



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

25th December 2025



25th December 2025

Why Manufacturing has lagged in India

CONTEXT: This touches upon the core structural problem of the Indian economy: "Why did we jump from Agriculture to Services, skipping Manufacturing?"

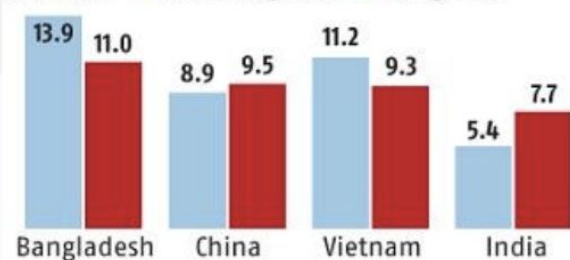


The Core Problem: The Missing Middle

INDIAN ECONOMY A LAGGARD IN ASIA

Industrial and GDP* growth in Asian countries in the last three years

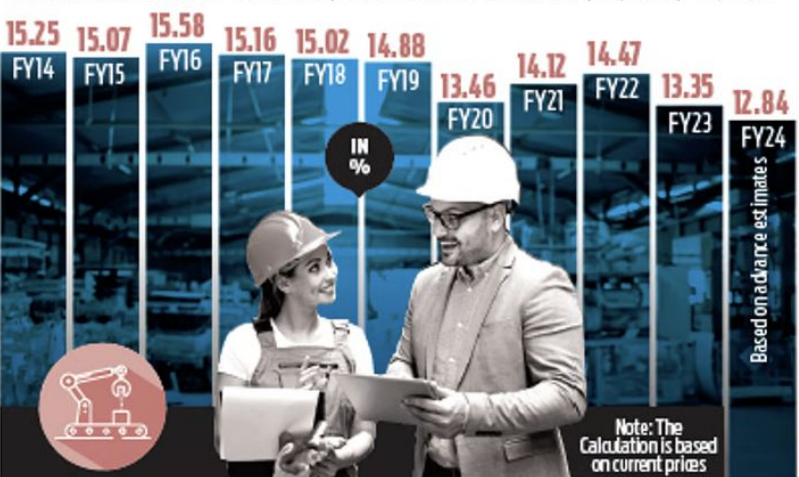
CAGR (%) ■ Industrial growth ■ GDP growth



*At current prices in US dollars

Source: Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund

SHARE OF MANUFACTURING IN GDP

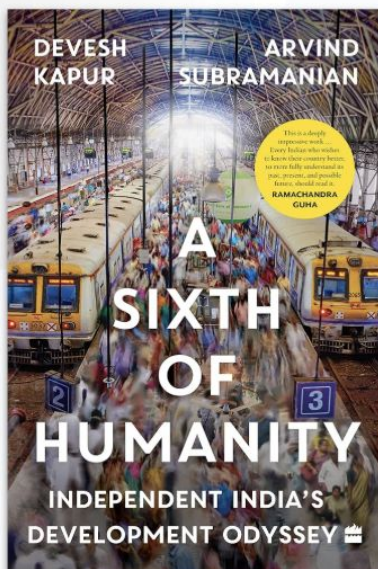


China and South Korea became "Factory of World"

India's Path: skipped manufacturing boom. Our Share in GDP has ~ 15-17% and is now losing ground to Services.



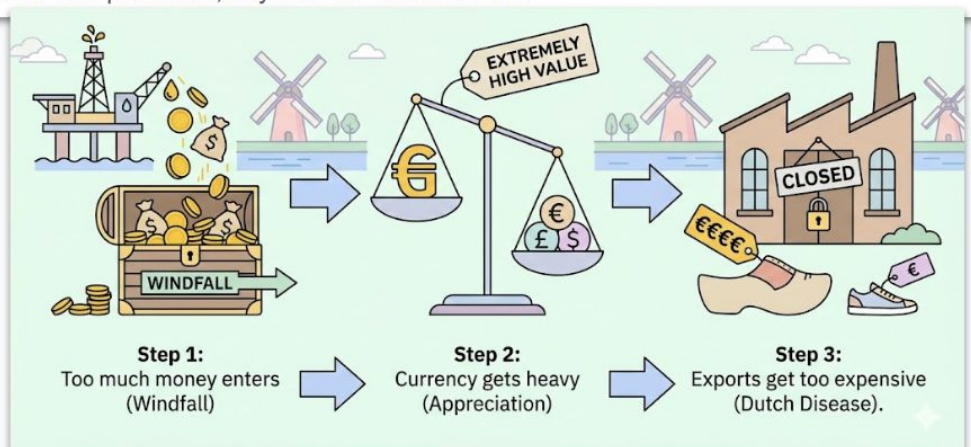
Concept Builder: What is "Dutch Disease"?



bt Business Today

'A subtle Dutch disease': Ex-CEA explains how high govt wages and services boom held back manufacturing

There was a "very subtle Dutch disease effect" that made factory jobs less attractive and less profitable, says former CEA Arvind...



25th December 2025

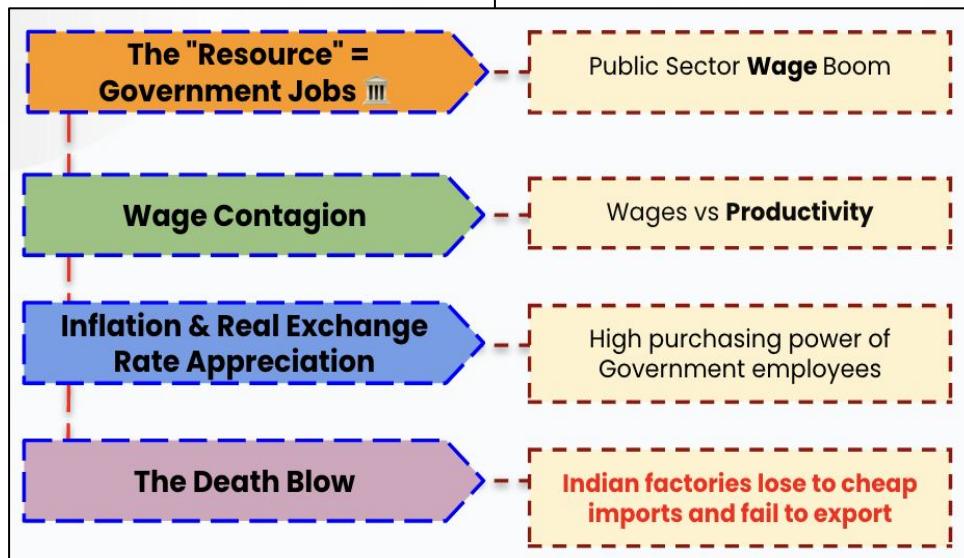
Why Manufacturing has lagged in India

CONTEXT: This touches upon the core structural problem of the Indian economy: "Why did we jump from Agriculture to Services, skipping Manufacturing?"



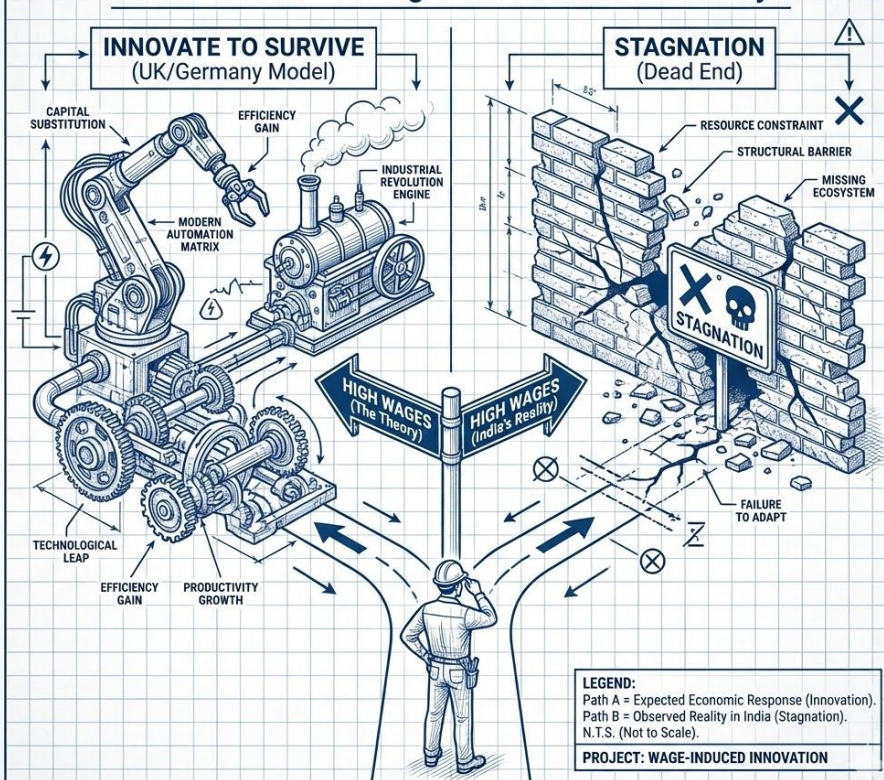
The Indian Application

Arvind Subramanian argues that India suffered a **unique version** of this. We didn't find oil, but we made a **policy choice**.



The Counter-Argument: "Induced Innovation"

THE WAGE-INNOVATION PARADOX: Robert Allen/Acemoglu View vs. India's Reality



The Theory:

- Historically, **High Wages** are actually *good for technology*.
- Logic:** If workers are expensive, factory owners are forced to **invent machines (technology)** to save money.

? The Indian Paradox:
Why didn't Indian factories automate and become high-tech?

- Swiggy, Zomato, Blinkit, Ola
- Wages** have not risen uniformly
- Firm **structure & market size**
- Weak linkage to **GVCs**



25th December 2025

Why Manufacturing has lagged in India

CONTEXT: This touches upon the core structural problem of the Indian economy: "Why did we jump from Agriculture to Services, skipping Manufacturing?"

Other Historical & policy roots 🕒

Colonial legacy & FYPs to 'Licence Raj'	Land acquisition	China's GVC insertion	China/Korea vs India
Services-led domestic demand	Labour laws	Dynamism concentrated in services, software & platform firms	Skills & R&D



Measures the Govt is taking to boost manufacturing

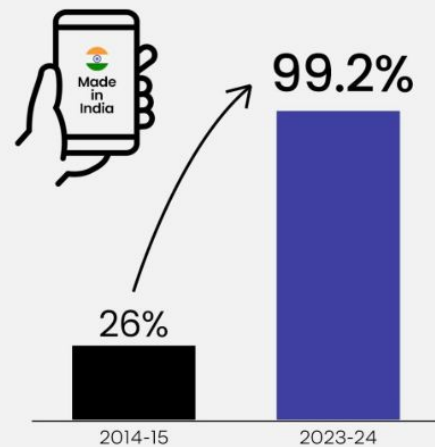
Dhar is the first of 7 PM MITRA Parks. Together, they will position India as the textile hub of the 21st century.

PM MITRA Parks



Make in India Success Story: 99.2% of Phones Are Now Homegrown!

% of mobile phones sold in India which are made in India



1) Atmanirbhar Bharat & Make in India

2) Production Linked Incentive

3) Enhancing Ease of Doing Business and regulatory reforms

4) Infrastructure & industrial clusters

5) MSME support & technology adoption

6) Strategic & emerging sectors focus



25th December 2025

Why Manufacturing has lagged in India

CONTEXT: This touches upon the core structural problem of the Indian economy: "Why did we jump from Agriculture to Services, skipping Manufacturing?"



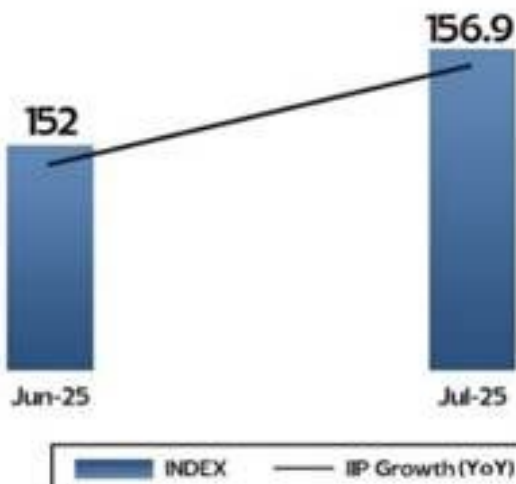
Targets and outcomes

Target: Increase manufacturing share from ~16–17% of GDP to **25% by 2030**.



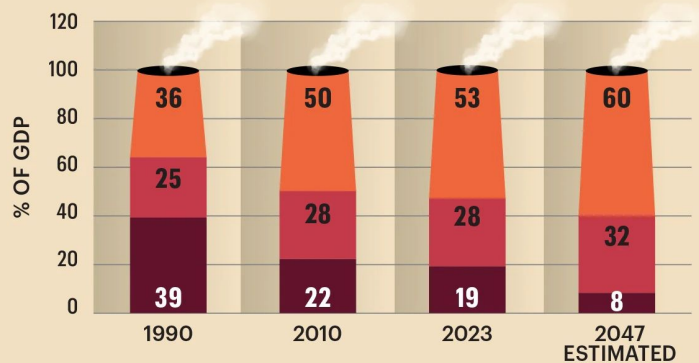
IIP Index and Growth Trajectory

Jun to July 2025



SMALL CONTRIBUTION

- India's GDP could reach \$23–35 trillion by 2047, supported by strong growth in services and manufacturing
- Manufacturing contributed 14% to the GDP in FY25



■ AGRICULTURE ■ INDUSTRY ■ SERVICES

NOTE INDUSTRY INCLUDES MANUFACTURING, MINING, CONSTRUCTION, AND UTILITY SERVICES

SOURCE INDIA @2047: TRANSFORMING INDIA INTO A TECH-DRIVEN ECONOMY REPORT BY BAIN & COMPANY AND NASSCOM



25th December 2025

Why Manufacturing has lagged in India

CONTEXT: This touches upon the core structural problem of the Indian economy: "Why did we jump from Agriculture to Services, skipping Manufacturing?"

UPSC PYQ (P) 2015

In the 'Index of Eight Core Industries', which one of the following is given the highest weight?

- (a) Coal production
- (b) Electricity generation
- (c) Fertilizer production
- (d) Steel production

Mains Practise Question

India's manufacturing lag is not a single-cause failure but the cumulative result of historical policy choices, institutional bottlenecks, market structure and demand composition. Do you agree? Comment.

(15 Marks, 250 words)

UPSC PYQ (Mains)

Q.1. "Industrial growth rate has lagged behind in the overall growth of Gross-Domestic-Product(GDP) in the post-reform period" Give reasons. How far are the recent changes in Industrial Policy capable of increasing the industrial growth rate? (2017)

Q.2. Normally countries shift from agriculture to industry and then later to services, but India shifted directly from agriculture to services. What are the reasons for the huge growth of services vis-a-vis the industry in the country? Can India become a developed country without a strong industrial base? (2014)

GLOBAL SCENARIO

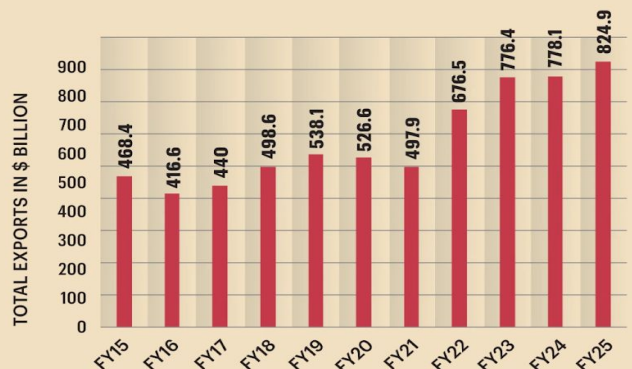
- The share of industry in China's GDP was 38% in 2023
- India's industry is expected to outpace agriculture and contribute 30-32% to GDP by 2035, led by manufacturing



SOURCE INDIA'S MANUFACTURING REVOLUTION BY OMNISCIENCE CAPITAL

EXPORT PERFORMANCE

- India hopes to touch \$2 trillion in merchandise and services exports by 2030
- India focusing on 20 nations and six products to grow exports



SOURCE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

25th December 2025

Violence in jails

CONTEXT: Such cases bring back the attention towards the prevailing custodial torture.



What is Custodial Torture?

What is Custodial Torture?

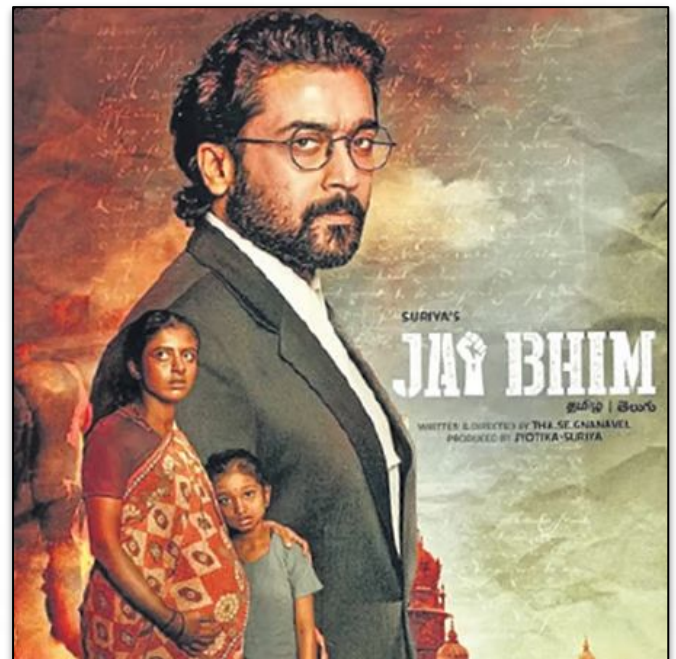
Infliction of **physical** or **mental suffering** on individuals in police/ judicial/ military custody

FORMS

- **Physical:** Beatings, electric shocks, sexual violence.
- **Psychological:** Sleep deprivation, threats, humiliation.

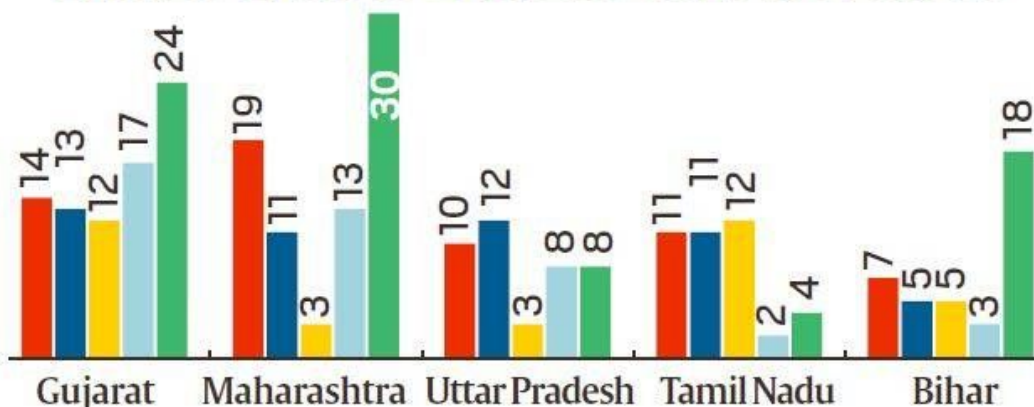
Despite **decline in 2020-21** (100 deaths), numbers **rose again in 2021-22 (175 deaths)**

CHENNAI: Justice G Jayachandran of the Madras High Court has directed the Tamil Nadu government to file reply to a petition moved by **V Kulanjiappan** — a custodial violence victim whose heartrending tale was brought to light in the national awardwinning movie **Jai Bhim** — seeking enhanced compensation under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act for himself and other victims. While Kulanjiappan escaped with grievous injuries, his uncle Rajakannu died in the assault meted out to them in the Kammapuram police station in Cuddalore district in 1993.



STATES WITH HIGHEST CUSTODIAL DEATHS

■ 2017-18 ■ 2018-19 ■ 2019-20 ■ 2020-21 ■ 2021-22



25th December 2025

Violence in jails

CONTEXT: Such cases bring back the attention towards the prevailing custodial torture.



UPSC PYQ (M) 2020

With reference to India, consider the following statements

- Judicial custody means an accused is in the custody of the magistrate concerned and such an accused is locked up in a police station, not in jail.
- During judicial custody, the police officer in charge of the case is not allowed to interrogate the suspect without the approval of the court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Feature	Police Custody 	Judicial Custody 
Who holds them?	The suspect is in the lock-up of a Police Station .	The suspect is in a Jail (under the Magistrate).
Control	Under direct physical control of Police Officers.	Under the control of the Jail Superintendent (Court's oversight).
Interrogation	Active Interrogation. Police have full access to question (and often torture).	Restricted. Police need Court permission to interrogate.
Time Limit	Max 15 days (usually).	Can last months/years until bail/acquittal.

What are the Constitutional & Legal Safeguards?

A. Constitutional Provisions

Article	Protection
Art. 21	Right to life & dignity → No torture.
Art. 20(3)	Right against Self-Incrimination.
Art. 22(2)	Magistrate within 24 hours

B. Legal Provisions (BNS 2023)

"Voluntarily causing hurt/grievous hurt to extort confession"

Judicial Inquiry (by a Magistrate)

Evidence Act (Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam):

Inadmissibility: A confession made to a police officer is NOT valid in court

C. Others

- UN Convention Against Torture:**
 - Signed (1997) but not ratified
- D.K Basu v. State of West Bengal*, 1997
- State of Uttar Pradesh vs Ram Sagar Yadav*, 1985
- Nambi Narayanan Case*, 2018
- NHRC guidelines:**
 - Reporting of custodial death/rape within 24 hrs of occurrence



25th December 2025

Violence in jails

CONTEXT: Such cases bring back the attention towards the prevailing custodial torture.

What are the Constitutional & Legal Safeguards?



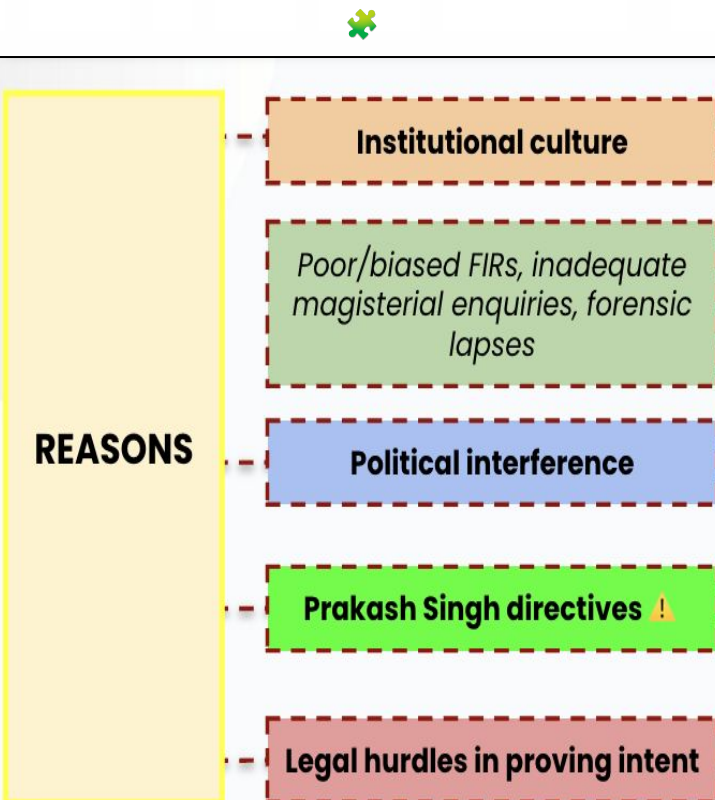
JUDICIAL ACTIVISM: THE DK BASU GUIDELINES (1997)

The 'Bible' of Custodial Jurisprudence – 11 Commandments for Arrest

- IDENTIFICATION**
Police must wear visible, accurate name tags.
- ARREST MEMO**
Must be prepared and signed by a witness (family member).
- INFORMATION**
Family/Friend must be informed of arrest immediately.
- MEDICAL EXAM**
Accused must be medically examined every 48 hours.
- LEGAL AID**
Right to meet a lawyer during interrogation.

MODERN UPDATE: Paramvir Singh Saini (2020 & 2025)
SC ordered CCTV with audio in EVERY police station (lock-ups, corridors, interrogation rooms).
2025 Update: SC slams non-compliance.

Why convictions are low — problems on the ground



REASONS

- Institutional culture**
- Poor/biased FIRs, inadequate magisterial enquiries, forensic lapses*
- Political interference**
- Prakash Singh directives** ⚠️
- Legal hurdles in proving intent**

Prakash Singh v. Union of India (2006)

- Fixed tenures, State Police Complaints Authorities

Number of custodial deaths in which NHRC recommended monetary compensation

1,184

Cases of custodial deaths in which disciplinary action was recommended by the NHRC

21

Custodial deaths in the 2016-2022 period

11,419

Cases of custodial deaths where prosecution was recommended by the NHRC

0

The Leaflet

World Organization Against Torture flags India as "high risk" country for police torture: Some reflections

We reflect on a recent report by a global alliance of anti-torture organisations which scored India as 'high risk' overall.

26 Jun 2025

Poor account for 71% of custodial deaths in India

Celebrities or rich people often get reprieve by claiming to suffer from kleptomania, says anti-torture group

Updated - December 04, 2021 10:33 pm IST - GUWAHATI

SCC Online

Supreme Court directs Rs 50 Lakhs compensation to J&K Police Constable who was victim of brutal custodial torture

Supreme Court directed Rs 50 Lakhs compensation to a J&K Police Constable who was a victim of brutal custodial torture by fellow senior...

22 Jul 2025









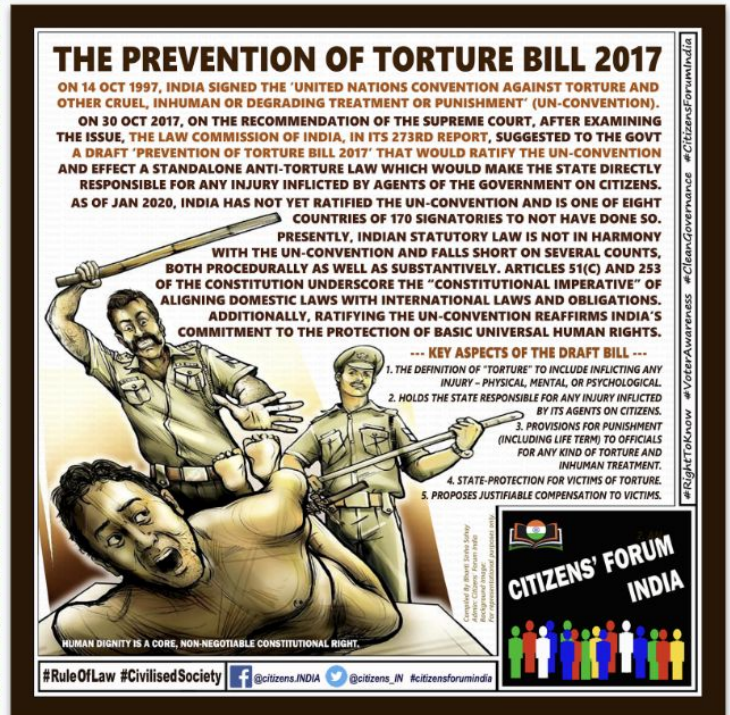
25th December 2025

Violence in jails

CONTEXT: Such cases bring back the attention towards the prevailing custodial torture.

Way Forward (Policy + Legal Reform)

 Enforce DK Basu Guidelines	Mandatory safeguards: arrest memo, medical exam, informing family, etc.
 Create Independent Complaint Boards	State/district level investigate police excesses
 Use of Body Cams	
 Enact a comprehensive anti-torture law	UN Convention Against Torture
 Fast-track Trials	
 Police training & culture change	Prakash Singh case reforms (2006)



THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE BILL 2017

ON 14 OCT 1997, INDIA SIGNED THE 'UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT' (UN-CONVENTION).

ON 30 OCT 2017, ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPREME COURT, AFTER EXAMINING THE ISSUE, THE LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA, IN ITS 273RD REPORT, SUGGESTED TO THE GOVT A DRAFT 'PREVENTION OF TORTURE BILL 2017' THAT WOULD RATIFY THE UN-CONVENTION AND EFFECT A STANDALONE ANTI-TORTURE LAW WHICH WOULD MAKE THE STATE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURY INFLICTED BY AGENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT ON CITIZENS. AS OF JAN 2020, INDIA HAS NOT YET RATIFIED THE UN-CONVENTION AND IS ONE OF EIGHT COUNTRIES OF 170 SIGNATORIES TO NOT HAVE DONE SO.

PRESENTLY, INDIAN STATUTORY LAW IS NOT IN HARMONY WITH THE UN-CONVENTION AND FALLS SHORT ON SEVERAL COUNTS, BOTH PROCEDURALLY AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIVELY. ARTICLES 51(C) AND 253 OF THE CONSTITUTION UNDERSCORE THE "CONSTITUTIONAL IMPERATIVE" OF ALIGNING DOMESTIC LAWS WITH INTERNATIONAL LAWS AND OBLIGATIONS. ADDITIONALLY, RATIFYING THE UN-CONVENTION REAFFIRMS INDIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE PROTECTION OF BASIC UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

--- KEY ASPECTS OF THE DRAFT BILL ---

1. THE DEFINITION OF 'TORTURE' TO INCLUDE INFLECTING ANY INJURY - PHYSICAL, MENTAL, OR PSYCHOLOGICAL.
2. HOLDS THE STATE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURY INFLICTED BY ITS AGENTS ON CITIZENS.
3. PROVISIONS FOR PUNISHMENT (INCLUDING LIFE TERM) TO OFFICIALS FOR ANY KIND OF TORTURE AND INHUMAN TREATMENT.
4. STATE-PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE.
5. PROPOSES JUSTIFIABLE COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS.

HUMAN DIGNITY IS A CORE, NON-NEGOTIABLE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT.

#RuleOfLaw #CivillisedSociety @citizens_IN @citizensforumindia

Mains Practise Question

Custodial torture is not merely an enforcement failure; it is a constitutional failure. Comment.
(15 Marks, 250 words)

UPSC PYQ (M) 2014

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India can be most effective when its tasks are adequately supported by other mechanisms that ensure the accountability of a government. In light of above observation assess the role of NHRC as an effective complement to the judiciary and other institutions in promoting and protecting human rights standards.

SOLUTIONS & REFORMS



SYLLABUS : Prelims PESA Act, 1996 **GS 2** Fifth Schedule
Newspaper The Hindu Page Number : 05

PESA Mahotsav turns into a melting pot of culture and cuisine

Harish Gilai
VISAKHAPATNAM

The Panchayats Extension to the Scheduled Areas (PESA) Mahotsav in Visakhapatnam emerged as a vibrant platform bringing together people from different States to celebrate and exchange their rich cultures, traditions, food habits, art forms, languages and lifestyles.

Two-day festival brought together students, athletes and folk artistes from across States

her first visit to South India and Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Moti Ram Gawde from Gadchiroli in Maharashtra displayed his patented stone-brass fusion

73rd Amendment (1992) & 5th Schedule (Areas u/A244)

Bhuria Committee (1995)

PESA was enacted to **extend the 73rd Amendment** to these areas with certain modifications **to respect tribal customs.**

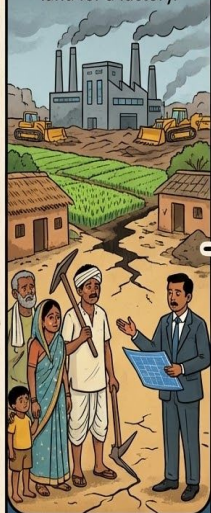
Where does it apply?
10 States

Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh

Concept Builder: The PESA Act, 1996

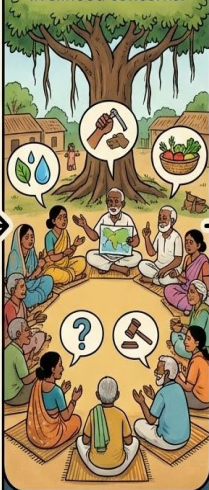
Village solves land dispute using PESA

Problem: Company wanted to use village land for a factory.



Worried villagers & land threat

Gram Sabha action: Village met, discussed environmental and livelihood concerns.



Gram Sabha meeting & discussion

Outcome: Project revised/paused; community land protected; local jobs safeguarded.



Happy village & protected land

PESA gives the Gram Sabha a formal platform to be heard.



PESA Mahotsav

SYLLABUS : Prelims PESA Act, 1996 **GS 2** Fifth Schedule
Newspaper The Hindu Page Number : 05

Exclusive Powers of PESA Gram Sabha (The 4 Pillars)

1. Resources

- Ownership of **Minor Forest Produce** (MFP) like Tendu patta, honey, wax.
- Power to grant prospecting licenses for **minor minerals** (sand, stones).
- Management of water bodies.

2. Land Protection

- **Mandatory Consultation** before land acquisition for development projects.
- Power to **prevent alienation of tribal land** (selling land to non-tribals is illegal) and restore illegally sold land.

3. Social Control

- Power to enforce **Prohibition** (control sale/consumption of liquor).
- Management of **Village Markets** (Haats).
- Control over **Money Lending** to tribals (to stop debt traps).

4. Cultural

- Safeguard and preserve **traditions**, customs, and cultural identity of the people.

UPSC PYQ (P) 2013

The Government enacted the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act in 1996. Which one of the following is not identified as its objective?

- (a) To provide self-governance
- (b) To recognize traditional rights
- (c) To create autonomous regions in tribal areas
- (d) To free tribal people from exploitation

PESA Act

The Provisions of The Panchayats
(Extension to The Scheduled Areas)
Act, 1996

Strengthening of Gram Sabha in Scheduled Areas



Empowers Gram Sabhas to make **vital governance decisions** and approve or reject **local development projects**



Enables Gram Sabhas to resolve **community disputes** and uphold **law and order**



With this,
Gram Sabhas can sustainably
manage land, water, and forests
for long-term community benefits.



25th December 2025

PESA Mahotsav

SYLLABUS : Prelims PESA Act, 1996 **GS 2** Fifth Schedule
Newspaper The Hindu Page Number : 05



The two-day festival saw the participation of hundreds of students, self-help groups, athletes and folk artistes. A wide range of sports competitions, colourful cultural performances and numerous stalls offering traditional food delicacies and handicrafts added to the festive spirit. Participants, partic-

The Panchayats Extension to the Scheduled Areas (PESA) Mahotsav in Visakhapatnam emerged as a vibrant platform bringing together people from different States to celebrate and exchange their rich cultures, traditions, food habits, art forms, languages and lifestyles.



PESA Mahotsav



SYLLABUS : Prelims PESA Act, 1996 **GS 2** Fifth Schedule
Newspaper The Hindu Page Number : 05



PESA Mahotsav 2025

State	Cultural Element/Product	Key Details & "PRELIMS Fodder"
Telangana	Gussadi Dance 🕺	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Performed by Raj Gonds during Diwali.Dancers wear distinct headgear (peacock feathers) called <i>Mal</i>.
Madhya Pradesh	Thatiya Lok Nrity 🎭	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A traditional folk dance (likely by Gond/Korku tribes).Bamboo Toys: From Alirajpur (famous for tribal craft).
Himachal Pradesh	Tribal Cuisine 🍲	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Siddu: Steamed wheat bun with filling (walnut/poppy seeds).Chilta: Traditional pancake.Millet Momos: A healthy twist on the classic.
Maharashtra	Stone-Brass Fusion 🗿	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gadchiroli district (Naxal-affected area turning to art).Devrani Kala Gram (NGO) promoting this patented art.
Jharkhand	Kukdu Ku Chicken 🍗	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Unique Cooking: Prepared without oil, fried using leaves. A perfect example of sustainable/healthy tribal food habits.
Odisha	Tribal Dance	General showcase of diverse Odisha tribal heritage (likely Paraja or Gadaba styles).



Four trends redefining the North Indian Ocean's storm cycle

While the number of total disturbances has decreased, storms are becoming more severe and arriving later in the year

DATA POINT
Devanshi Bihani
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The cyclonic disturbances over the North Indian Ocean, which include the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the land area in between, have changed drastically over the last century.

Broadly, there are four major trends. First, the frequency of cyclonic disturbances has shifted significantly. Chart 1 plots annual disturbances (left axis) alongside a 10-year rolling average (right axis) from 1900 to 2025. While annual figures are often volatile, the 10-year rolling average smooths out this "noise", making it easier to identify whether the long-term trend is actually rising or falling.

The chart reveals a distinct inverted U-shaped trend in the past century. Between 1900 and 1920, the 10-year rolling average of cyclonic disturbances remained below 10. This figure surged to over 15 by the 1930s, initiating a period of relative stability that lasted through the 1970s. However, the 1980s and 1990s saw a sharp decline, culminating in a new low in the 2000s when the average dropped to eight. While activity rebounded in the 2010s and continues to climb in the 2020s, current levels remain significantly lower than the mid-century peaks.

Second, the overall decline in disturbances in recent years is driven almost entirely by a sharp drop in activity within the Bay of Bengal. Chart 2 breaks down the 10-year rolling average of cyclonic disturbances by origin: the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea, and island/other areas. While the Bay remains the primary cradle for disturbances in the North Indian Ocean, its output has declined significantly, dragging down the total as seen in Chart 1. Conversely, the Arabian Sea has seen a marked increase in activity, though its frequency remains lower than that of the Bay even in recent years.

Third, while the number of disturbances has decreased, their severity has intensified. Typically, a disturbance begins as a low-pressure area (winds <31 kmph) and can intensify into a depression (31-49 kmph) or a deep depression (50-61 kmph). Beyond this point, they are classified as cyclonic storms (62-88 kmph) or severe cyclonic storms (89-117 kmph). The most destructive stages follow very severe (118-166 kmph), extremely severe (167-221 kmph), and super cyclonic storms (>222 kmph).

Chart 3 illustrates the percentage of disturbances that intensify into severe cyclonic storms or higher. In the Bay of Bengal, the share of these storms has risen notably since the 1970s. Interestingly, disturbances originating in the Arabian Sea are historically more likely to reach these severe levels than those in the Bay. Given the increasing frequency of disturbances in the Arabian Sea (as noted in Chart 2), this higher rate of intensification marks a critical shift in the region's risk profile.

Generally, warmer oceans provide more energy to tropical storms, making cyclones stronger and their paths harder to predict. Data show that the Arabian Sea is heating up more than average, leading to more intense, tougher-to-predict cyclones.

Fourth, there has been a significant shift in the seasonality of these storms. In the Bay of Bengal, disturbances are increasingly originating in the final quarter of the year (October-December) rather than in the July-September window. Chart 4 illustrates this shift, plotting the percentage share of disturbances by their month of origin across different decades. Prior to the 1980s, activity was concentrated between July and September (indicated by the higher density of red squares). Since then, the focus has shifted to the final quarter of the year (red square density shifting to October to November).



CHART 1: The annual disturbances (left axis) alongside a 10-year rolling average (right axis) from 1900 to 2025

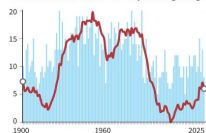


CHART 2: The 10-year rolling average of cyclonic disturbances by origin from 1900 to 2025

CHART 3: The share (in %) of disturbances that intensified into severe cyclonic storms or higher, across different decades

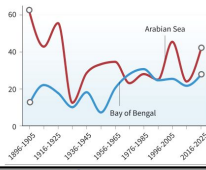
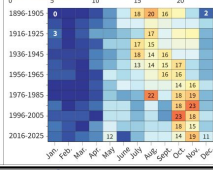
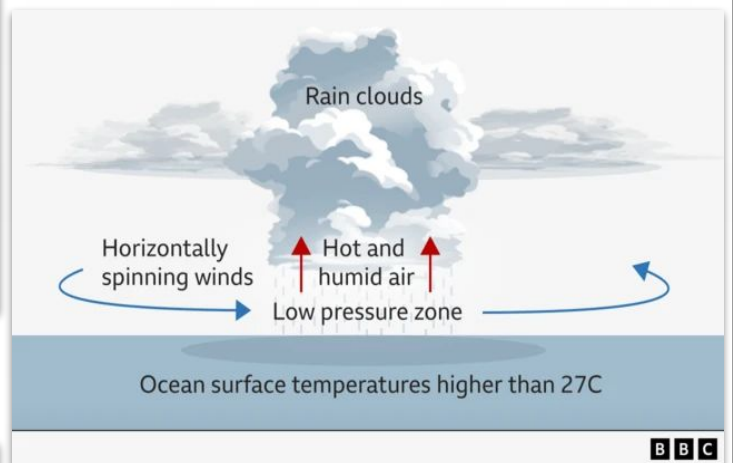


CHART 4: The share (%) of disturbances by their month of origin across different decades. Each row adds up to 100%



The cyclonic disturbances over the North Indian Ocean, which include the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the land area in between, have changed drastically over the last century.



Concept Builder: Basics of Cyclones

Cyclonic Disturbance: The Umbrella Term

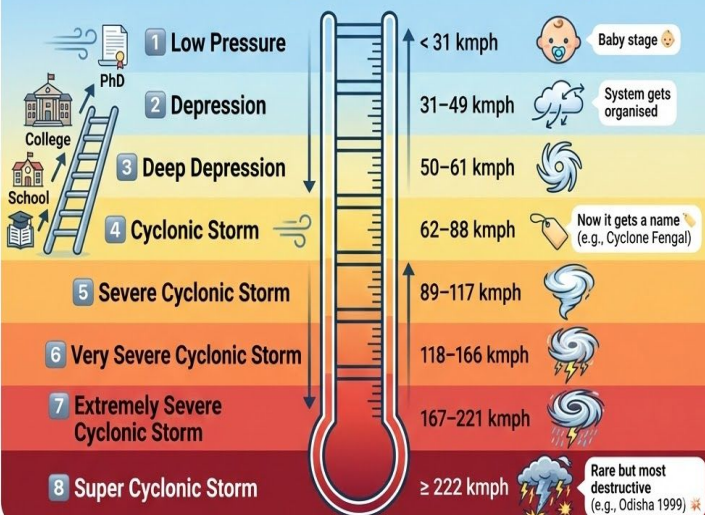


A cyclonic disturbance is any low-pressure system over the sea.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) uses this term for all stages.

As wind speed increases, a cyclonic disturbance graduates into stronger stages.

From Weak to Dangerous – Based on Wind Speed



Trends of North Indian Ocean Storms

SYLLABUS : Prelims Storm formation **GS 1** Climate Change impact on India **GS 3** Disaster Management

Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number :** 11

UPSC PYQ (P) 2020

Consider the following statements:

1. Jet streams occur in the Northern Hemisphere only.
2. Only some cyclones develop an eye.
3. The temperature inside the eye of a cyclone is nearly 10°C lesser than that of the surroundings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

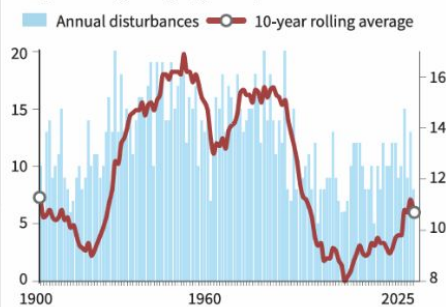
UPSC PYQ (P) 2015

In the South Atlantic and South-Eastern Pacific regions in tropical latitudes, cyclone does not originate. What is the reason?

- (a) Sea surface temperatures are low
- (b) Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone seldom occurs
- (c) Coriolis force is too weak
- (d) Absence of land in those regions

Decoding the 4 Major Trends

CHART 1: The annual disturbances (left axis) alongside a 10-year rolling average (right axis) from 1900 to 2025



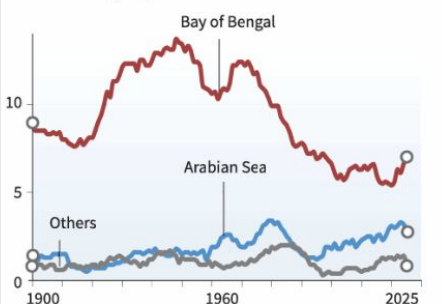
1900–1920: Low activity (Average < 10).

1930s–1970s: The Peak Era. Activity surged (Average > 15) and stayed high.

1980s–2000s: The Great Decline. A sharp drop, hitting a historical low in the 2000s (Average ~8).

2010s–2020s: The Resurgence. Activity is climbing again, but it is still lower than the peak of the mid-20th century.

CHART 2: The 10-year rolling average of cyclonic disturbances by origin from 1900 to 2025



Historically, **Bay of Bengal** was "Cyclone Factory" of India.

The New Reality (Chart 2):

- **Bay of Bengal:** Activity has **dropped significantly**. This decline is the **main reason for the overall drop seen in Trend #1**.
- **Arabian Sea:** Activity has **increased markedly**.



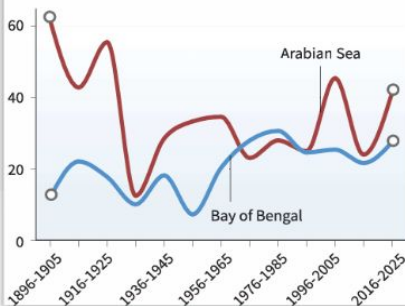
25th December 2025

SYLLABUS : Prelims Storm formation **GS 1** Climate Change impact on India **GS 3** Disaster Management

Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number :** 11

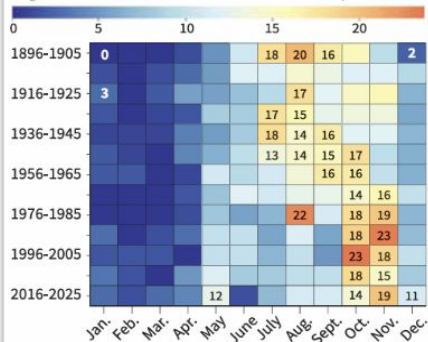
Decoding the 4 Major Trends

CHART 3: The share (in %) of disturbances that intensified into severe cyclonic storms or higher, across different decades



- **Paradox:** total number of disturbances has gone down, the intensity (strength) has gone up.
- **Arabian Sea Danger:**
 - Disturbances in the Arabian Sea have a historically higher probability of intensifying into **Severe Cyclonic Storms** compared to the Bay of Bengal.
 - **Why? Warmer oceans = more energy.** The Arabian Sea is heating up faster than average

CHART 4: The share (%) of disturbances by their month of origin across different decades. Each row adds up to 100%



- **The Shift:** Cyclones are changing *when* they arrive.
- **Pre-1980s:** Most activity was during the Monsoon season (**July–September**).
- **Post-1980s:** The "Red Zone" (Chart 4) has shifted to the **Post-Monsoon season (October–December)**.
- **Impact:** This is dangerous because October–December is **harvest time** in many states (Kharif crops), leading to higher economic losses.

Why is the Arabian Sea Heating Up?

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ARABIAN SEA

Scientists say climate change has warmed Arabian Sea

Warmer Arabian Sea is producing more cyclones

In 2019, 5 cyclones in Arabian Sea, 3 in Bay of Bengal

WEATHER TRACKER
Cyclones in three epochs

	Bay of Bengal	Arabian Sea	Total
2008-2013	13	5	18
2014-2018	11	10	21
2019-2023	16	11	27
TOTAL	40	26	66

Arabian Sea

The "Why" for Mains

Global Warming & Climate Change

SSTs faster than global average

Landlocked Nature



Frequent "+ve" IOD phases

Feedback Loop

SYLLABUS : Prelims Banking GS 3 Monetary Policy Transmission
Newspaper The Indian Express Page Number : 14

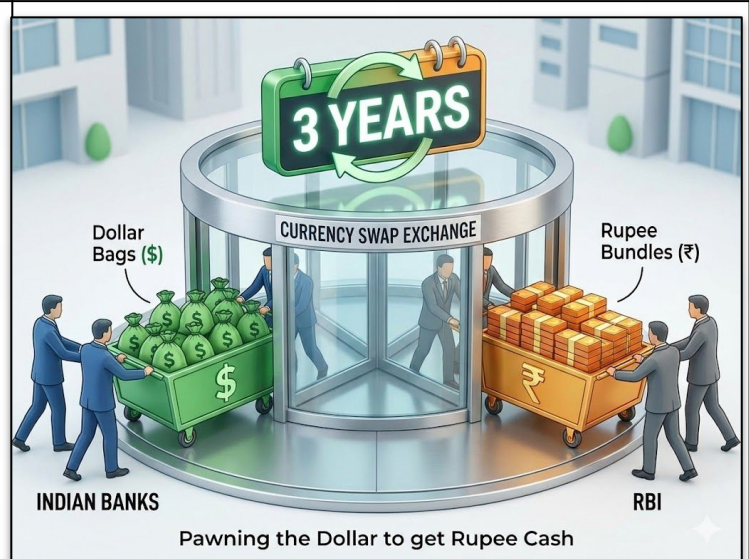
Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India has decided to inject liquidity to the tune of Rs 2,90,000 crore (\$32 billion) into the banking system via purchase auction of government securities and buy-sell swap auction in the next one month. According to the RBI, it has planned open market operation (OMO) purchase auctions of Government of India securities for an aggregate amount of Rs 200,000 crore in four tranches of Rs 50,000 crore each to be held on December 29, January 5, 2026, January 12, 2026 and January 22, 2026.

Concept Builder: Open Market Operations

- **What is it?** The RBI buys Government Securities (G-Secs) from banks.
- **The Flow:**
 - **RBI:** Takes the Bond 
 - **Bank:** Gets Cash (Rupees) 
- **Result: Liquidity Injection.** The banks now have more money to lend to you and me.

USD/INR Buy/Sell Swap (The Complex Part)



It has also planned a US dollar-rupee buy-sell swap auction of \$10 billion (around Rs 90,000 crore) for a tenor of 3 years to be held on January 13, 2026. "The Reserve Bank will continue to monitor evolving liquidity and market conditions and take measures as appropriate to ensure orderly liquidity conditions," it said. **ENS**



This is a **Foreign Exchange Swap**. It has two "Legs":

Leg 1 (Spot Date – Jan 13, 2026):

Action: RBI **BUYS** \$10 Billion from Banks.

- **Impact:** Banks give Dollars  → RBI gives Rupees .
- **Result:** Immediate injection of Rupee liquidity into the market.

Leg 2 (Forward Date – 3 Years Later):

Action: RBI **SELLS** the \$10 Billion back to Banks.

- **Impact:** The transaction is reversed.

The Process:

1. Excess USD from Banks RBI Vault

Excess USD
Dollar liquidity sits idle in market.

2. RBI Absorbs Liquidity

RBI 'buys' the excess dollars today.

3. Easing Pressure

Forward Premiums
Reduced dollar supply lowers forward premiums.



SYLLABUS : Prelims Banking GS 3 Monetary Policy Transmission
Newspaper The Indian Express Page Number : 14

Deep Dive: Why is RBI doing this?

This is the "Mains Fodder" section:

The External Shock (US Tariffs) 🇺🇸 📉

- **Rupee to fall (depreciate)**

RBI's Firefighting (Oct–Nov 2025) 🚒

- **Net sales: \$11.88 billion in Oct**
- **Banking system ran out of Rupee cash**

The "Forward Premium" Angle

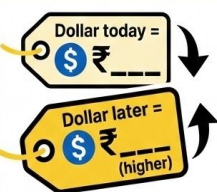
Why too many dollars make "future dollars" look costly

BEFORE (The Problem)



Banks had too many dollars
So the **today** price of dollar became **low**
Spot dollar ↓

WHAT WENT WRONG



Future dollar price looked much higher than today
This gap is called **Forward Premium**
Today 😊 → Future 😞 (looks expensive)

RBI FIX (The Solution)



RBI bought dollars from banks
And gave them rupees
Dollar balance restored ✓

When extra dollars reduced, today and future prices came closer
Forward premium cooled down

Too many dollars → today's price falls → future looks costly
RBI removes extra dollars → prices become normal

UPSC PYQ (P)

5. Which one of the following activities of the Reserve Bank of India is considered to be part of 'sterilization'?

- Conducting 'Open Market Operations'
- Oversight of settlement and payment systems
- Debt and cash management for the Central and State Governments
- Regulating the functions of Nonbanking Financial Institutions

Tool	Action	Impact on Rupee Liquidity	Impact on Forex Reserves
OMO Purchase	Buy Bonds	↑	No Change
OMO Sale	Sell Bonds	↓	No Change
Buy/Sell Swap	Buy \$ Now, Sell Later	↑	Increases (Temporarily)
Sell/Buy Swap	Sell \$ Now, Buy Later	↓	Decreases (Temporarily)



25th December 2025

SYLLABUS : Prelims Intellectual Property Rights/ Economy **GS I** Art & Culture
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number : 06**

GI ≠ Just a Label

It is proof of:

AUTHENTICITY

ORIGIN

CRAFTSMANSHIP

INTEGRITY

Something that mass-produced items can never replicate.



Crucial role

The GI recognition, granted by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Centre, enhances the value and authenticity of products by highlighting their unique origin and heritage. These tags play a crucial role in creating sustainable employment, boosting rural incomes, and preserving traditional knowledge systems – contributing to inclusive economic growth among farming and artisan communities.

What is a GI Tag?

01

Form of Intellectual Property Right

02

Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999

03

Validity: 10 years (renewable)

04

Nodal Agency: DPIIT, MoC&I Headquarters: Chennai

The News: Telangana's "Fab 5"

Telangana has already filed Geographical Indication (GI) tags applications for several items, and five of them – Narayanpet jewellery making, Hyderabad pearls, Banjara tribal jewellery, Banjara needle craft, and Batik paintings – are in the final stages of approval.

Currently, Telangana has 18 GI-tagged products, including Pochampally Ikat, Adilabad dokra, Warangal durries, and Hyderabad haleem.

Where Telangana's next GI tags come from

Green Pin = final stage

Gray Pin = pending

Final Stage (Green Pins)

Narayanpet Jewellery Making
Traditional gold work, nearing recognition

Hyderabad Pearls
Traditional gold work, nearing recognition

Banjara Tribal Jewellery
Traditional gold work, nearing recognition

Banjara Needle Craft
Traditional gold work, nearing recognition

Batik Paintings
Traditional gold work, nearing recognition

Pending (Gray Pins)

Armoor Turmeric
In pipeline for GI status

Nalgonda Chitti Dosakai
In pipeline for GI status

Kollapur Benishan Mango
In pipeline for GI status

Mahadevpur Tussar Silk
In pipeline for GI status

Jagtial Sesame
In pipeline for GI status

Nayakpod Masks
In pipeline for GI status



18 GI today • 12+ more in pipeline • Recent GI wins: 2 Mar 2024 & 28 Mar 2025

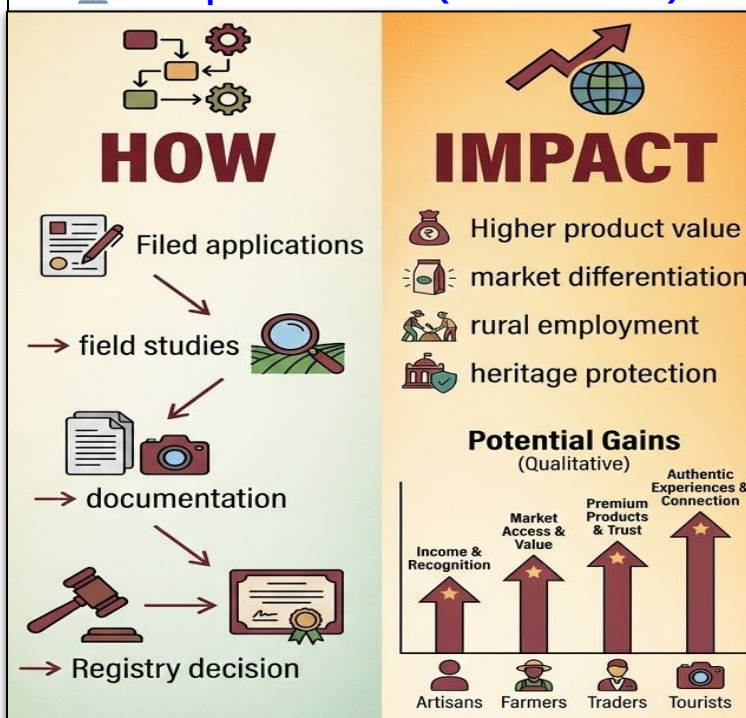
25th December 2025

SYLLABUS : Prelims Intellectual Property Rights/ Economy **GS 1** Art & Culture
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number : 06**

The News: Telangana's "Fab 5"

Product Name	Key Characteristics & "Mains Fodder"
1. Hyderabad Pearls 🐚	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irony: Hyderabad is landlocked! It produces <i>zero</i> pearls naturally. • Uniqueness: The skill lies in the processing (drilling, bleaching, and grading). Artisans here are masters of drilling tiny holes in pearls without breaking them. • History: Patronized by the Nizams (specifically Mir Osman Ali Khan). The pearls were imported from Basra (Iraq) and processed here.
2. Banjara Needle Craft 🧵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community: Practiced by the Lambada/Banjara tribe (semi-nomadic). • Technique: Uses vibrant colors, geometric patterns, and extensively uses cowrie shells, coins, and mirrors (glass embroidery). • Cultural Link: Traditionally part of the bride's trousseau; protects from "evil eye."
3. Banjara Tribal Jewellery 💍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material: Made of silver, German silver, brass, and alloys. • Style: Heavy, chunky ornaments (anklets, bangles) that make sound (ghungroos). Unlike delicate gold work, this is robust and rustic. • Significance: It serves as a "wearable bank" for the nomadic women (wealth storage).
4. Batik Paintings 🎨	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region: Specifically Siddipet region. • Technique: A wax-resist dyeing technique. Artisans draw designs with hot wax, dye the cloth, and then remove the wax to reveal the pattern. • The "Crack" Effect: The signature of Batik is the fine cracks in the wax that allow dye to seep through, creating a veined look.
5. Narayanpet Jewellery Making 💎	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context: Narayanpet is already famous for its GI-tagged Sarees. • The Craft: This refers to the traditional gold and silver jewellery crafted in the region to complement the specific aesthetic of the sarees. It often involves temple motifs and distinct lightweight designs favored in the Deccan.

The "Pipeline" Products (Future Potential)



♥ **Armoor Turmeric:** From Nizamabad. Known for **high curcumin content** (medicinal value) and a distinct golden-yellow luster.

🥒 **Nalgonda Chitti Dosakai:** A tiny, round cucumber specific to the Nalgonda region, famous for its shelf life and distinct tanginess in curries.

🥭 **Kollapur Benishan Mango:** Often confused with Banganapalle, but Kollapur (Nagarkurnool district) variety claims a unique taste due to specific soil and micro-climate of Krishna river banks.

🎭 **Nayakpod Masks:** Wooden masks made by **Nayakpod tribe**. Used in rituals to worship village deities (distinct from lighter toys of Nirmal).



Avian flu in Kerala

SYLLABUS : Prelims Diseases **GS 2** Health & Governance **GS 3** Agriculture & Economics
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number : 05**

Bird Flu in Kerala

Recurring avian flu outbreaks have pushed Kuttanad's centuries-old traditional duck farming to the brink of collapse.

The latest outbreak of avian influenza (H5N1) – the seventh in the region in the past 11 years – was confirmed earlier this week in one ward each of eight panchayats in Alappuzha district and in four villages in Kottayam. It has already resulted in the death of around 55,000 birds, including large numbers of ducks, chickens and quails in the two districts.

Key Parameter

Details

Locations

Alappuzha (8 Panchayats) & **Kottayam** (4 Villages)

Virus Type

HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) – likely **H5N1**

Birds Affected

Ducks (Majorly in Kuttanad region), **Chickens, Quails**

Confirmation Lab

NIHSAD (National Institute of High-Security Animal Diseases), **Bhopal**

Economic Impact

Huge blow to farmers relying on festive sales; ban on meat/egg sales in 10km radius.

Concept Builder: Bird Flu

1. WHAT IS AVIAN INFLUENZA (BIRD FLU)?

NATURAL HOSTS

Wild aquatic birds (ducks, geese, shorebirds) are reservoirs. Often carry it without getting sick.

TRANSMISSION

DEFINITION:
A viral disease caused by Influenza Type A viruses.

DOMESTIC POULTRY

Infects domestic poultry (chickens, ducks, turkeys) which get very sick.

**THE "H" AND "N":
WHAT DO THEY MEAN?**

H = Hemagglutinin (HA)
Helps virus ENTER the cell (like a key). 18 types (H1-H18).

N = Neuraminidase (NA)
Helps virus EXIT the cell to infect others. 11 types (N1-N11).



Think of H and N as the "Shirt" and "Pant" of the virus. Different combinations (e.g., H5N1, H7N9) make different strains.

2. HPAI vs. LPAI (CRUCIAL DISTINCTION)

LPAI (Low Pathogenic) - MILD

MILD SYMPTOMS:
Ruffled feathers, drop in egg production.



HPAI (Highly Pathogenic) - DEADLY

EXTREMELY DEADLY for poultry.
MORTALITY can reach 90-100% within 48 hours.



This is what is happening in Kerala now (HPAI).

Why is Kerala (Esp. Kuttanad) Vulnerable?

The "Open Rearing" System

Central Asian Flyway

Interconnect ed canals of Alappuzha

UPSC PYQ (P) 2015

H1N1 virus is sometimes mentioned in the news with reference to which one of the following diseases?

- (a) AIDS
- (b) Bird flu
- (c) Dengue
- (d) Swine flu

25th December 2025

Avian flu in Kerala

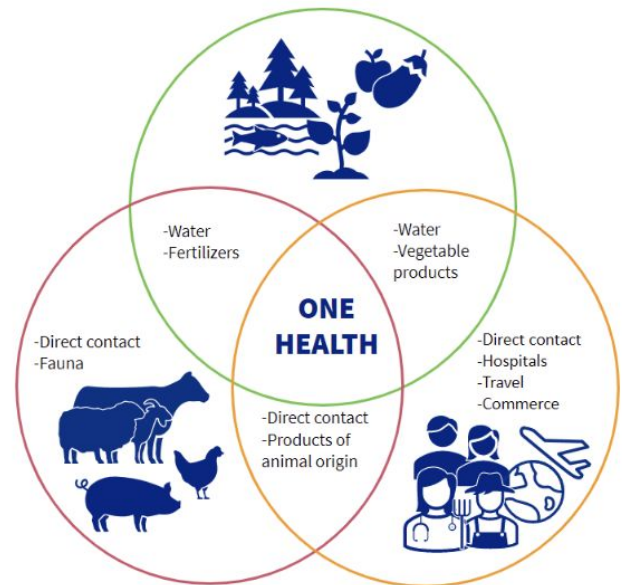
SYLLABUS : Prelims Diseases **GS 2** Health & Governance **GS 3** Agriculture & Economics
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number :** 05



Government Response: The 2021 Action Plan

● The Protocol (SOP)

1. **Infected Zone (0-1 km radius):**
 - **Action: Culling** (killing) of *all* domestic birds (infected or not).
 - **Disposal:** Deep burial with lime/bleaching powder to kill the virus.
 - **Compensation:** Farmers are paid a fixed rate per bird culled.
2. **Surveillance Zone (1-10 km radius):**
 - **Action:** Ban on movement/sale of poultry and eggs.
 - **Testing:** Random sampling to check if the virus has escaped the 1km ring.



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Police and Judicial Custody in India:

1. In Police Custody, the accused is kept in the police station and remains under the direct physical control of police officers.
2. In Judicial Custody, the accused is kept in the police station under the custody of the magistrate concerned.
3. Police Custody can continue for an indefinite period until bail is granted by the concerned courts.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q2. The provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) apply to which of the following States?

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Telangana
3. Gujarat
4. Rajasthan
5. Himachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: b

Q3. With reference to the powers of the Gram Sabha under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA), consider the following statements:

1. Gram Sabhas are vested with powers to manage minor water bodies, minor forest produce (MFP) and minor minerals.

2. Prior consultation with the Gram Sabha is mandatory before land acquisition in Scheduled Areas.
3. Gram Sabha has the authority to regulate money lending and intoxicant sales and consumption.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q4. With reference to the Geographical Indications (GI) Tag in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Geographical Indications Registry functions under the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM).
2. The validity of a GI registration is permanent once granted and does not require renewal.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

Answer: c

Q5. H5N1 virus is sometimes mentioned in the news with reference to which one of the following diseases?

- a) AIDS
- b) Bird flu
- c) Dengue
- d) Swine flu

Answer: b





VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar,
New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,
Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121

Visit us at : www.vajiramandravi.com