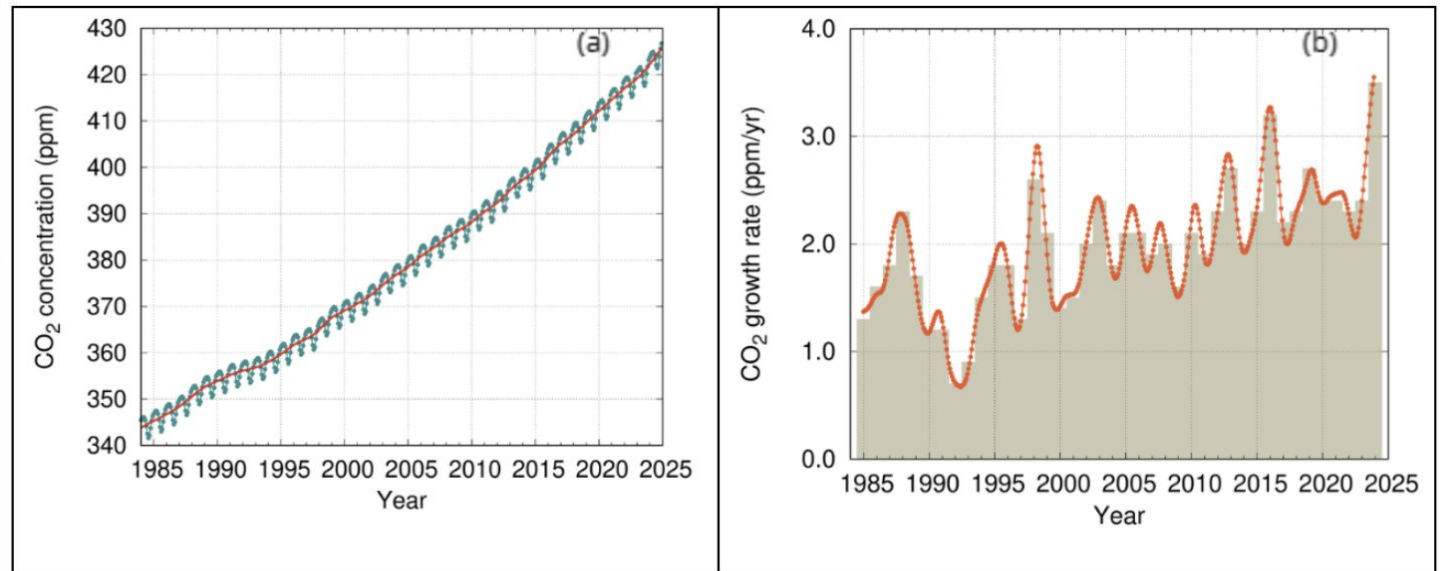
18th October 2025



Rising CO₂ levels

CONTEXT: Rising CO₂ Levels — The Alarming Climate Signal (**WMO Report 2024**)

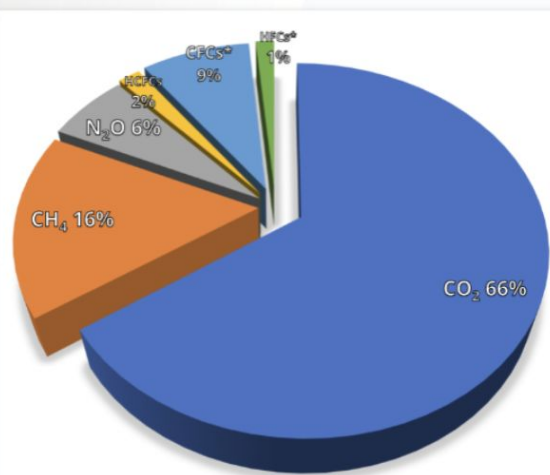
Context/Background



Atmosp CO₂ concentration @
all-time high in 2024

2023–24 rise → 3.5 ppm
Remember: CO₂ is long-lived
(≈ 45% higher decade average!)

2024: +1.55°C above
pre-industrial levels.



Gas	Concentr ation (2024)	Change from 2023	Trend (Decade avg.)	Global Warming Potential (100 yrs)
CO ₂	423.9 ppm	+3.5 ppm	+2.4 ppm/ year	1 (baseline)
CH ₄ (Methane)	~1924 ppb	+10.6 ppb/ year	+10.6 ppb/ year	28–34× CO ₂
N ₂ O (Nitrous Oxide)	~336 ppb	+1.07 ppb/ year	+1.07 ppb/ year	273× CO ₂

Together, these gases trap more heat in Earth's atmosphere – enhancing the **greenhouse effect**.



CONTEXT: Rising CO₂ Levels — The Alarming Climate Signal (**WMO Report 2024**)

UPSC PYQ (P) 2020

Which of the following statements best describes the term 'Social Cost of Carbon'?

It is a measure, in monetary value, of the

- a) Long-term damage done by a tonne of CO₂ emissions in a given year.
- b) Requirement of fossil fuels for a country to provide goods and services to its citizens, based on the burning of those fuels.
- c) Efforts put in by a climate refugee to adapt to live in a new place.
- d) Contribution of an individual person to the carbon footprint on the planet Earth.

UPSC PYQ (P) 2024

One of the following regions has the world's largest tropical peatland, which holds about three years' worth of global carbon emissions from fossil fuels; and the possible destruction of which can exert detrimental effect on the global climate. Which one of the following denotes that region?

- a) Amazon Basin
- b) Congo Basin
- c) Kikori Basin
- d) Rio de la Plata Basin

Causes of Rising CO₂ Levels

A. Anthropogenic (Human-induced) Sources

Source		Share (%)
 Fossil Fuel Combustion	Power plants, vehicles, industries	~75%
 Deforestation & Land Use Change	Reduced carbon sinks + biomass burning	~10–15%
 Cement & Industrial Processes	CO ₂ released during calcination	~5%
 Shipping & Aviation	Rapidly growing emitters	Increasing trend

B. Natural Variability Factors

El Niño events

Forest Fires

Soil Respiration Increase

 ScienceDirect.com

[fluxes in response to El Niño-related marine heatwaves in the tropical Pacific Ocean](#)

The spatiotemporal variability of the air-sea CO₂ flux on interannual and longer timescales can be reconstructed from annual MHW days and occurrence frequency,...

16 Jan 2025



CONTEXT: Rising CO₂ Levels — The Alarming Climate Signal (**WMO Report 2024**)

The Consequences: for India and the World?

 **Extreme Heat Waves**

 **Sea-Level Rise**

 **Glacier Melt & Water Security**

 **Intensified Cyclones & Erratic Monsoons**

 **Wildfires & Droughts**

 **Ecosystem Collapse**



NATURE'S FURY

Human Casualties Due To Extreme Weather Events In 2024

Events	Total casualties
Lightning, thunderstorm	1,374
Floods and heavy rain	1,287
Heatwave	459
Cyclones	70
Coldwave	7
Gale	7
Hailstorm	2
Snowfall	1

Five warmest years on record in India since 1901



OTHER KEY OBSERVATIONS

- > 10 out of the 15 warmest years were observed in the recent 15 years (2010-2024)
- > Past decade (2015-2024) was also the warmest on record
- > Individually, Oct 2024 was the warmest month on record since 1901 (with an anomaly of +1.23 degree C)

Year	India's CO ₂ Emissions (in Gt)	Global Rank	Key Drivers
2000	1.1 Gt	6th	Industrialisation
2010	1.9 Gt	4th	Power & transport demand
2024	~2.9 Gt	3rd	Energy, coal dependence

85% of Indian districts are exposed to extreme climate events

1.47 BN India's population estimated to be highly exposed to climate extremes by 2036

\$87 BN India's estimated annual losses due to extreme climate events

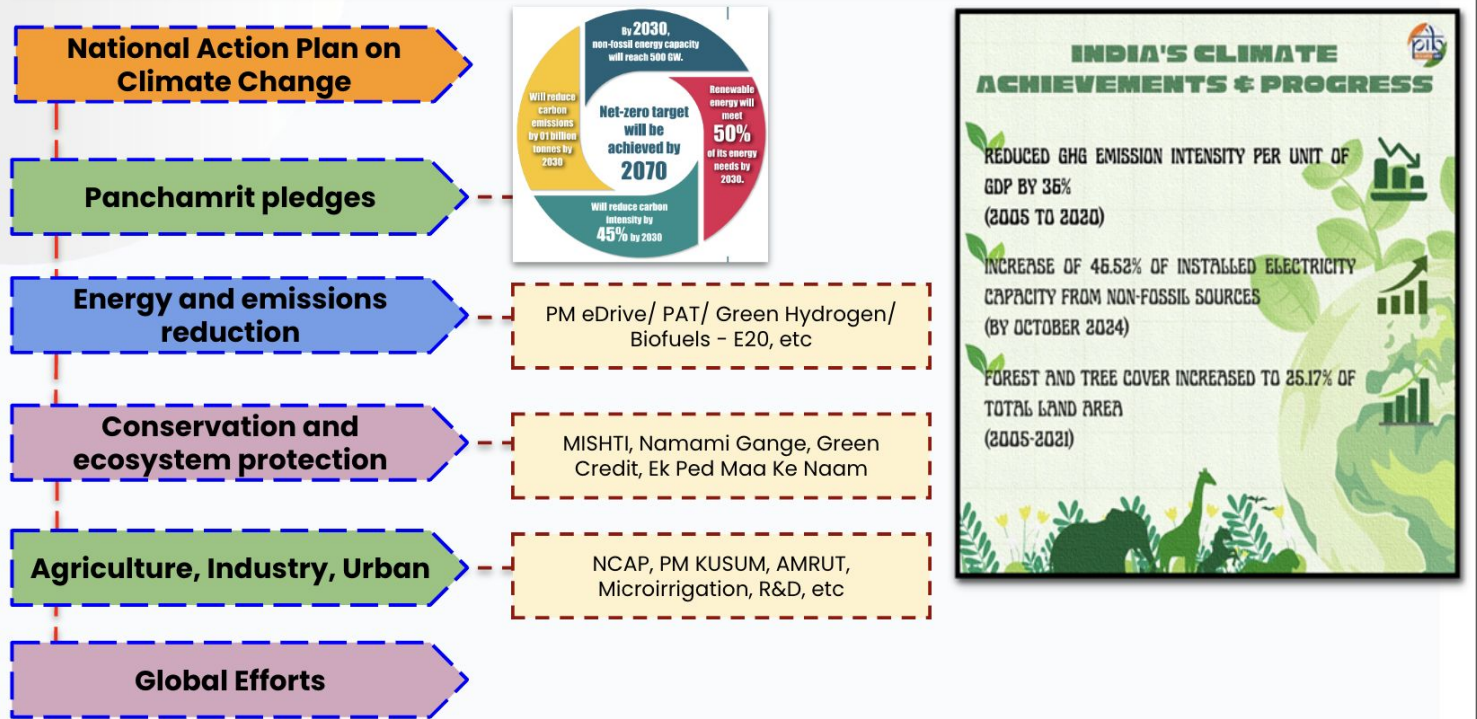
Sources: State of Extreme Events 2024 (IPE Global & Esri India), State of Environment 2024 (CSE), State of Climate report (WMO)

India accounts for **~7% of global CO₂ emissions**, but **per capita emissions are still < global average** (India: ~2.0 ton; Global avg: ~4.7 ton).



CONTEXT: Rising CO₂ Levels — The Alarming Climate Signal (**WMO Report 2024**)

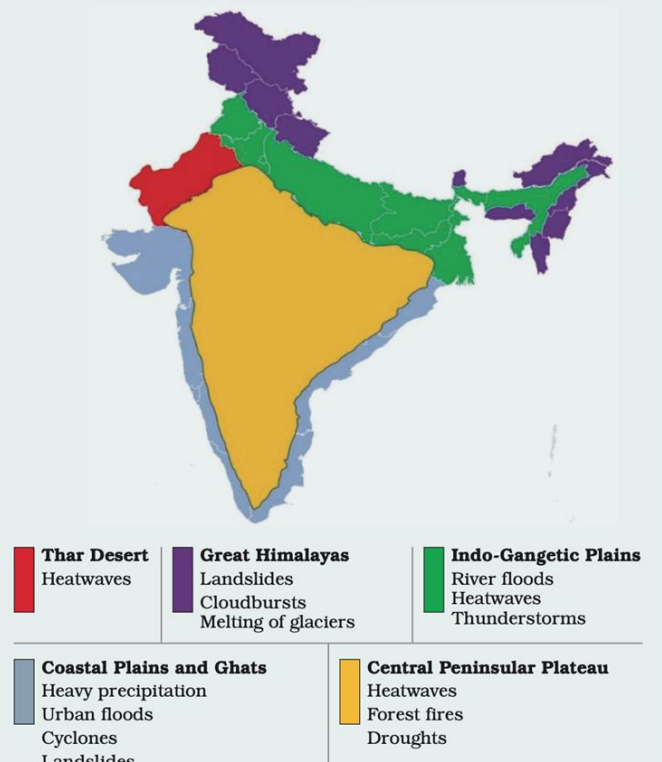
Key Government Initiatives to Combat Climate Change



Mains Practise Question

“Rising CO₂ is not just a number — it’s the thermometer of our planet’s health.” Critically analyse.
(15 Marks, 250 words)

Chart II.1: Risks Emanating from Climate Change across Geographical Regions in India



Note: Map not to scale.

Sri Lankan PM Visit to India

CONTEXT: Sri Lankan PM was on a 3-day official visit to India, marking **people-centric diplomacy** between the two neighbours.



Key Themes Discussed

Education & Skill Development 🎓
Women's Empowerment 👩
Technology & Innovation 💡
Development Cooperation 🤝
Welfare of Fishermen 🐟

Visit to Educational Institutions

📖 "Delhi-Colombo Education Bridge"

🎓 Exchange & Learning

🔧 Skill & Vocational Training

🏠 Sustainable Schools

💻 Digital Learning Collaboration

🌍 The Big Picture: Why Relations Matters

For India, Sri Lanka is:

Central to its
'Neighbourhood First'

MAHASAGAR IoR Security

A Cultural Cousin

For Sri Lanka, India is:

The Economic Lifeline

The Immediate Giant

A Cultural & Demographic Reality



Robust Trade and Investment Ties

India is Sri Lanka's **largest** trade partner, with bilateral trade totaling **USD 5.8 bn** in FY 2024-25

Largest contributor of FDI worth around **USD 2.56 bn** till 2024

PhonePe launched in May 2024

UPI launched to strengthen financial connectivity in Feb 2024



CONTEXT: Sri Lankan PM was on a 3-day official visit to India, marking **people-centric diplomacy** between the two neighbours.

MAP 2

Major Trans-Pacific Shipping Routes Pass Sri Lanka



NOTE: Trade routes are approximate.
SOURCE: Heritage Foundation research.

BG3393 heritage.org

The Pillars of Cooperation

 Diplomatic	Sri Lanka's BRICS membership . Ind's UNSC non-permanent seat (28-29).
 Maritime Security	SLINEX • MILAN exercise • Army Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 'Free, Open, and Secure Indian Ocean' • Port assistance (e.g., Kankesanthurai).
 Energy & Connectivity	Inter-Grid Connectivity. Multi-Product Petroleum Pipeline . Sampur Power Project (under preparation).
 Economic	• USD 4bn financial aid during 2022-23 crisis.
 Humanitarian & Cultural	• 500,000 COVID vaccines sent to Sri Lanka. • Buddhist Circuit & Ramayana Trail promotion.

AGREEMENTS SIGNED

- MoU on cooperation in renewable energy sector
- Pact between NPCI's international arm and Lanka Pay for UPI-based digital payments in Sri Lanka
- MoU on economic development projects in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka
- Joint 'Declaration of Intent' on animal husbandry and dairying
- Energy permit for Sampur Solar power project



18th October 2025

CONTEXT: Sri Lankan PM was on a 3-day official visit to India, marking **people-centric diplomacy** between the two neighbours.

The Challenges: Navigating Troubled Waters

Chinese Influence

- **Debt-Trap Diplomacy**
- Visits by **Chinese 'research' vessels**

TH The Hindu

Chinese President Xi meets Sri Lankan PM Amarasuriya, calls for stronger security collaboration

Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya to discuss cooperation in various sectors.

2 days ago

Sri Lanka: Sinopec seeks govt support to expedite USD 3.7 bn oil refinery construction

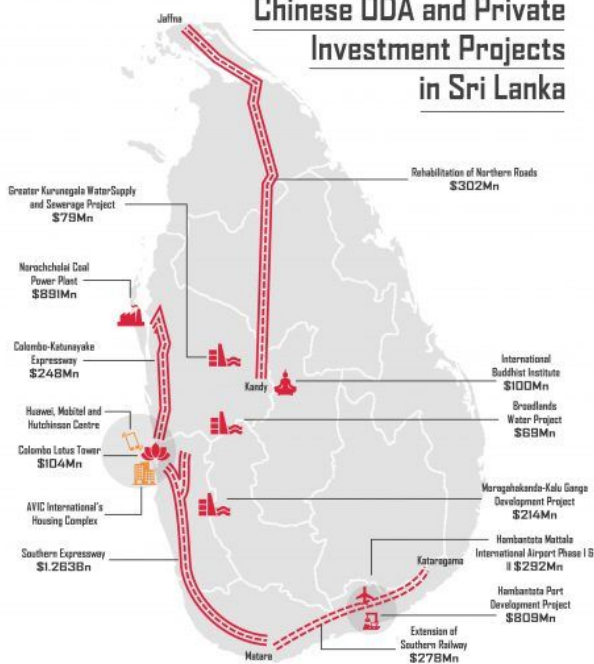
Chinese energy giant Sinopec has requested Sri Lankan government assistance to accelerate the construction of a USD 3.7 billion oil refinery...

2 days ago

CHINESE INVESTMENTS IN SRI LANKA (2005-15)



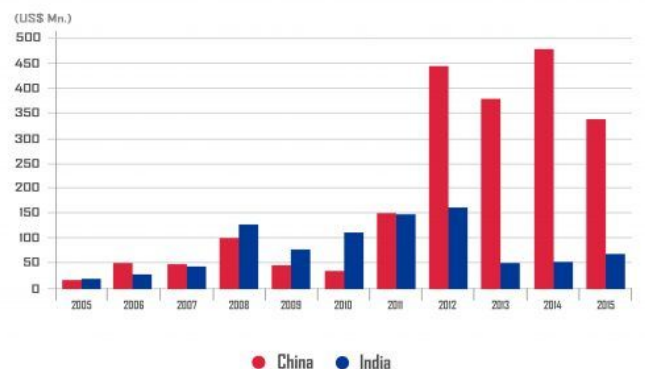
Chinese ODA and Private Investment Projects in Sri Lanka



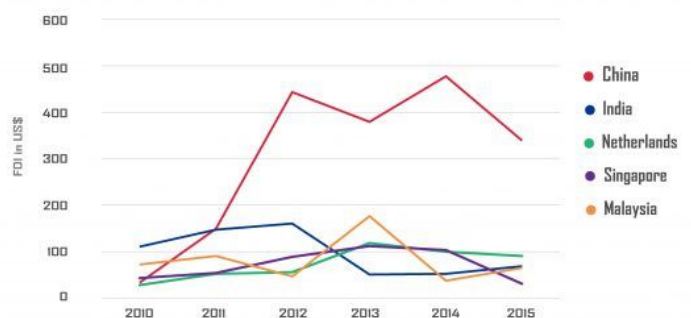
Investment in various Sectors



FDI from China and India



Top Five FDI Sources (2010 -15)

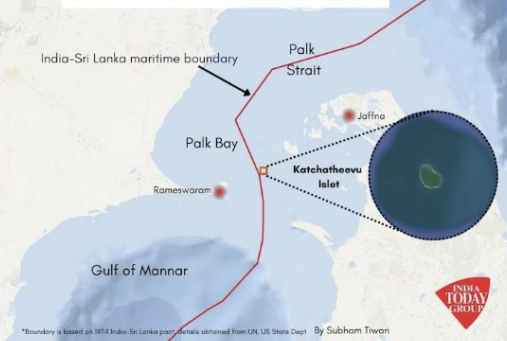


CONTEXT: Sri Lankan PM was on a 3-day official visit to India, marking **people-centric diplomacy** between the two neighbours.

Fishermen Disputes

Livelihood vs. livelihood
Livelihood vs. sovereignty

Where is Katchatheevu Islet



Historical Dispute

■ The island belonged to the **Raja of Ramnad estate (India)**



■ **British Rule (Pre-1947):** Both India and Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) claimed ownership under British rule

■ Fishermen of both the countries used to fish since then



■ India (**Indira Gandhi**) and Sri Lanka (**Sirimavo Bandaranaike**) signed a maritime agreement in 1974 recognizing Sri Lanka's sovereignty over Katchatheevu and agreed traditional fishermen from both countries could fish near the island



Present Controversy

The agreement sparked resentment among Indian fishermen in Tamil Nadu

Concerns

- Loss of access to fishing grounds
- Arrests by Sri Lankan Navy for alleged poaching

Political parties in India sometimes use the issue to gain traction, especially in Tamil Nadu



NDTV

Sri Lanka President Visits Katchatheevu Island, Vows To Protect Territory

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake visited Katchatheevu on Monday, becoming the first Lankan head of state to visit the island.

1 month ago



OTHER Issues

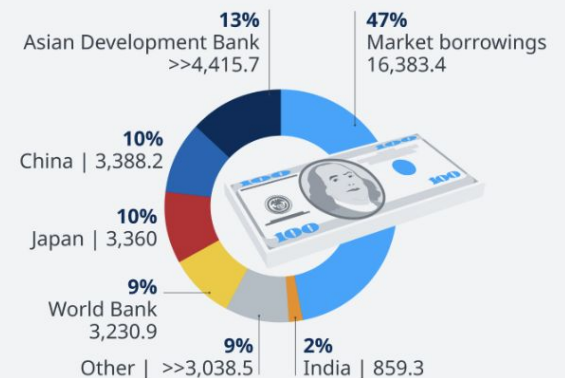
Economic Dependence

Tamil Ethnic Issue

Balancing Act

Sri Lanka: Foreign debt summary

as of end April' 21 (by major lenders in million US dollars)



Source: Department of External Resources, Sri Lanka

The New Indian Express

Ethnic tensions rise in Sri Lanka as Tamil Hindus allege Sinhala-Buddhisisation of religious sites

The changes in demography and cultural identity in many places, with the support of state agencies such as the DoA, are a major cause of...

18 Dec 2024



18th October 2025

CONTEXT: Sri Lankan PM was on a 3-day official visit to India, marking **people-centric diplomacy** between the two neighbours.

The Way Forward

 Constructive Engagement	 India's "Five S" Approach: Samman (Respect) Samvad (Dialogue) Sahyog (Cooperation) Shanti (Peace) → leads to Samriddhi (Prosperity)
 Soft Power +  People-to-People Ties	
 Regional & Multilateral Cooperation	Use BIMSTEC , IORA , and SAARC for Maritime security Trade Climate change.
 Energy Connectivity	- Fast-track projects
 Economic Integration	ETCA for trade expansion.

The Indian Express

Won't allow use of Sri Lanka soil to target India, Dissanayake tells PM; Modi conferred highest civilian award

The Sri Lankan government will not permit its territory to be used in any manner inimical to the security of India and regional stability.

6 Apr 2025

Festivals of Sri Lanka

Vesak (May): Buddha's birth & enlightenment.

Sinhala & Tamil New Year (April): celebrations.

Kandy Esala Perahera (July–Aug): grand procession.

Thai Pongal (Jan): Tamil harvest festival.

Deepavali (Oct–Nov): festival of lights.

Christmas (Dec): widely celebrated.



Mains Practise Question

The visit by PM Harini Amarasuriya reflects a new chapter in 21st-century India–Sri Lanka relations, where education, innovation, and women's empowerment emerge as key pillars of diplomacy. **Comment.**

(15 Marks, 250 words)



Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Cyber Security
Newspaper: Indian Express, Page No. 14

Digital Arrest Scams — New Face of Cybercrime in India



KNOW CYBER, NO CRIME
STAY SAFE ONLINE!

Bro, I just got a call saying I'm digitally arrested! They said there's a cyber case in my name!

What?! Did you send them anything?

Yeah... they asked for money to avoid arrest!

Dude! That's a scam
No law enforcement agency will ever demand money, Report it on 1930



Digital Arrest

- Digital Arrest is when someone is **falsely detained through digital means** like video calls.
- Scammers **impersonate officials** to extort money.

DO'S

- **Know the Facts:** There's no such thing as "Digital Arrest" in Indian law
- **Stay Informed:** Police never interrogate via video calls
- **Stay Alert:** No official asks for money or personal info on calls.
- **Report It:** Use the "Report Suspect" tab on cybercrime.gov.in.

DON'TS

- **Don't Panic:** Scammers want you to react in fear.
- **Don't Pay:** Never send money on video call requests.
- **Don't Engage:** Cut suspicious calls short.
- **Don't Trust:** Ignore unverified calls claiming to be from officials.

Supreme Court Expresses 'Grave Concern'



A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi was hearing a complaint by a senior citizen couple from Ambala who said they were defrauded of over Rs 1.05 crore by digital arrest fraudsters who threatened them with forged orders of the Supreme Court, the Bombay High Court, and the Enforcement Directorate. The Supreme Court had taken suo motu cognizance of their September 21 complaint.

The couple said in their complaint that they were contacted by persons impersonating CBI and IB officers, and judicial authorities through telephone and video calls.

The fraudsters displayed forged orders of the top court through WhatsApp and video conferencing, threatening arrest and property seizure, and coerced the couple into transferring money through multiple transactions between

"The fabrication of judicial orders bearing forged signatures of the judges strikes at the very foundation of public trust in the judicial system besides the rule of law. Such action constitutes a direct assault on the dignity and majesty of the institution. Therefore, such grave criminal acts cannot be treated as an ordinary or routine offence of cheating or cyber-crime," the court said. The Bench



Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Cyber Security
Newspaper: Indian Express, Page No. 14

Digital Arrest Scams — New Face of Cybercrime in India

DIGITAL ARREST & RELATED CYBER CRIME

Year	No. of incidents	Defrauded amount
2022	39,925	₹91.14 cr
2023	60,676	₹339.03 cr
2024	1,23,672	₹1,935.51 cr
2025*	17,718	₹210.21 cr

*till Feb 28; Source: Reply in Rajya Sabha by MoS Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, based on National Cybercrime Reporting Portal data

Why Do People Fall for It?

Fear & Panic

Lack of **Legal Awareness**

Social **Stigma**

AI Manipulation

Isolation

Tech Illiteracy

Category

Phishing

Lottery/Prize Scams

Romance Scams

Job Scams

Investment Scams

CoD/Online Store Scams

Charity Scams

Money Transfer Scams

Credit Card/Loan Scams

Example

Fake bank or Amazon emails

"You've won ₹10 lakh!"

Dating app manipulations

Fake job interviews

"Earn 5x returns"

Fake shopping sites

Fake "flood relief" sites

"Refund mistake" trick

"Low-interest loan offers"

Major Government Initiatives Against Cybercrime

National Cyber Security Policy

CERT-In (Computer Emergency Response Team)

Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative

Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning Centre)

NCIIPC (National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre)

Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

I4C & National Portal

Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting & Management System (1930)

SC on digital arrests



Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Cyber Security
Newspaper: Indian Express, Page No. 14

UPSC PYQ (P) 2017

In India, it is legally mandatory for which of the following to report on cyber security incidents?

1. Service providers
2. Data centres
3. Body corporate

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

UPSC PYQ (P) 2020

In India, under cyber insurance for individuals, which of the following benefits are generally covered, in addition to payment for the loss of funds and other benefits?

1. Cost of restoration of the computer system in case of malware disrupting access to one's computer
2. Cost of a new computer if some miscreant wilfully damages it, if proved so
3. Cost of hiring a specialized consultant to minimize the loss in case of cyber extortion
4. Cost of defence in the Court of Law if any third party files a suit

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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



Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Health

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 12



ROTAVIRUS — BASICS FIRST

A recent study on the impact of the indigenous rotavirus vaccine in India found marked reductions in rotavirus-based gastroenteritis in sites across the country.

Published in the recent edition of *The Nature Medicine*, the study 'Impact of the indigenous rotavirus vaccine Rotavac in the Universal Immunization Program in India during 2016-2020', is an observational,

The study looked at **31 hospitals in nine States** between **2016 and 2020**, to compare proportions and trends before and after the introduction of **Rotavac** in the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).

In **2016**, India introduced Rotavac, an **indigenous oral rotavirus vaccine**, administered at **6, 10 and 14 weeks of age**, in its UIP. When a vaccine is introduced in the UIP, it is provided free to all eligible beneficiaries.

S. N	Vaccine	Protection against
1	BCG	Tuberculosis
2	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis B, liver infection
3	Oral Polio Vaccine	Polio
4	Inactivated Polio Vaccine	
5	Pentavalent vaccine	Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B & Haemophilus Influenza B
6	Measles Vaccine	Measles
7	DPT Vaccine	Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus
8	TT (Tetanus Toxoid)	Tetanus
9	Rota virus Vaccine	Diarrhoea
10	Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine	Japanese Encephalitis - a brain infection

DID you know?

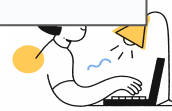
Rotavac was developed as part of a **public-private partnership** with the Department of Biotechnology, Bharat Biotech, the U.S. National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Stanford University, and PATH, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, among others.

Type	Double-stranded RNA virus
Target	Cells lining small intestine
Transmission	Fecal-oral route
Affected Group	<5 years
Disease Caused	Acute Gastroenteritis → diarrhea, vomiting, dehydration



MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Parameter	Observation	
Vaccine Effectiveness (VE)	54%	Public Health Impact
Hospitalisation due to Rotavirus	Significant decline	Economic Impact
Sustained Effect	Effectiveness stable in first 2 years of life	Scientific & Strategic Significance
Consistency across States	Similar trends nationwide	



Equal opportunity for Transgenders

Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Vulnerable Sections
Newspaper: Indian Express, Page No. 12

Plight of a transgender in India



Supreme Court orders Indian govt, UP govt, Gujarat govt and a school to each pay ₹50,000 to trans activist and teacher, Jane Kaushik, for not comply with the Trans Act.

Within 1 year, Jane was fired from a school in UP and a school in Gujarat and neither states, nor the Union govt ministries provided Jane protection against discrimination.

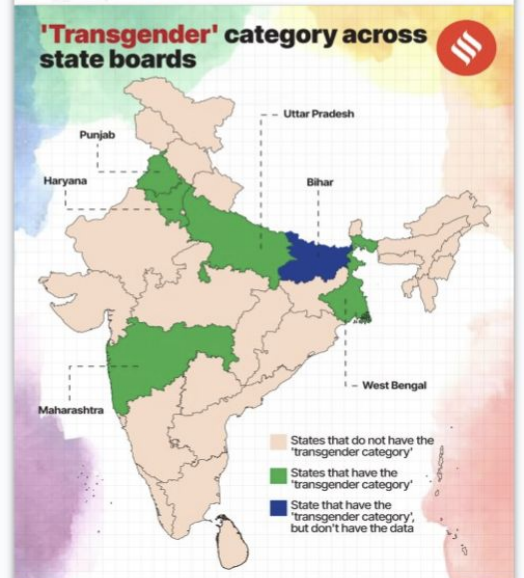
THE SUPREME Court Friday set up a committee under former Delhi High Court judge Justice Asha Menon to **recommend a viable equal opportunity policy for transgender persons in the areas of employment and education.**

ISSUES faced by the community

Nearly 85% Of Transgender Persons' Applications For ID Cards Are Pending

ID card application status	Transgender Persons
Applied	1,915
Rejected	220
Cards issued	277
Pending	1,418

Note: The National Portal for Transgender Persons was launched in November 2020. Data are as of March 24, 2021. Source: Bahva Sabha



Existing Legal & Constitutional Safeguards

A14	Right to equality ; "all persons"
A15 & 16	Prohibit discrimination on grounds of sex; includes gender identity .
A21	Right to live with dignity .
A142	Complete justice

NALSA v. Union of India, 2014

- "third gender"
- Reservations (SEBC)
- Role of Govt.

Empowering Transgender Community

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019

To Mitigate the stigma, discrimination & abuse against transgenders

Financial support for transgender students from class IX to post-graduation

National Portal for Transgender Persons for nationwide digital application for transgender certificates and IDs



Equal opportunity for Transgenders

Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Vulnerable Sections
Newspaper: Indian Express, Page No. 12



Court's Directions

◆ Directive	■ Responsible Entity	🕒 Timeline
Formulate Equal Opportunity Policy	Justice Asha Menon Committee	6 months
Create Transgender Welfare Boards	All States/UTs	3 months
Establish Transgender Protection Cells	Under DM & DGP	3 months
Appoint Complaint Officers	All establishments (Sec. 11)	Immediate
Designate Appellate Authority	Each State/UT	3 months
Create Nationwide Toll-Free Helpline	Union Govt	3 months

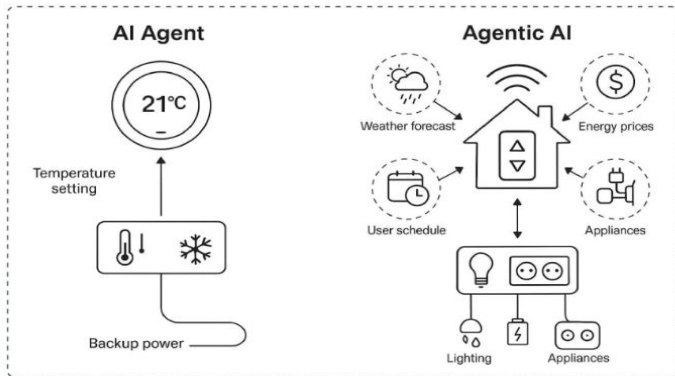
The committee will also highlight lacunae in the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights Act), 2019, and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020, and suggest adequate measures to best address them.

The ruling noted except Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Delhi, "no other State has brought forth any rules along the lines of the 2020 Rules. Orissa and Kerala respectively are the only States that have undertaken comprehensive policy measures. The other States have situated themselves in a comfortable silence."

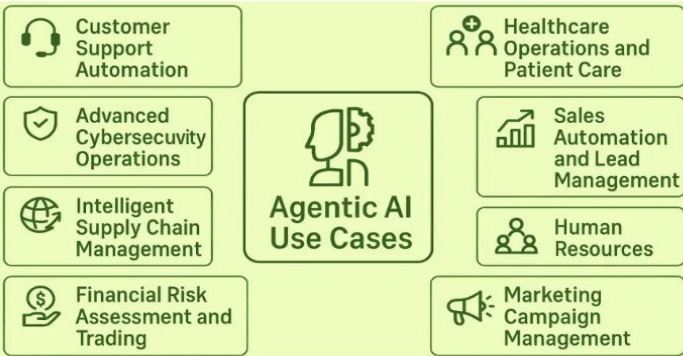


Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Science & Technology
Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 13

★ What is Agentic AI?



Feature	Traditional AI	Agentic AI
Role	Reactive — responds to user inputs	Proactive — plans and acts independently
Learning	Limited to given data	Continuously learns from environment
Interaction	Single-task, rule-based	Multi-agent, context-aware, adaptive
Control	Full human supervision	Partial autonomy, minimal supervision
Example	Chatbot answering FAQs	AI that negotiates contracts or makes investment decisions



💡 Why It's in News — Context for India

For India, where **digital public infrastructure** and **AI-driven innovation** are becoming central to economic growth, agentic AI is a massive opportunity as well as a potential liability, said Saugat Sindhu, global head, advisory services, cybersecurity & risk services, Wipro Ltd.

However, he added, “**Security, privacy, and ethical oversight must evolve as fast as AI itself.**”

The future of AI in India would be defined by the intelligence of its systems, their strength and responsibility the country takes to deploy and secure them.

🚀 Opportunities

- **AUTO data analysis**
- **Economy & Productivity**
- **Healthcare**
- **Agriculture**
- **National Security**

⚠️ Liabilities

- **Tool Misuse** / Prompt Injection
- **Memory** Poisoning
- **Resource Overload**
- **False** but plausible AI-generated **info**
- **Data Privacy** Breach



Empowering humans



Human control



Privacy, security and safety by design



Accountability



Fairness and minimization of bias



Transparency, explainability and ethical use

Syllabus: Prelims: Current events of International importance
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No. 8**

1. VENEZUELA

US military deployments in the Caribbean

Several **US warships** have been spotted operating in the region in recent weeks, including the USS Fort Lauderdale

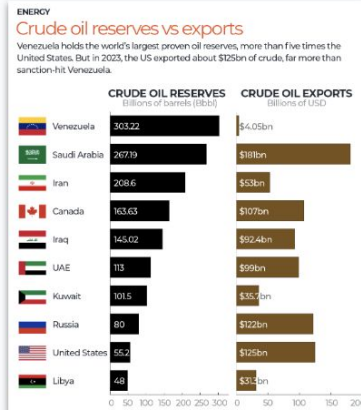
US air power has been bolstered by the deployment of **F-35 fighter jets, drones and surveillance aircraft** to Puerto Rico



In a brazen admission, U.S. President Donald Trump has confirmed authorising covert CIA operations in Venezuela targeting the government of Nicolás Maduro. This escalation follows weeks of deadly strikes on boats in Caribbean waters, threatening to destabilise the region by violating fundamental principles of international law. The prospective actions fall under a grim historical pattern of actions by the CIA – the 1954 coup in Guatemala, the Bay of Pigs disaster in Cuba, the orchestration of the 1973 coup in Chile that resulted in President Salvador Allende's death and the Contra wars in Nicaragua in the 1980s. Such interventions have led to catastrophic consequences such as decades of instability, democratic backsliding and authoritarian rule, leaving scars across Latin America. Mr. Ma-

fighter jets, 13 Sep

It is not difficult to ascertain the **true motive of the Trump administration** – to control Venezuela's massive petroleum reserves and substantial natural gas deposits. The fact that Caracas has maintained strong trading relations with Russia and China, and close ties with the U.S.'s *bête noire*, Cuba, also presents a **geopolitical challenge to American hegemony in the region** – this



ENERGY

Venezuela's oil fields and pipelines

Venezuela has vast oil reserves in the Orinoco Belt, where extra-heavy crude requires advanced extraction techniques, making production expensive and limiting exports.



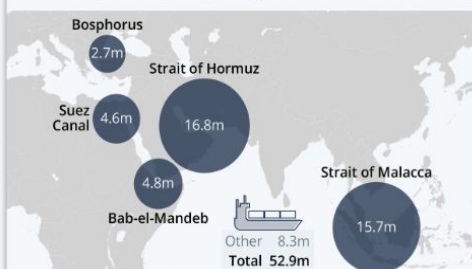
2. Egyptian Suez Canal Economic Zone



Building relations: Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting Foreign Minister of Egypt Badr Abdelatty in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Global Oil Shipments Depend On Major Chokepoints

Level of seaborne oil transiting possible chokepoints in 2018 (million barrels per day)



“We have a special industrial zone for China and for Russia in the SCZONE and we are encouraging an Indian industrial zone where we would provide all facilitation and incentives to Indian companies,” he said, adding that India would be able to export goods beyond Egypt, with its population of 120 million, to a market of more than “two billion inhabitants” across Africa, South America, Europe, and Arab countries that are connected to Egyptian ports through free trade agreements.



Syllabus: Prelims: Current events of International importance
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 8

3. BERING STRAIT



Separates the **Chukchi Peninsula** from **Seward Peninsula**

Width: ~ 82 km

International Date Line

Land Bridge Theory (Beringia)

Bering Strait Bridge/Tunnel

Kremlin envoy suggests 'Putin-Trump tunnel'

Russia and the United States should build a "Putin-Trump" rail tunnel under the Bering Strait to link their countries, unlock joint exploration of natural resources and "symbolise unity", a Kremlin envoy has suggested. The proposal by Kirill Dmitriev, Putin's investment envoy, envisages a project costing \$8 billion.



Q1. Regarding the rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂), consider the following statements:

1. Increasing CO₂ concentration enhances the rate of photosynthesis in all plants equally, irrespective of their type.
2. Higher atmospheric CO₂ levels can lead to ocean acidification, which reduces the availability of calcium carbonate for marine organisms.
3. Rising CO₂ levels are associated with both increased global average temperature and decreased ocean pH.

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

Answer: b

Q2. The term “Digital Arrest” sometimes seen in the news refers to:

- a) The use of digital technologies by law enforcement agencies to track and detain cyber offenders remotely.
- b) A scam that deceives people into thinking they face official investigation or arrest, tricking them into sharing money or personal data.
- c) The judicial process of issuing electronic warrants under the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- d) A preventive detention mechanism that uses AI-based predictive policing tools to identify potential offenders.

Answer: b

Q3. Which of the following statements regarding Rotavirus is/are correct?

1. It is one of the leading causes of severe diarrhoea among infants and young children in India.
2. It can be prevented through vaccination, and India has developed an indigenous vaccine against it.
3. Rotavirus infection spreads primarily through mosquito bites and contaminated water.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: b

Q4. Regarding Agentic Artificial Intelligence (Agentic AI), consider the following statements:

1. Agentic AI refers to systems that can take autonomous actions to achieve specific goals without requiring continuous human instructions.
2. Unlike traditional AI models, Agentic AI can plan, reason, and interact dynamically with external environments or digital tools.
3. All Agentic AI systems are necessarily equipped with Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) capabilities.
4. The development of Agentic AI raises governance and ethical concerns related to accountability, safety, and unintended decision-making.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q5. Regarding the Bering Strait, consider the following statements:

1. It separates the continent of Asia from North America.
2. The International Date Line passes roughly through the middle of the strait.

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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