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The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

31st October 2025



India – ASEAN: Partners for Progress



CONTEXT: The article explains the significance of the recent ASEAN Summit held in Kuala Lumpur.

About ASEAN:

- **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** was established on **8 August 1967** in **Bangkok, Thailand**, with the **signing of Bangkok Declaration**.
- **Founding Members:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- **Later Members:**
 - Brunei, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Myanmar & Cambodia.
 - Timor Leste in October 2025
- **Eleven Member States** of ASEAN

Timor-Leste to join ASEAN



Significance of ASEAN:

- **Geopolitical Balancing in the Indo-Pacific**
 - serves as a stabilizer amid great power competition

Maritime Security:

- share concerns over China's assertiveness in the South China Sea
- **2016 (China – Philippines):** the Permanent Court of Arbitration even gave a ruling adverse to China, but Beijing has rejected it.
- About **40–50% of India's trade** is conducted through Indo-Pacific.
- **2026** – designated as the "ASEAN–India Year of Maritime Cooperation" to enhance collaboration in the Blue Economy.

Trade and Economic Integration:

- ASEAN is India's fourth-largest trading partner
- Bilateral trade has reached **USD 122.67 billion in 2023–24**.

Dynamic market

Defence Cooperation:

- sale of the BrahMos cruise missile system to the Philippines

Regional connectivity:

- **India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway:** connect Moreh in Manipur through Myanmar to Mae Sot in Thailand.
- **Multi-modal Kaladan project:** which aims to connect India's Northeast to the sea via the Sittwe port in Myanmar.

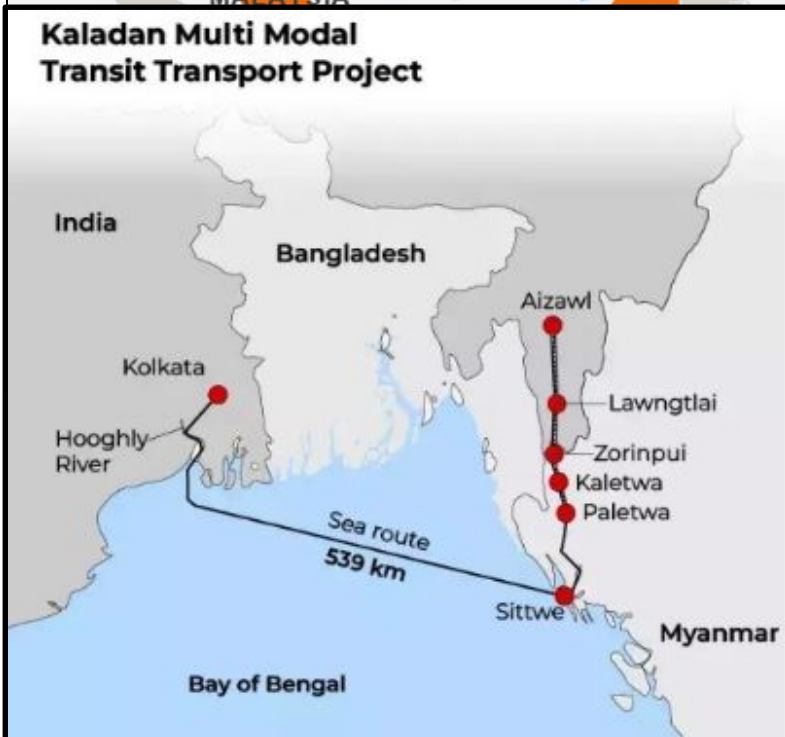
Cooperation in Capacity Building:

- Proposal to set up a **Centre for Southeast Asian Studies** at Nalanda University, enhancing academic and cultural exchange.



India – ASEAN: Partners for Progress

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Challenges:

- **Trade Imbalance & RCEP Withdrawal:**

- **India's trade deficit with ASEAN** has widened sharply, rising from USD 9.66 billion (2016–17) to USD 45.2 billion (2024–25).

- **India is reviewing the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement** (signed in 2009)
- India has **not joined the RCEP**, which is a free trade deal between **ASEAN, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea**.



India – ASEAN: Partners for Progress



CONTEXT: The article explains the significance of the recent ASEAN Summit held in Kuala Lumpur.

- **Delays in Connectivity Projects:**
 - India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway has been repeatedly postponed due to slow execution and **unrest in Myanmar**.
- **ASEAN's China Tilt:**
 - **economic dependence on China** – ASEAN-China trade USD 702 billion vs ASEAN-India USD 122.67 billion, 2023–24.
- **Differences in Indo-Pacific Strategy:**
 - While **Vietnam and the Philippines** support India's stronger Indo-Pacific presence, others like **Cambodia prefer neutrality** to avoid antagonizing China
- **Myanmar Crisis and Divergent Political Stances:**
 - India and ASEAN differ on their approach to Myanmar's political crisis following the **2021 military coup**.
- **Data Protection Issues:**
 - ASEAN prefers a liberal digital trade regime, while India enforces data sovereignty rules.

Way Ahead

- **Fast-Track Connectivity Projects**
- **Revising the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement**
 - India should push for sector-specific agreements in electronics, pharmaceuticals, and green energy where it has a competitive edge.
- **Co-Develop Critical and Emerging Technologies**
- **Establishing an India-ASEAN Indo-Pacific Security Forum:** structured mechanism for strategic dialogue.
- **Foster Supply Chain Resilience through Co-Manufacturing:** encouraging ASEAN firms to set up manufacturing bases in India.

Mains Practice Question

“Discuss the significance of India-ASEAN relations in the context of India's Act East Policy. How can both sides strengthen their strategic and economic partnership amid emerging regional and global challenges?”

(15 Marks, 250 words)

POLITICS | INDIA

How India is supporting Myanmar's military with arms

Murali Krishnan in New Delhi
05/25/2023

A new UN report has revealed that state-owned and private Indian companies supplied arms and raw materials to the junta in Myanmar. Pro-democracy activists decry the actions.



Should AI be introduced as part of school curriculum



CONTEXT: Recently, the Ministry of Education announced that an AI curriculum would be introduced from Class 3 onwards for the next academic year (2026-27).

Government's Decision:

- **July, 2025:** government had launched the '**Skilling for AI Readiness' initiative**:
 - under which thousands of **CBSE schools** will offer **AI as a skill subject** starting from **Class 6**.

Basic Concepts:

- **AI literacy** is the ability to **understand how AI works** and to apply critical thinking while evaluating its responses.
- **AI skills** refer to developing AI tools, AI products, or being somewhere in the AI value chain.
- **According to experts:**
 - **Class 6**, the focus is on **AI literacy**.
 - **But in Classes 11 and 12, it is on AI skills**, such as Python programming and natural language processing.

Benefits:

- **Creating a workforce ready for digital economy:**
 - **NITI Aayog:** AI could displace up to two million jobs in India's tech sector over the next five years, it is also projected to create four million new jobs by 2030, jobs that demand new skills and adaptability.
- **STEM Careers**
- **Personalised adaptive Learning:**
 - Customisation of educational content
 - create interactive quizzes and personalised study material
- **Enhancing educators effectiveness:**
 - AI automates **repetitive tasks such as grading and attendance**, freeing teachers

to spend more time on meaningful engagement with students.

- powerful assistant in personalised lesson planning and real-time feedback.
- **Information asymmetries increases vulnerability:**
 - **Youth Pulse Survey:** Around **88% of the school students** who took that survey are already using AI study companions.

Challenges:

- **Digital divide:** Acc. to "**Unified District Information System for Education Plus**" –
 - Only **63.5% of schools** in the country have **internet facilities**, and **around 65% have computers**.
- **Shortage of Teaching staff:**
 - About 9% of schools in India have just one teacher and 35% have less than 50 students and two teachers.
 - Half the teachers don't have proper qualifications. There is a large contingent of para teachers.
- **Upskilling the teaching Force:**
 - over one crore educators in India
- **Dis-education**
- **Psychological impact on children's**
- **Ethical concerns**

Way Forward:

- **Upskilling of educators:**
 - **Over 10,000 teachers have already been trained since 2019** with help from technology giants **Intel, IBM**, and



Should AI be introduced as part of school curriculum



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government institutes such as the **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology**.

- **Building a safer ecosystem:** obligations on platforms and intermediaries regarding "what you can do with children's data".
- **Focusing on foundational literacy and critical thinking:**
 - till the age 12
 - Introducing AI skills from class 9th
- **Addressing digital divide**
- **Evolve pedagogy**

Mains Practice Question

"Should Artificial Intelligence (AI) be introduced as a subject in Indian schools? Examine the potential benefits and challenges of integrating AI education at the school level in India."

(15 Marks, 250 words)



India, Russian Oil & looming secondary sanctions threat



Syllabus: Prelims: Economy

Newspaper: Indian Express, **Page No.** 17

INDIA HAS always opposed unilateral economic sanctions on countries. Yet it has, though grudgingly, heeded such sanctions, with Indian refiners stopping purchases following the United States' sanctions on Iranian and Venezuelan oil.

Something similar is now playing out with Russia, following the US sanctions on Russian oil giants Rosneft and Lukoil recently. India's largest refiner, the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), said it will comply with all sanctions imposed by the international community, without specifying the US. This, even as Russian crude made up 21% of IOC's oil import basket in the April-September period.

Private sector giant Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), which accounts for around half of India's Russian oil imports, said Friday that it was assessing the implications and compliance requirements following the sanc-

tions, and will be "complying fully" with any guidance from the Indian government on the issue. Sources indicated that RIL would heavily reduce its Russian imports.

Refiner HPCL-Mittal Energy (HMEL) — a joint venture between public sector refiner Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal's Mittal Energy — also said that it suspended further purchases of Moscow's oil after Western nations imposed sanctions. It is the first Indian refiner to officially mention suspending Russian oil imports.

The reason why countries like India try to steer clear of entities sanctioned by the US is primarily rooted in the sword of secondary sanctions hanging over their heads.

Why two major Russian oil companies?

- To pressurise Russia to end the war in Ukraine, but **without affecting the flow of barrels**.
- Energy sector accounts for around **20% of Russia's GDP**.
- **According to Bloomberg**, the two companies together account for nearly half of Russia's total crude-oil exports.

Understanding Sanctions:

- **Primary Sanctions:** These restrict or prohibit dealings with **American citizens and entities**.
- **Secondary Sanctions:** These are designed to **prevent third-party countries** from conducting business with sanctioned entities, thus serving as a force multiplier for primary sanctions.

Reasons for Compliance:

- Global dominance of the US dollar and the centrality of the American financial system.
- **Through Secondary sanctions** – cut off foreign parties from access to the US financial and commercial markets if these entities conduct business in a manner considered detrimental to US foreign policy.



India, Russian Oil & looming secondary sanctions threat



Syllabus: Prelims: Economy

Newspaper: Indian Express, **Page No.** 17

Most Indian refiners (both in public and private sectors) have investments or arms operating in the US, and have long-standing business and trade relationships with American companies that they might have to sacrifice. RIL has several US-based subsidiaries across sectors, has raised debt through dollar-denominated bonds, and has major investments from companies like Google, Meta, and Intel. India also buys crude oil and liquefied natural gas from the US.

A senior executive from India's refining sector explained that almost all of India's oil is bought in dollars, which means that Indian refiners must pay overseas suppliers in American currency, and that leads to huge dependence on their banking system. Payments to shipping

India's Specific Concerns:

- **India's dependency on Russian oil:**
 - especially given that over *two-thirds of India's Russian oil imports* are from the sanctioned companies Rosneft and Lukoil.
 - In **2025**, Russian oil constituted over **35% of India's total oil imports**, indicating significant exposure to potential risks from US sanctions.
 - There are **no sanctions on Russian oil**; it is only **subject to a price cap** imposed by the US and its allies that applies if Western shipping and insurance services are used for transporting the oil.

Strategic Adjustments:

- Due to **lack of direct sanctions on Russian oil**, the industry is likely to see **shifts in procurement strategies**.
- Potentially involving **indirect purchases from third-party traders**.
- However, **this approach is risky**, as these traders might also become targets of US sanctions if they continue facilitating Russian oil trade.

Government Stance:

- Indian government maintains that it will source oil from the most economically viable sources, provided they are not under direct sanctions.

Overall, while the **full impact of sanctions remains to be seen**, the threat of secondary sanctions will likely lead to a **reevaluation of India's import strategies** and **increased caution within its refining sector**.



Ekta Diwas: A Pillar of National Cohesion



Syllabus: G.S. 1: Important Personalities
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No. 2**

National Unity Day:

- Observed **annually on October 31** to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.
- To honor his pivotal role in fostering national and political integration and unity in India.
- The day was **first celebrated in 2014**.
- During the **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas held on 31st October, 2015** Prime Minister announced the initiative '**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**' for sustained and structured connect between people of different regions of the country for an enhanced understanding and bonding between them.
- The year **2025** marks **Sardar Patel's 150th birth anniversary**.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:

- **Birth:** Born on **31st October 1875**, in Nadiad, **Gujarat**.
- **Role in the Indian National Movement:**
 - **Kheda Satyagraha (1918):** Patel actively participated in the Kheda Satyagraha to *secure exemption from land revenue payments due to crop failure*.
 - **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920):** Patel fully committed to the Non-Cooperation Movement, **leaving his law practice** to engage in political work.
 - **Bardoli Satyagraha (1928):** Led the resistance **against an unjust tax increase**, earning him the **title "Sardar" for his leadership**.
 - **Presided Indian National Congress Karachi session, 1931** where Congress passed a resolution on **Fundamental**

- **Rights and the National Economic Program**, and ratified the **Gandhi-Irwin Pact**.
- **Quit India Movement (1942):** Patel supported the resolution passed by the *All India Congress Committee*. He was arrested along with other Congress leaders and **detained in Ahmednagar Fort** for his participation.
- **Contributions Post-Independence:**
 - first Deputy Prime Minister and **Home Minister of India**.
 - **Political Integration of Independent India:** Patel spearheaded the integration of **over 560 princely states** into the Indian Union.
 - Patel's efforts in **preventing the Balkanization of India** earned him the **title "Iron Man of India"**.
 - **Father of All India Services:** Sardar Patel also laid the foundation for All India Services, **envisioning them as the "Steel Frame"** and a unifying force for the newly independent country.
 - **National Civil Services Day (21st April)** honors *Sardar Patel's 1947 speech*, calling civil servants "the steel frame of India" and reinforcing their dedication to public service.



Ekta Diwas: A Pillar of National Cohesion



Syllabus: G.S. 1: Important Personalities
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 2

- **Death & legacy:**

- passed away on **December 15, 1950**.
- The **Statue of Unity**, unveiled in **2018**, stands as a tribute to his efforts and ideals.
 - **world's tallest statue** at 182 meters, in Gujarat.
 - Overlooking the Narmada River and the Sardar Sarovar Dam.

PYQ

Q. What was the reason for Mahatma Gandhi to organize a satyagraha on behalf of the peasants of Kheda? (2011)

The Administration did not suspend the land revenue collection in spite of a drought. The Administration proposed to introduce Permanent Settlement in Gujarat.

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



31st October 2025

Syllabus: Prelims: Places in News

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 1

U.S. relief on sanctions against Chabahar in force from Wednesday, says MEA; essential supplies to Afghanistan can now be sent through the port

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

India has received a waiver on the United States' sanctions against Iran's Chabahar port for six months, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal announced on Thursday. Officials said that the sanctions waiver had come into effect from October 29.

India has been associated with the Chabahar port at least since 2005, when it entered into an agreement with Iran to develop the port.

Both sides signed an MoU in 2015 to jointly develop the Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar in the hope that it would emerge as a major commercial hub helping India access the markets of Afghanistan, the Central Asian states, and Russia. The port's



Major link: India has been associated with Chabahar port since 2005, when it entered into an agreement with Iran. GETTY IMAGES

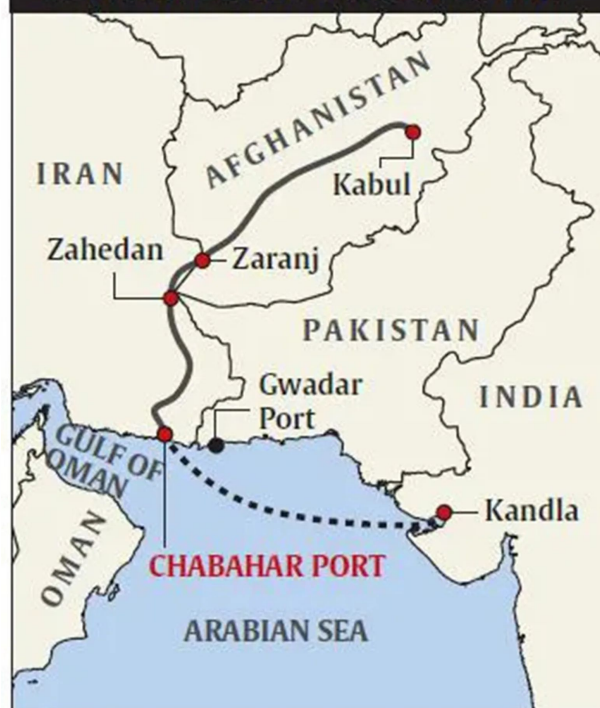
prospects came under a cloud due to Western sanctions against Iran, but in 2018, the first Trump administration gave a waiver to Indian operations at the Chabahar port as it was aimed at helping the development needs of the U.S.-backed Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

In September, the U.S. Department of State said that it would revoke the waiver for Indian opera-

tions that was offered by Donald Trump in 2018. The move exposed anyone associated with the Chabahar project to U.S. sanctions under the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act.

However, the latest U.S. decision means that supplies to Afghanistan, especially essential items like food grains and medical products, can still be sent through Chabahar.

BEING DIRECT: INDIA TO CHABAHAR



Chabahar Port:

- In May 2016, India, Iran, and Afghanistan signed a trilateral agreement to establish the **International Transport and Transit Corridor**, also known as the Chabahar Agreement.
- It is on the **Gulf of Oman** at the mouth of the **Strait of Hormuz**.
- It has **two main ports** called the **Shahid Kalantari Port** and the **Shahid Beheshti Port**.
 - Iran had offered India the project of developing the Shahid Beheshti port.
- The construction of the Chabahar Port and the **construction of a rail line from Chabahar Port to Zahedan** are the major highlights of this project.
- It is the **only Iranian port** having direct access to the Indian Ocean.



What the port offers

Chabahar is a deep-water port located in the **Sistan-Baluchestan province** of Iran. It is the **closest Iranian port to India**, and is located in the open sea, providing easy and secure access for large cargo ships.



31st October 2025

Syllabus: Prelims: Places in News

Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 1

Significance of Chabahar Port:

- Offers an **alternative Trade route** that **bypasses Pakistan**, reducing India's reliance on its neighbour for trade with Afghanistan and beyond.
- **Connect with Central asian Nations:**
 - Central Asian nations, **rich in resources** but without direct access to the sea have shown interest in utilising Chabahar to connect to the Indian Ocean Region and tap into the Indian market.



- **Humanitarian Assistance:**
 - 2.5 million tonnes of wheat and 2,000 tonnes of pulses have been trans-shipped from India to Afghanistan via Chabahar port.
 - **In 2021** - India provided 40,000 liters of the **eco-friendly pesticide malathion to Iran** through the port to combat locust attacks.
 - To counter to China's development of the **Gwadar port in Pakistan**.
 - **Part of the proposed International North-South Transport Corridor:** a multi-modal transportation project linking the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran, and onward to northern Europe via St Petersburg in Russia.



Chabahar Port & US waiver



Syllabus: Prelims: Places in News
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 1



Q. What is the importance of developing Chabahar Port by India? (2017)

- (a) India's trade with African countries will enormously increase.
- (b) India's relations with oil-producing Arab countries will be strengthened.
- (c) India will not depend on Pakistan for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- (d) Pakistan will facilitate and protect the installation of a gas pipeline between Iraq and India.



Reforms needed in PM POSHAN Scheme



Syllabus: Prelims: Government Schemes
Newspaper: Indian Express, **Page No.** 10

Centre must consider states' proposal to extend PM-Poshan to include breakfast and implement it in a fair manner

THE PROPOSAL BY several states and Union Territories, including Rajasthan, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Sikkim, Lakshadweep, Gujarat and Delhi, to extend the Centre's midday-meal scheme — PM-Poshan — to add a breakfast provision in government and government-aided schools is both timely and commendable. While a similar proposal by the Education Ministry was turned down in 2021-22 by the Ministry of Finance, for the Centre to embrace this proposal pitched by state governments across party lines would signify a welcome alignment of national policy with nutritional and educational realities, and a recognition that learning begins not with the first lesson but with the first meal of the day.

The educational and health benefits of a breakfast scheme are well established. The National Education Policy 2020 notes that "the morning hours after a nutritious breakfast can be particularly productive for the study of cognitively more demanding subjects". Studies show that a morning meal boosts continuity of nutrition while lifting attendance, attention and equity in classrooms. Tamil Nadu's example is instructive: Its breakfast programme, launched in 2022, expanded to reach about 24 lakh students, with commensurate improvements in attendance and health outcomes. The logic is simple: Nourished children learn better. In addition to the seven states/UTs, 11 others, including Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Meghalaya, have asked for the scheme to be extended to students up to Class XII. While the Centre estimates the additional cost of a nationwide breakfast rollout at around Rs 6,000 crore annually, such a cost is outweighed by the benefits, especially when compared with the downstream burdens of remedial education, healthcare and lost productivity.

Framing the breakfast initiative as more than a meal is crucial, if it is to succeed nationally. The initiative must be recognised as an investment in education, health, and inclusive growth. States advocating for the scheme under the PM POSHAN umbrella have stressed that this is not a mere add-on but central to fulfilling the promise of education for all. Effective implementation will require careful attention to logistics — kitchen infrastructure, supply chains, hygiene, adherence to nutritional guidelines, balanced meals, robust monitoring, and meaningful community engagement. Just as vital would be addressing the strain already felt by those who sustain the midday-meal network. Repeated strikes by Anganwadi and ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) workers have drawn attention to their low pay and excessive workloads. Adding a breakfast layer without scaling up staff, infrastructure, and funds would simply shift the burden. The Centre must ensure that frontline workers are supported if the programme expands. Welcoming the states' proposal, therefore, should go hand in hand with a commitment to fairness and feasibility.



Reforms needed in PM POSHAN Scheme



Syllabus: Prelims: Government Schemes
Newspaper: Indian Express, **Page No.** 10

PM POSHAN Scheme:

- A **centrally sponsored scheme** under which **one hot cooked meal is served** to 11.20 crore students **studying in Balvatika and classes I to VIII**, in Government and Government-aided schools **on all school-days, from 2021-22 to 2025-26**.
- Formerly known as the **Mid-Day Meal Scheme**, is implemented by the **Ministry of Education**.
- **Twin objectives:**
 - *Enhancing nutritional status* of school-going children.
 - *Improving enrollment, retention, and attendance* in schools, especially among disadvantaged children.
- **Funding Pattern:**
 - 60:40 between Centre and States/UTs with legislature.
 - 90:10 for the Northeastern and Himalayan States.
 - 100% central funding for UTs without legislature.

PM POSHAN Scheme:

2024 – Government has also approved following additional features under PM POSHAN Scheme:

- **Inclusion of Balvatika:** The provision of hot cooked meal to children of pre-schools or Balvatika (before class I) and children studying in classes I to VIII in Government and Government-aided schools.
 - **Tithi Bhojan:** Tithi Bhojan is a community participation programme in which people provide special food to children on special occasions/festivals in addition to regular meal.
 - **School Nutrition Gardens:** Under the Scheme, development of School Nutrition Gardens in schools is being promoted, to give children first hand experience with nature and gardening.
 - **Social Audit:** Social Audit in all districts is made mandatory under the Scheme. Social Audit is collective monitoring of a scheme by people's active involvement covering issues of equity, equality and expenditure management.
 - **Vocal for local:** Under 'Vocal for local', the States and Union Territories are encouraged to decide menu suitable to the local conditions within the prescribed nutrition and food norms and to procure locally grown food items like millets, vegetables, condiments etc. from Farmers' Producers Organizations, Federation of Women's Self-Help Groups etc. so as to promote local employment and economic development and improving the nutrition standards.
 - **Special Focus:** Adequate provision for supplementary nutrition in aspirational districts / tribal districts / districts with identified high cases of malnutrition etc.
 - **Disaster Management:** Provision of hot cooked meal or Food Security Allowance to children when schools are closed due to disaster impacting the State/Union Territory, part of State/Union Territory, in a State/Union Territory or whole country as may be declared by the State/Central Government under its powers as Disaster Management Authority.
-
- Provides for instructions to schools to **procure Agmark quality** and branded items for preparation of meals, **training to Cook-cum-Helpers, tasting of meals by 2-3 members of School Management Committee** including at least one teacher before serving to children.



Syllabus: Prelims: Polity

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 14

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The appointment of Justice Surya Kant as the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI) was notified on Thursday. He will assume charge on November 24 and will remain CJI for nearly 16 months, till February 9, 2027.

The notification was issued by the Department of Justice in the Union Law Ministry.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Surya Kant, Judge of the Supreme Court as the Chief Justice of India with effect from 24th November 2025," Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal wrote on X.

"I convey my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to him," he added.

Justice Surya Kant succeeds Justice Bhushan R.



Justice Surya Kant

Gavai, who demits office on November 23.

According to a communique by the Press Information Bureau, Justice Surya Kant was born on February 10, 1962 in Petwar of Hisar, Haryana. He earned his Law degree from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, in 1984. He then began his practice the same year at District Courts, Hisar.

In 1985, he shifted to the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh, specialising in constitutional, service, and civil matters. On

July 7, 2000, he earned the distinction of being appointed the youngest Advocate-General of Haryana and was also designated as a senior advocate.

He served as the Advocate-General until his elevation as a permanent Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on January 9, 2004.

As a judge, he served on the governing body of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) from 2007 to 2011 and, later, earned a first class in his Master's degree in Law in 2011. He was appointed the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court on October 5, 2018, and thereafter was elevated to the Supreme Court of India on May 24, 2019.

Since May 14, 2025, he has been the Executive Chairman of NALSA and also serves on several committees of the Indian Law Institute.

About the Chief Justice of India (CJI)

- **Qualifications of CJI:** A person is eligible to be appointed as Chief Justice of India if they:
 - Are a citizen of India.
 - Have served as a Judge of a High Court for at least five years.
 - Have been an advocate in a High Court for at least ten years.
 - Are considered a distinguished jurist by the President of India.

Appointment of CJI

- The President appoints the CJI under Article 124(2) of the Constitution.
- The outgoing CJI recommends their successor based on seniority.
- The Union Law Minister forwards the recommendation to the Prime Minister, who then advises the President.
- As per the Second Judges Case (1993), the senior-most Supreme Court judge is appointed as the CJI.



Appointment of CJI



Syllabus: Prelims: Polity

Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 14

Role and Powers:

- **Master of the Roster:** The CJI **allocates cases to Supreme Court benches** and decides the composition of benches.
- **Head of the Collegium System:** The CJI leads the Supreme Court Collegium, responsible for **appointing and transferring judges**.
- **Administrative Authority:** The CJI supervises court administration, staff appointments, and judicial proceedings management.
- **Judicial Leadership:** The CJI is **first among equals** and does not hold superior judicial power over other judges.
- With the **approval of the President**, **the CJI can change the seat of the SC** from Delhi to any other place.

Removal:

The CJI can be **removed by the President** only after **Parliament presents an address**, supported by a **special majority in both Houses** (a majority of total members and at least two-thirds of those present and voting).



Q1. With reference to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), consider the following statements:

1. ASEAN was established with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration in 1967.
2. Timor-Leste became the 11th member of ASEAN in 2025.
3. Myanmar and Singapore were among the founding members of ASEAN.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas):

1. It is observed annually on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
2. The day was first celebrated in 2014.
3. The initiative 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' was launched on National Unity Day in 2015.
4. The year 2025 marks the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Answer: d

Q3. With reference to the Chabahar Port, consider the following statements:

1. It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the Indian Ocean.
2. India, Iran, and Afghanistan signed a trilateral agreement in 2016 to develop the port and related connectivity projects.
3. The Chabahar Port lies on the Gulf of Oman, near the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz.
4. India is developing the Shahid Kalantari terminal under the Chabahar agreement.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q4. With reference to the PM POSHAN Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by the Ministry of Education.
2. The scheme covers students from Balvatika to Class VIII in Government and Government-aided schools.
3. The funding pattern is 60:40 between the Centre and States for all States and Union Territories.
4. One of the objectives of the scheme is to improve school attendance and retention among disadvantaged children.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q5. With reference to the Chief Justice of India (CJI), consider the following statements:

1. The CJI allocates cases and decides the composition of Supreme Court benches.
2. The CJI has judicial authority superior to other Supreme Court judges.
3. The CJI heads the collegium responsible for the appointment and transfer of judges.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: c





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