



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**19th December 2025**



19th December 2025

# Maoist Movement at its Lowest

**CONTEXT:** It appears that the four-decade old insurgency is nearing its end.

## Maoist movement in Andhra hits its lowest point in four decades

Sumit Bhattacharjee  
VISAKHAPATNAM

As the year draws to a close, the four-decade-old Left Wing Extremist (LWE) insurgency appears to be at its lowest ebb.

The banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), the current manifestation of Naxalism, has suffered its worst reverses so far, and security analysts believe that the endgame has begun, with the movement heading towards extinction.

Historically, the movement began as a peasant uprising under the banner of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) – a breakaway faction of the present Communist Party of India (Marxist) – in 1967 at Naxalbari in West Bengal. Led by radical ideologues Charu Majumdar, Jangal Santhal and Kanu Sanyal, it withered away within a few years after spreading to parts of the then unified



Additional DG (Intelligence) Mahesh Chandra Laddha inspecting weapons seized from the encounter site in which Maoist leader Madvi Hidma was killed in November. FILE PHOTO

Andhra Pradesh, with Srikakulam district emerging as its epicentre.

However, the movement was revived in Andhra Pradesh in 1980 by Kondapalli Seetharamaiah under the banner of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) People's War. It later took a different form with the formation of CPI (Maoist) following the merger of People's War and

the Maoist Communist Centre in 2004.

Thereafter, the movement spread across Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and parts of Maharashtra, with the aim of creating a 'Red Corridor' – a goal it largely achieved.

Even after being driven out of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, it managed to re-

tain its stronghold in Chhattisgarh, a predominantly tribal State.

The Maoists were even successful in establishing a 'Janatana Sarkar', a parallel governance system, until the Union government launched Operation Kagar, also known as 'Black Forest', in April 2025.

Operation Kagar, led by multiple specialised forces including the CoBRA of the CRPF, the District Reserve Guards (DRG) of Chhattisgarh, the Special Operations Group (SOG) of Odisha, the Greyhounds of Andhra Pradesh, and the C-60 of Maharashtra, not only successfully besieged the Maoists in the forests of Chhattisgarh but also made deep inroads into their core strongholds such as Karregutta and Abujhmad.

The Maoists suffered heavy losses over the past six months. According to a Maoist document released by the party's Central Com-

mittee, more than 320 cadres were killed in the last 11 months, including about eight Central Committee members and several senior and mid-level leaders and military commanders.

### Biggest blow

The biggest blow came in May this year, when the party's general secretary, Nambala Keshava Rao alias Basavaraju, was killed along with 27 others in the Abujhmad area.

The residual movement in Andhra Pradesh was curtailed with the killing of Central Committee member Gajarla Ravi alias Uday and senior leaders such as Aruna and Tech Shankar in recent months. This was followed by the surrender of Bhupati (Mallojula Venugopal Rao), one of the senior-most Central Committee members, along with 60 others.

The final hope of reviv-

ing the Maoists' military wing suffered a decisive setback when their youngest Central Committee member and commander of the Central Military Commission (CMC), the party's main fighting body, Madvi Hidma was killed on November 18 in Chintoor, Alluri Sitharama Raju district.

The deaths of Hidma and Basavaraju were the biggest setbacks for the movement and signal its endgame, says Mahesh Laddha, Additional Director General (Intelligence) of Andhra Pradesh.

Hidma's killing was followed by the arrest of over 50 Maoists from various cities in A.P. within 24 hours.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said that the Maoist movement must be eliminated by March 31, 2026. With events rapidly aligning towards that goal, it appears that the four-decade-old insurgency is nearing its end.

## Maoist Movement at its Lowest

### Maoism – The Ideology

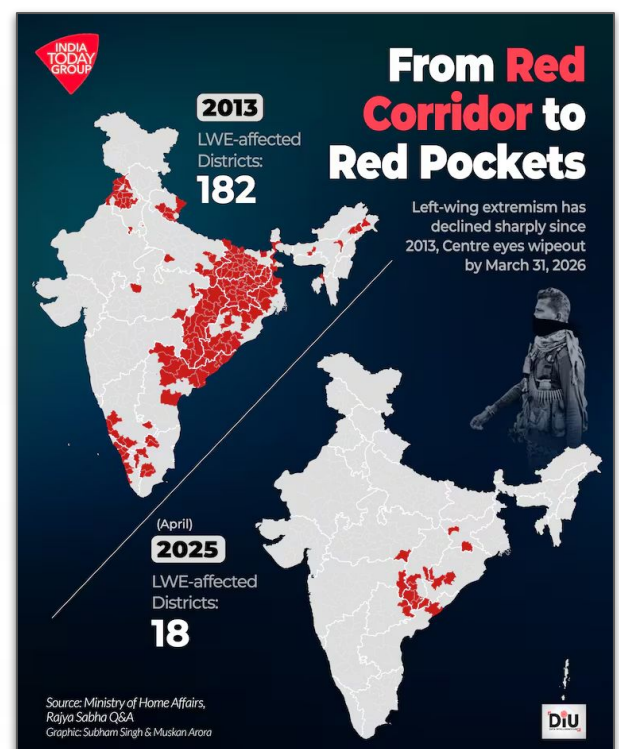
- **Mao Zedong** – Chinese Communist Revolution
- Evolved from Marxism–Leninism; emphasised **agrarian peasant-led revolution**

### Core Features

- Class Struggle
- Protracted People's War
- Armed Struggle
- Rejection of Parliamentary Democracy

### In India

- **Maoist insurgency** – Naxalite Movement – LWE
- Believe – **overthrowing – Indian state – "people's government"**
- **CPI (Maoist)**, 2004 – PWG & MCC
- Active in parts of **Central and Eastern India**





# Maoist Movement at its Lowest

**CONTEXT:** It appears that the four-decade old insurgency is nearing its end.

## What is CPI(M) then?

- Split from **CPI** in **1964** – **Ideological Differences**
- **Registered Political Party** – **RPA**
- **Ideology:** **Marxism–Leninism** – **Parliamentary Democracy**
- **CPI (Maoist)** – **UAPA**

## Reasons for the Rise of Naxal Movement in India

- **Historical and Structural Factors:** Colonial legacy, Unfinished land reforms –post independence, Alienation of tribal communities
- **Socio-Economic Inequalities:** Poverty & deprivation in tribal belts, Inequitable development, Exploitation by landlords and contractors
- **Governance Deficit:** Weak presence – state in remote areas, Corruption & failure in delivery of welfare schemes, Human rights abuses – local elites or security forces
- **Political Factors:** Factionalism within Left parties, Perceived state repression
- **Immediate Triggers:** Naxalbari uprising (1967), Spread to other regions

## From Corridor to Pockets: The Decline of Naxal Movement

- **Organisational Decline:** Central Committee, Politburo, Cadre
- **Recent security operations & outcomes:** Killed, Surrendered, Senior Leaders Killed
- **Waning influence in different Geographies:** once a declared 'Liberated Zone'

## Why the Maoist movement weakened?

- **Leadership Vacuum and Ageing Cadre:** Ethnic Divide
- **Tribal Disillusionment:** Locals initially – inspired by cultural propaganda, Salwa Judum (2005–07) – alienated local communities
- **Strategic & Ideological Weakness:** Political Mobilisation – Educated Youths
- **Security operations modernised** – CoBRA, DRG
- Decapitation operations & targeted strikes
- **Mass Surrenders and Arrests**
- Successful **civil society–led democratic movements**



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# Maoist Movement at its Lowest

**CONTEXT:** It appears that the four-decade old insurgency is nearing its end.

## How to Sustain Security Gains: The Way Forward

- Sustain Tactical & Security Gains
- Robust Rehabilitation & Reintegration Schemes
- Local Governance & Development
- Trust with Tribal Communities
- Political Engagement & Grievance Redressal
- Prevent Ideological Vacuum
- Deradicalisation

## Mains Practise Question

*The Maoist movement in India which was a result of many factors, is now in decline. Analyse the reasons for this decline and suggest measures to permanently end left-wing extremism.*

**(15 Marks, 250 words)**



**CONTEXT:** How Oman trade deal adds heft to India's West Asia Strategy

## Context

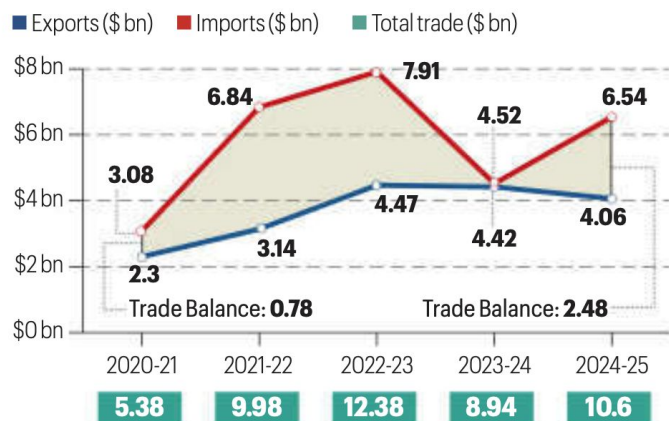
- It is **Oman's first bilateral trade agreement in nearly two decades.**
- For India, this is part of a **broader push to expand FTAs** with key partners (including the UK earlier in 2025).
- The agreement covers **goods, services and investment**, making it broader than a simple tariff reduction treaty.

## Key Features of the India-Oman CEPA

### Trade Liberalisation

- Oman will provide zero-duty access - > 98% of its tariff lines**, covering ~ **99% of Indian exports by value.**
- India will reduce tariffs on ~ 77.8% of its tariff lines**, covering ~ **94.8% of imports from Oman by value.**
- Both sides have kept sensitive sectors out of concessions or applied **tariff-rate quotas** to balance protection with liberalisation.

### INDIA-OMAN TRADE



### Top items exported & imported (2024-25)

EXPORTS (in \$ mn)		IMPORTS (in \$ mn)	
Mineral Fuel	1,571.72	Bituminous Substances	2,940.06
Inorganic chemicals	379.91	Fertilisers	1,069.35
Machinery & parts	231.81	Rare earth metals	407.75
Aircraft & parts	174.72	Organic chemicals	608.74

SOURCE: COMMERCE & INDUSTRY MINISTRY

**Sectoral Opportunities:** The pact unlocks major opportunities in sectors such as:

- Textiles and apparel
- Automobiles and auto components
- Food processing, engineering goods, plastics, furniture
- Gems and jewellery, leather
- Pharmaceuticals and medical devices
- Agrochemicals and renewable energy
- Services, including IT, professional services, healthcare and education

### Services, Investment & Mobility

- The CEPA includes **liberalised conditions for services trade** and **FDI**
- It expands opportunities for professionals in key sectors and increases quotas for intra-corporate transferees, enabling **easier movement of skilled personnel.**

### Strategic and Non-Tariff Provisions

- The pact also incorporates cooperation in **maritime, infrastructure, energy transition, food security and logistics.**
- MoUs have been agreed on agriculture, higher education and maritime cooperation.



**CONTEXT:** How Oman trade deal adds heft to India's West Asia Strategy

## Importance for India

### A. Boost Exports and Market

**Diversification:** The CEPA – Indian exporters **predictable and preferential access** & helps **de-risk exports**; Indian labour-intensive sectors – **textiles and jewellery** – significant competitive edge.

**B. Strategic Gateway to Gulf and Beyond: Oman's strategic location – Strait of Hormuz** – broader access to the GCC region, Africa and Central Asia; Indian companies – Oman as a **regional export hub** and integrate into **Gulf supply chains**

**C. Services, Investment and Skills:** The pact supports **services trade** – Indian professionals and firms to expand in various sectors; Indian investments in Oman ~ more than **tripled since 2020, reaching around USD 5 billion**, spanning green steel, green ammonia, aluminium and logistics.

**D. Strategic and Energy Cooperation:** Oman is a key partner for **maritime security and strategic cooperation** ~ enhancing India's geopolitical reach.

## Importance in the Context of the GCC

- India already has a **CEPA with the UAE (effective May 2022)** and now a **CEPA with Oman** – marking deepening economic ties with GCC members.



## Way Forward for India

**A. Leverage Oman as a Regional Hub:** Indian firms should **use Oman as an export and re-export base** for the wider GCC, Africa and Central Asia.

**B. Deepen Services and Investment Integration:** Focus on sectors such as **IT, healthcare, education, professional services and digital infrastructure** to expand India's footprint.

**C. Strengthen MSMEs and Export Competitiveness:** Provide support to MSMEs (credit, logistics, standards compliance) to maximise benefits from duty-free market access.

**D. Complementary Infrastructure and Connectivity:** Enhance **port linkages, multimodal logistics and direct shipping routes** between India and Oman to reduce trade costs and delivery times



# The India-Oman Trade Deal



**CONTEXT:** How Oman trade deal adds heft to India's West Asia Strategy

## E. Negotiating with Other GCC Members:

India should accelerate negotiations with **Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain** to build a cohesive set of bilateral agreements that cumulatively benefit India's GCC engagement.

## F. Monitor and Revise Sensitive Sector

**Safeguards:** Ensure adequate protection for sensitive domestic sectors while progressively widening liberalisation to boost mutual gains.

## Mains Practice Question

*The India-Oman deal comprehensively covers wide domains of trade & investments. Discuss how this deal would add heft in India's broader West Asia Strategy and also suggest a robust roadmap.*

**(15 Marks, 250 words)**





**SYLLABUS: GS 2: IR**

**Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 9**

• STRATEGY

## India-Russia logistics agreement, with eye on Arctic, Indo-Pacific

Divya A

New Delhi, December 18

DAYS AFTER his two-day official visit to New Delhi on December 4-5, Russia President Vladimir Putin has signed into federal law a major military cooperation agreement with India.

The Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Support (RELOS) was ratified by both houses of the Russian Parliament before receiving presidential approval. It will come into force after the formal exchange of instruments of ratification between Russia and India.

### What RELOS entails

The agreement sets out procedures governing the movement of military formations, warships and military aircraft between Russia and India, as well as the arrangements for providing logistical support to each other's forces. It will facilitate the mutual use of airspace by Russian and

Indian military aircraft, and has provisions related to port calls by warships of both countries.

It is designed to regulate not only the dispatch of troops and military equipment, but also the logistics associated with such deployments. This includes support services that may be required when forces from either country operate on the other's territory.

The established framework is intended to be applied during joint military exercises and training activities, as well as in situations involving humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. That said, the agreement also allows for its provisions to be used in other scenarios, subject to mutual consent by both sides.

### Significance for Delhi, Moscow

For India, RELOS provides an institutional framework for access to Russian air and naval bases, from Vladivostok on the Pacific to Murmansk on the Arctic, for re-

### India's Arctic aspirations

As climate change melts the Arctic ice, new opportunities — and contentions — are emerging. RELOS gives India a greater foothold in this region.

India is keen on investing in the Arctic, with its natural gas reserves, minerals, and untapped maritime routes. Logistics access Navy's ability to protect sea lanes and support commercial routes.

fuelling, repairs, and maintenance, boosting operational reach and readiness, especially for Russian-origin equipment. Not only does this deepen the existing defence partnership between Russia and India, it supports New Delhi's broader Indo-Pacific strategy by leveraging Russia's extensive network: access to over 40 Russian bases will help the Indian Navy and Air Force to operate further from home, and during long-range deployments.

Reciprocally, the Russian military will gain greater access to Indian ports and airfields for refuelling, repairs, and operations. RELOS will thus institutionalise support for Russian forces in the Indian Ocean, and bolster Russia's position in a multipolar world.

### Similar pacts with US

RELOS is similar to existing agreements — LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement), COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security

Agreement), and BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement) — with the US. However, it has been tailored to the India-Russia dynamic.

COMCASA, inked in 2018, permits the US to give India encrypted communications equipment and systems, allowing Indian and US military leaders and their planes and ships to communicate over secure networks in both peace and conflict. LEMOA, inked in 2016, enables the US and Indian militaries to refuel from one another's military bases and get supplies, spare parts, and services from each other's land facilities, air bases, and ports. BECA facilitates sharing of high-end military technology, including access to US geo-spatial, satellite, and drone data.

While these pacts strengthen India, a key US partner in the QUAD, to balance Chinese influence in the Indo-Pacific, for the US, they make India a more capable and interoperable partner in its strategic goal towards a free and open Indo-Pacific.

THE PULSE

## What is RELOS?

The RELOS agreement allows military aircraft, ships, and troops from both countries to use each other's facilities for:

- Joint exercises and training
- Humanitarian operations and disaster-relief missions
- Deployment of troops and equipment, regulated alongside logistics support

It ensures seamless fuelling, maintenance, spare parts, and repairs, especially during extended missions or humanitarian operations.



THE PULSE

## Key operational implications

Under RELOS, India and Russia can:

- Use each other's ports and airspace, including warship visits
- Operate in regions where the partner has significant presence, including the Arctic
- Enhance Indian Navy's operational reach in polar waters
- Access the Northern Sea Route, from Vladivostok to Murmansk, supporting both strategic and scientific objectives





# India-Russia Logistics Agreement

**SYLLABUS: GS 2: IR**

**Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 9**

THE PULSE

## Strategic benefits for India

- Streamlines logistics support and joint operations
- Grants access to Arctic ports and the Northern Sea Route
- Supports scientific missions and strategic positioning in polar waters
- Ensures smooth integration of Russian military hardware (Sukhoi jets, T-90 tanks, S-400 systems)



THE PULSE

## Strategic benefits for Russia

- Maintains global operational reach despite Western sanctions
- Gains reciprocal access in the Indian Ocean, expanding strategic influence
- Strengthens ties with a key long-term partner in Asia



THE PULSE

## India's experience with similar pacts

RELOS is part of India's broader approach to military logistics agreements. India has signed similar pacts with:



The strategic value became clear after 2016's Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement LEMOA, which allowed India to strengthen joint operations, logistics, and long-distance deployments.



# India-Russia Logistics Agreement

**SYLLABUS: GS 2: IR**

**Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 9**

## INDIAUSA FOUNDATIONAL AGREEMENTS

### Four Foundational Agreements



#### 1 GSOMIA General Security of Military Information Agreement

- It was the first of the foundational agreements to be signed in 2002 during the visit of Defence Minister George Fernandes to Washington DC.
- It guaranteed that the two countries would protect any classified information or technology that they shared.
- It was aimed at promoting interoperability and laid the foundation for future US arms sales to the country.



#### 2 LEMOA Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement

- It was signed in August 2016.
- LEMOA allows the militaries of the US and India to replenish from each other's bases, and access supplies, spare parts and services from each other's land facilities, air bases, and ports, which can then be reimbursed.
- To put the usefulness of this agreement in simple terms, it is like being able to stop at a friend's garage or workshop to refuel your car or get it repaired when you are far away from your own home or workshop.
- The signing of LEMOA was in itself an affirmation of the mutual trust between the two militaries, and its application will enhance the trust.
- While India had indeed provided ad hoc logistics support to the US in the past — such as allowing the refuelling of American aircraft in Bombay during the first Gulf War in 1991, and letting US warships visit Indian ports during the war on terror after 9/11— the signing of LEMOA has institutionalised this process and made it smoother.



#### 3 COMCASA Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement

- It was signed in September 2018, after the first 2+2 dialogue.
- The pact allows the US to provide India with its encrypted communications equipment and systems so that Indian and US military commanders, aircraft and ships, can communicate through secure networks during both peace and war.
- Again, to take a simple example, it's like being able to exchange messages or communicate with a friend on WhatsApp, Signal, or Telegram in real time and in a secure manner.
- It facilitates "interoperability" between their forces — and potentially with other militaries that use US-origin systems for secure data links.
- Because of the lack of this agreement, India had operated the US-made C-17s, C-130s and P-8i's with commercially available systems for nearly half a decade.



#### 4 BECA Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement

- The BECA facilitates the provision of targeting and navigation information from US systems.
- It will help India get real-time access to American geospatial intelligence that will enhance the accuracy of automated systems and weapons like missiles and armed drones.
- But, of course, having the data by itself doesn't guarantee accuracy; missile navigation systems must also be able to use this highly accurate data.
- Through the sharing of information on maps and satellite images, it will help India access topographical and aeronautical data, and advanced products that will aid in navigation and targeting.
- Besides the sailing of ships, flying of aircraft, fighting of wars, and location of targets, geospatial intelligence is also critical to the response to natural disasters.





19th December 2025

# Sahitya Akademi

**SYLLABUS: GS 1: Art & Culture**

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

## Sahitya Akademi cancels awards announcement

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**  
NEW DELHI

Confusion prevailed on Thursday when the Sahitya Akademi was forced to cancel a press conference called by it to announce its annual literary awards following a directive from the Union Ministry of Culture.

The press conference was scheduled to be held at 3 p.m. in Delhi after a meeting of the Executive Board of the literary body, which cleared the awardees. But minutes before it began, it was announced that the press meet had been cancelled and the awards process put on hold.

The Culture Ministry had sent a note to the Akademi, reminding it of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with all four autonomous institutions under it, namely, the National School of Drama, the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the Lalit Kala Akademi, and the Sahitya Akademi, that an exercise of restructuring of awards needed to be taken in consultation with the Ministry. The MoU was signed in July.

"This is to invite your attention to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Akade-

mies and the Ministry for the year 2025-26, wherein it has been stipulated that the exercise of restructuring of awards is required to be undertaken in consultation with the Ministry. In this regard, you are requested to inform this Ministry of the measures taken so far," the note, a copy of which is with *The Hindu*, said.

The Ministry further directed that "till such time the restructuring process is duly approved by the Ministry, no process for declaration of awards shall be undertaken without the prior approval of the Ministry". The note was sent to all four autonomous culture bodies on Thursday.

The note was necessitated as the press conference had been called without the Ministry's knowledge, and without the approval of the due process for the selection of awardees, sources in the Ministry of Culture told *The Hindu*.

The MoUs for restructuring had been signed in line with the restructuring of awards across the board being undertaken under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, the sources said.

Sahitya Akademi gives awards each year to books in 24 languages.

**Sahitya Akademi**, India's National Academy of Letters, was established in 1954 by the Government of India. As India's Premier literary institution, the Akademi preserves and promotes literature contained in twenty four Indian Languages recognized by it through Awards, Fellowships, Grants, Publications, Literary Programmes, Workshops and Exhibitions. The Akademi also undertakes literary exchange programmes with various countries across the globe to promote Indian literature beyond the shores of India.

### SAHITYA ACADEMY:

Sahitya Akademi has been set up for the development of Indian literature and to set high literary standards to foster and co-ordinate literary activities in all the Indian languages.

- It is an **autonomous body** under the **ministry of Culture**.
- It was established by the government of India in **1954** at New Delhi.
- It has its **headquarters** in New Delhi, and **four regional offices** in Kolkata, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai.
- The Akademi has **recognised 24 Indian languages** (22 languages enumerated in the Constitution of India, and English and Rajasthani).





**SYLLABUS: GS 1: Art & Culture**

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

AWARD	PURPOSE
<b>Sahitya Akademi Award</b>	<p>This is an honour given to those who <b>achieve brilliance in literature</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>It is given annually to those who have achieved literary merit and created new trends through their works, in any of the 24 major languages recognised by the Akademi.</li></ul>
<b>Sahitya Akademi Fellowship</b>	<p>The highest honour conferred by the Akademi on a writer is by electing him as its Fellow. This honour is reserved for '<b>the immortals of literature</b>' and is limited to twenty-one only at any given time.</p>
<b>Bhasha Samman</b>	<p>The award is given to writers who have made significant contributions to Indian languages <b>other than the 24 major languages</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>It also recognizes the contribution to <b>classical and medieval literature</b>.</li></ul>
<p><b>Dr. Anand Coomaraswamy Fellowship:</b> Those who have worked in the field of art, especially in Ancient India.</p> <p><b>Premchand Fellowship:</b> Those who have contributed to Hindi literature.</p>	

## SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI:

It was **established** in **1952** as India's **first national academy** for the arts. Its main focus is on promoting and showcasing **performing arts** in the country.

- The academy also collaborates with **international organizations** like **UNESCO** to save the cultural heritage of India.
- It oversees various specialised institutions, **like the National School of Drama**, established in 1959.

## LALIT KALA ACADEMY

- The government established the **National Academy of Art**, also known as the **Lalit Kala Akademi**, in 1954 with the primary purpose of **promoting fine arts** in India.
- It is under the **Ministry of Culture** and was given **statutory authority in 1957** under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
- It is **headquartered in New Delhi**. They have regional centers in Chennai, Kolkata, Lucknow, Shimla, Shillong, and Bhubaneswar.



## NCST to investigate murder of tribal boy on university campus

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BHUBANESWAR

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) on Thursday announced that it would investigate the alleged murder of a minor tribal student by three of his hostel mates at the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, which claims to provide education to nearly 30,000 tribal students on its Bhubaneswar campus.

The NCST has issued notices directing the Home, School and Mass Education, and Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Departments to furnish information on the incident. In addition, the Director General of Police, the Com-

missionerate of Police for Bhubaneswar-Cuttack, and the District Collector of Khordha have been asked to submit details on developments in the case.

"The Commission has decided to investigate/inquire into the matter in pursuance of the powers conferred upon it under Article 338A of the Constitution of India. You are hereby requested to submit the facts and information on the action taken on the said allegations to the Commission within three days of receipt of this notice," the NCST said in a letter to six offices.

The Odisha Police on Wednesday arrested eight employees of the institute for allegedly suppressing information related to the suspected killing of a Class IX student by hostellers.

### What is National Commission for Scheduled Tribes?

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes is a constitutional body that safeguards and monitors the rights of India's scheduled tribes. Constituted under Article 338A of Constitution of India, the organisation monitors policies, scheme implementation for the benefits of STs communities and make sure that they receive the right treatment and equal opportunity in the society.

Scheduled Tribes are tribal communities/tribes that are recognised and listed under Article 342 of the Indian Constitution. This article gives the power to the President to notify the communities that are considered Scheduled Tribes based on factors like socio-economic backwardness and cultural distinctiveness.

### National Commission for Scheduled Tribes Evolution

The origin of NCST can be traced back to the Indian Constitution's initial provisions, which evolved over time through key amendments:

- Originally, Article 338 provided for a Commissioner for SCs and STs, responsible for investigating constitutional safeguards and reporting to the President.
- Article 338 was amended to establish a National Commission for SCs and STs, replacing the earlier Commissioner with a high-level constitutional body.
- This amendment led to the bifurcation of the Commission into two distinct bodies:
  - National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) under Article 338
  - National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) under Article 338-A

Finally, in 2004, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was formally established as an independent constitutional body, ensuring dedicated focus on the rights and welfare of Scheduled Tribes in India.



**SYLLABUS: GS 2: Constitutional Bodies**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 12**

## NCST Power and Functions

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) derives its authority from Article 338A of the Indian Constitution, which outlines its structure, composition, and operational framework:

- According to article 338A, the constitution of India makes it mandatory to form a National Commission for Scheduled Tribes to protect the rights of Scheduled Tribes.
- The President of India is responsible for creation of the commission and the appointment of the members including the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other three members. The President determines the powers and the tenure of their service.
- The NCST Commission also has the power and liberty to regulate its own procedures, ensuring effective and independent functioning.

This constitutional framework empowers the NCST to uphold and protect the rights of Scheduled Tribes across the country.

## Composition of NCST

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes consists of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and three other members all chosen by the President of India under his/her warrant and seal. One of the members of the committee has to be a woman. At present, the NCST committee has four members, with the position of vice-president being vacant.

## Tenure of NCST

All members of the NCST Commission are appointed for a period of three years and cannot be reappointed for more than two terms. During their tenure, the tribal community addresses the grievances, policies and recommendations related to the improvement of the tribal community.





**SYLLABUS: GS 2: Constitutional Bodies**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 12**

## NCST Functions and Duties

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has the following responsibilities:

- Implementation of the safeguards and rules of the constitution meant for Scheduled Tribes.
- Addressing the complaints and grievances regarding the rights and problems faced by the ST community.
- Making recommendations and preparing annual reports to improve the rights for STs.
- Making recommendations to the government on improvement measures like educational development, welfare initiatives and socio-economic development.
- Advicing actions to curb practices like atrocities and discrimination against STs.

These duties ensure that NCST actively advocates for the rights and welfare of STs while helping formulate policies that meet their needs.

## Powers of NCST

The NCST is vested with substantial powers to safeguard the rights and welfare of Scheduled Tribes (STs). Its key functions include:

- The commission can investigate complaints and make the necessary recommendations when it comes to the rights of the ST community.
- The organisation can make recommendations that impact laws and policies, guiding the ST community towards their development.
- The NCST Committee can demand evidence, examine documents and summon individuals to ensure accountability in cases of rights violations.
- The committee has the power to take disciplinary action against individuals for violating the rights and policies of the ST community.
- The committee makes the reports and recommendation for the ST Welfare that is presented to the President of India who tables these reports in both the houses of parliament.



# Euthanasia

**SYLLABUS: GS 2: Fundamental Rights**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 14**

## SC considers passive euthanasia for 31-year-old

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked to meet the parents of a 31-year-old man lying in a comatose condition for 13 years while contemplating their plea for passive euthanasia by withdrawing artificial life support for him.

"It is a very sad report. We cannot keep this boy in this stage," Justice J.B. Pardiwala, accompanied by Justice K.V. Viswanathan, addressed the family's counsel, advocate Rashmi Nandakumar, and Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati.

The court's comment came after perusing the report of a secondary medical board, headed by an AI-IMS team of doctors, containing 31-year-old Harish Rana's medical history.

Euthanasia refers to the **act of deliberately ending a person's life to relieve them of suffering**. It can be classified based on the method employed and the nature of consent

### Types of Euthanasia

#### **A. Classification Based on Method**

- **Active Euthanasia** - direct action to cause the patient's death; e.g. administering a lethal injection; More controversial; less widely accepted
- **Passive Euthanasia** - Allowing death by withdrawing or withholding life-sustaining treatment; e.g. turning off a ventilator; legally recognised in many countries

#### **B. Classification Based on Consent**

- **Voluntary Euthanasia** - Explicit request; Netherlands, Belgium, etc.
- **Non-Voluntary Euthanasia** - patient is unable to provide consent; e.g. Coma; family members or legal representatives
- **Involuntary Euthanasia** - against the will of the patient; Unethical; equated to murder



**SYLLABUS: GS 2: Regulatory Bodies**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 15**

## CCI launches probe against IndiGo after complaints over disruptions

Jagriti Chandra  
NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Thursday said it had initiated an inquiry against IndiGo following complaints it had received against the airline over the recent disruptions.

"The CCI has taken cognisance of information filed against IndiGo in the context of the recent disruptions witnessed in the aviation sector, across various routes. Based on the initial assessment, the commission has decided to proceed further in the matter in accordance with the provisions of the Competition Act, 2002," the regulator said in a press statement. It, however, did not mention the number of complaints it had received against IndiGo, or the aspects the inquiry would explore.

The Hindu sent a questionnaire to CCI Chairperson Ravneet Kaur, which remained unanswered till

the time of going to press.

IndiGo had cancelled nearly 5,000 flights in the first nine days of December that impacted at least 12.5 lakh passengers.

A Bengaluru-based lawyer, who requested not to be identified since he had not yet received a formal acknowledgment from the CCI, claimed to be one of those who had filed a complaint against IndiGo before the anti-trust body.

### 'Abuse of position'

He told The Hindu that his Delhi-Bengaluru flight was cancelled by the airline and the tickets offered for travel on December 7 were at a much higher price, which amounted to "abuse of its dominant position in the market."

The airline's market share of nearly 42% in January 2019 has grown today to 65.7% market share, amidst the collapse of Jet Airways and Go First.

Air India, in the second spot in the market, has a market share of 25.7%.

## The Competition Act

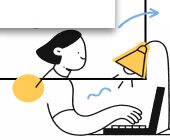
The Competition Act, 2002, as amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, follows the philosophy of modern competition laws. The Act prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and M&A), which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.

## Competition Commission of India

The objectives of the Act are sought to be achieved through the Competition Commission of India, which has been established by the Central Government with effect from 14th October 2003. The Commission shall consist of a Chairperson and not less than two and not more than six other Members to be appointed by the Central Government.

It is the duty of the Commission to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.

The Commission is also required to give opinion on competition issues on a reference received from a statutory authority established under any law and to undertake competition advocacy, create public awareness and impart training on competition issues.





**Q1. With reference to the India–USA Foundational Defence Agreements, consider the following statements:**

1. LEMOA, signed in 2002, ensures the protection of classified military information shared between India and the US.
2. GSOMIA, signed in 2016, allows mutual access to military bases for logistics, supplies, spare parts and services on a reimbursable basis.
3. COMCASA enables secure, encrypted communication between Indian and US military platforms.
4. BECA provides India access to real-time American geospatial intelligence to enhance the accuracy of missiles and armed drones.

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

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All Four

**Answer: b**

**Q2. With reference to the Sahitya Akademi, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an autonomous body functioning under the Ministry of Culture.
2. It was established before independence.
3. The Akademi recognises 24 Indian languages, including the 22 languages in the Constitution, along with English and Rajasthani.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer: c**

**Q3. With reference to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), consider the following statements:**

1. It consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and three other members appointed by the President of India.
2. At least one member of the Commission must be a woman.
3. Members are appointed for a tenure of three years and can be reappointed without any limit.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Q4. With reference to the Competition Commission of India (CCI), consider the following statements:**

1. The Commission consists of a Chairperson and not less than two and not more than six other members.
2. The Commission aims to eliminate practices that have an adverse effect on competition and protect consumer interests.
3. Members of the CCI are appointed by the President of India under his warrant and seal.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Q5. Oman shares land borders with how many of the following countries?**

1. UAE
2. Saudi Arabia
3. Yemen
4. Kuwait
5. Qatar

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below.**

- a) Only Two
- b) Only Three
- c) Only Four
- d) All Five

**Answer: b**





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