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Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**07th May 2025**



# India – UK Relations

**CONTEXT:** India and the United Kingdom have concluded a historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that will see 99% of Indian exports to the U.K..

## Long and complex history of relations

- India decided to **remain in the Commonwealth of Nations** after becoming a Republic in **1950**.
- **Phase of Strained Relationship during Cold war:**
  - India pursued a **non-aligned foreign policy** while the **UK was a NATO ally of the US**.
  - UK opposed **India's wars with Pakistan** and **India's nuclear tests**.
- **Economic Reforms (1990s):** Post-Cold War, economic liberalisation improved ties, focusing on trade and investment.
- **Strategic Partnership (2004):** Upgraded relations with regular high-level visits, enhancing cooperation in trade, defence, and cultural exchanges.

## Significance of the close India-UK relations :

- **Geo-Strategic:**
  - India to counter China's rise in the Indian Ocean Region
  - UK – "China plus one strategy"
- **Geopolitical:**
  - Indo-Pacific, Afghanistan, UNSC, G20 and Commonwealth
- **Economic: India-UK FTA**
  - Boost to **India's labour-intensive sectors** – tariffs on textile & footwear will be eliminated
  - **increase Indian service exports:** Double contribution convention, skilled Indians employed in UK & their employers will be exempted from paying **social security contributions for 3 years**.
  - **UK's beverage and automobile industry**
- **Climate Change:**
  - One Sun One World One Grid Initiative

## Breaking barriers

The deal is expected to double bilateral trade by 2030

■ **99%** Indian exports to benefit from **zero duty** in U.K. market

■ Britain to benefit from reduction in tariffs on whisky, gin and automotive imports

■ Reduced import duties for cosmetics, aerospace and medical devices, lamb, salmon, electrical machinery, chocolates and biscuits to benefit Indian consumers



## Growing Convergence

- **Defense and Security:**
  - Defence and International Security Partnership in 2015
  - **Military exercise:** Ajay warrior, Konkan & Cobra Warrior etc.
- **Health:**
  - Oxford University, AstraZeneca and Serum Institute on **COVID-19 vaccine**
  - working on pandemic preparedness, Antimicrobial Resistance, digital health, Ayurveda etc.



# India – UK Relations



**CONTEXT:** India and the United Kingdom have concluded a historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that will see 99% of Indian exports to the U.K..

- **Indian Diaspora:**
  - Only **1.8% of population** contribute **6% of Britain's GDP**.
  - 57th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom – **Rishi Sunak, was of Indian Origin**.
- **Economic Cooperation:**
  - **2022** – India was the **UK's twelfth largest trading partner**, accounting for **2% of the UK's total trade**.
  - UK is **6th largest investor** in India (2000–2023).
- **Geo Political Cooperation:**
  - UK **supports India's proposal for permanent membership** of the UNSC
  - India-UK Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Dialogue, India-UK JWG on Counter Terrorism

## Challenges in the relations

- **UK's closeness to China:** India opposes BRI while UK engage substantially with BRI.
- **Khalistan Issue:** Allegations of UK's support for Sikh separatism
- **Extradition Rigidities:** Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and other fugitives from London.
- **Illegal Migrants:** more than 1 lakh of illegal Indian immigrants in the UK
- **Colonial Legacy**

## Way Forward

- **Agreement on "migration and mobility"**
- **Streamlining the extradition process**
- **Prioritize collaboration in counterterrorism, HADR, and maritime security**
- **Jointly reviving multilateralism and multilateral institutions**

## MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

*"India-UK relations have evolved from a shared colonial past to a strategic partnership in the 21st century. Critically examine the key areas of cooperation and challenges in the bilateral relationship in the context of recent global developments."*

**(15 Marks, 250 words)**



# Lateral entry & challenges faced by civil services



**CONTEXT:** On the occasion of Civil Services Day (April 21), **Cabinet Secretary T. V. Somanathan IAS**, spoke about the importance of civil services in maintaining and strengthening democracy, the **need for lateral entrants and greater transparency**.

## Role of Civil services :

- **Conducting free & fair elections**
- **Ensuring uninterrupted administration during President's Rule**
- **Development side:** Repository of institutional knowledge
- **Executing & Monitoring Programmes:** laying down laws, rules & regulations
- **Crisis Handler:** Bhilwara model of Covid-19 management

## What ails Civil services?

- **Politicisation of Bureaucracy:** postings & transfers
- **Lack expertise:** address technical challenges
- **Corruption:** No adequate protection in **Whistle Blowers Act, 2014:**
  - anonymous complaints are not allowed
  - **disclosure is done malafidely:** imprisonment for a term extending up to 2 years and a fine extending up to Rs. 30,000.
- **Rule-Book Bureaucracy:** Focus on "Procedures" & not "Outcomes"
- **Ineffective Incentive system**

## Lateral entry

**Need for lateral entry:** Technical expertise: rising complexity

## Positive Impact of lateral entry:

- **Strengthening of participatory Governance**
- **Improvement of Governance efficiency:**
  - ex- Appointment of **Montek Singh Ahluwalia** (Planning Commission), **Vijay Kelkar** (Ministry of Finance) and **Parameshwaran Iyer** (Swachh Bharat Mission)
- **Bringing a Change in Work Culture**
- **Augmenting Human resource availability:** DoPT - shortage of 1,500 IAS officers

## Challenges in lateral entry:

- **Outsider Syndrome**
- **Maintaining Objectivity and Neutrality**
- **Sidelineing of reservation policy**
- **Short Tenure**
- **Lack familiarity with administrative complexity**

## Way Forward :

- Maintain balance b/w career civil servants and lateral entrants
  - Tenure stability to Career civil servants
  - Assimilation with bureaucratic structure
  - Transparent appointment process: **ARC recommendation**
  - Implementation of reservation policy
- Skilled, Open & Connected Bureaucracy**

## MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

*"Assess the impact of lateral entrants on overall governance within India's Civil services"*

**(15 Marks, 250 words)**





**SYLLABUS : GS 3:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

**Newspaper :** Indian Express **Page No :** 7

## Decoding the News :

**Context:** World Bank in its recent report highlighted that **1.2 billion** young people will be reaching the **working age in developing nations** but these economies may not be able to generate **jobs for even 300 million**.

- **N.K. Singh** – India MSME's are crucial to bridge this employment gap.

## Significance of MSME's:

- **Employment** – 150 million ( 40% of labour force )
- **Contribution to GDP** – 30%
- **Exports** – 45%

## Challenges faced by MSME's:

- **Access to formal credit:** RBI Committee
  - **14%** of MSME's have access to **formal credit**.
  - **Credit gap** – ₹25 lakh Crore
  - **Other Countries:** China – 37% & US – 50%
- **Compliance Culture:**
  - Committee under Cabinet Secretary – **"Deregulation"**
- **Informalisation:** Lack of evidence-based policy making
- **Missing – Middle:**
  - 63 million MSME's – **99% of that is micro**.
- **Integration with global & Indian value-chain:** inadequate branding & stringent quality standards

## New MSME Classification Criteria as per Union Budget 2025

ENTERPRISE CATEGORY	CURRENT INVESTMENT LIMIT	REVISED INVESTMENT LIMIT	CURRENT TURNOVER LIMIT	REVISED TURNOVER LIMIT
MICRO ENTERPRISE	₹1 crore	₹2.5 crore	₹5 crore	₹10 crore
SMALL ENTERPRISE	₹10 crore	₹25 crore	₹50 crore	₹100 crore
MEDIUM ENTERPRISE	₹50 crore	₹125 crore	₹250 crore	₹500 crore

## Steps Taken:

- MUDRA Yojana
- JAM Trinity
- Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) – **Hosiery important cluster in Tamil Nadu**
- Udyam registration portal
- Government-e-marketplace

## International Practices:

- **Kenya: M-Pesa** – mobile phone based payments & micro-financing portal.
- **Vietnam:** building clusters
- **South africa:** Blended finance



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Defense**  
**Newspaper: Indian Express Page No: 16**

Preparedness of civil defence mechanisms in the event of a possible hostile attack will be assessed. Normal life may be impacted for a short time

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, MAY 6

THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT has directed all states and Union Territories to conduct mock drills on May 7 "across the 244 categorized Civil Defence Districts of the country" in order to "assess and enhance the readiness of civil defence mechanisms" in the event of a possible hostile attack.

As part of the "Civil Defence Exercise and Rehearsal", states and UTs have been asked to operationalise air raid warning sirens, implement crash blackout measures in selected areas, and train civilians, including students, on safety protocols to be followed during an aerial or ground assault.

Other important measures include rehearsing evacuation plans and early camouflaging of vital installations such as power plants and military-linked infrastructure.

**What are Civil Defence Districts?**

These are demarcated areas or regions – including towns and districts – that are designated for the implementation of civil defence programs on the recommendation of the Ministry of Defence.

The demarcation of Civil Defence Districts is based on the location of the towns or districts (such as near the country's borders), their vulnerability to attacks, and the location of vital installations (such as defence installations, nuclear plants, thermal power plants, key government buildings, etc) and

critical infrastructure (such as major highways, railways, ports, etc).

In 2010, the Ministry of Home Affairs notified 259 Civil Defence Districts across the country, divided into three categories.

There are 13 districts in Category I, which require full implementation of civil defence programs; Category II (201) and Category III (45) districts require partial implementation in varying degrees.

The largest numbers of these districts – 32 – are in West Bengal, followed by Rajasthan (28), Assam (20), Punjab (20), and J&K (20).

Category I districts are notified in Delhi (including Delhi Cantonment), Gujarat (Surat, Vadodara and Kakrapar), Maharashtra

(Mumbai, Uran, and Tarapur), Odisha (Talcher), Rajasthan (Kota and Rawat Bhata), Tamil Nadu (Chennai), and Uttar Pradesh (Bulandshahr).

In a communication issued to states on January 16, 2023, the Home Ministry had said that the Centre had "identified a total of 295 vulnerable towns/districts of the country where Civil Defence measures need to be implemented during the peace time".

Government sources told *The Indian Express* on Tuesday that Wednesday's mock drills were intended for the 244 Civil Defence Districts in which the civil defence infrastructure is already in place. However, states can expand the scope of the drill – UP, for example, was likely to hold the drills across all its 75 districts, the sources said.

**What will happen during the mock drill?**  
In communication sent on May 2 and May

## EVOLUTION OF CIVIL DEFENCE IN INDIA

**INITIALLY** confined to making states/UTs conscious of the need for civil defence measures; ask them to keep ready Civil Defence Paper Plans for major cities and towns.

**AFTER 1962, 1965 WARS**, The Civil Defence Act, 1968 came into being.

**DURING 1971 WAR**, these established mechanisms helped save civilian lives. Lists of categorised towns have

been revised at regular intervals ever since, with the perception of threat as the basic criterion for categorisation.

**SINCE 1985**, civil defence preparedness has taken into consideration both conventional and nuclear weapons threats. Of late, natural disasters have also come to inform the categorisation of civil defence districts.

5, the Home Ministry asked states and UTs to "assess the effectiveness of air raid warning systems", ensure the "operationalization of Hotline/Radio Communication Links with the Indian Air Force", and "test the functionality of control rooms and shadow control rooms".

"Civilians, students, etc" should be trained on "civil defence aspects to protect themselves in the event of hostile attack", and **Civil Defence Services**, especially, warden services, firefighting, rescue service, and depot should be activated.

The "provision of crash blackout measures; early camouflaging of vital plants/ installations; updation of Civil Defence Plan and its rehearsal; updation of evacuation plan and its rehearsal; and cleaning of bunkers, trenches, etc." are also part of the mock drill.

Civil Defence preparedness involves the direct participation of civil defence units such as district controllers, various district authorities, civil defence wardens/ volunteers, Home Guards, National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme volunteers, Nehru Yuva Kendra volunteers, and students in general.

However, the normal life of the public also tends to be affected in the notified districts.

For example, notified towns and cities may have to deal with brief and sudden power outages. Following an air raid warning, all vehicular traffic in a notified area will come to a halt, and commuters will be expected to take shelter and other precautionary measures. In vulnerable villages and towns, there may be evacuations, and people may be asked to enter shelters, bunkers, or trenches.

These mock drills will be conducted under the Defence Act of 1968, which gives the

government a range of sweeping powers.

■ It allows the government to restrict movement, impose curfews, control assemblies or gatherings, and close roads, ports, and transport services during emergencies, as required.

■ The government can detain or arrest a person without the usual legal processes, and order the killings of animals.

■ It can also compulsorily acquire property, requisition services, and control the supply and distribution of goods, especially essentials.

■ The government can direct individuals or classes of persons to perform certain kinds of work or duties, and control industries that are crucial to national security.

■ The law also empowers the government to regulate or censor communications, publications, and broadcasts.

**Why has the mock drill been announced?**

The communication to states has come in the wake of the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahaligam, but it does not specifically mention an impending threat other than a reference to the "training of civilians...in the event of hostile attack".

The last time such elaborate drills were conducted was in 1971, when the country was building up for the war against Pakistan.

On April 29, Pakistan said it had intelligence that an Indian attack was imminent, and the Pak Army has carried out tests of two surface-to-surface missiles over the past few days. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited the headquarters of the ISI on Tuesday, Pakistani media reported.

**Are such drills carried out in other countries too?**

South Korea conducted a nationwide civil defence drill in August 2023 after North Korea launched an intercontinental ballistic missile. Similar drills were carried out in Ukraine ahead of the Russian invasion.

The idea of protecting non-combatants during conflict is centuries old – ancient cities had walls, shelters, and plans for sieges.

The idea of civil defence was formalised and organised in the 20th century. Air raids during World War I underlined the need for public safety measures. Some rudimentary air raid precautions began to appear. The UK, for example, set up its Air Raid Precautions (ARP) system in the late 1930s. Other countries, too, drew up plans to protect civilians.

Civil defence became a large-scale, global priority during World War II. The UK, Germany, Japan, the United States, and the Soviet Union set up extensive civil defence systems – air raid shelters were built, millions were moved as part of evacuation plans (e.g. children from London to the countryside), and volunteers were trained in firefighting, first aid, and bomb disposal.

During the Cold War, the focus shifted to nuclear threats. Countries developed new civil defence strategies, including fallout shelters, warning systems like sirens, and public drills. Today, with the increased emphasis on natural disasters, terrorism, and technological accidents, civil defence has evolved into broader "emergency management" or "disaster risk reduction" systems.

WITH MOHAMED THAYER IN MUMBAI

**Context:** In the wake of recent terrorist attack in Pahaligam, central government has directed all States & UT's to conduct "Civil defence drill" today, across 244 categorised "Civil Defence Districts".

**Are such drills carried out in other countries also?**

- **South Korea:** August, 2023 – **North Korea** launched an intercontinental ballistic missile.
- **Ukraine** ahead of Russia invasion.

**Previously:** Such elaborate drills were conducted in 1971 – after Indo-Pak war

**What are "Civil Defence Districts"?**

- **Demarcated towns & districts**– for implementation of "Civil defence programs" on the recommendation of **Ministry of Defence**.
- **Based on:**
  - **Location:** Near borders – Vulnerability to attack
  - **Vital Installations:** defence installations, nuclear plants, key govt. Buildings etc
  - **Critical Infrastructure:** major highways, railways & ports etc

**2010 – Ministry of Home affairs** notified **259 Civil Defence district**, divided into **3 categories:**

- **Category I:** require full implementation of of Civil defence programs
- **Category II & III:** partial implementation in varying degrees
- **January, 2023: 295** vulnerable towns/districts where "Civil Defence" measures need to be taken but today "Civil defence drill" would be conducted in only **244 "Civil Defence districts"**.





# Civil Defense drill



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Defense**

**Newspaper : Indian Express Page No : 16**

## What will happen during the drill?

- Assess the **effectiveness of air raid warning** systems
- Operationalisation of **Hotline/radio communication links with IAF**
- Test functionality of **control rooms**.
- Civilians, students etc should be **trained on safety protocols** to be followed during an **aerial or ground assault**.
- **Activation of Civil Defence services:** firefighting, rescue services and depot etc.
- Early camouflaging of **vital plants/installations**.
- **Direct participation of civil defence units:** district controllers, Home Guards, National Cadet Corps etc.

Mock drill will be conducted under the **Civil Defence Act, 1968:**

- Today, with increased emphasis on natural disasters, terrorism & technological accidents, civil defence has evolved into a broader **"emergency management" or "Disaster risk reduction" systems**.

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# Rules for Satellite Communication companies

**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Polity**

**Newspaper: Indian Express Page No : 15**

**SOUMYARENDRA BARIK**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 6

**LOCAL MANUFACTURING**, data localisation, domestic navigation system, blocking mechanism, and law enforcement cooperation — these are among the key requirements that India has framed for satellite communication companies including Elon Musk's Starlink, Amazon's Kuiper, Eutelsat OneWeb, and Jio to operate in the country.

As per guidelines released by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), satcom companies will have to share with the government a year-wise phased manufacturing plan aiming at indigenisation to a level of at least 20 per cent of their ground segment of the satellite network that is established at the end of 5 years after launching commercial operations.

The development comes as Starlink undergoes a security clearance for offering its services in the country, having already established retail partnerships with rivals Airtel and Jio. The Telecom

## FOR STARLINK, OTHERS

**ASPER** guidelines released by the DoT, satcom companies will have to share with the government a year-wise phased manufacturing plan aiming at indigenisation to a level of at least 20 per cent of their ground segment of

the satellite network that is established at the end of 5 years after launching commercial operations

**THE DEVELOPMENT** comes as Starlink undergoes a security clearance for offering its services in the country

Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is currently finalising the contours of the satellite spectrum allocation. The companies should also ensure provisioning of NavIC based positioning systems in their user terminals on "best effort basis," along with a transition plan to implement NavIC in a time-bound manner by 2029. NavIC is India's regional satellite navigation system, similar to GPS, which is a global system developed by the United States.



vide **real time monitoring** to ensure that no user traffic originating from, or destined for India is being routed through any gateway outside Indian territory. They will also have to submit an undertaking that they will not copy and decrypt Indian telecom data outside India.

"Indian user traffic shall not be routed through any Gateway/PoP located abroad or any space system, which is not part of satellite/constellation used for providing service... Indian user traffic shall not be mirrored to any system/server

located abroad," the guidelines said.

Satcom operators will also have to ensure that their data centres are based within the geographical boundary of India and shall make provision to provide Domain Name System (DNS) resolution within its territory.

"Essential functionalities like lawful interception facility, monitoring/control facility of user terminals, user data traffic routing, control of equipment in gateway routing data traffic etc., of the network control and monitoring centre (or equivalent facility) shall be located in India," the guidelines added.

## National security, law enforcement

Operators would need to implement service restriction to "any individual, group of subscribers or certain geographical areas" during "hostilities," the guidelines said. These companies will have to seek separate clearance ("from security angle") for voice service and data service.

**FULL REPORT ON**

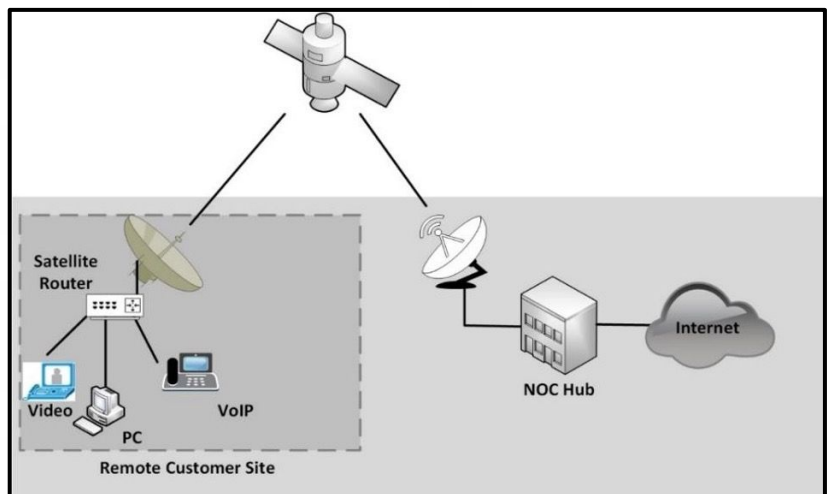
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Data localisation

Companies will have to pro-

## Satellite Internet

- **How it works ?**
- **Space Internet in Low Earth Orbit (up to 2,000 kilometers):**
  - **Advantages:**
    - Cost effective
    - Minimal latency
    - High Resolution images
- **Geostationary orbits of 36,000 kilometers from the Earth's equator:**
  - **Advantages:**
    - Coverage
    - Linking
    - Remote sensing





**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Science & Technology  
**Newspaper :** The Hindu **Page No :** 14

## Gaganyaan's manned mission likely in first quarter of 2027: ISRO chief

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) expects the Gaganyaan mission to launch Indian astronauts into space to take place in the first quarter of 2027. V. Narayanan, Chairman, ISRO, said at a press conference on Tuesday.

While it will be preceded by three test launches (two uncrewed and one with a robot), this is the latest extension of the launch date, in this most anticipated of ISRO's missions. The crewed mission was initially proposed for 2022 but kept being pushed further, with early 2027 being the latest timeline.

**Delay due to pandemic**  
Union Minister of State for Space Jitendra Singh and Mr. Narayanan said the delays had been caused by



**Taking flight:** The first uncrewed mission expected later this year will have a robot called Vyom-mitra on board. ANI

the COVID-19 pandemic, the tests required to train astronauts, extra test flights of the launch vehicle, and a revamped Gaganyaan programme under which eight missions, both crewed and uncrewed, would be executed till 2028.

"There are thousands of components and at least 10 lakh lines of code that need

to be written for ensuring that the crew in the launch vehicle is safe, can escape in case of an emergency, [and] they can be brought back safely to earth after the mission is completed," Mr. Narayanan said.

"About 10,000 people working for four-five years have to be credited with the progress so far."

Mr. Narayanan also said

the Axiom-4 private space mission to carry Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla to the International Space Station was scheduled for the first week of June. Officially, this launch, according to Axiom, is scheduled for May 29. India has paid ₹550 crore to Axiom for taking the first Indian astronaut to space after Rakesh Sharma's journey of 1984.

"This mission will allow Mr. Shukla to conduct several missions as well as gain extremely valuable experience, which will be useful to us," he said.

For the first uncrewed mission expected later this year, with a robot called Vyom-mitra on board, all propulsion systems for the human-rated launch vehicle are ready, and about 90% of the necessary infrastructure and tests are also ready.

### About Gaganyaan Mission :

- **1st human space flight programme of ISRO.**
- **Objective:** To demonstrate indigenous capability of human space flight to low earth orbit (400 km)
- **Launching crew of 3 members for 3 days and bring them back safely to earth,** by landing in Indian sea waters.
- **Payload will consist of:**
  - ◆ **Crew module** - spacecraft carrying human beings.
  - ◆ **Service module** - powered by two liquid propellant engines.
  - ◆ It will be equipped with **emergency escape** and emergency mission abort.

- **GSLV Mk III, also called the LVM-3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3), the three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle,** will be used to launch Gaganyaan
- India will become the **4th nation in the world** to launch a Human Spaceflight Mission after **USA, Russia, and China.**
- **Russia and France** are cooperating with India for Gaganyaan mission.



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Economy**

**Newspaper: The Hindu Page No: 01**

## India up three spots to 130 among 193 nations in HDI, but inequality persists

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**  
NEW DELHI

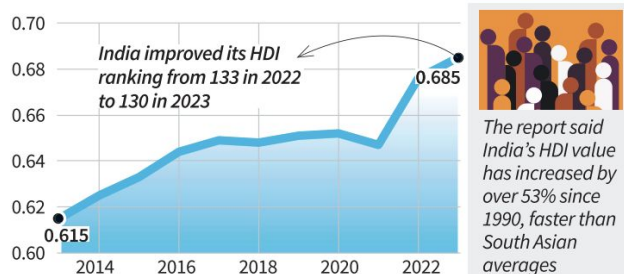
India moved up three spots in the Human Development Index, ranking 130 out of 193 countries in 2023, shows the Human Development Report, 2025, released on Tuesday by the United Nations Development Programme.

With the HDI value improving to 0.685 in 2023 from 0.676 in 2022, India remained in the medium human development category, moving closer to the high human development threshold of 0.700.

The Gross National Income per capita rose over four times to \$9,046.76 in 2023 from \$2,167.22 in 1990, while 135 million In-

### Steady progress

According to the latest UNDP report, India's Human Development Index(HDI) score improved from 0.676 in 2022 to 0.685 in 2023



dians escaped multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.

However, challenges persist, with inequality reducing India's HDI by 30.7%, one of the highest losses in the region, the report said. "While health and education inequality

have improved, income and gender disparities remain significant. Female labour force participation and political representation lag, though recent steps – such as the constitutional amendment reserving one-third of legislative seats for women –

offer promise for transformative change," it added.

Life expectancy in India rose to 72 in 2023 from 58.6 in 1990, the highest since the inception of the index, indicating a strong recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Global slowdown

Underscoring a broader global slowdown in human development the report revealed that the current pace of progress is the slowest since 1990, and India is no exception.

The inequality between low and very high HDI countries had increased for the fourth consecutive year, reversing long-standing progress, the report said.

### About HDI:

- It is released by **United Nations Development Programme**.
- **Background:** based on the human development approach, developed by **Mahbub ul Haq**, anchored in **Amartya Sen's work on human capabilities**, and often framed in terms of whether **people are able to "be" and "do" desirable things in life**.

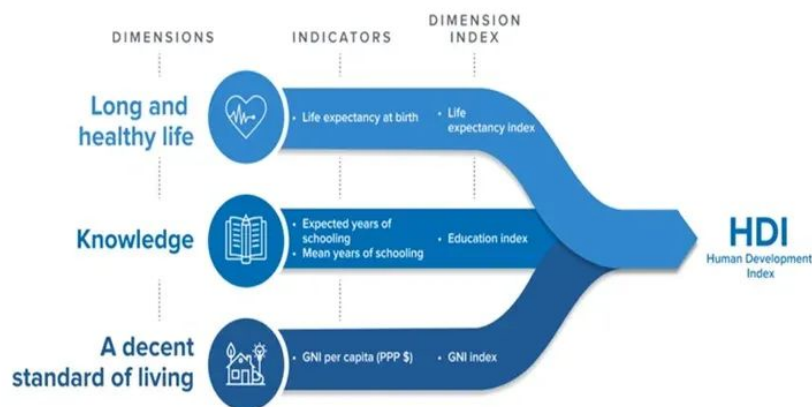
- It **establishes "goalposts"—minimum and maximum values—for each dimension** and then compares each nation's performance to them.
- This is denoted by a number **between 0 and 1**.





**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Economy**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu Page No : 01**

## HDI Dimensions and Indicators

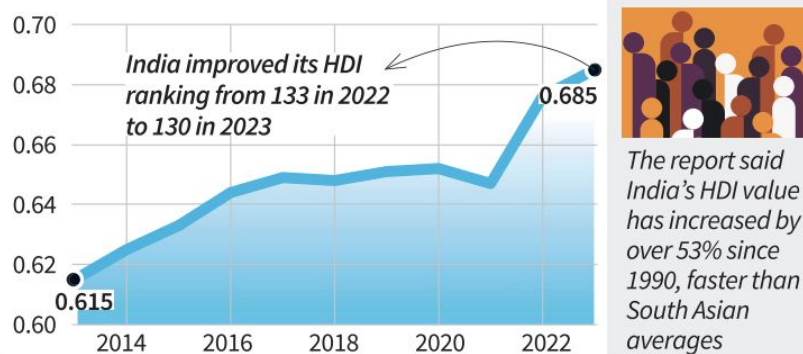


## Highlights of Human Development Report, 2025: India:

- Moved up 3 spots – **130/193 countries.**
- **Improvement in HDI value:** 0.685 (2023) from 0.676 (2022)
- **Gross National Income:** rose over **four times** \$2,167.22 (1990) to \$9,046.76 (2023).
- **Multidimensional poverty:** 135 million escaped b/w 2015–16 and 2019–21.
- **Life Expectancy:** 58.6 (1990) to 72 (2023)
- **Inequality persists:**
  - Improvement in health & education inequality
  - Income & gender inequality persists
- **Global slowdown in human development:** current pace of progress is slowest since 1990.

## Steady progress

According to the latest UNDP report, India's Human Development Index(HDI) score improved from 0.676 in 2022 to 0.685 in 2023





**Q1: Consider the following statements regarding India–United Kingdom relations:**

1. India remained a member of the Commonwealth of Nations after becoming a Republic in 1950.
2. During the Cold War, India maintained a strong military alliance with the UK as both were part of NATO.
3. A Strategic Partnership between India and the UK was established in 2004, enhancing cooperation in multiple sectors.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Q2: Consider the following statements regarding lateral entry into civil services in India:**

1. Lateral entry helps bring technical expertise to handle the growing complexity of governance.
2. One major challenge of lateral entry is its potential to dilute the reservation policy framework.
3. Lateral entry has no impact on improving governance efficiency in India.

**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:**

1. MSMEs contribute around 30% to India's GDP and employ nearly 150 million people, making up about 40% of the labour force.
2. According to the RBI, over 50% of MSMEs in India have access to formal credit, placing it ahead of countries like China and the US.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Q4: Which of the following indicators is/are used in calculating the Human Development Index?**

1. Life expectancy at birth
2. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita
3. Expected Year of Schooling

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below.**

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

**Answer: c**

**Q5: Consider the following statements regarding India's Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Programme:**

1. The Gaganyaan mission aims to demonstrate India's capability for human spaceflight to a low Earth orbit (400 km).
2. The Gaganyaan mission will be launched using the GSLV Mk II rocket, with cooperation from the USA and France.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: a**





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