



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

3rd July 2025



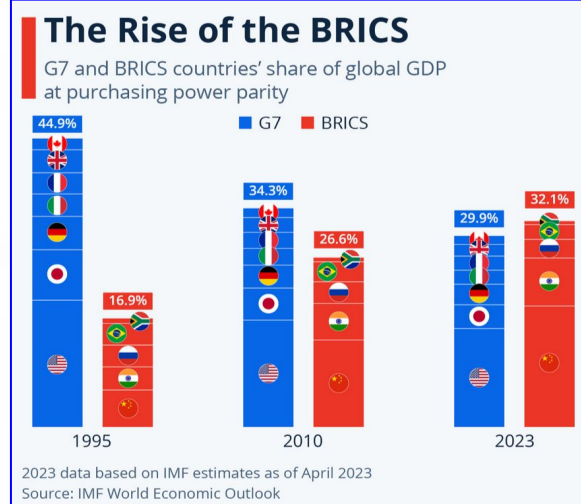
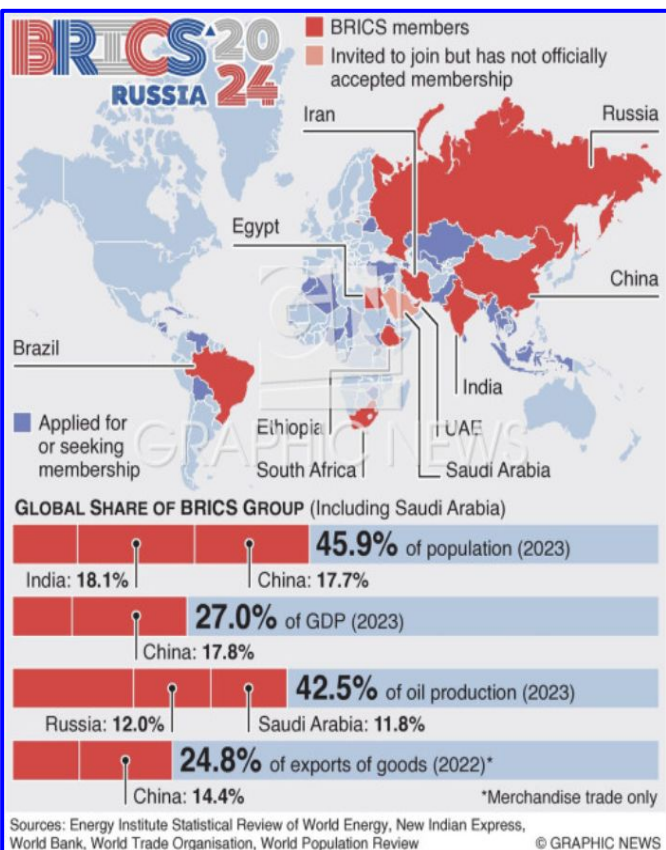
CONTEXT: PM Modi will attend the summit.

Evolution:

- 2006 – Leaders of BRIC in St. Petersburg – G8 Outreach Summit
- 2009 – 1st BRIC summit
- 2011 – BRICS
- Engines of global eco growth
- Growing intra-BRICS trade (from \$494B in 2001 to \$4.65T in 2021)
- BRICS+

Initiatives of BRICS:

- NDB – infra, sustainable dev projects
- CRA – \$100 bn, BoP, financial stability
- BRICS Payment System
- Customs Agreements
- Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation



Growing Need for BRICS:

- **Declining appeal of G7-led order:** rigid, hierarchical, serving Western interests
- **BRICS as a flexible alternative:** Prioritizes national interests, sovereignty, mutual respect
- **Inclusive decision-making**
- **Non-confrontational agenda:** Focuses on solutions
- **Economic & demographic strength:**
 - BRICS GDP (PPP) at \$65 tn (39% global share) > G7 (\$47 tn, <30%)
 - ~3.9 billion people vs. G7's 780 million
- **Growing global trust:**
 - 10 full members, 9 partners, ~30+ applicants
 - Non-Western platform
- **Future potential:** Only bloc with means and desire to shape a new, multipolar world order



CONTEXT: PM Modi will attend the summit.

Why India Needs BRICS:

- **Strategic Autonomy & Multipolarity**
- **Economic & Geopolitical Leverage:**
 - Western protectionism, sanctions
- **Voice for the Global South:**
 - Platform for climate, equity, develop
 - governance reforms, multilateralism
- **Like-Minded Partnerships:**
 - Expanded BRICS
 - sanctions, currency
- **Key Initiatives & Leadership:**
 - Vaccine R&D centre, counter-terrorism action plan, digital infra, startup forum
 - Kazan Declaration (2024)
- **Bilateral Diplomacy Hub:**
 - Modi-Putin talks
 - Modi-Xi meeting
 - Iran
- **Countering Western Dominance:**
 - Alternatives in finance, trade, tech
- **Future-Proofing Influence:**
 - India's role in redefining global rules

Why Expanded BRICS benefits India?

Strategic Partnerships & Geopolitical Influence

- Strengthened ties with Africa
- Multi-alignment in West Asia
- UAE's inclusion

Economic & Trade Advantages

- Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia

Multilateral & Institutional Reforms

- Global South representation
- Push for UNSC expansion
- Alternative financial mechanisms

Energy & Resource Security

- Saudi Arabia
- Ethiopia
- Iran's Chabahar

Balancing China's Dominance

- Diversified BRICS membership
- India-led consensus

Challenges Ahead:

- **Managing Iran-Saudi tensions** within BRICS
- **Limited NDB impact** (\$33B loans vs. World Bank's yearly \$100B+)
- **Need for INR internationalization** to reduce dollar reliance

Need for a BRICS Currency:

Reducing Dollar Dependence

- US sanctions
- SWIFT weaponization
- US exports inflation

Strengthening Global South Financial Autonomy

- Alternative to IMF/World Bank
- Transaction costs
- Protection from Fed policy shocks

Economic & Trade Benefits

- Faster intra-BRICS settlements
- Lower forex risks
- Boost for NDB

Strategic Counterbalance to Western Systems

- Diversify global reserve currencies
- Multipolar financial system

Challenges of BRICS Currency:

Economic Disparities

- Vastly different economic strengths
- No fiscal union
- Risk of repeat of Eurozone crisis

Geopolitical Rivalries

- China-India tensions
- UAE-Iran rivalry
- Power imbalances

Technical & Structural Issues

- No unified central bank
- Differing inflation & interest rates
- Capital controls



BRICS Summit



CONTEXT: PM Modi will attend the summit.

Lack of Trust & Consensus

- Monetary sovereignty
- No precedent without political integration
- Pragmatic Alternative solutions

Challenges of BRICS:

Institutional Weaknesses

- Lack of strong financial institutions
 - local currency lending
 - "Country system approach"

Geopolitical Tensions

- India-China rivalry
- Russia-West tensions
- Expansion concerns

Structural Issues

- Equal voting shares
- No supranational authority
- Mixed priorities

Perception Problems

- Seen as symbolic
- Slow reform pace

Contradictions of BRICS:

- Economic - GDP, Exporters, protectionism
- Political - India China, NDB & silk road projects, USA
- Geographical distance, limited trade
- Similar forums

Future Opportunities:

- **Non-traditional cooperation** (climate, tech, infrastructure)
- **Lobby for UN/WB reforms**
- **Balanced multipolar order** without anti-West agenda



QUAD: Imperative for India?

CONTEXT: QUAD Foreign Ministers' Joint Statement

Origins (2004-2007):

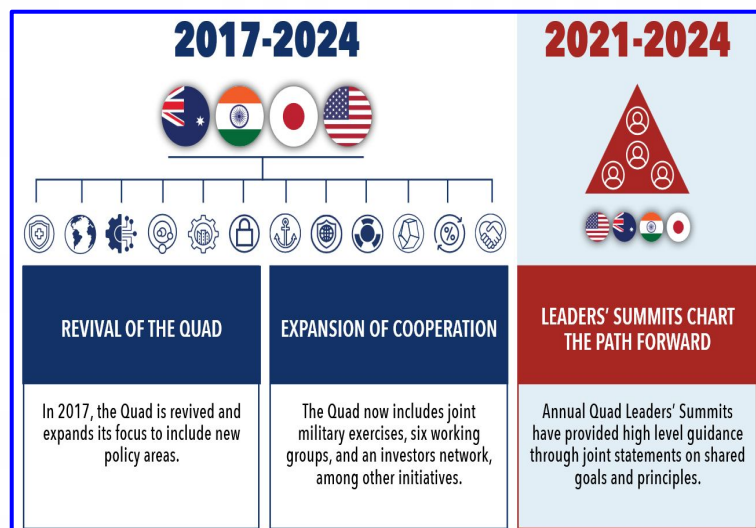
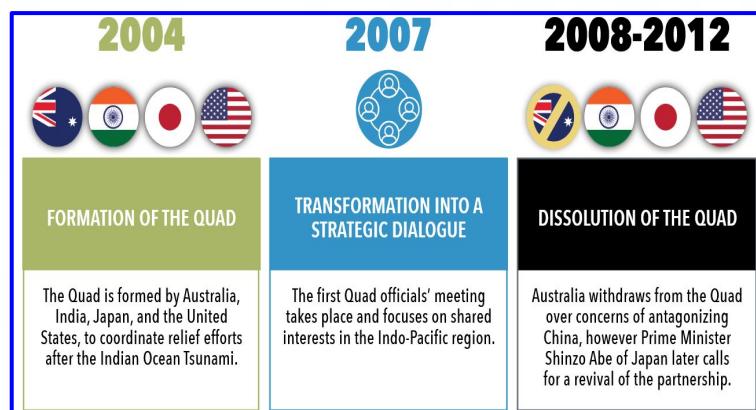
- 2006: Shinzo Abe proposed "Arc of Freedom and Prosperity"
- 2007 Malabar Exercises – Japan included

Initial Collapse (2007-2017):

- China protested
- India hesitated
- Abe's resignation (2007) & lack of Australian support

Revival (2017-Present) – Quad 2.0:

- 2017 ASEAN Summit
- China's aggression
- 2020: Australia rejoined Malabar Exercises
- 2021: First in-person Quad summit – focus on vaccines, tech, infrastructure



Need of Quad for India:

Strategic Counter to China

- Balances BRI expansion
- Maritime security
- Deters Chinese aggression

Strengthening Regional Influence

- Boosts Act East Policy
- Supports SAGAR & IPOI
- Vaccine diplomacy

Economic & Defense Benefits

- Supply chain resilience
- Defense partnerships
- Military exercises

Global Leadership Role

- India as a key Indo-Pacific power
- Democratic alliances against authoritarian expansion
- Post-pandemic influence – tech, climate, and vaccine collaboration

Challenges Posed by Quad for India:

Geopolitical Risks

- Escalates tensions with China
- Complicates BRICS & SCO ties
- Relations with Iran & Myanmar

Security Concerns

- China border vulnerability
- Risk of Chinese retaliation

Implementation Challenges

- India's "delivery deficit"
- BRI competition

Strategic Dilemmas

- Balancing act required
- Regional distrust



QUAD: Imperative for India?

CONTEXT: QUAD Foreign Ministers' Joint Statement

Future of Quad

Expanding Cooperation

- Vaccine diplomacy
- Tech & 5G collaboration
- Infrastructure & climate initiatives

Strategic Evolution


- From security dialogue to action-oriented bloc
- Institutionalization potential

China's Response & Regional Impact

- Chinese opposition
- India's leadership role

Long-Term Vision

- Defining engagement terms with China
- Mainstreaming Indo-Pacific concept

Policy Area	Key Milestones
 Maritime Security and Domain Awareness	2007: Japan, Australia, and Singapore join India and the United States in Exercise Malabar 2015: Japan becomes a permanent member of Exercise Malabar 2022: The Quad launches the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness 2020: Australia begins participating annually in the Exercise Malabar alongside the United States, India, and Japan
 Counterterrorism	2023: The ministerial-level Quad Counterterrorism Working Group is established
 Nuclear Stability	2021: Calls for the denuclearization of North Korea are included in the March Leaders' Joint Statement
 Critical Minerals	2021: The Quad establishes a Semiconductor Supply Chain Initiative at the Quad Leaders' Summit
 Sustainable, Transparent, and Fair Lending and Financing Practices	2023: The Quad Investors Network formally launched in parallel with the Quad Leaders' meeting in Hiroshima in May 2023: The inaugural Quad Investment and Technology Dialogue takes place at the White House in October
 Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief	2004: Australia, India, Japan, and the United States form a coalition to coordinate aid following the Indian Ocean Tsunami 2022: The Quad Partnership on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief in the Indo-Pacific is established



Dalai Lama: Tibetan Buddhism



SYLLABUS: GS I Paper: Indian Culture
Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 7

Dalai Lama:

- Spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism
- reincarnation of the previous Dalai Lama
- political and spiritual leader of Tibet
- title (Ocean of Wisdom) by Mongol ruler Altan Khan
- Human incarnation of Avalokiteshvara
 - Bodhisattva of Compassion & Patron Saint of Tibet
- First Incarnate: Gendun Drup – first Dalai Lama
- China's occupation of Tibet in 1950 – exile
- Current 14th Dalai Lama – Tenzin Gyatso
 - established Central Tibetan Administration in Dharamshala
 - political authority to an elected Sikyong (President) in 2011
 - 1989 Nobel Peace Prize for non-violent resistance

Selection Process:

- Tulku system (reincarnation of lamas) of rebirth within samsara
- drawn by lot from the Golden Urn
- Approval by Tibetan monastic authorities

Chinese Assertions:

- Order No. 5 (2007) – China authority over all reincarnations
- rejected nominee, installed own Panchen Lama
- 1793 Qing decree – selection of high lamas via Golden Urn
- next Dalai Lama must be born in China

Tibetan Buddhism:

- Buddhism in 7th century via Indian Mahayana traditions
- merges Mahayana with Vajrayana rituals, mantras, initiation rites
 - a. Absorbed indigenous Bon religion
- Schools: Nyingma, Kagyu, Sakya, Gelug
 - a. Gelug school dominant by 15th century with Mongol patronage
 - b. Gelugpa tradition, established by Tsongkhapa
- Tibetan Canon: Kangyur (Buddha's own words) and Tengyur (Commentaries by scholars) texts

cessor, the 14th Dalai Lama said on Wednesday that the centuries-old institution of the Dalai Lama would continue, and the Gaden Phodrang Trust – a non-profit organisation that his office set up in 2011 – would have the "sole authority" to recognise his reincarnation.

Hours after the Dalai Lama's statement, China rejected the succession plan and reiterated that any future heir must receive its seal of approval. "The Dalai



Dalai Lama: Tibetan Buddhism



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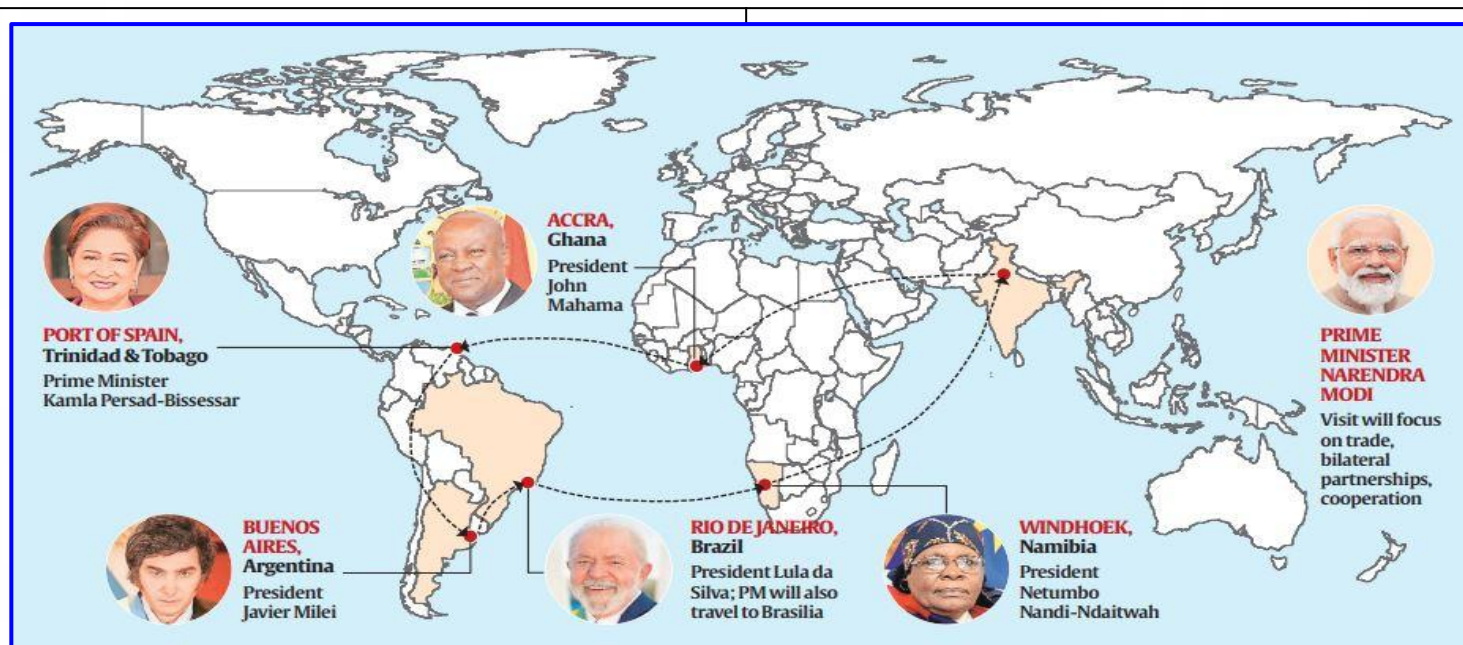
The members of the Gaden Phodrang Trust "should consult the various heads of Tibetan Buddhist traditions and the reliable oath-bound Dharma protectors who are linked inseparably to the lineage of the Dalai Lamas. They should accordingly carry out the procedures of search and recognition, in accordance with past tradition," he said.

in McLeodganj, said: "There are three registered institutions that are related to His Holiness: the Gaden Phodrang Trust, which is a registered body in India and operates from the office of His Holiness; the Dalai Lama Trust, which is a non-profit organisation; and the Gaden Phodrang Foundation, which is registered in Zurich. Of these, it is the Gaden Phodrang Trust which shall be responsible for finding the reincarnation."



SYLLABUS : GS 2 Paper : Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's interests

Newspaper: Indian Express **Page Number:** 6



Political Relations

- Historical Ties:
 - Indian office in Accra in 1953
- Bilateral Mechanisms:
 - Joint Trade Committee (2024)
 - India-Africa Forum Summit

Economic & Development Cooperation:

- Gateway to ECOWAS
- Trade & Investment:
 - FY24 trade: \$2.5 bn
 - Major exports to India: Gold (70%), cocoa, cashew nuts
 - Major imports from India: Pharma, machinery, vehicles, plastics
 - Indian FDI in Ghana - \$1.92 bn (1994-2024), 2nd largest investor in 2024
- Development Projects (LoCs & Grants):
 - Concessional credit
 - Jubilee House Presidential Complex (2008)
 - Tema-Mpakadan Railway Line

- Grant assistance: ICT, health, education

- Capacity Building:
 - ITEC & ICCR scholarships, e-Vidya Bharati (Tele-Education)

Socio-Cultural Ties :

- Cultural Exchange:
 - Festival of India (Maitri, 2017), Yoga Day
 - Media & academic exchanges
- Indian Community:
 - 15k+ Indians in Ghana
 - Cultural associations, temples, ISKCON

Key Agreements:

- Air Services Agreement
- Visa Waiver for Diplomats
- MoUs on ICT, Nuclear Energy, Standards, Pharma



SYLLABUS : GS 2 Paper : Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's interests

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Facts regarding Ghana:

- Formerly Gold Coast
- Africa's First Independent Nation
- Meaning of 'Ghana': Warrior King - ancient empire in West Africa
- Trans-Atlantic slave trade: Historic forts - Cape Coast, Elmina
- Volta Lake: largest man-made lake in the world
- Day-Based Naming Traditions
- Legacy of Kente Cloth: handwoven
- Anglo-Ashanti Wars: 1823 to 1900
- Democratic Stability in a region of coups

ward to working together to strengthen our long-standing relationship and explore fresh avenues for collaboration."

"This gesture is reflective of the strong and historic bonds of friendship between the two nations," the MEA said, adding that the visit would deepen the partnership and underscored India's commitment to strengthening its engagement with Africa and Global South Partners.

This is the first visit by an Indian PM to Ghana in the last three decades.

Ghana is a valued partner in the Global South and plays an important role in the African Union and the Economic

Community of West African States, Modi said in his departure statement.

Modi said he looked forward to talks aimed at deepening the two countries' historical ties and opening up new windows of co-operation, including in the areas of investment, energy, health, security, capacity building and development partnership. "As fellow democracies, it will be an honour to speak at the Parliament of Ghana," he said.

According to the MEA, PM Modi will hold talks with the President of Ghana to review the strong bilateral partnership and discuss ways to enhance it through economic, energy, and



Phone Tapping Order: Right to Privacy



SYLLABUS : GS 2 Paper : Governance

Newspaper: Indian Express **Page Number:** 11

Who Can Tap Phones?

- State Level – State police
- Central Level – IB, CBI, ED, NCB, CBDT, DRI, NIA, R&AW, Directorate of Signal Intelligence, Delhi Police Commissioner

Laws Governing Phone Tapping in India

- Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (Section 5(2))
 - Allows if public emergency, for public safety
 - National security, Public order, Preventing crimes, Friendly foreign relations
- Exceptions for Press
 - Journalists' messages cannot be tapped unless law
 - Written reasons

Who Authorizes Phone Tapping?

- Rule 419A (Indian Telegraph Rules, 2007)
 - Central Govt. – Home Secretary
 - State Govt. – State Home Secretary
- Emergency Cases
 - Central level: JS (authorized by Home Sec)
 - State level: IGP or higher
 - Approval must be confirmed within 7 days or tapping stops
- Remote Areas
 - Prior approval not needed if impractical
 - Must inform competent authority within 3 days

Checks Against Misuse

- Last Resort Principle
 - only if no alternative exists
- Duration & Renewal
 - Initial order: 60 days max
 - Extension: Up to 180 days total

- Review Committees
 - Central: Cabinet Secretary (with Law & Telecom Sec)
 - State: Chief Secretary (with Law & Home Sec)
 - Meets every 2 months to review requests
- Data Destruction
 - Government records: every 6 months (unless needed)
 - Service providers: logs within 2 months of stopping interception

Wednesday, the Madras High Court quashed a 2011 phone-tapping order issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), ruling that the surveillance violated the right to privacy guaranteed under Article 21

of his mobile phone under Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Rule 419-A of the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951. The surveillance was ordered for a CBI probe involving an alleged ₹50 lakh bribe to a senior Income Tax official.

The court made it clear that the state's justification for surveillance did not meet the legal threshold required to invade an individual's privacy through phone tapping. "In the instant case, the impugned (under challenge) order does not fall either within the ambit of public emergency or the interest of public



Phone Tapping Order: Right to Privacy



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that it was a covert operation or a secretive situation for detection of a crime which would not be apparent to any reasonable person. As the law presently stands, a situation of this nature does not fall within the four corners of Section 5(2) of the Act as expounded by the Supreme Court in PUCL which has been ap-

The court laid out the conditions under which phone tapping can be lawfully carried out: either during a “public emergency” or in the “interest of public safety.” Neither of these conditions, the judge said, were secretive or abstract; they must be apparent to any reasonable person, as clarified by the Supreme Court in PUCL.

The intercepted conversations were also not placed before the Review Committee, as mandated by Rule 419-A of the Telegraph Rules — a procedural safeguard designed to protect against executive overreach. The court held



SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper : Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nano-technology, Bio-technology

Newspaper: Indian Express **Page Number:** 19

Writers vs Anthropic:

- **Lawsuit**
 - Journalists/writers class-action complaint against Anthropic
 - alleging unauthorized use of their copyrighted books to train Claude AI
- **Anthropic's Defense**
 - Used Books3 (a pirated book database)
 - But also purchased/scanned millions of books for training
 - AI's use was "transformative" and fell under "fair use"
- **Court Ruling**
 - AI training aims to "create something different" and is transformative, not replicative

Writers vs Meta:

- **Lawsuit**
 - claiming LLaMA AI copied books from shadow libraries (Books3, Anna's Archive, Libgen)
- **Meta's Defense**
 - Post-trained models to prevent memorization/output of copyrighted text
- **Court Ruling**
 - for Meta due to lack of evidence on market harm but urged tech firms to compensate copyright holders

Case Against OpenAI in India :

- ANI, DNPA (Indian Express, HT, NDTV), music industry
- **Arguments of OpenAI**
 - Not storing data directly - no prohibition on use of data - like reading book
 - Jurisdiction - No office in India, pre-training processes outside India, training data on foreign servers
 - Models no access to original training data
 - Not market rival of ANI, links sources of info

Significance of These Rulings

- **Tech Companies' Win**
 - reinforcing "fair use" arguments for training data
 - However, legality of using pirated sources - unresolved
- **Ongoing Battles:**
 - Music publishers sued Anthropic - copyrighted lyrics
 - NYT, other publishers, artists pending lawsuits.
- **Unsettled Issues**
 - Courts acknowledge AI's transformative potential
 - But need for creator compensation
 - Global implications for copyright law - uncertain



Gig Workers in Labour Data



SYLLABUS : GS 3 Paper : Indian Economy
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 8

- **NITI Aayog:** Gig workforce - 23.5 mn by 2029-30
- **Included but no specific classification** in PLFS
- **Classified under vague categories** - "self-employed," "own-account workers," "casual labour"

Gaps in Labour Classification:

- **Legal definition (Code on Social Security, 2020) - Chapter I, Section 2(35):**
 - Gig worker: Earns outside traditional employer-employee relationship
 - Platform work: Online-based service arrangements
- **Ambiguity persists**—no clear operational definition in surveys
- **Policy challenges:**
 - **Social Security Fund** exists but no data-backed implementation
 - **National Social Security Board** relies on PLFS - which lacks gig-specific data

How the PLFS Falls Short:

- **No dedicated category**—lumped with traditional self-employment
- **Fails to capture:**
 - Algorithm-dependent work
 - Multi-platform job roles
 - Lack of formal contracts
 - Income volatility
- **Hybrid work nature ignored** (e.g., delivery riders on Swiggy/Zomato counted as "self-employed")
- **Govt response (Rajya Sabha):** "Gig work included under economic activity" but no specific tracking

Recognition Without Representation:

- **Policy efforts (2025 Budget):**
 - Social security schemes extended
 - e-Shram registration, digital IDs, Ayushman Bharat coverage
- **PLFS 2025 updates:** Larger sample, monthly estimates—still no gig-specific classification
- **Need:**
 - Revised PLFS codes or dedicated gig economy module
 - Accurate data for inclusive policy making



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the BRICS grouping:

1. As per International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates, the BRIC's share of Global Gross Domestic Product is more than the G-7 countries' share.
2. The New Development Bank (NDB) was created through the Fortaleza Declaration in 2010.
3. Contingent Reserve Arrangement is a financial mechanism of the BRICS to protect against global liquidity pressures.

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 countries are members of the QUAD Grouping?

1. Australia
2. India
3. Russia
4. Japan
5. China

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 1,3, and 5 only
- c) 2 and 5 only
- d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: a

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. Only the Intelligence Bureau and the Central Bureau of Investigation are authorised agencies for tapping the phones of the public in India.
2. Indian Telegraph Act 1885 allows for tapping of the phone in the case of a public emergency.

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: b

Q4. Terms like "LLaMA, PaLM & Gemini" sometimes seen in the news is related to which of the following?

- a) AI-based language models
- b) Geostationary satellites
- c) Gene editing technology
- d) Advanced weapons

Answer: a

Q5. Regarding the Gig workers in India, consider the following statements:

1. Gig workers are classified under "Self-employed" & "Casual labour" categories in the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).
2. The Government of India has extended the Ayushman Bharat Insurance coverage for Gig workers.

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





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