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The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

11th December 2025



CONTEXT: On December 10, 2025, Australia became the first country in the world to enforce a hard ban on social media for children under the age of 16.

Australia's under-16 social-media restriction :

- **'Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act'**
- Platforms must take **"reasonable steps"** to :
 - Find and deactivate existing accounts of under-16s.
 - Prevent the opening of new accounts.
 - Block "workarounds"
- User Protection: Penalizes companies
- **Who is Covered?** Facebook, Instagram, Kick, Reddit, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, Twitch, X, and YouTube

How the ban will work?

- **Age-Gating :**
 - Selfie Estimation
 - ID Checks
 - Age Inference
- "Australian families taking back power"

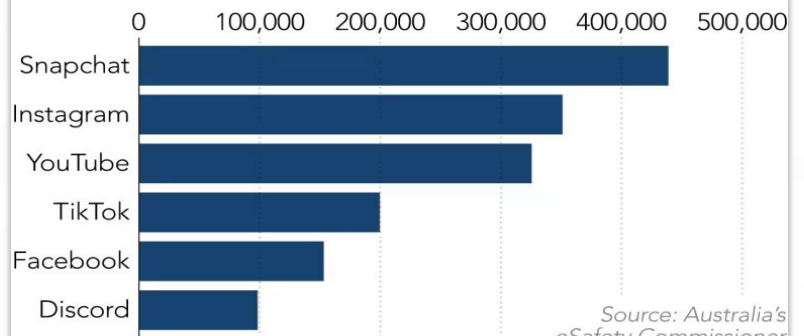
The law forces tech giants from Instagram and Facebook owner Meta ([META.O](#))  to TikTok to stop minors logging in or face **finest of up to A\$49.5 million (\$32 million)**. A trial of methods to enforce it will start in January with the ban to take effect in a year.

Break "Dopamine Loop":

- "Design features" (algorithms)
- De-addiction
- Mental Health
- Safety & radicalization/violence

Australian users aged 13 to 15 by social media platform

(Monthly active users reported by service)



• ON THE LINE: CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Australia's online safety regulator, eSafety, conducted a survey among children between December 2024 and February 2025. The survey showed that:

74% saw or heard harmful content	27% personally experienced online hate	38% experienced someone say hurtful things to them online	16% sent or tagged in offensive or upsetting photos or videos
53% experienced cyberbullying	25% experienced non-consensual tracking, monitoring or harassment	17% had private messages, information shared	13% were told online to hurt or kill themselves, or that they should die.

 Al Jazeera

Malaysia says it will ban social media for under-16s from next year

Malaysia plans to ban social media for users under the age of 16 starting from next year, joining a growing list of countries choosing to limit...

2 weeks ago

 Net Influencer

Denmark Proposes Introducing Sweeping Youth Social-Media Ban

Denmark's government has announced an agreement to ban access to social media for anyone under 15, positioning the country as among the most...

3 weeks ago

Big Tech's Defense :

- **YouTube** - forcing kids to use the site without an account; removes safety filters + parental controls.
- **Meta** - "inefficient"
- Snapchat - less safe, unmonitored "dark" apps
- **X (Twitter)** - "Human Rights"; freedom of expression.
- **Australian Human Rights Commission** - right to free speech for young people.



CONTEXT: On December 10, 2025, Australia became the first country in the world to enforce a hard ban on social media for children under the age of 16.

Due to laws in Australia, people under 16 will no longer be able to use social media

This means that soon, you won't be able to use Facebook, and your profile won't be visible to you or others. When you turn 16, your profile and all your posts and activity will be available again. [Learn more](#)

What you can do

Review your birthday
Let us know if you're 16 or over.

Go to Messenger
You can still use Messenger to connect with friends and family.

Download your information
Save a copy of your posts, activity and messages.

How we'll contact you

(*) *** 8190**
Update your phone number

j*s@gmail.com**
Update your email

OK

Regional disparity

There is significant difference among states in their ability to access internet and operate computers



Source: 75th Round of National Sample Survey conducted between July 2017 and June 2018

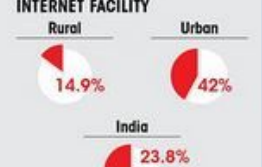
Network strength

Urban and rural India greatly differ in access to internet and computers

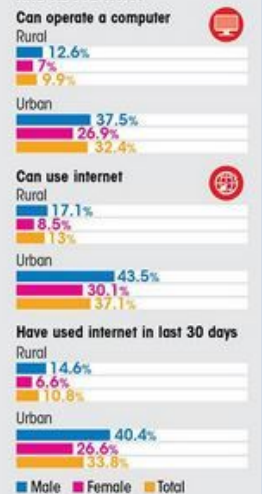
HOUSEHOLDS THAT OWN COMPUTER



HOUSEHOLDS WITH INTERNET FACILITY



PERSONS OF AGE 5 YEARS AND ABOVE WHO:



The "Parental Consent" Model

Feature	India Model (DPDP Act 2023) IN	France: under-15s Enforcement has failed
Age Limit	Verifiable Parental Consent for Under-18.	Germany: 13-16 yo
Resp	Platforms must get parent's okay.	Italy: under-14s
		Norway: 15 yo Absolute ban
		China: device-level restrictions

USA: Children's Online Privacy Protection Act
Focuses on **Data Privacy** (can't collect data of under-13s without consent), **"Free Speech"** grounds (First Amendment).

United Kingdom: Online Safety Act (2023)

Practical problems & risks

- **Technical :** Accuracy & bias, Spoofing & circumvention & Data security
- **Legal / rights :** Freedom of expression & Privacy
- **Social :** Displacement to less safe spaces , Inequality & Marginalised communities

M MediaNama

Teens Move High Court Against Australia's Social Media Ban for Under-16s

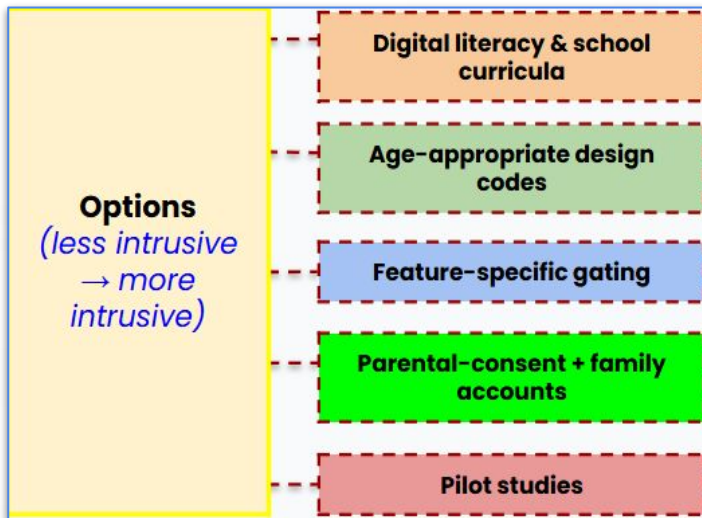
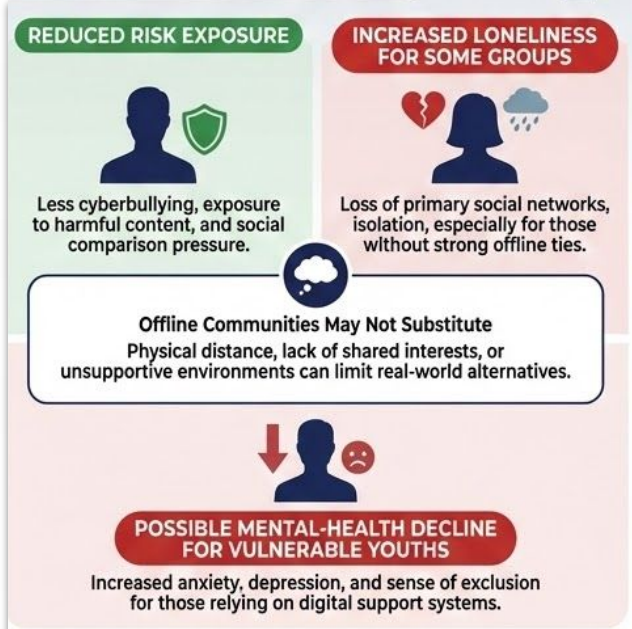
A rights group along with two teens has challenged Australia's social media ban in court for violating the right to political communication.

1 week ago

But some teens say they still have access to their accounts - **one 13-year-old claims she used a picture of her mother to get round the ban**



CONTEXT: On December 10, 2025, Australia became the first country in the world to enforce a hard ban on social media for children under the age of 16.



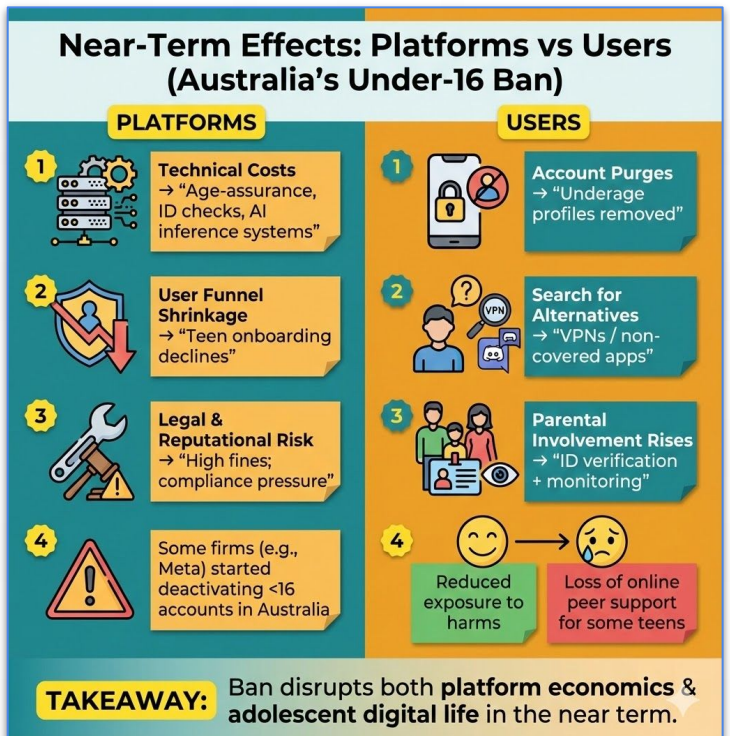
Watch: 'If your friends don't use social media, you don't feel the urge to'

Oliver, 14, says whether or not teens feel the need to use social media is hugely determined by their friends.



Mains Practise Question :

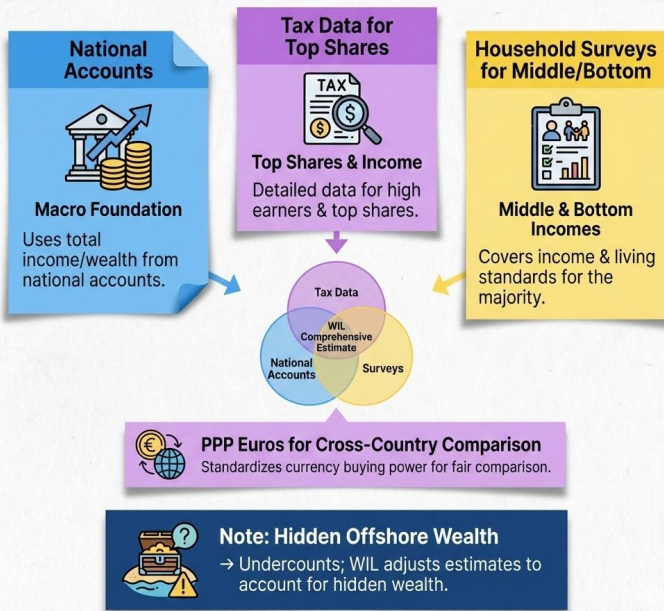
Australia's teen social media ban is a bold, contested social experiment. It prioritises child protection but raises hard trade-offs. Comment.
(15 Marks, 250 words)



CONTEXT: World Inequality Report 2026 is the third edition in a major series (following 2018 and 2022) produced by the World Inequality Lab.

Basic Concept: What Is "Inequality"?

"How WIL Measures Inequality (Simple Methodology)"



- Income Inequality** → Uneven distribution of income among individuals or groups within an economy.
- Wealth Inequality** → Unequal distribution of assets (land, savings, investments, property, etc.).

Gini Value	Meaning
0	Perfect Equality (everyone earns same)
1	Perfect Inequality (one person has all income)
▲ > 0.4	Indicates High Inequality

Part 1: The India Story (Deepening Divide)

- Income Inequality**
 - Top 10% Share: capture **58%** of total GDP
 - Bottom 50% Share: only **15%** of GDP
 - Trend: widened slightly since 2022 report (top 10% held 57% and the bottom 50% held 13%.)
 - Average Income: **€6,200 (PPP)**
- Wealth Inequality:**
 - Top 10% Share: Own **65%** of total wealth.
 - Top 1% Share: Own **40%** of total wealth.
 - Average Wealth: Approx. **€28,000 (PPP)**

Figure 1: Top 10% and bottom 50% income shares in India, 1900-2024



Interpretation: The Top 10% income share is equal to 58% in 2024. Income is measured after the operation of pensions and unemployment insurance systems and before income tax.

Sources and series: wir2026.wid.world/methodology.



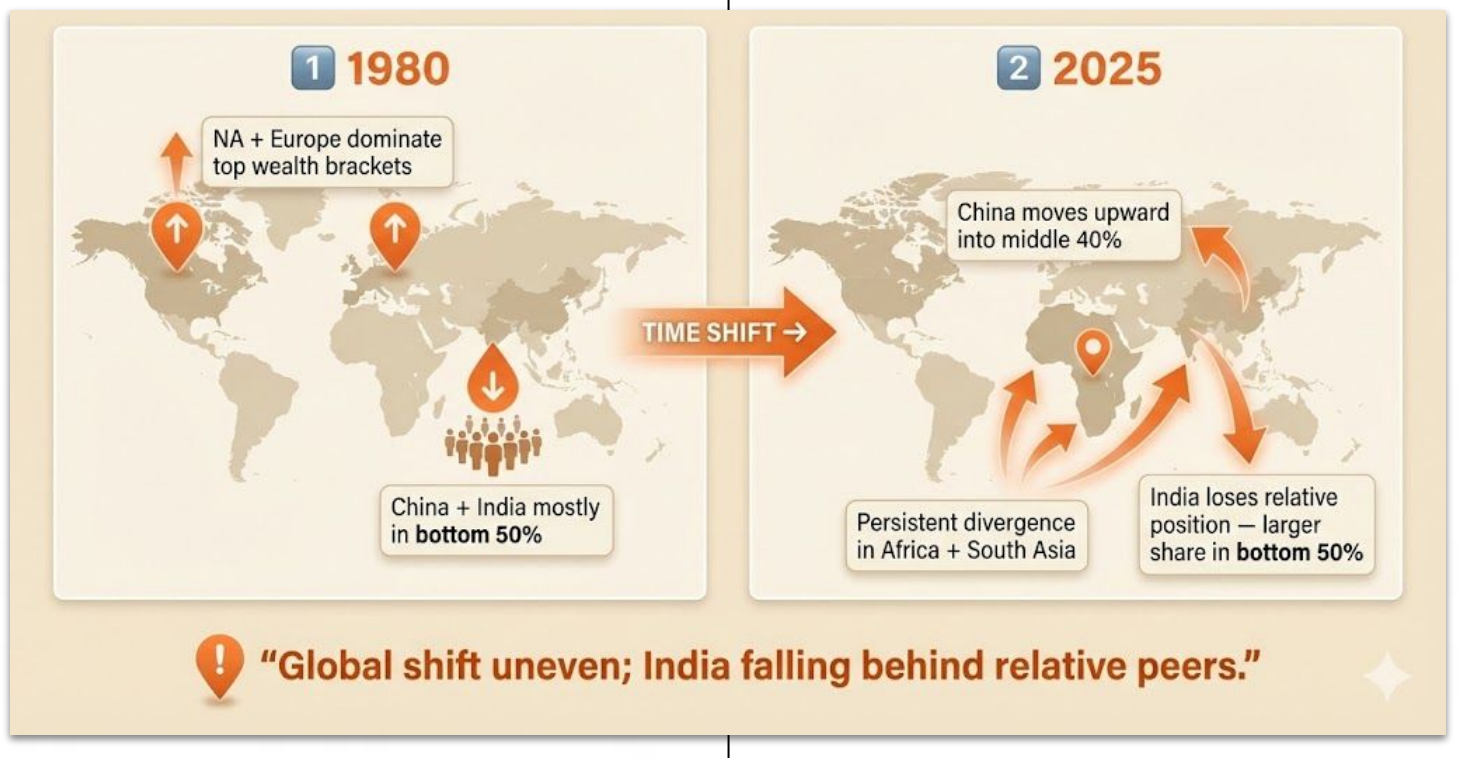
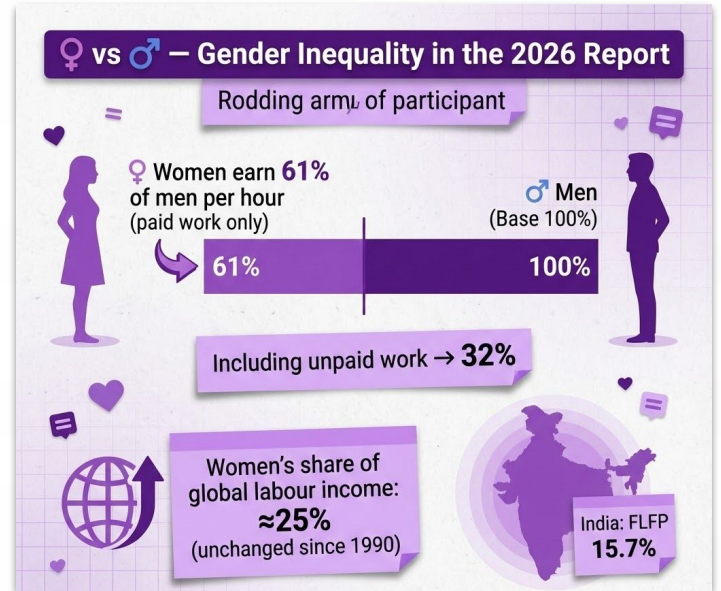
CONTEXT: World Inequality Report 2026 is the third edition in a major series (following 2018 and 2022) produced by the World Inequality Lab.

- **Gender Inequality**

- Female Labor Participation: Remains very low at **15.7%**.
- Stagnation: no improvement in **10 yrs.**
- Income Share: South & SEAsia, only **20%** of total labor income.

- **India's Global Position :**

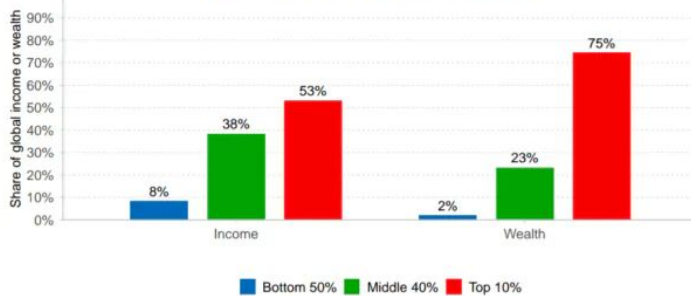
- 1980: larger portion of India's population was in the global **"middle 40%."**
- 2025: almost its entire population concentrated in the global **bottom 50%**
- Contrast with China



CONTEXT: World Inequality Report 2026 is the third edition in a major series (following 2018 and 2022) produced by the World Inequality Lab.

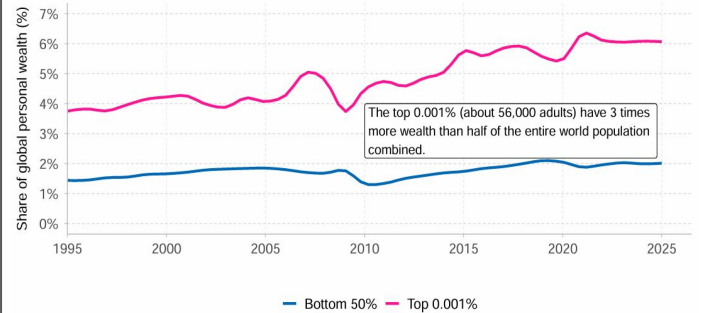
Part 2: The Global Story (The "Billionaire Raj")

Figure 1. The world is extremely unequal
Share of global income or wealth per group, 2025

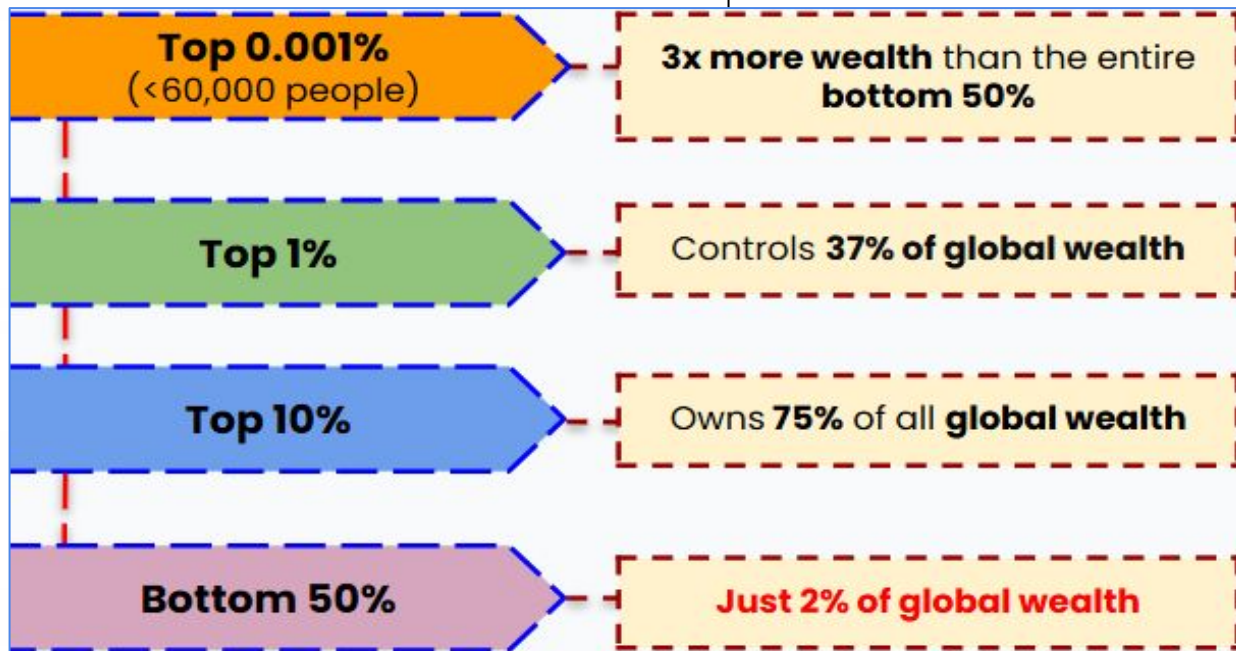


Interpretation. The global bottom 50% captures 8% of total income measured at 2025 PPP. The global bottom 50% owns 2% of wealth (at 2025 PPP). The global top 10% owns 75% of total personal wealth and captures 53% of total income in 2025. Note that top wealth holders are not necessarily top income holders. Income is after pension and unemployment benefits are received by individuals, and before taxes and transfers. **Sources and series:** wir2026.wid.world/methodology.

Figure 2. Extreme wealth inequality is persistent and increasing
Extreme wealth inequality, 1995–2025



Interpretation. The share of personal wealth held by the richest 0.001% of adults rose from around 3.8% of total wealth in 1995 to nearly 6.1% in 2025. After a very slight increase, the share of wealth owned by the poorest half of the population has stagnated since the early 2000s at around 2%. Net personal wealth is equal to the sum of financial assets (e.g. equity or bonds) and non-financial assets (e.g. housing or land) owned by individuals, net of their debts. **Sources and series:** Arias-Osorio et al. (2025) and wir2026.wid.world/methodology.

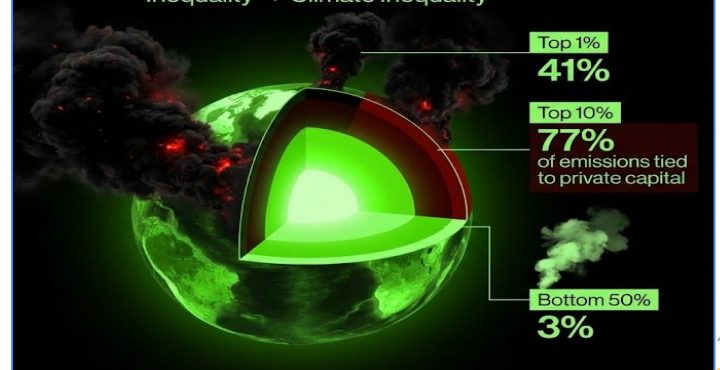


"Fractal" Inequality:

- Top 10% Avg Wealth: ~€1 million.
- Top 0.001% Avg Wealth: ~€1 billion.
- Top 1-in-100 million (56 people): Avg wealth €53 billion each.
- **Comparison:** The wealth of a single individual at this level exceeds the GDP of several African countries.

Climate Footprint of the Rich

Inequality → Climate Inequality



CONTEXT: World Inequality Report 2026 is the third edition in a major series (following 2018 and 2022) produced by the World Inequality Lab.

Causes behind rising top shares :

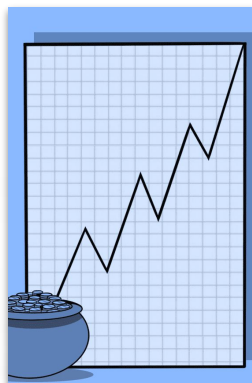
- **Piketty's r > g logic** : Returns on capital > growth
- **Global financialization** : Asset value growth (stocks, real estate)
- **Tax** : Avoidance Effective & Personal tax rates
- **Unequal access to high-return assets** : Land, property, equities
- Labour market structure

International Trade Union Confederation

ILO Global Wage Report: Uneven wage recovery shows urgent need for fair pay and living wages

The ITUC welcomes the ILO's latest Global Wage Report 2024-25, but is concerned at some of the key findings. The report presents trends and...

28 Nov 2024



Capital Gains Yield

[ˈkɑːpə-tol ˈɡāns ˈjēld]

The amount an asset yields in profits to an investor when it is sold.

Why inequality persists in India?

- Tax structure of ultra rich
- Limited redistributive spending wrt NEEDS
- Land & asset concentration
- Labour market informality
- Gender constraints

WEALTH OWNERSHIP AND INEQUALITY IN INDIA : A SOCIO-RELIGIOUS ANALYSIS



THE STUDY COVERED

1,10,800 households in 20 Indian states

22.3%

higher caste Hindus own 41 per cent of total wealth

7.8%

of Hindu STs own 3.7 per cent of total wealth

TOP 1 PER CENT of households own 25% of total assets

TOP 5 PER CENT own 46 per cent of total assets

BOTTOM 40 PER CENT own 3.4 per cent of total assets

WEALTHIEST STATES

Maharashtra, UP and Kerala

POOREST STATES

Odisha, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand

"Caste still continues to determine the level of education, nature of profession and resultant income and assets that an individual will own in this country,"

NITIN TAGADE, LEAD AUTHOR AND ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, SPPU.

Policy solutions :

- **Revenue-side :**
 - Tax wealth/capital gains more effectively
 - Inheritance/estate taxes
 - Close loopholes & fight evasion
- **Targeted transfers**
 - Universal public goods
 - Active labour policies
 - Targeted transfers
- **Structural & institutional**
 - Female: invest in childcare, safety, skilling
 - Land reforms & affordable housing
 - Educational equality
 - Financial inclusion



CONTEXT: World Inequality Report 2026 is the third edition in a major series (following 2018 and 2022) produced by the World Inequality Lab.

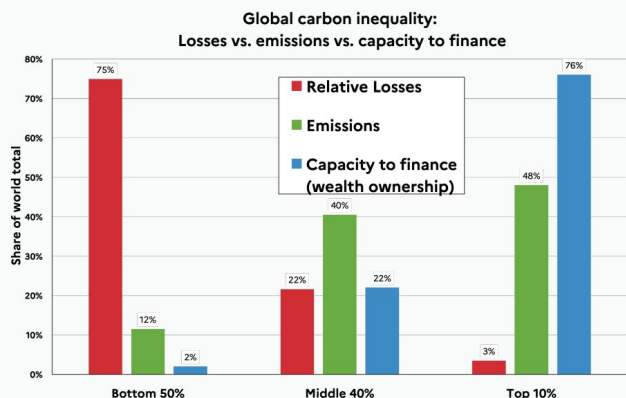


Figure A: Global climate inequality: relative losses, emissions and capacity to finance

Notes: Relative income losses due to climate change, vs. greenhouse gases emissions vs. wealth ownership. See Figure 29 for methodological details and how to read this graph.

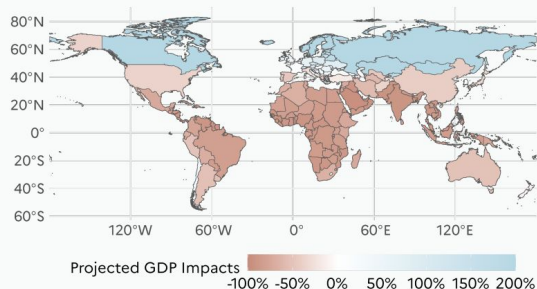
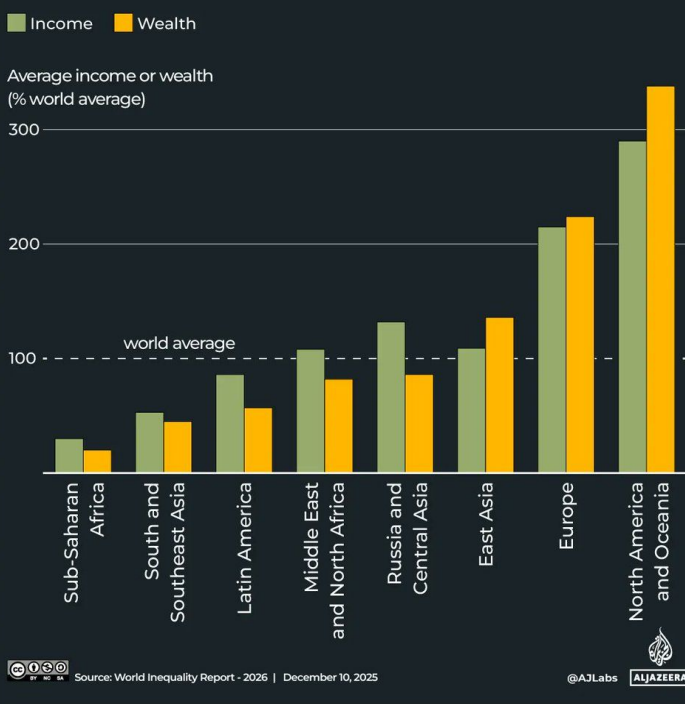


Figure B: Change in GDP per capita by 2100 attributable to climate change

ECONOMY

Income and wealth inequality across regions

In 2025, the average wealth of people in North America and Oceania stood at 338 percent of the world's average, making it the wealthiest region globally.



Mains Practise Question

Explain causes and consequences of high income inequality in India. Suggest measures.

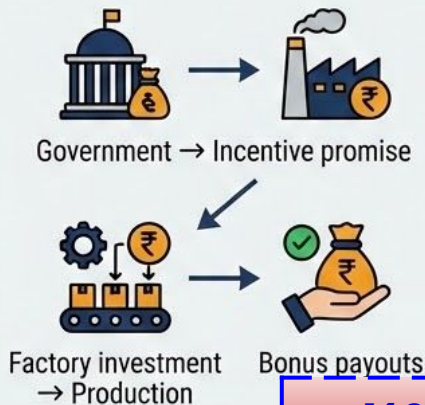
(15 Marks, 250 words)



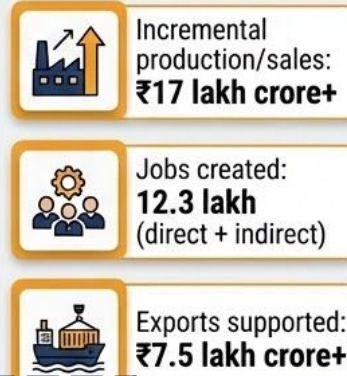
Annual Status of all PLI Schemes

SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper : Industrial Policies
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 1

How it works (Mini Flow)



Incremental Sales



In its year-end review, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade said that investments through the PLI schemes had resulted in incremental production and sales of over ₹17 lakh crore and employment generation of over 12.3 lakh, including both direct and indirect employment.

14 Sectors

HOW DOES THE INCENTIVE WORK

It is a kind of subsidy to the sector

Is a direct payment from the budget to goods made in India	Amount varies from sector to sector	Is based on disadvantage/disability faced by a sector
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Ease of Doing Business: Over 47,000 compliances were reduced and 4,458 provisions decriminalized to help these businesses grow.

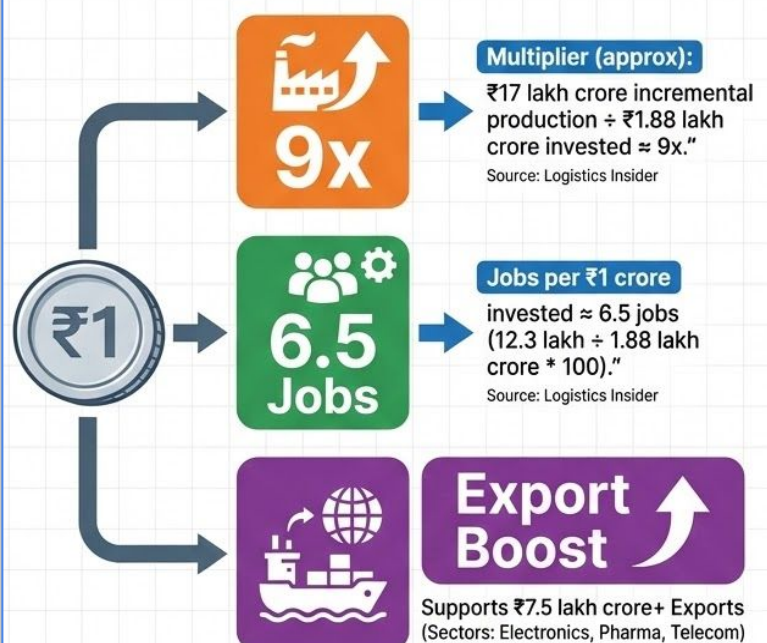
The Report Card (June 2025 Data):

"PLI schemes have witnessed exports exceeding ₹7.5 lakh crore with significant contributions from sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, telecom and networking products, and food processing," the DPIIT said in a release.

The DPIIT said so far it had recognised 2,01,335 start-ups under the Startup India scheme, with these start-ups having created more than 21 lakh jobs.

The Open Network for Digital Commerce has processed more than 326 million orders as of October, the DPIIT said.

"For every ₹1 invested under PLI → Production, Exports, & Jobs Multipliers"



Annual Status of all PLI Schemes



SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper : Industrial Policies
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 1

UPSC PYQ (P) 2023

Consider, the following statements:

Statement-I : India accounts for 3.2% of global export of goods.

Statement-II : Many local companies and some foreign companies operating in India have taken advantage of India's 'Production-linked Incentive' scheme.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

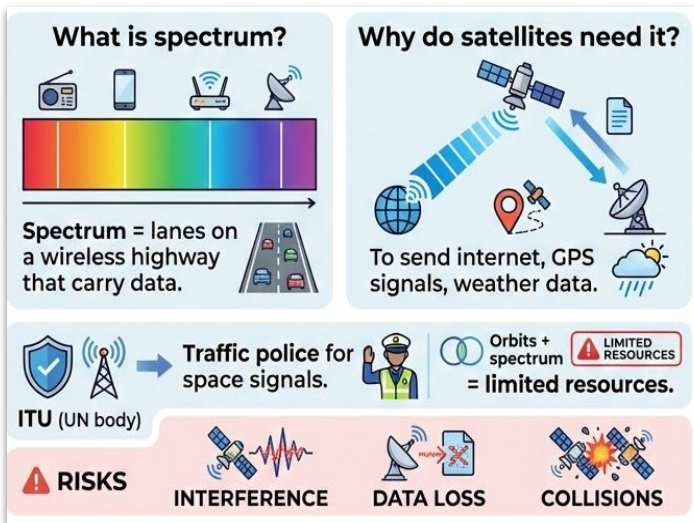
- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct



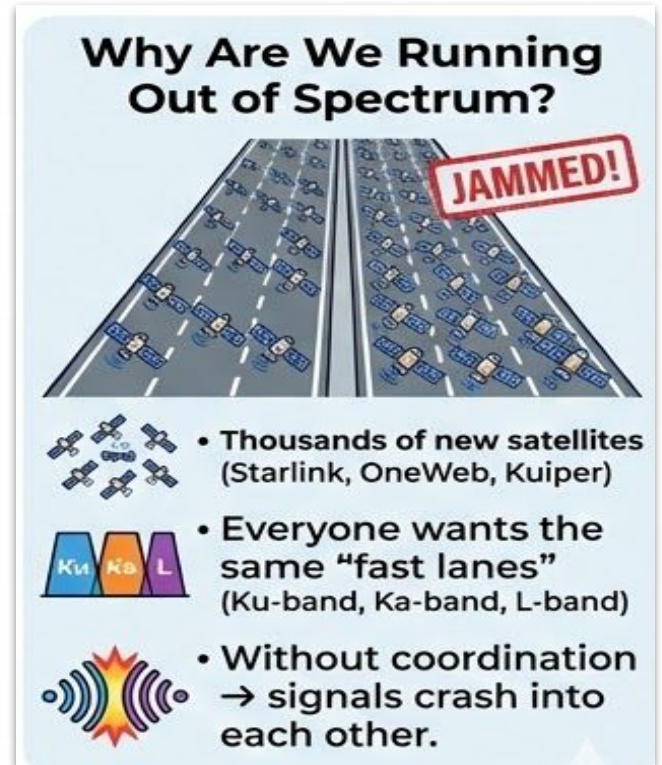
SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper : Awareness in the fields of Space
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 9

To run a **satellite internet business** :

1. **Spectrum**: specific radio frequencies used to transmit data
 - **Key Bands**:
 - **L-band (1-2 GHz)**: Used for GPS.
 - **Ku-band (12-18 GHz) & Ka-band (26-40 GHz)**: "Gold Standard" for high-speed satellite internet.
 - **The Rule**: Interference
2. **Orbital Slots** : The physical path a satellite takes around Earth. You need a specific slot to ensure your signal hits the right antenna on the ground.



International Telecommunication Union (ITU) assigns the frequencies of electromagnetic radiation that different satellites and ground stations can use to talk to each other. The most sought after frequencies are **Ku-band** (12-18 GHz) and **Ka-band** (26-40 GHz) for high-speed satellite internet and **L-band** (1-2 GHz) for GPS. Each satellite must coordinate its



The Mega Constellation Boom :

- Starlink (SpaceX): >8,000 operational; planned up to ~42,000.
- OneWeb: ~648 satellites.
- Project Kuiper (Amazon): planned ~3,200.
- China's GuoWang: plans ~13,000.
- Market: projected from \$4.27B (2024) → \$27.31B by 2032

There's at least one **space race** already underway to get to the moon. There's also another one: to claim radio frequencies and orbital slots in the limited space around the earth. The main participants of this race are companies launching large fleets of satellites working together, called **megaconstellations**. These megaconstellations are already revolutionising Internet access around the world – but they're also sparking a fierce and fraught competition for the invisible highways across which they send and receive information.



Fight for Space Spectrum

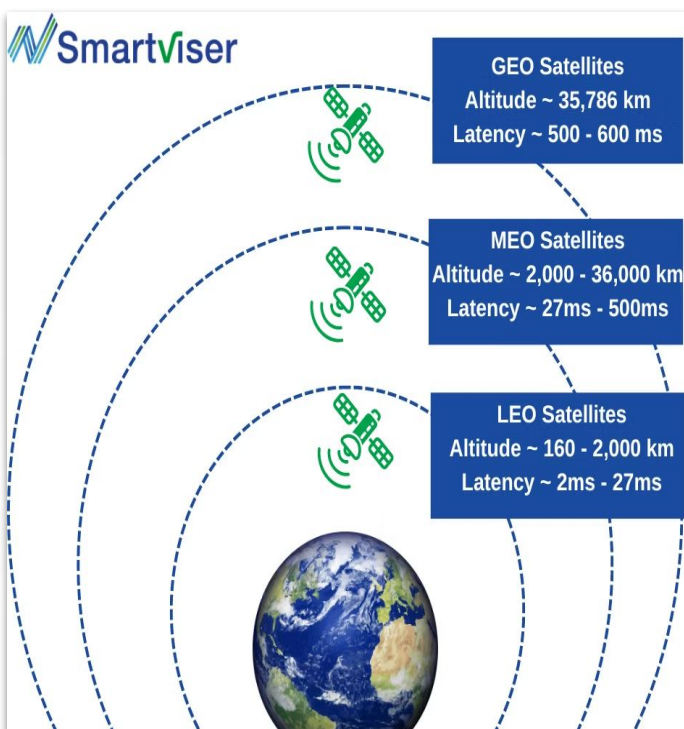


SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper : Awareness in the fields of Space
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Orbits — LEO vs MEO vs GEO (and why it matters) 🛰️ :

LEO = **fast**, but needs **thousands** of satellites for global coverage → spectrum + orbital slot competition

Orbit	Altitude	Key trait	Use-cases
LEO	150–2,000 km	Low latency (~20–40 ms), many satellites required	Megaconstellations (Starlink, OneWeb), real-time comms, Earth observation
MEO	~2,000–36,000 km	Balanced latency and coverage	Some navigation constellations
GEO	~35,786 km	Fixed position relative to Earth, high latency (~600+ ms)	Traditional satellite TV, some broadband



ITU governance

The ITU is a specialised agency of the United Nations with 194 member states. It serves as the sole global coordinator for satellite spectrum and orbital slots, operating under the principle that these are “limited natural resources that must be used rationally, efficiently and economically”.



Fight for Space Spectrum



SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper : Awareness in the fields of Space
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 9

Who coordinates spectrum and orbital slots – ITU:

The Flaw: works on "**First-Come, First-Served**" basis.

- **Result:** Rich nations/companies

The Reform (WRC 2023): To stop hoarding:

- Must launch **10%** of your fleet in 2 years.
- **50%** in 5 years.
- **100%** in 7 years.
- **Resolution 8:** You cannot claim a slot in one orbit but secretly deploy in another.
- **ITU-R 74** (2023): sustainable use & debris mitigation (e.g., deorbit within 25 years).

International legal architecture – who does what?

- **UNCOPUOS**
- **National** regulators
- No single binding global regulator

India's context – capabilities & policy stance

- **Indian assets:**
 - **ISRO**
 - **GSAT-N2:** ISRO GEO/HTS satellite, 48 Gbps
 - **Bharti Enterprises** holds ~39% of **OneWeb** → India has a stake in LEO ecosystem

• **Regulations**

- **TRAI** recommended administrative allocation (not auctions) for non-GEO satellite spectrum
- **Opportunities:** shape ITU reforms, require deorbit & debris mitigation, support domestic startups, subsidize terminals for rural areas.

Digital divide

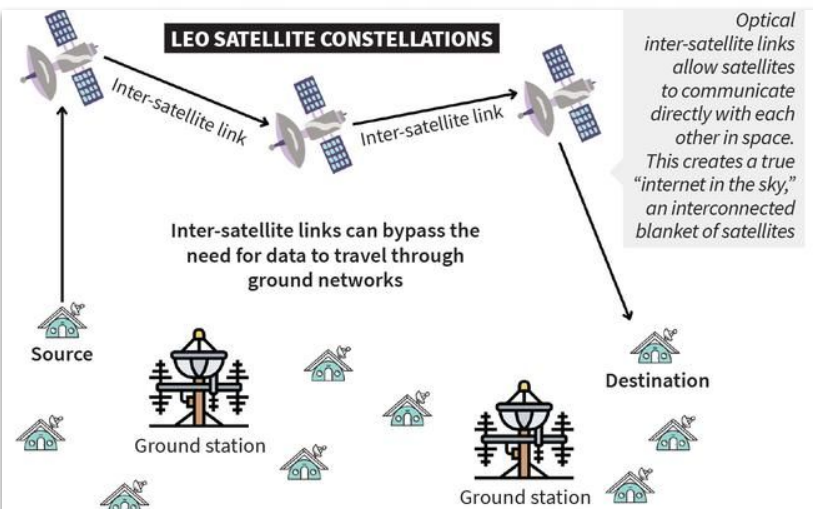
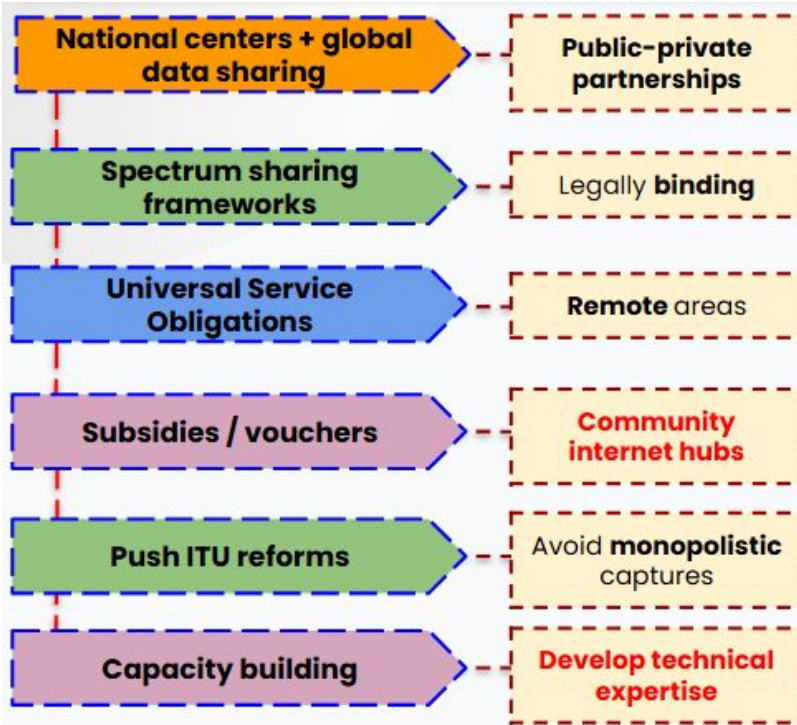
It's not possible to simply write off megaconstellations because they are one solution to bridging a connectivity disparity among the world's countries. For instance, on the **Global Connectivity Index** (a figure that combines the number of internet users, connected devices, natural-disaster vulnerability, and GDP), **Switzerland leads with a score of 34.41 while India sits at 8.59**, a nearly fourfold gap. Worldwide, 2.6 billion people remained offline at the start of 2025, with the most vulnerable populations in South Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The thorn here is **affordability**. **Starlink's user terminal**, which receives the satellites' transmissions, costs around **\$600 (₹53,168 on November 17)** with monthly subscription fees, which is unaffordable for rural populations without subsidies or tiered pricing models. The ITU's 'Connecting Humanity Action Blueprint' has also estimated that **closing the digital divide by 2030 will require \$2.6-2.8 trillion in investments, underscoring the scale of the challenge.**



SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper : Awareness in the fields of Space
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 9

Policy options & recommendations



Why This Matters (Simple Version)



Fair access → global digital equality
Ensures equal opportunity for all nations to access space resources.



Safety → prevents signal collisions
Protects vital services like GPS and communication from interference.



Sustainability → controls space debris
Promotes long-term health of the space environment for future generations.

UPSC PYQ (P) 2019

For the measurement/estimation of which of the following are satellite images/remote sensing data used?

1. Chlorophyll content in the vegetation of a specific location
2. Greenhouse gas emissions from rice paddies of a specific location
3. Land surface temperatures of a specific location

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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



Protected Marine Areas & Offshore Blocks

SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Geography
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 12

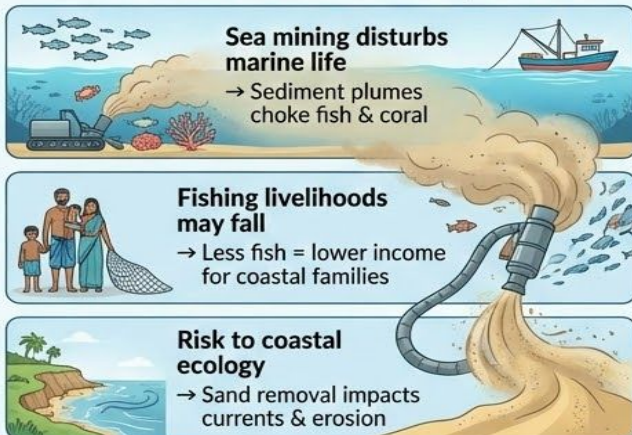
Earlier this year, protests had erupted in Kerala – cutting across party lines – over the Centre's proposal in November 2024 to auction 13 blocks in the sea to private companies to mine for construction-grade sand off the coast of Kerala, three blocks of lime mud off the coast of Gujarat, and seven blocks of polymetallic nodules and crust off the Great Nicobar Island in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Offshore blocks in the seas made available to private companies for mining were carved out after excluding regions known to be Marine Protected Areas, the Earth Sciences Ministry said in response to a query in the Lok Sabha by Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday.

What Are Offshore Mining Blocks? And Why Are Fisherfolk Protesting?



What Did Kerala Protest? (Simple Cards)



What Are Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)?



India has 130 Marine Protected Areas

106 ICMBAs (Important Coastal & Marine Biodiversity Areas)

These zones protect coral reefs, turtles, seagrass, fish breeding grounds



Government Clarification (Easy Version)



Mining blocks were carved after excluding MPAs and ICMBAs.

Rules require environmental plans before any mining starts (baseline data, impact studies, mitigation).



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Geography
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 12

The Environmental Safeguards :

A. Marine Protected Areas

- Human activity is strictly restricted for conservation.
- **Status: 130 MPAs** across coastal India and islands.
- **Legal Backing: Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**

B. ICMBAs (Important Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Areas)

- Priority sites identified for their rich biodiversity (like coral reefs, seagrass beds, turtle nesting sites).
- **Status: 106 sites**
- **The Promise:** mining blocks do *not* overlap with these zones.

C. Offshore Areas Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2024.

- **Mandatory Plan:** for digging with a "Production Plan."
 - **Environmental Management Plan** detailing:
 - **Baseline** information
 - **Impact Assessment**
 - Mitigation Measures

Offshore Areas Mineral Trust :

- **Members:** Includes **Coastal States** in the Governing Body.
- **Funding:** A portion of the mining royalty/fees goes into this Trust.
- **Purpose:** The money is strictly used for:
 - **Research** on offshore ecology.
 - **Mitigation** of adverse impacts (fixing ecological damage).
 - **Relief** for affected communities (potentially fishermen).

Eco shield | The Union government has said that marine protected sites will not be used for mining of minerals

■ 23 offshore blocks have been proposed: 13 sand blocks (Kerala), 3 lime mud blocks (Gujarat), 7 polymetallic blocks (Andaman and Nicobar)

■ Fisher families and green activities have expressed concerns over depleting marine life stock



■ Offshore Areas Mineral Trust has been established with coastal States as members of the Governing Body and Executive Committee of the Trust

 The production plan, *inter alia*, includes an environmental management plan indicating baseline information, impact assessment and mitigation measures

JITENDRA SINGH
Minister of State for
Earth Sciences



466 SEZs closed in last 5 years

SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Economy

Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 15

PRELIMS Pointers: Basics of SEZs

AS MANY as 466 units have closed in the last five years till FY25 in seven special economic zones (SEZs) across the country, according to data shared by the Commerce and Industry Ministry in written response to a Lok Sabha question.

Unit closures

FINANCIAL YEAR	UNITS
2020-21	96
2021-22	113
2022-23	77
2023-24	80
2024-25	100
Total	466

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

1 Header Panel: "SEZ = Tax-Free, Business-Friendly Zone Inside a Country"



"An SEZ is an area with special laws + tax breaks to attract companies, boost exports, and create jobs."

2 Why Do Countries Create SEZs? (4 Icon Cards)

Attract Investment
Encourage foreign and domestic capital flow.

Create Employment
Generate significant job opportunities.

Boost Exports
Increase share in global trade.

Make Business Easy (fewer rules)
Simplify procedures and regulations.

Small note: "SEZ = more business-friendly than rest of the country."

3 India-Specific Basics (Mini Facts)



379 SEZs notified

265 operational

64% in 5 states:
TN, Telangana, Karnataka, AP, Maharashtra

Oldest precursor:
Asia's first EPZ
→ Kandla (1965)

SEZs in 5 Charts: Closures vs Exports vs Investment

1 Unit Closures (Bar Chart)

Highlight: 466 total closures



2 Employment Trend (Mini Line)

Flatline graphic



3 Exports Growth (Strong Upward)



4 Investment Uptick



5 Sector Losses Example (Gems & Jewellery)



Pre-2019 → FY22
500 units pre-2019 → ~360 in FY22

- Quick reasons: Incentives withdrawn
- Better deals abroad
- Pandemic supply shock



466 SEZs closed in last 5 years



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Diagnosis of the Failure



"Such measures, including policy initiatives like permitting reverse job work and regulatory changes are a continuous process and introduced in the ad-

Key Provisions of DESH Bill

1. **Tax Benefits** - The new bill is expected to ensure tax rebates/refunds/financial subsidies to developers/companies in the hub, in a manner similar to the existing SEZs, but with no export compulsion NFE (Net Foreign Exchange) obligation.
2. **Development Hubs** - Existing ports, airports, inland container depots, land stations, etc., are proposed to be transformed into Development Hubs with a clear demarcation of processing and non-processing areas.
3. **Shifting the focus from exports to domestic investments** - The bill is expected to bring about a paradigm shift by moving the focus from exports to domestic investments, eliminating compliance and procedural challenges.
 - The bill proposes to integrate multiple models of economic zones such as SEZs, coastal economic zones, and food and textile parks.
 - In transforming the existing SEZs into enterprises and service hubs, the focus will be on boosting economic activity and the domestic market, integrating the various models, facilitating ease of doing business and generating employment.
4. **States to play a larger role** - DESH Bill is also expected to enable states to play a greater role in the integration of all existing industrial parks within states with existing SEZs across the country.



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Important International Institutions
Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 17

What is Intangible Cultural Heritage?

- It includes **traditions** or **living expressions** inherited from ancestors and passed to descendants.
- **Examples:** Oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, and knowledge concerning nature.

Published by **UNESCO (Paris)**

Tangail Sarees @WB too!

ET The Economic Times

Why Maratha military forts of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Maharana Pratap joining UNESCO World Heritage L

India gains global recognition. The 'Maratha Military Landscapes of India' joins the UNESCO World Heritage List. This is India's 44th entry.

12 Jul 2025

- **Hill Forts:** Salher, Shivneri, Lohgad, Raigad, Rajgad, Gingee (TN).
- **Coastal Forts:** Vijaydurg.
- **Island Forts:** Sindhudurg, Khanderi, Suvarnadurg.
- **Hill-Forest Fort:** Pratapgad.

DEEPAVALI — INSCRIBED ON UNESCO INTANGIBLE HERITAGE (2025)

One of 20 additions in 2025

Quick Story

1



What happened:
Deepavali inscribed on UNESCO Representative List (2025).

20 additions (2025)

2



Other Indian highlights:
Tangail saree weaving also inscribed.

Tangail — Bangladesh

3



Global context:
19 other cultural heritages added in 2025.

What is the UNESCO List?



Intangible cultural heritage = living traditions (rituals, arts, crafts, festivals). UNESCO's list promotes protection, transmission & intercultural dialogue.

India's Intangible Heritage



Durga Puja (2021)



Kumbh Mela (2017)



Chhau dance (2010)

Vedic chanting (2008)

Ramlila (2008)

Sankirtana (2013)



Yoga (2016)



Nowruz (2016)



DEEPAVALI (2025)


WHY IT MATTERS — Recognition helps preserve traditions, boosts cultural pride & tourism, encourages community transmission.



UNESCO Tag for Deepavali



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Important International Institutions
Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 17

Feature	Tangible Heritage 	Intangible Heritage 
Focus	Physical places you can touch.	Living traditions you experience.
Convention	1972 World Heritage Convention.	2003 Intangible Heritage Convention.
India's Latest	Maratha Military Landscapes (2025).	Deepavali (2025).
Total in India	44 Sites.	16+ Elements.

 www.pib.gov.in

Moidams – The Mound-Burial System of Ahom Dynasty Inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List as India's 43rd Entry

Moidams – The Mound-Burial System of Ahom Dynasty Inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List as India's 43rd Entry...

26 Jul 2024

65. Consider the following properties included in the World Heritage List released by UNESCO :

1. Shantiniketan
2. Rani-ki-Vav
3. Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas
4. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya

How many of the above properties were included in 2023 ?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the World Inequality Report 2026:

1. It is released by the World Economic Forum.
2. It measures prevailing inequality based upon tax data & national accounts.
3. As per the report, the top 10% rich people in India capture more than 2/3rd of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Intangible Cultural Heritage:

1. Intangible Cultural Heritage is recognised by UNESCO.
2. It includes oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals & festive events.
3. The Festival of Deepavali has recently been included in the Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

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

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

Answer: c

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Development of Enterprises & Service Hub (DESH) Act :

1. It was introduced to overhaul the existing Special Economic Zone law of 2005.
2. It provides for evaluation based on net foreign exchange and direct tax incentives.
3. It uses net positive growth criteria to judge the performance of Special Economic Zones.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q4. Which of the following statements regarding the Offshore Areas Mineral Trust is NOT correct?

- a) Offshore mining areas are marked in open sea for mining purpose
- b) Funding is provided through a portion of mining royalty
- c) Funding for trust shall be strictly used for research & mitigation purposes
- d) The governing body for trust doesn't include the coastal states

Answer: d

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. The megaconstellations like Starlink & OneWeb is generally placed in the Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
2. The traditional satellites for television is generally placed in the Geostationary orbit (GEO).

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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