

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

28th May 2025



Why has the Monsoon come early this year?



CONTEXT: The monsoon arrived on May 24 this year, marking an early onset by one week ahead of its normal schedule.

Why has the Monsoon Come early this year?

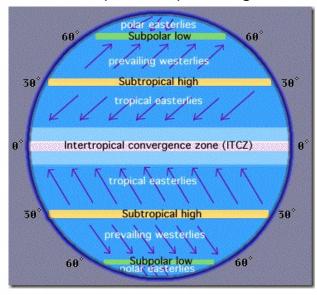
- Onset over Kerala: May 24 (1 week early).
- Earliest since 1990 (May 19).
- Last such early onset: 2009 (May 23)
- No guarantee of good rains.
- 2-week delay → deficit likely.
- Onset ≠ seasonal outcome.
- No consensus on onset science.
- El Niño/La Niña: Poor predictors.
- Monsoon trough path hard to track.

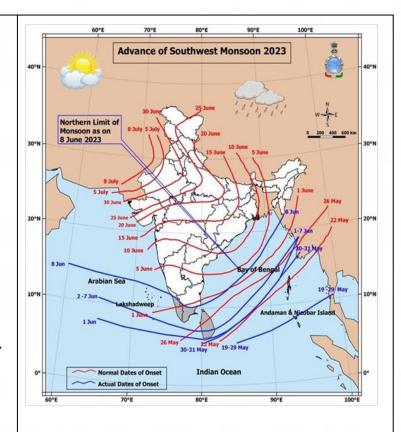
2025 Outlook

- Neutral ENSO, IOD forecasted (so far).
- Decadal indicators suggest possible
 Fl Niño
- Onset timing ≠ ENSO clarity yet.
- Wait for mid-season trends.

Basics of Monsoon

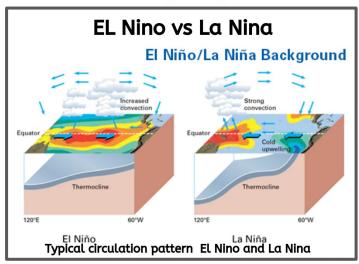
- beginning of the four-month (June-September) southwest monsoon season.
- Seasonal Reversal of winds accompanied by shifting of ITCZ





Factors Affecting Monsoon

- Differential heating and cooling of land and water
- High Pressure Near Madagascar
- Intense heating of Tibetan Plateau
- Movement of Westerly Jet Stream

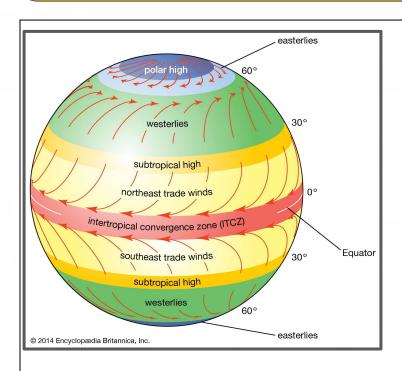




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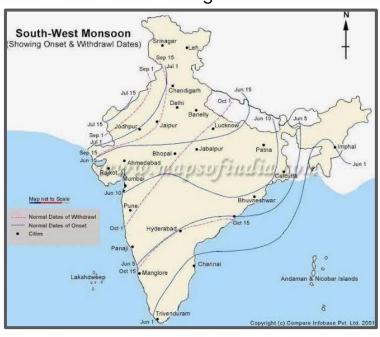


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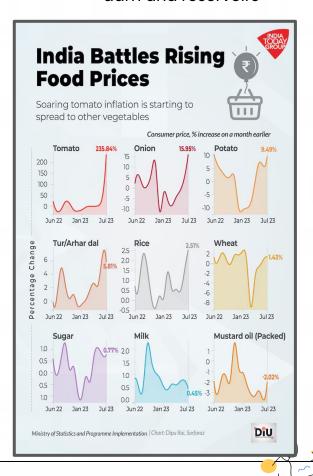
Division of Monsoon

- The southwest monsoon season seasonal in character, occurs between June and September.
- The retreating monsoon season marked by clear skies and rise in temperature, months of October and November are known for retreating monsoons.



Impacts of Monsoon

- Agriculture
 - Irrigation ~50-60% irrigation needs,
 - Crop yield, Crop Diversity:
 different cuisines
- Economy
 - GDP Growth: 1% rainfall deficit reduced GDP growth by 0.35%. (RBI)
 - Inflation Headline inflation (July-September)
 - Exports and economic growth
 - Hydro-electric power generation: recharge of dam and reservoirs



Why has the Monsoon come early this year?



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- Biodiversity: Wetlands
- On Culture: Festivals like Teej, Attire, cuisines etc.

Negative Impacts:

 Floods, landslides: loss of life and property.





MAINS PYQ 2023



Prelims PYQ 2014

Q.The seasonal reversal of winds is the typical characteristic of

- A. Equatorial climate
- B. Mediterranean climate
- C. Monsoon climate
- D. All of the above climate

Mains Practise Question

Q: Discuss the role of variability of the Indian Monsoon on Indian economy, agriculture, and water resources? (10 Marks, 150 words)

Why is the South-West Monsoon called 'Purvaiya' (easterly) in Bhojpur Region? How has this directional seasonal wind system influenced the cultural ethos of the region?

(Answer in 150 words) 10



India's New Urban Worry - Rising Overnutrition



CONTEXT: A write up has appeared focusing on rising overnutrition.

India's new Urban Worry- Rising Overnutrition

- 84% had fatty liver (MAFLD) and 71% were obese.
- Why?
- double burden of malnutrition
- second globally in overweight and obesity prevalence
- WHO- (NCDs)-74% of global deaths in 2019, -low- and middle-income countries like India.
- SDG targets for 2030 at serious risk.
- In Tamil Nadu, the 2023-24 STEPS Survey
 - 65% of deaths in Chennai are due to NCDs.
 - Among treated hypertensives, only 16% have controlled BP (9.3% in 18-44 age group).
 - Only 9.8% of young diabetics maintain glycemic control.
 - Overweight & obesity prevalence: 31.6% and 14.2%, respectively.
 - 94.2% report inadequate fruit/vegetable intake; 24.4% report low physical activity.
- Tamil Nadu's Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (MTM) programmemultisectoral approach to tackle NCDs:
 - 3.79 lakh employees screened via workplace interventions-Since Jan 2024,
 - Eight-kilometre health walk,
 "Eat Right Challengebehaviour change.

Saudi Arabia's Model

- 50% tax on sugary drinks, 100% on energy drinks.
- Mandatory calorie labelling, sodium limits in processed food.
- Recognized by WHO for trans fat elimination and sodium best practices.
- Integrated strategy across policy, industry, and civic engagement under Vision 2030.

Chile's Warning Label Model

- Black front-of-pack warning labels on HFSS (High Fat, Salt, Sugar) foods.
- Marketing restrictions on junk food, especially to children.
- School food regulations: Banned unhealthy foods.





India's New Urban Worry -Rising Overnutrition



CONTEXT: A write up has appeared focusing on rising overnutrition.

Reasons for Rising Burden

<u>Basic</u> determinants

- •Income:
- •Information;
- Technology;
- Employment;
- Infrastructure

<u>Underlying</u> causes

- •Sedentary lifetsyle;
- Lack of dietary diversity;
- •Poor infant and child feeding practices;
- •Poor water and sanitation

Immediate determinants

- Physical inactivity;
- •Poor dietary intake:
- Disease

<u>Issues</u>

- •Maternal overnutrition (overweight and obesity);
- •Child undernutrition (stunting, wasting and underweight)

Consequences

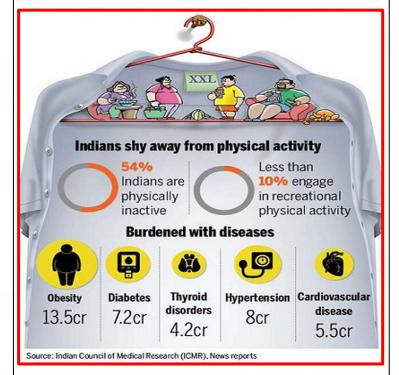
- •NCDs;
- •Poor reproductive health:
- •Growth retardation;
- Impaired cognitive development

- Regulatory and Market Challenges
- Ultra Processed Foods

National Trends: NFHS-5

- Increases with age: from 7% (men 15–19 yrs) to 32% (men 40–49 yrs).
- **Rises with income:** from 10% (lowest quintile) to 37% (highest quintile).
- **Affects both genders:** Waist-hip ratio increases from 46% to 65% in women, 28% to 60% in men (ages 15–49).
- Urban-rural divide:

Overweight/obesity affects 46.1% of urban men, 43.1% of urban women, compared to 35.4% and 31.6% in rural areas.





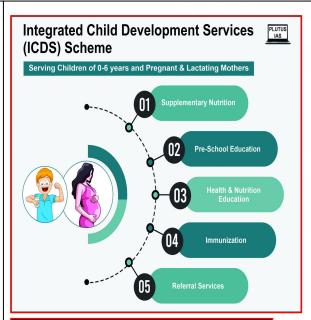
India's New Urban Worry -Rising Overnutrition



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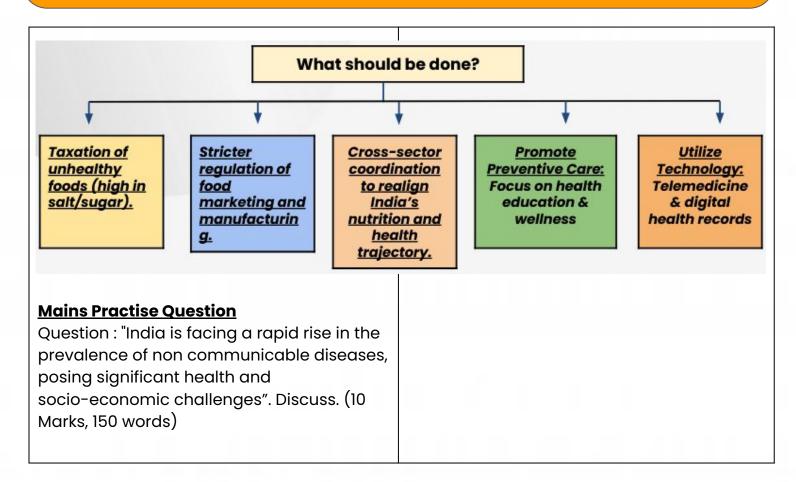




India's New Urban Worry - Rising Overnutrition



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How FTAs impact India's Agriculture Trade?



<u>SYLLABUS</u>: **GS Paper 2:** Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests, International Treaties & Agreements, Government Policies & Interventions

Newspaper: The Indian Express, Page No: 17

INDIA'S AGRICULTURE exports rose 6.4% to \$51.9 billion in 2024-25 from \$48.8 bn during the fiscal year ended March 2024. Growth in overall goods exports was almost flat in this period — rising 0.1% from \$437.1 bn in 2023-24 to \$437.4 bn in 2024-25.

The contrast is starker in the value of imports. While total merchandise imports grew 6.2% in 2024-24 over 2023-24 (from \$678.2 bn to \$720.2 bn), farm imports were up 17.2% (from \$32.9 bn to \$38.5 bn).

The longer period trend (chart) shows agriculture exports declined between 2013-14 and 2019-20, before recovering and peaking at \$53.1 bn in 2022-23. Overall, exports increased from \$43.3 bn in 2013-14 to \$51.9 bn in 2024-25, or a little more than 20%.

Imports posted a steadier expansion — from \$15.5 bn in 2013-14 to an all-time-high of \$38.5 bn in 2024-25, an increase of 148%. India's agriculture trade surplus more than halved from \$27.7 bn to \$13.4 bn during this period.

These data constitute the context in which India is negotiating trade agreements with the United States and European Union, who are seeking tariff reductions and greater market access for their agricultural products.

DRIVERS OF IMPORTS

The big-ticket import items remain vegetable oils and pulses. Low per-acre yields relative to rice and wheat, and the absence of a system similar to minimum support price-based government procurement have made it less viable for Indian farmers to ramp up production of oilseeds and pulses.

The result is a soaring import bill. The imports of pulses were valued at \$5.5 bn in 2024-25, pushing past the \$5 billion mark for the first time.

Also, stagnant or falling domestic production is leading to rising imports of cotton and natural rubber. With no yield-raising technologies after genetically modified (GM) Bt hybrids, India's cotton output fell from 398 lakh bales to 291 lakh bales between 2013-14 and 2024-25.

Rubber production has averaged 8.5 lakh tonnes (It) in the last three years, down from the 9-9.1 lt till about 2012-23. This, even as domestic consumption has inched up from 10 lt to 15 lt during the past decade.

Other significant agri import items include fruits (almonds, pistachios, walnuts, apples, dates, figs and raisins, etc), spices (basically pepper and cardamom), and alcoholic beverages.

With the signing of trade pacts with the US, EU, and the UK, imports of dry fruits, wines, and spirits will likely go up. The US is also likely to push for import duty cuts and easing of non-tariff barriers (particularly relating to GM crops) on maize, soyabean, and cotton.

All this will ultimately reflect in India's agricultural exports, imports, and the surplus.

INDIA'S TOP AGRI EXPORT ITEMS (\$ million)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Marine products	7,772.36	8,077.98	7,372	7,405
Non-basmati rice	6,133.63	6,356.71	4,573.41	6,527.58
Basmati rice	3,537.49	4,787.65	5,843.3	5,944.48
Spices	3,896.03	3,785.36	4,248.56	4,451.54
Buffalo meat	3,303.78	3,193.69	3,743.26	4,060.54
Sugar	4,602.65	5,770.83	2,824.74	2,159.4
Fruits & Vegetables	1,692.48	1,791.05	2,037.58	2,065.39
Processed F&V	1,190.59	1,417.59	1,624.22	1,805.76
Coffee	1,020.74	1,146.18	1,286.28	1,805.57
TOTAL*	50,240.21	53,153,55	48.821.68	51,940.67

INDIA'S TOP AGRI IMPORT ITEMS (\$ million)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Vegetable oils	18,991.62	20,837.7	14,871.66	17,333.14
Pulses	2,228.95	1,943.89	3,746.78	5,477.28
Fresh fruit	2,460.33	2,483.95	2,734.97	3,043.7
Cashew	1,255.46	1,805.67	1,431.39	1,669.43
Spices	1,299.38	1,336.65	1,455.57	1,625.42
Sugar	169.2	292.97	1,984.88	1,388.1
Raw cotton	559.55	1,438.69	598.66	1,219.32
Alcoholic beverages	693.23	797.64	1,328.22	1,115.51
Natural rubber	1,032.71	937.6	739.18	1,069.05
TOTAL*	32,422.3	35,686.2	32,870.03	38,509.32

Source: Department of Commerce | * Total includes other commodities not listed in table.



How FTAs impact India's Agriculture Trade?



<u>SYLLABUS</u>: **GS Paper 2:** Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests, International Treaties & Agreements, Government Policies & Interventions

Newspaper: The Indian Express, Page No: 17

PREFERENTIAL TRADE AREA	FREE TRADE AREA	CUSTOMS	COMMON MARKET	ECONOMIC	FULL INTEGRATION
Lower, but not eliminate, barriers among members.	Eliminate internal barriers, but maintain independent external barriers.	Eliminate internal barriers, agree on common external barriers. e.g., EU/Turkey, or Russia/ Kazakhstan/ Belarus (2010)	barriers, allow free movement of resources (e.g., labor) among member countries.	Eliminate internal barriers, adopt common external barriers, free movement of resources, AND a uniform set of economic policies. e.g., European Union	e.g., the United States



Energy and Efficiency

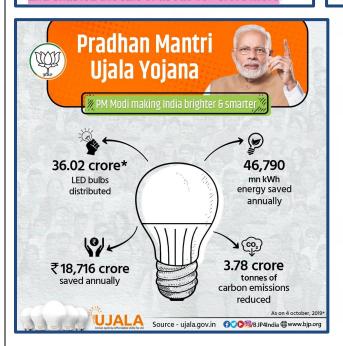


SYLLABUS: GS Paper 3: Environmental Pollution And Degradation

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No: 8

espite robust growth in electricity generation over the past two decades, with rapid additions of renewable energy in the past five years, India has been unable to meet its peak power demand, with the deficit widening from 0.69% in FY20 to about 5% in FY24. This reveals constraints in the supply of power – new power production is time consuming, especially if fossil-fuel based, even as India attempts to integrate renewable power into the power grid. Therefore, India must focus on enhancing energy efficiency holistically to reduce power demand, also the quickest and least expensive way to address rising power demand and climate change. This year marks a decade of India's groundbreaking energy efficiency scheme, UJALA, which has helped bring down the price of energy efficient light emitting diode (LED) bulbs from about ₹500 a decade ago to ₹70, enabling its widespread home use. The scheme succeeded as another public energy efficiency measure was baked into the initiative - the Street Lighting National Programme, which led to the installation of over 1.34 crore LED lamps across urban local bodies and gram panchayats, and reducing peak demand by over 1,500 MW. As of January 2025, the government has distributed about 37 crore LED bulbs and enabled the sale of about 407 crore more.

LED bulbs consume half the amount of power of compact fluorescent lamps, while incandescent light bulbs require nine times the power that LEDs consume, translating into considerable cost savings for Indian homes. But estimates also suggest that the UJALA scheme alone has helped India save over \$10 billion and avoided building over 9,500 MW of new generation capacity, which is the equivalent of 19 new coal-fired 500 MW power plants. Indeed, there are other energy efficiency measures that India has taken following the enactment of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. The International Energy Agency states that between 2000 and 2018, energy efficiency improvements enabled India to avoid an additional 15% of energy demand and 300Mt of CO2 emissions. But with India's rapid urbanisation in the past two decades and rising per capita energy consumption to meet cooling needs as summers get hotter, peak power demand reached 250 GW last year. India is today the third largest power consumer globally, after China and the United States. Moreover, 70% of its energy output continues to be from coal and India has plans to add another 90 GW of coal-based capacity by 2032. What is needed now is greater energy efficiency mandates across sectors such as buildings, home appliances and the country's sprawling MSMEs.



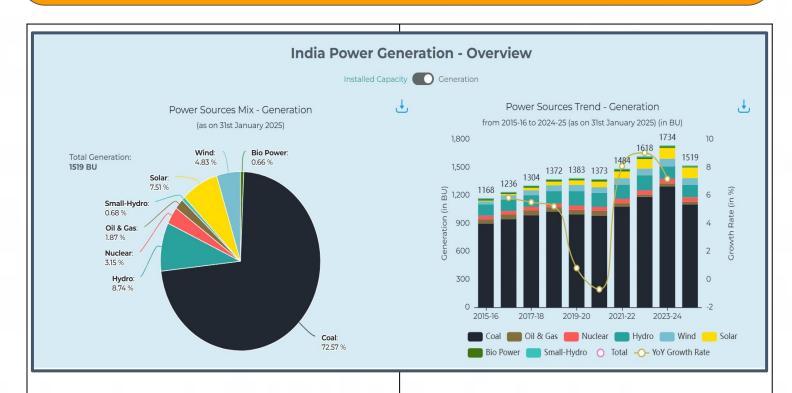


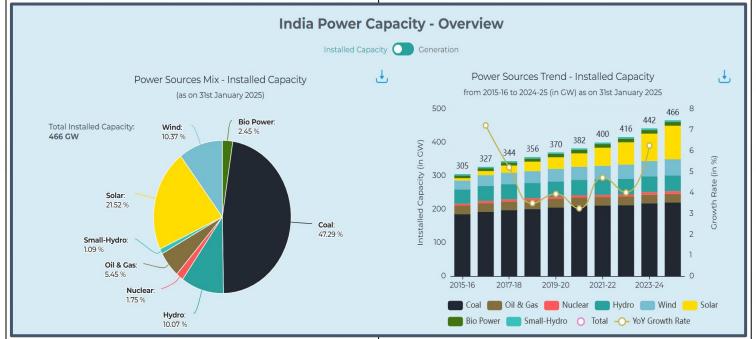
Energy and Efficiency



SYLLABUS: GS Paper 3: Environmental Pollution And Degradation

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No: 8







Centre restores RoDTEP Scheme



SYLLABUS: GS Paper 2: Government Policies & Interventions

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No: 15

n a decision that could have a major impact on boosting India's export competitiveness, the government on Tuesday announced the restoration of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported (RoDTEP) Products scheme for exporters done by Advance Authorisation (AA) holders. Export-Oriented Units (EOUs), and units in Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

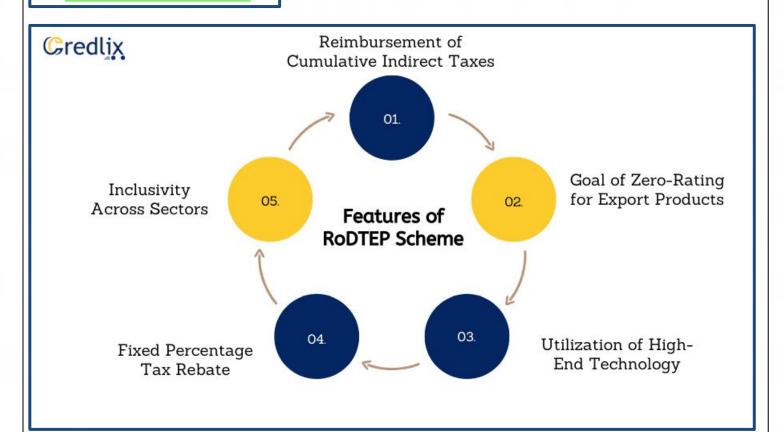
Initiated in 2021, the

Welcome move

The 2021 scheme reimburses exporters for any embedded levies that are not reimbursed under any other existing scheme

- Restoration of the scheme is expected to go a long way in improving global competitiveness of Indian exporters
- Extension of benefits to AA, EOU, and SEZ units recognises their critical role in the export ecosystem, says FIEO chief
- Government urged to make benefits available with effect from February 7, 2025 for seamless transition







Indigenous Fifth Generation Fighter Jet



SYLLABUS: GS Paper 3: Defence
Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No:16

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the execution model for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), under which Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will compete with private industry to manufacture the indigenous fifth-generation fighter jet. The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) is set to execute the programme through industry partnership, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

Speeding up the development and induction of AMCA has become critical since China has already fielded two fifth-generation fighters and is set to supply 40 J-35s to Pakistan.

HAL has the advantage of experience, but they will have to bid along with the industry either individual-



A full-scale model of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) fighter jet at Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru. MURALI KUMAR K

ly or in a consortium with others, two defence sources independently said. "They [HAL] will have to fight it out," one of the sources added. HAL will not be the default manufacturer, the other source stated. So far, the defence public sector undertaking is the country's sole manufacturer of fighter jets.

The AMCA project re-

ceived approval from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in March 2024 at an approximate cost of ₹15,000 crore as a 25-tonne, twin-engine stealth aircraft.

Equal opportunity

"The execution model approach provides equal opportunities to both private and public sectors on a or as consortia. The entity/bidder should be an Indian company compliant with the laws and regulations of the country," a Defence Ministry statement said on Tuesday.

As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, the design of AMCA is ready and the first prototype is expected to roll out by 2028-29 and production is expected to begin from 2032-33. The target is to have the aircraft ready for induction in 2034.

This is an important step towards harnessing the indigenous expertise, capability and capacity to develop the AMCA prototype, which will be a major milestone towards self-reliance in the aerospace sector, the Ministry said, adding that ADA will shortly issue an Expression of In-

JET FIGHTER GENERATIONS



Lst Gen jet fighters (1940s-1950s) used turbojets for propulsion instead of earlier piston-driven aircraft (Messerschmitt-Me262, Mystere-IV, MiG-15 etc)



2nd Gen fighters (1950s-1960s) integrated new technologies, swept or delta wings & guided missiles for BVR (beyond visual range) combat (MiG-21, Sukhoi-7, F-104 Starfighter etc)



Gen fighters (1960s-1970s) inducted improved radars, missiles & avionics (Mirage-III, MiG-25, F-4 Phantom-II etc)



4th Gen fighters (1970s-1990s) incorporated fly-by-wire controls & multi-role capabilities (Mirage-2000, MiG-29, Sukhoi-27, Tornado, F-16 Fighting Falcon etc)



4.5 Gen fighters (1990s-onwards)
use more advanced avionics &
electronics, with some stealth. (Sukhoi30MKI, Gripen, Eurofighter Typhoon, F-16F
Desert Falcon, F/A-18 Super Hornet etc)

5th Gen fighters are multi-role or swing-role but also incorporate advanced stealth technology, composite materials, supercruise (achieve supersonic cruise speeds without use of afterburners), thrust-vectoring & multi-sensor integrated avionics



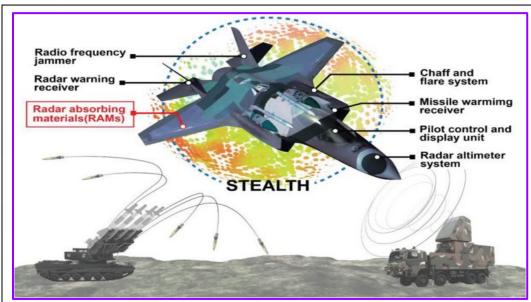
Only fully-operational
5th-gen fighter at present is
the American F/A-22 'Raptor',
developed for \$28 billion,
with each fighter costing
\$350-400 million extra.
Two FGFA in pipeline are
American F-35 'Lightning-Il'
Joint Strike Fighter & Russian
Sukhoi T-50 or PAK-FA



Indigenous Fifth Generation Fighter Jet



<u>SYLLABUS</u>: GS Paper 3: Defence Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No: 16









35. Consider the following aircraft:

- 1. Rafael
- 2. MiG-29
- 3. Tejas MK-1

How many of the above are considered fifth generation fighter aircraft?

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



Padma Awards



<u>SYLLABUS</u>: GS Paper 1: Indian culture – salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture.

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No: 14

- Conferred by the President of India
- Awardees receive:
 - A Sanad (certificate) signed by the President.
 - A medallion and a miniature replica (worn during ceremonial/state functions).
- Names published in the Gazette of India.



Bharat Ratna

- Highest civilian award in India, instituted in 1954.
- Awarded for exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour.
- No formal recommendation process; nominations made by Prime Minister to the President.

Padma Awards

- Among the highest civilian awards, announced annually on the eve of Republic Day.
- Instituted in **1954** (reclassified in 1955 into three categories):
 - Padma Vibhushan –
 Exceptional and distinguished service.

- Padma Bhushan –
 Distinguished service of high order.
- Padma Shri Distinguished service.

Eligibility & Criteria

- Open to all persons regardless of race, occupation, position, or sex.
- Govt. servants (except doctors and scientists) not eligible.
- Recognizes achievements in fields with a public service element.

Illustrative Fields:

- Art Music, Painting, Cinema, Theatre,
 etc
- **Social Work** Charitable service, community projects.
- **Public Affairs** Law, Politics, Public
- Science & Engineering Space, IT, Nuclear, R&D.
- **Trade & Industry** Banking, Tourism, Management.
- Medicine Allopathy, Ayurveda, Homeopathy, etc.
- **Literature & Education** Journalism, Teaching, Reforms.
- **Civil Service** Excellence in administration.
- **Sports** Athletics, Adventure, Yoga, Promotion.
- Others Human rights, wildlife protection, Indian culture, etc.



Padma Awards



<u>SYLLABUS</u>: GS Paper 1: Indian culture – salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture.

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No:14

Prelims PYQ 2021

Q. Consider the following statements in respect of Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards:

- Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards are titles under the Article 18(1) of the Constitution of India.
- 2. Padma Awards, which were instituted in the year 1954, were suspended only once.
- 3. The number of Bharat Ratna Awards is restricted to a maximum of five in a particular year.

Which of the above statements are not correct?

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



The Analyst Handout

Daily Quiz



28th May 2025

Q1. How many of the following factors influence the Indian Monsoon?

- 1. The movement of the Westerly Jet Stream.
- 2. Intense summer heating of the Tibetan Plateau
- 3. High-pressure zones near Madagascar.
- 4. Uniform heating of land and sea.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: c

Q2. Based on NFHS-5 data, consider the following statements regarding Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs):

- 1. The prevalence of NCDs among men increases with age, from 7% (15–19 years) to 32% (40–49 years).
- 2. NCDs show a correlation with income, rising from 10% in the lowest income quintile to 37% in the highest.
- 3. Rural areas have a higher prevalence of overweight and obesity compared to urban areas.

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: a

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products) Scheme:

- 1. It aims to reimburse cumulative indirect taxes incurred during the manufacturing and distribution of export products.
- 2. Exporters receive fixed-percentage tax rebates under this scheme.
- 3. RoDTEP benefits are limited to only agricultural exports.

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

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

Answer: b

Q4. Match the following Fighter Jet Generations with their features and examples:

Genera	Key Features	Examples
tion		
A. 2nd	1. Swept or delta wings,	i. Sukhoi-7,
Gen	guided missiles for BVR	F-104
	combat	Starfighter
B. 4th	2. Fly-by-wire controls,	ii. Mirage-2000,
Gen	multi-role capabilities	MiG-29
C. 4.5	3. Advanced avionics,	iii. Eurofighter
Gen	limited stealth	Typhoon, F-16F
	technology	
D. 5th	4. Supercruise,	iv. F/A-22
Gen	thrust-vectoring,	Raptor, Sukhoi
	swing-role functionality	T-50

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) A-3-i, B-1-ii, C-2-iii, D-4-iv
- b) A-2-i, B-1-ii, C-4-iii, D-3-iv
- c) A-1-ii, B-3-i, C-2-iv, D-4-iii
- d) A-1-i, B-2-ii, C-3-iii, D-4-iv

Answer: d

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Padma Awards in India:

- 1. The Padma Awards are conferred by the Prime Minister of India.
- 2. Awardees receive a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion.
- 3. The names of the awardees are published in the Gazette of India.
- 4. A miniature replica of the medallion is also given to awardees.

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

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

Answer: c





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