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The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

23rd May 2025



National Security in an Age of Uncertainty

CONTEXT: Incorrect to say India doesn't have a National Security Strategy, says CDS

- **National Security**
 - 'ability of a country's government to protect its citizens, economy, and institutions'
 - Includes different dimensions; primarily **military preparedness**
- **Strategy**
 - 'continuous process'
 - Evolving Threats
- **National Security Strategy - document**
 - Considers - Traditional & Non-Traditional
- **NSS often includes**
 - Assessments of potential Threats
 - Resource Allocation
 - Diplomatic and Military Actions
 - Policies - Intelligence, defense, security-related areas.

Countries - National Security Strategy

- Developed nations - Advanced Security Structures
- China & Pakistan

India's Previous Attempts to formulate a NSS

- Kargil Review Committee Report, 2000
- Report of the Naresh Chandra Task Force on Security, 2012
- National Security Advisory Board
- DPC headed by NSA, 2018
 - NSS & NDS
- Hooda Committee Report, 2019



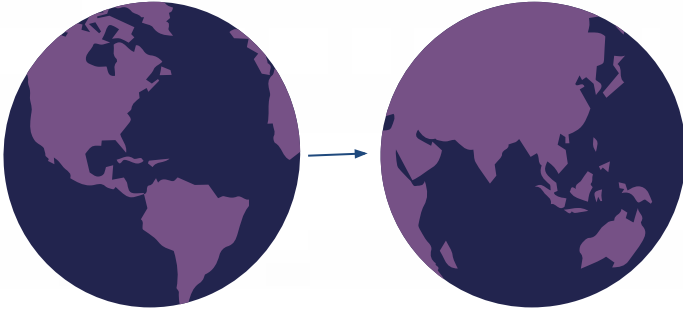
What is the need of the NSS in India?

- Era of Strategic Uncertainty
 - End of Cold War
 - Non-State Actors
 - Terrorism & Trafficking
- Institutional Paralysis & Intelligence Gaps
- Uncodified Policy
- Insecure neighbourhoods - China & Pakistan
- Emerging Indo-Pacific Security Framework
 - Maritime Threats
- Internal Threats
 - LWE
- Technological Advancements & Cybersecurity
- Ecological Degradation & Climate Change



National Security in an Age of Uncertainty

CONTEXT: Incorrect to say India doesn't have a National Security Strategy, says CDS



What are the challenges in developing a NSS?

- Political Hesitation
- Compliance – Legal Framework
- Divergence – the military and political leadership
- Resource Allocation
- Continuously changing – Threat Landscape
- Reactive Approach
- National Security Culture

Way forward – to enhance India's NSS framework – Hooda Committee's recommendations –

- Assuming – ***rightful place*** in global affairs
 - Engaging proactively with major powers
- Achieving Secure Neighborhood
 - strengthening relations – neighboring countries
 - **'Pressurise' Pakistan & 'Manage' China**
- Resolution – internal conflicts – J&K, LWE, NE
- Mitigating Global & Domestic Risks
- Strengthening Capabilities

Mains Practise Question

Despite facing a complex security environment marked by both traditional and non-traditional threats, India is yet to adopt a formal National Security Strategy (NSS). Critically examine the need for a comprehensive NSS in India.

(15 Marks, 250 words)

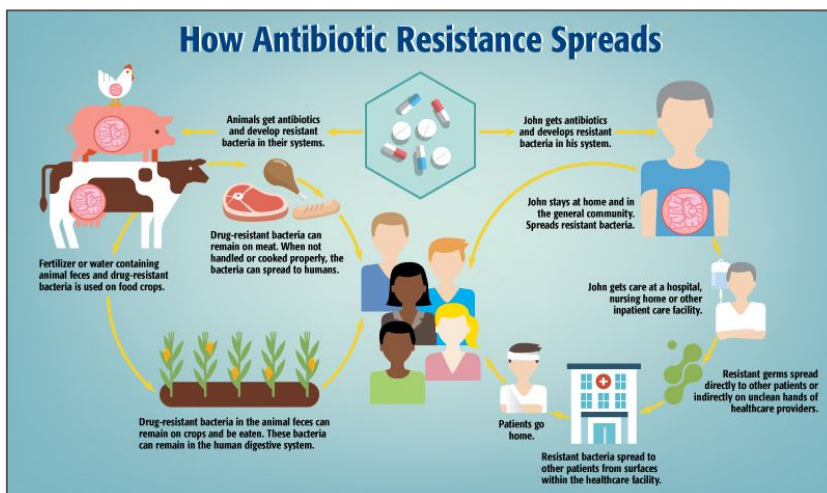


The Silent Pandemic: Understanding AMR

CONTEXT: Infectious diseases experts have flagged the overuse of a potent antibiotic leading to it losing its efficacy, and drug resistance.

What is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)?

- “resistance acquired by any microorganism against antimicrobial drugs”
- Consequence – standard treatments – ineffective, infections persist – spread
- natural phenomenon – bacteria evolve – drugs – less effective; Aggravated – Injudicious Use
- ‘SUPERBUGS’
- WHO – AMR – one of the top ten – threats to global health.



What are the Reasons for the Spread of AMR?

- **High Prevalence – Communicable Diseases:** tuberculosis, diarrhoea, respiratory infections, etc.
- **Overburdened Public Health System:** Limits – laboratory capacity & targeted treatment.
- **Poor Infection Control Practices:** Hygiene lapses – hospitals & clinics
- **Injudicious use:** Overprescription; self-medication, incomplete antibiotic courses & unnecessary use – broad-spectrum antibiotics
 - **Easy Access:** Unregulated OTC availability
- **Lack of Awareness**
- **Limited Surveillance:** Difficult to track

What are the Implications of the Spread of Antimicrobial Resistance?

- **Healthcare Impact:** Can render antibiotics ineffective – increased mortality rates.
- **Increased Healthcare Costs:** resistant infections – more expensive and prolonged therapies

The Indian picture

The public health impact of antimicrobial resistance has been significant and it has reportedly caused

2,97,000
deaths in India in 2019

What is the National Programme on AMR?

- 1 The National Programme on AMR containment was initiated in 2013
- 2 It is being coordinated by the National Centre for Disease Control
- 3 As of March 2024, 50 medical colleges/ laboratories in 27 States and 6 UTs were involved in AMR surveillance

The NARS-Net sentinel sites conduct laboratory-based AMR surveillance of nine priority bacterial pathogens:

1. Staphylococcus aureus | 2. Enterococcus species | 3. Escherichia coli | 4. Klebsiella species | 5. Pseudomonas species | 6. Acinetobacter species | 7. Salmonella enterica serotype Typhi and Paratyphi | 8. Shigella species | 9. Vibrio cholerae

■ In-patient Department ■ Outpatient Department ■ Emergency Department

Where is AMR taking place in India?

■ In 2023 data, a majority of isolates were from patients admitted in hospital wards whereas the least number of isolates belonged to patients from the emergency department. Almost a third of the isolates were from people visiting outpatient clinics. About 12% of the priority pathogens were from ICUs



SOURCE: ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL ANTIMICROBIAL SURVEILLANCE NETWORK (NARS-NET), REPORTING PERIOD: JANUARY – DECEMBER 2023

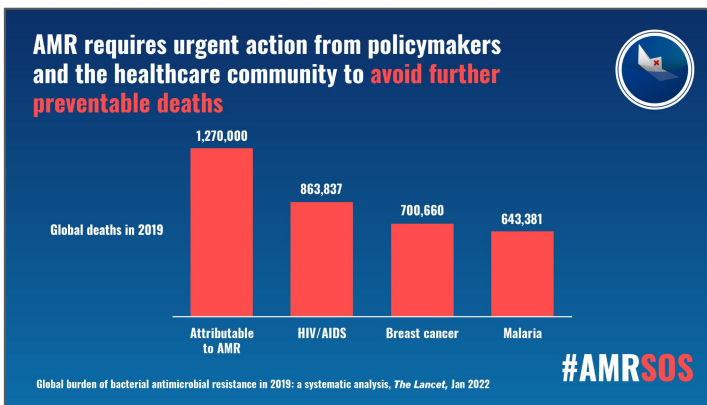


The Silent Pandemic: Understanding AMR



CONTEXT: Infectious diseases experts have flagged the overuse of a potent antibiotic leading to it losing its efficacy, and drug resistance.

- **Challenges in Medical Procedures:**
riskier – Surgeries, cancer chemotherapy, and organ transplants
- **Limitations in Treatment Options:**
previously manageable infections become untreatable – fatalities

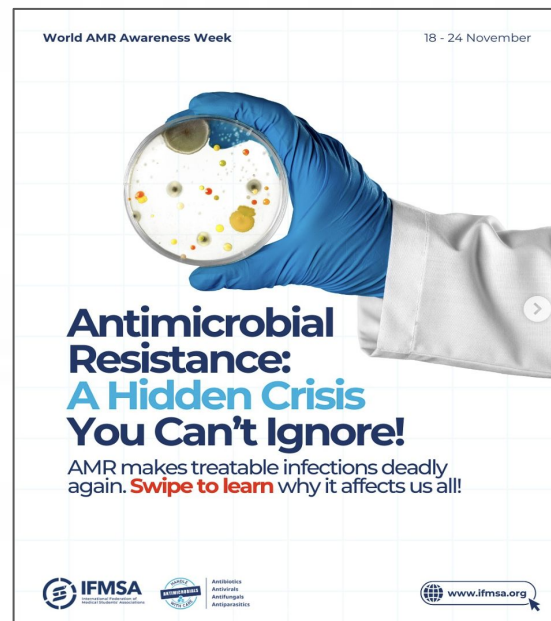


What are the Measures Taken to Address AMR ?

- **India:**
 - National Programme on AMR containment
 - National Action Plan on AMR
 - AMR Surveillance and Research Network (AMRSN)
 - AMR Research & International Collaboration: ICMR Initiatives
 - Antibiotic Stewardship Program: ICMR – pilot project across India to control misuse and overuse of antibiotics in hospital wards and ICUs; DCGI
- **Global Measures:**
 - World Antimicrobial Awareness Week
 - The Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System

Way Forward

- **Public Education Campaigns:** mass media, community outreach programs
- **Antibiotic Stewardship Programs:** track and optimize antibiotic use
- **Regulation of Antibiotic Sales:** stricter regulations on the sale of antibiotics
- **Expand AMR Surveillance:** Establish a nationwide AMR surveillance system
- **Develop New Technologies**



Mains Practise Question

“Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is not just a medical challenge, but a silent pandemic with economic, social, and developmental implications.” In this context, examine the causes and consequences of AMR in India. Suggest a multi-pronged strategy to address the crisis at national and global levels.

(10 Marks, 150 words)



Tariff Wars & AI's Global Landscape



SYLLABUS: GS Paper 3: Trade, Technology
Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 10

In the aftermath of the presidential election in the United States in 2024, renewed implementation of substantial tariffs could lead to a fundamental restructuring of global technology supply chains that power artificial intelligence (AI) development. While established players recalibrate, countries such as India are finding themselves in a precarious, yet potentially advantageous, position – as the “third option” in the technological rivalry between the U.S. and China.

The tariffs have raised the costs of imported components that are critical to AI infrastructure. In 2024, electronics imports to the U.S. alone were nearly \$486 billion, with data processing machine imports costing around \$200 billion, sourced largely from tariff-affected countries such as Mexico, Taiwan, China, and Vietnam. These tariffs risk making the U.S. the most expensive place in the world to build AI infrastructure, driving companies to relocate data centre construction abroad, ironically to China.

Tariffs may shield domestic firms from competition, reducing their incentive to innovate, and limit access to advanced imported technologies that are necessary for AI advancement. This is consistent with what economists call a “deadweight loss”, where the diminished trade volume creates economic inefficiencies that benefit neither producers or consumers.

Rapid expansion in AI chip demand will require massive increases in data centre power capacity, from about 11 GW in 2024 to potentially 68 GW by 2027 and 327 GW by 2030. Failure to meet these infrastructure needs could undermine the U.S.'s competitiveness in AI.

Research demonstrates that access to expensive, advanced computational infrastructure serves as a primary determinant of innovation capacity in AI, leading to a stratification effect. Moreover, tariffs imposed by developed countries can reduce technology transfer rates, temporarily changing innovation incentives, which can in turn, slow down the overall pace of AI innovation. On the other hand, tariffs by developing countries can speed up technology transfer but affect relative wages and innovation differently. This is a complex interplay that can increase global inequalities in AI capabilities.

Economics behind the scenes

Economic theory suggests such tariff policies should stimulate domestic production through import substitution. Indeed, some reports project that the U.S. will more than triple its domestic semiconductor manufacturing capacity from 2022 to 2032, which is the largest projected growth rate globally. However, classical Ricardian trade theory reminds us that comparative advantage remains operative even under protectionist regimes. The specialised nature of AI hardware production means that it has to deal with dispersed technical capabilities, creating inevitable inefficiencies when global supply chains are artificially segmented.

This protectionist approach often comes at the cost of economic efficiency and innovation. The tariffs disrupt global supply chains, increase production costs, and create uncertainty that discourages investment. Empirical studies show

Where India stands

This could create unexpected opportunities for India, which has positioned itself as a strategic “third option” in the U.S.-China technological competition. Indian IT exports growth rates have been around 3.3% to 5.1% year-over-year in recent years. AI and digital engineering segments are among the fastest-growing areas within India's tech sector. The Indian government has launched significant AI-related programmes, and increased semiconductor design, fabrication and technology investments, with several billion dollars in semiconductor fab proposals and multinational research and development centres such as AMD's \$400 million design campus in Bengaluru.

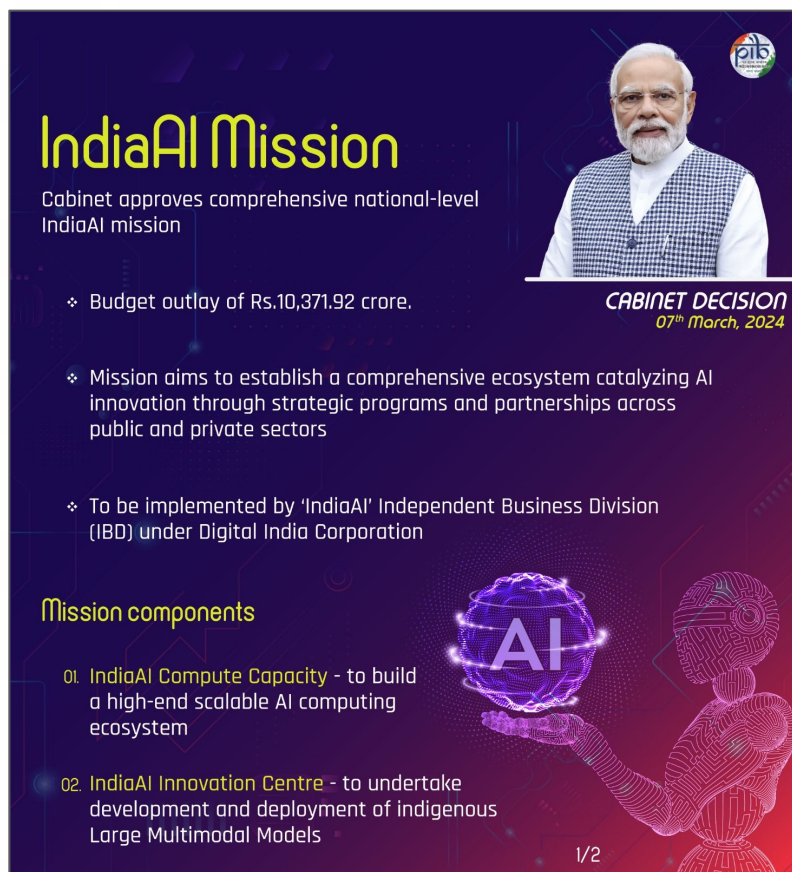
India's comparative advantage lies in lower labour costs and specialised knowledge domains.

India produces approximately 1.5 million engineering graduates annually, with a lot of them showing considerable aptitude for AI development.

India depends heavily on imported hardware components and international collaborations for this. Tariffs and supply chain disruptions that raise costs of AI infrastructure could slow down India's global ambitions in AI. However, India might also benefit indirectly if companies seek alternatives to China for manufacturing and data centre locations.



SYLLABUS: GS Paper 3: Trade, Technology
Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 10



IndiaAI Mission

Cabinet approves comprehensive national-level IndiaAI mission

CABINET DECISION
07th March, 2024

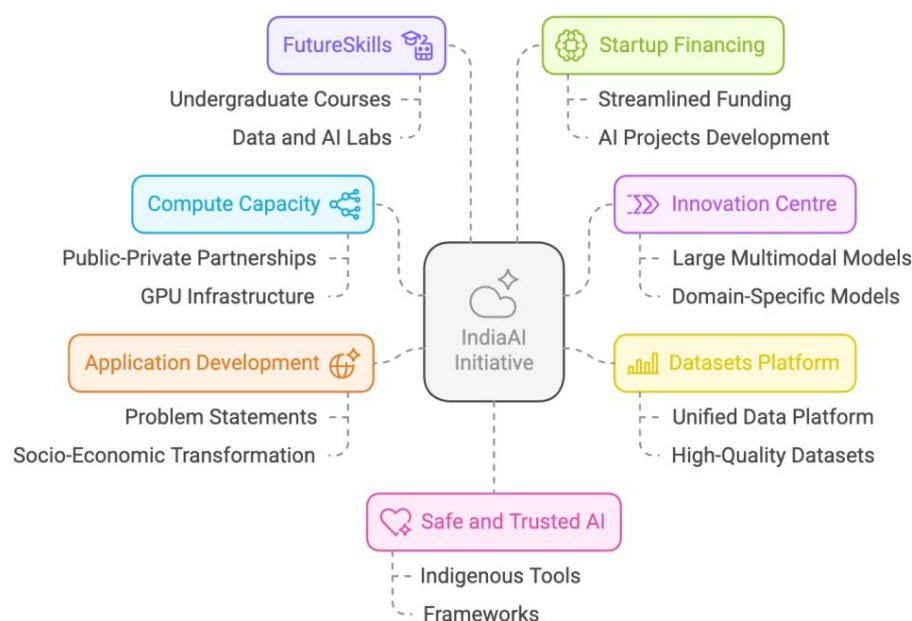
- ❖ Budget outlay of Rs.10,371.92 crore.
- ❖ Mission aims to establish a comprehensive ecosystem catalyzing AI innovation through strategic programs and partnerships across public and private sectors
- ❖ To be implemented by 'IndiaAI' Independent Business Division (IBD) under Digital India Corporation

Mission components

01. **IndiaAI Compute Capacity** - to build a high-end scalable AI computing ecosystem
02. **IndiaAI Innovation Centre** - to undertake development and deployment of indigenous Large Multimodal Models

1/2

IndiaAI Initiative: Pillars and Objectives



Need of Urban Forests



SYLLABUS: GS Paper 3: Environment, Conservation
Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 12

The story so far:

One of Hyderabad's last remaining urban forests, Kancha Gachibowli, faced the threat of extinction when the Telangana government decided to give away 400 acres of its land for industrial development. Justifying its move by claiming ownership over the forest, the government alleged that protesting students were misled by real estate interests. However, the Supreme Court took cognisance of the felling of 100 acres of trees and reprimanded the State government. This issue highlighted the vulnerability of urban forests and environmentally insensitive models of urban development.

Why do urban forests matter?

Urban forests – such as Kancha Gachibowli in Hyderabad, Aarey in Mumbai, Turahalli in Bengaluru, Neela Hauz and the Ridge in Delhi, and Dol Ka Baadh in Jaipur – are significant for healthy urban living. The National Green Tribunal issued a notice to the Madhya Pradesh government against the rampant felling of trees in Bhopal. Similarly, the High Court had to intervene in the case of indiscriminate tree felling in Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh. Many such instances from across India emphasise a need to understand that the urban forests matter to public life.

Studies worldwide have underlined the importance of urban forests in coping with the built concrete environment and the emissions from automobile vehicles. They help mitigate climate change, reduce the urban heat island effect, and control stormwater runoff, erosion, and flooding. Urban forests also sequester carbon and absorb pollutants. The density of green spaces in cities ensures the longevity and survival of the endangered birds and animals.

Diminishing urban forests in India's metropolitan cities spell severe consequences. For example, in November 2024, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) reported alarming levels of the air quality index (AQI) in Delhi at 494. Other cities such as Chennai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru had AQI levels above 100. The CPCB mentions PM 2.5 and PM 10 pollutants – mostly from vehicle emissions and construction dust – as the main causes. Urban forests can serve as a safeguard against toxic urban air. A 2006 study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service showed that one hectare of trees can remove around one ton of air pollutants.

Urban social and cultural life is otherwise fraught with speed and risk. A sense of romance, repose, relaxation, and nature-sensitive recreation is due to proximity to urban forests. The sustained preservation and consistent creation of urban forests can make Indian cities breathable and urban living beautiful.

Why are judicial interventions important?

Urban forests have featured in policies, missions, and judicial interventions in India. Both the National Forest Policy of 1988 and the National Mission for Green India of 2014 underlined the imperative of increasing afforestation and social forestry. The Smart Cities Mission and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, launched in 2015, integrated smart urban designs with ecological and social development.

Besides, the judicial interventions play important roles in promoting and protecting urban forests. The landmark Godavarman case in 1996 broadened the definition of forests to enhance the protection of urban greenery. Consequently, in 2004, the apex court issued interim orders to all the States in India for the identification, scrutiny, and mapping of forests across their territories. The aim was to generate a comprehensive forest inventory in order to enhance conservation efforts.

Another instance of judicial intervention was in 2015 when the Delhi High Court directed the Delhi government to notify and protect the Delhi Ridge, also known as the Aravalli leopard wildlife corridor. Similarly, the apex court issued a stay order on the tree felling in Aarey in Mumbai in 2020 in response to the petitions by the citizens who conducted the Save Aarey Forest movement. Equally



SYLLABUS: GS Paper 3: Environment, Conservation
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significant is the instance of the civil society and concerned citizens protesting against the felling of trees in the biodiversity-rich areas of the Baran district in Rajasthan. The Rajasthan High Court took *suo motu* cognisance of the

matter in 2024.

The judicial interventions are requisite in the protection of forests and instilling awareness among the citizens. And, so are provisions in the Constitution of India, such as Article 21 (Right to Life), which includes the right to a healthy environment. Equally important are Articles 48A and 51A(g), ensuring the promotion and improvement of the natural environment.

What is the main goal of the Nagar Van Yojana?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi duly observed the importance of wildlife and biodiversity conservation on the occasion of World Wildlife Day on March 3, 2025. Such a spirit is conducive to the drive to protect urban forests, too.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) of the Government of India had rolled out the Nagar Van Yojana (urban forest scheme) in 2020. The objective was to promote and grow forest spaces in urban areas. The Nagar Van Yojna envisages developing a thousand urban forests by the year 2027. According to the India State of Forest Report 2023, the scheme has resulted in an increase of 1445.81 km of tree and forest cover.

Why is the threat to urban forests concerning?

Rapidly urbanising India grapples with the consequences of abysmal regard for environmental conservation and sustainability. The threat to urban forests is a challenge to our biomedical, social, and cultural well-being. It is imperative that we, the people, play a role as citizens and civil society.

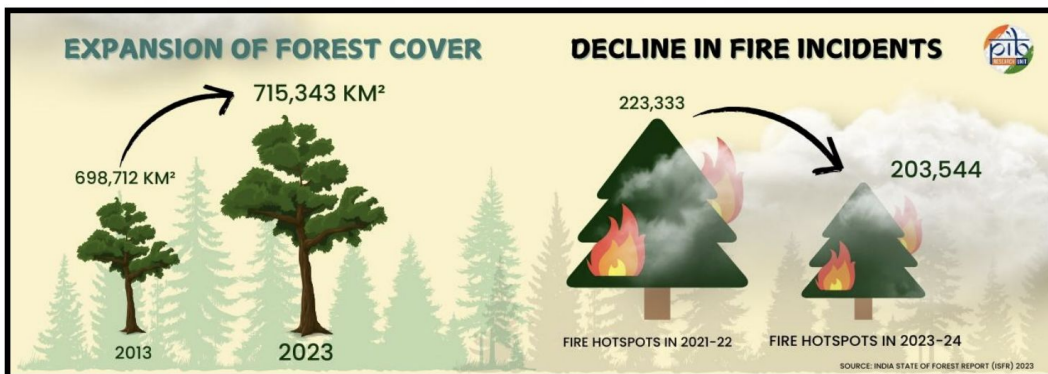
The Supreme Court order directing the Telangana government to restore the forested area of Kancha Gachibowli augurs well for a holistic soul searching.

- **National Mission for a Green India (GIM):** Launched in February 2014, this mission aims to enhance India's forest cover through protection, restoration, and expansion initiatives via Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs). The program has released Rs. 944.48 crore to 17 States and 1 Union Territory for plantation and eco-restoration efforts.
- **Nagar Van Yojana (NVY):** Established in 2020, this scheme focuses on developing green spaces in urban and peri-urban areas. The Ministry has approved 546 projects across 31 States/UTs, with Rs. 431.77 crore allocated for the initiative.
- **School Nursery Yojana (SNY):** Aimed at raising awareness about the importance of plants, this scheme encourages tree planting in schools across India. With an allocation of Rs. 4.80 crore, 743 projects have been sanctioned in 19 States/UTs.
- **Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI):** This five-year initiative (2023-2028) seeks to restore and promote mangroves along India's coastline, enhancing coastal habitats' sustainability. Rs. 17.96 crore has been allocated to states like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Odisha, West Bengal, and U.T. of Puducherry.
- Under the **National Coastal Mission**, through the "Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs" component, the Ministry has extended financial support to coastal States and Union Territories for the protection and conservation of mangroves. This initiative spans across 9 coastal states and 1 Union Territory, aiming to safeguard these vital ecosystems.
- **National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA)** for conservation and management of wetlands in the country, on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments
- **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam:** Launched by the Prime Minister on 5th June 2024, this campaign encourages citizens to plant trees in honor of mothers, fostering a deep connection between nature and nurturing.



SYLLABUS: GS Paper 3: Environment, Conservation
Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 12

- **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA):** This scheme compensates for the loss of forest cover and ecosystem services caused by the diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes, in line with the Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam, 1980.
- **Afforestation Targets under the Twenty-Point Programme:** The Ministry sets annual afforestation targets for States/UTs, utilizing a mix of Central Government schemes, State Government plans, and efforts by NGOs, private organizations, and civil society.
- **Awareness and Mass Plantation Drives:** The Ministry promotes tree planting through events like International Day of Forests, World Environment Day, Van Mahotsav, and Wildlife Week, alongside conferences, workshops, and informational campaigns.
- **Indian Forest Management Standard:** A part of the National Working Plan Code – 2023, this standard establishes criteria and frameworks for monitoring sustainable forest management and supports the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme, particularly benefiting small-scale timber producers.
- **National Action Plan on Forest Fire-2018:** This plan provides measures to prevent forest fires, build resilience, and enhance community capacity for fire control and prevention.
- **Joint Forest Management and Eco Development Committees:** In line with the National Forest Policy of 1988, the Ministry has promoted community involvement through Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) for better forest and wildlife protection, ensuring local participation in management and conservation activities.



SYLLABUS: GS Paper 3: Conservation
Newspaper: The Indian Express, Page No : 18

THE LATEST population estimation exercise in Gujarat has recorded 891 lions, a 32% jump in population since 2020. In these five years, lions have also expanded their range by 17% — from 30,000 to 35,000 sq km — and now cover 58 talukas (up from 53 in 2020) in 11 districts.

While announcing the numbers on Wednesday, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel proudly noted that the increase in the lion population is a result not only of favourable geographic and climatic conditions but also of the state government's consistent and dedicated efforts. For this success story to continue, however, more needs to be done.

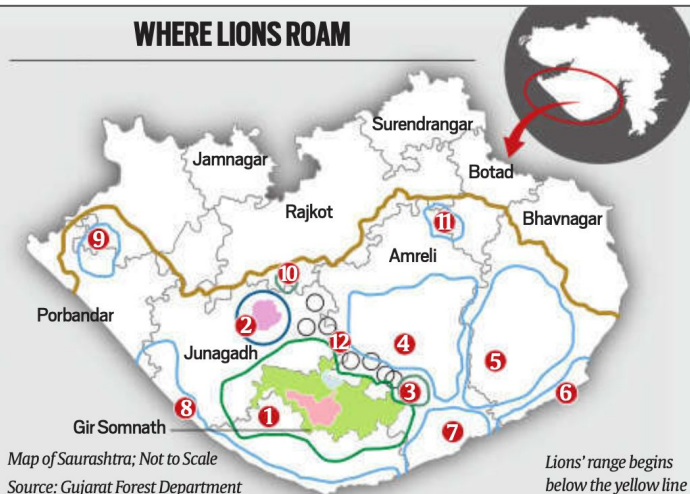
Journey so far

From under 200 in the 1960s when their last home in Gir was accorded special protection, Asiatic lions have made a remarkable recovery. For most parts, this journey has been slow and steady — the population did not cross the 300-mark until 1995 when the lion broke free from the safety of the forests.

Between 1990 and 2005, the lion's range doubled from 6,600 sq km to 13,000 sq km. But in those early days of breaking new ground, the expansion of lions' range resulted only in a modest 26% jump in numbers, from 284 to 359.

In the next 15 years, though, as the lion once again doubled its range from 13,000 sq km to 30,000 sq km, already established satellite populations added up to record an overall jump of 88% in lion numbers from 359 to 674.

WHERE LIONS ROAM



The population of lions in Gujarat has grown rapidly over the past decade

	2015	2020	2025
1 Gir NP, Pania WLS, & surroundings	315	344	394
2 Girnar WLS	33	56	54
3 Mitiyala WLS	8	16	32
4 Savarkundla WLS, Liliya & surroundings	80	98	125
5 Bhavnagar mainland	37	56	103
6 South-eastern coast	18	67	94
7 South-western coast	32	20	25
8 Bhavnagar coast	0	17	15
9 Barda WLS	0	0	17
10 Jetpur	0	0	6
11 Babra-Jasdan	0	0	4
12 Corridors	0	0	22
Total	523	674	891

NP: National Park, WLS: Wildlife Sanctuary; Source: Gujarat Forest Department

Spreading thin

The lions have colonised at least three new areas — Barda wildlife sanctuary, Jetpur and Babra-Jasdan — in the last five years. A nearly 900-strong population scattered across 358 locations strengthens the species recovery trend that made IUCN change the Asiatic Lion's status from "critically-endangered" to "endangered" in 2008.

A closer look at the numbers, however, shows that the population growth has not been commensurate with the expansion of the lion's range over the decades. Since 1990, the lion's range has expanded by 430%, but



SYLLABUS: GS Paper 3: Conservation
Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 18



Project Lion

Envisages landscape based conservation of the Asiatic Lions by integrating conservation and eco-development. The Project is being implemented in the Gir landscape in Gujarat, last home of the Asiatic lion.

moefcc MoEF moefcgol moef.gov.in

the corresponding jump in numbers, at 214%, has not been half as swift.

This is because the Saurashtra peninsula has very few protected wilderness areas — Gir National Park and a few small sanctuaries such as Pania, Girnar, Mitiyala and the recently colonised Berda — for the lion to flourish.

Over decades, as these sanctuaries have neared their carrying capacity, lions wandering out for space have reached wasteland, farmland and agri-plantations, interspersed with clumps of natural vegetation tagged as forest patches.

Even on government records, only 56% of Gujarat's 891 lions were found in forested ar-

eaes. While the relevant data is missing in the latest census, the 2020 report showed that the lion's population density drops from 15.2 per 100 sq km in forested areas to just 1.65 in non-forested areas.

Stretching tolerance

Non-forest areas close to human habitations are not the ideal habitat for a large carnivore species. A former chief wildlife warden of the state acknowledged that there are "covert cases" of retaliatory killings when lions died of electrocution, "drowning in wells" or were "shot in self-defence".

"But unlike leopards, lions are considered



Future of the pride

It's been 12 years since the Supreme Court set a six-month deadline for shifting lions from Gujarat to Madhya Pradesh, and seven years since Gujarat assured the apex court that this order would be implemented.

In September 2020, the initial proposal under Project Lion, which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15 that year, identified seven sites, including three each in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, for relocation.

Then, in July 2022, the government told the Lok Sabha that the scope of assessing the suitability of a new habitat for lions was limited to potential sites only within Gujarat. On their own, lions have recently reached one of those sites — Barda wildlife sanctuary. But the sanctuary's less than 200 sq km expanse can accommodate only a few animals.

As potential targets of doubling the lion population to 2,000 are being tossed around, the Asiatic lion needs quality forest habitats away from human settlements to safeguard against potential conflict and epidemic breakouts.

Social carrying capacity, argued a senior Gujarat forest official who did not want to be named, also has its limits.

"People and lions can live in harmony only when they share either space or time. People can work by the day in cropland where lions roam at night. But when they come face to face too often, it's a dangerous test of nerves," Chellam said.

For now, a combination of awareness campaigns, media sensitisation and timely compensation for livestock losses is keeping peace. What has also helped is the relative availability of wild prey, such as boars, outside forested areas due to limited hunting for bushmeat in the state.

But many lions are also dependent on livestock, including those that they do not have to hunt. "Very frequently, these lions are feeding on dumped livestock carcasses that also attract village dogs. This makes these lions vulnerable to disease infections," Dr Chellam cautioned.



Supreme Court on ED



SYLLABUS: GS Paper 2: Institutions

Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 18

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL

NEW DELHI, MAY 22

THE SUPREME COURT on Thursday stayed proceedings in the Enforcement Directorate's (ED's) money-laundering investigation into government-run liquor retailer Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC), saying that the central agency was "crossing all limits" and "violating the federal structure".

A two-judge Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) B R Gavai and Justice A G Masih was hearing the Tamil Nadu government's plea challenging the ED searches at the TASMAC headquarters.

"How can [there be] an offence against [the] corporation?... You may register against individuals. How corporation in criminal matter?" CJI Gavai asked

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, who appeared for the ED.

"You are totally violating the federal structure... The ED is crossing all limits," the CJI said.

TASMAC is a state monopoly that operates about 7,000 liquor outlets in Tamil Nadu. The ED is investigating alleged financial irregularities in its functioning. Raju told the SC that there had been a fraud of Rs 1,000 crore involving politicians.

Between March 6 and 8, the ED carried out searches at 20 locations, including the TASMAC headquarters in Chennai.

The allegations

The ED, Chennai, began an investigation based on 41 FIRs registered by the Tamil Nadu Vigilance Department under sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 from 2014 onward, over allegations of cor-

- The **Directorate of Enforcement** or the ED is a **multi-disciplinary organization** mandated with investigation of **economic crimes and violations of foreign exchange laws**. The origin of this Directorate goes back to 1st May, 1956, when an 'Enforcement Unit' was formed in the Department of Economic Affairs for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under FERA '47. In the year 1957, this Unit was renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate'.

- **The prime objective of the ED is the enforcement of three key Acts of the Government of India namely:**

- **FEMA, 1999,**
- **PMLA, 2002 and**
- **FEOA, 2018**

- Whenever any offence is registered by a local police station, which has generated proceeds of crime **over and above ₹1 crore**, the IO forwards the details to the ED. Alternatively, if the offence comes under the knowledge of the Central agency, they can then call for the FIR.

- In 1960, the administrative control of the Directorate was transferred from the DoEA to the DoR. For a short period of 04 years (1973 – 1977), the Directorate remained under the administrative jurisdiction of the DoPT. Presently, the Directorate is under the **administrative control of the DoR, Ministry of Finance**, Government of India.



SYLLABUS: GS Paper 2: International Relations
Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 16



**MUVIJAM &
MICHAEL HOLDEN**
LONDON, MAY 22

BRITAIN SIGNED a deal on Thursday to cede sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, after a London judge overturned a last-minute injunction and cleared the way for an agreement the government says is vital to protect the nation's security.

The multibillion-dollar deal will allow Britain to retain control of the strategically important U.S.-UK air base on Diego Garcia, the largest island of the archipelago in the Indian Ocean, under a 99-year lease. The signing went ahead after a carefully choreographed ceremony was postponed when lawyers representing a British national born in the Chagos Islands were granted an interim injunction at the High Court in the early hours of Thursday.

Judge Martin Chamberlain then lifted that injunction following a hearing, saying Britain's interests would be "substantially prejudiced" if the injunction were to continue.

The government, which has been criticised by opposition parties for pursuing a deal they say is overly costly and would play into the hands of China, has long said the agreement is essential to secure the future of



Diego Garcia.

"The strategic location of this base is of the utmost significance to Britain, from deploying aircraft to defeat terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan to anticipating threats in the Red Sea and the Indo-Pacific," Prime Minister Keir Starmer told a news conference.

"By agreeing to this deal now, on our terms, we're securing strong protections, including from malign influence, that will allow the base to operate well into the next century."

The signing ends months of wrangling over the deal, the details of which were first announced in October, after the then-Mauritian leader Pravind Jugnauth was replaced by Prime



British Chagossians protest outside London High Court on Thursday. Reuters

Minister Navin Ramgoolam, who raised concerns about it.

It was further delayed after the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump in January. Ramgoolam welcomed the deal, saying it had been a long fight to get to this point. "With this agreement, we are completing the total process of decolonization," Ramgoolam said in a televised broadcast, speaking in the Creole language. "It's total recognition of our sovereignty on the Chagos, including Diego Garcia."

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio also welcomed the deal saying it "secures the long-term, stable, and effective operation of the joint U.S.-UK military facility at Diego Garcia." **REUTERS**

MEA: Deal is a milestone achievement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

INDIA ON Thursday welcomed the UK's decision to hand over the sovereignty of the Chagos Islands, including the tropical atoll of Diego Garcia to Mauritius. The UK is giving up the rights of the islands after more than 50 years. Under the deal, the UK will have full responsibility for security of strategically-located Diego Garcia.

India said it has consistently supported Mauritius's "legitimate claim" over the Chagos Archipelago in keeping with its principled position on "decolonisation, respect for sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of nations".

"We welcome the signing of the treaty between the UK and Mauritius on the return of Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia...The formal resolution of the longstanding Chagos dispute through this bilateral treaty is a milestone achievement and a positive development for the region," MEA said in a statement.



Q1. Which of the following reports are related to formulating a National Security Strategy (NSS)?

1. Kargil Review Committee Report (2000)
2. Naresh Chandra Task Force Report on Security (2012)
3. Hooda Committee Report (2019)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: d

Q2. Regarding the India State of Forest Report 2023, consider the following statements:

1. India's total carbon stock has reached 30.43 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.
2. As of 2023, India has already achieved the additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3.0 billion tonnes based on 2005 levels.
3. India's mangrove cover currently stands at 4,992 square kilometres.

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

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

Answer: b

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Asiatic Lions:

1. The current population of Asiatic lions in Gujarat stands at 891, marking a 32% increase since 2020.
2. The range of Asiatic lions has expanded from 30,000 sq km to 35,000 sq km.
3. In 2008, the IUCN changed the status of Asiatic lions from "endangered" to "critically endangered."

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. Regarding the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), consider the following statements:

1. The ED is responsible for investigating economic crimes and violations of foreign exchange laws.
2. The ED operates under the administrative control of the Ministry of External Affairs.
3. The ED enforces FEMA (1999), PMLA (2002), and FEOA (2018).

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

Q5. Arrange the following locations from north to south:

1. Colombo
2. Male
3. Chagos Archipelago
4. Mauritius

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) 1 – 2 – 4 – 3
- b) 2 – 1 – 3 – 4
- c) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
- d) 1 – 4 – 2 – 3

Answer: c





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