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Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

18th November 2025



Sheikh Hasina sentenced to "DEATH"!

CONTEXT: A special tribunal in Bangladesh has sentenced former PM of Bangladesh to death after finding her guilty of "Crimes against Humanity" during July protests in 2024

Chapter 1: India's Role in Liberation of Bangladesh 1971

Demand for creation of "Bangladesh":

Socio - Cultural

- Demand for "Bengali" as Lingua Franca
- **One Unit Programme = Imposition of Urdu**
- **21st Feb, 1952 = Shaheed Minar in Dhaka**
- **1999 = 21st February as "International Mother Language Day" by UNESCO**

Socio - Economic

- **"6 point Programme" by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**
- **"Power of taxation & revenue collection"**
- **East Pakistan = 70% Pakistan's export revenue of Jute & Tea**
- **"Policy Blindness" = Bhola Cyclone in November, 1970**

UPSC Prelims 2021

50. Consider the following statements :

1. 21st February is declared to be the International Mother Language Day by UNICEF.
2. The demand that Bangla has to be one of the national languages was raised in the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

March 26, 1971:

Declaration of Independence by "Mukti Bahini"

Chapter 1: India's Role in Liberation of Bangladesh 1971

March 28, 1971: Operation Searchlight

April 3, 1971: Indira Gandhi's resolution on "Genocide"

April - December 1971: Operation Jackpot

November 1971: Operation Chengiz Khan

16th December 1971: Vijay Diwas

Global History of the Creation of Bangladesh by Srinath Raghavan

"Approximately 2 to 3 million people were killed, over 200,000 women were raped in organised rape camps, and over 10 million people were displaced"



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Chapter 1: India's Role in **Liberation of Bangladesh 1971**

8th August 1971: Indo– Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship & Cooperation

December, 1971

U.S. aircraft carrier '**Enterprise**' & 7th Fleet of USA's Navy

5th December, 1971

16 Soviet Navy Units armed with **anti-ship cruise missiles** stationed **500 nautical miles east of Ceylon**

8th December, 1971

U.S. National Security Adviser **Henry Kissinger**: "I must warn you, Mr. President, if our bluff is called, we'll be in trouble... we'll lose."

16th December, 1971

Pakistan army surrendered with 93,000 servicemen taken as **Prisoner of War**

EU-STYLE DRIVING NOW **COMES CLOSER HOME**

Entry and exit points

- Banglabandha (Bangladesh) – Phulbari (India) – Panitanki (India) – Kakravitta (Nepal)
- Burimari (Bangladesh) – Changrabandha (India) – Phuntsholing (Bhutan)
- Petrapole (India) – Benapole (Bangladesh)
- Tamabil (Bangladesh) – Dawki (India)
- Akhaura (Bangladesh) – Jaynagar (India)
- More entry and exit points will be designated over the next few years



Shimla Agreement 1972 signed between India & Pakistan

Bangladesh Liberation War

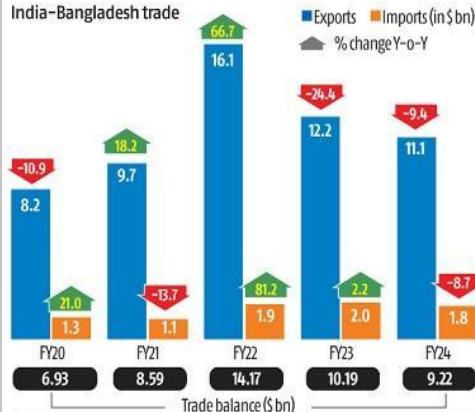
Part of the **independence of Bangladesh**, the **Indo-Pakistani conflicts**, and the **Cold War**



Clockwise from top left: Martyred Intellectuals Memorial; Bangladesh Forces howitzer; A. A. K. Niazi signs the **Pakistani Instrument of Surrender** to the joint forces in the presence of **Jagjit Singh Aurora**;^[1] and the **PNS Ghazi**

DEALING WITH NEIGHBOURHOOD

India–Bangladesh trade



GLOBAL VOICES

"WE ARE OBVIOUSLY DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE VIOLENCE WE'VE SEEN IN BANGLADESH... WE HOPE THAT SWIFT ACTION IS TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT DEMOCRACY PREVAILS"
British PM Keir Starmer's spokesperson

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BANGLADESH CONTINUE ON ITS DEMOCRATIC PATH"
German Foreign Ministry spokesperson

"HASINA'S RESIGNATION PROVES THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE"
Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party's exiled acting chairman Tarique Rahman



Sheikh Hasina sentenced to "DEATH"!

CONTEXT: A special tribunal in Bangladesh has sentenced former PM of Bangladesh to death after finding her guilty of "Crimes against Humanity" during July protests in 2024

Chapter 3 : Political Instability in Bangladesh :

Mass student led protests against "Quota system" for Public Sector Jobs

Issue of Human Rights Violations :
Use of Paramilitary forces to suppress protests

Authoritarianism & Democratic Backsliding : Digital Security Act 2018

Economic Disparities, Corruption & allegations of "Fake Growth"

5th August, 2024 : Sheikh Hasina fled the country

Loss of Public Trust & Political Legitimacy

COMMITMENT TO REDUCING INEQUALITY INDEX 2022

It analysed 161 governments' policies and actions to fight inequality during the first two years of the pandemic

Bangladesh's overall ranking 107TH

RANKING ON THREE PILLARS

Public Services Spending 136TH

Tax Progressivity 47TH

Labour Rights & Wages 101ST

HOW SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES RANKED GLOBALLY

Maldives	40TH
Bangladesh	107TH
Sri Lanka	111TH
Nepal	112TH
Bhutan	116TH
India	123TH
Pakistan	126TH
Afghanistan	138TH

Source: Oxfam and Development Finance International

Chapter 4 : Charges of "Crimes against Humanity" :

International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) :

Awami League in 2008 : To try "War Criminals" who collaborated with Pakistan in 1971

ICT : Convicted Hasina for "Crimes against Humanity" & sentenced to Death

Use of "Lethal force" against protestors & failing to prevent atrocities against them

UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Report 2025 : >1400 people died in "July protests"

Any immediate repercussions?

Does India have any law for "Extradition"?

Extradition Act 1962

Dual Criminality Principle : Offence can be extradited only if it is "Crime" in both India & Requesting country

Applies to

- Foreign states with which India has extradition treaties
- Certain non-treaty states on basis of reciprocal arrangements

Extradition Treaties with 48 countries

India & Bangladesh has signed "Extradition Treaty" in 2013 which allows extradition based on police warrant without requiring full evidence

Refused under certain conditions

Offence is "Political" in nature or there exist chance of "Unfair trial"

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Chapter 4 : Charges of "Crimes against Humanity" :

What is CAH?

- **Article 7, Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) 1998**
- **Acts committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population**
- **NO global treaty dedicated solely to Crimes Against Humanity**
- **Draft Articles on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity in 2019 at UNGA**

11 Types of Crime charged as "CAH":

- Murder
- Extermination
- Enslavement
- Deportation or forcible transfer of population
- Imprisonment or unlawful deprivation of personal liberty
- Torture
- Rape or Sexual Slavery
- Racial Persecution
- Enforced disappearance of Person
- Crime of Apartheid
- Other inhumane acts

International Criminal Court (ICC)

Rome Statute
established ICC
in 2003

Only permanent
International
Criminal Tribunal

123 Nations & 18
Judges for 9 year
terms

Prosecution of
Individuals

Mains Practise Question

Practise Question : What is "Crimes against humanity" Treaty? What is India's stand on it? (10 Marks, 150 words)

Chapter 5 : India's stand on "CAH" Treaty:

"India is NOT a party to Rome Statute"

"Non inclusion" of use
of **Nuclear Weapons**
as war crimes

"Crime committed **only**
during war time and
not peace time"

Does not favour the
inclusion of "**enforced
disappearance**"

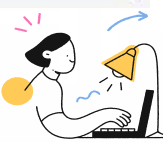
Call for Inclusion of
"**Terrorism**"

"India does **NOT** have domestic legislation
prohibiting International Crimes"

**State vs Sajjan
Kumar 2018 :**
"Neither crimes
against humanity
nor genocide
have made part
of India's
Criminal Law"

Not included in
**Bharatiya Nyay
Sanhita 2023**

"Role that befits
True
Vishwaguru"



"27 Lakh" MGNREGA Deletions!

CONTEXT: The opposition has launched a "scathing" attack on the Union Government for the shortcomings that prevails in the Central flagship scheme for Unskilled manual workers

Pillar 1: The issues with E- Governance Projects :

Context of News :

The Congress launched a scathing attack on the Union government following revelations that nearly 27 lakh workers were deleted from the MGNREGS database between October 10 and November 14, a figure that far exceeds the total deletions recorded over the previous six months.

7. ई-गवर्नेंस परियोजनाओं में उपयोगकर्ता-केन्द्रित डिजाइनों की तुलना में प्रौद्योगिकी और बैक-एंड एकीकरण के प्रति अंतर्निहित पूर्वाग्रह है। परीक्षण कीजिए।
(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

e-governance projects have a built-in bias towards technology and back-end integration than user-centric designs. Examine.
(Answer in 150 words) 10

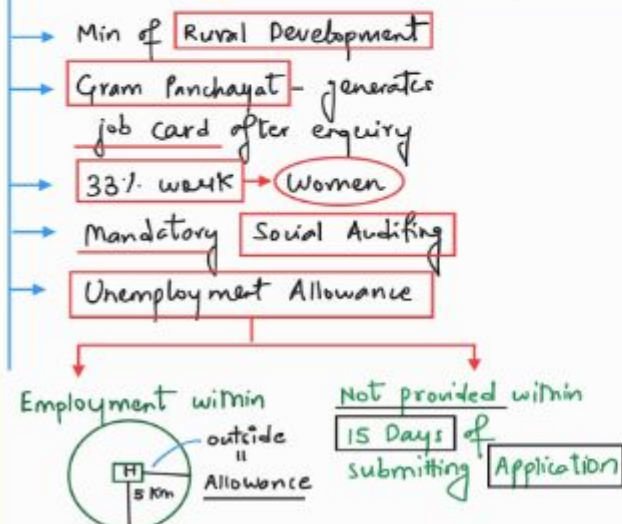
'2 cr. workers excluded'

Mr. Ramesh alleged that the National Mobile Monitoring System used for digitally capturing attendance of workers and the Aadhaar-Based Payment System used for disbursing wages have already excluded an estimated two crore workers from accessing their legal entitlements under the MGNREGS.

He called these digital tools "exclusionary technologies" masquerading as transparency reforms.

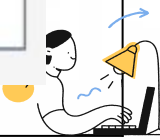
Pillar 2: What is MGNREGA?

MGNREGA Guarantees at least 100 days of legal unskilled manual work as guaranteed employment in a fiscal year to every rural household as per demand



Is it a centrally sponsored scheme?

Centre's Share	State's Share
100% wage cost 75% Material cost 100% wages for Skilled & Semi-Skilled work 100% Administrative Expense - What if failure in payment is due to Centre not releasing funds?	100% Unemployment Allowance 25% Material cost - Cost of Land Acquisition



"27 Lakh" MGNREGA Deletions!

CONTEXT: The opposition has launched a "scathing" attack on the Union Government for the **shortcomings** that prevails in the **Central flagship scheme** for Unskilled manual workers

Pillar 3 : Persisting Issues in MGNREGA :

Low "Subsistence level" payment structure

People's Action for Employment Guarantee (PAEG) : MGNREGA wages in 17/21 states were lower than state's minimum wage for agriculture

Cycle of "Delayed Payments" & Compensation

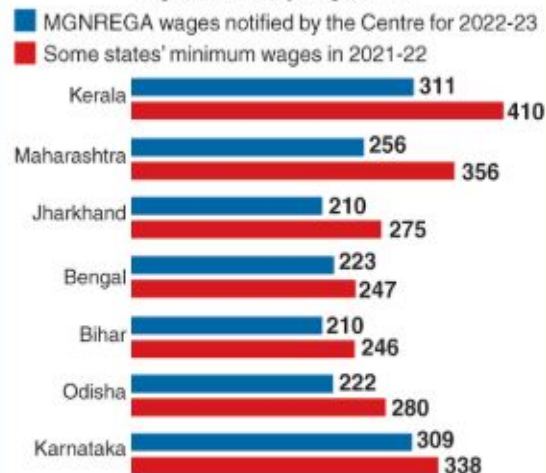
From 16th day, workers are entitled to delay compensation of 0.05% per day of allowance

Tussle between Centre & State : Passing the bucket of Blame

Ministry of Rural Development : ₹2,550 crore worth of wages paid after the mandated 15 day period in FY 2024-25

THE PAY GAP

Figures are daily wages in Rs



Source: Union rural development ministry and data from states

Pillar 3 : Persisting Issues in MGNREGA :

Datasheet for "Delayed Payments" :

State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of approved delay compensation, delay compensation paid and delay compensation due under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. (In Rs.)

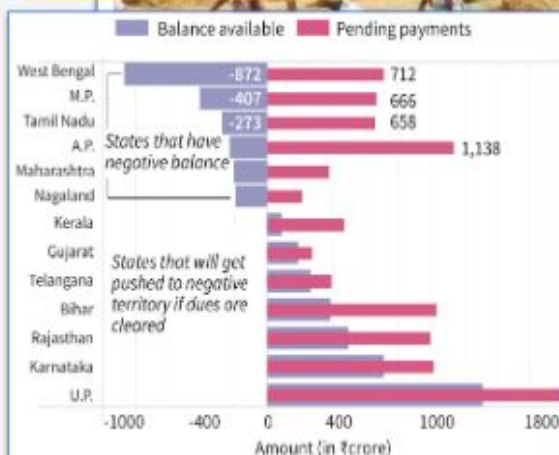
Sl. No.	State/UT-wise	Financial Year 2024-25 (as on 25.03.2025)		
		Approved delay compensation	Delay compensation paid	delay compensation due
1	Andhra Pradesh	12	7	5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	27440	0	27440
3	Assam	41357	27876	13481
4	Bihar	102178	0	102178
5	Chhattisgarh	7	0	7
6	Goa	93792	0	93792
7	Gujarat	355	0	355
8	Haryana	53600	44208	9392
9	Himachal Pradesh	13330	5701	7629
10	Jammu and Kashmir	665366	330754	334612
11	Jharkhand	4109	3427	682
12	Karnataka	16080	7836	8244

Work demand under MGNREGA job scheme increased by 4.2% in May, shows data

Data shows that historically, May is a month when MGNREGA work demand is among the highest as traditional activities around agriculture weaken due to the lean cropping season



State's Argument :



18th November 2025

"27 Lakh" MGNREGA Deletions!

CONTEXT: The opposition has launched a "scathing" attack on the Union Government for the shortcomings that prevails in the Central flagship scheme for Unskilled manual workers

National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) App :

- Real time Geo - Tagging attendance of workers
- Care work responsibilities of Women
- Issue of "Digital Divide"
- Unavailability of "Smartphones" to use "Mate" App to register attendance

Fiscal Gliding Path by Government

- Insufficient Budget allocation & "Fund Crunch" : 3.2% Budget share in 2021 to 1.78% in Budget 2025
- 90% Fund exhaustion within 6 months
- Falling Person - Days generated : 50% less person days generated in 2024-25
- Delay in completing works & Poor asset quality

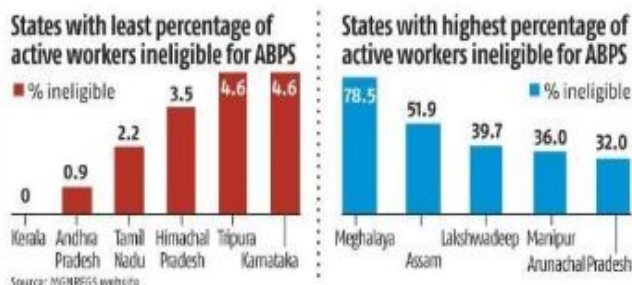
Pillar 3 : Persisting Issues in MGNREGA :

AADHAAR-BASED PAYMENT SYSTEM

As on December 31

143.2 mn*	125.3 mn*	87.5%	12.5% (Approx 18 mn)
Active workers	Active workers eligible for ABPS	Active workers eligible for ABPS	Active workers ineligible for ABPS

*Total active workers are those who have attended work at least once in the last three financial years.
Source: MGNREGS website and data from civil society groups



Average workdays per household is down to just 44 days under MGNREGS

The impact of low budgetary allocation is showing in terms of fall in person days from 312.37 crore in 2023-24 to 239.67 crore till February 2025, while average workdays per household declined from 52.08 to just 44.62

Pillar 4 : Steps to Take :

Amarjeet Sinha Committee 2023

Global Best Practices

- ❑ Flexible Funding Model : Released of funds in tranches based on demand
- ❑ Ridge to Valley Approach : Cluster of Inter - Linked works
- ❑ Linkages with other schemes : PMGSY & JJM

Block Development Model under PNPM Programme of Indonesia

Focusing on skilling of Rural area under "Productive Safety Net Programme" of Ethiopia

Use of Technology for Transparency & Digital Payments : Bolsa Familia of Brazil

Question : What are the salient features of the MGNREGA Scheme? Despite noble aims and objectives, why the scheme has been unable to deliver the desired results at the grassroots level? Elucidate. (10 Marks, 150 words)



"Connect. Build. Revive with Africa"

SYLLABUS : Prelims International Relations
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number** : 08

Context of News :

Ten years ago, New Delhi hosted the last India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III). The 2015 summit was a moment of significance. Marking a leap in India's diplomatic imagination under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India had welcomed representatives from all 54 African states.

Since then India has added 17 new missions across Africa. Trade has surpassed \$100 billion. Investment flows are gathering pace. India's support for Africa's global voice has grown. It was key in ensuring full membership for the African Union in the G-20. It is now time to take stock, not only of promises made but also of the foundations laid.

African Union

- **55 States = 1.5 Billion People (May, 2025)**
- **Headquarter = Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**
- **IMF = \$2.8 Trillion (3% of Global GDP)**
- **Projected Estimate = \$30 Trillion by 2050**
- **48% population engaged in Agriculture**
- **80% population = "Middle or Lower Middle" income category**
- **Only country utilising Nuclear Energy = South Africa**

"Connect. Build. Revive with Africa"

Importance of Africa for India :

Critical Minerals Reserves : 30% of World's Cobalt, Lithium, Nickel, Manganese etc

Namibia : 3rd largest Uranium producer & One of largest producers of Lithium, zinc & rare earth metals

Key to curtail India's dependency on China

Diversification of India's Energy mix : Oil (Nigeria & Angola) & Hydroelectric power

Massive consumer market for Indian products : Pharma, Automobiles, Textiles etc

GTRI : "Overwhelming dominance gives Beijing potential leverage against India turning supply chains into a tool of pressure in times of political tension"

Issue : India's "Over Reliance" on China for Critical Minerals :

- **July 2025 : India's Imports : \$113 Billion - India's Exports : \$14.25 Billion**
- **Antibiotics = 97% supply of Erythromycin**
- **Electronics = 86% of flat panel displays & 80% of Laptops**
- **Renewable Energy = 82% of solar cells & 75% of Lithium ion batteries**

SYLLABUS : Prelims International Relations
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number : 08**

"Connect. Build. Revive with Africa"

China's Posturing in Africa

Largest bilateral trading partner in Africa = Trade volume surpassing \$200 billion

People's Liberation Army (PLA) Support Base in Djibouti

Debt Trap Diplomacy : 2 of Namibia's most productive radioactive element mines owned by Chinese Companies

Nairobi - Mombasa Railway Line & Kribi Sea port in Cameroon

China's Dominance in Critical Minerals :

Chart 1: Country-wise share (in %) of global reserves of rare earths (as per U.S. Geological Survey 2025)

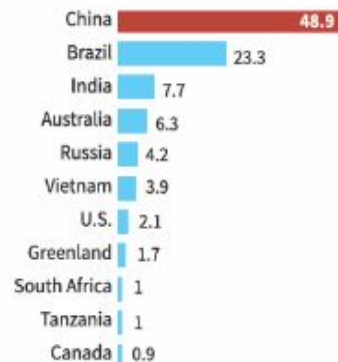
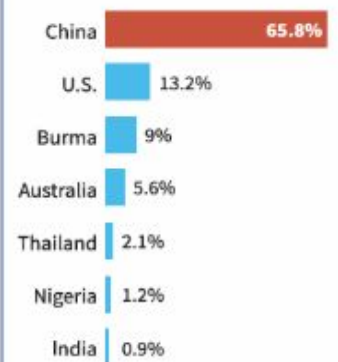


Chart 2: Country-wise share of estimated global mine production of rare earths in the last five years



"Connect. Build. Revive with Africa"

206 infrastructure projects in 46 countries

\$75 Billion Investments : Ports, Power lines, Vaccine production etc

First Africa - India key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME) in April 2025

Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation : Train African students

Steps taken by India

EXIM Bank : \$40 million Commercial credit to ECOWAS Bank

People to People connection : IIT Madras Campus in Zanzibar

Looking to the future

If India wants to sustain this momentum, three moves matter.

First, connect finance to real outcomes. Every line of credit must lead to something visible and valuable. Public finance must de-risk, not displace, private capital.

Second, build an India-Africa digital corridor. This should rest not only on UPI and India Stack but also on Africa's digital strengths. Together, we can co-develop platforms for health, education and payments that serve the Global South.

Third, revive the institutional backbone. The IAFS has not met since 2015. That Summit, at Mr. Modi's insistence, brought all of Africa together. As its chief coordinator, this writer saw first-hand the diplomatic energy it released. It is time to bring that spirit back as a date on India's diplomatic calendar.

SC strict on Anti - Defection Law



SYLLABUS : Prelims Current events of National & International importance. **GS -2 :** Important Acts

Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number : 6**

SC strict on Anti - Defection Law

Context of News :

The Supreme Court on Monday warned the Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar was in "gross contempt" for delaying a decision on petitions filed by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders seeking the disqualification of 10 of their MLAs who defected to the ruling Congress party.

52nd CA 1985 : Disqualification of MPs & MLAs on ground of "Defection" from one political party to another

Member of political party A **voluntary gives up** his membership of Party A

Member of Political Party A votes or abstains from voting **in contrary to the directions issued by "Whip"**

Elected member of house becomes disqualified if he joins political party

Nominated member becomes disqualified if he joins Political party after 6 months from the date on which he takes his seat in House

SC strict on Anti - Defection Law

Are there any "Exceptions"?

One third (33%) members of the 'legislature party' **splitting** to form a separate group

91st CA 2003 : Removed this provision to ensure political stability

Merger of their 'political party' with another party that is approved by **two-third members (66%)** of its 'legislature party'

September 2022 : **8/11 Congress MLAs** of Goa Legislative Assembly merged with BJP

If member after being **elected as Presiding Officer** voluntary gives up membership of Party

01

Total No. of Ministers shall not exceed 15% strength of LS = **82**

02

Disqualified on ground of Defection = Disqualified to be **appointed as Minister**

Other Reforms by 91st CA 2003

03

Disqualified to hold any **remunerative "Political post"**

04

No more protection on ground of "Split"



SC strict on Anti – Defection Law



SYLLABUS : Prelims Current events of National & International importance. **GS -2 :** Important Acts
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number : 6**

Important SC's Judgement on ADL under 10th Schedule :

Kihoto Hollohan Case 1992	• Speaker while deciding Anti – Defection cases acts as “Tribunal” • Decision is subjected to “Judicial Review”
Ravi S. Naik v. UOI 1994	• Wide interpretation of “Voluntarily giving up membership” • Includes conduct or public statements against party interests
Jagjit Singh Case 2006	• Merger must be recognised by “Original” political party and not just legislature party
KM Singh v. Speaker of Manipur 2020	• Speakers must decide Anti defection petitions within a “reasonable time” – not exceeding 3 months • Recommendation : Independent tribunals could replace Speakers as adjudicating authorities

Sharpen the anti-defection law, strengthen democracy

The anti-defection law has played a crucial role in political stability, but there are gaps which need to be addressed to make it more effective and impartial

Supreme Court considers question of timeline for Speakers to decide on defections

Bench is hearing petitions filed by BRS leaders seeking timely action by the Telangana Assembly Speaker on disqualification proceedings pending against 10 MLAs who shifted allegiance to the ruling Congress in the State



PM on Macaulay's 200 year Legacy

SYLLABUS : Prelims Significant events of modern History

GS 1 - Modern History

Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 1**

Context of News :

WHETHER UNDER the British Raj or during the Emergency, Ramnath Goenka, founder of the Express Group, embodied the people's resistance to attempts at "enslavement" and affirmed the power of dissent. It was this spirit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Monday, that should guide a national pledge to "put the locks on" the Western mindset embedded in India since 1835 through Thomas Macaulay's project of reshaping Indian thought by dismantling indigenous knowledge systems and enforcing colonial education.

Lord Macaulay (1st Law Minister) : "I do not think we would ever conquer this country, unless we break the very backbone of this nation, which is her spiritual and cultural heritage"

"Thus replace her old and ancient education system, her culture, for if the Indians think that all that is foreign and English is good and greater than their own"

India's art boom carries a colonial hangover

India is taking Halloween seriously, and the proof is everywhere

Halloween wasn't always part of India's cultural calendar, yet suddenly it's everywhere — from malls and schools to bars and grocery apps. The question, however, remains — how?



Colonisation of "Mindset" :

Macaulay's Minute 1835

- "Single shelf of European library was worth the whole Native literature of India"
- Spread language & culture of "Ruling Class" & language of commerce
- **English Education Act 1835:**
 - Medium of Instruction for Higher Education = English
 - Downward Filtration Theory
- **Economics of English:**
 - Globalisation : Connect Indian economy into the world
 - New Markets : Develop "Taste" for British products
 - Use of English speaking Indian "Clerks"

Charles Wood Dispatch 1854

- **3 Tier structure :**
 - Primary school = Vernacular language
 - Secondary School = Vernacular + English
 - College level = Only English
- Universities on model of Universities in London
- Education department in every state
- At Least One Government school in every district
- Promotion of Women Education
- "Grants in Aid" System



PM on Macaulay's 200 year Legacy



SYLLABUS : Prelims Significant events of modern History

GS 1 – Modern History

Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 1**

Other Commissions & Reforms

Hunter Commission 1882	- Syed Ahmed Khan, AM Bose & KT Telang - Vernacular Languages in Primary Education - Vocational training in Universities
Sadler University Commission 1917	- Chelmsford (1916-21) 12 years course minimum for entry in College level - CBSE - Degree : 3 years
Hartog Committee 1916-21	- Irwin (1926-31) - Compulsory education for ALL at Primary Level - Board Exam : Filter out Non- Deserving candidates
Wardha Scheme 1937	- Wavell (1943-47) - Nai Talim by Gandhiji - Learn through activity & Vocational training : Revive traditional industries - Mother Tongue till Class 7th

National Education Policy 2020

3 - Language Formula : "2" of them shall be native languages to strengthen linguistic diversity

Mother Tongue or Regional Language till at least Class 5th & preferably till Class 8th

Creation of the Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI) In all 22 scheduled languages

Promotion of Yoga, Ayurveda, Nyaya (Logic), Classical maths & languages

Dedicated research funding for "Classical Languages"



SYLLABUS : Prelims Economic & Social Development **GS 3** Conservation strategy
Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 11**

Context of the News :

THE SUPREME Court on Monday directed that tiger safaris shall be established only on "non-forest land or degraded forest land in buffer areas provided they are not part of a tiger corridor."

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavai and Justices AG Masih and AS Chandurkar, which accepted the recommendations of an expert committee appointed by it to examine the ecological violations inside the Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand, "categorically held that tiger safari shall not be permitted in the core or a critical tiger habitat area."

Jim Corbett NP :

- **Established in 1936** as Hailey NP as the First NP in India
- **IUCN Category 2 : National Park**
- **First Park under Project Tiger Initiative launched in 1973**
- **Between Lesser Himalaya & Siwalik Hills**
- **Moist Deciduous Forest : Sal, Peepal & Mahua tree**
- **Dun valleys formed by Ramganga river**
- **Jim Corbett : Man eaters of Kumaon**

ESA under Section 3 of EPA 1986

Prohibited Activities	Regulated Activities
• Commercial Mining • Commercial use of Timber • Polluting Industries • Major Hydroelectric Projects • Discharge of Solid wastes	• Felling of Trees • Establishment of Recreational Infrastructure • Commercial use of Natural water • Underground cables • "Drastic" change in cropping patterns



SYLLABUS : Prelims Economic & Social Development **GS 3** Conservation strategy
Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 11**

Decoding the key tiger report

HT

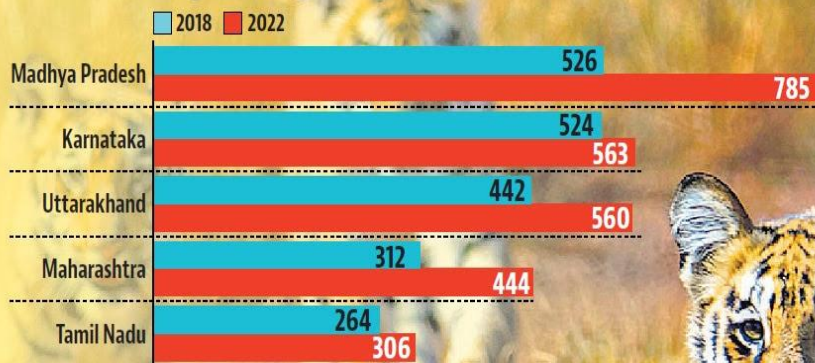
The upper limit of the tiger population is now estimated to be 3,925 and the average number is 3,682

Big cat
numbers in
the country

2,967
2018

3,682
2022

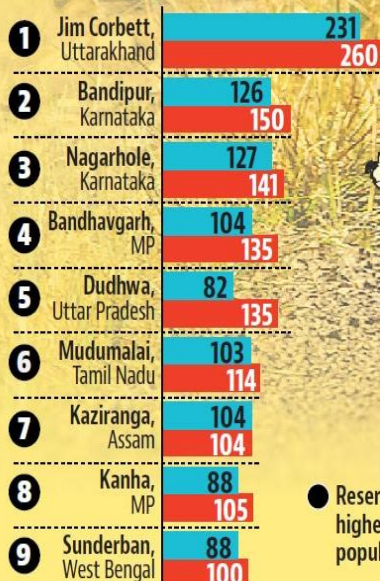
States with highest tiger numbers



States with lowest tiger numbers

	2018	2022		2018	2022
Nagaland	0	0	Jharkhand	3	1
Mizoram	0	0	Goa	3	5
			Arunachal	29	9

Reserves with highest tiger population



● Reserves with highest tiger population

Reserves with no tigers

Dampa, Mizoram, Kamlang, Arunachal Pradesh, Kawal, Telangana, Satkosia, Odisha, Sahyadri, Maharashtra



18th November 2025

SYLLABUS : Prelims Science and Technology

GS 3 Space Technology

Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number :** Explained

Context of News :

SENTINEL-6B was launched on Monday from the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. It is an ocean-tracking satellite with six onboard science instruments that will measure the rising sea levels and its impacts on the planet. Sentinel-6B will orbit Earth at a speed of 7.2 km per second, completing one revolution every 112 minutes.

01

MoES : 3.3
mm/year sea
level rise in
Indian Ocean

02

Vital for Weather
forecasting, storm
predictions &
securing undersea
pipelines

03

Joint mission
between USA's
**NASA & European
Space Agency**

04

Sea level
measurement
down to an inch
from 90% of all
oceans

Important Missions of ISRO

NISAR by NASA & ISRO :

High resolution imaging
of Earth surface for
Climate Monitoring

NaVIC Navigation

Satellite : India's 100th
launch from Sriharikota

SARAL : ISRO - CNES Mission :

Measure Sea surface
height & ocean
modelling

GSAT - 7 R :

India's Heaviest
communication
satellite launched from
Indian Soil

Other Important Space Missions :

Sphere X

- NASA
- Space X Falcon 9
- Spectrophotometer for the History of the Universe
- Map hundreds of millions of galaxies in 3D to study the early universe

PUNCH

- NASA
- Polarimeter to Unify the Corona & Heliosphere
- Track transient events like coronal mass ejections

Proba - 3

- ESA
- PSLV - XL from Sriharikota
- Observe the Sun's inner corona with high resolution

Hera

- ESA
- Binary asteroid system *Didymos & Dimorphos*



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding India's engagement with Africa:

1. Namibia is among the world's major producers of uranium and lithium, making it significant for India's critical minerals needs.
2. Stronger ties with Africa can help India diversify its energy mix beyond China-dependent supply chains.
3. Africa offers a large consumer market for Indian products, including pharmaceuticals and automobiles.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the role of the Presiding Officer:

1. The decision of the Presiding Officer under the Tenth Schedule is subject to judicial review.
2. The Presiding Officer must decide defection cases within a time limit prescribed in the Constitution.
3. The Presiding Officer is exempt from the anti-defection provisions while holding office.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Hunter Commission (1882) recommended the use of vernacular languages at the primary level.
2. The Hartog Committee recommended compulsory primary education for all.
3. The Wardha Scheme (1937) proposed Nai Talim, based on learning through activity and the use of the mother tongue at least till Class 7.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Jim Corbett National Park:

1. It was renamed in 1957 to honour the author of "*Man-eaters of Kumaon*."
2. The park is located entirely on the south bank of the Ramganga River.
3. Its vegetation primarily consists of dry thorn forests typical of the rain-shadow region.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the SphereX:

1. SphereX is being launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon-9 rocket.
2. It uses a spectrophotometer to create a 3D map of hundreds of millions of galaxies.
3. Its primary objective is to study the solar corona and track coronal mass ejections.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b





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