



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**23rd April 2025**



# A move that endangers Right to Vote



**CONTEXT:** The ECI's renewed push to link Aadhaar with voter ID endangers the right to vote.

## ECI's Justification of the move

- Clean electoral rolls
- Eliminating bogus voters
- Improve electoral integrity

## Questionable Claims:

- **Previously:** National Electoral roll Purification & Authentication Programme, 2015:
  - 55 lakh voters removed from electoral rolls – **Telangana & Andhra Pradesh**
  - **SC issued stay order** – ECI forced to abandon the exercise.
- **Voluntary is questionable:**
  - **"G. Niranjan v. Election Commission of India, 2023"**: the ECI had assured the Supreme Court that Aadhaar-voter ID linkage is not mandatory.
  - **Form 6B** – voters must provide it or declare they do not have one.
  - **Sept, 2023** – over **66 Crore** Aadhaar no. had **already be seeded**.
- **Erodes Commitment to Universal suffrage:**
  - Attend **in-person hearing** before **Electoral Registration Officer**
  - **Disables, Elderly, migrant workers etc.**
- **Against Principle of Procedural Fairness & Natural Justice:**
  - SC in **"Lal Babu Hussein and Others v. Electoral Registration Officer (1995)**

- **Lack of clear, accessible & time-bound appellate mechanism**, if justification for not submitting Aadhaar is **arbitrarily rejected**.
- **Aadhaar not a proof of Citizenship:**
  - **Section 9, Aadhaar Act, 2016:** residency-based identification
  - **UIDAI:** non-citizens residing in India for 182 days
  - **"K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India, 2018"** had limited the use of Aadhaar for welfare programmes **Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016**.
- **Surveillance & Voter-Profiling:**
  - **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023:** exemptions to govt. entities
  - Cross-reference electoral data with other database – **monitor voter- demographics**.
- **Subverts Principles of Constitutional design:**
  - **ECI** – Constitutional body ( Article 324)
  - **UIDAI** – statutory body, bound by govt. Directives – **Section 50 Aadhaar Act**.
- **Unreliability of Aadhaar database:**
  - **CAG Performance audit Report, 2022:**
    - Cancellation of over **4.75 lakh** Aadhaar no.
    - **UIDAI** – not prescribed any specific proof to **verify period of residence in India**.



# A move that endangers Right to Vote



**CONTEXT:** The ECI's renewed push to link Aadhaar with voter ID endangers the right to vote.

## Way Forward

- **Regular Door-to-door verification**
- **Independent audits of Electoral rolls**
- **Functional Public grievance redressal Frameworks**
- **Independent oversights** - Social audits
- **Use technology to identify duplicates:** Electoral Rolls Services Net (ERONet) - Unique EPIC.

## Mains Practise Question

*"The move to link Aadhaar with voter ID cards is seen as a measure to clean the electoral rolls, but it also raises serious concerns about privacy and exclusion." Critically examine the objectives, benefits, and concerns associated with linking Aadhaar to voter ID cards. Suggest measures to ensure transparency, accountability, and protection of individual rights in this context.*

**(15 Marks, 250 words)**



**CONTEXT:** Amid mounting resistance, the Maharashtra government on Tuesday stayed its decision of making Hindi a compulsory third language from Classes 1 to 5 in Marathi and English-medium schools in the State.

- **Positive sense** - people's appreciation for their culture, language, region, etc. with a view to **maintain an independent identity.**
- **Negative sense** - excessive attachment to one's region, which may pose a threat to unity and integrity of the nation.
- **How is Regionalism different from Nationalism?**
  - ◆ regionalism reflects a **shared sense of identity** among people in a specific geographical area.

## Forms of Regionalism

- **Secessionism:** involves militant and fundamentalist groups advocating a **separation from India**
  - ◆ Secessionist Groups active in J&k & North-east
- **Separatism:** demand for **separate statehood within the Indian Union.**
  - ◆ **Bodoland Movement** in Assam, **Gorkhaland** for ethnic Gorkha (Nepali) people in West Bengal & Khalistan movement in Punjab
- **Inter-State Regionalism: creates divisions among two or more states**
  - ◆ E.g. Disputes between **Karnataka and Tamil Nadu** over the distribution of **Kaveri water.**
- **Intra-State Regionalism:** a specific region in a state seeks autonomy
  - ◆ **E.g.** Saurashtra in Gujarat, East U.P. in Uttar Pradesh, Vidarbha in Maharashtra etc

- **Supra-State Regionalism:** shared interests among people residing in multiple states,

## Factors Contributing to Regionalism

- **Linguistic and Cultural Identity:** E.g. formation of linguistic states in India, such as **Andhra Pradesh for Telugu speakers in 1953.**
- **Economic Disparities:**
  - Uttarakhand from UP, a Jharkhand from Bihar and formation of state of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh.
  - **Locals First policy** - Haryana & Andhra Pradesh
- **Political Aspirations:** Sons of soil movement in Maharashtra. Regional political parties like TDP (Andhra Pradesh), DMK (Tamil Nadu), Akali Dal (Punjab).
- **Geographical factors:** Insurgency in states like Nagaland

## **Positive Impacts**

- Decentralised Governance
- Cultural Expression
- Economic Development
- Strengthening Federalism

## **Negative Impacts**

- Threat to National Unity
- Encourages identity-based politics
- Bargaining Federalism
- Effect on International Relations



# Regionalism in India



**CONTEXT:** Amid mounting resistance, the Maharashtra government on Tuesday stayed its decision of making Hindi a compulsory third language from Classes 1 to 5 in Marathi and English-medium schools in the State.

## Way Forward

- **Fostering National Unity:**
  - North-Eastern Council, NITI Aayog & GST Council
- **Cultural Integration:** "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme"
- **Inclusive Development**
- **Functional Autonomy**

## Mains PYQ

*In the context of diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint. (2017)*

## Mains Practise Question

*"Regionalism in India manifests in various forms and is driven by multiple factors. Discuss the different forms of regionalism and the factors contributing to its rise. Also, critically examine its positive and negative impacts on national integration and development."*



**SYLLABUS: GS Paper 2:** Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

**Newspaper :** The Hindu, **Page No : 9**

**C**ases of rape registered on the premise of false promise of marriage have been in the eye of the storm for a long time. It is often alleged that despite the consent of some women to a physical relationship, the men in those relationships are accused of rape. It was expected that the Central government would do away with the provision of the law which undermines the agency of women in giving their free and informed consent before entering into a sexual relationship. Instead, it introduced a new provision in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. Section 69 (presumably) solely addresses cases involving sexual intercourse based on false promise of marriage. This stand-alone offence did not exist in the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

### Limitations set by the Court

Section 69 has ostensibly reduced the gravity of cases of sexual intercourse registered on the false promise of marriage by reducing punishment, compared to the offence of rape defined under Section 63 BNS (or Section 375 of the IPC). Before discussing the redundancy of Section 69 BNS, it will be appropriate to see how the Supreme Court has narrowed the scope of such cases by imposing some restrictions.

First, differentiating between giving a false promise of marriage and committing breach of promise by the accused, the Court in a number of cases, including *Anurag Soni v. The State of Chhattisgarh (2019)*, has held that unless the accused has no intention to fulfil the promise of marriage right from the beginning, it would not amount to rape. There could be cases when the accused might have made a promise with all seriousness to marry a woman, but subsequently encountered unforeseen circumstances.

In the second category of cases, when a woman knowingly maintains physical relations for a prolonged period, it cannot be said with certainty that this was



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Former IPS officer

Without any change in the definition of rape and consent, the stand-alone Section 69 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita seems unsustainable

purely because of the alleged promise made by the accused to marry her. In other words, the physical relationship must be traceable directly to the false promise made, and it must not be qualified by other circumstances or considerations (such as love or passion for the accused). In *Rajnish Singh @ Soni v. State of U.P. (2025)*, the Court quashed the FIR and all the proceedings against the accused. The complainant had maintained a sexual relationship for about 15 years with the accused and alleged sexual abuse only on learning that the appellant had married another woman. She had also on many occasions portrayed herself to be the wife of the appellant. The Court held that the relationship was consensual and with no element of deceit or misconception.

Third, if on the date of developing a physical relationship, the prosecutrix was already a married woman, surrendering before the man on a false promise of marriage will not fall within the definition of consent obtained on misconception of fact. After quoting many precedents set by the Supreme Court, the High Court of Madhya Pradesh in *Abhishek Arjariya v. The State of Madhya Pradesh (2025)* quashed the FIR and further proceedings based on similar facts.

### Examining Section 69

Section 69 states that “whosoever, by deceitful means or by making promise to marry to a woman without any intention of fulfilling the same, has sexual intercourse with her, such sexual intercourse not amounting to rape, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine.” The explanation says “deceitful means” include “inducement for or false promise of employment or promotion or marrying by suppressing identity”.

Section 69 of the BNS was introduced as a separate offence; there were no changes to the

definition of rape and consent. A man is said to commit rape under Section 63 of the BNS under circumstances falling under seven descriptions, out of which six are concerned with consent. While under five descriptions, the consent is vitiated under given conditions, such as fear or death or intoxication, other cases of “without consent” fall under “misconception of fact” as provided in Section 28 of the BNS. Consent defined under Section 28 of the BNS is vitiated if given by a person under fear of injury, or under a misconception of fact, unsoundness of mind, or intoxication, or under 12 years of age. It therefore implies that false promise of marriage is covered under the generic term “misconception of fact” given in Section 28 of the BNS.

Since the definition of rape and consent given in the BNS are *pari materia* to their definitions given in the IPC, the offence of sexual intercourse committed consequent to the false promise of marriage, i.e., misconception of fact, will still fall under the scope of the offence of rape. Once an offence is justified to be covered under the scope of rape, it cannot hold ground as another offence of lesser gravity as defined under Section 69 of the BNS. Thus Section 69 appears to be redundant. Further, unless an “exception” is carved out in Section 63 to exclude cases falling under Section 69, Section 69 cannot be held constitutionally valid. Also, Section 69 does not have a non-obstante clause. It is therefore, likely to be hit by Article 14 of the Constitution.

When Courts are quashing FIRs based on the precedents described above, it would be better for the police not to charge-sheet such cases. A preliminary inquiry should be conducted to establish whether a cognisable offence was committed or not. Such action will prevent unnecessary hardship to the accused person and also save time for our constitutional courts.



# Section 69 of BNS is redundant



**SYLLABUS: GS Paper 2:** Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

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- **Section 69** states that “whosoever, by deceitful means or by making promise to marry to a woman without any intention of fulfilling the same, has sexual intercourse with her, such sexual intercourse **not amounting to rape**, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to **ten years and shall also be liable to fine.**”
  - Section 69 of the BNS was introduced as a **separate offence**.
  - **Section 63 (Rape)** of the BNS under circumstances falling under seven descriptions, out of which six are concerned with **consent**.
  - **Consent defined under Section 28** of the BNS is **vitiated if**:
    - given by a person **under fear of injury**, or under a **misconception of fact, unsoundness of mind, or intoxication**, or **under 12 years of age**.
    - It therefore implies that **false promise of marriage** is covered under the generic term “**misconception of fact**” given in Section 28 of the BNS.
  - **Lesser punishment**
- Limitations set by Court:**
- **Differentiating between giving a false promise of marriage and committing breach of promise by the accused:**
    - **Anurag Soni v. The State of Chhattisgarh (2019)**, has held that unless the accused has no intention to fulfill the promise of marriage right from the beginning, **it would not amount to rape**.
  - **Physical relationship must be traceable directly to the false promise made:**
    - **Rajnish Singh @ Soni v. State of U.P. (2025)**, the Court quashed the FIR and all the proceedings against the accused. The complainant had maintained a sexual **relationship for about 15 years** with the accused and **alleged sexual abuse only on learning that the appellant had married another woman**.
    - When a woman knowingly maintains physical relations for a prolonged period, it cannot be said with certainty that this was purely because of the alleged promise made by the accused to marry her.
  - **If on the date of developing a physical relationship, the prosecutrix was already a married woman**, surrendering before the man on a false promise of marriage will not fall within the definition of consent obtained on misconception of fact.



# Not Without the Factory



**SYLLABUS: G.S.3:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

**Newspaper :** The Indian Express, **Page No : 12**

RECENTLY, I FINISHED reading *Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future* by former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan and Rohit Lamba, assistant professor of Economics at Pennsylvania State University.

This coincided with the debate triggered by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's new production-linked incentive scheme aimed at boosting electronics manufacturing. Both the book and the debate revolve around one of the most critical issues concerning India's economic future against the backdrop of great geoeconomic flux: **Should India focus on manufacturing over services?**

In the book, the authors celebrate how India has diverged from the standard development model, the one followed by China — from agriculture to low-skilled manufacturing, then high-skilled manufacturing and, finally, services — by leapfrogging intermediate steps. They also argue that India must not turn back now, as pursuing a manufacturing-led growth path is a dead end.

Instead, they believe, India should focus on building an economy based on the services sector. They provide a broad array of points to support this argument, which can essentially be summarised in three key ideas.

First of all, the value-added in the manufacturing sector is too low. The authors refer to the "smile curve" theory, which posits that in the value chain, processes like design and sales, in general, provide much higher value-added than manufacturing itself. Hence, India no longer needs to focus on the manufacturing sector and should instead leap to the high-value-added services sector.

High-end services cannot thrive independently of a healthy manufacturing sector. Take the US as an example: In Manhattan, shining downtown businesses like banking, law, marketing and management consulting depend on the profits generated by messy industries such as energy, defence, pharmaceuticals and aviation, be it domestically or abroad.

Second, the global manufacturing arena is very crowded already. China has effectively dominated global labour-intensive manufacturing, and the remaining market space is being divided by countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh and Mexico. Therefore, even if India attempts to enter this space, it would be an uphill battle. More importantly, securing a foothold will not guarantee India's industrial upgrading in the future. Consequently, the authors argue that the Narendra Modi administration should put aside its manufacturing ambitions and shift its policy focus to services.

Third, a globally competitive manufacturing sector demands a highly skilled workforce. The majority of Indian workers today lack the physical and educational qualifications required for world-class manufacturing. Many are not even qualified for basic jobs on the factory floor. Thus, they suggest that India should concentrate on the human capital of a relatively small qualified workforce, capable of participating in high-end international division of labour. Thereby, more benefits will trickle down to the larger population.

High-end services cannot thrive independently of a healthy manufacturing sector. Take the US as an example: In Manhattan, shining downtown businesses like banking, law, marketing and management consulting depend on the profits generated by messy industries such as energy, defence, pharmaceuticals and aviation, be it domestically or abroad. Rajan and Lamba's examples clearly illustrate their disconnect. For instance, they point to Apple's market value being about 50 times that of Foxconn, and wonder why India

does not emulate Apple by focusing on R&D, design, consulting and sales, instead of basic manufacturing like Foxconn. This highlights just how detached India's economic experts are from the factory floor and economic operations in the real world.

The Modi government, despite its heavy-handed economic statecraft, has got the big-picture strategy right. What is puzzling, however, is that even if the Modi government has been correct in prioritising manufacturing, few meaningful inroads have been made into India's manufacturing future. While the hope was to raise the share of manufacturing in the Indian economy to 25 per cent by 2025, it decreased to 14.3 per cent last year. That's why the Modi government has been harping on increasing services exports. Merchandise exports have plunged and India has been losing to Vietnam and Malaysia in the China Plus One formulation as well. After all, if India didn't focus on services, its economy would have been in even worse shape today.

Developing manufacturing is the best approach for super-populous economies like India and China to thrive on the global stage. That Rajan and Lamba's logic is flawed does not imply that what the Modi government has been doing is flawless. To do the right thing, strategic vision is not enough. One also requires a country to have the capacity to implement such a vision.

*The writer has worked as an analyst at China's National Development and Reform Commission and is currently on leave as a visiting fellow at Harvard University*

**Context:** Should India focus on manufacturing over services?

- **Book: " Breaking mould: reimagining India's Economic Future"** – Raghuram Rajan & Rohit Lamba
- **China's Structural transformation:**
  - Agri - low-skilled manufacturing - high- skilled manufacturing & Services.
- **Why India should focus on Services?**
  - **Low value-addition in manufacturing:**
    - **Smile-curve theory:** design & sales high - value addition

- **E.g. Apple** focus on design & innovation at one end & focus on marketing at other hand, while **outsourcing manufacturing** to other companies.
- **Crowded manufacturing arena:**
  - China dominates labour-intensive manufacturing
  - Remaining marketplace divided b/w - **Vietnam, Bangladesh & Mexico.**
  - **Foothold will not guarantee India's industrial upgrading in the future.**





# Not Without the Factory



**SYLLABUS: G.S.3:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

**Newspaper :** The Indian Express, **Page No : 12**

- **Manufacturing sector demands a highly skilled workforce:**

- Majority of Indians lack physical & educational qualifications required for world class manufacturing.
- Many not qualified for basic jobs on factory floor.
- **India** concentrate on **human capital of a relatively small qualified workforce**, capable of participating in services.

- **Why Focus on manufacturing?**

- **US - Manhattan** services hub depends on profits generated by industries **like energy, defence, pharma & aviation.**
- **Manufacturing sector share in GDP:** 14.3% last year.
- Populous economy like China - to thrive on global stage.



# Weakening investor confidence in US economy



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Economy**

**Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 19**

ALL BENCHMARK stock market indices in the United States – the S&P 500, NASDAQ 100, Dow Jones Industrial Average, and Russell 2000 – fell between 2% and 2.5% on April 21, as the US dollar continued to weaken against its peers, such as the euro and the British pound.

Essentially, investor confidence in the management of the US economy is falling. That is why they are selling shares (if they are in the stock market) or US government bonds (if they are in bond markets). There are clear reasons behind the ongoing slide in the market:

## 2. Non-tariff barriers create confusion

Trump started with what appeared to be a simple and intuitively appealing idea: reciprocal tariffs. Simply put, the US will charge a particular country the same tariff that that country charges the US, to force a reduction on their part.

However, neither were the “reciprocal tariffs” calculated in that manner, nor is Trump’s angst limited to trade tariffs alone. On Monday, he posted about “NON-TARIFF CHEATING” on Truth Social, listing practices such as currency manipulation, dumping, export subsidies, and

protective agricultural standards, such as “no genetically engineered corn in EU”.

## 4. Trump’s attack on US Fed chief

Picking up where he left off last week, the US President called the central bank chair Jerome Powell “a major loser” for not cutting interest rates quickly. The Fed has historically enjoyed autonomy on matters of the economy.

This attack has raised concerns among investors, leaving them wondering if the US (and the US dollar) any longer deserves the blind trust it has enjoyed over the past decades.

## 1. Elusiveness of trade deals

When US President Donald Trump announced a 90-day pause to his prohibitive reciprocal tariffs, the hope was that the US would ink new trade agreements with most key trading allies soon.

However, no country is close to signing a deal. Japan was the first in line in terms of negotiations but, as Reuters has reported, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has “grave concern” about the United States’ approach towards tariffs on automobiles. Further, China has not blinked. In turn, it has retaliated on tariffs.

## 3. American consumers are hurting

Reports in the American media show that with each passing day, Trump’s exorbitant tariffs are beginning to raise prices for goods in the US. This has irked many consumers, including those who voted for Trump.

## 5. Poor tech corporate earnings

A Bloomberg analysis said that as many as 65% of the US companies that have revealed their quarterly earnings for the first quarter (Q1 or January February March) have missed their sales growth targets.

Thus, even before the full effect of Trump’s tariffs on domestic consumption came into play, companies were already starting to struggle.



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Art & Culture**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 12**

## The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday tasked the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) with studying the impact of glass industries on the Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said in case of an adverse report from NEERI, then the court would not hesitate to pass a direction for the removal of the industrial units. The court asked NEERI to file an affidavit clarifying the time required to complete the assessment exercise. It ordered the government and its agencies to extend the expert body their cooperation and assistance.

“We want to know the extent of pollution caused by these industries. If we find that these industries are causing pollution, we won't hesitate to order



The court has asked Uttar Pradesh to form a team to visit industrial units near the Taj.

shifting them. Some examination has to be made about the extent of pollution,” the Bench said.

The court also directed the U.P. Pollution Control Board to constitute a team to visit industrial units highlighted in an affidavit filed recently by the State and submit an interim report on the aspect of pollutants produced by them.

The court had previously deplored the Taj Trapezium Zone authority on environment protection in and around the Taj Mahal asking it whether the preservation of the monument was a “tamasha”.

## About NEERI

- **National Environmental Engineering Research Institute**, created and funded by the Government of India dedicated to environmental science and engineering.
- Functions under the **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- **Aim** : strive for providing innovative and effective solutions for environmentally sustainable development

- Was established in Nagpur in 1958 with a focus on water supply, sewage disposal, and communicable diseases, and to some extent on industrial pollution and occupational diseases found common in post-independent India.
- **Five zonal laboratories** - Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai.

## About Taj Mahal

- It is a mausoleum of white marble built by the Mughal emperor, Shahjahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal.
- It stands on the right bank of the river Yamuna.
- The construction of the Taj Mahal was completed within a period of 17 years from 1631 to 1648 AD.
- **Chief Architect** - Ustad Ahmad Lahauri.
- The Taj Mahal was declared a centrally protected monument of national importance in December 1920.
- Considered as one of the Seven Wonders of the World.
- It was inscribed on the list of World Heritage Sites in 1983.
- It is famous for its unique layout, perfection in symmetry and inlay work.



# Why yellow metal prices are surging?



**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Economy  
**Newspaper :** The Indian Express, **Page No : 17**

MUMBAI, APRIL 22

THE **YELLOW metal** is glittering above the Rs 1 lakh level per 10 grams for the first time as the international prices surged after US President Donald Trump unveiled plans to overhaul the Federal Reserve and gold consolidated its position as the best safe haven asset in the volatile global financial markets. 24 karat gold (999 fineness) hit a high of Rs 1,01,350 per 10 grams and 22 karat gold at Rs 92,900 in the Mumbai bullion market on Tuesday as global markets continued to remain jittery over the Trump's tariff plans and his threat to revamp US Fed that could lead to a spike in inflation and interest rates.

## Prices rising

Prices in India generally follows the international prices. Global gold prices continued to surge with prices crossing \$3,500 an ounce even as the US dollar eased. **Gold has gained nearly 59 per cent since March 2024.** A weaker dollar boosts demand for gold, as it makes the metal more affordable to investors holding foreign currencies.

The rally in gold is largely driven by renewed uncertainty surrounding US monetary policy, after Trump unveiled plans to overhaul the Federal Reserve. Trump intensified his attack on Federal Reserve chief Jerome Powell for not cutting interest rates even as the US dollar sinks in the currency market.

Meanwhile, the US Federal



File

**24 KARAT** gold (999 fineness) hit a high of Rs 101,350 per 10 grams and 22 karat gold at Rs 92,900 in the Mumbai bullion market on Tuesday as global markets continued to remain jittery over Trump's tariff plans and his threat to revamp US Fed

Reserve issued a warning that tariffs could threaten its dual mandate of maintaining stable prices and full employment, which further strengthened gold's safe-haven appeal.

The surge in gold prices is also driven by escalating geopolitical risks, strong central bank demand, and persistent inflation concerns. There are heightened tensions in the Russia-Ukraine front too. This new layer of uncertainty is complicating the path ahead for the US Fed decision on the interest rates.

Jateen Trivedi, research analyst, LKP Securities, said the rally is being supported by escalating tariff tensions, concerns over the US economic outlook and the looming US debt crisis. Continued buying from China, global central banks and institutional investors has added momentum to the bullish sentiment, he said.

## Trump talks on US Fed boosts gold

The criticism of the Federal Reserve by Trump has shaken the investor confidence pushing the

dollar sharply lower and catapulting safe-haven gold to a record high. "These are stoking concerns about the independence of the Fed, sending ripples through financial markets. US dollar (three-year low) and the risk-on equity markets takes a beating while gold stands to benefit," said NS Ramaswamy, head of commodities at Ventura.

Trump recently said that he can't wait to sack Federal Reserve chief Jerome Powell for not cutting dollar interest rates even as the US-China trade war risks crushing the dollar and driving up inflation.

On Monday, the US dollar continued its slide, falling to its lowest level since 2022, as global investors retreat from US assets in the face of tension between Trump and the Federal Reserve. The ICE US dollar Index which measures the greenback against a basket of foreign currencies, fell as low as 97.92 on Monday.

FULL REPORT ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)



# Why yellow metal prices are surging?



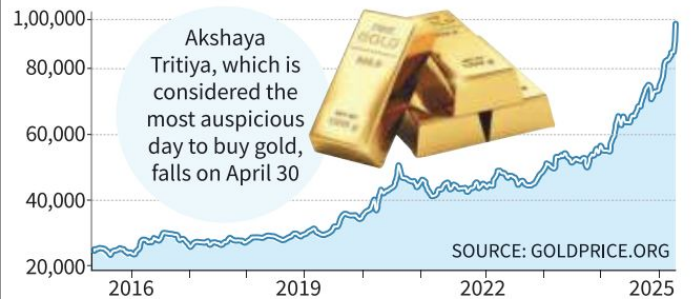
**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Economy**  
**Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 17**

**Context:** Recently, gold prices rise **above ₹ 1 lakh per 10 grams** for the **first time** ever.

- **Previously:** Increase in gold Prices during Covid - **₹ 50,000 in July 2020.**
- **Why Now?**
  - **Tensions b/w Trump & Fed Reserve:**
    - reducing Interest rates
    - After Trump unveiled plans to overhaul Fed Reserve
    - **Uncertainty in US Monetary policy** - shaken investor's confidence - global investors are retreating from US assets - **Weakening of US \$** lowest level since 2022.
    - **Weaken \$** - makes gold affordable to investors holding foreign currencies.
  - **Escalating Geopolitical Uncertainty**
  - **Persistent Inflation**

## Gold rush

The graph shows the price of 10 grams gold in ₹. From around ₹25,000 in 2015, price has surged four times in the past decade



**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Aadhaar:**

1. Aadhaar is considered valid proof of Indian citizenship under the Aadhaar Act, 2016.
2. The UIDAI can issue Aadhaar to non-citizens residing in India for 182 days.
3. UIDAI is governed by government directives under Section 50 of the Aadhaar Act.

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

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

**Answer. b**

**Q2. Match the following forms of regionalism in India with their definitions:**

Type	Definition
A. Secessionism	1. Demand for separate statehood within the Indian Union
B. Separatism	2. Shared interests among people residing in multiple states
C. Intra-State Regionalism	3. Region within a state seeks greater autonomy
D. Supra-State Regionalism	4. Militant groups advocating for separation from India

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

- a) A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1
- b) A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3
- c) A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4
- d) A-4, B-1, C-3, D-2

**Answer: d**

**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding NEERI (National Environmental Engineering Research Institute):**

1. NEERI was established in 1958 in Chennai to address industrial pollution.
2. It operates under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

3. NEERI aims to provide innovative & effective solutions for sustainable development.

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

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

**Answer. a**

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding why India should focus on the services sector:**

1. There is high value-addition in manufacturing.
2. China's dominance in labour-intensive manufacturing creates a challenging environment for India.
3. India's manufacturing sector faces limitations due to the requirement of a highly skilled workforce.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Q5. Regarding Section 28 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), consider the following statements:**

1. Consent is considered vitiated if given under fear of injury, misconception of fact, intoxication, unsoundness of mind.
2. The false promise of marriage is covered under the generic term "misconception of fact".
3. Consent obtained from a minor (below 12) is considered valid.

**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**





# **VAJIRAM & RAVI**

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