



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

21st May 2025



3-year rule: A setback to judiciary aspirants

CONTEXT: On May 20, 2025, the Supreme Court of India mandated that candidates must have a minimum of three years of legal practice to be eligible for entry-level judicial services examinations.

Supreme Court restores rule mandating 3-year law practice for judicial service

The court cited the experience of high courts over 20 years since the 2002 order and added that the recruitment of just law graduates has not been successful.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM SC RULING

➤ Directed all High Courts and state governments to amend recruitment rules accordingly

➤ The requirement will not apply to any recruitment already notified or initiated before May 20, 2025

➤ The court emphasized that bookish knowledge and training cannot substitute for real courtroom experience



➤ Candidates must now produce a certificate of legal practice from a senior advocate or judicial officer

➤ The ruling overruled a 2002 decision that had allowed fresh law graduates to apply

- **Practical Court Skills** – Hands-on litigation experience.
- **Client Understanding** – Real-case interactions.
- **Professional Maturity** – Develops patience, ethics.
- **Reduces Rote Dependency** – Focus on application, not just theory.
- **Court Efficiency** – Less time wasted on basics.

Year	Event
1958	14th Law Commission Report recommended 3–5 years of practice for lower judiciary; fresh graduates for AIJS with training.
1993	SC in All India Judges' Association v. UoI mandated 3 years of legal practice for judicial service eligibility.
2002	Justice Shetty Commission led to SC removing the 3-year practice requirement to attract young talent.
2025	SC reinstated the 3-year practice rule, emphasizing the need for practical experience.



3-year rule: A setback to judiciary aspirants



CONTEXT: On May 20, 2025, the Supreme Court of India mandated that candidates must have a minimum of three years of legal practice to be eligible for entry-level judicial services examinations.

WHY SUPREME COURT MADE 3 YEARS OF LEGAL PRACTICE MANDATORY FOR ENTRY TO JUDICIAL SERVICE?

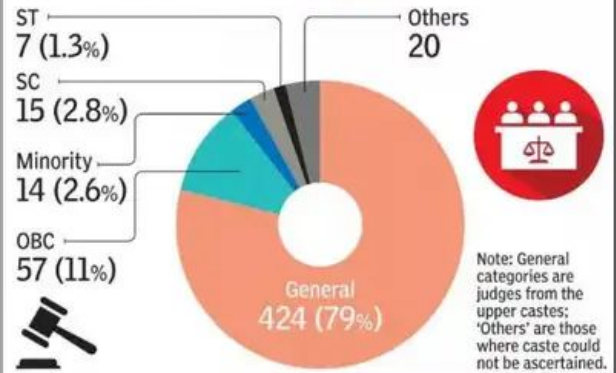
- ✓ Appointment of fresh law graduates as judges has led to problems, says Court.
- ✓ Judges, from the very day they assume service, deal with matters of life, liberty, property, etc. It cannot be answered only by knowledge of books.
- ✓ Judicial service entrants must undergo a year of training before presiding in a court, Court adds.



2.6% JUDGES FROM MINORITY COMMUNITY

Upper castes dominate higher judiciary

(Judges appointed in high courts: 2018-22)



Impact on Talent & Diversity

- **NLU Graduates Opt Out:** Prefer corporate jobs.
- **High Education Cost:** ₹12-₹40 lakh; leads to loan pressure.
- **Immediate Income Need:** 3-year wait deters bright minds.
- **Marginalized Groups Affected:** SC/ST/OBC, women face barriers.
- **Gender Setback:** Bihar exam—9 of top 10 were women; participation may drop.

Financial Burden

- **Low Stipend:** ₹15k (rural), ₹20k (urban) for juniors.
- **Wage Disparity:** Unskilled workers in Delhi earn ₹18.4k/month.
- **Exclusion of Poor:** Only wealthy can afford unpaid practice.

Procedural Challenges

- **Irregular Exams:** Delays after 3-year wait.
- **Uncertain Timeline:** No fixed exam schedule.
- **Civil Service Contrast:** More structured, predictable process.

Way Forward :

Eligibility Reform

- **Include Fresh Graduates:** Add 2+ years training instead.
- **Probation Model:** Under Judges & Senior Lawyers.

Exam Overhaul

- **Reduce Rote Focus.**

Balance Skills & Talent

- **Attract Bright Minds.**
- **Training ≠ Practice:** Structured training can build real-world skills.
- Early talent capture + strong training = efficient judiciary.
- **Best Practices :** France, Germany



Scheme-Based Workers, the Struggle for an Identity

CONTEXT: A write up has appeared covering various aspects of scheme based workers.

Background:

60 million scheme-based workers (SBWs):

- **Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)** – 13.5 lakh
- **Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs)** – 9.2 lakh
- **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs)** – 10.5 lakh
- **Mid-Day Meal Workers (MDMWs)** – 25.1 lakh

How ASHA Workers Helped During Covid-19

- India has over **1 million** ASHA workers
- ASHA workers are the first line of defence in India's fight against Covid-19
- During the pandemic, their work included visiting the community, ensuring quarantines, bring medicines and supplies, in addition to taking care of those with palliative needs
- Some **6 lakh** of them went on strike in August to demand better pay and recognition as permanent government employees

The Foot Soldiers

2005: Government of India's National Rural Health Mission launched an Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) programme



1 million-plus: Number of ASHA workers in India

1 ASHA worker for 1,000 people (ratio)



₹4,000-4,500 Approximate salary per month

Responsibilities

Health educator, implementing government schemes on ground, promoting family planning, facilitating services like antenatal check-ups, post-natal check-ups, immunisation, sanitisation, promoting hygiene, conducting surveys, monitoring Covid-19 patients, taking patients to hospitals and convincing villagers for Covid-19 vaccination, among others

Challenges

Walking on foot, at least for 15 km every day; greater responsibilities and low salaries, delayed incentives; lack of PPE kits/gloves, and other difficulties

NEED TO Rethink their Compensation Plan?



9,00,000+ ASHA workers in India

India spends only 1.6% of its GDP on public health care



	Pre Covid	Post Covid
Work	2-3 hours/day	9-10 hours/day
Pay	₹2000-10,000/month varies as per State	₹2000-10,000/month + 1000 Covid 19 stipend

★ not enough. doesn't make up for the work they do



66% of India's 1.3 billion people live in Rural areas

Unavailability of Safety kits



In August 2020, more than 6 lakh ASHA workers went on strike, demanding a raise in pay, timely payment, access to better protective equipment

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme



Serving Children of 0-6 years and Pregnant & Lactating Mothers

Supplementary Nutrition

Immunization

Pre-School Education

Health Check-ups

Health & Nutrition Education

Referral Services



Scheme-Based Workers, the Struggle for an Identity

CONTEXT: A write up has appeared covering various aspects of scheme based workers.

Salient features of the Mid Day Meal Scheme in schools

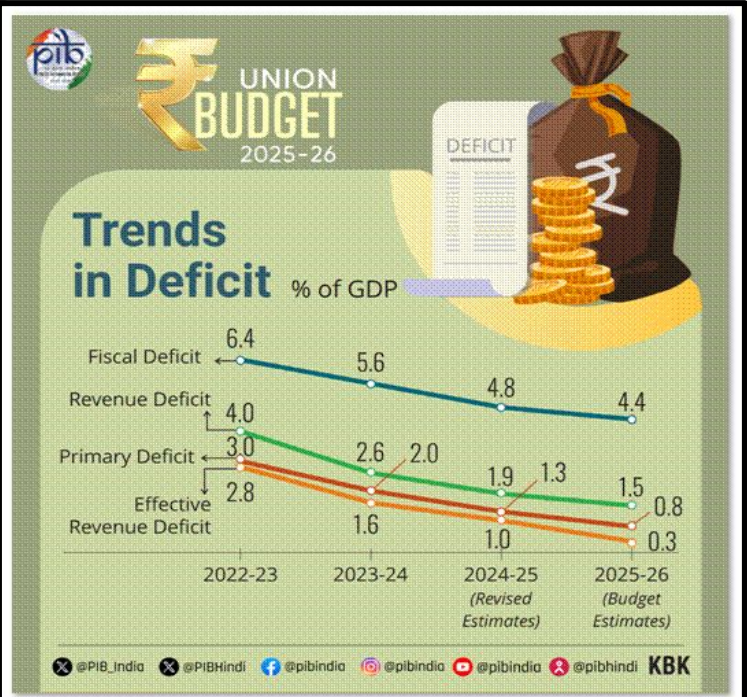
- ❖ Mid day meal scheme extended from Pre-primary to Senior Secondary Level under State Share and Primary to Upper Primary under Central Share.
- ❖ Hot Cooked meal is served to all school going children
- ❖ MDM scheme is implemented through District Panchayat
- ❖ Food items are procured from the Co-operative societies on credit basis.
- ❖ Panchayat members, SMC/MPTA over see the scheme in each island.
- ❖ Constituted U.T Level/District Level/Island level Steering cum Monitoring Committees.
- ❖ Under School Health Programme: De-worming and iron & folic acid tablets distributed by teachers with guidance of Health Department staff.



Narendra Modi
@narendramodi



Delighted that the entire team of ASHA workers have been conferred the @WHO Director-General's Global Health Leaders' Award. Congratulations to all ASHA workers. They are at the forefront of ensuring a healthy India. Their dedication and determination is admirable.



Challenges Faced by Them:

- No worker status — Denied official recognition
- Low wages — Below minimum standards
- Lack social security — No pension or insurance
- Irregular payments — Delayed or inconsistent salaries
- Limited career growth — No formal promotions
- Violence- Lack of safe environment
- Frequent strikes needed — To demand rights

Recent relief:

- **2022 SC:** Anganwadis eligible for gratuity.
- **2024 Gujarat HC:** Regularise AWWs/AWHs or pay minimum wages.

Why No worker Status?

- Cost Implications
- Nature of Job/recruitment
- Privatizations

Way Forward :

- **Recognize worker status** — Grant official employee rights, Tests, trainings
- **Ensure minimum wages** — Uniform pay across states
- **Provide social security** — Pension, health insurance, PF
- **Regularize employment** — Convert to permanent govt jobs
- **Strengthen training** — Skill development programs
- **Enhance dialogue** — Tripartite forums for negotiation
- **Adopt global models** — Brazil's Bolsa Família, Kerala, Tamil Nadu



SYLLABUS : GS 3: Infrastructure
Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 13

Everybody has their favorite way of travelling. Usually, the choice of the mode of transport is driven by convenience, comfort, and cost. But things are changing around the world for a completely different reason. There is growing interest in what experts call a “modal shift” – moving people and goods from roads and flights to railways – that could have a big impact on the environment, traffic, and even the economy.

This matters because cars, buses, and trucks are significant sources of CO2 and other greenhouse gases (GHG) that cause global warming. In fact, transport causes nearly a quarter of the world’s energy-related carbon emissions. Road transport is the biggest culprit, whereas rains are much cleaner. For example, trains produce only about 19 grams of carbon dioxide for each passenger per kilometre – compared to 63 grams for buses, 123 grams for aeroplanes, and 148 grams for cars. Freight carried by train is also much more efficient.

Despite the environmental benefits, rail use is going down worldwide. Between 2007 and 2021, the share of freight moved by train fell from 51 per cent to 40 per cent globally. For passengers, the share dropped

from 12 per cent to 8 per cent. This loss is mainly because road transport is growing fast, especially in countries like India and China. If this trend continues, emissions from the transport sector in lower-income countries could cause a 16 per cent rise in GHG emissions. But if more freight and passengers switch to rail, we could prevent up to 1.8 billion tons of carbon emissions by 2050. The European Union is setting an example with policies to move freight from roads to rail or ships. It aims to shift 30 per cent of road freight to rail or ship transport by 2030 and over 50 per cent by 2050. China is trying to shift freight transport to rail and has already seen less road traffic and a cleaner environment as a result.

India has one of the largest railway networks in the world, and many people and goods already travel by train. However, the shift toward road transport is also happening here because improvements in infrastructure have made it easier to travel by road. The Government of India is trying to turn this around. The National Rail Plan aims to boost the freight modal share of railways to 45 per cent by 2030 with significant investments in Dedicated Freight

Corridors. A similar plan is needed to increase the passenger modal share of rail. It is worth noting that the Metro rail systems in cities like Delhi and Mumbai are driving a significant modal shift within their limited scope. The Delhi Metro alone is claimed to have removed over five lakh vehicles from the road daily in 2021, cutting CO2 emissions by at least 23.82 grams per km traveled. In Mumbai, the metro and mono-rail modal share is projected to rise from 2 per cent to 36 per cent, reducing motor vehicle use from 35 per cent to 24 per cent.

A modal shift from road to rail is crucial for India, which is one of the world’s largest GHG emitters, with 14 per cent coming from the transport sector alone. India plans to attain net zero status by 2070, which will require drastic cuts in GHG emissions from all sectors, including transport.

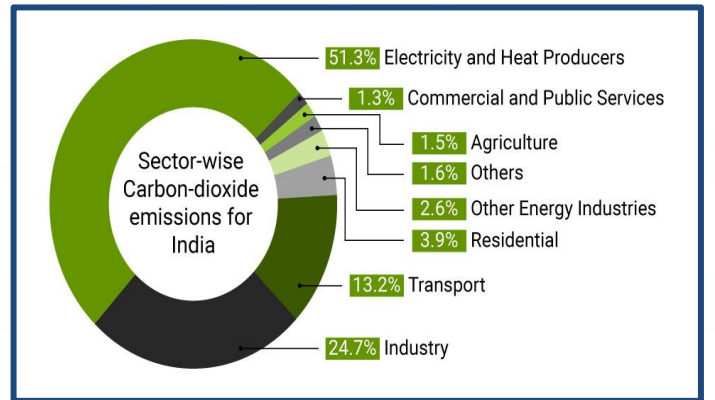
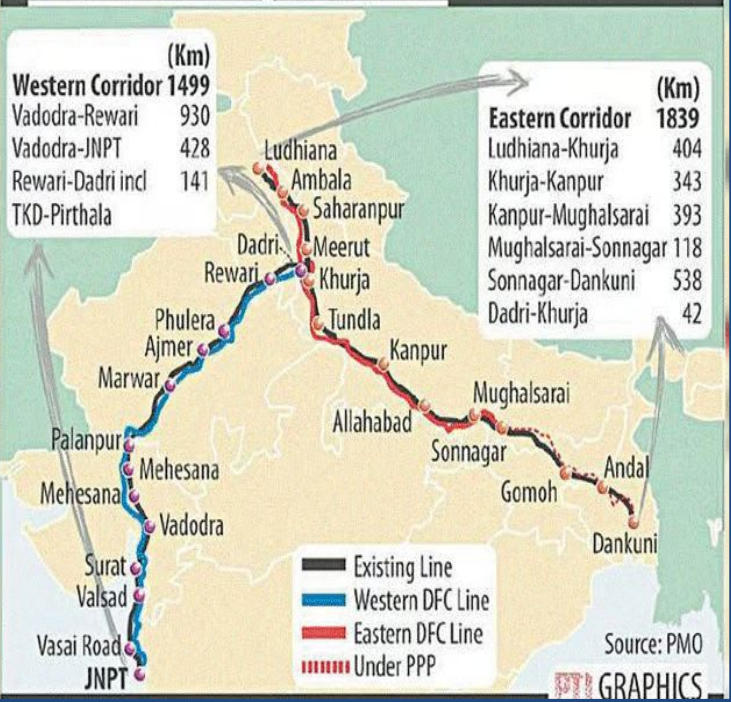
India can also earn carbon credits by proving that the modal shift is reducing emissions through more rail use. These credits can be sold internationally to help fund more green projects. But there are strict rules to follow – such as proving the emissions savings would not have occurred without extra investment and ensuring no one

else is already counting those savings. Delhi Metro used this method in the past, but it meant India could not count those emission reductions toward its national climate goals. So, future projects must carefully balance local benefits with international opportunities. Also, because trains are increasingly electric, India must also clean up its electricity sources. Running trains on coal-powered electricity does not help but using renewable energy like solar and wind does.

Shifting transportation from roads to rail is not just about trains but about building a cleaner, safer, and sustainable future. India has a huge opportunity to lead this change, reducing emissions while boosting its economy and improving daily life. With thoughtful planning and investment, this shift can help meet climate goals and serve as an example for the world.

Singhal is assistant professor, Electrical Engineering, Rathore is assistant professor, Atmospheric Sciences, Abhyankar is NTPC Chair Professor, Electrical Engineering and Baidya Roy is Rockefeller Foundation Chair Professor, Atmospheric Sciences, IIT Delhi. Views are personal

Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor



Jal Jeevan Mission

SYLLABUS : GS 2: Government Policies and Intervention
Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 1

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
 NEW DELHI, MAY 20

ON MONDAY, the Government issued an order for 100 inspection teams to fan out across 135 districts in 29 states and Union Territories to review the work being carried out under its flagship Jal Jeevan Mission for supplying drinking water through individual tap connections to ru-

ral households – amid concerns within the administration over cost overruns and alleged lapses in award of tenders.

An investigation by *The Indian Express* of the data uploaded by states and UTs in the Jal Jeevan Mission dashboard has revealed that a crucial change in the tender guidelines three years ago lifted the check on expenditure, and led to cost escalations. This resulted in additional

COST OVERRUNS

	SCHEMES	ESTIMATED COST (₹ CR)*	DISCOVERED COST (₹ CR)**	COST HIKE
₹1,000 cr & above	24	34,421	40,312	17%
₹500 cr-₹999 cr	33	18,362	22,212	21%
₹100 cr-₹499 cr	133	27,784	31,274	13%
₹50 cr-₹99 cr	92	6,028	6,590	9%
₹25 cr- ₹50 cr	165	5,254	5,683	8%
Below ₹25 cr	14,139	23,620	26,235	11%

*Estimated cost is arrived at by govt before project is bid out; **Discovered cost is final cost approved by govt

Jal Jeevan Mission - Har Ghar Jal

Ministry of Jal Sakthi.
Centrally sponsored Scheme.

Objective: 'No one is left out', thus ensuring tap water supply to every rural home by 2024

JAL JEEVAN MISSION

- Piped water supply to all rural households by 2024
- Integrated demand and supply side management of water at the local level
- Creation of local infrastructure for rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household waste water for reuse in agriculture
- Will converge with other Central and State Government Schemes

Union Budget 2025: Jal Jeevan Mission gets extension till 2028 with outlay of Rs 67k crore

Jal Jeevan Mission
 Vision - Aligned with SDGs

- Adequate Quantity:** 55 Litres per capita/ day
- Reliability:** Regular and Safe
- Equity & Inclusivity:** No one should be left behind
- Sustainability:** Source, system and financial
- Affordability:** Reasonable user charges
- Quality:** BIS: 10500

JJM is perhaps the world's largest programme to achieve SDG-6 targets ahead of time with 'speed and scale'



WHO Members Adopt 'Pandemic Agreement'

SYLLABUS : GS 2 : Health Sector
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 14

Press Trust of India
 GENEVA

In a move to bolster global collaboration and ensure a stronger and more equitable response to future pandemics, the World Health Organization (WHO) member states on Tuesday unanimously adopted the world's first Pandemic Agreement, marking the culmination of over three years of negotiations initiated in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Governments adopted the WHO Pandemic Agreement in a plenary session of the World Health Assembly, the global health organisation's peak decision-making body.

citizens, societies and economies must not be left vulnerable to again suffer losses like those endured during COVID-19," he said.

The landmark decision by the 78th World Health Assembly is the culmination of more than three years of intensive negotiations launched by governments in response to the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and driven by the goal of making the world safer from – and more equitable in response to – future pandemics, the release said.

The agreement sets out the principles, approaches and tools for better international coordination across a range of areas, in order to strengthen the global health architecture for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. This includes through the equitable and timely access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.

Category	Details
Primary Goal	Promote global health, coordinate health emergencies, set health standards
Key Functions	- Disease control (e.g., COVID-19, polio) - Health guidelines - Technical support - Emergency health aid
Major Achievements	- Eradication of smallpox (1980) - Near-eradication of polio - Global vaccination drives - Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (2003)

Aspect	Details
Established	April 7, 1948
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
Parent Organization	United Nations (UN)
Director-General	Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (since 2017)
Membership	194 member states (as of 2024)
Budget (2024–25)	~\$6.83 billion (proposed)
Official Languages	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish



The SHIRUI Lily Festival

SYLLABUS : GS I: Art & Culture
Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 14

SUKRITA BARUAH
 NEW DELHI, MAY 20

THE SHIRUI Lily festival returned to Manipur on Tuesday after a two-year break due to the conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities in the state. This is the first major tourism festival to be hosted by Manipur since the start of the conflict in May 2023.

What is the Shirui Lily festival?

The festival is named after the Shirui Lily (*Lilium mackliniae*), which is the state flower of Manipur, and is organised by the state government's Department of Tourism. First held in 2017, it is one of two major tourism festivals held in the state. The other notable festival is named after the Sangai — the brown-antlered deer, Manipur's state animal.

The Shirui Lily festival coincides with the blooming season of the Shirui Lily, a rare flower. Held in Manipur's Ukhrul district, which is home to the Tangkhul Naga commu-



Shirui Lily tourism festival is named after the state flower. *Wikimedia Commons*

nity, the event is designed as an eco-tourism festival to raise awareness about the flower and to promote tourism in the hills of Ukhrul.

The festival includes cultural performances, music concerts, a beauty pageant, a trash collection marathon, and a cooking

competition. This year, it is being held from May 20 to May 25.

What is special about the Shirui Lily?

The Shirui Lily is native to the upper reaches of the Shirui Hill range in Ukhrul. To the local population, the plant is *Kashsong Timrawon* — named after Timrawon, the daughter of the mythical goddess Philava who resides in and protects the Shirui Hill. The botanist Frank Kingdon-Ward identified the flower in 1946 and gave it its scientific name. *Lilium mackliniae* draws from the name of Kingdon-Ward's wife, Jean Macklin.

Over the years, the flower, an endangered species, has faced threats to its habitat. A 2015 paper by scientists from the ICAR Research Complex for the North Eastern Hill Region listed changing climatic conditions, human encroachment and exploitation of natural resources as factors that had "driven the lily population to the verge of extinction".

The researchers also observed that its habitat had been invaded by the dense root

system of a wild dwarf bamboo species.

What is the current situation in the conflict in Manipur?

The festival is being held just a couple of weeks after the conflict in Manipur crossed the two-year mark, and three months into the President's Rule in the state.

While Manipur has not seen active violence between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities since November last year, there are still concerns about the festival, which is being held in "neutral" Naga territory.

Travelling from the state capital of Imphal in the Meitei-majority valley to the festival site requires passing through three Kuki-Zo settlements. This will be the first major movement of people from the valley — from where most festival attendees have gone in the past — to the hill areas of the state in two years.

There have been stray instances of threats against Meiteis travelling through these parts, but the Manipur Police have assured the public that they will ensure safe transit.

Festival	State	Community	Key Significance
Si-Donyi	Arunachal Pradesh	Tagin	Worship of Sun & Earth for peace and prosperity
Dree	Arunachal Pradesh	Apatani	Prayer for good harvest and community well-being
Solung	Arunachal Pradesh	Adi	Harvest rituals and dances
Losar	Arunachal Pradesh	Monpa	Tibetan New Year with religious rituals

Festival	State	Community	Key Significance
Rongali Bihu	Assam	Assamese	Assamese New Year; joy and farming start
Kati Bihu	Assam	Assamese	Lighting lamps in fields for crop protection
Yaoshang	Manipur	Meitei	Holi-like; sports and cultural activities
Lai Haraoba	Manipur	Meitei	Rituals honoring creation and deities
Ningol Chakouba	Manipur	Meitei	Married women return to parental home
Ali-Ai-Ligang	Assam	Mishing	Start of sowing season with dance and feasting

Gangetic Dolphin

SYLLABUS : GS 3: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation
Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 14

A STUDY has revealed alarming levels of toxic chemicals in the Ganga river, threatening the health and survival of the endangered Gangetic dolphin. Published in the journal *Heliyon*, the study by the Wildlife Institute of India found that the mammals are exposed to a hazardous cocktail of endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) through their diet. The endocrine system produces and releases hormones.

Researchers analysed the dietary exposure risks of 39 EDCs in fish species consumed by Gangetic dolphins. The findings indicate significant bioaccumulation of industrial pollutants in the prey base of the dolphins. Residues of banned pesticides like DDT were also detected, pointing to poor enforcement of environmental regulations in the Ganga basin.

EDCs are particularly worrisome as they can disrupt reproductive functions in mammals and persist in the ecosystem. Dolphins' health was found to be at

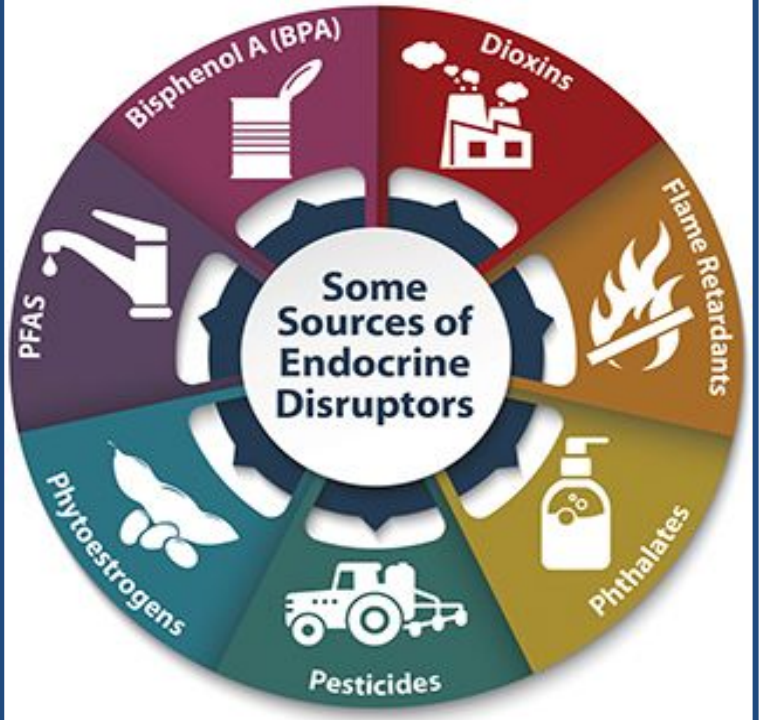
a high risk from pollutants like arsenic, mercury, and cadmium.

With only five species of river dolphins left globally, all of them threatened, the study warned that India could risk a repeat of the Yangtze River tragedy, where a similar species went extinct due to unchecked human activities.

The Gangetic dolphin population has declined by over 50 per cent since 1957, despite being designated as India's national aquatic animal and included under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The study attributed the contamination to several sources: runoff from agriculture, untreated industrial effluents from the textile sector, vehicular emissions, poor solid waste management, and rising tourism in ecologically sensitive areas.

It recommended urgently including these chemicals in dolphin conservation programs and regulating chemical contamination in river ecosystems. PTI



Ganges River Dolphin

(*Platanista gangetica gangetica*)

Aquatic mammal that is a subspecies of the South Asian river dolphin



GEOGRAPHIC RANGE
 Primarily in the Ganga, Brahmaputra, Karnaphuli-Sangu river basins and their tributaries in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh

POPULATION approx. 3,500-4,000

Poor eyesight, almost blind — can only sense light/darkness

WEIGHT
 150 -170 kg



Swim on their sides unlike other cetaceans

Long, pointed beak with sharp, curving teeth visible even when beak is closed (esp. in younger animals)

AKA
 "susu" locally, because of the sound it produces when surfacing/ breathing

EAT
 Fish, shrimp, possibly turtles and birds

HABITAT
 Slow-flowing, freshwater rivers mostly in the plains. Often sighted at river confluences.

LIFESPAN
 18-22 years (in the wild)

SOUND WAVES
 Use echolocation (20-160 kilohertz range) to hunt/find food, avoid boats, and navigate through turbid/murky waters. Use high-frequency clicks to communicate with others.

FEMALES
 • Females larger than males
 • Give birth once every 2-3 years to one calf after 9-10 month gestation period

SOCIAL
 Mostly seen alone or in pairs, but may live in groups of under 10

THREATS

- Increased motorboat traffic
- Dredging to widen and deepen river channels
- Hunting for meat and oil
- Development activities such as construction of dams and barrages
- Entanglement in fishing nets/bycatch
- Pollution from industries and settlements
- Overfishing

CONSERVATION

- Declared India's national aquatic animal
- In 2013, granted non-human personhood with rights
- Project Dolphin started in 2020 to conserve species
- In 1991, Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary set up along the Ganga in Bihar to conserve the species

PROTECTION STATUS: **ENDANGERED** ON THE IUCN RED LIST

Gangetic Dolphin

SYLLABUS : GS 3: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation
Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 14

DID YOU KNOW?

Ganges River Dolphin is the National Aquatic Animal Of India.

Ganges River Dolphin is found only in freshwater.

As the name goes, the Ganges Dolphin are endemic to the river Ganga.

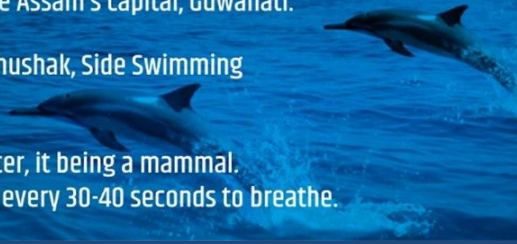
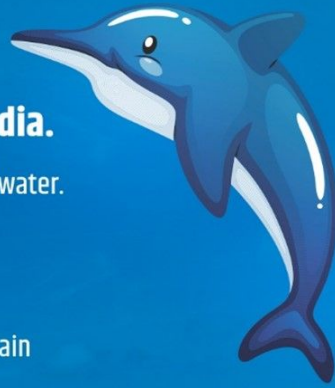
They are at the apex of the aquatic food chain

Ganges River Dolphin along with Indus River Dolphin is the sub-species of South Asian River Dolphin.

It is the official animal of the Assam's capital, Guwahati.

They are also called Susu, Shushak, Side Swimming Dolphin & Blind Dolphin.

It cannot breathe in the water, it being a mammal.
It surfaces above the water every 30-40 seconds to breathe.



THREATS



Sound pollution due to increasing river traffic & accidental deaths by boat propellers



Habitat destruction due to unscientific dredging & sand mining



Construction of dams limiting their natural movement there by making them susceptible to inbreeding



Industrial & human induced pollution causing reduction of prey & habitat destruction



Entanglement in fishing nets causing accidental bycatch and death by suffocation



Illegal hunting for trade in dolphin oil, to be used for fish bait & meat for consumption



Protected under Schedule I, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Declared as non-human person by Govt. of India.

The only Ganges River Dolphin Sanctuary in India is located in Bihar.



GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN

(*Platanista gangetica gangetica*)

India's National Aquatic Animal

Females are larger than males & form small groups. They are not social like other species of dolphins. Ganges River Dolphins are freshwater cetaceans which avoid saltwater and stay near river confluences to hunt for food.



Gives birth to a single calf once every 2-3 years, after a gestation period of 9-10 months

Long pointed snout with curved sharp partly visible teeth used for catching fish



Avg. weight of an adult 150 kg



Avg. lifespan 20 yrs

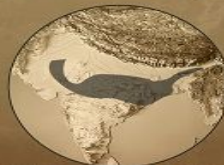


Food Shrimps & fishes

Avg. length 7-8 ft long

NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION

3500
Left
in the world



Distribution : Ganga-Brahmaputra river basin in India, Meghna-Padma river basin in Bangladesh and Nepal.



Due to non-functional eyes, Ganges River Dolphins use echolocation to navigate, communicate, hunt & avoid danger in the turbid river water



Q1. Regarding the Scheme based workers in India, consider the following statements:

1. Both ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers are considered scheme-based workers.
2. All Scheme-based workers have been provided with statutory recognition and thus receive minimum wages.
3. The Supreme Court order held that Anganwadi workers are eligible for gratuity.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q2. Which of the following sectors in India is the largest contributor to Carbon - dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the environment?

- a) Transport
- b) Agriculture
- c) Commercial & Public services
- d) Electricity & Heat producers

Answer: d

Q3. Regarding the Jal Jeevan Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Central sector scheme.
2. It aims to provide Piped water supply to all rural households.
3. Under the Union Budget 2025, the scheme has been extended till 2030.

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

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

Answer: a

Q4. Regarding the World Health Organisation (WHO), consider the following statements:

1. The WHO was established in the year 1948 with its headquarters in Geneva.
2. It currently has more than 190 member states.
3. It aims to promote global health & set global standards for health institutions.
4. Hindi in Devanagari script is one of the Official languages of the WHO.

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

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

Answer: b

Q5. Consider the following pairs related to the various festivals celebrated across the country in different states:

1. Si - Donyi: Manipur
2. Lai Haraoba: Arunachal Pradesh
3. Kati Bahu: Assam
4. Losar : Arunachal Pradesh

How many of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

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