



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

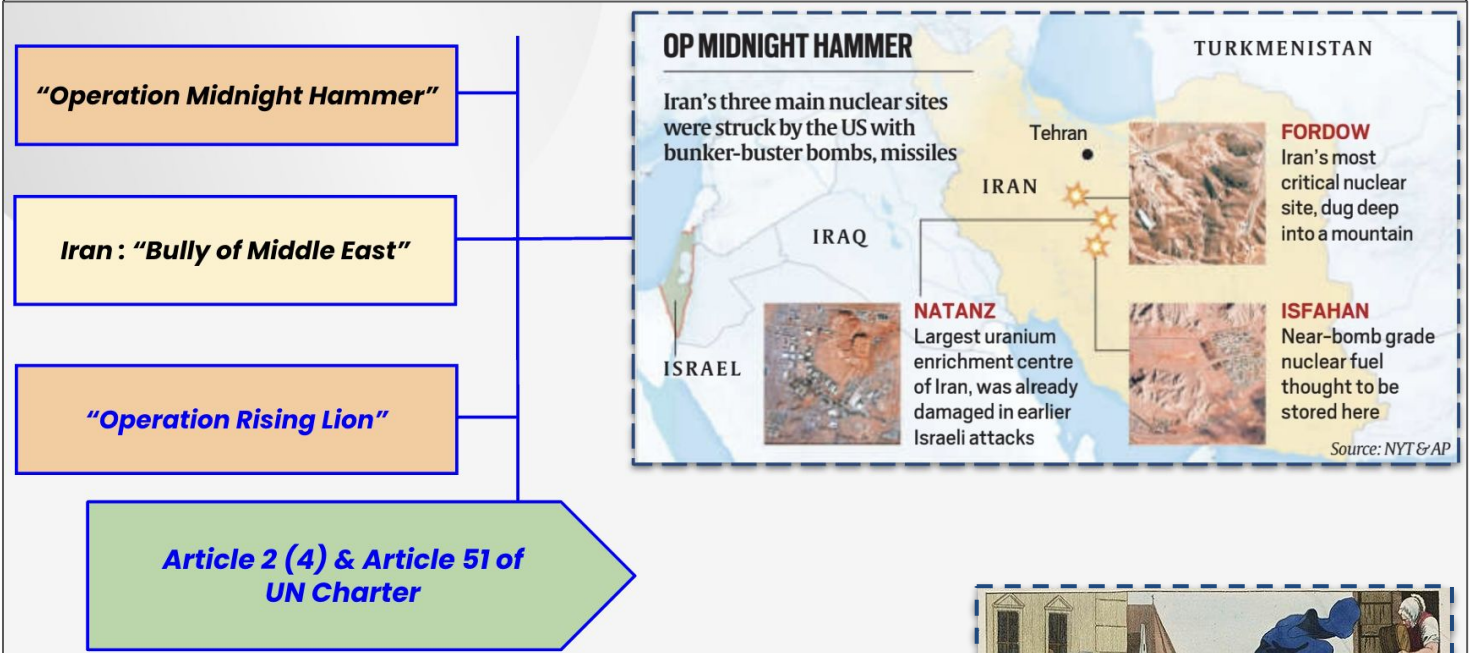
CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

23rd June 2025

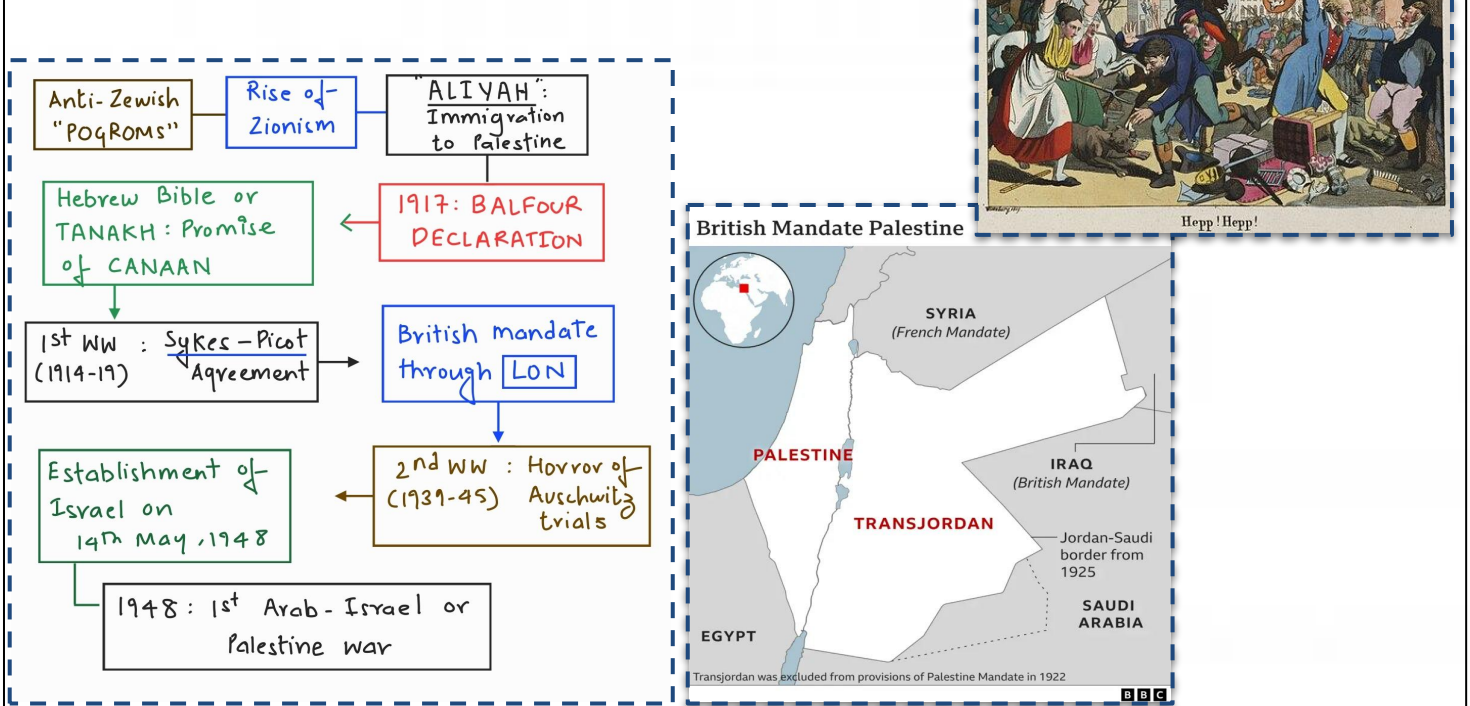


CONTEXT: On 22nd of June, USA carried out "Operation Midnight Hammer" on Iran's nuclear sites thus giving the Israel - Iran conflict a new turn

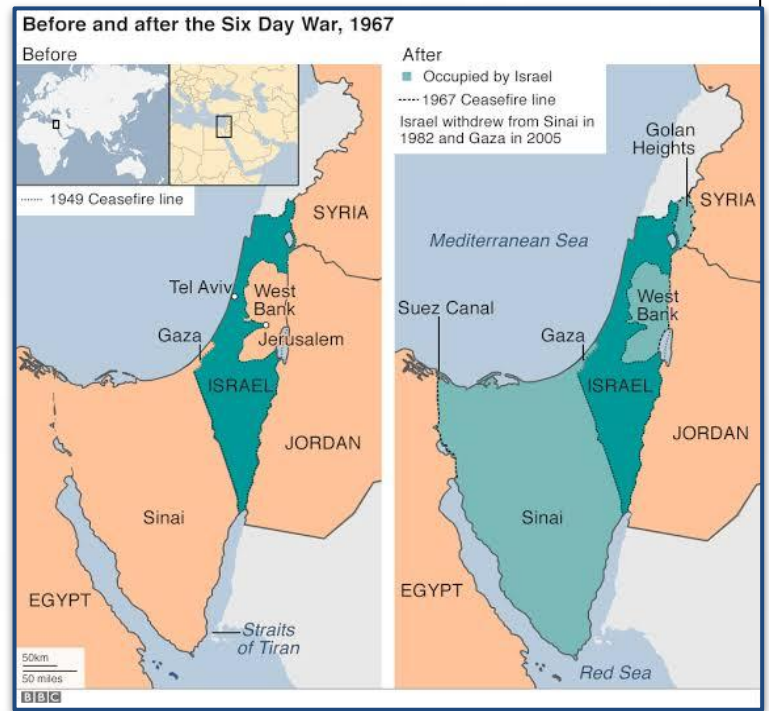
Pillar 1: Buildup to the War:



Pillar 2: History of Iran - Israel Conflict:



CONTEXT: On 22nd of June, USA carried out "Operation Midnight Hammer" on Iran's nuclear sites thus giving the Israel - Iran conflict a new turn



Mohammad Reza Pahlavi:
"Shah" of Iran: 1941-1979

WHITE REVOLUTION

- Modernisation of Nation by Nationalisation of Ind
- land reforms for Peasants
- Profit sharing for Ind. workers
- Sale & Purchase Agreement 1973 → complete control over Petroleum industries
- Iranian National income rose by 473 times
- Counterweight to USSR & close ally of Western Bloc

Iranian Revolution 1979

- Rise of Islamist cleric - Ruhollah Khomeini
- US companies taking 40% profits from petroleum
- Authoritarian role of Secret police SAVAK
- NIXON Doctrine → Iran became "regional policemen" in Gulf
- Civil Rebellion to protect Socialism & tenets of Islam



Mass demonstrations of people protesting against the Shah and the Pahlavi government on the day of Hosseini's Ashura on 11 December 1978 at College Bridge, Tehran



Front cover of *Ettela'at*, 16 January 1979, featuring (on the top) the now-famous headline "The Shah is Gone". The front cover of the same day's edition of *Kayhan* also feature the same headline



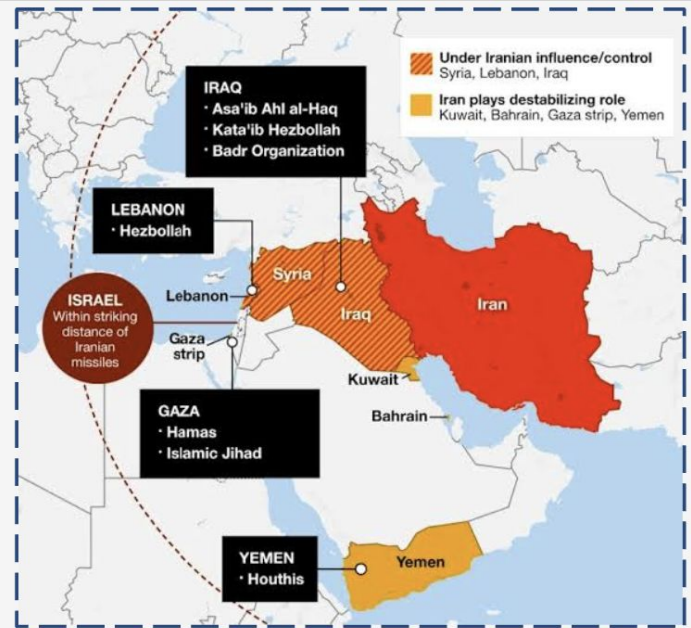
US & Israel's war against Iran

CONTEXT: On 22nd of June, USA carried out "Operation Midnight Hammer" on Iran's nuclear sites thus giving the Israel - Iran conflict a new turn

Pillar 3 : What is USA's Interest in the region?

Extension of "Nixon Doctrine"?

- Iran's role as Leader of "Shia" Muslim
- Intifada Wars (1987-1993) = Signing of **Oslo Accords**
- Creation of "**Axis of Resistance**" in West Asia



Extension of "Nixon Doctrine"?

Idea of Woodrow Wilson & Harry Truman

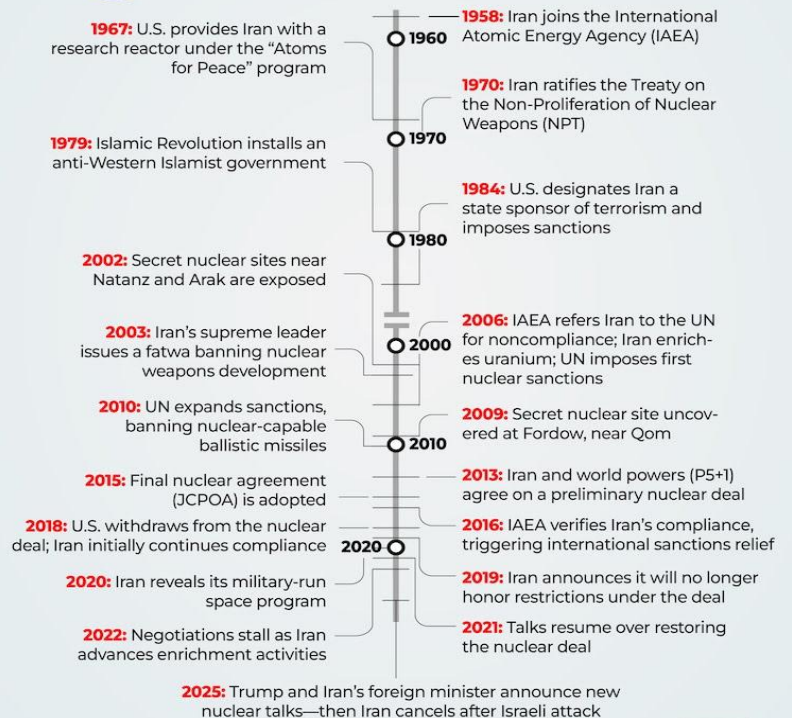
"Regional Policemen" after 6 Day War

\$158 billion in aid & \$3.8 billion military aid per annum

Two way trade : ~50 Billion

Veto Power in UN's Resolution

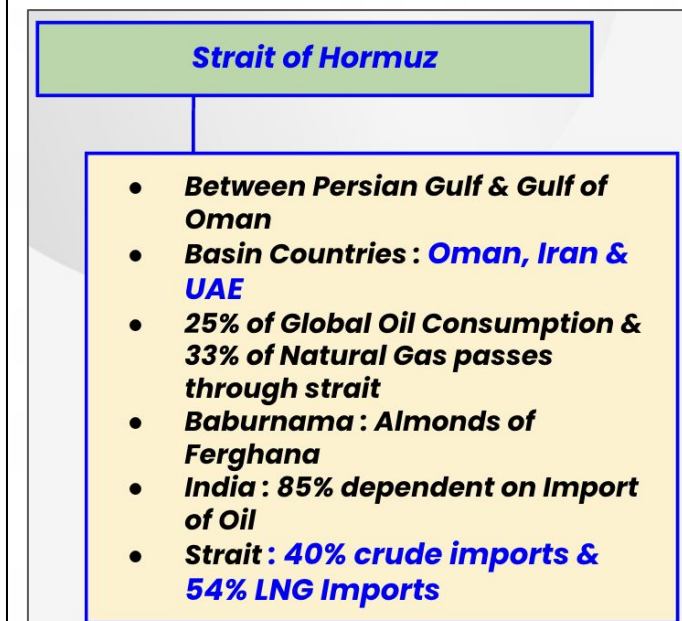
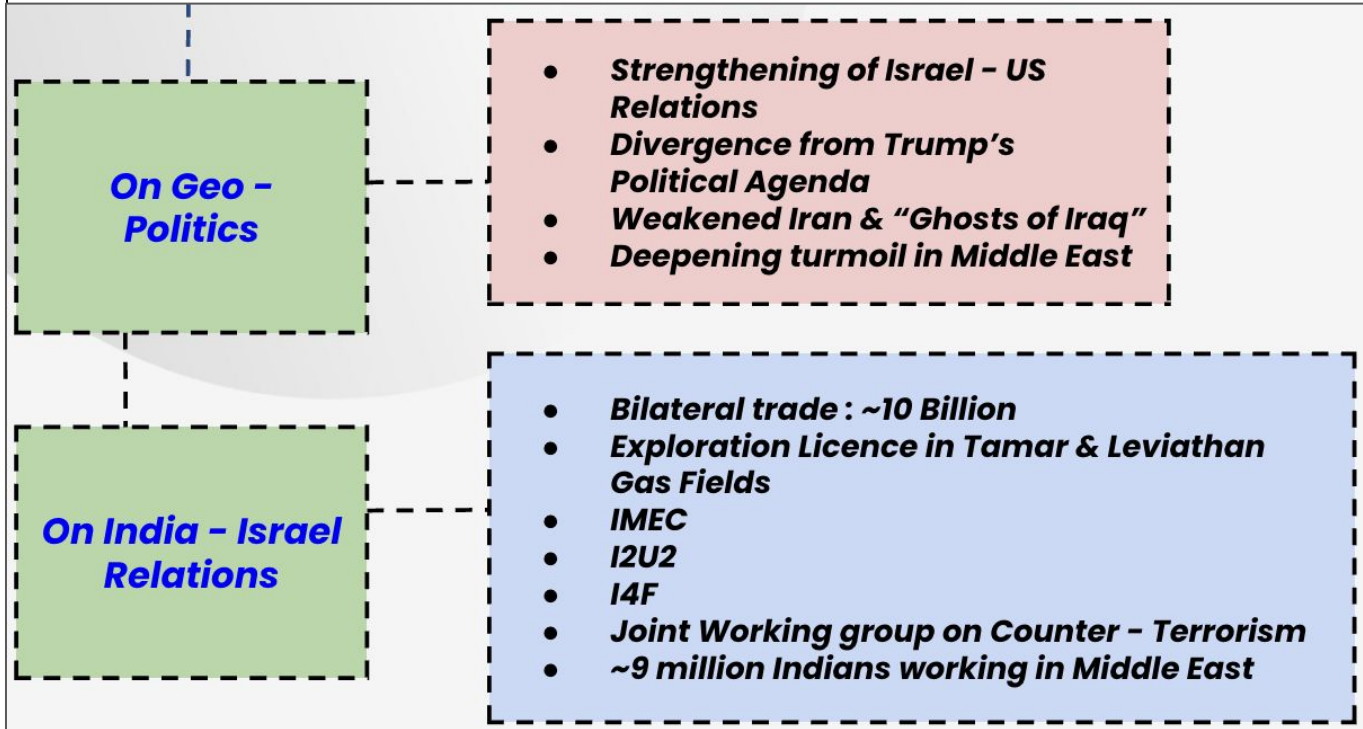
Iran's Nuclear Program A Timeline



US & Israel's war against Iran

CONTEXT: On 22nd of June, USA carried out "Operation Midnight Hammer" on Iran's nuclear sites thus giving the Israel - Iran conflict a new turn

Pillar 4 : What would be the **Impact of War?**



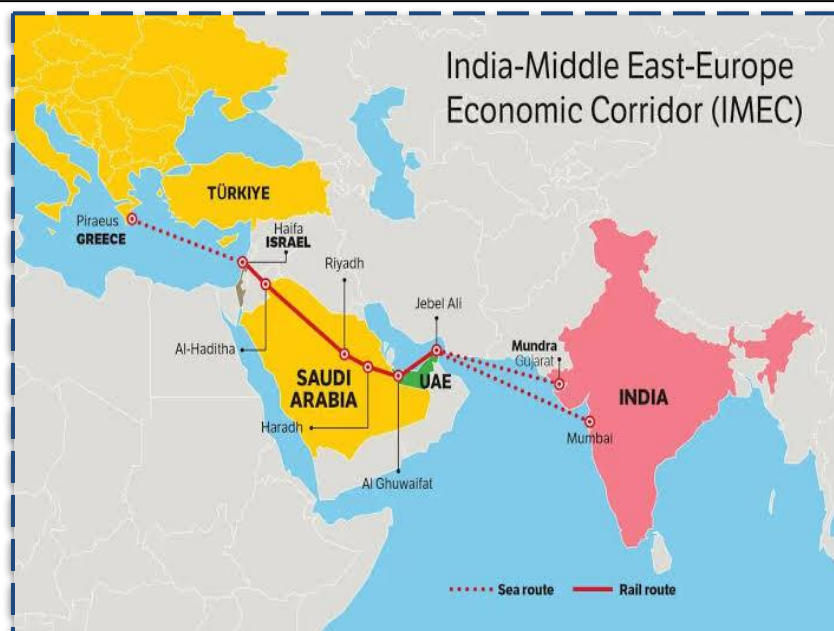
CRUDE OIL PRICE RISK

■ Strait of Hormuz port closure could lead crude oil prices to surge to over \$120/ bbl, which may negatively impact the Indian economy



US & Israel's war against Iran

CONTEXT: On 22nd of June, USA carried out "Operation Midnight Hammer" on Iran's nuclear sites thus giving the Israel - Iran conflict a new turn



Mains Practice Question

What is the backdrop of the Iran - Israel War? What are the Geopolitical interests of USA in the region? How does the war impact the interests of India in region?
(15 Marks, 250 words)



CONTEXT: The editorial compares the economic status & poverty level in India in the last 2 decades and suggest for reforms in Food & Fertiliser subsidy

Pillar 1: Economic Status of India from 2004 – 2024:

Economic Criteria	2004	2014	2024
Nominal GDP	\$709 Billion	\$2.04 Trillion	\$4.19 Trillion
Purchasing Power Parity	\$1.75 Trillion	\$6.45 Trillion	\$17.65 Trillion
Per Capita Income	\$2424 (181st rank)	\$4935 (166th rank)	\$12,131 (149th rank)
Lowest among G20 countries in both Per Capita GDP & PPP terms			
Trailing behind Sri Lanka & Bhutan in PPP terms			



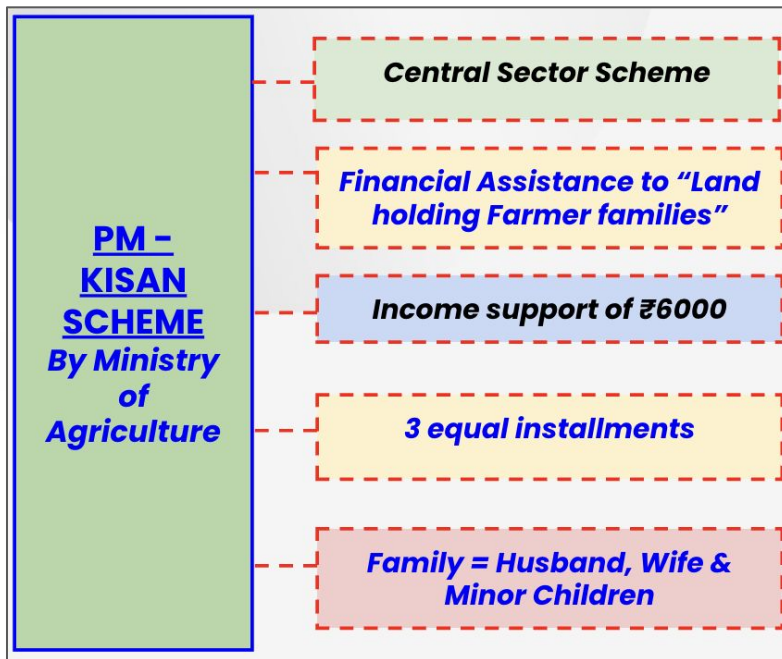
Pillar 2: Status of “Largest Employer”:

Budget 2025 : 18% of the GDP & 18% of the GVA	Employs 46% of working force
	4% average annual growth
	Largest Producer : Milk, Pulses & Jute
	2nd Largest Producer : Rice, Wheat, Sugarcane & Horticulture
	2nd in Global Agriculture Production
	4th in Global Agriculture exports



CONTEXT: The editorial compares the economic status & poverty level in India in the last 2 decades and suggest for reforms in Food & Fertiliser subsidy

Pillar 3 : Affirmative Actions leading to Decline in Poverty:



POVERTY RATE IN INDIA



Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme:

It includes:

- Di - Ammonium Phosphate (**DOP**)
- Muriate of Potash (**MOP**)

Per tonne subsidy to manufacturers & importers

- N - Nitrogen
- P - Phosphorus
- K - Potassium
- S - Sulphur

Informal Control Regime

What about Urea?

- Most **produced, used and imported** fertiliser
- Cost of Production / Import - Actual price paid by farmers = **Urea Subsidy**
- Statutory Price = **Only controlled fertiliser**
- **100% Neam Coated Urea** = Mandatory for all domestic producer



CONTEXT: The editorial compares the economic status & poverty level in India in the last 2 decades and suggest for reforms in Food & Fertiliser subsidy

Pillar 3: Affirmative Actions leading to Decline in Poverty:

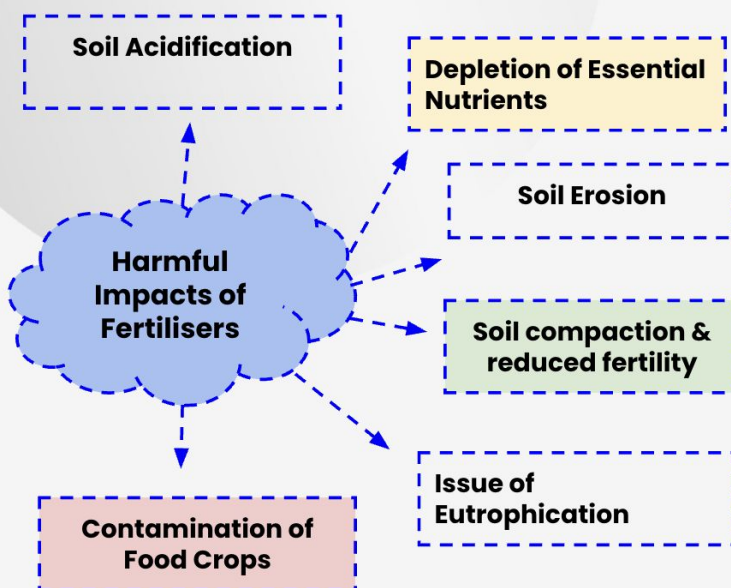
NFSA 2013:

- Subsidised foodgrain to **75% Rural & 50% Urban population**
- Under Targeted PDS
- Eldest women of **18 years or above** = Head of Household
- Maximum coverage = **81.34 crore Indians**
- Central Issue Price (CIP)
- Case of Non - Supply = **Food Security Allowance** from State Govts

What are the issues?

- Food Subsidy Budget = **₹ 2.03 Lakh crore**
- Fertiliser Subsidy = **₹ 1.56 Lakh Crore**
- "Fiscal Gliding" Path = FD Target of **4.4% of GDP (2025-26)**

Pillar 4: Arising issues due to Affirmative Policies:



Issues in PM - KISAN

- Existing Digital Divide
- Inaccurate Land Records
- Payment delay further augments Financial Strain
- 1/10th of Production cost per hectare per year
- Duplication & Fraud issues



Revisiting Food & Fertiliser Subsidy

CONTEXT: The editorial compares the economic status & poverty level in India in the last 2 decades and suggest for reforms in Food & Fertiliser subsidy

Falling numbers

The table shows the number of farmers who received the first and 11th instalment funds from PM-KISAN. A look at select major States:



Figures in lakh

States	1st instalment	11th instalment	% decline
Maharashtra	109.98	37.51	65.9
Madhya Pradesh	88.63	0.12	99.9
Bihar	83.38	6.83	91.8
Gujarat	63.13	28.41	55.0
Andhra Pradesh	55.68	28.2	49.4
Tamil Nadu	46.08	23.04	50.0
Chhattisgarh	37.7	2	94.7

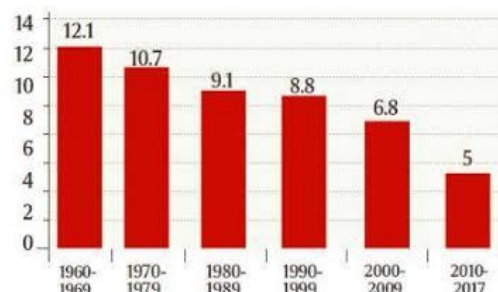
ALL-INDIA USE OF FERTILISER PRODUCTS

	UREA	DAP	MOP*	NPKS	SSP
2009-10	266.73	104.92	46.34	80.25	26.51
2010-11	281.13	108.7	39.32	97.64	38.25
2011-12	295.65	101.91	30.29	103.95	47.46
2012-13	300.02	91.54	22.11	75.27	40.3
2013-14	306	73.57	22.8	72.64	38.79
2014-15	306.1	76.26	28.53	82.78	39.89
2015-16	306.35	91.07	24.67	88.21	42.53
2016-17	296.14	89.64	28.63	84.14	37.57
2017-18	298.94	92.94	31.58	85.96	34.39
2018-19	314.18	92.11	29.57	90.28	35.79
2019-20	336.95	101	27.87	98.57	44.03
2020-21	350.43	119.11	34.25	118.11	44.89
2021-22	341.8	92.72	24.57	114.79	56.81
2022-23	357.25	105.31	16.32	100.73	50.18

*For direct application, excluding supply to complex fertiliser units.



CROP YIELD RESPONSE TO FERTILISERS



Pillar 5: What can be done?

Steps to Take

Fertiliser

- Soil Health Card Scheme
- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana
- Krishi Vigyan Kendras

PM - KISAN Scheme

- PM - SWAMITVA Scheme
- Linkage of Aadhaar - KYC data with PDS Card
- DBT Linkage with CPI - C Inflation
- Inclusion of Landless tenants



Revisiting Food & Fertiliser Subsidy



CONTEXT: The editorial compares the economic status & poverty level in India in the last 2 decades and suggest for reforms in Food & Fertiliser subsidy

Pillar 5: What can be done?

Editorial Suggests :

- **Rationalise Food Subsidy = Food Coupons** to buy Nutritious food
- **Digital Wallet** for Bottom 15% = ₹700 per family per month
- **Fertiliser Coupons = To plug leakages & increase use of NPK ratio**
- **Identification of "Tenant" Farmers**

Mains Practice Question

"Despite significant reduction in the Poverty levels, the challenges related to Food & Fertiliser subsidy persists". Analyse by giving suitable examples. (15 Marks, 250 words)



Syllabus: GS 1: Social Issues

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 9

"Adivasi Identity in Census":

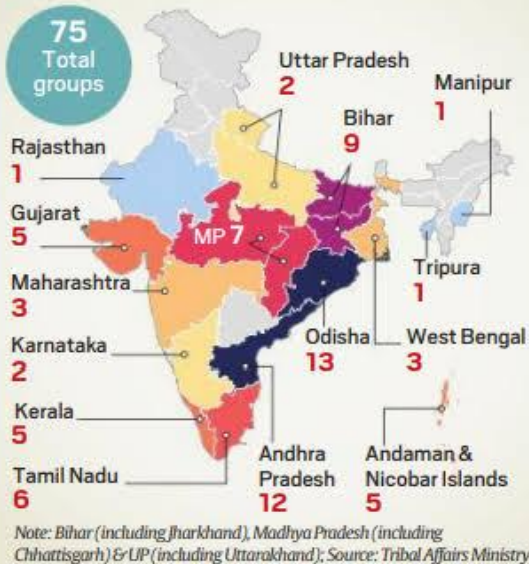
The much-delayed gazette notification for the Census which is to be held in 2027, has been rightly criticised for a lack of clarity on the promised caste enumeration. But there is hardly any discussion on the long-standing demand of Adivasi/ Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities that their distinct identities, including systems of faith, be recognised as part of the Census.

The Census includes the religious demography of India through the registration of a person's religious beliefs. The religions mentioned are Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Jainism, and Buddhism. For those with other beliefs, there is a general column titled 'Other Religious Persuasion' (ORP). There is no column for the beliefs of STs. This omission is unconstitutional on several counts.

Scheduled Tribe

- No definition in Constitution
- Notified under A342 – special provision for tribes as President may notify
- Generally accepted criteria
 - Diversity of language
 - distinct social & cultural organisation
 - economic underdevelopment
 - geographical isolation
- 75 PVTG
 - Pre-agri level technology
 - Stagnant/ Declining population
 - Extreme low level literacy
 - Subsistence level of economy
- Number of (ST) tribes → 705
- Population (2011 census) → 10.43 crore or 8.6%
- Rural areas → 89.97%
- Literacy rate → 58.96%

PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS



STATES WITH MOST PVTGs

ODISHA: Birhor, Bondo, Didayi, Dongria-Khond, Juangs, Kharias, Kutia Kondh, Lanjia Sauras, Lodhas, Mankidias, Paudi Bhuyans, Saura, Chuktia Bhunjia

ANDHRA: Bodo Gadaba, Bondo Poroja, Chenchu, Dongria Khond, Gutob Gadaba, Khond Poroja, Kolam, Kondareddis, Konda Savaras, Kutia Khond, Parengi Poroja, Thoti.

BIHAR AND JHARKHAND: Asurs, Birhor, Birjia, Hill Kharia, Korwas, Mal Paharia, Parhaiyas, Sauria Paharia, Savar

51. Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India :

1. PVTGs reside in 18 States and one Union Territory.
2. A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status.
3. There are 95 PVTGs officially notified in the country so far.
4. Irular and Konda Reddi tribes are included in the list of PVTGs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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



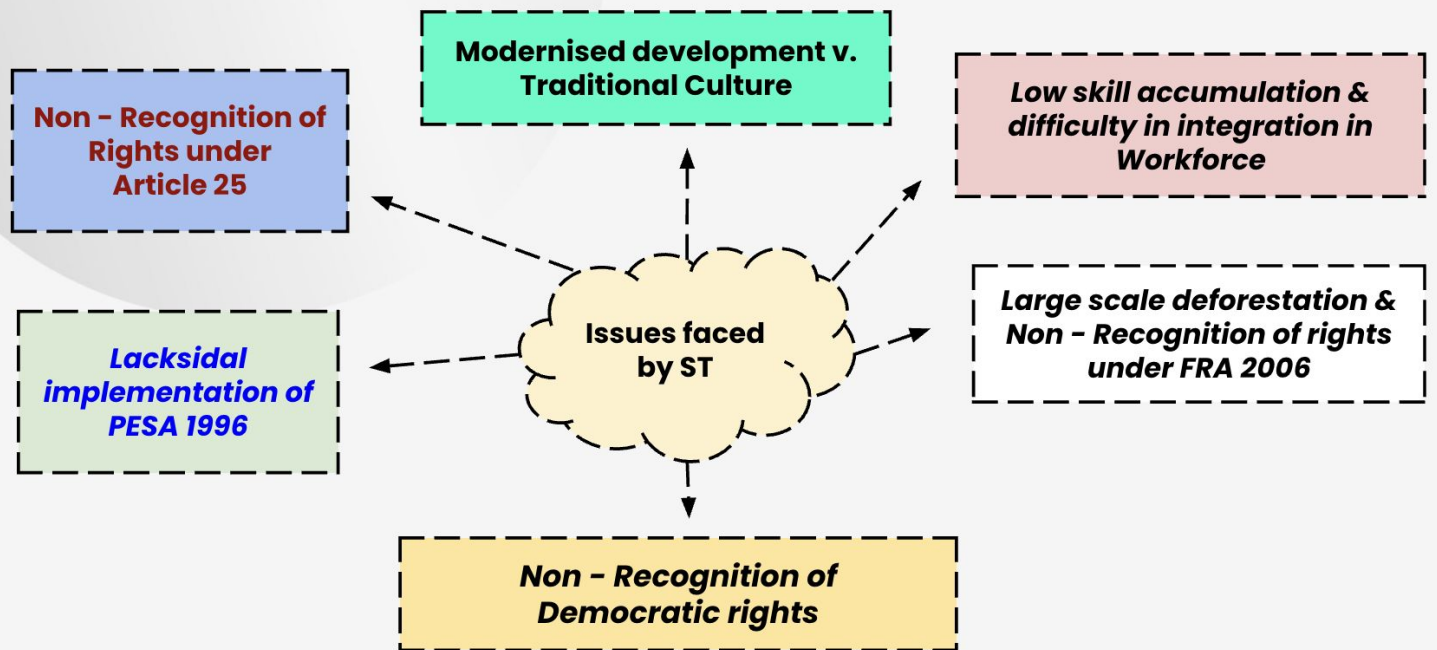
Recognising Adivasi Identity in Census



Syllabus: GS 1: Social Issues

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 9

"Adivasi Identity in Census":



An unconstitutional move

The Constitution has specific provisions for the protection of the beliefs, customs, and traditions of STs, such as those reflected in the **Fifth and Sixth Schedules**. In addition, Articles 371A and 371B have specific protections for customary laws and practices in Nagaland and Assam, respectively. Article 25 ensures the right to profess, practice, and propagate one's faith, and Article 26 guarantees the right to manage religious affairs. For STs, these rights must

The restriction in the Census to six religions or the ambiguous ORP category violates the spirit of Article 25 as it compels STs to misidentify with mainstream faiths or be relegated to a catch-all category, which is the ORP.

0.66% of population registered under ORP

"Large majority of ST communities could not register their religious identity"

"Low literacy level & large scale rural population" v. Organisation based mobilisation



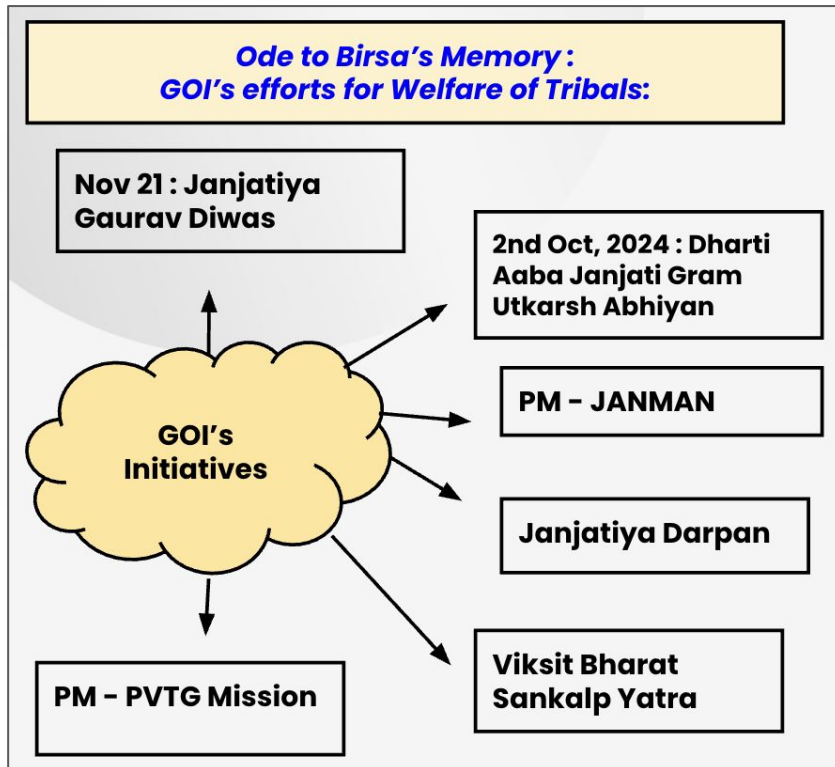
Recognising Adivasi Identity in Census



Syllabus: GS 1: Social Issues

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 9

"Adivasi Identity in Census":



Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Government of India

PM JANMAN

(Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan)

A Visionary Initiative towards Tribal Welfare

11 Basic Amenities | 24,000 Crore Allocated | Convergence with 9 Ministries

	Sabko Pucca Ghar
	Har Ghar Nal Se Jal
	Gaon-Gaon Tak Sadak
	Har Ghar Bijli
	Shiksha Ke Liye Hostel
	Kaushal Vikas
	Door Daraz Gaon Tak Mobile Medical Unit
	Sabko Poshan
	Unnat Aajeevika
	Door Daraz Gaon Tak Mobile Network

Empowering Tribals Transforming India



Syllabus: GS 2: Education

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 10

Impact of Foreign Universities on Higher Education :

UGC Regulations 2023

"At par with Main Campus"

**Secured position within
Top 500 Institutions**

Obtain permission under FCRA 2010

**No programme offered in
Online or ODL Modes**

Autonomy to recruit Faculty & Staff

The story so far:

Several foreign universities are setting up branch campuses in India. So far seven universities from the U.K., five from Australia, and one each from the U.S., Italy and Canada are in the process of obtaining necessary approvals or have done so already. Most will be located in GIFT City and Navi Mumbai. While India has been interested in attracting foreign universities for more than a decade, the 2020 New Education Policy (NEP) revived it and the government subsequently approved the UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023 (FHEI).

**Expansion of Higher
education post ww2 :**

→ Accommodate & Skill
Demographic Dividend

→ low TFR in Developed nations
= falling enrolment rate

→ large physical infrastructure
& cut down in public spending

→ Financial challenge = Admitting large no.
of International students

2023 = 22% enrollment in UK,
24% in Australia & 30% in Canada

**Brain Drain v.
"Son of Soil" Syndrome**

**MoE : Students studying abroad : 5.8 Lakh (2019)
to ~9 Lakh (2024)**

**High quality education, Cutting edge technology,
Improved career prospect, High salaries & Better
standard of Living**

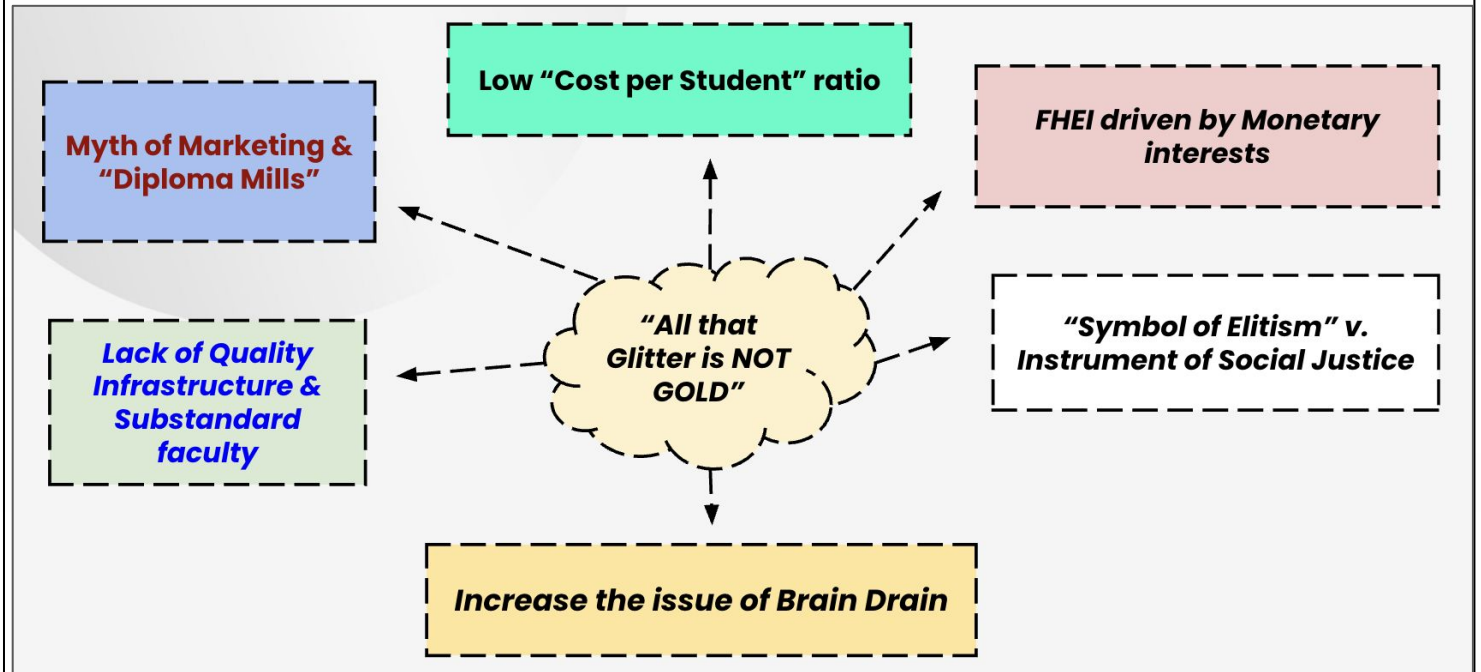
**Brain Drain : 75% students who studied abroad
settled down in Foreign countries**



Syllabus: GS 2: Education

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 10

Impact of Foreign Universities on Higher Education:



Syllabus: Prelims: Flora & Fauna
Newspaper: Indian Express, Page No. 1

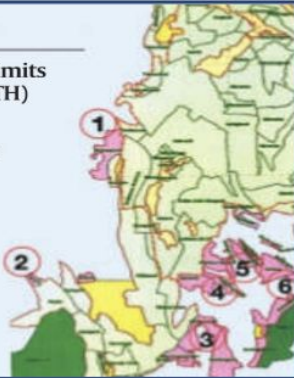
A PLAN drawn up to rationalise the boundary of Sariska Tiger Reserve's Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH) may offer a lifeline to over 50 marble and dolomite mines that were closed following a Supreme Court order last year due to their proximity to the CTH.

PROPOSED PLAN

Proposed south-western limits of Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH)

- Areas excluded from CTH
- Mining blocks to be beyond 1-km from new CTH limits

1. Shyampur
2. Samra
3. Baldevgarh
4. Palpur
5. Mallana
6. Gordhanpura



Critical Tiger Habitat

- **Recognised under WPA 1972**
- **Section 38 V: Tiger reserve includes Core area & Buffer area**
- **Core area or CTH = Status of NP or WLS**
- **Critical Wildlife Habitat is defined in FRA 2006**
- **Settlement of ST is allowed only after identification by State Governments**

Project Tiger 1973

9 reserves & 1,827 tigers in 1973

55 Tiger reserves & 3600+ tigers in 2023

India is home to 75% of Tiger population in world

IUCN Status = Endangered

NTCA headed by Minister of Environment

The Tiger Count

Tiger numbers in India:

2018 2,967
2022 3,682

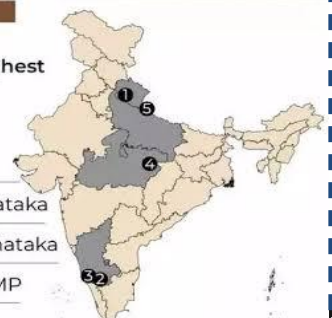
States with highest tiger numbers

■ 2018 ■ 2022

Madhya Pradesh	526	785
Karnataka	524	563
Uttarakhand	442	560
Maharashtra	312	444
TamilNadu	264	306

Reserves with highest tiger population

- 1 Jim Corbett, Uttarakhand
- 2 Bandipur, Karnataka
- 3 Nagarhole, Karnataka
- 4 Bandhavgarh, MP
- 5 Dudhwa, UP



Syllabus: Prelims: Important International Organisations
Newspaper: Indian Express, **Page No. 7**

Context of the News :

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh and National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval are likely to travel to China for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meetings.

While Singh is likely to travel to Qingdao from June 25-27, Doval is likely to travel to the country from June 24-26, sources said.

This will be their first meeting of Singh and Doval with their Chinese counterparts since the military hostilities between India and Pakistan in May this year following India's Operation Sindoor launched in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack.



Official Language :
Russian & Chinese

**Regional Anti -
Terror Structure
(RATS)**

**Eurasian Political, Economic &
International Security
Organisation**

**Established in 2001 & India
joined in 2017**

**Facts about
SCO :**

**24% area, 42% of Population
& 23% GDP**

Heads of State Council



Syllabus: Prelims: Science & Technology
Newspaper: Indian Express, **Science**

AMR and livestock production

Animal husbandry accounts for more than half of all antibiotic use around the world and is expected to increase to 200,000 tonnes by 2030, up 53% from 2013. Over the last 70 years, antimicrobial compounds have been becoming embedded in livestock feed. They are used to treat diseases as well as to boost growth, in turn raising productivity.

The excessive or inappropriate use of antibiotics in this regard can lead to AMR, which endangers public health. Traces of antibiotics left behind in the intestinal environments of livestock impose selective pressure for bacteria in the gut to acquire and maintain antibiotic resistance genes. These genes replicate when they are expelled into the surrounding environment, such as soil or water, increasing the possibility of human exposure, especially for those who work in agriculture.

It has been projected that the number of deaths worldwide from antibiotic-resistant infections will increase from 700,000 a year in 2014 to 10 million by 2050. The increasing demand for proteins of animal origin has in turn increased the costs of production and has encouraged farming practices to

These realities prompted researchers to explore the use of insect-based feed to keep AMR at bay. As of today, 40 countries have accepted and issued regulations to use insect-based feed for animals. Examples of such insects include black soldier flies, house flies (*Musca domestica*), compost worm (*Perionyx excavatus*), grasshoppers (*Locusts*), small mealworms (*Alphitobius*), house crickets (*Acheta localus*), tropical crickets (*Gryllodes sigillatus*), and Jamaican field crickets (*Gryllus assimilis*).

Nutritious & Healthy addition to Human diet

Rich in Fats, proteins, fibres, Zinc, calcium & Iron

Rearing of Insects = Emit Less GHGs

Lower cost of Production = Beneficial for Farmers

Use of Insect Feed

UNFAO = Food production shall increase by 70% by 2050



Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Strait of Hormuz, a key point of tension during Iran–Israel conflicts, is located between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.
2. Iran is a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), whereas Israel is not.

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: c

Q2. Regarding Indian agriculture, consider the following statements:

1. India is the largest producer of milk and pulses in the world.
2. Agriculture in India contributes more than 40% to the country's Gross Value Added (GVA).
3. The share of the agricultural workforce in India is more than 40% of the total workforce.
4. Minimum Support Price (MSP) is legally binding on private traders.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q3. Regarding Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India, consider the following statements:

1. All PVTGs are notified as Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution.
2. The list of PVTGs is finalized and notified by the President under Article 342 of the Constitution.
3. PVTGs are characterized by stagnant or declining population, low literacy, and subsistence-level economy.

4. There are more than 100 PVTGs currently recognized by the Government of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Critical Tiger Habitats (CTH) in India:

1. They are notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. The consent of the Gram Sabha is mandatory before notifying a Critical Tiger Habitat.
3. They are also known as core areas of tiger reserves.

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

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

Answer: b

Q5. Regarding the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), consider the following statements:

1. India and Pakistan became full members of SCO at the same time.
2. The SCO was originally formed as a military alliance to counter NATO.
3. The SCO has a permanent secretariat located in Beijing, China.
4. Iran was the first West Asian country to become a full member of the SCO.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a





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