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Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

23rd October 2025



CONTEXT: As the UN marks its **80th anniversary** (October 24, 2025), the **global mood is sombre, not celebratory**.

BASICS about the United Nations :

- **Establishment**
- **Founding members:** 51
- **UN Charter**
- Principal organs (UNGA, UNSC, ECOSOC, ICJ, Secretariat, Trusteeship Council)

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

determined

to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,



Ten ways
the UN
makes a
difference

THE UNITED NATIONS

Assists and protects 131 million people fleeing war, famine and persecution

Provides food and assistance to more than 150 million people in over 120 countries and territories

Supplies vaccines to 45% of the world's children, helps save 3 million lives a year

Works with 196 nations to keep the global temperature rise well below 2°C/3.6°F

Keeps peace with 71,000 peacekeepers in 11 operations around the world

Tackles the global water crisis affecting over 4 billion people worldwide

Protects and promotes human rights globally and through 80 treaties/declarations

Coordinates US\$ 46 billion appeal for the humanitarian needs of 180 million people

Uses diplomacy to prevent conflict: assists some 50 countries a year with their elections

Supports over 11 million women a year with sexual and reproductive health services

www.un.org • © United Nations • 2024

Erosion of Multilateralism

 Reuters

US withdraws from key UN human rights report, draws criticism from rights advocates

The United States will not participate in a U.N. review of its human rights record, officials said, a move that rights advocates called a...

1 month ago

 The Guardian

UN faces \$500m budget cut and 20% job losses after big drop in US funding

Core budget to fall to \$3.2bn next year and initial minimum 3000 job cuts expected amid streamlining process.

1 month ago

Diplomatic Actions

 Global Times

China blasts US veto on UN Security Council draft resolution over Gaza

A Chinese envoy on Wednesday blasted the United States for its veto on a Security Council draft resolution that would have demanded an immediate ceasefire in...

5 Jun 2025

 The Guardian

Trump issues travel ban barring US entry from 12 countries and signs order restricting student visas at Harvard – as it happened

Donald Trump imposed a sweeping new travel ban in a presidential proclamation issued on Wednesday evening, barring entry to the United States for all nationals...

5 Jun 2025

 Responsible Statecraft

Underfunded diplomacy is feature (not a bug) of US foreign policy

As long as there are no costs for opposing negotiations with adversaries, the military will remain the primary American tool abroad.

31 Oct 2022

 STAT

The U.S. must reconsider its decision to reject amendments to a global health treaty

Undermining the International Health Regulation amendments puts U.S. health at risk, writes former Biden official Stephanie Psaki.

24 Jul 2025

 The New York Times

How a False Report on 90-Day Tariff Pause Made Markets Swing Wildly

The news seemed big: That the Trump administration was considering a 90-day pause to his expansive tariffs. The problem was, it wasn't true.

7 Apr 2025



Multilateralism isn't dead

CONTEXT: As the UN marks its **80th anniversary** (October 24, 2025), the **global mood is sombre, not celebratory**.

Weakening of international institutions and norms

UNSC, WTO, ICJ & ICC,
Underfunding of non-military tools

Rise of nationalism and unilateralism

Tariffs and non-tariff barriers
Rejection of international agreements

Geopolitical fragmentation and polarization

Great power competition,
Rise of alternative blocs

Erosion of trust and public discontent

Disinformation as a tool

The "Somewheres" vs. "Anywheres"

➔ **The political ascendancy of the "Somewheres"**

"Not created to take mankind to heaven, but to save humanity from hell." — Dag Hammarskjöld

Still, the UN has achieved much. The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, the **Sustainable Development Goals**, the **Paris Climate Agreement** —all emerged from multilateral processes. The UN has coordinated **humanitarian relief**, led successful **peacekeeping missions**, helped **conclude dozens of international treaties**, and promoted **global health responses**. It has provided a platform for smaller nations to speak, and for larger ones to listen — however perfunctorily.

SDG Knowledge Hub

Pact for the Future: From Adoption to Implementation

The Pact for the Future formulates 56 commitments in the areas of: sustainable development and financing for development; international peace and security.

Rise of minilateralism

The Washington Institute

Minilateralism: A Concept That Is Changing the World Order

The UAE, Israel, India, and other countries are showing why smaller-scale collaboration based on shared interests can offer distinct...

14 Apr 2023



New forms of cooperation

Multi-stakeholder initiatives

Public-private partnerships

COVID-19 pandemic

Climate Crisis

Multilateralism isn't dead

CONTEXT: As the UN marks its **80th anniversary** (October 24, 2025), the **global mood is sombre, not celebratory**.

Policy Lessons & Way Forward

Reforming Institutions

UNSC, democratize IMF–World Bank, UNGA committees

Accountability & Transparency

Periodic **audits** of UN missions and programs

Inclusivity in Decision-Making

Global South
Small island nations

Digital & Climate Governance

AI ethics, data sharing, and climate finance

Public Diplomacy

Education, JOBS, media, and local outreach

IN 10. India's Role and Opportunity

Champion of Global South

Advocate for Reform

Norm Entrepreneur

Bridge Builder

Sectoral Leadership

Mains Practise Question

Multilateralism is not dying; it is transforming. Critically analyse the statement.

(15 Marks, 250 words)



Executive Influence & Judicial Independence

CONTEXT: The Supreme Court Collegium recently changed its earlier recommendation for the transfer of Justice Atul Sreedharan.

President confirms transfer of Justice Atul Sreedharan from Madhya Pradesh HC to Allahabad HC 	→ A124(2): SC J: Prez + CJI & Judges → A217(1): HC J: Prez + CJI & J + Gov + HC CJI → A222: Transfer HC J: Prez + CJI → <i>Kesavananda Bharati, 1973</i>								
The Current Issue: "Reconsideration sought by Govt"	Collegium System (Consultation vs Concurrence) <table border="1"> <tr> <td>First Judges Case 1981 (<i>S.P. Gupta vs Uoi</i>)</td><td>Executive primacy in judicial appointments.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Second Judges Case, 1993</td><td>Judicial primacy; Collegium system created.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Third Judges Case, 1998 (Presidential Reference)</td><td>Expanded Collegium: CJI + 4 senior-most SC judges for SC appointments; for HC, CJI + 2 senior-most SC judges.</td></tr> <tr> <td>NJAC 2014</td><td>Struck down</td></tr> </table>	First Judges Case 1981 (<i>S.P. Gupta vs Uoi</i>)	Executive primacy in judicial appointments.	Second Judges Case , 1993	Judicial primacy; Collegium system created.	Third Judges Case , 1998 (Presidential Reference)	Expanded Collegium: CJI + 4 senior-most SC judges for SC appointments; for HC, CJI + 2 senior-most SC judges.	NJAC 2014	Struck down
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NJAC 2014	Struck down								

Pattern of Executive Influence (Past Precedents)

Judge	What Happened	Outcome
Justice Akil Kureshi 2018–19 	Govt objected to his posting as MP HC Chief Justice (<i>ALLEGATION: orders against Gujarat officials</i>).	Transferred to Tripura HC , later Rajasthan HC; Never elevated to SC.
Justice S. Muralidhar 2022–23 	Collegium recommended transfer to Madras HC ; Govt delayed approval.	Recommendation recalled; Retired as Orissa HC CJ.
Justice Jayant Patel 2017 	Resigned after being denied elevation to CJ; (<i>ALLEGATION: ordered CBI probe in Ishrat Jahan case.</i>)	

Executive Influence & Judicial Independence



CONTEXT: The Supreme Court Collegium recently changed its earlier recommendation for the transfer of Justice Atul Sreedharan.



How Executive Influence can be exerted?

Control over appointments and transfers

Delaying appointments
Arbitrary transfers

Financial and administrative leverage

Budgetary control
Post-retirement appointments
Establishing tribunals

Enforcement of judicial decisions

Non-compliance with rulings
Use of investigative agencies

Manipulating public perception

Public criticism of judges and rulings
Delaying clarification on recommendations



LawChakra

Govt Tried Repeatedly To Transfer Justice Muralidhar For His Judgment, Reveals Justice Lokur

Former SC judge Justice Madan B. Lokur has revealed that the government repeatedly pressured the Collegium to transfer Justice S. Muralidhar...

1 month ago



The News Minute

Indian Judicial Independence under threat, warns the International Commission of Jurists

The international organisation comprising eminent judges and lawyers has raised questions about the separation of powers between the...

11 Mar 2025

National Deficits



Judiciary

Judge vacancy

No court works with a full complement of judges except the High Court of Sikkim and the district courts in Chandigarh.

SC/ST/OBC

At the district court level no state/UT could fully meet all its Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes quotas. Data on SC/ST/OBC judges is not available for High Courts.

Case Clearance Rate

Among the 18 large and mid-sized states, only Kerala could achieve case clearance rates of 100 per cent and more at both High Court and subordinate court levels.

Executive Influence & Judicial Independence

CONTEXT: The Supreme Court Collegium recently changed its earlier recommendation for the transfer of Justice Atul Sreedharan.

Chart 1: Number of pending cases across courts in crore, as per latest data

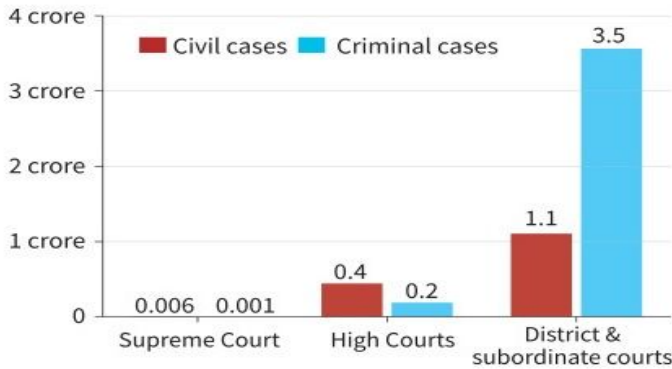


Chart 3: The % of vacant posts of judges across courts, as per latest data

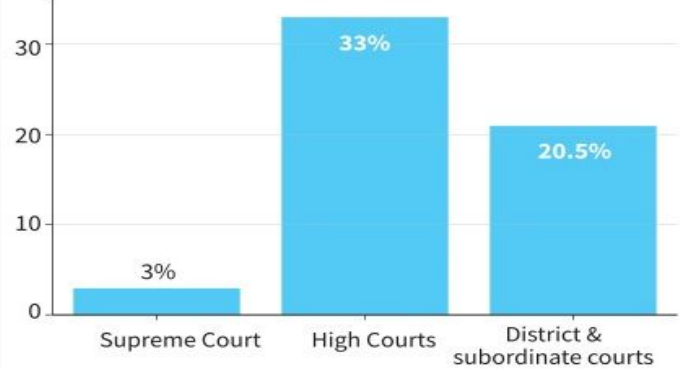


Chart 2: Time taken to resolve/dispose of cases across courts in civil and criminal cases, as per latest data

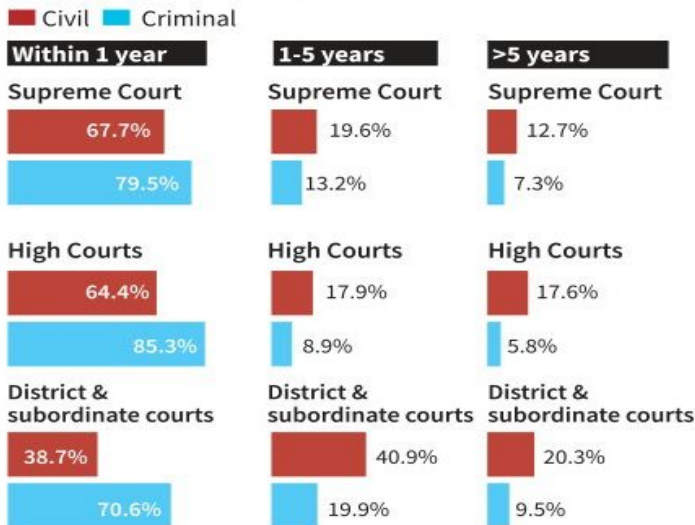
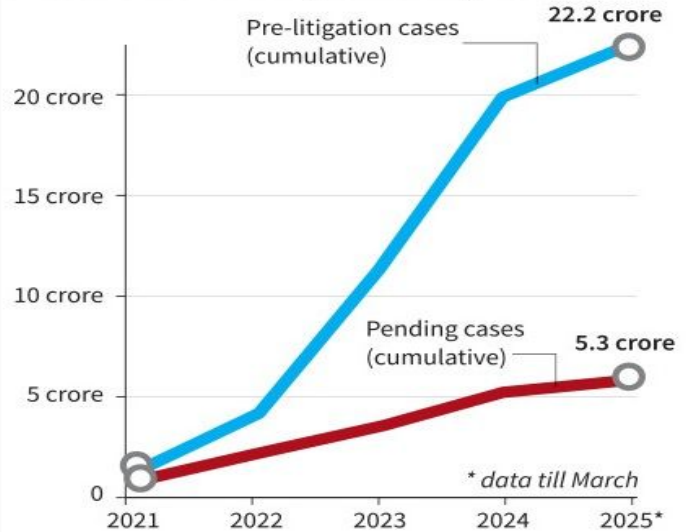


Chart 4: Cumulative number of cases disposed of in National Lok Adalats during the last four years



Still a male bastion

Slow rise in number of women judges in SC

% share of women judges in courts



Memorandum of Procedure

- Initiation at HC level
- Intelligence Bureau
- Centre-SC Collegium
- Collegium decision
- Centre- Notify/ Return
- SC: seek inputs/ reject/ reiterate
- Binding effect on reiteration

Executive Influence & Judicial Independence



CONTEXT: The Supreme Court Collegium recently changed its earlier recommendation for the transfer of Justice Atul Sreedharan.

Mains Practise Question	
Remedies, reforms & best practices	Reforming the MoP
	Increasing diversity
	Post-retirement cooling-off rules
	Independent Judicial Transfers Commission
	Strengthen institutional capacities
	National Judicial Budget
	Upholding the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971
How far do you agree that the Indian judiciary, which fiercely protected its independence by striking down the NJAC, now appears to be yielding ground through its opaque functioning and occasional acquiescence. Comment (15 Marks, 250 words)	



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Social Sector Initiatives
Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 10

WHEN IT COMES to global soft power, ideas travel farther than capital. And for decades, some of India's sharpest minds have boarded outbound flights, drawn not just by better pay or prestige, but by the promise of institutions that value inquiry and reward rigour. Now, with the Donald Trump administration's crackdown on US varsities, the Centre's initiative to attract top-tier Indian-origin "star faculty" from abroad, as reported by this newspaper, is a welcome, and in many ways, well-timed move. The proposal to reverse the brain drain — by offering substantial grants, operational flexibility, and lab infrastructure to returning scholars — could help elevate Indian research in STEM disciplines. India already has a fertile history of collaboration with industries led by Indian-origin business leaders — Google's recent investment of \$15 billion to build an AI data hub in Andhra Pradesh is one example. But if the aim is to build a globally competitive knowledge economy, repatriation efforts alone won't suffice. India must strengthen the academic ecosystem at home to ensure it is not only attractive to returnees but also empowers those who have stayed and contributed to its institutions.

Why Did They Leave?	What Did They Find Abroad?
Better Pay & Prestige	▪ Institutions that value inquiry
Limited research funds	▪ Reward for rigour
Bureaucratic hurdles	▪ World-class lab infrastructure
Lack of academic freedom	▪ Academic autonomy & flexibility

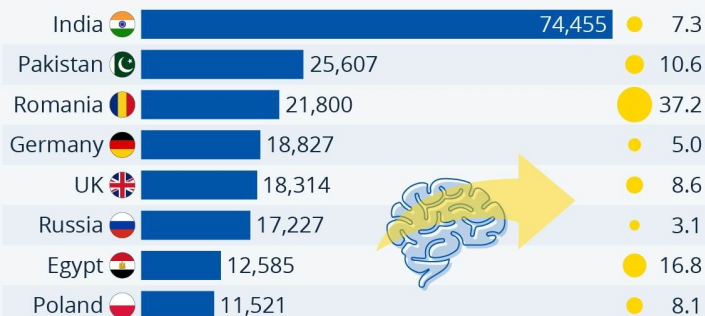


SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Social Sector Initiatives
Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 10

The Countries Experiencing Doctor Brain Drain

Countries with the highest number of domestically trained medical doctors working abroad in an OECD country*

● Expat doctors as a share of domestic doctors* (in %)



* 2021 or latest available

Excludes OECD members Slovakia, Spain, Denmark, Colombia, Costa Rica, Greece, Iceland, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico and Portugal

Sources: OECD, WHO



statista

Indian Talent Is in High Demand in the U.S.

Origin countries of H-1B visa recipients in FY 2020*



The Wire India

As the American Dream Gets Costlier, India Must Turn This Opportunity Into a 'Reverse Brain Drain'

As the American Dream Gets Costlier, India Must Turn This Opportunity Into a 'Reverse Brain Drain' · An exodus which turned into a flood · From...

2 weeks ago

BBC

Google to invest \$15bn to build AI data hub in India

Google's parent company Alphabet will invest \$15bn (£11.29bn) to build an AI data hub in southern India's Andhra Pradesh state.

1 week ago

The New Indian Express

H-1B decision will reverse brain drain, help India: Experts

H-1B decision will reverse brain drain, help India: Experts. Officials and experts also opined that the measure may be temporary and expressed...

1 month ago

Why the timing is "well-timed"?

The "Carrots" Offered:

- **Substantial Grants** 💰
- **Operational Flexibility** 🏃
- **Freedom from red tape.**
- **Lab Infrastructure** 🧪



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Social Sector Initiatives
Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 10

The Blueprint: How to Build a World-Class Ecosystem

Pillar 1: Bolster Existing Institutions of Excellence

We have a **solid foundation**:

- The **Legacy Giants**: IITs, IISc, ISI, TIFR
- The **Newer Powerhouses**: IISERs, CMI

They need:

-  Consistent, high-level **funding**
-  **Merit**-based appointments and fund allocation.
-  **Freedom** for institutions and faculty to pursue their research interests without political or bureaucratic interference.

Pillar 2: Learn from a Global Model - China's "Thousand Talents" Program

- Attracted top global talent (including returnees)
- Massive investment in **university infrastructure**

The Result:

2026 QS World University Rankings

Rank	Name	Overall Score	Previous Rank
11	The University of Hong Kong	94.2	17
32	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	87.4	36
44	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	84.8	47
54	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	81.2	57
63	City University of Hong Kong	78.9	62



SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper : Infrastructure: Energy
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 8

Among the successes that India can take reasonable credit for is cultivating a domestic solar power industry. Somewhere in 2017, the per unit cost of solar power fell below that of coal power, spurring new interest among businesses investing in ground-mounted solar projects. In 2024-25, the International Renewable Energy Agency reported that India generated 1,08,494 Gwh (gigawatt-hour) of solar energy, surpassing Japan's 96,459 Gwh, and making it the third largest producer of solar power behind only China and the United States. India's capacity to manufacture solar module panels rose from 2 GW (gigawatt) in 2014 to 100 GW in 2025, according to the Ministry of Renewable Energy. This is significant considering that India's domestically installed solar capacity is about 117 GW as of September. However, the actual manufacturing capacity is an optimistic projection and the effective production capacity currently is about 85 GW.

The Goal: ~500 GW from non-fossil fuels :

- **Solar power ~ 250-280 GW**
- **Add ~30 GW/ Year**

How India built a domestic industry?

→ Demand stimulus

→ Policy & incentives

- PLI + ALMM + Basic Customs Duty + tenders

→ Schemes

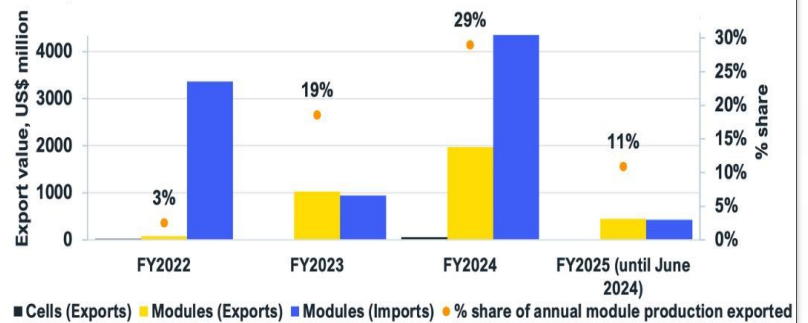
- PM KUSUM
- PM Surya Ghar (Muft Bijli Yojana)

→ Private investment

The Surge in Indian Exports of Solar PV Products

In terms of value, exports have risen more than 23 times between FY2022 and FY2024

PV Exports from India – Annual Trend



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, JMK Research

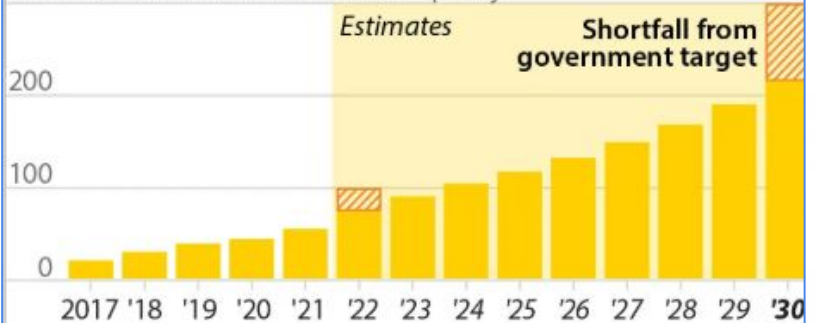
IEEFA

The Installation Gap

India Set to Fall Short of Solar Capacity Goals

Projections indicate 2030 target will be missed by 86GW

300GW cumulative installed solar capacity



Source: JMK research

IEEFA

Current Reality: India has been adding only ~17-23 GW annually

The Core Dilemma

Domestic Manufacturing Conundrum of Modules

1.5 to 2x expensive wrt Ch

Reasons for China's Dominance

1. Massive Scale
2. Raw Material Control
3. Advanced Production

India's Solar Industry Status



SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper : Infrastructure: Energy
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 8

Strategic Recommendations for India

liance, is a good move. While India's PM Kusum scheme (solar power to rural India) and PM Surya Ghar scheme (rooftop solar in urban India) are yet to make substantial gains in terms of domestic adoption, they can serve as models to be pitched in Africa which, due to the lack of sufficient rural power, is able to tap only 4% of its arable land through irrigation, creating an opportunity for solar-powered India pumpsets. Though China still remains the dominant solar supplier in Africa too, India must be able to step in as a credible second player for a shot at the sustainability of its own industry.

"Africa Strategy"

- International Solar Alliance
- Huge **Untapped** Market
- **Credible Second Player**

WAY AHEAD

Bridge the installation gap

Secure Raw Material Supply Chains

 Financial Express

For resilient local supply chains India willing to pay more: Goyal

India is willing to pay a higher price for products made domestically in its efforts to build resilient supply chains at home as frequent...

15 hours ago



Leverage **Diplomatic** Channels

Incentivize Exports



India's Solar Industry Status



SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper : Infrastructure: Energy
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 8

UPSC PYQ (P) 2016

Consider the following statements:

1. The International Solar Alliance was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2015.
2. The Alliance includes all the member countries of the United Nations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

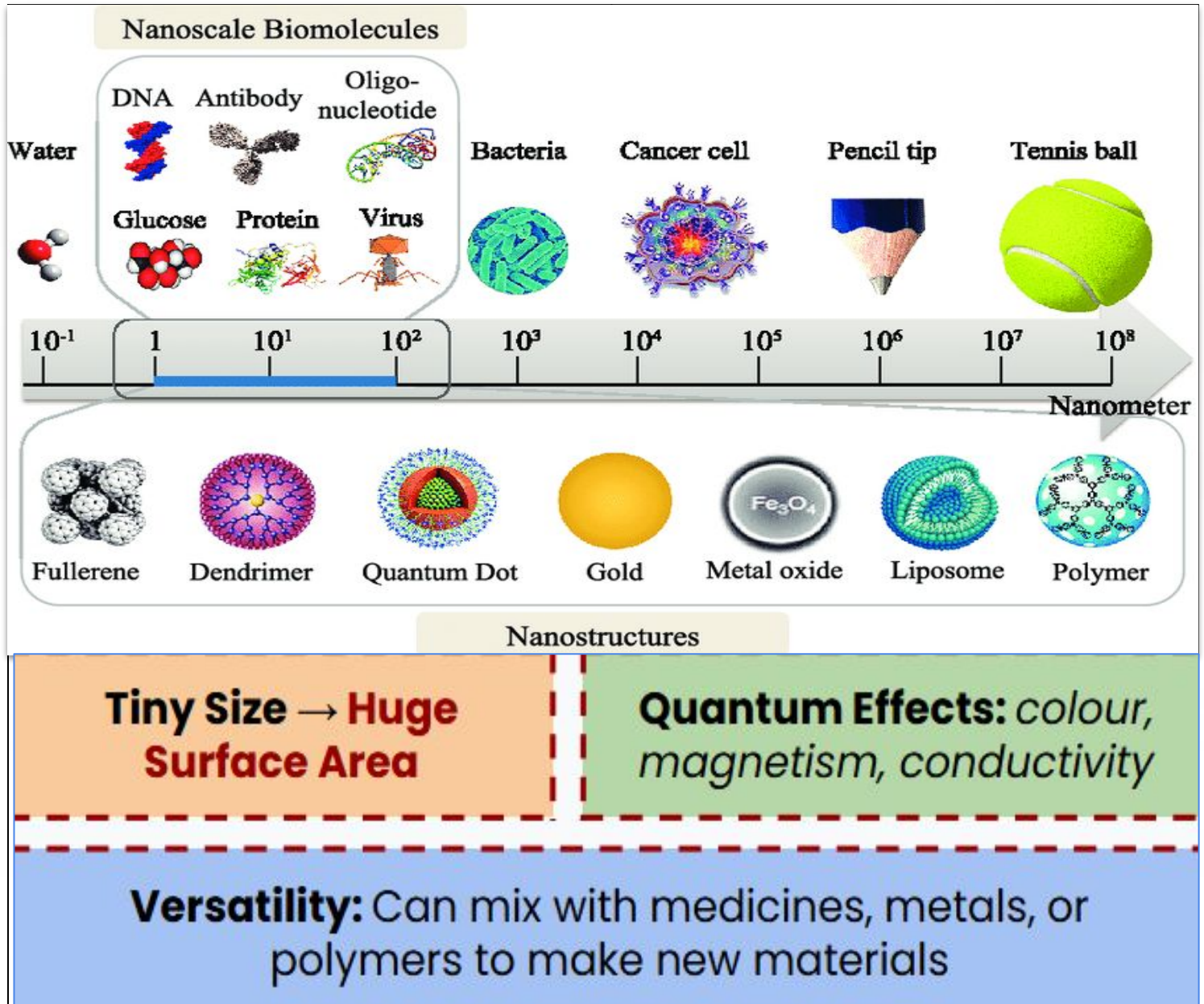
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2



Atomic Stencils for Nanoparticles

SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : General Science

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: SCIENCE



Atomic Stencils for Nanoparticles



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : General Science

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: SCIENCE

"Nano" means one-billionth.

1 Nanometer (nm) = 10^{-9} meters.

KNOW the DIFFERENCE

Bulk Gold

Inert & Yellow

High Melting Point (1064°C)

Poor Catalyst

Gold Nanoparticles

Highly Reactive & Can be Red, Blue, etc.

Melting Point can drop to ~500°C

Excellent Catalyst

Nanoparticles, which are particles thousands of times smaller than the width of a human hair, are the building blocks for revolutionary technologies in medicine, electronics, and energy.

However, to create truly complex and functional materials, scientists need nanoparticles with different surface domains, or patches, that can guide how they connect together and organise in particular patterns. Creating these patchy nanoparticles with precision and in large quantities has been a major hurdle.

Step 1: Stencil Creation (Masking)

Use **iodide atoms** as a *stencil* — stick only to certain flat surfaces of gold nanoparticles

Step 2: Polymer Painting

Introduce **long-chain molecules (polymers)**. They attach only to the **unmasked areas**.

Control Mechanism

By adjusting the **amount and placement of iodide mask**

Key Highlights / Discoveries

- Created **20+ types** of patchy nanoparticles.
- Patterns included:
 - Patches on **corners** 
 - On **faces** 
 - Web-like** designs 
- Nanoparticles **self-assembled** into **3D crystals (superlattices)**.



Atomic Stencils for Nanoparticles



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : General Science

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: SCIENCE

The breakthrough came from an unexpected place: an art class. Researchers from the U.S. and South Korea realised they could adapt the simple concept of stenciling to the nanoscale. Their process, called “atomic stencilling,” works in two main steps. In the first step, iodide atoms are used as a microscopic stencil. These atoms stick selectively to certain flat faces of the small, gem-like gold nanoparticles,

creating a mask that covers specific areas. Next, they introduce long-chain molecules called polymers. These polymers act like paint, but they can only attach to the unmasked regions of the gold nanoparticle.

 Medicine	- Targeted drug delivery - Improved biosensors for diagnostics.
 Energy	- Efficient catalysts for hydrogen production or fuel cells. - Better battery electrodes and solar cells.
 Electronics	- Quantum dots for displays, semiconductors, and circuits. - Miniaturised and faster chips.
 Smart Materials	- Metamaterials that bend light, sound, or heat in novel ways. - Materials for stealth or cloaking technologies.
 Environmental Applications	- Pollution control and water purification.



Atomic Stencils for Nanoparticles



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : *General Science*

Newspaper: *The Hindu* Page Number: *SCIENCE*

UPSC PYQ (P) 2014

There is some concern regarding the nanoparticles of some chemical elements that are used by the industry in the manufacture of various products. Why?

1. They can accumulate in the environment, and contaminate water and soil.
2. They can enter the food chains.
3. They can trigger the production of free radicals.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

UPSC PYQ (P) 2022

Consider the following statements:

1. Other than those made by humans, nanoparticles do not exist in nature.
2. Nanoparticles of some metallic oxides are used in the manufacture of some cosmetics.
3. Nanoparticles of some commercial products which enter the environment are unsafe for humans.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



Artificial rains in choking Delhi

SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper :Environmental pollution and degradation
Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 2

Steps Involved

1. Identify Suitable Clouds

Cumulus (rain-bearing) clouds

2. Choose Seeding Method

Aircraft, Drones, or Ground-Based Generators release seeding agents.

3. Disperse Seeding Agents

Common agents: **Silver Iodide, Potassium Iodide, Dry Ice (CO_2), or Salt.**

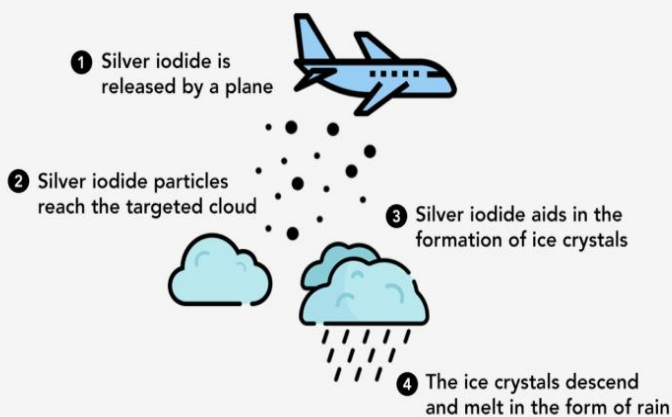
4. Nucleation Process

Particles act as "**seeds**" for ice crystals or water droplets to form around.

5. Growth & Precipitation

Droplets merge, become heavy, and fall as **rain/snow**.

How Cloud Seeding Works



Artificial rains in choking Delhi

SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper :Environmental pollution and degradation
Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 2

Types of Cloud Seeding

Glaciogenic Seeding (Cold Clouds – Below 0°C)

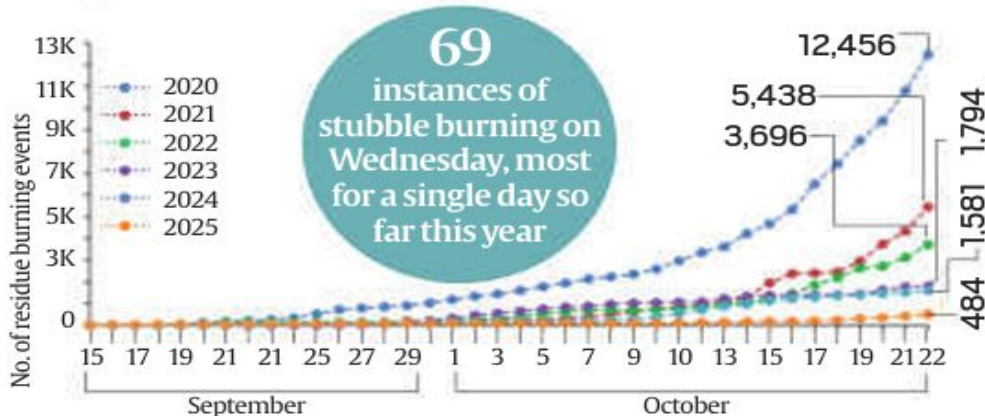
- Silver iodide or dry ice / winter clouds

Hygroscopic Seeding (Warm Clouds – Above 0°C)

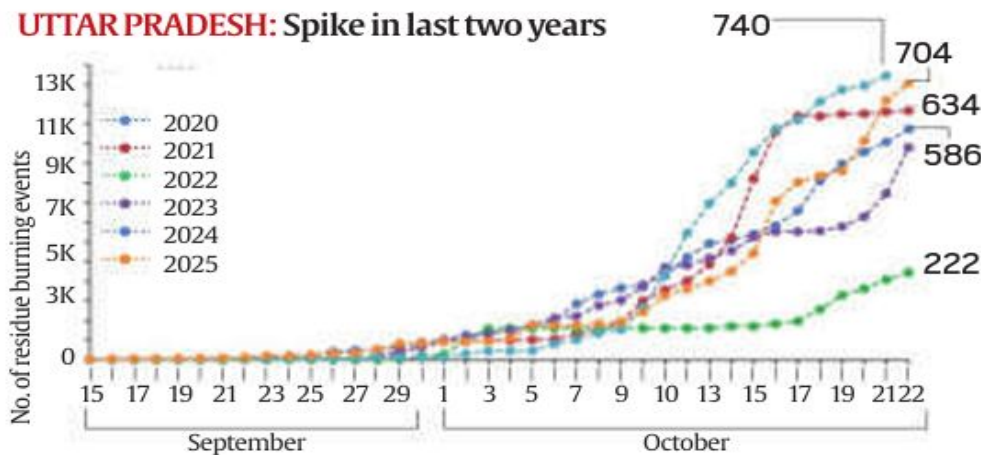
- Salt particles/ tropical regions

FARM FIRES: SEPT 15 TO OCT 22

PUNJAB: Steady decline since 2020



UTTAR PRADESH: Spike in last two years



Smog at Anand Vihar, Wednesday. Amit Mehra

1,919 cases in 6 states

Uttar Pradesh	704
Punjab	484
Madhya Pradesh	378
Rajasthan	292
Haryana	58
Delhi	3

Predominant wind direction in Delhi

■ NORTHWEST, which will transport farm fire emissions from Punjab and Haryana to Delhi



Artificial rains in choking Delhi



SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper :Environmental pollution and degradation
Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 2

DELHI'S AIR quality continued to remain in the 'very poor' category on Wednesday, two days after Diwali. With the air quality index (AQI) being recorded at 353, the figure was marginally higher than Tuesday's reading of 351, as per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

Source apportionment data from the Decision Support System (DSS) for air quality management shows that the mix of pollution sources impacting Delhi has changed since Diwali on October 20.

At 36.06% of the total emissions, the DSS attributed the highest pollution load on Wednesday to the "others" category, which stands for unaccounted sources. The category

According to DSS data, the transport sector was the second most significant contributor to Delhi's pollution at 15.77%. While the energy sector contributed 1.61%, construction activities accounted for 2.18%, and waste burning 1.47% to the pollution.

Meanwhile, the industrial contribution from Delhi and peripheral NCR areas stood at 3.49%, while stubble burning contributed 1.62% to Delhi's PM2.5 load on Wednesday. The share of stubble burning had risen to 2.62% on October 17, before dipping due to changes in wind direction and speed. According to experts, cases of stubble burning are expected to rise again as northwesterly winds have started carrying emissions from Punjab and Haryana to Delhi.

UPSC PYQ (P) 2019

In the context of which of the following do some scientists suggest the use of cirrus cloud thinning technique and the injection of sulphate aerosol into stratosphere?

- (a) Creating the artificial rains in some regions
- (b) Reducing the frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones
- (c) Reducing the adverse effects of solar wind on the Earth
- (d) Reducing the global warming

UPSC PYQ (P) 2025

Artificial way of causing rainfall to reduce air pollution makes use of

- (a) silver iodide and potassium iodide
- (b) silver nitrate and potassium iodide
- (c) silver iodide and potassium nitrate
- (d) silver nitrate and potassium chloride



SYLLABUS : GS 2 Paper : Important International institutions, agencies and fora - their structure, mandate

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 16

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE



 HQ	The Hague, Netherlands
 Estb	1945 (Charter of the UN)
 Seat	Peace Palace, The Hague
 Official Languages:	English and French
 Motto	"The principal judicial organ of the United Nations"

Composition and Structure

 Total Judges	15 judges
 Term	9 years (eligible for re-election)
 Election Cycle	1/3rd of judges elected every 3 years
 Elected By	Simultaneously by UN General Assembly (UNGA) and UN Security Council (UNSC)
 Voting Requirement	Absolute majority in both bodies separately
 No Two Judges from Same Country	
 President & Vice-President	Elected by judges themselves for 3 years

Jurisdiction of the ICJ

(A) Contentious Jurisdiction

- Legal disputes between States
- Only States can be parties
- Based on consent of the States

* Ways Consent is Given:

1. By special agreement between parties.
2. Through treaties/conventions.
3. Through optional clause declarations under Article 36(2) (States accept compulsory jurisdiction)

 **Binding Nature** + No appeal allowed

 **Enforcement** (if failure): approach UNSC

(B) Advisory Jurisdiction

- Gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred by:
 - UNGA
 - UNSC
 - Authorized by UNGA (UNESCO, etc.)
- **Not binding** but carry great moral and legal authority.

SYLLABUS : GS 2 Paper : **Important International institutions, agencies and fora – their structure, mandate**

Newspaper: *The Hindu* **Page Number:** 16

'BASIC NEEDS' of Gaza

The International Court of Justice said on Wednesday that Israel was obliged to ease the passage of aid into Gaza, stressing it had to provide Palestinians with the "basic needs" to survive.

The wide-ranging ICJ ruling, quickly rejected by Israel, came as aid groups scrambled to scale up much-needed humanitarian assistance into Gaza, seizing upon a fragile ceasefire agreed earlier this month.



seizing upon a fragile ceasefire agreed earlier this month.

The ICJ's "Advisory Opinion" is not legally binding but the court believes it carries "great legal weight

and moral authority".

ICJ President Yuji Iwasawa said Israel was "under an obligation" to agree to and facilitate relief schemes provided by the United Nations and its enti-

ties". That included UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, which Israel has banned after accusing some of its staff of taking part in the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack that

"Israel categorically rejects the ICJ's 'advisory opinion,' which was entirely predictable from the outset regarding UNRWA," foreign ministry spokesman, Oren Marmorstein, posted on X. "This is yet another political attempt to impose political measures against Israel under the guise of 'International Law.'"

Mr. Iwasawa said the ICJ "rejects the argument that the request abuses and weaponises the international judicial process".

Within hours of the ruling, Norway said it would propose a UN General Assembly resolution demanding that Israel lift restrictions on Gaza aid.



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the International Court of Justice (ICJ):

1. It handles the legal disputes of both civil & criminal in nature between the nation-states.
2. Both nation-states as well as individuals can file cases in the ICJ.
3. It is considered one of the principal organs of the United Nations.

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

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

Answer: a

Q2. "Silver iodide & Potassium iodide" has been recently seen in the news for which of the following purposes?

- a) For the control of increasing pest attacks on crops.
- b) As alternatives to harmful chemicals used in industries.
- c) To artificially enhance precipitation through weather modification.
- d) As critical elements for the production of TV monitors.

Answer: c

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. Gold Nanoparticles are highly reactive and can act as an excellent catalyst for oxidation & reduction reactions.
2. Gold Nanoparticles have a high melting point in comparison to Bulk Gold

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: a

Q4. Which of the following statements regarding the International Solar Alliance (ISA) is NOT correct?

- a) Its headquarters is established in New York, USA.
- b) It aims to provide energy access & energy security for member nations
- c) All member states of the United Nations are eligible to become members of ISA.
- d) It was launched by India in the year of 2015.

Answer: a

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. The Collegium system for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court was created through the Second Judges Case 1993.
2. The National Judicial Appointment Commission was approved by the Supreme Court in NALSA v. UOI 2014.

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: a





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