



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

20th November 2025



Maoism Endgame ! Future of Naxalism in India?

20th November 2025

CONTEXT: Recent Encounters of Naxalites depicts optimism in the war against Left Wing Extremism.

UPSC MAINS PYQs

- Q. The persisting drives of the government for development of large industries in backward areas have resulted in isolating the tribal population and the farmers who face multiple displacements. With Malkangiri and Naxalbari foci, discuss the corrective strategies needed to win the Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) doctrine that affected citizens back into the mainstream of social and economic growth. (2015)
- Q. Article 244 of the Indian Constitution relates to administration of scheduled areas and tribal areas. Analyze the impact of non-implementation of the provisions of the Fifth schedule on the growth of Left-wing extremism. (2018)
- Q. What are the determinants of left-wing extremism in the Eastern part of India? What strategy should the Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas? (2020)

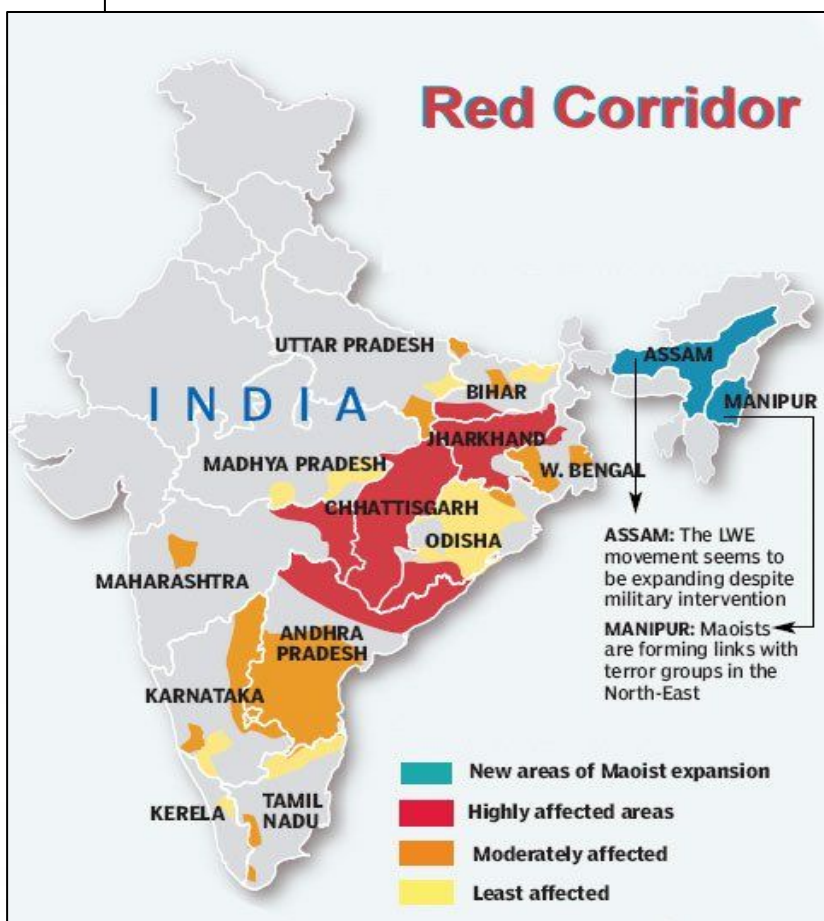
Maoism Endgame ! Future of Naxalism in India ?

MAOISM / NAXALISM/ LWE -
What does it even mean ?

Idea - " Power flows from the Barrel of the Gun"

Origin - Naxalbari, Charu Mazumdar

Objective - " Seeks Violent Overthrow of democratic Indian State"



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Maoism Endgame ! Future of Naxalism in India ?

Causes of Rise of LWE

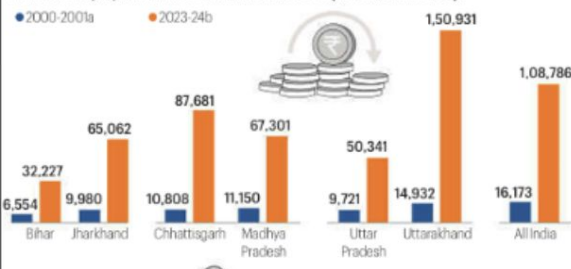
Jal, Jangal, Jameen

Inequity in Development - 59 vs 73.

Social Exclusion of Tribals

Governance Deficit

PER CAPITA (RS) NET STATE DOMESTIC PRODUCT (At Constant Prices)



No longer a bridge too far for Malkangiri's isolated tribals

Cut off by the Balimela reservoir, 150 villages depended on ferries for basic needs. They have waited five decades for the Gurupriya bridge

Updated - June 09, 2018 11:42 pm IST - BHUBANESWAR

PRAFULLA DAS

Maoism Endgame ! Future of Naxalism in India ?

Armed Rebellion

New trends : Urban Naxalism

Exploit Interstate movement

Guerilla Warfare

Symbolic Targeting

Methods of LWE

Ploys - Vulnerable - Bal Dasta



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Government Initiatives



- **National Policy and Action Plan 2015:**

multi-pronged strategy in the areas of security, development, ensuring rights & entitlement of local communities etc.

- **Scheme for Modernization of Police Forces + Fortification of police stations in affected districts.**

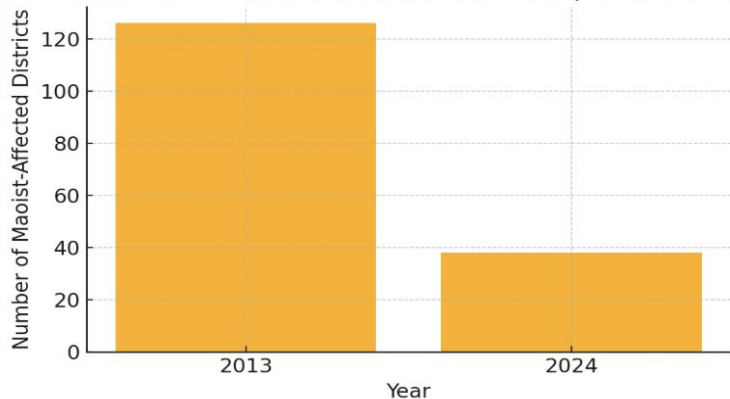
- **Assistance to Central Agencies for LWE management Scheme like CAPFs, Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), Indian Air Force**

Key Takeaways

- Naxal-related violent incidents reduced by 53% between 2014 and 2024
- 576 fortified police stations built & Naxal-affected districts reduced from 126 to 18 in the last decade
- 1,225 Naxals surrendered and 270 neutralised till October 2025
- Deaths of security personnel dropped by 73%, and civilian fatalities declined by 70%

Maoism Endgame ! Future of Naxalism in India ?

Decline in Maoist-Affected Districts (2013-2024)



Decline in Naxal Violence Over the Last Decade



Indicators	2004-2014	2014-2024	Decrease
Violent Incidents	16,463	7,744	53%
Security Personnel Deaths	1,851	509	73%
Civilian Deaths	4,766	1,495	70%

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs



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Way Forward



- **Targeted Security Operations:** Use intelligence to target LWE groups, minimizing harm.
- **Reformed Surrender Policy**
- **Empowering Local Peace Ambassadors:** Identify and support peacemakers, foster communication, and encourage community involvement.
- **Winning Heart and Mind (WHAM)** Invest in infrastructure, jobs, education, and healthcare.
- **Ecological and Sustainable Development:** Focus on sustainable development and community involvement.



20th November 2025

CONTEXT: 25 Years have elapsed since reorganisation of CG, JH and UK – A look from Regionalism perspective

“State Reorganisation @25: Did Regionalism Strengthen or Weaken India?”

CSE Mains PYQ : – Reorganisation : HEAT FREQUENCY

Growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in the generation of demand for a separate state. Discuss. (प्रादेशिकता की बढ़ती हुई भावना, पृथक राज्य की माँग का प्रमुख कारण है। विवेचना कीजिए।) 2013

What is the basis of regionalism? Is it that unequal distribution of benefits of development on regional basis eventually promotes regionalism? Substantiate your answer. (प्रादेशिकता का क्या आधार है? क्या ऐसा प्रादेशिक स्तर पर विकास के लाभों के असमान वितरण से हुआ, जिसने कि अंततः प्रादेशिकता को बढ़ावा दिया? अपने उत्तर को पुष्ट कीजिए।) 2016

Has the formation of linguistic States strengthened the cause of Indian Unity? (क्या भाषाई राज्यों के गठन ने भारतीय एकता के उद्देश्य को मजबूती प्रदान की है?) 2016

Discuss whether formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India. (चर्चा करें कि क्या हाल के समय में नये राज्यों का निर्माण, भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए लाभप्रद है या नहीं है।) 2018

COMMISSIONS FOR STATE REORGANISATION

DHAR COMMISSION 1948

Recommended reorganisation of states primarily on administrative grounds

JVP COMMITTEE 1949

Rejected language as the sole criterion for reorganisation of states

STATES REORGANISATION COMMISSION 1953

Favoured language as the basis, also considered administrative and other factors

- Main Recommendations:

- Accepted **language** as one of the basis for state reorganisation.
- Rejected the concept of **one language - one state**.
- Factors considered for state reorganisation:
 - Unity and security of the nation.
 - Linguistic and cultural homogeneity.
 - Financial, economic, and administrative considerations.

- Advocated for the establishment of **16 states** and **3 centrally administered territories**.

- Based on these recommendations, the **State Reorganisation Act 1956** was passed, creating **14 centrally governed states** and **6 union territories**.

Linguistic reorganization continues right after 1956 SRC (1956-1966)

1957

Naga Hill Tuensang Area was carved out of Assam as UT



1961

Goa joined the Indian Union and with it, European colonialism came to an end on the subcontinent

1962

Pondicherry officially became a part of the Union

1963

Nagaland was granted statehood

1966

Punjab, Haryana, UTs Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh were created

Akali Dal's protests for linguistic reorganization led to the former states of East Punjab, Patiala and East Punjab States Union and Himachal Pradesh.



1960

Gujarat and Maharashtra were carved out of Bombay



Did State Reorganisation Strengthen or Weaken India?

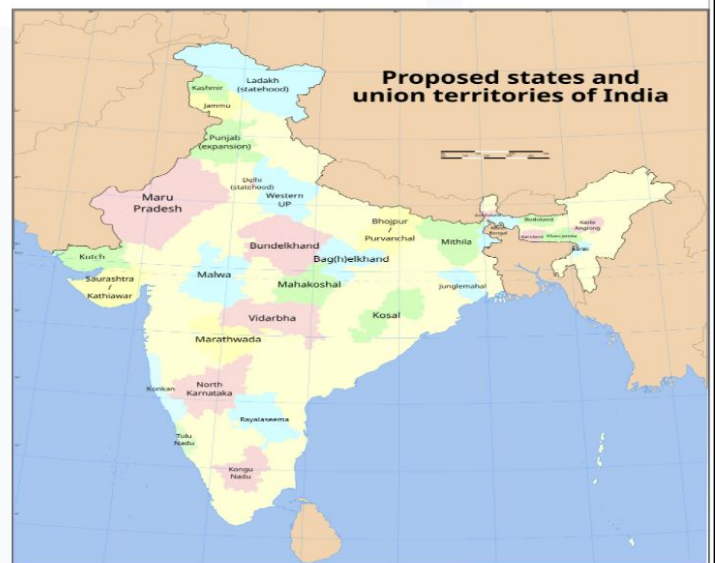
20th November 2025

CONTEXT: 25 Years have elapsed since reorganisation of CG, JH and UK – A look from Regionalism perspective

What is Regionalism?

Regionalism is a term used to describe the idea that people living in a particular region share a **common identity** based on their distinct characteristics, such as **language, culture, history, and food habits**. This shared identity creates a sense of **togetherness** among people inhabiting a region.

The Good Bad Dichotomy of Regionalism.



“State Reorganisation @25: Did Regionalism Strengthen or Weaken India?”

Reasons for Reorganization : 3 states case study

- Historical Conflict – mutually exclusive way of life – Eg. JH
- As a **means** for Social Justice – JMM
- Geographical/Topographical Differences – UK
- Alienation feeling
- Political Representation
- Means for Political Mobilisation – Vajpayee
- Economic Deprivation – CG – 6000 cr.
- Response to state policies – 1994 Mulayam Singh

The state has come a long way since its creation. Its budget rose from nearly Rs 6,000 crore in 2000-2001 to Rs 1.65 lakh crore in 2025-2026 – a 2,650% increase.

Behind statehood demand

Chhattisgarh boasts India's third largest coal and iron ore reserves. It produces roughly 20% of the country's steel and aluminium, and 15% of its cement. Roughly 44% of its area is under forest cover. Despite these riches, the state was the most back-

then Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda announced the formation of Uttarakhand. In 1998, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government sent the Uttar Pradesh Reorganization Bill to the UP government, which was passed.

Reasons for demands

Political representation: Political representation was a grave concern for the hill people. While the neighbouring Himachal Pradesh had 68 constituencies in the Assembly, the Uttarakhand region had 22 seats in the UP Assembly (at the time of state formation) despite having a population similar to HP. The Ramashankar Kaushik Committee, which submitted a report recommending a separate hill state

to the Mulayam Singh Yadav government in 1994, recorded this angst.

Allocation of resources: Another argument was that the hill region's resources were being exploited by the rest of UP without adequate recompense or balanced development in return. This was compounded by the perception of the cultural and geographical distance between the “plains-based decision makers” and their lack of knowledge about the hill region, its people and their needs. When the state was eventually formed, the demography had a good non-Pahari population too, with the inclusion of Udham Singh Nagar and Haridwar. Of Uttarakhand's total geographical



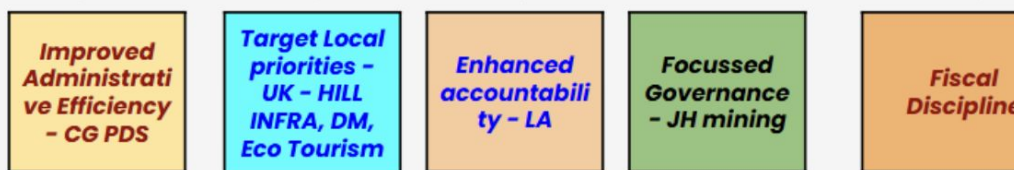
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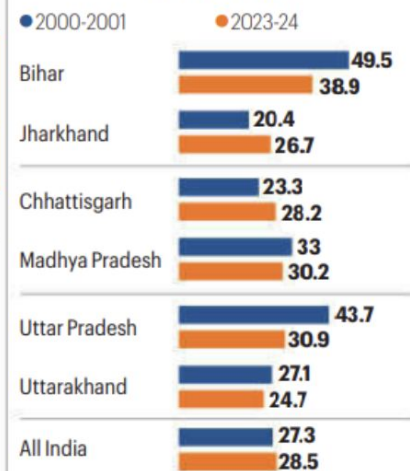
Taking lessons from the 3 states for Positive Regionalism

Benefits of State Reorganisation



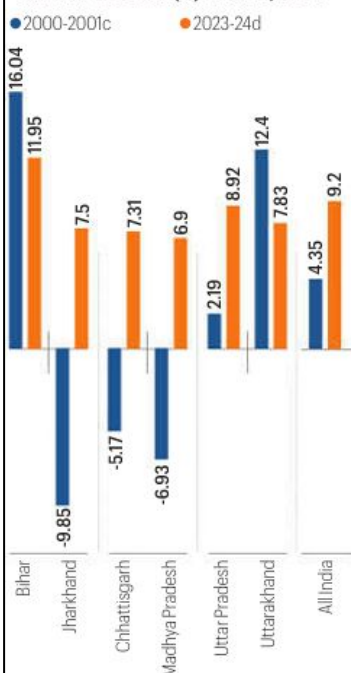
Others : Democratic Deepening, Cultural preservation - Bathukamma, Urban Infra, Human Development

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LIABILITIES - AS % OF GSDP₅

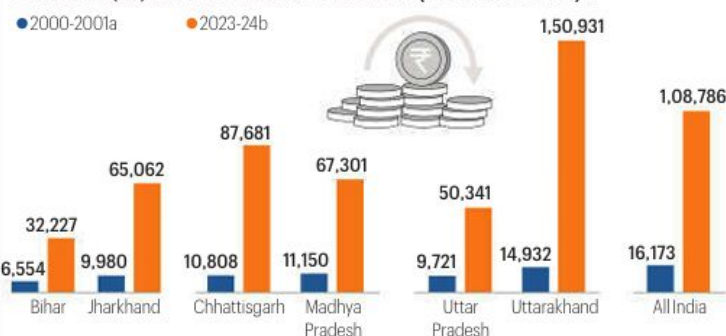


How new states compare with parent states

RATE OF GROWTH (%) IN GSDP/GDP₄



PER CAPITA (RS) NET STATE DOMESTIC PRODUCT (At Constant Prices)₁



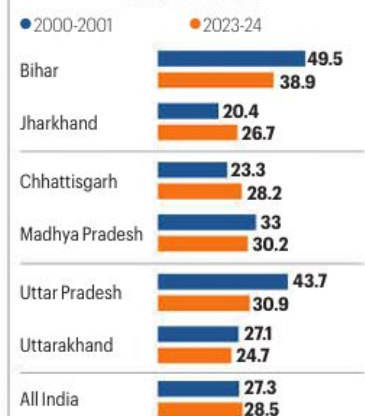
INFANT MORTALITY RATE₂

	2001	2023
Bihar	62	23
Jharkhand	62	29
Chhattisgarh	76	37
Madhya Pradesh	86	37
Uttar Pradesh	82	37
Uttarakhand	48	20
All India	66	25

CHILDREN AGED 6-9 MONTHS WHO ARE ANAEMIC (%)₃

	NFHS 3 (2005-06)	NFHS 5 (2019-21)
Bihar	78	69
Jharkhand	70.3	67.5
Chhattisgarh	71.2	67.2
Madhya Pradesh	74	72.7
Uttar Pradesh	73.9	66.4
Uttarakhand	60.7	58.8
All India	69	67.1

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LIABILITIES - AS % OF GSDP₅



a: Base Year 1999-2000, b: Base Year 2011-12, c: Base Year 2011-12, d: Base Year 1999-2000
Sources: 1. RBI's Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy, 2024-25 2. RBI's Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2015-16 and RG's Sample Registration System Bulletin, 2023 3. RBI's Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2023-24, 4. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 5. RBI's State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2024-25, Notes: Infant Mortality Rate is defined as the infant deaths (less than one year) per thousand live births in a given time period and for a given region.



Did State Reorganisation Strengthen or Weaken India?

CONTEXT: 25 Years have elapsed since reorganisation of CG, JH and UK – A look from Regionalism perspective

Negative impacts:

- **Tensions and conflicts:** Regionalism may lead to tensions and conflicts between different regions. This can manifest as a sense of competition, mistrust, or even hostility between regions.
- **Marginalization of minority groups:** Regionalism can sometimes marginalize minority groups within a region, particularly those who do not share the language, religion, or cultural practices of the dominant group.
- **Divisive politics:** Political parties or leaders may use regional identities to create divisive politics, which can lead to a lack of cooperation and consensus at the national level, ultimately hindering progress and development. It also can lead to **Identity-based-politics**.
- **Effect on International relations:** Regionalism can become a hurdle in international diplomacy, as seen in issues such as **Tamil Nadu's** concerns with **Sri Lanka** and **West Bengal's** dispute with **Bangladesh** over the sharing of **Teesta River** water.

"State Reorganisation @25: Did Regionalism Strengthen or Weaken India?"

Mains Practise Question

Way Forward

Institutional Mechanism

Multi criteria Approach

Actual Decentralisation – 3rd
Tier – Delhi / Chandigarh

National Security Priority

Tech led Governance

Question :The creation of smaller states enhances administrative efficiency only when accompanied by institutional capacity-building and fiscal autonomy." Critically examine in the Indian context. (15 Marks, 250 words)



Desi Gene Editing tool for cheaper crop breeding

20th November 2025

SYLLABUS : Prelims Science & Technology GS 3 Biotechnology
Newspaper The Indian Express Page Number : 01

• 'MINIATURE ALTERNATIVE' TO PROPRIETARY CRISPR-CAS TECHNOLOGY

Now, *desi* gene editing technology to aid cheaper, commercial GE crop breeding

Harish Damodaran
New Delhi, November 19

IN A boost to indigenous efforts at genome-edited (GE) crop breeding, Indian scientists have developed what is claimed to be a "miniature alternative" to the proprietary CRISPR-Cas proteins-based technology to precisely cut and tweak the DNA of plants.

The new GE technology — for which the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has recently been granted a patent — deploys the so-called



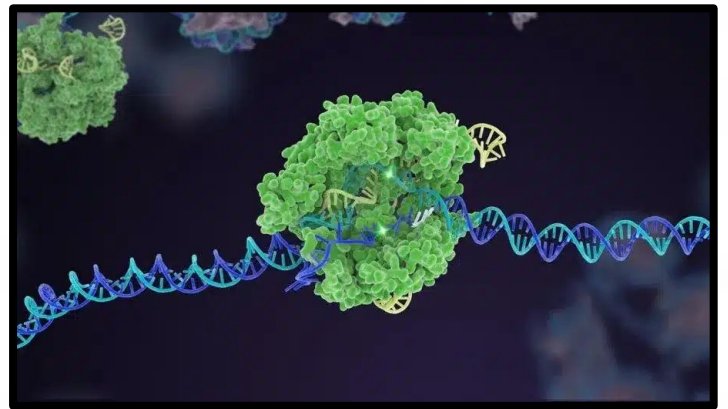
Kutubuddin Ali Molla, senior scientist at Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack and lead inventor of the new GE technology.

TnpB or Transposon-associated proteins. These, just like the most widely used CRISPR-as-

sociated Cas9 and Cas12a proteins, act as "molecular scissors" — CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

• Molecular scissors

CRISPR WORKS like a pair of 'molecular scissors' to tweak DNA. **WHILE INDIAN** scientists have used it to breed crops with superior traits, planting is hindered by IP rights. **THE NEW** technology will allow more flexibility in genome-edited crop breeding without being bound by IP curbs. **AND COMPARED** to the tech abroad, the Indian tech uses smaller proteins that can be injected into a cell more easily.



99. What is Cas9 protein that is often mentioned in news?

- (a) A molecular scissors used in targeted gene editing
- (b) A biosensor used in the accurate detection of pathogens in patients
- (c) A gene that makes plants pest-resistant
- (d) A herbicidal substance synthesized in genetically modified crops

63. With reference to the Genetically Modified mustard (GM mustard) developed in India, consider the following statements :

1. GM mustard has the genes of a soil bacterium that give the plant the property of pest-resistance to a wide variety of pests.
2. GM mustard has the genes that allow the plant cross-pollination and hybridization.
3. GM mustard has been developed jointly by the IARI and Punjab Agricultural University.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

About CRISPR/Cas9:

- CRISPR, short for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, is a gene-editing technology that can be used to alter the genetic sequence of a specific gene by removing, adding, or altering sections of the DNA sequence.
- It makes it possible to correct errors in the genome and turn on or off genes in cells and organisms quickly, cheaply, and with relative ease.
- How was it developed?
 - Some bacteria have a similar, built-in gene editing system to the CRISPR-Cas9 system that they use to respond to invading pathogens like viruses, much like an immune system.
- Using CRISPR, the bacteria snip out parts of the virus DNA and keep a bit of it behind to help them recognise and defend against the virus next time it attacks.
- Researchers adapted this immune defense system to edit DNA.
- The CRISPR-Cas9 system consists of two key molecules that introduce a change (mutation) into the DNA. These are:
 - an enzyme called Cas9. This acts as a pair of 'molecular scissors' that can cut the two strands of DNA, at a specific location in the genome so that bits of DNA can then be added or removed.
 - a piece of RNA called guide RNA (gRNA). This consists of a small piece of pre-designed RNA sequence (about 20 bases long) located within a longer RNA scaffold. The scaffold part binds to DNA and the pre-designed sequence 'guides' Cas9 to the



20th November 2025

Desi Gene Editing tool for cheaper crop breeding

SYLLABUS : Prelims Science & Technology **GS 3** Biotechnology
Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 01**

Desi Gene Editing tool for cheaper crop breeding

Feature	CRISPR/Cas	TnpB (Transposon Protein)
Size	Large (~1,000+ aa)	Very small (~450 aa)
Delivery	Requires large vectors	Easy to package & deliver
IP/Patent	Heavily patented globally	Low IP barriers
Application	Standard genome editing	Next-gen precision editing

The CRISPR-Cas technologies are controlled mainly by the Broad Institute (a partnership between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University) and the US seeds-cum-crop protection chemicals giant Corteva Agriscience. While Broad Institute owns the patents for CRISPR-Cas12a, Corteva has a joint licencing agreement with the former to offer access to CRISPR-Cas9 technology for agricultural applications.



20th November 2025

PM to attend G20 Summit in South Africa tomorrow

SYLLABUS : Prelims International relation **GS 2** Global grouping
Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 06**

US PRESIDENT TRUMP TO SKIP LEADERS' SUMMIT

PM to attend G20 Summit in South Africa tomorrow

Expected to meet Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, November 19

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will be visiting Johannesburg, South Africa, on November 21-23 to attend the 20th G20 Leaders' Summit, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Wednesday.

This will be the fourth consecutive G20 Summit being held in the Global South. India had hosted the summit in 2023, followed by Brazil in 2024. Indonesia had hosted the summit



PM Narendra Modi along with TN Governor R N Ravi in Coimbatore on Wednesday. ANI

Modi says Bihar wind has arrived

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will be visiting Johannesburg, South Africa, on November 21-23 to attend the 20th G20 Leaders' Summit, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Wednesday.

This will be the fourth consecutive G20 Summit being held in the Global South. India had hosted the summit in 2023, followed by Brazil in 2024. Indonesia had hosted the summit in 2022. At the Summit, "Prime Minister will put forth India's perspectives on the G20 agenda. The Prime Minister is expected to speak in all the 'three sessions' of the Summit," the MEA statement said.

On the margins of the Summit, the PM is expected to hold bilateral meetings with some leaders, besides participating in the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Leaders' Meeting.

Among the leaders he is expected to meet are Japan's new PM Sanae Takaichi, who assumed office last month. The two leaders have spoken over the phone.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had flagged the correlation between international peace and global development in his address at the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New York in September this year.

US President Donald Trump will skip the G20 leaders summit, the first such absence by an American President since it began. The PM has been attending all G20 summits since he assumed office in 2014, and this will be his 12th leaders' summit.

The US absence will be significant given the fact that it is going to be the host for the next G20 in 2026.

PM to attend G20 Summit in South Africa tomorrow

- **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** – One Earth, One Family, One Future
- **Global Biofuel Alliance**
 - Boost Biofuel demand
 - Tech Transfer
 - Global Collab
- **India – Middle East – Europe Economic Corridor**
 - Counter OBOR
 - East – North Corridors
 - Partnership for Global Infrastructure & Investment
- **African Union membership**
- **New Delhi Declaration**



PM to attend G20 Summit in South Africa tomorrow



SYLLABUS : Prelims International relation **GS 2** Global grouping
Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 06**

Basics

- 1999 - Informal Group
- 2007 - upgraded to HoS level
- Presidency
- Troika
- Sherpas and Finance track
- Objectives - policy coordination, financial regulation (Tax, BEPS)

G20: Issues & Interests

Issues

- No permanent secretariat
- East-west divide
- Shared interests missing
- Declining faith in globalisation
- China

India's Interests

- East-west bridge - SCO, quad
- Global south leader - developing countries issues
- Climate change - finance
- Money laundering & terror finance
- Rules based global order
- Showcase & Project India

What is the G20?

The Group of 20 is made up of 19 of the world's biggest economies, as well as the European Union. It formed in 1999 to discuss policy matters and financial stability.



ARGENTINA



AUSTRALIA



BRAZIL



CANADA



CHINA



FRANCE



GERMANY



INDIA



INDONESIA



ITALY



JAPAN



MEXICO



RUSSIA



SAUDI ARABIA



SOUTH AFRICA



SOUTH KOREA



TURKEY



UK

These countries account for
85%
of global GDP



US



EU

2/3
of the world's
population is from
these countries



20th November 2025

SYLLABUS : Prelims Indian History **GS I** Issues in modern history
Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 07**

In Mumbai, a corner for the life of the mind



AMRITA SHAH

AS RECENT media reports suggest, a battle for control is underway at the venerable Asiatic Society of Mumbai. Its outcome is yet to be seen. But this brief moment offers a rare opportunity to consider the significance of this 221-year-old institution.

James Mackintosh, a Scottish jurist and historian, founded it as a literary society at the beginning of the 1800s, imitating William Jones's Asiatic Society of Bengal. Jones, a Sanskrit scholar and philologist, is considered to be the father of Oriental studies. Mumbai's Asiatic Society similarly aimed at promoting useful knowledge, particularly connected with India.

Bringing the collections of the Medical and Literary Library, the Geographical and Anthropological societies of Bombay under its ambit and merging with the Royal Society of Great Britain and Ireland as its Bombay Branch in 1826, the Society emerged as a potent force in the city. Indians were admitted as members by 1841. Membership in the early years, as the Asiatic Society website claims, consisted of "administrators, jurists, educationists," many of whom were also scholars, important contributors to the Indian renaissance, active and influential in public life and "engaging with issues of social reform and nationalism."

There is an intriguing continuity between these aspects of the history of the Asiatic Society and tendencies in contemporary politics. The studies of colonial orientalism find an echo in the BJP's revivalist narrative, and the suggestion of elitism, reformist inclinations and anti-colonialism among members of its *bête noire*, the Congress. The legacies of colonialism are multiple and diverse. The Asiatic Society is one of them. Urban expansion and decentralisation have robbed the historic downtown precinct of its status as the city's main socio-cultural hub.

There are other reasons for the Society's marginalisation. The reimagining of Mumbai as a city of Bollywood and finance towards the end of the last century

caused a widespread dumbing down, or what Aroon Tikkar, former President of the Asiatic Society, decried as Mumbai's "de-intellectualisation."

The Society's neglect by the city is evident in the inattention to staff complaints of delayed dues and to disrepair — a recent newspaper article talked about damaged pillars and rainwater seepage. Increasingly, the relationship many Mumbaikars have with the Asiatic Society is as a stop on heritage tours or a suitably dramatic backdrop for selfies, film shootings and the occasional music concert. But past the iconic flight of steps and Doric columns, past the silent users of the State Central Library, runs a rich vein, pulsing with life. I do not refer here to the Society's treasures but to a more quotidian aspect. A way of life persists in defiance of current norms, the tyranny of commerce, the reduction of knowledge to soundbites and relentless specialisation.

Staffers ceaselessly roam the corridors housing a hundred thousand books to search for requisitioned titles by members. Conversations take place on sagging sofas, overlooked by marble statues of British and Indian statesmen. The notice board announces new research into India's maritime history and economic policy, among other things. In the imposing Durban Hall, a public audience, sometimes sparse, sometimes ample, listens to scholars present their work. Communities form over shared interests. The chairs have broken arms. The bathrooms are barely usable. But there is a rare freedom within these walls: A freedom to pursue any line of thought, any idea. To let one's mind wander wherever it seeks to go and immerse itself as deeply as it must. To seek knowledge for its own sake. This, too, is wealth.

New York has the New York Public Library. London has the British Library. Great cities make room for a life of the mind. Mumbai needs to do more to cherish its asset.

Shah is a writer, journalist and independent scholar

The chairs have broken arms. The bathrooms are barely usable. But there is a rare freedom within these walls: A freedom to pursue any line of thought, any idea. To let one's mind wander wherever it seeks to go and to immerse itself as deeply as it must

Key Artefacts & Treasures of the Asiatic Society

- **Original Italian manuscript of Dante's *Divine Comedy***
- **16th-century Sanskrit manuscript – *Aranyaka Parvan* (MB)**
- **Sopara Relics**
 - Include several ancient artefacts;
 - Notably believed to contain fragments of the Buddha's begging bowl.
- **Scholarly Monument: *History of Dharmasastra***
 - Multi-volume masterpiece authored by **Bharat Ratna Mahamahopadhyaya Dr. P. V. Kane**;
 - Result of **50 years of research** conducted in the Society's library.



SYLLABUS : Prelims Indian History **GS 1** Issues in modern history
Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 07**

Asiatic Society of Mumbai

Key Highlights

Founded in 1804

The Asiatic Society of Mumbai was founded in 1804 by Sir James Mackintosh as the Literary Society of Bombay, aimed at promoting useful knowledge relevant to India.

Affiliation in 1830

In 1830, it became affiliated with the Royal Asiatic Society as the Bombay Branch, enhancing its scholarly network and expanding its reach in academic circles.

Mergers in 1873

The society merged with the Geographical Society of Bombay in 1873, further solidifying its position as a hub for scholarly research and exploration in the region.

Mergers in 1896

In 1896, it integrated with the Anthropological Society, expanding its focus to include anthropological studies and enriching its academic contributions to Indian society.

Renaming in 2002

The institution was renamed Asiatic Society of Bombay in 1954 and later became the Asiatic Society of Mumbai in 2002, reflecting its modern identity and continued relevance.



SYLLABUS : Prelims Indian Polity **GS 2** Judiciary, Tribunal, SOP
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number : 01**

SC strikes down provisions of Tribunal Reforms Act, tells govt. to set up panel

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday struck down provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act of 2021, a law designed to alter the tribunal system and give the Union government a dominant role in appointments and functioning, and even fixing the salaries of chairpersons and members.

"When Parliament designs or alters the tribunal system, it must do so in a manner consistent with the constitutional requirements of independence, impartiality, and effective adjudication. A law that undermines these founda-

When Parliament designs or alters the tribunal system, it must do so in a manner consistent with the constitutional requirements of independence, impartiality, and effective adjudication

CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA **B.R. GAVAI**



tional values, such as by enabling executive control over appointments, curtailing tenure arbitrarily, or weakening institutional autonomy, does not merely offend an 'abstract principle', it strikes at the core of the constitutional arrange-

ment," Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, heading a two-judge Bench comprising Justice K. Vinod Chandran, observed.

The Bench directed the Centre to establish the National Tribunal Commission in four months. It held

that the commission was sorely needed as an "essential structural safeguard" to ensure independence, transparency, and uniformity in the functioning, appointment procedure, and administration of tribunals.

The Chief Justice termed the 2021 law a "repackaged version" of the Tribunal Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance. The law was enacted just days after the ordinance was struck down by the Supreme Court in a July 2021 judgment.

CONTINUED
» PAGE 10

Constitutional Background – Article 50 –

The State shall take steps to separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State

What are the constitutional and legal provisions pertaining to Tribunals in India?

- The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals. The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution. This part is titled 'Tribunals' and consists of only two Articles–
 - Article 323A dealing with administrative tribunals and
 - Article 323B dealing with tribunals for other matters.

Provision	Description
Article 323A	Empowers the Parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services of the Centre, the states, local bodies, public corporations, and other public authorities.
Article 323B	Empowers the Parliament and state legislatures to set up tribunals for various matters like Industrial and labour, Foreign exchange, import and export, Land reforms, Food, The ceiling on urban property, Elections to Parliament and state legislatures, Rent and tenancy rights, etc.

SC Strikes down Tribunal Reforms Act

SYLLABUS : Prelims Indian Polity **GS 2** Judiciary, Tribunal, SOP
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number : 01**

Key Provisions :

1. Rationalisation – 8 -> HC
2. Appointment process –SSC
3. Tenure – 50/4/67
4. Removal

A Long-Running Power Struggle Over Tribunals

- The tussle between the Centre and the Supreme Court over control of tribunals began with the Finance Act of 2017, which gave the government the power to make rules for tribunals.
- However, in 2019, the Supreme Court's **Rojer Mathew judgment** struck down these rules, saying they weakened judicial independence.

The 2020 Rules and Supreme Court's Recommendations

- When the Centre issued new tribunal rules in 2020, they were again challenged by the Madras Bar Association (MBA).
- The Supreme Court suggested key changes — including a five-year tenure for tribunal members — to protect independence and attract qualified professionals.

The 2021 Ordinance and Court's Rejection

- In April 2021, the Centre passed an ordinance setting a four-year tenure and a minimum age of 50 years for tribunal appointments.
- By July 2021, the Supreme Court struck down these provisions as "arbitrary" and against the principle of separation of powers.

WAY FORWARD

- Court Direction - Establish the **National Tribunal Commission** in four months.
- To function as an "essential structural safeguard" in judicial independence
- Ensure independence, transparency, and uniformity in the functioning, appointment procedure, and administration of tribunals.
- Tribunilisation
- Trivialisation
- Vacancies, Infrastructure



20th November 2025

SYLLABUS : Prelims Environment, Wildlife Sanctuary **GS 3** Conservation, Biodiversity
Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 13**

Declared extinct decades ago, a tiger returns to ‘new home’ — in Gujarat forest

Ritu Sharma
Ahmedabad, November 19

DECADES AFTER the tiger was declared extinct in the state, Gujarat has now seen the return of one that was first spotted nearly nine months ago in Dahod district's Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary, which borders Jhabua and Kathiawar regions of Madhya Pradesh that are both known for tiger population. With this, Gujarat has become a state with a presence of three out of four big cats — lions, tiger and leopard — and is on course to add the fourth, cheetah, officials said Wednesday.

As the ‘Project Cheetah’ is underway, the state is preparing Banni Grasslands in Kutch-Asia's largest grasslands to host a cheetah breeding and conservation centre. A 600-hectare enclosure is being developed, jointly funded by the Centre and the Gujarat government.

Government officials said the tiger has marked territory in Gujarat-first since the 1980s. “There was once a large presence of tigers in Gujarat, but over



Big cat seen in Dahod's Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary; area under constant monitoring since tiger's presence noticed 9 months ago

time, the tiger species became extinct in the state. However, it is a matter of joy for us as the tiger has made Gujarat its new home. We have informed the National Tiger Conservation Authority,” Arjun Modhwadia, Cabinet Minister for Forests and Environment, told *The Indian Express*. Images of the tiger that is now in Gujarat was first cap-

tured in the trap cameras of the forest department on February 23 this year. In May, *The Indian Express* reported a tiger was spotted in the Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary.

“In the morning of February 23, 2025, the forest staff of Pipalgota Round, Kangeta Range observed the movement of wild animals. During patrolling, large

footprints were noticed. Since these footprints are larger than those of a leopard, an analysis of pictures taken by the trap camera installed in the area was conducted. On February 22, around 2:40 am, a picture of a tiger was captured. Hence, the large footprints seen later in the morning were confirmed to be those of a tiger,” Minister Arjun Modhwadia said. Ever since the presence of the tiger was recorded, the area is being monitored to ensure water availability, security, fire prevention and necessary steps — like availability of prey — have also been taken.

“The number of camera traps has also been increased in the area. There is presence of wild boars, nilgai and monkeys in the area and if necessary, predatory animals are available... Apart from this, sambar and cheetah are released here during the monsoon. Pictures confirming the presence of the tiger are being captured in the trap camera. Its movement was under our surveillance. The visuals and monitoring confirms that the tiger is healthy,” he said.

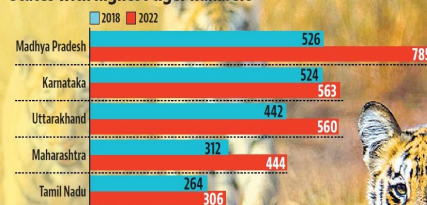
Decoding the key tiger report

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

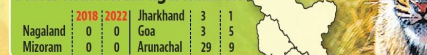
Big cat numbers in the country

2,967 2018
3,682 2022

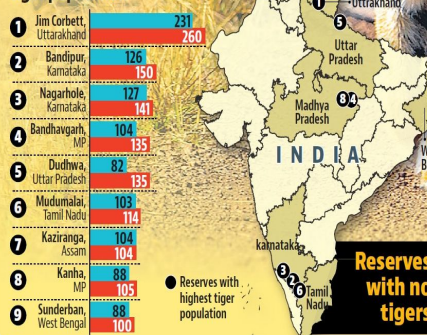
States with highest tiger numbers



States with lowest tiger numbers



Reserves with highest tiger population



Reserves with no tigers

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

Other Protected areas of Gujarat

Gujarat	4	Vansda National Park	1979
		Blackbuck (Velavadar) National Park	1976
		Gir National Park	1975
		Marine (Gulf of Kachchh) National Park	1982



Tiger returns to “ a new home ” in Gujarat

20th November 2025

SYLLABUS : Prelims Environment, Wildlife Sanctuary **GS 3** Conservation, Biodiversity
Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 13**

9. Consider the following pairs :

1. Dampa Tiger : Mizoram Reserve
2. Gumti Wildlife : Sikkim Sanctuary
3. Saramati Peak : Nagaland

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

UPSC PRELIMS PYQ 2020

Q. Among the following Tiger Reserves, which one has the largest area under “Critical Tiger Habitat”?

- a) Corbett
- b) Ranthambore
- c) Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam
- d) Sundarbans



Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Dhar Commission recommended language as the primary ground for the reorganisation of states.
2. The JVP Committee rejected language as the sole criterion for the reorganisation of states.
3. The States Reorganisation Commission favoured administrative convenience as the sole ground for state reorganisation.

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

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

Answer: a

Q2. Regarding the CRISPR/Cas9 gene-editing system, consider the following statements:

1. It uses an enzyme that acts like molecular scissors to cut DNA at specific locations, allowing sections of DNA to be added or removed.
2. The guide RNA (gRNA) is a naturally occurring RNA in human cells that directs Cas9 to the target DNA sequence.

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

Q3. Which of the following countries are NOT members of the G20?

1. Spain
2. Switzerland
3. Nigeria
4. Argentina

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: c

Q4. With reference to the constitutional provisions relating to Tribunals in India, consider the following statements:

1. They authorise both Parliament and State Legislatures to create tribunals for service and recruitment matters in public services.
2. They empower the Parliament as well as the State Legislatures to establish tribunals for matters related to industrial and labour disputes.

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: b

Q 5. With reference to the Tiger census of 2022, consider the following statements

1. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers among all Indian states.
2. Corbett Tiger Reserve has the highest number of tigers among all tiger reserves in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c





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