



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

26th July 2025



Kargil, Pahalgam and a revamp of the Security Strategy

CONTEXT: A write up has appeared focusing on India's national security doctrine has transformed from reactive restraint to proactive deterrence.

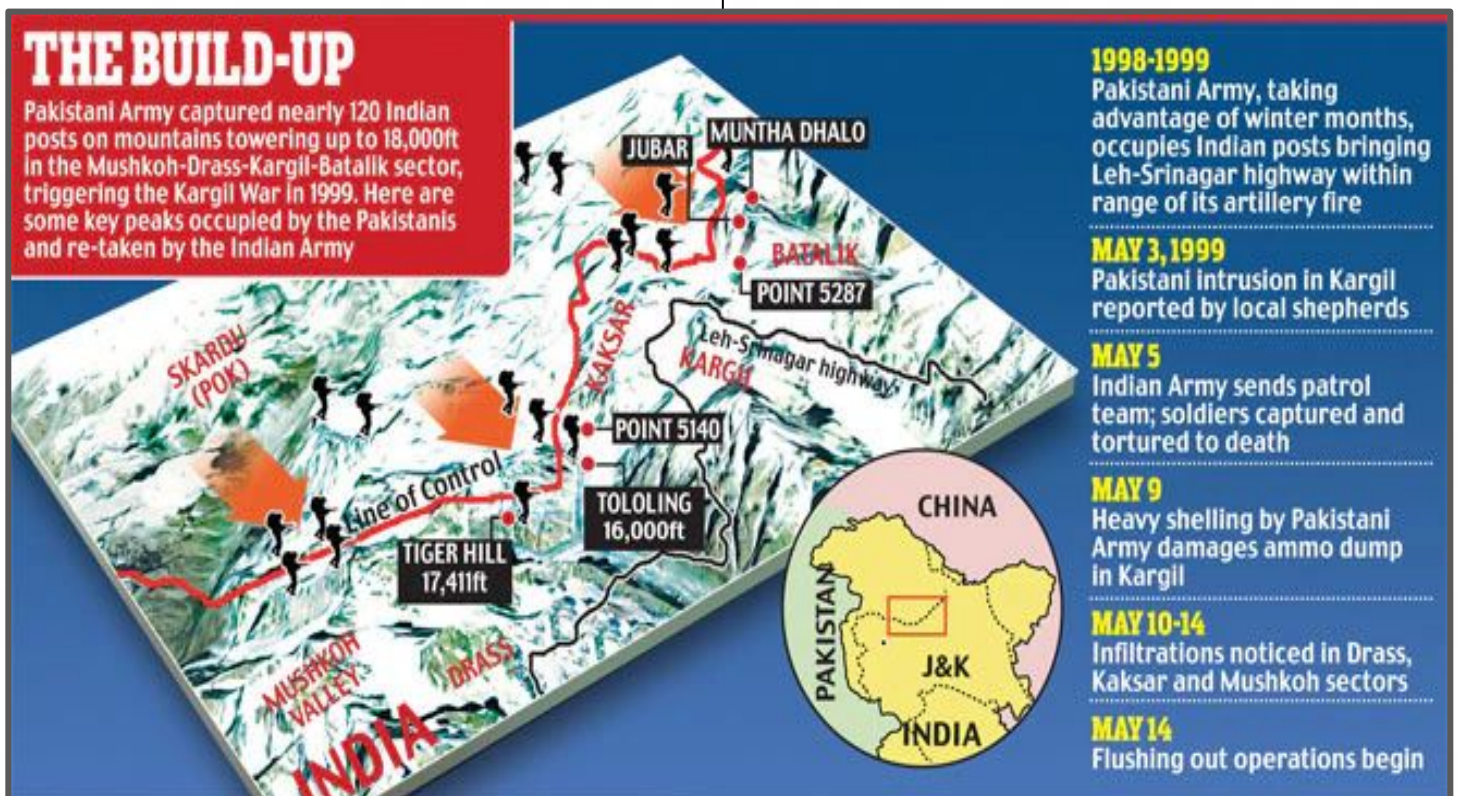
- **Conflict Period:** May–July 1999
- **Location:** Kargil sector of Jammu & Kashmir (now in **Ladakh** UT).
- **Trigger:** Pakistani Army and militants infiltrated and occupied Indian military posts on the **Indian side of the LoC**, in high-altitude areas (~16,000–18,000 ft).
- **Disguised as:** Kashmiri militants, but later confirmed to be **Northern Light Infantry (NLI)** troops of Pakistan.

Pakistan's Objective

- Disrupt **NH-1A (Srinagar–Leh Highway)** to cut off Ladakh.
- Try to internationalize the Kashmir issue by escalating tensions.
- **Operation Badr** (Pakistan's codename for the infiltration).

India's Military Response

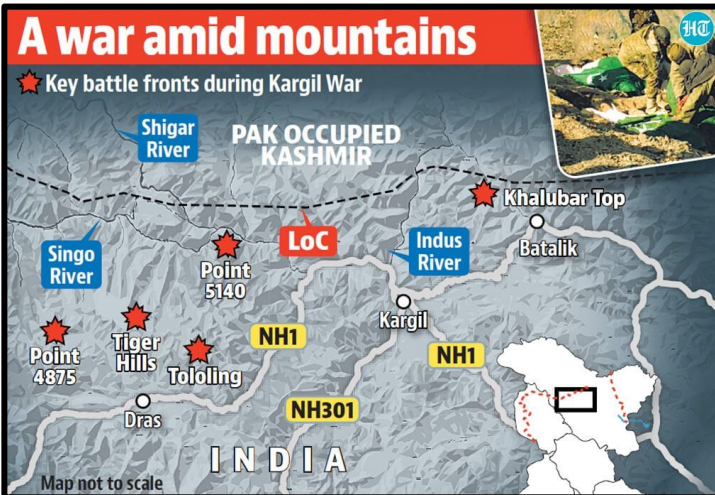
- **Operation Vijay:** Launched on **May 26, 1999**, to push back infiltrators.
- **Operation Safed Sagar:** Air support by the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, using Mirage 2000s and MiG-21s for precision strikes (did **not** cross LoC as per rules of engagement).
- **Terrain challenges:** High altitude, steep peaks, freezing temperatures, and thin air made combat extremely difficult.



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Background of Kargil Attack



Key Battles

- **Major recaptured points:**
 - Tololing,
 - Tiger Hill,
 - Point 4875 (Batra Top),
 - Drass,
 - Batalik,
 - Khalubar.

Outcome

- **By July 26, 1999**, Indian forces **cleared all occupied posts**.
- Pakistan was **internationally isolated** (even the U.S. and China urged withdrawal).
- **Victory without crossing LoC** reinforced India's image as a responsible power.

Aftermath

- **Kargil Review Committee (K. Subrahmanyam)** set up to identify intelligence and operational lapses.
- Led to creation of **Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA)** and strengthening of border surveillance.
- **July 26** observed annually as **Kargil Vijay Diwas**.

Kargil Review Committee

- **A Group of Ministers (GOM) was set up to implement the recommendations of the KRC Report.**
- **Key reforms included:**
 - Strengthening intelligence agencies.
 - Creating the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).
 - Establishing the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA).
 - Improving coordination among intelligence agencies.
 - Enhancing border management and surveillance.
 - Setting up the **Andaman and Nicobar Command as a strategic military base**.
- Push for **jointness** → led to **CDS (2019)** & integrated theatre commands.
- Birth of **Cold Start Doctrine** (swift conventional retaliation below nuclear threshold).
- Emphasis on **mountain warfare, equipment modernisation, and self-reliance**.
- Induction of platforms like **Rafale, Apaches, Chinooks, BrahMos, S-400**.

National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)

- A **tech-intelligence agency** under the **National Security Advisor (NSA)**, PMO.
- Established in **2004** as the technical arm of **RAW**.
- Reports directly to the **PM via NSA**; headed by a **Chairman (Secretary rank)**.



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- **HQ:** New Delhi; has **regional** and **overseas stations**

Functions

- Collects & analyzes data from **satellites, radars, cyber, comms, and signals**.
- Supports **defence & intelligence agencies** with technical expertise.
- Provides **real-time, actionable intelligence** on national security issues.
- Coordinates with **RAW, IB, DIA, NIA**, and **friendly foreign agencies**.

Other Measures

DEFENCE ACQUISITION COUNCIL

- **GoM-2001-"Reforming the National Security System"**
- **Head- Defence Minister**
- **Highest Decision making Body in MoD**
- **Members- CDS, Service Chiefs**

CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

- **2019 - Lt General DB Shekatkar**
- **Aim: foster greater operational synergy**
- **Head- Department of Military Affairs (DMA) MoD.**
- **Single-point military adviser to the Defence Minister**
- **No command authority over any of the forces.**
- **Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee**

PYQ 2024

Q. What are the duties of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) as Head of the Department of Military Affairs?

1. *Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee*
2. *Exercise military command over the three Service Chiefs*
3. *Principal Military Advisor to Defence Minister on all tri-service matters*

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

The Long Fight Against Terror

- **Post-Kargil inertia** allowed Pakistan-backed terror to persist.
- **IC-814 Hijack (1999):** India released terrorists.
- **Parliament Attack (2001)**
- **26/11 Mumbai (2008):** No direct punishment to Pakistan.

Shift began with:

- **Surgical strikes** after **Uri (2016)**.
- **Balakot air strikes** post **Pulwama (2019)**—first IAF strike across LoC since 1971.

Pahalgam 2025: A New Threshold

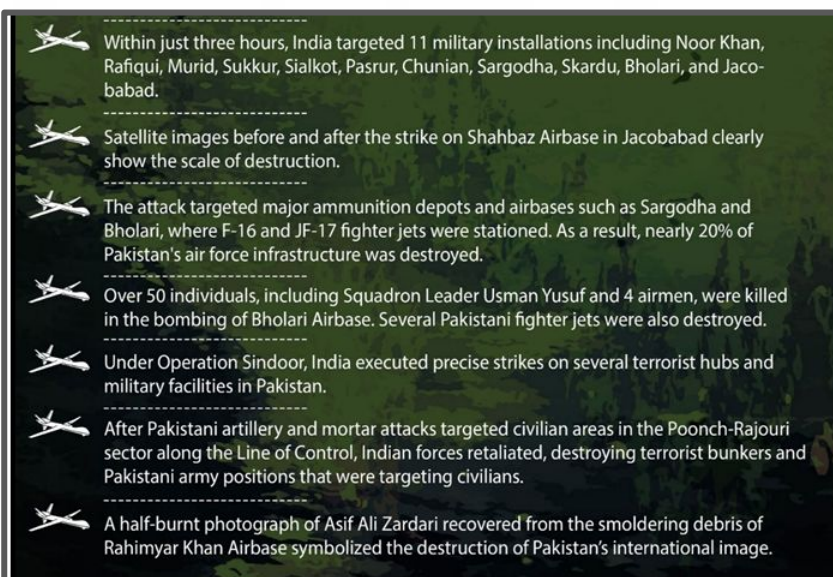
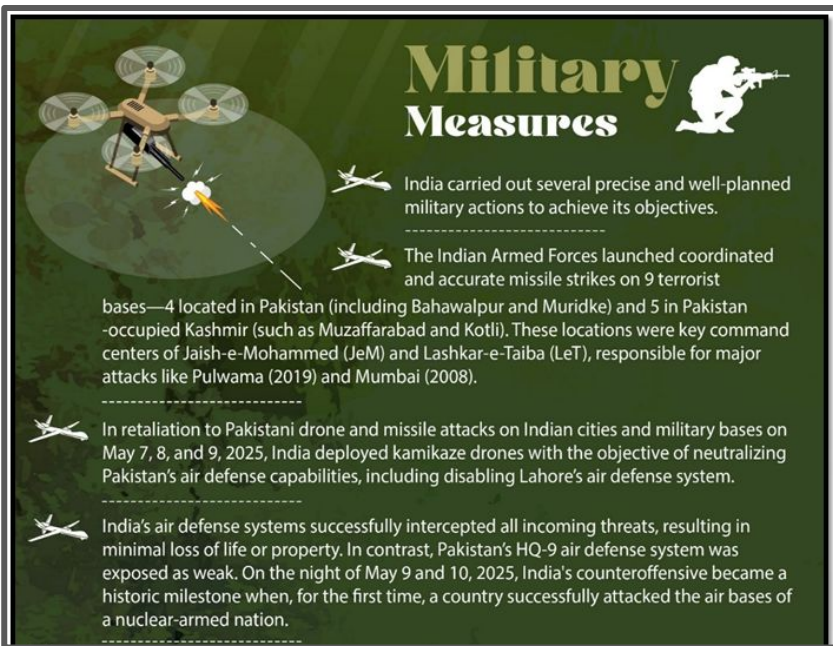
- **April 22, 2025:** Pakistan-based terrorists killed 26 Indian tourists in **Pahalgam**.



Kargil, Pahalgam and a revamp of the Security Strategy

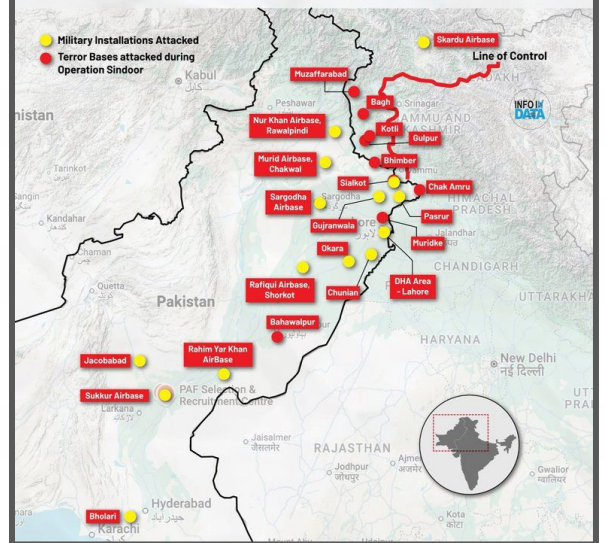
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- India responded with **Operation Sindoor (May 7–10, 2025)**:
 - **Struck 9 terror camps, 11 Pakistani air bases.**
 - **BrahMos strike** on **Nur Khan Base** damaged a key **nuclear storage facility.**
 - Ceasefire requested by Pakistan within **96 hours.**



Pakistan Decimated

Despite provocation and attacks on civilians by Pakistan, India responded with precision and restraint, targeting terror bases and striking military installations only after Pakistan escalated the conflict



Existing Fault Lines in National Security

- **Intelligence Gaps :** Real-time, actionable intelligence still inconsistent lack Coordination between civilian and military agencies.
- **Border Management :** LoC vulnerable, difficult terrain and porous gaps. Smart fencing and tech integration not yet fully deployed.
- **Delayed Modernisation :** Procurement bottlenecks and bureaucratic delays, Slow Indigenous defence production
- **Jointness & Theatre Commands :** tri-service synergy still work-in-progress.

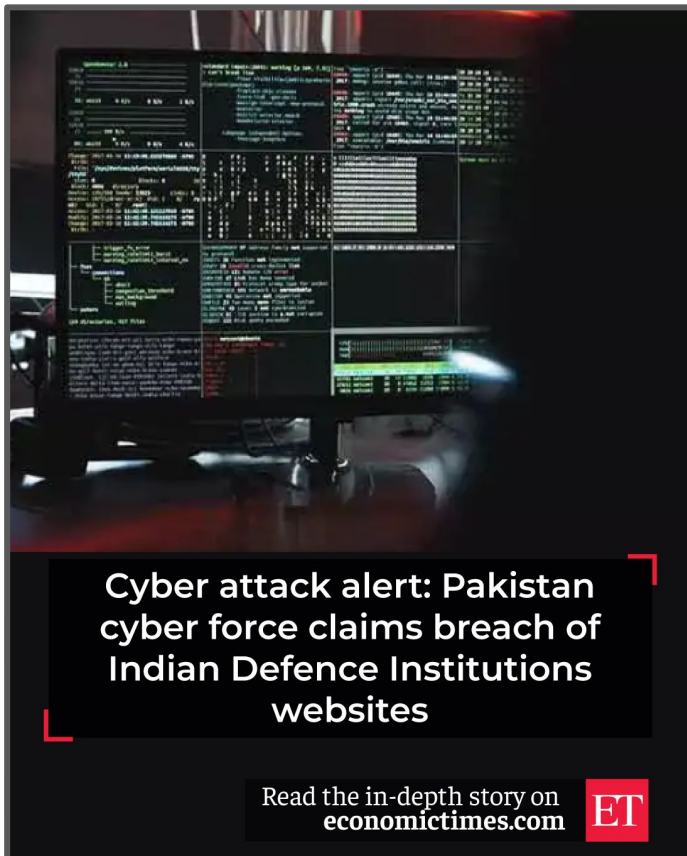


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CONTEXT: A write up has appeared focusing on India's national security doctrine has transformed from reactive restraint to proactive deterrence.

- **Cyber & Space Vulnerabilities :** threats from state and non-state actors (China, Pakistan-based groups).
- **Terror Ecosystem in Pakistan :** Pakistan continues to harbour terror groups under nuclear shield. No global pressure or accountability mechanism.



Cyber attack alert: Pakistan cyber force claims breach of Indian Defence Institutions websites

Read the in-depth story on
economictimes.com



What needs to be done?

- **Dedicated Cyber Command :** Establish an integrated **Defence Cyber Agency** with offensive–defensive capabilities.
- **Revamp Intelligence Agencies :** Ensure **institutional coordination** between **RAW, IB, DIA, NTRO**, with regular audits & accountability.
- **Border Infrastructure Upgrade :** Accelerate construction of **all-weather roads, tunnels** (e.g. Zojila), **advanced landing grounds (ALGs)** in border zones.
- **Satellite & Space Surveillance :** Launch dedicated **military satellites** for **24x7 ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance)** over LoC/LAC.
- **Secure Communication Systems :** Deploy **quantum-resistant**, encrypted military communication networks for seamless tri-service op

Mains Practise Question

"Despite significant reforms post-Kargil, several fault lines continue to undermine India's national security architecture." Discuss the key challenges in this context and suggest comprehensive measures to address underlying issues. (10 Marks, 150 words)



CONTEXT: PM Modi recently visited Maldives, Guest of Honour at Maldives Independence day today.

Why Maldives is important for India?

~700 km from India's southwest coast.

Geopolitical Significance

- Critical to India's **NFP & SAGAR** strategies.
- Strategically positioned between **Gulf of Aden & Strait of Hormuz** (west) and **Strait of Malacca** (east).
- Ensures **freedom of navigation & anti-piracy** operations.

Geo-economic Significance

- Near key **Sea Lines of Communication** (SLOCs):
 - 50% of India's external trade
 - 80% of energy imports

THE ISLANDS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN



Political

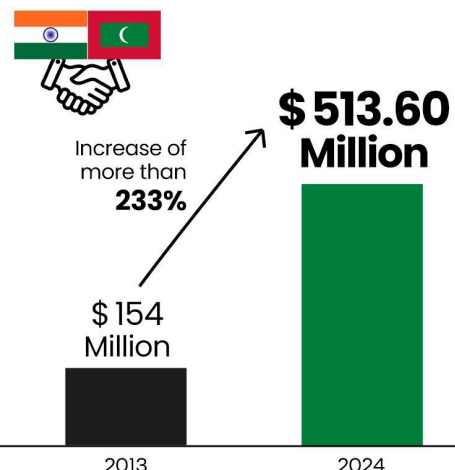
- India recognized Maldives in 1965; embassy in Malé (1972).
- Founding members of **SAARC** & signatories to **SAFTA**.

Economic

- **Trade Pact (1981)** initiated formal trade.
- **2024:**
 - India extended **\$400M** aid + **₹3,000 crore** currency swap.
 - SBI rolled over **\$100M** Treasury Bills.
 - Finalized **local currency trade framework**.
- India: **Top trade partner (2023)**.
- **Exports:** Pharma, cement, agri goods.
- **Imports:** Scrap metals.
- **2022:** Visa-free entry for Indian businesses.

Economic Ties Flourish Under PM Modi: Exports to Maldives Cross \$500 Million!

India's total exports to Maldives (in US\$ million):

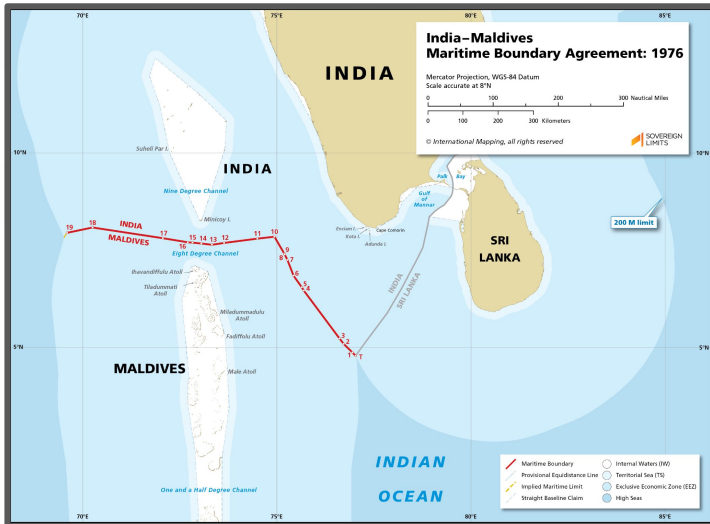


Source: Ministry of External Affairs



CONTEXT: PM Modi recently visited Maldives, Guest of Honour at Maldives Independence day today.

Significance of Maldives for India



Tourism

- **Contributes** ~25% to Maldives' GDP, 70% employment.
- India: **Top tourist source (2020–2022)**.
- **2022:** Open skies agreement signed.

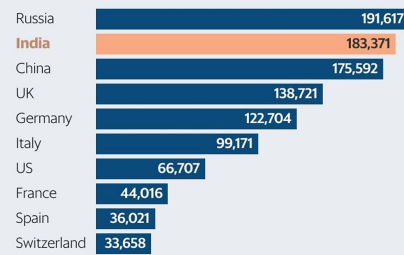
Strategic: Counters Chinese footprint in IOR. Reinforces India's regional leadership.

Training & Capacity Building

- India meets **~70% of MNDF's training needs**; over **1,500 personnel** trained in Indian defence academies.
- Key exercises:
 - **Ekuverin** (Army)
 - **Ekatha** (Coast Guard)
 - **Dosti** (Trilateral: India–Maldives–Sri Lanka) – boosts maritime coordination.

India was the 2nd biggest source of tourists to Maldives last year

Tourist arrivals by country, January–November 2023



Source: Ministry of tourism, Maldives

Geopolitical Rivalries

- **China's BRI & 'String of Pearls'** strategy increasing footprint in Maldives.
- Major Chinese projects: **Sinamale Bridge**, military agreements.

Political Shifts

- **"India Out" campaign (2023)** signaled anti-India sentiment.
- Demands: Removal of Indian military personnel, halt to Indian projects.

Security Concerns

- Rise of **radical Islamist groups**, incl. **Pakistan-backed** elements & **ISIS**.
- Maldives risks becoming a **launchpad for attacks** on Indian interests.



India Maldives Relations



CONTEXT: PM Modi recently visited Maldives, Guest of Honour at Maldives Independence day today.

The Path Ahead

Multilateral Collaboration

- Promote Maldives' active role in **IORA**.
- Strengthen **India-Maldives-Sri Lanka** trilateral maritime cooperation.

Strategic Infrastructure

- Fast-track key projects like the **Greater Malé Connectivity Project**.
- Provide **credible alternatives** to Chinese-funded infrastructure.

People-Centric Diplomacy

- Expand **civil-military cooperation**: medical aid, community infrastructure.
- Enhance **cultural & educational exchanges** to build long-term goodwill.

Mains Practise Question

What is the significance of Maldives in India's foreign policy. Discuss the major challenges in the affecting the bilateral relationship. (10 Marks, 150 words)



Why Renewables alone can't help?



SYLLABUS: GS 3: Conservation, Environment Pollution and Degradation
Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 14

THE WORLD added about 582 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity in 2024, representing an increase of 15% over the previous year, according to a new report by the International Renewable Energy Association (IRENA). This was the largest annual increase in renewable energy capacity in any single year.

Currently, the installed capacity of renewable energy across the globe stands at more than 4,442 GW, and around 30% of the world's electricity is produced from renewable sources.

The new report by IRENA, which was released on July 10, also said that at the current rate of growth, the world would come close to achieving its target of tripling renewable energy installed capacity by 2030. This target is considered crucial for limiting global warming, and was part of the agreement made at the COP28 meeting in Dubai in 2023.

The rapid growth of renewable energy might give the impression that the world has made good progress on meeting its climate objectives. However, renewable energy has not even begun to replace fossil fuels at the global level.

As of now, it is catering mainly to the rising electricity demand, which has increased three times since 1990 and is projected to grow even higher.

Unabated use of fossil fuels across the world

While only around 10% of new electricity installed capacity in 2024 was fossil fuel-based, the use of fossil fuels, in absolute terms, is still growing, according to the IRENA report.

Between 2012 and 2023, global electricity generation grew by 2.5% every year on average, and renewable energy expanded at a rate of about 6% during the same time. This has led to a steady rise in the share of renewables in the electricity generation mix. However, fos-

sil fuels currently account for more than 70% of global electricity production.

In absolute terms, more fossil fuels are being burnt today than 10 years ago to produce electricity. To make matters worse, the increase in use of fossil fuels is expected to continue for at least a few more years. As a result, greenhouse gas emissions have reached record highs in recent years.

Moreover, electricity is still only a small slice of total energy use. Just 20% to 22% of the total energy consumed in the world every year is in the form of electricity. Only 30% of electricity generation comes from renewable sources. This means that about 6% of the world's energy consumption comes from clean sources. More than 90% still comes from fossil sources.

Note that there are some countries, mainly in the Nordic region, where renewables account for a significantly higher share of total energy consumption. However, the special conditions existing in these countries are difficult to replicate elsewhere. According to projections, by 2050, even in the case scenarios, not more than 40% to 45% of the world's total energy consumption would come from clean sources.

This means that energy transition, which involves moving away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy, on its own, is unlikely to help tackle the climate crisis. That is why carbon removal interventions, which are yet to become viable, assume great importance in the fight against global warming.

Regional imbalance in growth of renewables

There are other concerns with the manner in which the global energy transition is currently taking shape. So far, the bulk of renewable energy deployment has taken place in a handful of countries, while the others have been left behind.

The IRENA report pointed out that while renewable capacity increased by 15% globally in 2024, in Africa it grew by just 7%, and that too from a very low base. Africa is where the largest number of people without access live.

The IRENA report said 71% of the renewable capacity addition last year took place in Asia. This is slightly misleading as China alone accounted for more than 62% of global additions — that is, 364 GW of the 582 GW installed globally. The whole of Africa together got less than 1%.

For the last few years, China has been consistently installing more renewable energy than the rest of the world combined. Apart from developed countries, China, and some large players such as India, the renewable energy footprint has not grown at a fast pace.

It is true that these are the countries that also happen to be the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases. Effective energy transition here would be more consequential from the climate change perspective than in, for example, Africa.

However, this kind of lopsided deployment of renewable energy, coupled with the fact that China has a near monopoly on the

production and supply chains of most of the renewable systems, could leave many countries and regions behind once again.

Renewable energy, such as solar and wind, might be available universally — unlike, say, petrol that is found in only limited geographies — but the technologies needed to harness this energy are getting increasingly inaccessible.

China dominates the production and manufacturing of solar PV systems, for example, but also consumes more than half of it. Large buyers such as the United States and India corner most of what is exported. There is little supply for others.

Also, manufacturing outside of China, which could have filled the gap, is struggling. This is because other countries are not able to compete with China's economies of scale, low labour costs, or state subsidies.

China's control over the renewable energy system has begun to appear similar to the OPEC countries' hold over global oil supplies. Energy security has emerged as one of the foremost concerns of countries, pushing many of them to secure whatever option is available to them, irrespective of whether it is clean or not.

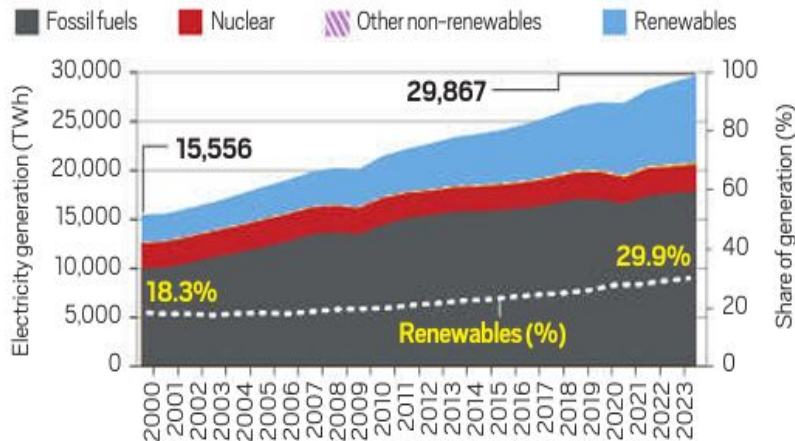
The transition to clean and renewable energy systems is not as simple as it is sometimes made out to be. There are several layers of complexities which make the goal of curbing global temperatures below 2 degrees Celsius look increasingly unrealistic to achieve.



Why Renewables alone can't help?

SYLLABUS: GS 3: Conservation, Environment Pollution and Degradation
Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 14

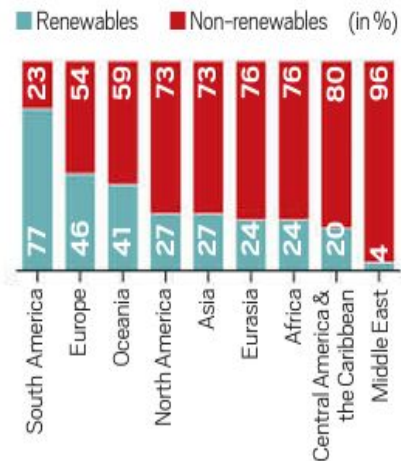
ELECTRICITY GENERATION BY ENERGY SOURCE



Note: TWh = terawatt hour

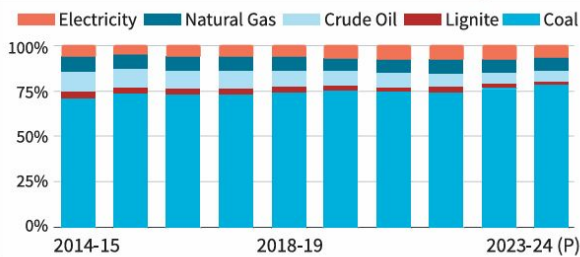
Source: International Renewable Energy Association

ELECTRICITY MIX BY REGION



Coal dominates

Coal in the share of total energy production (in petajoules) increased from 77% in FY23 to 79% in FY24.; about a fourth of the coal supply is imported



Source: Energy Statistics of India 2025, MoSPI



Why Renewables alone can't help?



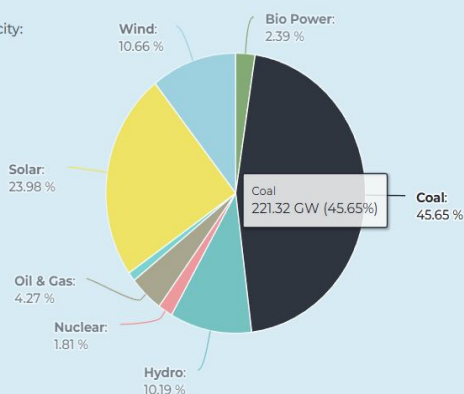
SYLLABUS: GS 3: Conservation, Environment Pollution and Degradation
Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 14

India Power Capacity - Overview

Installed Capacity ☒ Generation

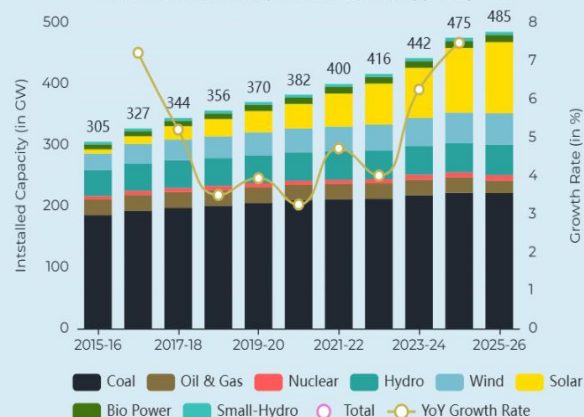
Source-wise Electricity Installed Capacity
(as on 30th June 2025)

Total Installed Capacity:
485 GW



Source: CEA & NPP

Source-wise Electricity Installed Capacity Trends
from 2015-16 to 2025-26 (as on 30th June 2025) (in GW)



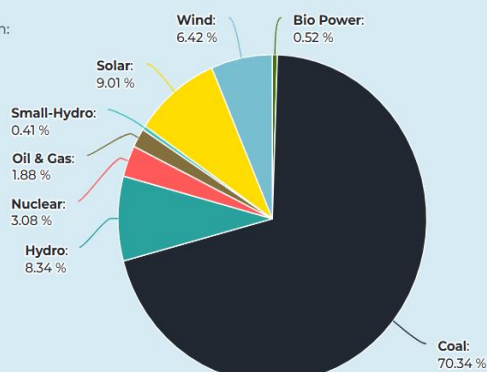
Source: CEA & NPP

India Power Generation - Overview

Installed Capacity ☐ Generation

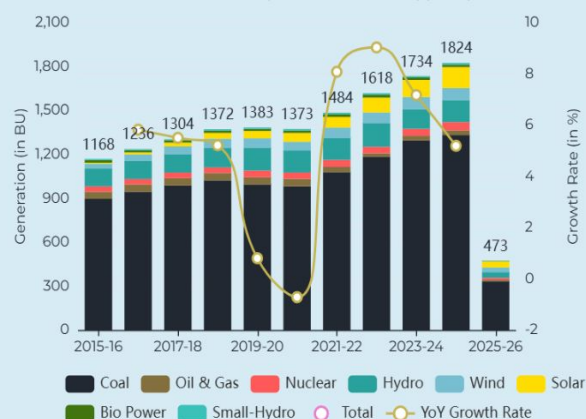
Source-wise Electricity Generation
2025-26 (as on 30th June 2025)

Total Generation:
473 BU



Source: CEA & NPP

Source-wise Electricity Generation Trends
from 2015-16 to 2025-26 (as on 30th June 2025) (in BU)



Source: CEA & NPP



SYLLABUS: GS 3: Trade, Agriculture
Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 12

Global factors

Tom Jose, chairman of the Irinjalakuda (Kerala)-based KSE Limited, India's largest solvent-extracted coconut oil producer, attributes the unprecedented price rise mainly to output in the Philippines and Indonesia falling due to El Niño-induced drought.

These two countries are the world's top producers-cum-exporters of the oil that is extracted from the dried white flesh or kernels of coconuts (Table 1).

The El Niño event, which lasted from July 2023 to June 2024, affected the growth of coconut flowers and fruit development during the 2024-25 marketing year that began in

October. The impact is being felt now, as it takes roughly a year for a single coconut to go from flowering on the tree to a fully mature fruit that is ready for harvesting.

"The weather disturbances, on top of ag-

ing coconut plantations in the two countries, have led to global supply tightness, and to buyers scrambling to stock up," Jose said. Production in India, which is an insignificant exporter, has been flat, if not down.

No immediate supply response to high prices is expected because coconut trees — even the improved dwarf and hybrid palm varieties — start bearing fruit only in 3-5 years.

The price sentiment has been further boosted by reports of the Indonesian government planning restrictions on the export of raw whole coconuts, amid concerns over the shortage of the fruit for local processors.

Meanwhile, the government of the Philippines has introduced a 3% mandatory blending of coconut oil-based CME (coco-methyl ester) in diesel sold in the country from October 2024. The blend could go up to 4% from October 2025 and to 5% from October 2026, which would reduce the exportable surplus of coconut oil further.

A marginalised oil

Of the 5.7 lakh tonnes (lt) of coconut oil produced in India, only about 3.9 lt is used

for food (cooking and frying). The rest goes into the manufacture of hair oil, cosmetics, soaps, and in other industrial applications.

Like other indigenous cooking oils (mustard, sesame, groundnut), coconut oil has lost market share to the predominantly imported oils — palm, soyabean, and sunflower.

The three imported oils accounted for about 72% of the almost 260 lt total domestic edible oil consumption during the year ended October 2024. The only indigenous oil that has held out is mustard; coconut is low down the list (Table 2).

Even in Kerala — the state that is named after Kera or the coconut tree — the annual consumption of coconut oil is just 2 lt, estimates Mahmood. That is half the consumption of palm oil (4lt) and more than sunflower oil (1.5 lt). From being the top producer of coconut, Kerala has now slipped to third place, behind Tamil Nadu and the No.1 producer, Karnataka.

On the whole, the record high prices of coconut oil may not hurt that much, given the extent of its marginalisation. If anything, it may accelerate the shift to other oils, particularly imported oils.

TABLE 1

COCONUT OIL PRODUCTION IN TOP 3 COUNTRIES

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Philippines	18.50 (14.90)	16.30 (11.30)	16.65 (11.30)
Indonesia	10.30 (7.06)	9.90 (6.50)	10.00 (6.80)
India	5.70 (0.19)	5.70 (0.15)	5.73 (0.15)

Numbers in lakh tonnes; figures in brackets are exports; data are for marketing year (October-September). Source: US Department of Agriculture

TABLE 2

INDIA'S EDIBLE OIL CONSUMPTION IN 2023-24

Palm oil	97.54
Soyabean oil	52.8
Mustard oil	37.81
Sunflower oil	35.85
Rice bran oil	11
Cottonseed oil	9.42
Groundnut oil	6.98
Coconut oil	3.9
TOTAL*	58.66

Numbers in lakh tonnes; *includes sesame, safflower & other minor oils. Source: The Solvent Extractors' Association of India



Why Coconut Oil is on Fire?

SYLLABUS: GS 3: Trade, Agriculture

Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 12

TOP EXPORTS (\$ MN)

	2022-23	2023-24	Apr-Dec 2023	Apr-Dec 2024
Marine products	8,077.98	7,372.00	5,852.32	5,678.65
Basmati rice	4,787.65	5,843.30	3,971.13	4,322.59
Non-basmati rice	6,356.71	4,573.41	3,347.46	4,404.98
Spices	3,785.36	4,248.56	2,909.24	3,158.63
Buffalo meat	3,193.69	3,743.26	2,758.42	2,927.14
Tobacco	1,213.39	1,449.54	1,110.56	1,530.59
Sugar	5,770.83	2,824.74	1,990.20	1,476.44
Fruits & Vegetables	1,791.05	2,037.58	1,362.94	1,348.73
Processed F&V	1,417.59	1,624.22	1,149.56	1,324.20
Coffee	1,146.18	1,286.28	876.84	1,247.06
Oil meals	1,601.72	1,713.98	1,227.04	1,017.14
Oilseeds	1,337.69	1,437.02	1,031.50	1,009.38
Castor oil	1,265.64	1,071.55	771.40	854.52
Raw cotton	781.43	1,116.52	626.29	575.74
Wheat	1,520.46	56.74	35.35	1.44
Other cereals	1,194.07	517.79	454.60	191.29
TOTAL	53,153.55	48,821.67	35,195.24	37,479.83

The top 5 export destinations based on highest exports are : 'USA'(19%), 'United Arab Emirates'(8%), 'Netherlands'(5%), 'UK'(3%) and 'China'(3%)

Top import partners of India:

China, Russia, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Saudi Arabia.

TOP IMPORTS (\$ MN)

	2022-23	2023-24	Apr-Dec 2023	Apr-Dec 2024
Vegetable oils	20,837.7	14,871.66	11,638.03	13,518.96
Pulses	1,943.89	3,746.78	2,467.93	3,789.75
Fresh fruits	2,483.95	2,734.97	2,032.64	2,230.2
Cashew	1,805.67	1,431.39	1,193.04	1,414.36
Spices	1,336.65	1,455.57	1,123.81	1,220.61
Raw cotton	1,438.69	598.66	498.81	918.69
Natural rubber	937.6	739.18	554.15	875.7
TOTAL	35,686.2	32,870.03	24,641.45	29,251.41

Source: Department of Commerce



Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism



SYLLABUS: GS 3: Trade Agreements, Conservation, Environment Pollution and Degradation
Newspaper : The Indian Express, **Page No : 17**

INDIA'S EFFORTS to secure a concession for its small and medium enterprises under the UK's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) did not materialise, as the text of the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) released on Thursday made no mention of a resolution on the contentious issue.

The UK's CBAM, which is set to come into effect from January 1, 2027, is expected to impact India's exports of steel, aluminium and other carbon-intensive goods. India's steel and aluminium exports are already facing steep tariff restrictions from the US after US President Donald Trump raised the tariffs on the items to 50 per cent.

to the UK — covering the aluminium, cement, fertiliser, hydrogen, and iron & steel sectors — which are considered at risk of carbon leakage. But the scope will increase going forward.

"The sectoral and product-level scope of the CBAM will be kept under review beyond 2027 as new evidence comes to light to reflect changes to carbon leakage risk, as well as methodological and technological advances," a statement read. India's exports to the UK rose by 12.6 per cent to \$14.5 billion, while imports grew by 2.3 per cent to \$8.6 billion in FY25. Bilateral goods trade between India and the UK increased to \$21.34 billion in FY24 from \$20.36 billion in FY23.

While the Ministry of Commerce and Industry claims that the UK trade deal will allow around 99 per cent of Indian exports to benefit from zero-duty access to the UK market, CBAM significantly could alter that. The UK government has said the carbon tax will apply to both "direct and indirect emissions" embodied in imported CBAM goods, "including those emissions embodied in relevant precursor goods at a point further up the value chain".

This means that London, based on its carbon calculations, could impose duties on Indian intermediate exports as well as finished products. Indian goods exports worth at least \$775 million to the UK, therefore, continue to face the risk of higher duties under its carbon tax mechanism.

Wider scope for CBAM?

As per the CBAM regulation, the UK will place a carbon price on some of the most emissions-intensive industrial goods imported

Challenge at the WTO

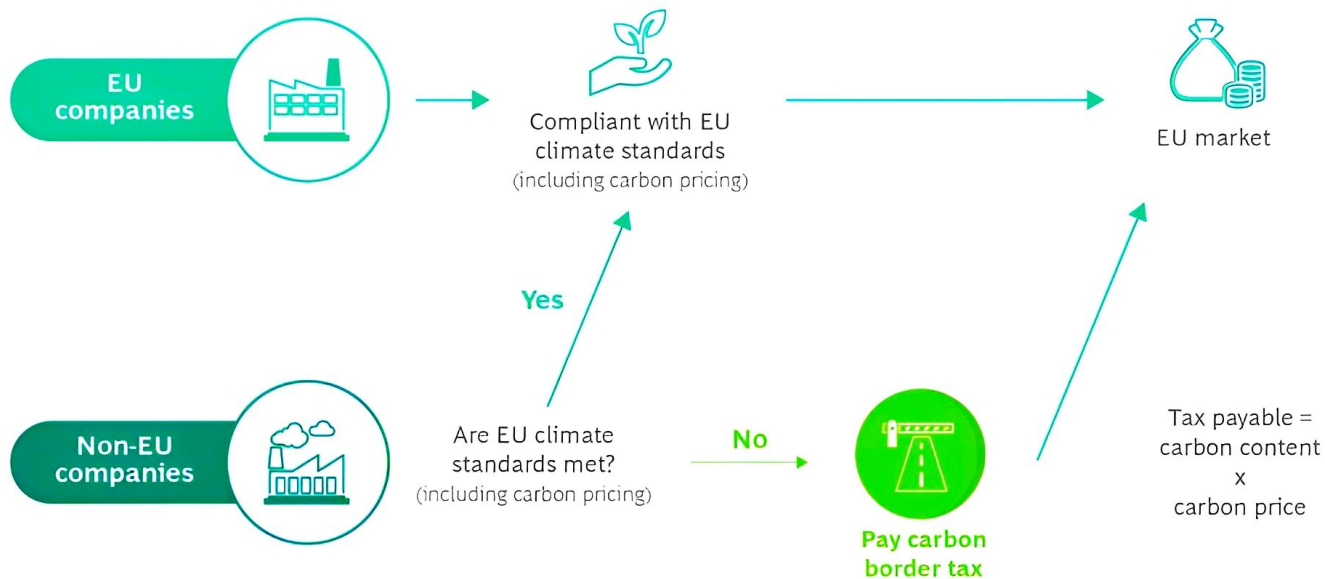
As no concession was secured under the FTA, India could challenge the regulation at the WTO on the grounds that CBAM violates special and differential treatment provisions, which advocate longer implementation periods for developing countries to safeguard their trade interests. However, trade law experts warn that the CBAM regulations in both the UK and EU may be in effect by the time the WTO rules on the matter, given the dysfunction of the organisation's Dispute Settlement Body.



Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

SYLLABUS: GS 3: Trade Agreements, Conservation, Environment Pollution and Degradation
Newspaper : The Indian Express, **Page No : 17**

Exhibit 1 - How the Carbon Border Tax Will Work



Source: BCG analysis.



SYLLABUS: GS 2: Government Policies & Interventions, Issues related to women and Children

Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No :** 9

WB legislation versus existing law

HT

Punishment for rape and murder

WB Bill: Death sentence if the victim dies or is left in a vegetative state

Existing law: Under BNS, if rape results in the victim's death or leaves her in a vegetative state, death penalty is only one of the punishments besides life term or minimum 20 years in jail

Fast-track courts

WB Bill: Establishment of special courts for cases of sexual violence

Existing law: Under a centrally sponsored scheme, the department of justice provides funds to states for setting up fast track special courts for trial of cases relating to sexual offences

Probe deadlines

WB Bill: Investigation must be concluded within 21 days of the initial report

Existing law: Under BNSS, investigation must be concluded within two months of the filing of FIR. For trial, it specifies framing of charge within 60 days from the first hearing and judgment within 30 days (maximum of 60 days) after arguments conclude

Junior doctors continue their protest in Kolkata.

SAMIR JANA/HT

Disclosing victim's identity

WB Bill: Imprisonment of 3 to 5 years

Under BNS: 2 years imprisonment and fine



WHAT NEW BENGAL BILL PROPOSES

> Death penalty for convicted rapists if victim dies or is left in vegetative state

> Rape case investigation within 21 days of initial report. Earlier deadline was 2 months

> Special fast-track courts to ensure swift justice

> Aprajita task force at district level to focus on cases of rape and atrocities against women and children

> Life imprisonment for repeat offenders, with possibility of

death penalty

> Provisions to protect identities of victims, ensuring their privacy and dignity during legal process

> Police and health officials who fail to act promptly or tamper with evidence to be penalised

> Strict penalties for unauthorised publication of court proceedings related to sexual offences, with potential 3-5 years in jail

OLD NOW

VOLUNTARILY CAUSING GRIEVOUS HURT BY USE OF ACID, ETC

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

Imprisonment for not less than 10 years but which may extend to imprisonment for life and fine to be paid to the victim

Aparajita Bill

Rigorous imprisonment for life which shall mean rigorous imprisonment for the remainder of that person's natural life and with fine

VOLUNTARILY THROWING OR ATTEMPTING TO THROW ACID

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

Imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 5 years but which may extend to 7 years, and shall also be liable to fine

Aparajita Bill

Rigorous imprisonment for life which shall mean rigorous imprisonment for the remainder of that person's natural life and with fine



Haemophilia A

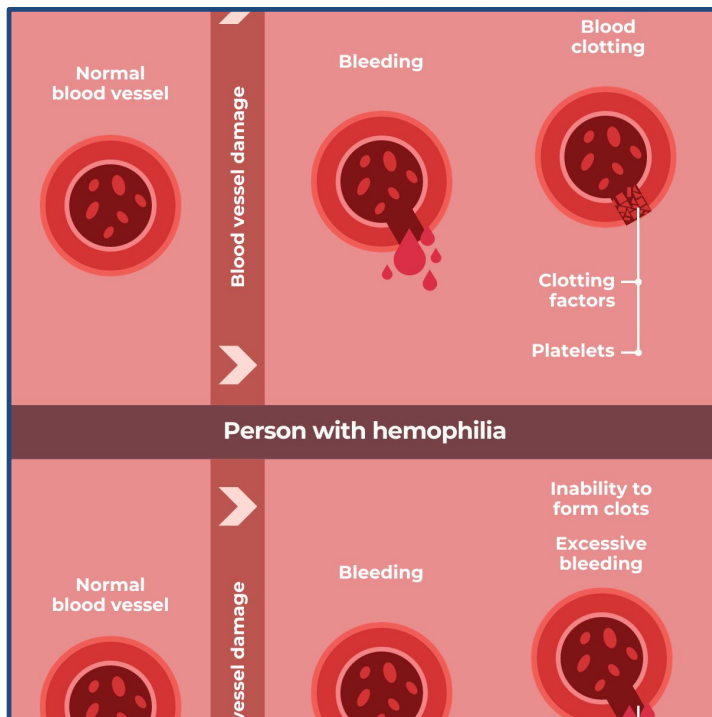
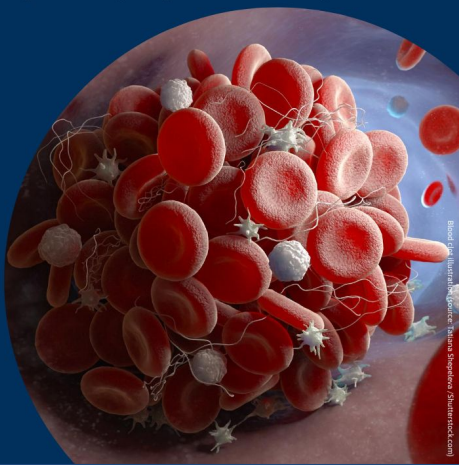
- lack of coagulation factor **VIII**
- approx. **1 in 5,000** men are affected.

Haemophilia B

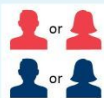
- lack of coagulation factor **IX**
- approx. **1 in 25,000 to 30,000** men are affected.

Haemophilia

is a hereditary disease that leads to a blood clotting disorder. In the two most well-known forms of haemophilia (A and B), the blood lacks one of the proteins required for blood coagulation (coagulation factors).

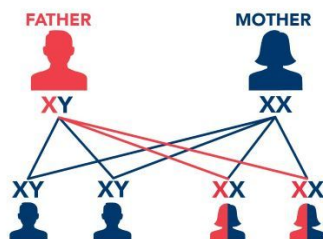


Haemophilia genetic inheritance



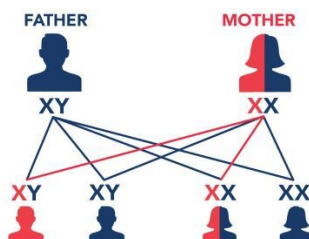
has an X chromosome with the 'haemophilia' genetic alteration.
has an unaltered X chromosome.

When the father has haemophilia and the mother is unaffected.



None of the sons will have haemophilia.
All of the daughters will carry the gene alteration. Some might have symptoms or have haemophilia.

When the mother carries the gene alteration causing haemophilia and the father is unaffected.



There is a 50% chance at each birth that a son will have haemophilia.
There is a 50% chance at each birth that a daughter will carry the gene alteration. Some might have symptoms of haemophilia.

TOP 5 MOST COMMON BLOOD DISORDERS

- 1 LEUKEMIA**
Cancer of the blood or bone marrow
- 2 ANEMIA**
Condition in which the red blood cell count is less than normal
- 3 LYMPHOMA**
A form of blood cancer that develops in the lymph system. Two major groups of lymphoma are Hodgkin's lymphoma & Non-Hodgkin lymphoma
- 4 HEMOPHILIA**
A genetic disorder which affects the blood's ability to clot due to low levels of blood-clotting proteins
- 5 THALASSAEMIA**
An inherited blood disorder caused by the lack of protein called hemoglobin in the red blood cells



Q1. Regarding the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), consider the following statements:

1. It functions under the National Security Advisor (NSA) in the PMO.
2. It was created in 2004 as the technical arm of the Intelligence Bureau.
3. The agency collects and analyses technical data from sources like satellites, radars, and cyber systems.

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

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

Answer: b

Q2. Which of the following are defence exercises involving India and the Maldives?

1. Ekuverin – A joint Army exercise
2. Ekatha – A bilateral Coast Guard exercise
3. Dosti – A trilateral maritime exercise
4. Mitra Shakti – A bilateral Army exercise

Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

Answer: d

Q3. Arrange the following energy sources in descending order of their share in India's Electricity Installed Capacity:

1. Wind
2. Solar
3. Oil & Gas
4. Coal

Select the correct answer using the code below.

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

Answer: c

Q4. Regarding edible oils, consider the following statements:

1. The top three coconut oil-producing countries are the Philippines, Indonesia, and India, in that order.
2. In 2023–24, Mustard oil led India's edible oil consumption, followed by soybean, palm oil, sunflower, and coconut oils.

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

Q5. Match the following blood-related disorders with their correct descriptions:

Disorder	Description
A. Leukemia	1. A genetic disorder affecting the blood's ability to clot
B. Anemia	2. A condition where the red blood cell count is less than normal
C. Hemophilia	3. A cancer of the blood or bone marrow
D. Thalassaemia	4. Inherited disorder due to a lack of haemoglobin in red blood cells

Select the correct answer using the code below.

- a) A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4
- b) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3
- c) A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4
- d) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4

Answer: a





VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar,
New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,
Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121

Visit us at : www.vajiramandravi.com