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CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

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CONTEXT: Growing concerns about the **declining effectiveness of Parliament** in ensuring executive accountability despite having institutional mechanisms in place.

Foundations of Parliamentary Oversight in India

| Why Oversight Matters | Tool / Mechanism | Purpose |
|--|--|---|
| Constituent Assembly (1946–49) <p>A historical fact is that over nearly three years, the Constituent Assembly met for 167 days to frame the Constitution of India. Among the many crucial debates that occurred was the question of what form of government India should adopt. Defending the choice of a parliamentary system, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar argued that it offered more responsibility and less stability which is a necessary trade-off for a functioning democracy. He emphasised the point that such a system allows for the daily accountability of the executive through questions, motions and debates in Parliament, and periodic accountability through elections.</p> | Question Hour | MPs question Ministers ; holds executive accountable on daily basis |
| | Zero Hour | MPs raise urgent issues without prior notice |
| | Motions | Direct censure or attention to executive failure |
| | Parliamentary Committees | Detailed, expert-driven examination of policies, bills, and public spending |
| | Debates & Discussions | Public forum for raising concerns |
| | Annual Budget & CAG Reports | Scrutiny of public finance and policy implementation |
| "Maximum Governance" must be matched by "Maximum Accountability" | | |

Challenges in the Present Oversight Framework

| | |
|---|--|
|  Reduced Functioning of Question Hour | Only ~60% LS and 52% RS functioning during 17th Lok Sabha |
|  Fragmented Questions | MPs often raise isolated, localised issues , limiting cross-ministerial or systemic examination |
|  Underutilisation of Committee Reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports rarely discussed • ~20% of PAC recommendations implemented |
|  Weak Committees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No permanent experts → Lack depth • Often involve narrow stakeholder groups |
|  Temporary Committee Tenure | Hinders institutional memory + long-term expertise-building |
|  No Formal Post-Legislative Review | No mechanism to track a law's effectiveness after passage [eg: Farm Laws 2020] |
|  Lack of Technical/Research Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPs operate with minimal staff • Struggle wrt complex data and policy |
|  Redundancy | Multiple reports with <u>similar recommendations</u> |

CONTEXT: Growing concerns about the **declining effectiveness of Parliament** in ensuring executive accountability despite having institutional mechanisms in place.

Instances of the Challenges through data

Functioning of both the Houses

Parliament functioned for about half of its scheduled time

Lok Sabha

| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Nov 25 - 29 | 2% | | 4% | 4% | 6% | |
| Dec 2 - 6 | 4% | 123% | 133% | 24% | 3% | |
| Dec 9 - 14 | 2% | 6% | 62% | 123% | 136% | 146% |
| Dec 16 - 20 | 153% | 99% | 3% | 1% | 1% | |

0%-30% 30%-60% 60%-90% 90% or more

Note: Each cell shows functioning time as a percentage of scheduled time for that day; no sitting was held in either House on November 26, 2024. Lok Sabha discussed the Constitution on December 14, 2024 (Saturday).

Rajya Sabha

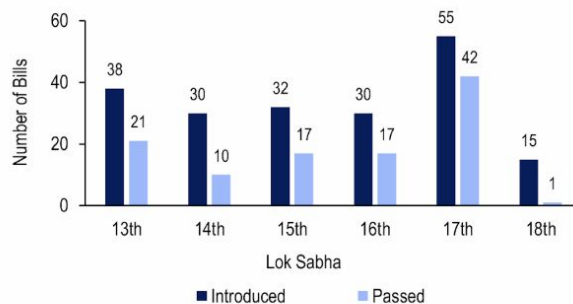
| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|-------------|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| Nov 25 - 29 | 9% | | 4% | 4% | 4% |
| Dec 2 - 6 | 5% | 100% | 103% | 85% | 38% |
| Dec 9 - 13 | 20% | 7% | 5% | 12% | 15% |
| Dec 16 - 20 | 151% | 153% | 8% | 6% | 5% |

Legislation business

One Bill passed in the first six months of the term; lowest in the last six Lok Sabha terms

- Four Bills were introduced in this session. Two of these provide for simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies. One Bill, the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024, was passed in both Houses. Five Bills were passed by one House and are pending in the other.
- During the 18th Lok Sabha, 15 Bills have been introduced, and three have been referred to Committees. Four Bills introduced retain most provisions of the Acts they seek to replace.

Legislation in the first two sessions of Lok Sabha

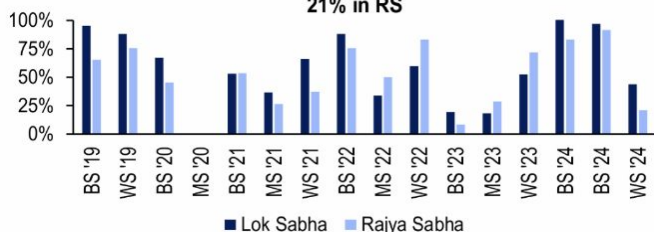


Note: This excludes Finance and Appropriation Bills.

Question Hour

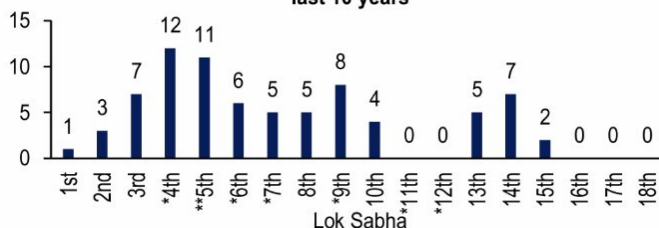
Functioning of Question Hour significantly affected

Question Hour functioned for 44% of time in LS, and 21% in RS



Note: BS - Budget Session, MS - Monsoon Session, WS - Winter Session. Question Hour was not held during MS 2020 due to COVID-19.

No adjournment motions discussed in Lok Sabha in the last 10 years

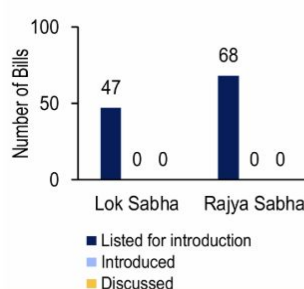


Note: * indicates a term less than five years; ** indicates a six-year term. Data for 18th Lok Sabha till December 20, 2024.

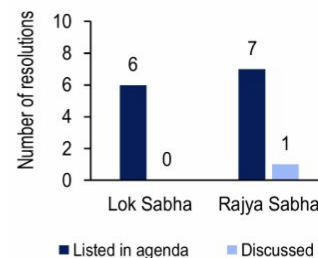
Pvt member business

- Every Friday
- 2 ½ hours

Private Members' Bills



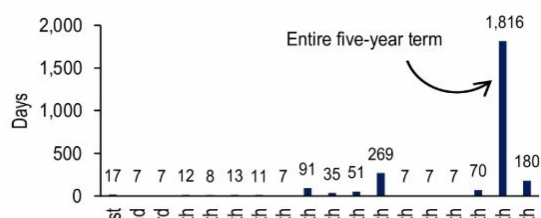
Private Members' Resolutions



Deputy Speaker

No Deputy Speaker since 2019

Days to election of deputy speaker



CONTEXT: Growing concerns about the **declining effectiveness of Parliament** in ensuring executive accountability despite having institutional mechanisms in place.

Reform Measures for Strengthening Oversight

1. Institutionalising Post-Legislative Scrutiny

Create **dedicated sub-committees** under each DRSC.

- Follow the **UK Model**: Departments submit law implementation reviews after 3–5 years → examined by committees.

2. Revitalising Parliamentary Committees

- Mandate **debate on select DRSC reports**
- Require **ministerial responses** to key recommendations.
- Translate findings into **regional languages**; use **infographics, videos** for wider reach.
- Provide **dedicated research staff and data analysts** to committees

3. Tech Enablement (Tech + Transparency = Trust)

- Use **Artificial Intelligence** and **Big Data tools** to:
 - Track **expenditure trends and audit anomalies**.
 - Support MPs in forming **evidence-based questions**.
 - Identify **implementation lags in real-time**.
- Digitise and **make public all committee reports and ministry action taken notes (ATNs)**.

4. Fix Question Hour

- Penalize disruptions** (e.g., salary cuts for MPs).
- Prime Minister's Questions (PMQ)**: Weekly 30-min session (like UK).

Mains Practise Question

“The purpose of parliamentary oversight is not to weaken the executive but to strengthen governance by making it more accountable.” Comment.

(15 Marks, 250 words)

UPSC PYQ (M) 2021

To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India?

UPSC PYQ (P) 2022

Which of the following is/are the exclusive power(s) of Lok Sabha?

- To ratify the declaration of Emergency.
- To pass a motion of no-confidence against the Council of Ministers.
- To impeach the President of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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



CONTEXT: The Battle Over Bhakra-Nangal Waters.

What Triggered the Latest Conflict?



1966 Reorganisation & BBMB's Control

Created in 1966 to manage water for **Punjab, Haryana, Raj**

April 23, 2025: Haryana demanded 8,500 cusecs (up from 4,000 cusecs) from Bhakra-Nangal dams

Punjab's Stand: Shut sluice gates at Nangal Dam; Haryana to approach SC

Dams at Record Lows:

- **Bhakra Dam:** 12 feet lower than '24.
- **Ranjit Sagar (Ravi):** 16.9 ft deficit.
- **Pong Dam (Beas):** 31.87 ft deficit.

Haryana's Overuse: Already used **104%** of its annual quota

| State | Annual Share | Key Dependence |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Punjab | 5.512 | Agriculture (Rice/Wheat) |
| Haryana | 2.987 | Drinking + Farming |
| Rajasthan | 3.318 | Thar Desert regions |
| Delhi | 0.250 | Drinking supply |

What are Inter-State River Disputes?

- 25 major river basins
- Sharing, usage, allocation, and management

| Constt. Provision | Description |
|-----------------------|---|
| Article 262 | Empowers Parliament to adjudicate inter-state river water disputes and bar courts from jurisdiction |
| Entry 17 (State List) | Water is a State subject (water supply, irrigation, etc.) |
| Entry 56 (Union List) | Centre can regulate interstate rivers in national interest |
| Supreme Court's Role | Cannot question tribunal awards , but can examine implementation and procedure |

Important Laws

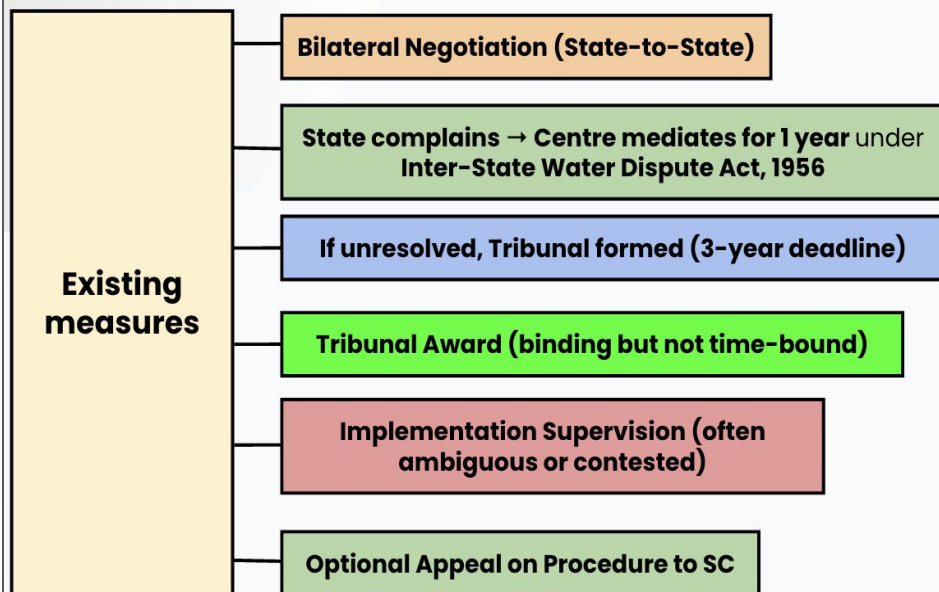
- ◆ *River Boards Act, 1956* (never operationalised)
- ◆ *Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956*
- ◆ *2002 Amendment* – 1-year time limit for setting up tribunals, 3 years to deliver verdict

| Dispute | States Involved | Core Issue |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cauvery | TN vs Karnataka | Share of monsoon flows |
| Krishna | AP vs Telangana vs Maharashtra | Post-bifurcation allocations |
| SYL Canal | Punjab vs Haryana | Sutlej waters to arid Haryana |
| Mahanadi | Odisha vs Chhattisgarh | Industrial water use |
| Godavari | AP vs Telangana vs Odisha | Dam constructions |



CONTEXT: The Battle Over Bhakra-Nangal Waters.

Mechanism for Dispute Resolution



WATER LAWS AND BATTLES

● No national (unified) law | Many countries like Israel, South Africa and Australia have national water laws

● Primarily, water is a 'State' subject in India | States free to deal with issues of water supply, irrigation and canals, and drainage embankments in their own way

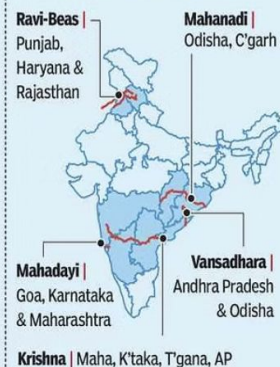
● Centre can only regulate, develop inter-state rivers

● Absence of concrete regulatory regime leads to mismanagement of water resources

● Centre, however, assists states in conservation, river cleaning, building infra

● Centre can also deal with issue under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974

Five tribunals are hearing river water disputes



For Cauvery, a tribunal has issued a final award and Centre has set up a panel for release of water as per orders. However, the two states still have differences on several counts

📌 To date, 8 inter-state water tribunals have been formed.

Issues with Existing Mechanism

🕒 **Delays in resolution**

e.g., Cauvery dispute took over **28 years**; Godavari took 20+

👤 **Lack of expertise @Tribunals**

No hydrologists, environmentalists, or water economists

🔍 **Opaque functioning**

Lack of **procedural clarity**, weak compliance mechanisms

📊 **Lack of shared water data**

States **distrust each other's data**; hampers objective decisions

⚖️ **No clear enforcement**

Verdicts often **ignored or delayed** by states

🗳️ **Politicisation of disputes**

Used for **vote-bank mobilization** and regional narratives

🔥 **Escalation into law & order issues**

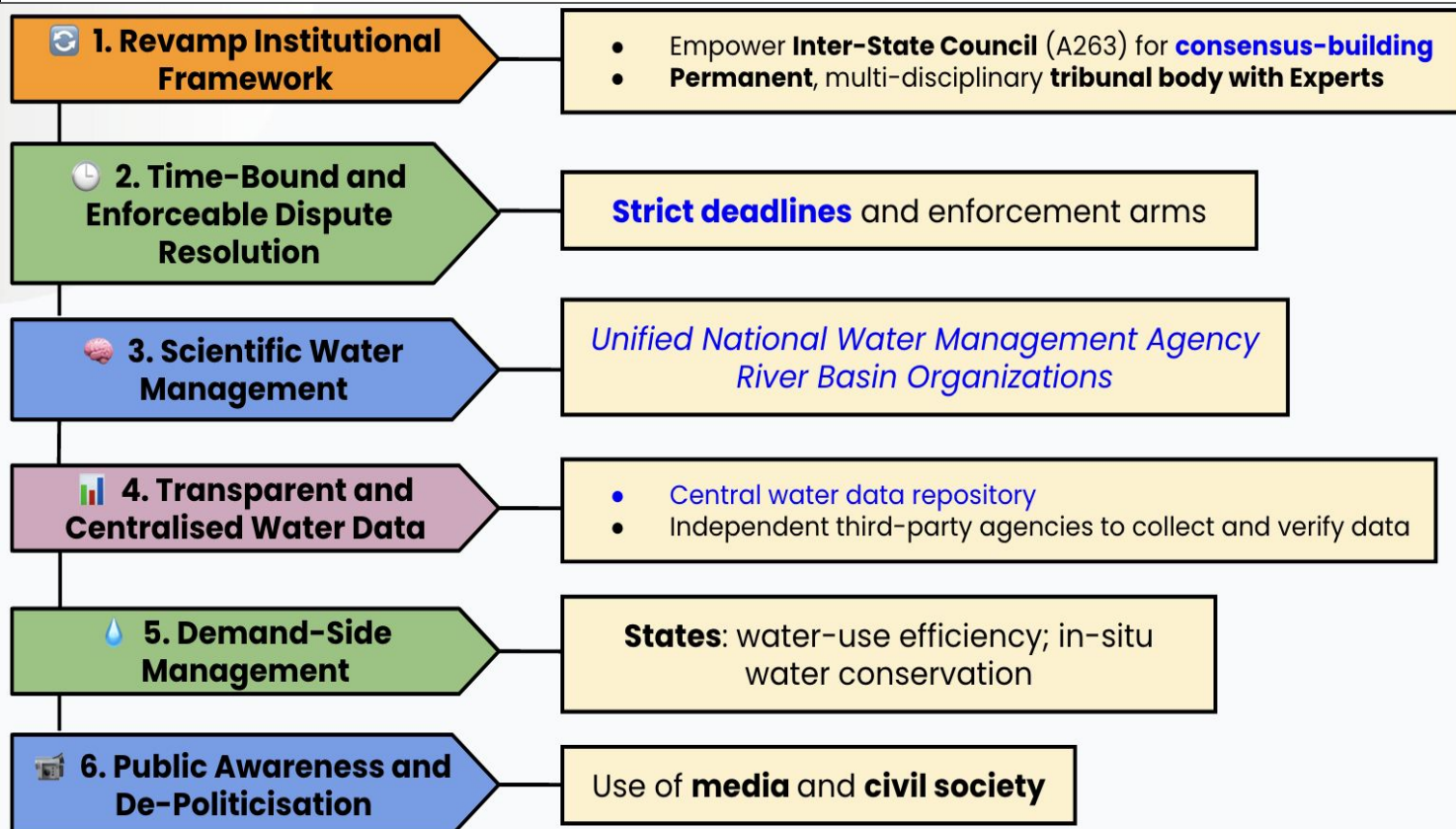
Protests, violence, and **state defiance** (e.g., Tamil Nadu-Karnataka tensions over Cauvery)



Punjab – Haryana dispute

CONTEXT: The Battle Over Bhakra-Nangal Waters.

What Can Be Done? – Suggested Reforms



Mains Practise Question

India's inter-state water disputes reflect deeper tensions in cooperative federalism. Illustrate with examples.

(15 Marks, 250 words)

International Best Practices for Reference

| | |
|--|--|
|  USA | Colorado River Compact – Inter-state agreements with federal oversight |
|  EU | EU Water Framework Directive – River basin management across countries |
|  Australia | Murray-Darling Basin Authority – Independent scientific body governing river basin |

UPSC PYQ (M) 2013

Constitutional mechanisms to resolve the inter-state water disputes have failed to address and solve the problems. Is the failure due to structural or process inadequacy or both? Discuss.

Other major inter-state river disputes

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Ravi & Beas States fighting Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan | Narmada MP, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan | Krishna Maharashtra, Andhra, Karnataka |
|---|---|--|



Syllabus: Prelims: Current events of National & International importance
Newspaper : Indian Express, **Page No. 13**

India's Financial Counterstrike

A. Push to Block Pakistan's Loans from Multilateral Banks

1. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**
 - **Current Package:** \$7 billion bailout (2024-27).
 - **Next Tranche:** \$1 billion (due May 9, 2025).
 - **India's Demand:** Review if funds are **diverted to terror groups**.
2. **World Bank**
 - **Active Loans:** \$50 billion (400+ projects).
 - **Recent Approvals:**
 - \$102 million (Climate resilience, March 2025).
 - \$108 million (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa projects, April 2025).
3. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**
 - **Total Exposure:** \$43.4 billion (700+ loans).
 - **Next Board Meeting:** May 20, 2025 (India to raise objections).

Pakistan's Economic Crisis & Why Loans Matter

- **Debt Trap:** External debt = **\$130 billion+** (40% of GDP).
- **IMF Bailout Conditions:**
 - **Tax hikes, subsidy cuts** → Public unrest.
 - **Army's Budget Untouched:** Funds diverted to **ISI-backed proxies**.
- **Default Risk:** Without IMF, Pakistan **can't repay China (\$30 billion CPEC debt)**.

INDIA INTENDS to speak with all multilateral development banks (MDBs) to push back against providing funds and loans to Pakistan against the backdrop of a terror attack in Kashmir last week, a senior government official said.

Understanding the Financial Action Task Force

B. Re-list Pakistan in FATF's 'Grey List'

Intergovernmental organization that sets global standards to combat:

- ✓ **Money Laundering**
- ✓ **Terrorist Financing**
- ✓ **Proliferation Financing** (nuclear/weapons)

- **Established:** 1989 (G7 Summit, Paris).
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France.
- **Members:** 39 countries + EU (India joined in **2010**).
- **Global Reach:** Over **180 countries** follow FATF via regional bodies.

1989: stop **drug money laundering**

2001: After **9/11**, its mandate+ : **terror financing**

| List | Meaning | Consequences | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Grey List | High-risk but cooperating. | Warning; economic slowdown. | Pakistan (till 2023) |
| Black list | Harbors terror/ money laundering. | Severe sanctions: No IMF/ World Bank loans, trade bans. | North Korea, Iran, Myanmar |

India's Role:

✓ **2019:** India convinced FATF to grey-list Pakistan **after Pulwama attack**.

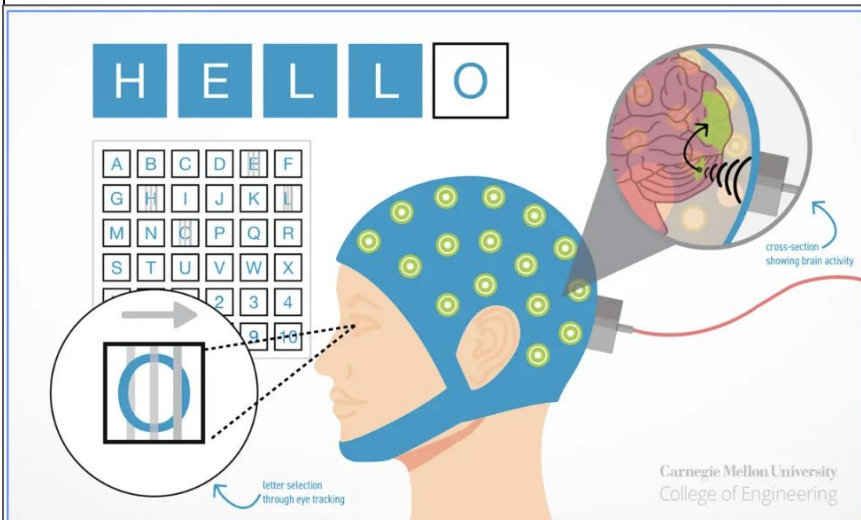
Forced **Pakistan to arrest Hafiz Saeed** (LeT chief).

Froze accounts of 26/11 masterminds



Syllabus: Prelims: General Science
Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No. 10**

Brain-Computer Interface



Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) have achieved a significant breakthrough in assistive technology for individuals with paralysis. The lead author of a scientific paper on the project, an Indian who grew up in Chennai, **Nikhilesh Natraj**, says they have developed a **brain-computer interface (BCI)** that allows a paralysed man to control a robotic arm simply by imagining the movements he wishes to execute.

Carnegie Mellon University
College of Engineering

A **Brain-Computer Interface** is a **direct communication pathway** between the brain and an external device (like a robotic arm). It allows paralyzed individuals to **control machines using just their thoughts**.

- **How It Works:**
 - **Sensors** implanted in the brain detect electrical signals.
 - **AI algorithms** decode these signals into commands.
 - **Robotic limbs/devices** execute the intended movement.

Other details

To start with, the team had to understand the neural patterns behind movement. The key was discovering how activity shifts in the brain day to day as a study participant repeatedly imagined making specific movements. Once a machine learning/AI algorithm was programmed to account for those shifts, it worked for months at a time.

The study participant had tiny sensors implanted on the surface of his brain that could pick up brain activity when he imagined moving. The sensors do not send pulses to the brain, but only read out the intent to move from the movement regions of the brain, Dr. Natraj explains.

Old BCI Systems

Needed daily recalibration.

Short-term use only.

Limited to lab settings.

New UCSF BCI

Works for **7+ months** without reset.

Stable long-term control.

Can perform **real-world tasks** (grabbing objects, opening doors).

Key Achievements:

✓ Performed Real-World Tasks:

- Picking up **blocks**.
- Opening a **cabinet**.
- Holding a **cup** under a water dispenser.



Syllabus: Prelims: Social Development
Newspaper : Indian Express, Page No. 5

Understanding **SHRESHTA**

- **Objective:** Bridge the **education gap** in SC-dominated areas by admitting students to **top private residential schools**.
- **Managed by:** Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- **Key Focus:**
 - **Merit-based selection** through an entrance exam.
 - **Full financial support** (school + hostel fees).
 - **Holistic development** via bridge courses & monitoring.

Criteria

Details

Caste

Only **Scheduled Caste (SC)** students.

Class

Studying **Class 8 or 10** (for admission into **Class 9 or 11**).

Income

Family income \leq **₹2.5 lakh/year**.

Selection

Clear **National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS)** by NTA.

"Every year, 3,000 fresh students are selected under the scheme through a **National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS)** conducted by the **National Testing Agency**. The last date to apply for NETS is May 5 on the website of NTA," it added.

| Feature | Mode 1: SHRESHTA Schools (Top Private Residential Schools) | Mode 2: NGO/VO-Run Schools & Hostels |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Target Students | Meritorious SC students qualifying NETS exam | SC students not selected under Mode 1 |
| Admission Process | - Clear NETS (by NTA) - Admission to CBSE/State Board-affiliated private schools (Classes 9 & 11) | Admitted to NGO/Voluntary Organization-run schools/hostels |
| Financial Support | - Full fee covered: ₹1,00,000-₹1,35,000 per student (Classes 9-12) - 10% bridge course fee also covered | - Grants of ₹27,000-₹55,000 per student (school-type based) |
| Monitoring | Regular academic and progress tracking by Ministry | Not explicitly mentioned; assumed under NGO accountability |
| Implementing Bodies | Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment + Private Schools | NGOs/VOs supported by Government grants |



Syllabus: Prelims: Economic & Social Development
Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No. 11**

Basics of **INSIDER TRADING**

Insider trading (or **insider dealing**) is the illegal practice of trading a company's **stocks, bonds, or securities** based on **confidential, non-public information** that can influence the stock price.

- **Why is it illegal?**

Regulated in India by: SEBI under **Prohibition of Insider Trading (PIT) Regulations, 2015.**

Unpublished Price Sensitive Information

- ✓ **Financial Results** (Quarterly profits/losses).
- ✓ **Mergers & Acquisitions** (e.g., Adani-SB Energy deal).
- ✓ **Major Contracts/Losses** (Winning a big govt tender).
- ✓ **Leadership Changes** (CEO resigning).

Trading on UPSI = Insider Trading = Illegal.



Who is an "Insider"?

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Company Officials | Directors, CEOs, employees. |
| Professional Advisors | Bankers, lawyers, auditors. |
| Connected Persons | Relatives, friends, trustees. |
| Market Intermediaries | Stock exchange officials, AMC employees |

Key Rule: If you had any connection to the company in the last 6 months, you're considered an insider.

How Does Insider Trading Work?

| Aspect | Details |
|------------------------|---|
| Deal | Adani Green acquired SB Energy (\$3.5 bn) in 2021. |
| Accused | Pranav Adani (Director) shared UPSI with brother-in-law Kunal Shah . |
| Illegal Gain | Shah brothers made ₹9 lakh profit from Adani Green shares. |
| SEBI Action | Issued notice; Pranav seeks settlement . |
| Defense | Claims info was "publicly available." |
| Violation | Punishment |
| Individual | Fine up to ₹25 crore or 3x illegal gain (whichever higher). |
| Company | Penalty + debarment from markets . |
| Criminal Charge | Jail up to 10 years (in extreme cases). |

Details of the **NEWS**

India's markets regulator alleged **Pranav Adani**, director of several Adani group firms and the nephew of the billionaire founder, **shared price sensitive information and breached norms aimed at preventing insider trading**, according a document reviewed by *Reuters*.

Mr. Kunal Shah and Nrupal Shah, his brother, then **traded in shares of Adani Green** and made "ill-gotten gains" of ₹9 million, the document added.

The Shah brothers said in a statement sent by their law firm the trades were not executed with the "knowledge of any unpublished price sensitive information nor with any mala fide intent. "The information in question was **already generally available in the public domain**," the statement said.



Syllabus: Prelims: Economic & Social Development
Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No. 11**

UPSC PYQ (P) 2024

In India, which of the following can trade in Corporate Bonds and Government Securities?

1. Insurance Companies
2. Pension Funds
3. Retail Investors

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

UPSC PYQ (P) 2023

In the context of finance, the term 'beta' refers to:

- a) The process of simultaneous buying and selling of an asset from different platforms
- b) An investment strategy of a portfolio manager to balance risk versus reward
- c) A type of systemic risk that arises where perfect hedging is not possible
- d) A numeric value that measures the fluctuations of a stock to changes in the overall stock market



Syllabus: Prelims: Current events of National & International importance
Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No. 12**

ICJ Hearings on Gaza Aid



Drones attacked a vessel carrying aid to Gaza while it was in international waters off Malta on Friday, the group organising the shipment said. A fire broke out but was brought under control, according to authorities.

Israel's blockade since March 2, 2025

Israel banned UNRWA (90% of Gaza's aid) → UNGA sought advisory opinion of ICJ "infiltrated by Hamas"

Judgments Binding on disputing states.

Advisory Opinions Non-binding guidance.

Al Jazeera

ICJ hearing on Israel's obligation to allow aid to Palestine: Key takeaways

10 hours ago



International Court of Justice

"World Court," principal judicial organ of the United Nations

Established in 1945 (operations in 1946)

- Settles legal disputes between countries
- Gives advisory opinions on international law.

- **HQ:** Peace Palace, The Hague, Netherlands (only UN body not in NY).
- **Official Languages:** Eng & Frn
- **Membership:** All 193 UN member states are automatically parties
 - **Non-UN states** (e.g., Switzerland before joining the UN) : **ICJ Statute.**



How is the ICJ Structured?

Composition: 15 Judges

Term: 9 years (elections/ 3 years for 5 judges)

- Election: UNGA + UNSC (no 2 from same nation)

Jurisdiction: Cases Can ICJ Handle?

A. Contentious Cases (Between States)

- Only **countries** (Border conflict, Maritime disputes, Treaty violations)

B. Advisory Opinions

- **Non-binding legal advice** to UN bodies

Enforcement: No police force; relies on UNSC enforcement



Syllabus: Prelims: Current events of National & International importance
Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No. 12**

| Aspect | ICJ (World Court) | ICC (Criminal Court) |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Established | 1945 (UN Charter) | 2002 (Rome Statute) |
| Type | Civil court (state vs. state) | Criminal court (prosecutes individuals) |
| Membership | All UN members + others | 124 Rome Statute parties |
| Jurisdiction | Sovereignty, boundary disputes, maritime disputes, trade, natural resources, human rights, treaty violations, treaty interpretation, etc. | Genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, crimes of aggression. |
| Enforcement | UN Security Council | No police; relies on states |
| Funding | UN | Contribution wrt Rome Statute , Voluntary contributions: UN, governments, international organizations, individuals, corporations and other entities |
| India's Status | Member (as a UN state) | Not a member |

UPSC PYQ (P) 2022

The term "Levant" often heard in the news roughly corresponds to which of the following regions?

- [A] Region along the eastern Mediterranean shores
- [B] Region along North African shores stretching from Egypt to Morocco
- [C] Region along Persian Gulf and Horn of Africa
- [D] The entire coastal areas of Mediterranean Sea

UPSC PYQ (P) 2018

"Rule of the law Index" is released by which of the following?

- a) Amnesty International
- b) International Court of Justice
- c) The Office of UN Commissioner of Human Rights
- d) World Justice Project



Q1. Regarding the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. Question Hour is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the House, while Zero Hour is not.
2. Zero Hour begins immediately after the Question Hour and is used by members to raise matters of urgent public importance.
3. During Question Hour, only starred questions are answered orally on the floor of the House.

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

Q2. Regarding Inter-State River Water Disputes in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Parliament may by law establish tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to Inter-State rivers.
2. The awards of such tribunals are binding on the parties and are subject to judicial review by the Supreme Court.
3. The Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, of 1956, bars the jurisdiction of all courts, including the Supreme Court, regarding any water dispute referred to a tribunal.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q3. Which of the following statements regarding the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) are correct?

1. FATF is an inter-governmental body established during the G7 Summit in 1989.
2. It sets international standards to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.
3. India is a founding member of the FATF.

4. FATF maintains two public lists: the "grey list" and the "black list".

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: a

Q4. Regarding the SHRESHTA scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Education to provide residential education to meritorious Scheduled Caste students.
2. The scheme covers students of Classes 9 to 12 in top private residential schools.
3. The selection of students under the scheme is done through a national-level entrance test.

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

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

Answer: c

Q5. Regarding the International Court of Justice (ICJ), consider the following statements:

1. It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.
2. Its judgments are binding on all member states of the United Nations.
3. Only states can be parties to cases before the ICJ.
4. The ICJ has a permanent seat in The Hague, Netherlands.

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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