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The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

26th April 2025



Minimum Support Price

CONTEXT: Madhya Pradesh CM said that the farmers who will engage in Stubble burning will not get benefits of MSP and CM Kisan Kalyan Scheme.



EXPRESS explained.

WHAT'S MSP

It is a "minimum price" for any crop that the government considers as remunerative for farmers and hence deserving of "support". It's also the price that government agencies pay whenever they procure the particular crop. The government now fixes MSPs for 23 crops, but is NOT legally bound to pay these even if open market rates for the said produce are ruling below their announced floor prices

#QUIXPLAINED

Category	Crops
Kharif Crops	Paddy, Jawar, Bajara, Ragi, Maize, Arhar, Moong, Urad, Cotton, Ground Nuts, Sunflower, Soyabean, Sesamum, Nigerseed
Rabi Crops	Wheat, Barley, Gram, Masur, Rapeseed & Mustard, Safflower, Torai MSP derived for Toria based on MSP for Rapeseeds and Mustard.
Calendar Year Crops	Copra, De-husked Coconut, Jute, Sugar Cane (FRP) MSP for De-husked Coconut-based on the MSP of Copra.

When is the MSP announced?

Government announces MSP twice a year - before the sowing begins for kharif and rabi crops in May and October, respectively.

How many crops are covered under the MSP regime?

Government fixes MSP through an administrative order for cereals (7) - paddy, wheat, barley, jowar, bajra, maize and ragi; pulses (5) - gram, tur, moong, urad and lentil; oilseeds (8) - groundnut, rapeseed/mustard, toria, soyabean, sunflower seed, sesamum, safflower seed and nigerseed. It also announces MSP for cotton, jute, copra and a 'fair and remunerative price' for sugarcane.

● When a farmer grows a crop, he incurs costs, some of it explicit and some implicit or unpaid. The CACP considers the following costs:

1

A2

Covers all cash and in kind expenses incurred by farmers on seeds, fertilisers, chemicals, hired labour, fuel, irrigation, etc

2

A2+FL

Actual costs plus an imputed value of unpaid family labour



3

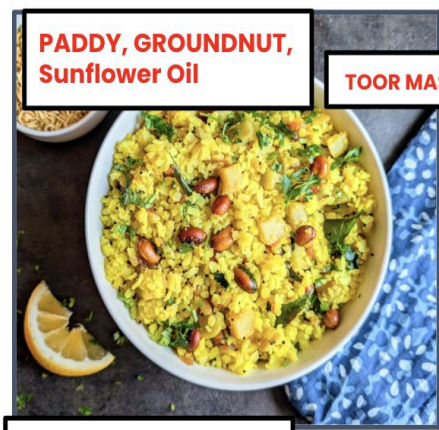
C2

Includes 'A2+FL' along with revenues forgone on owned land (rent) and fixed capital assets (interest)



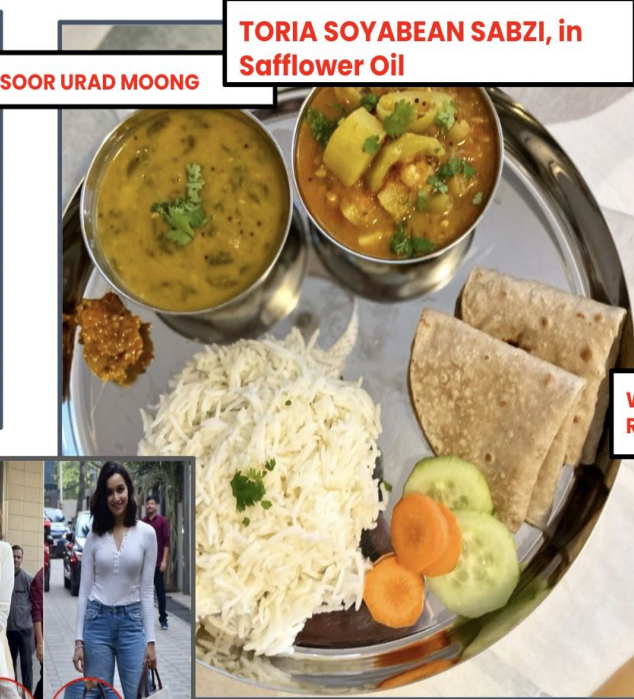
CONTEXT: Madhya Pradesh CM said that the farmers who will engage in Stubble burning will not get benefits of MSP and CM Kisan Kalyan Scheme.

PADDY, GROUNDNUT, Sunflower Oil




TOOR MASOOR URAD MOONG

TORIA SOYABEAN SABZI, in Safflower Oil



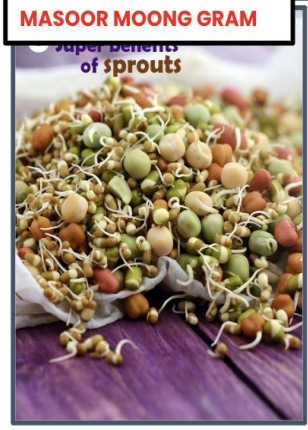
GRAINS & QTY @ PER KG

- WHEAT / GEHOON (700g)
- BAJRA / PEARL MILLET (50g)
- JAWARI / SORGHUM (50g)
- KALA CHANA / BENGAL GRAM (25g)
- SOYABEAN (30g)
- RAGI/FINGER MILLET (50g)
- JAU / BARLEY (25g)
- MAHAI/CORN (25g)
- HARI MOONG/GREEN GRAM (25g)




MASOOR MOONG GRAM


Super benefits of sprouts



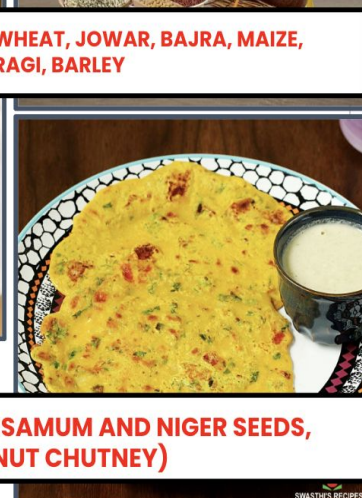
WHEAT, JOWAR, BAJRA, MAIZE, RAGI, BARLEY




CHAI-SUGARCANE



CHIILA WITH SESAMUM AND NIGER SEEDS, COPRA(COCONUT CHUTNEY)



VADA PAV IN MUSTARD OIL



Prelims PYQ 2018

93. Consider the following :

1. Areca nut
2. Barley
3. Coffee
4. Finger millet
5. Groundnut
6. Sesamum
7. Turmeric

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has announced the Minimum Support Price for which of the above ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 7 only
- (b) 2, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (c) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Prelims PYQ 2023

27. Consider the following statements :

1. The Government of India provides Minimum Support Price for niger (*Guizotia abyssinica*) seeds.
2. Niger is cultivated as a Kharif crop.
3. Some tribal people in India use niger seed oil for cooking.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None



CONTEXT: Madhya Pradesh CM said that the farmers who will engage in Stubble burning will not get benefits of MSP and CM Kisan Kalyan Scheme.

Prelims PYQ 2020

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. In the case of all cereals, pulses and oil-seeds, the procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP) is unlimited in any State/UT of India.
2. In the case of cereals and pulses, the MSP is fixed in any State/UT at a level to which the market price will never rise.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

The Journey of MSP Evolution

- Food Crisis in India in 1960s:
 - 1964- LK Jha Committee - first step - Agriculture Policy
 - 1965 : Agriculture Price Commission
 - 1965 : M.L. Dantwala- APC Submits first report
 - 1966 : MSP for Wheat
 - 1985 : CACP

EXPRESS
explained.

A BIT OF THE PAST

MSP was introduced in the mid-sixties when India was food-deficit. The government was keen to boost domestic production through Green Revolution technologies, but realised farmers wouldn't plant input-intensive high-yielding wheat or paddy varieties unless guaranteed a minimum price

MSP WAS FIRST FIXED FOR WHEAT
IN 1966-67 AT

₹54/quintal

WHEAT

COMMON PADDY

₹76*

₹1,975

₹51

₹1,868

1970-71

2020-21

1970-71

2020-21

*per quintal

#QUIXPLAINED

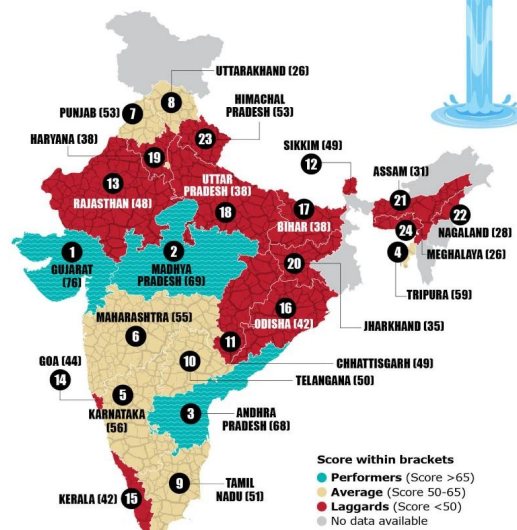
4

Concerns Related to MSP in India

- **Limited Scope of MSP : 23 crops**
- **Concentrated to few farmers : Shanta Kumar Committee (2015)-** Only 6% of farmers actually benefit.
- **Skewed Crop Focus :** imbalanced cropping pattern, ecological stress.
- **Role of Intermediaries :** middlemen, commission agents, and APMC officials.
- **Fiscal Burden on Government :** creates a financial strain
- **Lack of Storage Infrastructure :**

DOWN THE DRAIN

How India's states fare when it comes to managing their water resources.



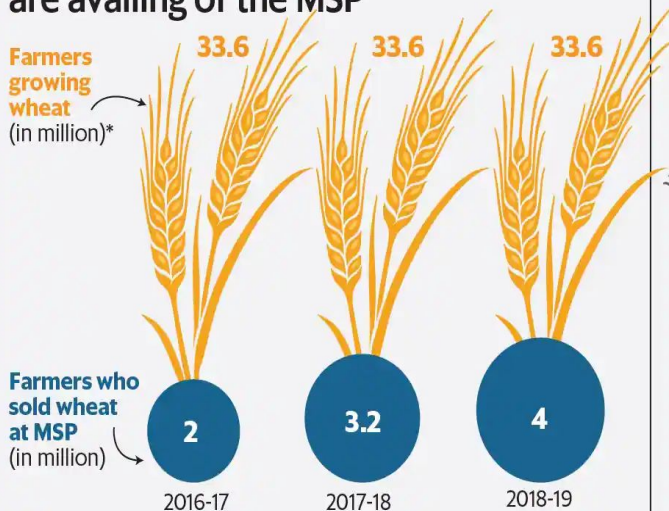
METHODOLOGY Classification according to composite water index scores. Nine sectors cover 28 indicators with weights equally divided across a sector's indicators. Sectors include source augmentation, demand and supply side management, rural drinking water, urban water supply, policy and governance.



CONTEXT: Madhya Pradesh CM said that the farmers who will engage in Stubble burning will not get benefits of MSP and CM Kisan Kalyan Scheme.

Chart 1

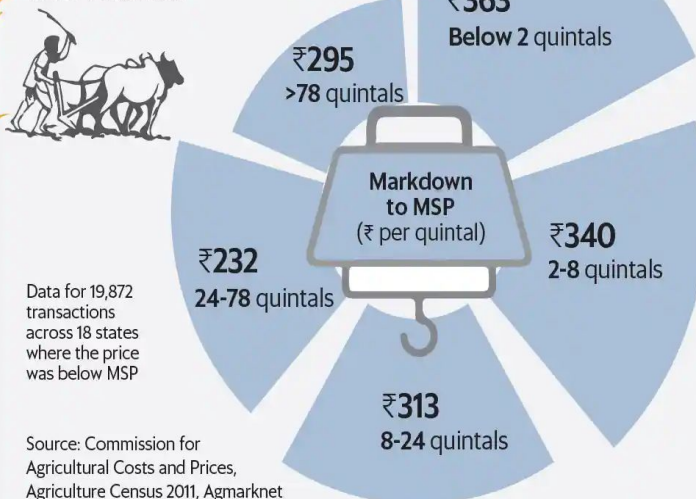
Only a fraction of wheat farmers are availing of the MSP



*Operational holdings growing wheat (considered as proxy for number of farmers growing wheat)

Chart 2

The small farmer has the least leverage in the mandi



What should be done?

- Gradually expand the list of MSP-eligible crops.
- Encourage crop diversification beyond rice and wheat.
- Align MSP crops with market demand.
- Focus MSP on food security and high-impact crops.
- Optimize resource allocation through targeted MSP.
- Modernize and expand procurement mechanisms.
- Minimize middlemen in the MSP distribution chain.

Mains Practice Question

What are the key concerns associated with the Minimum Support Price (MSP) regime in India? Suggest a comprehensive way forward to make it more inclusive, efficient, and sustainable. (10 Marks, 150 words)

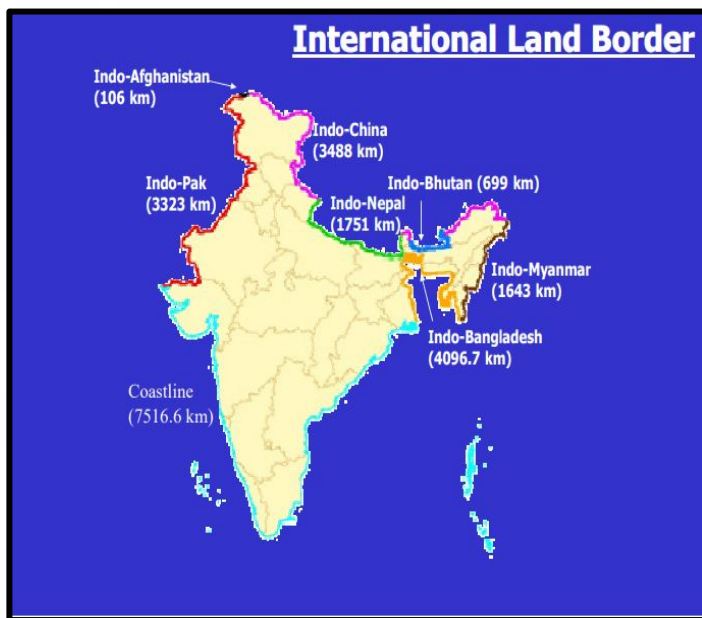
WHAT THE COMMISSION SUGGESTED

The Swaminathan Commission had suggested working out a system for:

- Food and nutrition security
 - Sustainability in the farming system
 - Enhancing quality
 - Cost competitiveness of farm commodities
- It had also suggested to recommend measures for credit and other marketing related steps. One of the key recommendations was to ensure a minimum of 50% profits over the cost of production.



CONTEXT: Tensions on Loc were high with reports of small arms firing at different locations.



Importance of Effective border management

- Counterterrorism
- Limit Organized Crime
- Suppress Cross-border Insurgency
- Preserve Sovereignty
- Regulate Migration

DH Deccan Herald

Infiltration on the rise along LoC with 40 militants killed this year against 18 in 2022

Srinagar: After seeing a decline last year, infiltration attempts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir are gradually...

27 Oct 2023

BS Business Standard

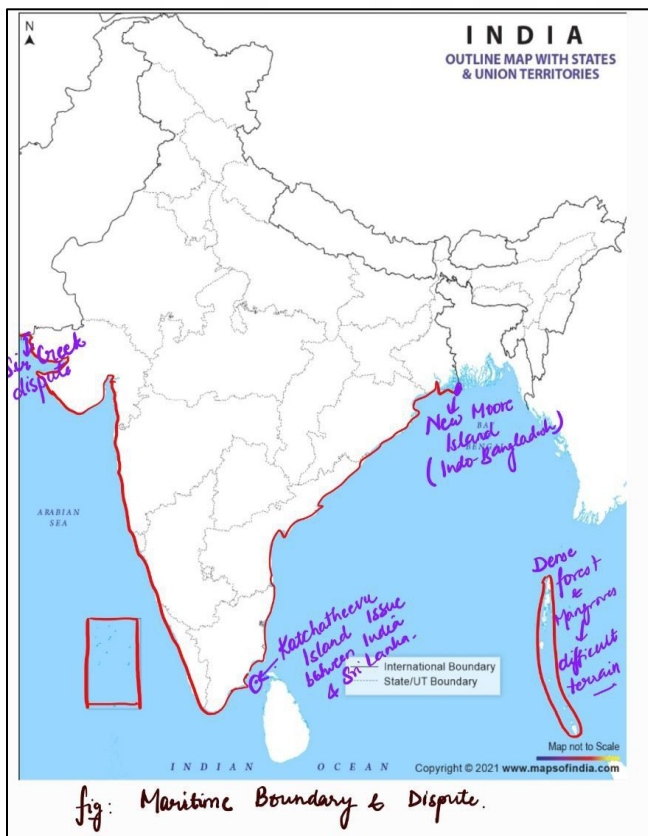
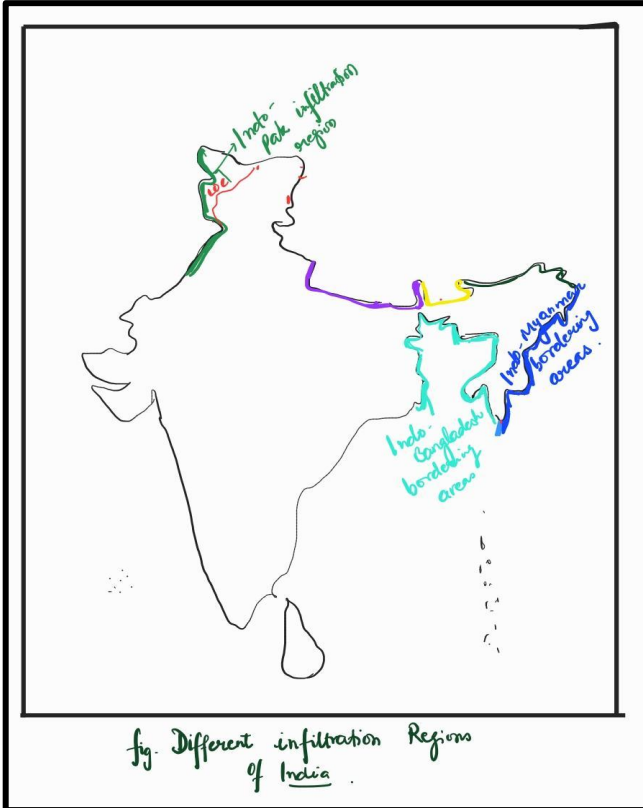
11 Bangladeshis held at Agartala Railway Station for illegal entry

Authorities apprehended eleven Bangladeshi nationals (5 females and 6 males) from Agartala Railway Station. They were caught attempting to enter India...

Border	Challenges
Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disputed area like sir Crick and LOC • Terrorist intrusion from other side of border • Insurgency in Kashmir along Loc • Proximity to the Golden crescent adds threat of drug trafficking. • fake currency and arms trafficking • Movement of drones for airdropping drugs, arms, and ammunition from Pakistan.
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Demarcated border due to complex topography of region. • High border area infrastructure investment from China. • Claim of China over Arunachal Pradesh. • Aggression of China in Ladakh area • Smuggling of electronic and other cheap Chinese goods.
Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Porous nature of border • Difficulty in identifying Bangladeshi nationals. • Change of Profile of Border Areas- Continuous influx of illegal migrants has resulted in a change of profile of the border areas. • Human Trafficking. • Smuggling of Cattles, drugs, arms, fake currency and gold.
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free movement regime (FMR)-misuse of FMR for insurgency in North East. • Proximity to the Golden triangle creates the challenge of drug trafficking. • Porous border with weak infrastructure along the border area. • Hardship in border patrolling due to difficult terrain and dense forests. • illegal migration due to Rohingya crisis
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misuse of open border by local criminal gangs and external state actors (China, Pakistan) for destabilising India. • Smuggling of arm and ammunition. • illegal immigration for economic reasons, • Territory dispute like Kalapani, Susta.
Bhutan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tri-junction dispute. • Use of Bhutan territory by insurgent groups for anti-India activity. • Porous Border leads to Smuggling of goods such as Bhutanese cannabis, liquor, and forest products.



CONTEXT: Tensions on Loc were high with reports of small arms firing at different locations.



Government Initiatives

Sealing the border with Pakistan using smart technology-aided fence will be in place by December next year.

KIREN RIJU Minister of state for home affairs

Underlining Role of Technology

<p>Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) to be deployed on Pakistan border</p> <p>CIBMS integrates manpower, sensors and command & control to facilitate quick responses</p>	<p>CIBMS will counter infiltration and cross-border terror attacks by using technology that can detect infiltration via land, underwater, air and tunnels</p>	<p>ITBP's operational requirements include better road network on LAC</p>
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Border villages with sparse population, limited connectivity and infra often get left out. Such villages will be covered under a new **Vibrant Villages programme**.

The activities will include construction of infra, housing, tourist centres, road connectivity, and support for their livelihood generation. Additional funding for these activities will be provided.



Launch of BOLD-QIT project in Dhubri, Assam by Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh



Project BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) comes under CIBMS (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management system) on India-Bangladesh border

In January, 2018, IT Wing of BSF undertook the project BOLD-QIT

Includes technical systems under the CIBMS which enables BSF to equip Indo-Bangla borders with different kind of sensors

The Government of India approves the continuation of the Central Sector Umbrella Scheme of "Border Infrastructure and Management" from 2021-22 to 2025-26, at a cost of Rs.13,020 crore.

It will strengthen the border infrastructure for improving border management, policing, and guarding the borders.

The BIM scheme will help in the creation of infrastructures such as the construction of border fences, border floodlights, technological solutions, border roads, and Border Outposts (BOPs)/Company Operating Bases.



CONTEXT: Tensions on Loc were high with reports of small arms firing at different locations.

Way Forward

- **Addressing Administrative Challenges : G.P. Bhatnagar Comm.**
- **Addressing Infrastructural Bottlenecks**
- **Technological Integration :**
Biometric Identification,
Non-Invasive Inspection
- **Enhanced Surveillance:** cameras
and intrusion detectors
- **Cross-Border Collaboration:**
Sharing information
- **Border Area Development:.**
- **Inter Ministerial Collaboration:**
Madhukar Gupta Committee

Mains PYQs

Q.The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by our adversaries across the borders. to ferry arms / ammunition, drugs, etc., is a serious threat to the internal security. Comment on the measures being taken to tackle this threat. (2023)

Q.What are the maritime security challenges in India? Discuss the organizational, technical and procedural initiatives taken to improve the maritime security. (2022)

Q.For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favourable perception among locals. (2020)

Q.Border management is a complex task due to difficult terrain and hostile relations with some countries. Elucidate the challenges and strategies for effective border management. (2016)

Q.How illegal transborder migration does pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this, bring out the factors which give impetus to such migration. (2014)

Q.How far are India's internal security challenges linked with border management, particularly in view of the long porous borders with most countries of South Asia and Myanmar? (2013)

Mains Practice Question

What are the major challenges India faces in managing its vast and diverse borders, and what measures can be taken to strengthen border security?

(10 Marks, 150 words)



Syllabus: GS Paper 2: India and its Neighbourhood, Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests
Newspaper : Indian Express, Page No. 11

IN RETALIATION to the Pahalgam terror attack, India has decided to hold the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 (IWT) "in abeyance", as well as a slew of other diplomatic measures. Pakistan too has said that it "shall exercise the

Law on treaties

The term "hold in abeyance" does not find a mention in the Vienna Convention on the

Law of Treaties of 1969 (VCLT), a multilateral treaty which regulates treaties among nations. The VCLT recognises "termination" or "suspension" of treaties, with Article 62 providing "fundamental change of circumstances" as grounds for termination.

Simla Agreement & LoC

The agreement signed in 1972, in the aftermath of the 1971 India-Pakistan war (which Pakistan lost), primarily deals with two things: how bilateral relations are to be

conducted, and the recognition of the Line of Control (LoC) as the de facto border.

"Pending the final settlement of any of the problems between the two countries, neither side shall unilaterally alter the situation and both shall prevent... any acts detrimental to the maintenance of peaceful and harmonious relations," the agreement states.

The agreement does not have legally binding obligations, but contains what is commonly referred to as "best endeavour clauses". But Pakistan has never truly endeavoured to abide by the agreement — it has repeatedly violated the ceasefire, tried to annex positions on the Indian side of the LoC in Kargil in 1999, and frequently sponsored non-state actors to breach India's sovereignty.

For all intents and purposes, the Simla Agreement has been dead for a long time. In fact, even the ongoing suspension of talks between the two nations can be seen as a breach of the Simla Agreement. Pakistan suspending the treaty only means that it no longer recognises the LoC.

TASHKENT DECLARATION

The President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India, having met at Tashkent and having discussed the existing relations between Pakistan and India, hereby declare their firm resolve to restore normal and peaceful relations between their countries and to promote understanding and friendly relations between their peoples. They consider the attainment of these objectives of vital importance for the welfare of the 600 million people of Pakistan and India.

I
The President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India agree that both sides will exert all efforts to create good neighbourly relations between Pakistan and India in accordance with the United Nations Charter. They reaffirm their obligation under the Charter not to have recourse to force and to settle their disputes through peaceful means. They considered that the interests of peace in their region and particularly in the Indo-Pakistan Sub-Continent and, indeed, the interests of the peoples of Pakistan and India were not served by the continuance of tension between the two countries. It was against this background that Jammu and Kashmir was discussed, and each of the sides set forth its respective position.

II
The President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India have agreed that all armed personnel of the two countries shall be withdrawn not later than 25 February 1966 to the positions they held prior to 5 August 1965, and both sides shall observe the cease-fire terms on the cease-fire line.

III
The President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India have agreed that relations between Pakistan and India shall be based on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of each other.

IV
The President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India have agreed that both sides will discourage any propaganda directed against the other country, and will encourage propaganda which promotes the development of friendly relations between the two countries.

V
The President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India have agreed that the High Commissioner of Pakistan to India and the High Commissioner of India to Pakistan will return to their posts and that the normal functioning of diplomatic missions of both countries will be restored. Both Governments shall observe the Vienna Convention of 1961 on Diplomatic Intercourse.

Tashkent, 10 January 1966

VI
The President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India have agreed to consider measures towards the restoration of economic and trade relations, communications, as well as cultural exchanges between Pakistan and India.

VII
The President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India have agreed that they give instructions to their respective authorities to carry out the repatriation of the prisoners of war.

VIII
The President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India have agreed that the sides will continue the discussion of questions relating to the problems of refugees and evictions/illegal immigrations. They also agreed that both sides will create conditions which will prevent the exodus of people. They further agreed to discuss the return of the property and assets taken over by either side in connection with the conflict.

IX
The President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India have agreed that the sides will continue meetings both at the highest and at other levels on matters of direct concern to both countries. Both sides have recognized the need to set up joint Pakistani-Indian bodies which will report to their Governments in order to decide what further steps should be taken.

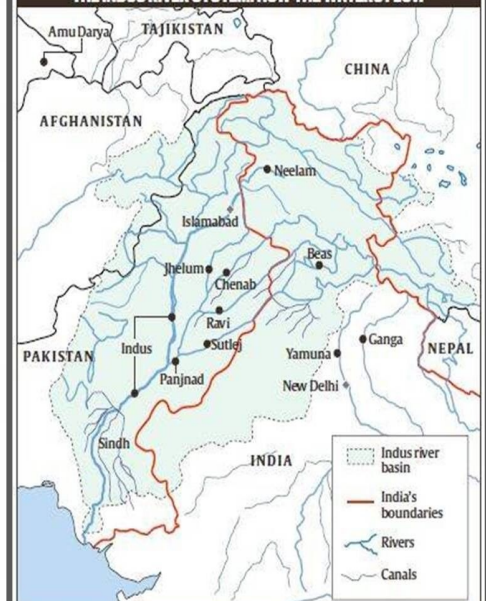
• • •
The President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India record their feelings of deep appreciation and gratitude to the leaders of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Government and personally to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. for their constructive, friendly and noble part in bringing about the present meeting which has resulted in mutually satisfactory results. They also express to the Government and friendly people of Uzbekistan their sincere thankfulness for their overwhelming reception and generous hospitality.

They invite the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. to witness this Declaration.

PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN

PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

THE INDUS RIVER SYSTEM: HOW THE WATERS FLOW



EASTERN RIVERS

Sutlej, Beas, Ravi

11 cubic km

Annual flow before entering Pakistan.

India has full rights on all waters. Pakistan can use whatever flows into its territory.

WESTERN RIVERS

Indus, Jhelum, Chenab

232.5 cubic km

Annual flow before entering Pakistan.

India can use only about 62.2 cubic km; 170.3 cubic km reserved for Pakistan.

TOTAL AREA OF INDUS BASIN:

11.65 lakh sq km

47% in Pakistan

39% in India,

8% in China,

6% in Afghanistan.

Source: India Water Resources Information system

Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Bilateral Groupings & Agreements, Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests

Newspaper : Indian Express, Page No. 11

Earlier this week, Trump pressed Ukraine to accept a peace deal under which the US would reportedly recognise Crimea — which Russia seized in 2014 — as Russian territory.

Formally accepting Crimea as part of Russia would reverse a major American foreign policy position.

Experts have pointed out that while it may be acceptable — even reasonable under the circumstances — to concede an indefinite illegal occupation of Crimea, it is quite another thing to officially condone a change of Ukraine's national borders by force.

The importance of Crimea

Geography is a key determinant of what makes a place strategically valuable. At very few places in the world does this statement ring truer than in Crimea, whose strategic value arises not only out of its own geography, but that of the larger Russian Federation.

QUEST FOR WARM WATER PORTS: Russia's coastline stretches more than 37,000 km. However, much of it is to the north of the Arctic Circle, where sea ice makes many Russian ports unusable in the winter. As such, the quest for warm water ports has guided centuries of Russian foreign policy.

"The history of Russia may be written in terms of its search for ocean ports. The Russian Bear will not be content until it finds warm water...." the geographer George Babcock Cressey wrote in his influential book, *The Basis of Soviet Strength* (1945).

GATEWAY TO MEDITERRANEAN: The Black Sea is by far the warmest marine feature bordering Russia. It is also the only way for Russia to directly access the Mediterranean Sea — through the vital Turkish-controlled Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits — and by extension, southern Europe, Africa, West Asia, and beyond.

More than a century ago, in 1913, Sergey Sazonov, then Foreign Minister of Russia, told



that state" (quoted by John A Morrison in *'Russia and Warm Water'* published in *US Naval Institute Proceedings* in 1952). Since the late 18th century, Russia has projected power and secured its access to the Mediterranean with its Black Sea Fleet military unit.

IMPORTANCE OF SEVASTOPOL: The Black Sea ports of Sochi and Novorossiysk, in the Krasnodar Krai in southern Russia, are fairly shallow and require ships to moor offshore. This makes them less-than-ideal bases for the Black Sea Fleet, unlike its historic home: the deep water port of Sevastopol in Crimea.

Sevastopol lies at the heart of Crimea's importance to Moscow, especially since the disintegration of the Soviet Union. In the 1990s, control over Sevastopol was central to the tensions between Russia and nascent Ukraine. Out of negotiations to manage these tensions arose the Kharkiv Pact of 1997, which gave Crimea to Ukraine but allowed Russia to keep control of Sevastopol until 2017. In 2010, the lease was extended up to 2042, before Russia pulled out of the treaty in 2014.

Context in current war

In 2014, a massive pro-Western political movement ousted then President Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine, who was seen in his country as a Russian puppet. Yanukovich fled Ukraine on February 22 that year, and Russian forces took control of Crimean strategic sites days later.

In mid-March 2014, after Crimean authorities declared independence and asked

primary considerations.

FIRST, Russia wanted to secure control over Sevastopol. The renewal of the lease in 2010 was extremely unpopular among the sections of Ukrainians who had overthrown Yanukovich and taken control of the country. The Kremlin could not have allowed the new government in Kyiv the time to consolidate and consider action on Sevastopol.

SECOND, the new pro-West dispensation that took power in Kyiv following the Maidan Revolution was expected to push to join NATO, as other former Warsaw Pact members including Romania and Bulgaria, also on the Black Sea, had already done.

Ukraine joining the US-led, anti-Russia military alliance would leave Russia deeply vulnerable in the Black Sea, once regarded as a "Soviet lake". Taking full control of Crimea was vital in the context of a possible future invasion of Ukraine, for which the peninsula would provide the required foothold and launchpad.

Putin finally invaded eight years later — in February 2022. Apart from the larger insecurity with the possible expansion of NATO to its doorstep, Crimea played a crucial role in Russia's decision.

THE QUESTION OF WATER: Crimea is arid, with insufficient rainfall to meet the needs of its roughly 2.5 million population. So the erstwhile USSR had built the 400-km-long North Crimean Canal to carry the water of the Dnieper river from mainland Ukraine to the peninsula.

Soon after Russia annexed Crimea in

Rutland wrote for *Responsible Statecraft*, the online magazine of the Washington-based Quincy Institute.

The city of Kherson, on the western bank of the Dnieper, is currently under Ukrainian control. But Russia occupies much of the territory in the oblast to the east of the river — and effectively controls the fate of the North Crimean Canal.

Donald Trump's proposal

Crimea had been part of Russia's empire for hundreds of years until 1954, when the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev transferred control over the peninsula to Kyiv as a "gift". Putin does not accept this, and Trump's proposal backs and legitimises his position. By freezing Ukraine's political map as it stands today, the US will secure Crimea — and the canal — for Moscow for the long term.

"We are ready to reach a deal," Sergey Lavrov, Russia's Foreign Minister, said in an interview aired on CBS News on Thursday.

Two days previously, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine had said that no deal that would have Ukraine ceding any of its territory was acceptable. "There's nothing to talk about here. This is against our constitution," he said on Tuesday.

Commentators have noted that it would be geopolitical suicide for Ukraine to accept Trump's proposal — for once Putin and his army have won a breather, Russia is certain to move to conquer all of Ukraine. Others have circled back to the concern that making such a concession to Russia would set a precedent for China to walk into Taiwan.

Back in 2022, then Senator Marco Rubio of Florida had co-sponsored a legislative measure that barred the US from recognising any Russian claims on Ukrainian land because that would "risk establishing a dangerous precedent for other authoritarian regimes, like the Chinese Communist Party to imitate."

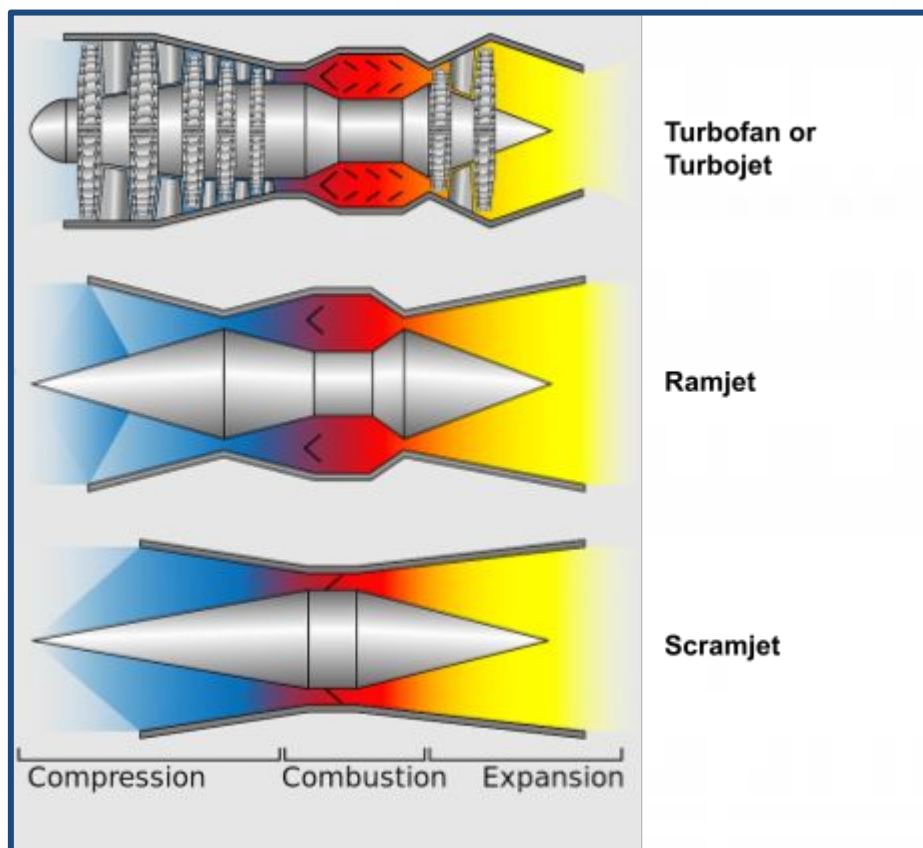


Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Achievements of Indians in Science & Technology, Defence Technology, Indigenization of Technology

Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No. 10**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Friday announced a significant milestone in the field of hypersonic weapon technology with the demonstration of long-duration Active Cooled Scramjet Subscale Combustor ground testing for more than 1,000 seconds.

“The ground-test is in continuation of the earlier test reported for 120 seconds in January 2025. With the successful test, the system will be soon ready for full-scale flight-worthy combustor testing,” the DRDO said in a statement. “This test validates the design of long duration scramjet combustor as well as test facility.”



Feature	Turbojet	Ramjet	Scramjet
Compression	Uses compressor blades	Uses shock waves (no moving parts)	Uses shock waves (no moving parts)
Speed Range	Subsonic to Supersonic (Mach 0-3+)	Supersonic (Mach 3-6)	Hypersonic (Mach 5+)
Oxidizer	Atmospheric air	Atmospheric air	Atmospheric air
Moving Parts	Yes (turbine, compressor)	No	No
Ignition	Self-sustaining (spark/fuel mix)	Requires high-speed air intake	Needs supersonic Airflow-combustion
Applications	Fighter jets, airliners	Missiles, UAVs	Hypersonic



Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Poverty, Important International Institutions
Newspaper : Indian Express, Page No. 14

**EMMA FARGE
& NIDAL AL-MUGHRABI**
GENEVA, APRIL 25

THE WORLD Food Programme said on Friday it had run out of food stocks in Gaza due to the sustained closure of crossings into the enclave, while Gaza authorities said Israeli airstrikes had killed at least 78 people in the past 24 hours.

"The WFP has depleted all its food stocks for families in Gaza," a WFP statement said, adding the U.N. agency on Friday delivered its last remaining food stocks to hot meals kitchens in Gaza.

"These kitchens are expected to fully run out of food in the coming days," it added.

The agency said no humanitarian or commercial supplies



Palestinians carry the body of a child killed in an Israeli strike, at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis on Thursday. Reuters

had entered Gaza for more than seven weeks as all main border

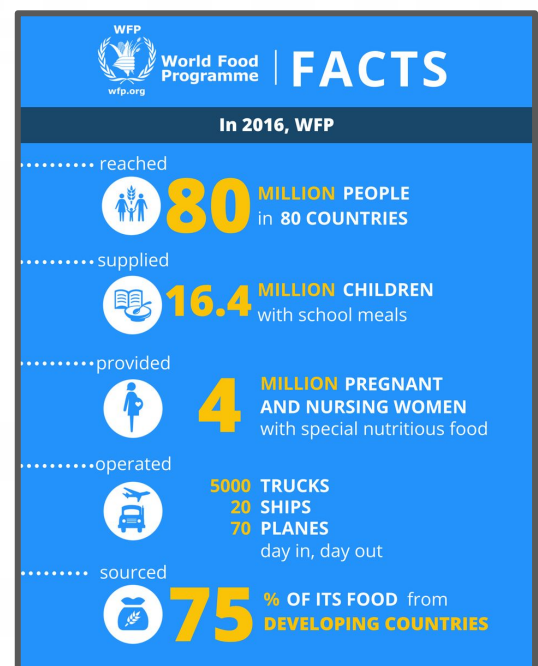
crossing points remained closed, resulting in the longest closure

the Gaza Strip had ever faced. Israel has previously denied that Gaza is facing a hunger crisis. The military accuses the Hamas militants who have run Gaza of exploiting aid - which Hamas denies - and says it must keep all supplies out to prevent the fighters from getting it.

Since March 2, Israel completely cut off all supplies to the 2.3 million residents of the Gaza Strip, and food stockpiled during a ceasefire at the start of the year has all but run out. WFP warned that if the aid blockage was not lifted it might be forced to end critical aid.

On March 31, all 25 WFP-supported bakeries closed after wheat flour and cooking fuel ran out, while parcels giving families two weeks of food rations were depleted. **REUTERS**

- **UN agency** fighting hunger.
- Funded by **UN members, donors, governments**.
- Works with UN bodies like **FAO, UNICEF**.
- Reports to **UN General Assembly, ECOSOC** annually.
- Part of **UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- Supports **UN peacekeeping missions** with food aid.
- Collaborates with UNHCR for refugee food security.
- Headquartered in Rome, like **UN's FAO**.
- **Nobel Peace Prize 2020**.



Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Judiciary
Newspaper : Indian Express, Page No. 7

THE SUPREME Court Friday took stern exception to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's comments against Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar, even as it stayed the criminal defamation proceedings against him before a Lucknow court over the remarks.

"You don't treat freedom fighters like this..." a bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan told Gandhi, cautioning it would initiate suo motu proceedings against him if he repeated such statements.

Justice Datta told to senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for Gandhi: "Does your client know Mahatma Gandhi also used 'your faithful servant' while addressing the viceroy? Does your client know that his grandmother, when she was the Prime

The Lucknow court had summoned Gandhi following a complaint by advocate Nripendra Pandey, who alleged that in 2022, while in Maharashtra, Gandhi had called Savarkar a "servant of British" who "received a pension from them".

Though he challenged this before the Allahabad High Court, the same was rejected by the high court on April 4, 2024.

WHAT IS DEFAMATION?

- Defamation means harming someone's reputation by making a false and derogatory statement against him/her without any lawful justification. It can be by spoken words (slander) or written words (libel)
- To constitute defamation, publication of the alleged statement is must. A single statement can give rise to both civil and criminal defamation
- Criminal defamation is codified in the Indian Penal Code Section 499 and punishment of up to two years in jail is prescribed in Section 500 IPC
- Intention to harm reputation is must for an act to qualify as criminal defamation
- Even truth is not a complete defence. It is imperative to prove that the alleged defamatory statement was made for public good

- Civil defamation** can be libel (through writing) or slander (spoken word), based on tort law (law imposing civil liability).
 - Punishable with **financial compensation**, damages are computed based on probabilities.
- In criminal cases**, defamation must be proven beyond reasonable doubt.
- Section 499 of the Indian Penal Code (criminal defamation) says:**
 - "Whoever, by words or by signs or by visible representations, makes or publishes any imputation concerning any person intending to harm the reputation of such person, is said to defame that person."
 - Criminal defamation can attract a jail term up to two years**, with or without fine (Section 500 IPC).



Q1. Regarding the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in India, consider the following statements:

1. MSP is announced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare before the sowing season of crops.
2. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommends MSPs for both Kharif and Rabi crops.
3. MSP is legally binding on private traders to procure crops at or above the announced price.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q2. Regarding the land borders of India, consider the following statements:

1. India shares its longest land border with China.
2. Sikkim shares its borders with Bhutan and Nepal but not with Bangladesh.
3. Arunachal Pradesh shares a land border with three countries.

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

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

Answer: b

Q3. Regarding the World Food Programme (WFP), consider the following statements:

1. It is the food assistance branch of the United Nations.
2. It was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.
3. India is a permanent member of its Executive Board.

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

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Black Sea region:

1. Crimea is a peninsula located on the northern coast of the Black Sea.
2. The Bosphorus Strait connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara.
3. The Bosphorus Strait forms a natural boundary between Europe and Asia.

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

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

Answer: c

Q5. Regarding Ramjet and Scramjet engines, consider the following statements:

1. Both Ramjet and Scramjet engines operate without any moving parts.
2. Ramjet engines can operate efficiently at subsonic speeds.
3. Scramjets are capable of operating at hypersonic speeds by allowing supersonic airflow through the engine.

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: b





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