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The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

30th July 2025



CONTEXT: The article highlights the "Informalisation" of workforce in last two decades which has contributed to decline in manufacturing productivity.

As per Social Security code 2020, a gig worker is someone who perform work & earn from activities which fall outside a traditional employer-employee relationship

"India's booming Gig & platform economy" -
NITI Aayog's report

- 5th largest flexi-workspace
- Employment to 23 million workers by 2030
- Generate 56% new employment
- Contribute to 2% of GDP by 2030

Gig work for female inclusion

- Flexible work timing
- Digitalisation of economy
- Micro-Entrepreneurship opportunities
- Possibility of skilling through use of AI & IoT
- 28% of total Gig work

Pillar 1: Who are "Gig workers"?

"India's formal manufacturing sector has witnessed **negative change** in its employment structure"

Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)'s
Plant level longitudinal data 1999-2022

Share of Contract Labour in Manufacturing workforce: 20% in 1999 to **40.7% in 2022-23**

Conducted by: **FOD of NSO**

Include factories registered under **Factories Act 1948**

BusinessToday.In

DATA ON GIG WORKERS ON THE PLATFORM

Number of Registered Active Gig Workers on the Platform
60,000

Growth in workforce joining gig economy compared to previous month
15.38%

Growth in workforce joining gig economy in past five months
50%

Number of tasks allocated daily on the platform
10,000

Number of tasks allocated monthly on the platform
3,00,000

Top recruiting cities among Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities
Pondicherry, Mirzapur, Patna, Jabalpur, and Kanpur

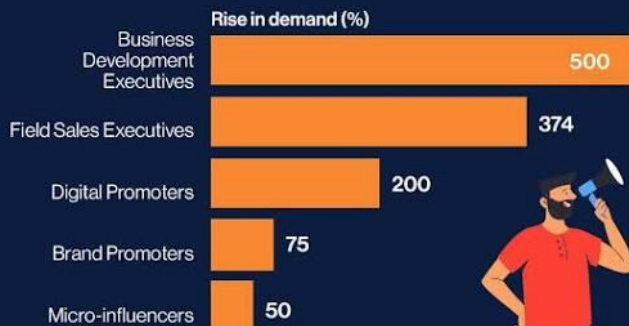
Source: Taskmo Gig Index



Formalisation of Workforce

CONTEXT: The article highlights the “Informalisation” of workforce in last two decades which has contributed to decline in manufacturing productivity.

BusinessToday.In MOST DEMANDED JOB PROFILES IN THE GIG SEGMENT



Source: Taskmo Gig Index

BusinessToday.In BREAKDOWN OF THE GIG WORKFORCE OF INDIA



Source: Taskmo Gig Index

Pillar 2: Plight of “Contract Workers”

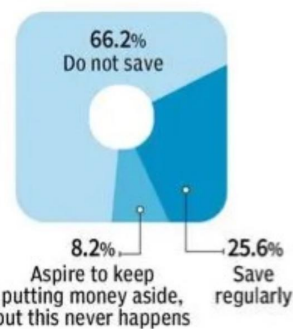
Plight 1: “Cost Avoidance” rather than “Enhancing Operational Flexibility”

- **Wage payment in 2018-19: 14.47% lower than regular counterparts**
- **Unfavourable wage differential = Large enterprises (31%) & Small enterprises (12%)**
- **Average daily labour cost to employer = 24% lower than regular workers**

Average salary of gig workers lower than regular urban male workers: Report

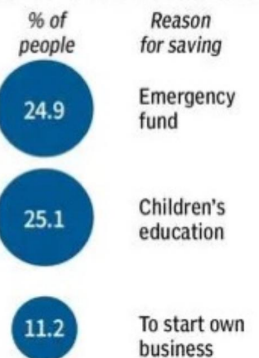
The survey showed that the mean salary of a gig worker in the country is ₹18,611 whereas a salaried urban male earned somewhere between ₹21,500 and ₹22,800 in FY22 on average

Most gig workers do not save any money



Source: GigPulse, PLFS

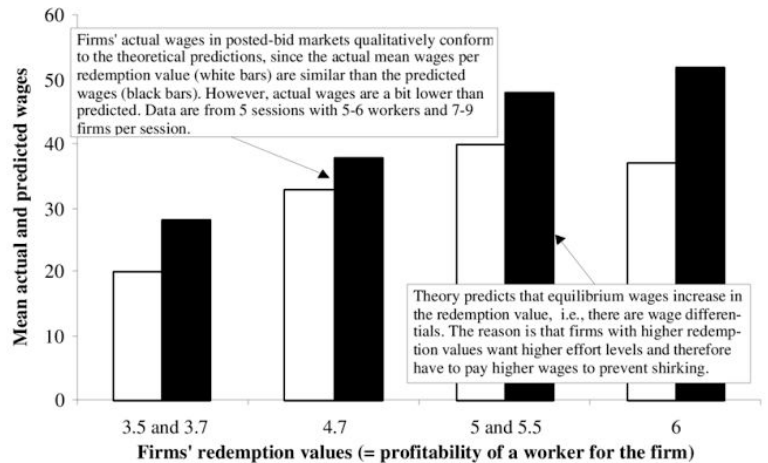
A quarter of them save for children's education



CONTEXT: The article highlights the “Informalisation” of workforce in last two decades which has contributed to decline in manufacturing productivity.

Plight 2 : Detrimental impact on “Productivity of Economy” :

- **Misalignment of “Long term interest” between Employers & Contractors**
- **Keyword : Increased Likelihood of “Worker Shirking”**
- **Instability in workforce due to “High labour turnover”**
- **Discouraging investments in on-the-job training**
- **Shifting productivity growth in Long run**
- **Real Net Value Added per worker = 31% Lower in Contract Labour Intensive (CLI) enterprises**



Source: Fehr, Kirchsteiger and Riedl (1996).

Plight 3 : “Remain out of the ambit of any Social Security Cover” :

**Minimum Wages Act 1948 &
Occupational Safety Code 2020**

**Trade Union Act 1926 &
Industrial Relations Code 2020**

**Social Security Code 2020 :
Doesn't provide any
“Institutional Security”**

Fair Work Report 2022 :

- **33% workers = Over 14 hours / day**
- **34% workers = Less than ₹10,000 / month**
- **60% belongs to SC / ST**



Formalisation of Workforce

CONTEXT: The article highlights the “Informalisation” of workforce in last two decades which has contributed to decline in manufacturing productivity.

Pillar 2.1: Plight of Female “Contract Workers”:

Economic Restrictions due to Financial Dependence

Challenges Faced by Gig Women

Wage Gap & Glass Ceiling Effect

Limited Bargaining Power

Flexibility Trap

“Pink Jobs” & Issue of Time Poverty

Glaring wage gaps, safety concerns, and poor legal regulation coupled with a lack of flexibility and autonomy means women gig workers are compelled to fight for their rights

67.4%

The share of self-employed women among employed women in India in 2023-24

51.9%

The share of self-employed women among employed women in India in 2017-18

*Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey Report by the National Statistical Office, 2024

Pillar 3: Steps to Take:

Revising definition of Gig & Platform workers

Fixing Accountability of Aggregators

PM - Rojgar Protsahan Yojana to incentivise jobs in formal sector

Longer fixed term contracts by concessions in Social security contributions

Way Forward by Editorial

Registration of Gig Workers on E - Shram Portal

Welfare Board Model adopted by Rajasthan



CONTEXT: The article highlights the “Informalisation” of workforce in last two decades which has contributed to decline in manufacturing productivity.

Mains Practise Question

Question : *What do you understand by the Gig Workers? What are the challenges being faced by the Gig workers? Also provide steps being envisaged by the Government to address the prevailing issues.*

(15 Marks, 250 words)

11. भारत में श्रम बाजार सुधारों के संदर्भ में, चार 'श्रम संहिताओं' के गुण व दोषों की विवेचना कीजिए। इस संबंध में, अभी तक क्या प्रगति हुई है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Discuss the merits and demerits of the four 'Labour Codes' in the context of labour market reforms in India. What has been the progress so far in this regard? (Answer in 250 words) 15

VAJIRAM & RAVI



Flash Floods in India



CONTEXT: Article highlights that with increasing global warming & inadequate management system, flash floods are becoming a major concern for India.

Heading 1: What is Flash Flood?

As per USA's National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association (NOAA): Flash flood is rapid rise of water along a stream or low-lying urban area

India

Dozens missing after flash floods and landslides in Himachal Pradesh

Hundreds of homes, bridges and roads washed away in north Indian state after unusually heavy rainfall

100+ deaths & 300 crore loss in Himachal Pradesh in July 2025

"Worst flood affected country in the world after Bangladesh"

Ministry of Jal Shakti: \$12 Billion GDP Loss due to Flash floods in 2024

184 flash floods events in 2022 across the country

Heading 2: Driving Factors for Flash Floods in India:

Factor 1: Climatic Factors

Folly of Monsoon

- 75% of total rainfall in concentrated in 4 months: June - September
- 75% of Flash floods events between 1980-2020: Monsoon period

Exacerbated by "Global Warming"

- Increased Extreme Weather Events such as Cloudbursts and Mass precipitation
- With 1 degree celsius rise in Temperature = Atmosphere can hold 7% more Moisture
- Extreme Rainfall events (1980-2020: Increased by 56%)

Counter - Argument by IIT Gandhinagar

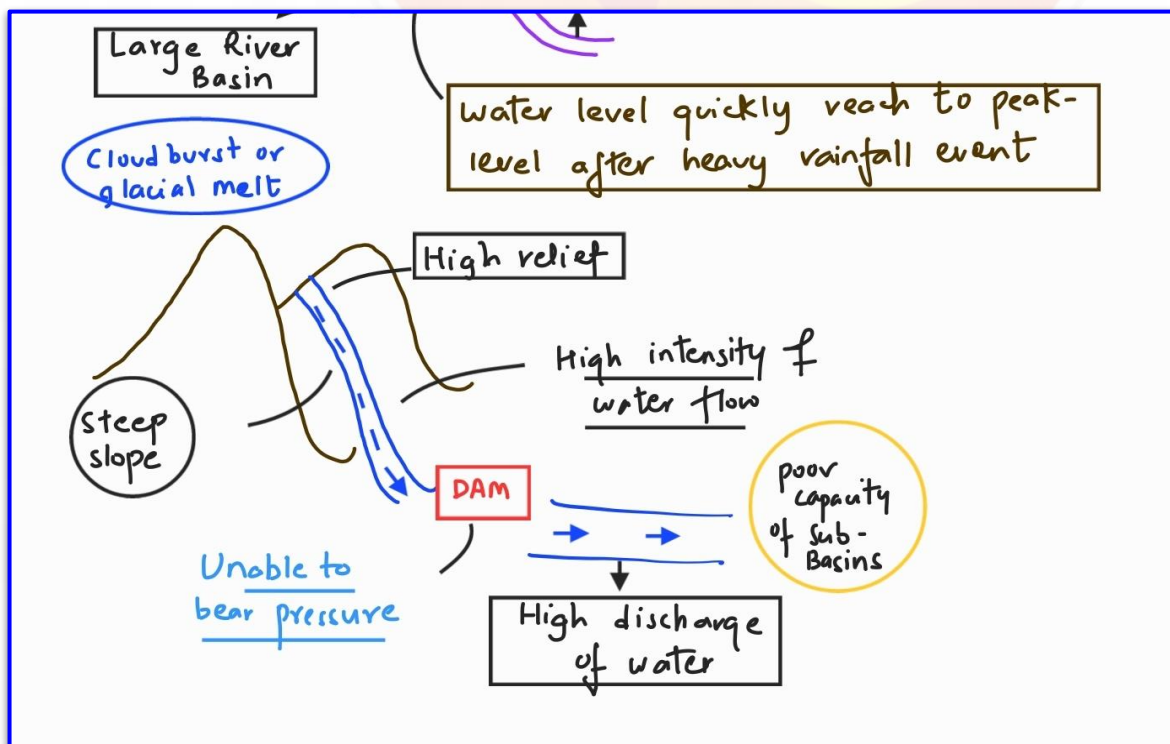
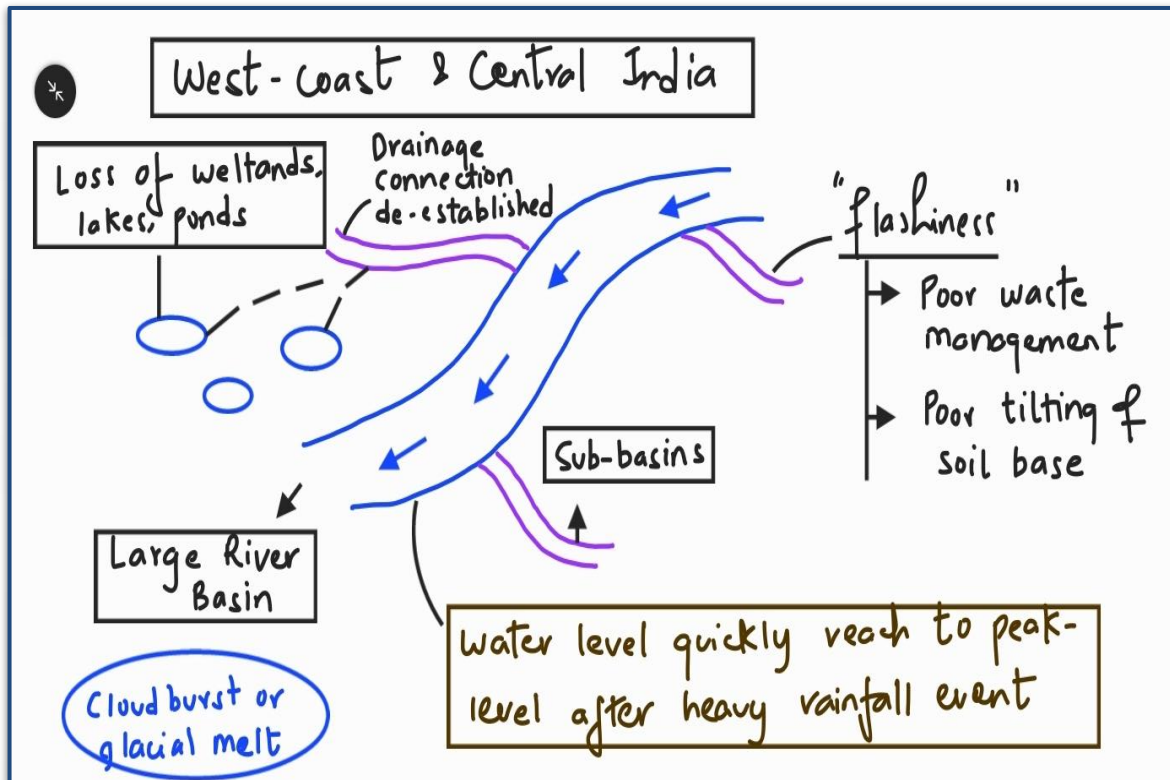
- Only 25% of FEE directly caused by Extreme precipitation
- Condition of Soil plays important role



Flash Floods in India

CONTEXT: Article highlights that with increasing global warming & inadequate management system, flash floods are becoming a major concern for India.

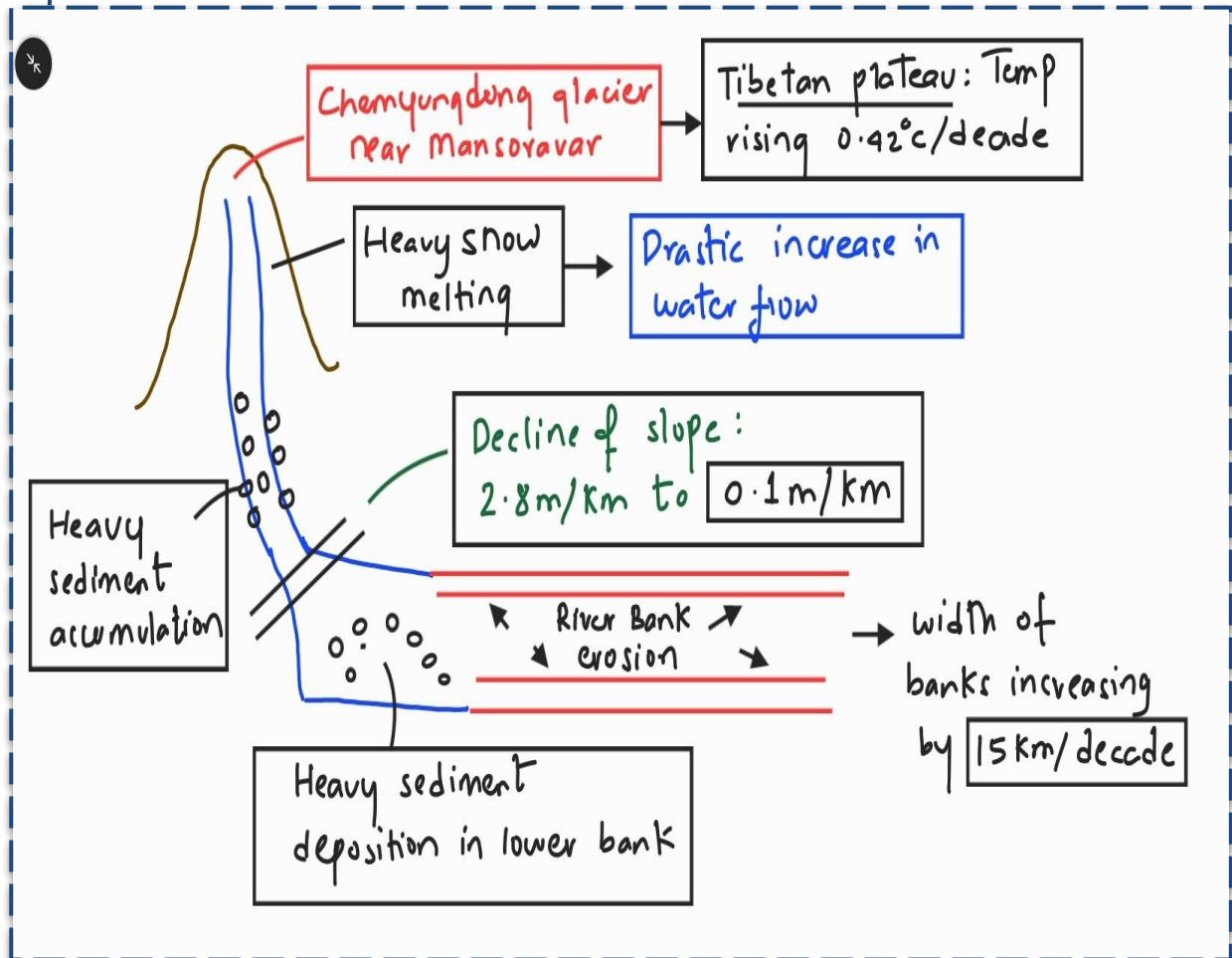
Factor 2: Combination of various Geo - Physical Phenomenons :



Flash Floods in India

CONTEXT: Article highlights that with increasing global warming & inadequate management system, flash floods are becoming a major concern for India.

Factor 2: Combination of various Geo - Physical Phenomenons :



Population Boom : 30 people / km^2 (1940) - 398 / km^2 (2011)

Highway & Railway Lines parallel to Flood Plains of Brahmaputra

Encroachments & Construction in Floodplain

Deforestation & Destruction of Wetlands



Flash Floods in India



CONTEXT: Article highlights that with increasing global warming & inadequate management system, flash floods are becoming a major concern for India.

Heading 3 : Impact of Flash Floods in India :

Impact of Flood in Assam :

40% region prone to Flood

50% of Sikkim's cultivable area lost since 1954

Huge damage to Life & Property :
Issue of Outward Migration

₹200 crore GDP loss per year

Negative Impact on Biodiversity

National Flood Commission : 40 million hectares land of India is liable to floods & 18.6 million hectares of cultivable land affected annually

**17 dead, Rs. 300 crore loss:
Flash floods wreak havoc in
Himachal Pradesh**

Heading 4 : Steps taken by the GOI :

Short Term Mitigation Strategies

- Creation of Emergency Action Plans in Dams
- Early Warning System by IMD & NDMA
- Deployment of NDRF & SDRF
- Creation of Shelter Camps & Distribution Centres
- Flood Insurance under PM - FBY

Long Term Mitigation Strategies

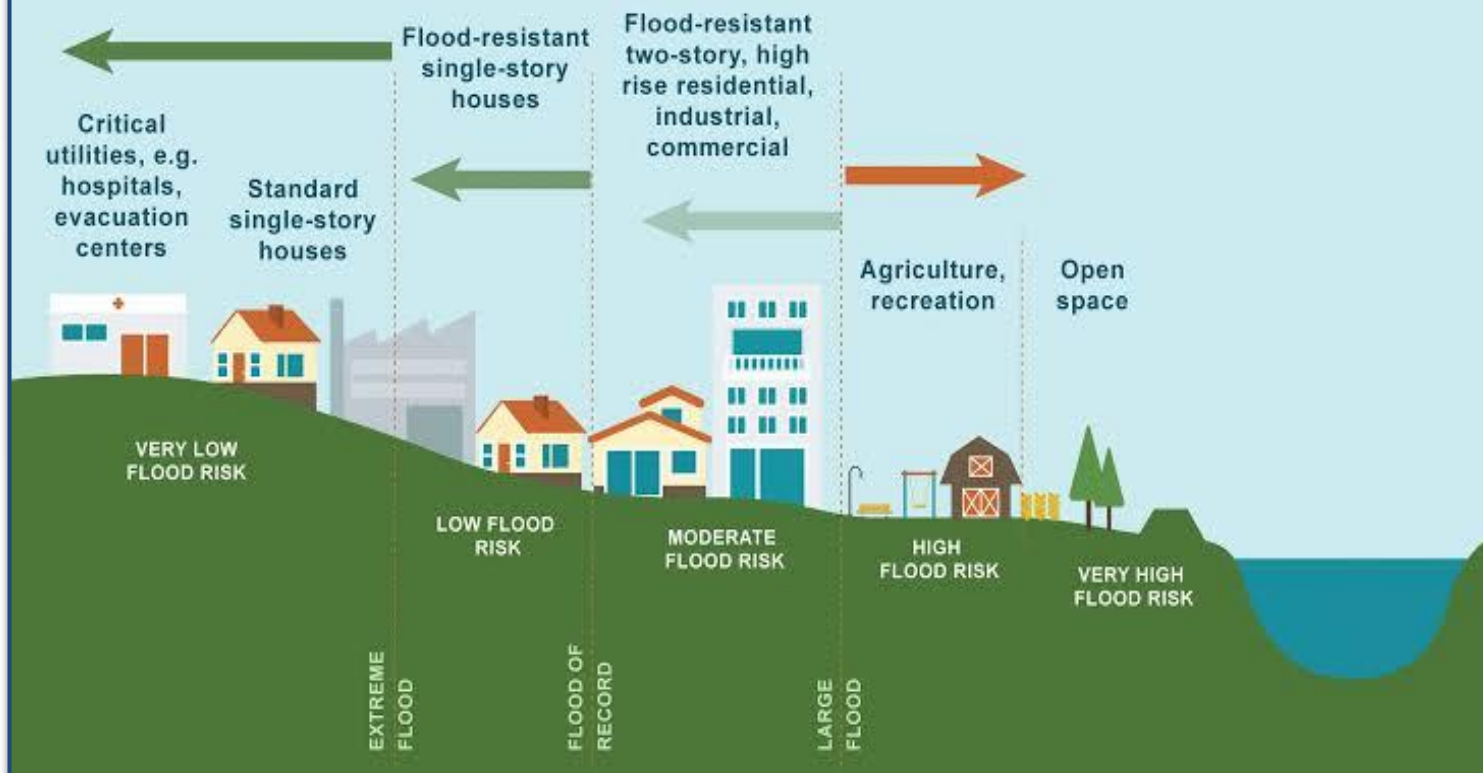
- Interlinking of Rivers Programmes
- MISHTI Initiative in Budget 2024
- Creation of "Natural Buffers" under Flood Plain Zoning
- Urban Afforestation Methods : Create Blue & Green spaces
- Flood Awareness Programmes : China Model



Flash Floods in India

CONTEXT: Article highlights that with increasing global warming & inadequate management system, flash floods are becoming a major concern for India.

GRADUATED LAND USE STRATEGY



Mains Practise Question

Question : What do you understand by “Flash Flood”? What are the various factors that contribute to Flash flood in India? What are the mitigation measures that can be adopted by the various Government Agencies.
(15 Marks, 250 words)



Challenges in India -US Trade Deal



SYLLABUS: GS 2 Paper: Important International Agreements

Newspaper: Indian Express: **Page Number:** 1

Challenges in US - India Trade Deal

Context of the News :

ANIL SASI

NEW DELHI, JULY 29

WITH JUST two days left for the August 1 deadline set by the Donald Trump administration to wrap up agreements with its trading partners, the American President said he is planning tar-

iffs at "somewhere in the 15-20 per cent range" for "the rest of the world". That would mean a significant increase on the 10 per cent "baseline" tariff that applies to most trading partners now.

Given how talks have proceeded, an interim deal still seems distant. But three things

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

"Mutually beneficial Trade Agreement"

Bilateral trade agreement (BTA) in 2025

Double total bilateral trade to \$500 Billion by 2030

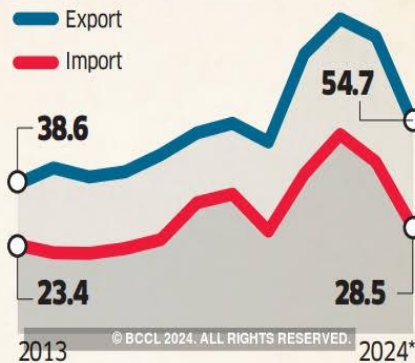
India's positive steps in Budget 2025

TRADE & INVESTMENT HAS RISEN OVER THE PAST DECADE

India enjoys a trade surplus

In 2024 (as of August), India exported \$54.7 billion worth of goods compared to \$28.5 billion of imports

The country accounted for 18.3% of India's total exports and 6.1% of imports in 2024 (as of August)



Challenge 1:

"Raising India's Energy Imports from USA":

INDIA'S TOP 5 CRUDE OIL SUPPLIERS

SUPPLY VOLUME (mn tn)*	
Russia	82.03 (37%)
Iraq	45.77 (20.6%)
Saudi Arabia	28.79 (13%)
UAE	18.63 (8.4%)
US	7.17 (3.2%)

Cost of shipping Oil from USA = **(\$4 per barrel)**
Double from West Asia = **(\$1.5 per barrel)**
Compatibility of **US Crude grades** for different petroleum products
Anti - India's Panchamrit Targets

The U.S.-India Trade Relationship

Top traded commodity types between India and the United States in 2023 (in billion U.S. dollars)

Exports from India to the U.S.

Pearls, (semi)precious stones/metals, imitation jewelry, coins	10.2
Electrical machinery/equipment (incl. parts)	9.9
Pharmaceutical products	7.6
Mineral fuels/oils/waxes, bituminous substances	6.5

Exports from the U.S. to India

Mineral fuels/oils/waxes, bituminous substances	11.0
Pearls, (semi)precious stones/metals, imitation jewelry, coins	5.5
Nuclear reactors/boilers/machinery/mechanical appliances	2.9
Air-/spacecraft (incl. parts)	2.7

Source: UN Comtrade

Total export value
India → US: 75.8
US → India: 40.1

statista



Challenges in India -US Trade Deal



SYLLABUS: GS 2 Paper: Important International Agreements

Newspaper: Indian Express: **Page Number:** 1

TOP 5 LNG SUPPLIERS

SUPPLY VOLUME (mn tn)*

Qatar	9.82 (38.8%)
US	5.12 (20.2%)
UAE	2.84 (11.2%)
Angola	1.97 (7.8%)
Nigeria	1.36 (5.4%)

Market Share in % *Jan-Nov '24
Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- **Less role of Freight Cost**
- **American LNG is priced at significant discount**
- **Lower LNG import price than West Asia**

EXPLAINED

E

Why US, China talks matter

INDIAN NEGOTIATORS are keeping a close watch on the trade talks the US is currently engaged in with China. This will give New Delhi an idea about the comparative advantage it will have vis-à-vis Beijing. A delay in the deal does offer more visibility on what a favourable tariff range would be, in comparison to the tariff deals other countries have clinched.

US's Demands

India's Response

"Pushing hard for Zero Duty Access to Indian market like Vietnam & Indonesia"

Headline tariff doesn't exceed 15% for its goods exports to the US

"India shall commit to specific purchases & investments like EU & Japan"

Open to purchasing: Defence Equipments, Natural Gas imports & Nuclear reactors

Trans - Shipment clause: Offered additional 20% tariffs to Vietnam

Keep Agri & Dairy off the table & push for market access in labour intensive sectors

Trump: Extra tariffs on BRICS & "Laundromat" countries

Quota system: Open up market access in Auto & Consumer durables "over multiple years"

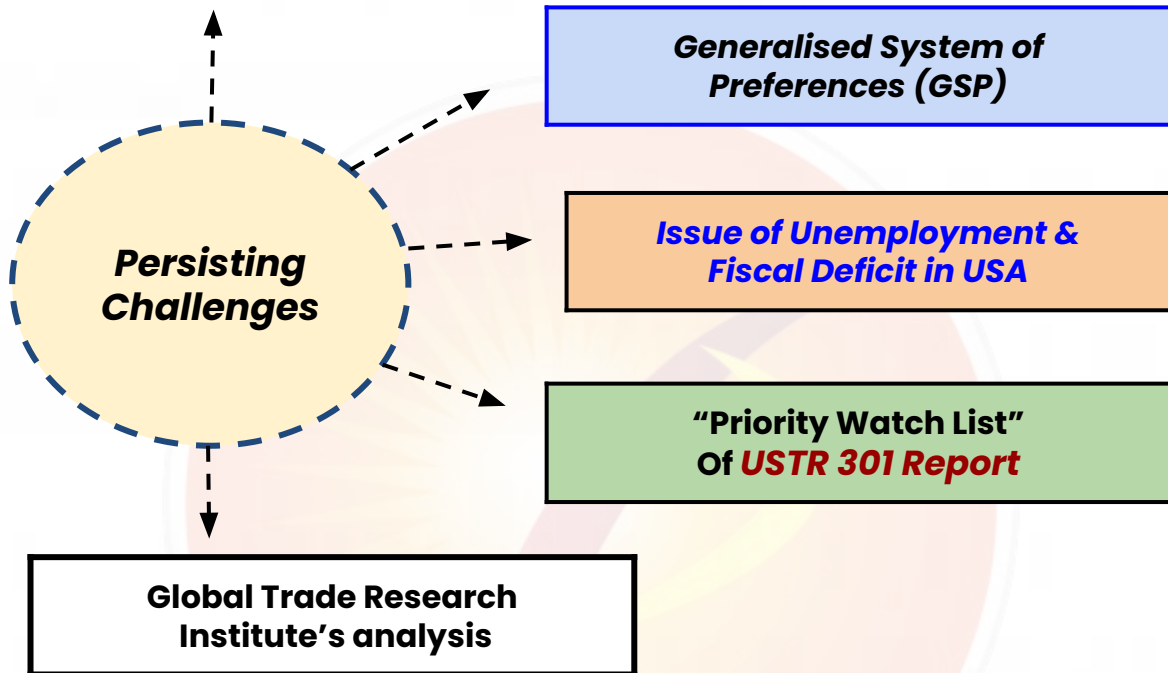


Challenges in India - US Trade Deal

SYLLABUS: GS 2 Paper: Important International Agreements

Newspaper: Indian Express: **Page Number:** 1

Issues related to **IPEC Trade Pillars**



India on 10th spot in US trade deficit rankings

TRADE TALLY

Trade deficit with US (\$ bn)



SYLLABUS: GS 1 Paper: Social Inequality

Newspaper: The Hindu: **Page Number:** 7

Context of the News:

The Gini Index ranked India among the world's most equal societies, by giving the country a score of 25.5. This places India in a 'moderately low' inequality category. While this may be cause for celebration, the lived reality in India paints a very different picture. Inequalities, lived and those captured in statistics, permeate into everyday life in urban and rural India. The question that therefore arises is, on what basis can India be considered one of the world's most equal societies? While there is sufficient critique on the flawed methodology used in the Gini Index, this article highlights the general state of inequality that plagues India. While gender,

HCES 2022-23 based upon MMRP Method

2011-2022 = -11 Decline in Consumption Inequality

Consumption based Gini Coefficient = 28.8 to 25.5

Consumption basket has become healthier

Income Inequality has also declined

Wealth Inequality

₹30 Lakh Car Owner v. ₹3 Lakh per annum salaried car driver

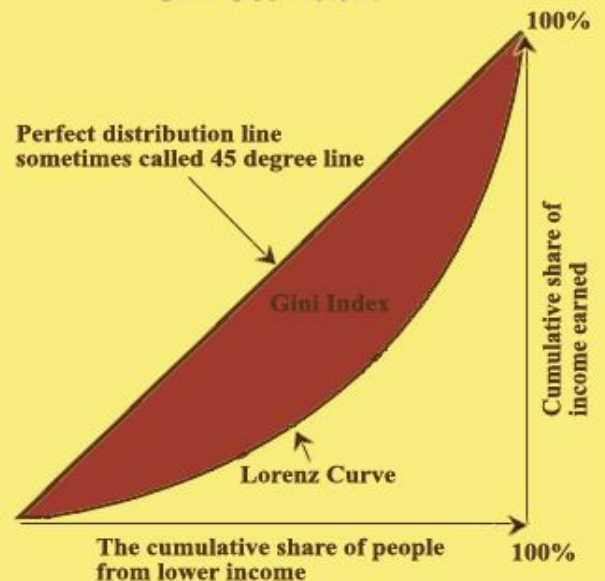
World Inequality Lab Report 2024

Rise of Billionaire Raj: 1% population = 22% of National Income

Consumption expenditure due to "Inflation"

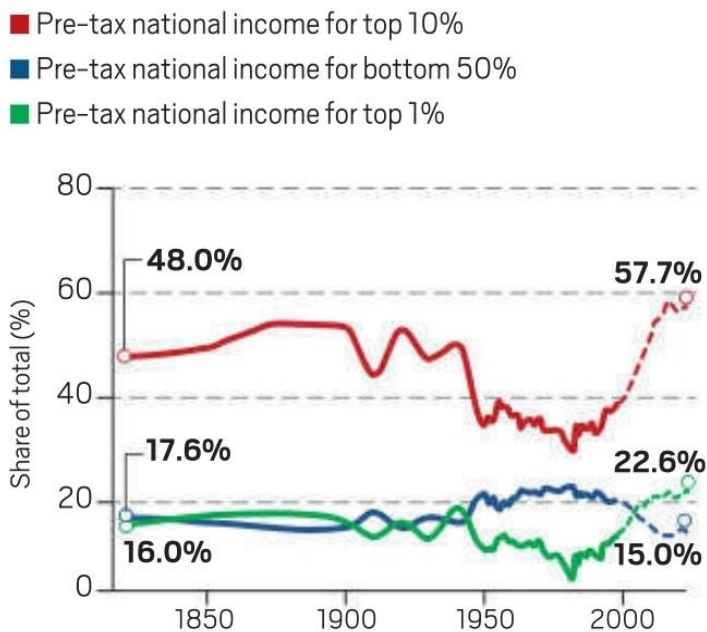
Challenge in assessing Real picture: Informal Employment, Low income levels & High threshold for Non - Taxable income

Gini Coefficient



SYLLABUS: GS 1 Paper: Social Inequality
Newspaper: The Hindu: **Page Number:** 7

INCOME INEQUALITY, INDIA, 1820-2023



Source: World Inequality Database

Gender inequality is another fundamental form of inequality in India. Women have historically been marginalised from the workforce and comprise about 35.9% of the worker population ratio. The number is starker at senior and middle management levels where women accounted for only 12.7% leadership roles as of 2024. While India has the third largest startup ecosystem in the world, women-run start-ups stand at only 7.5% of all active startups in the country. Social norms aggravate gender inequality in terms of spending family resources on the girl child, and in matters of inheritance.

Gender Inequality

The Global Gender Gap Index Framework

- Subindex 1
Economic Participation and Opportunity
- Subindex 2
Educational Attainment
- Subindex 3
Health and Survival
- Subindex 4
Political Empowerment

INDIA'S Performance in Global Gender Gap Report 2025 :

**Increased parity in Economic Participation :
40% Gender Gap closed**

Labour force participation : 45%

**Educational Attainment :
97% Gender Gap closed**

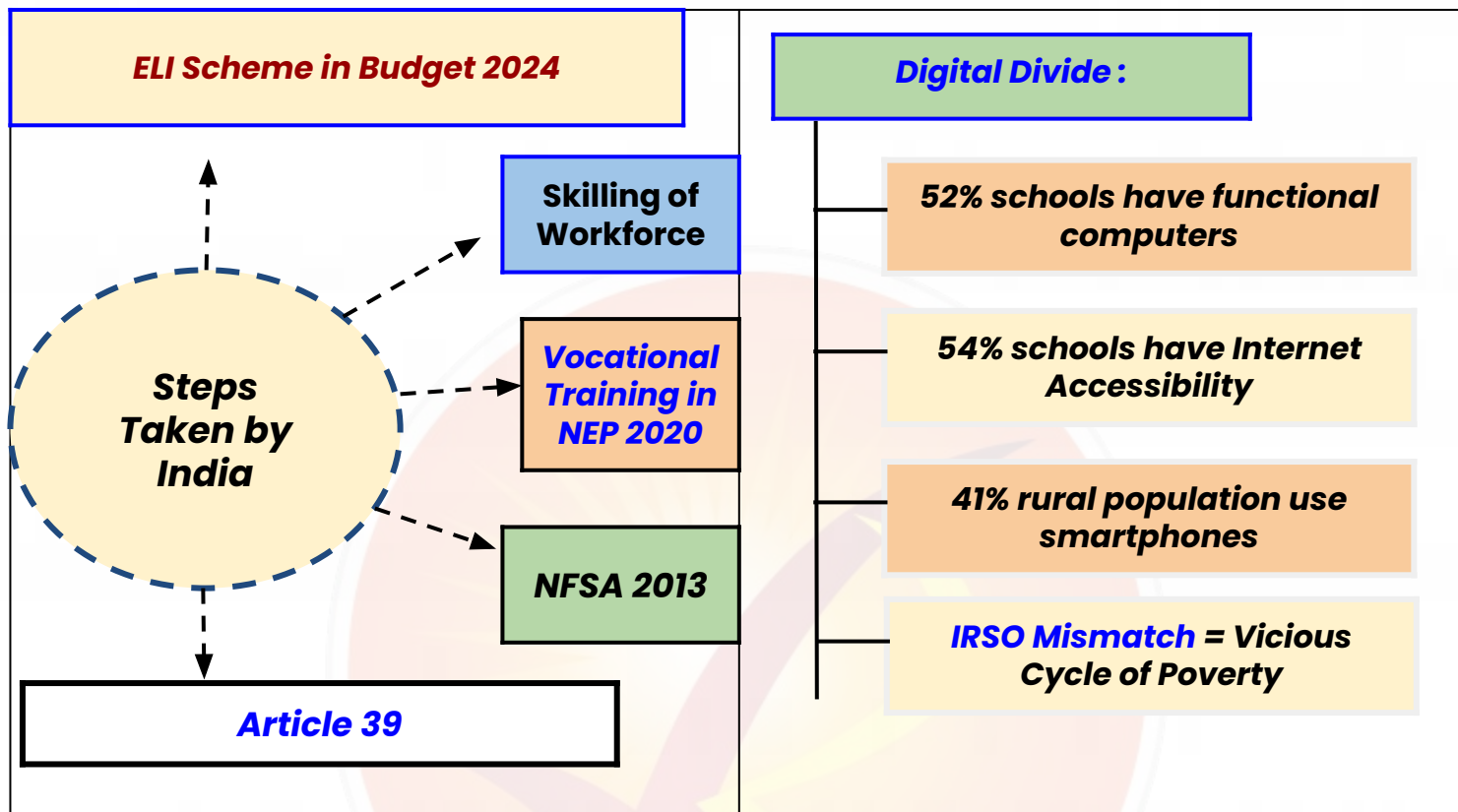
**Female Representation in Parliament:
14.7% to 13.8% in 2025**

**Share of Women in Ministerial roles :
6.5% to 5.6% in 2025**



Forms of Inequalities

SYLLABUS: GS 1 Paper: Social Inequality
Newspaper: The Hindu: **Page Number:** 7



SYLLABUS: GS 3 Paper: Science & Technology

Newspaper: Indian Express: **Page Number:** EXPLAINED

Context of the News :

COUNTRIES routinely deploy Earth observation satellites in space for various purposes. But the satellite that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch on Wednesday is anything but routine.

NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar), built jointly by ISRO and the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration, has been in development for more than a decade.

At more than \$1 billion, NISAR is the most expensive satellite ever built. It is also the first satellite equipped with two synthetic aperture radars (SARs), operating in different frequency bands, which will make it the most powerful Earth observation satellite ever, producing data and high-resolution images that will facilitate research in a range of fields.

Features of NISAR :

Launch on GSLV Mk-II

Into a Sun - Synchronous Orbit

Satish Dhawan Space Centre

Wide range of Observations : Melting of Glaciers to Volcanic eruptions

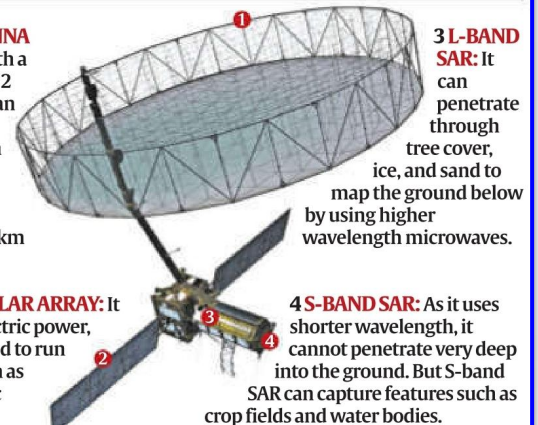
Mission : 2025-2028



"First of its Kind" :

NISAR at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on July 18. AP

1 RADAR ANTENNA REFLECTOR: With a diameter of just 12 m, the antenna can produce images whose resolution is comparable to those taken by ground-based antenna with 20 km diameter.



2 DEPLOYED SOLAR ARRAY: It will generate electric power, which will be used to run instruments such as the two synthetic aperture radars.

3 L-BAND SAR: It can penetrate through tree cover, ice, and sand to map the ground below by using higher wavelength microwaves.

4 S-BAND SAR: As it uses shorter wavelength, it cannot penetrate very deep into the ground. But S-band SAR can capture features such as crop fields and water bodies.

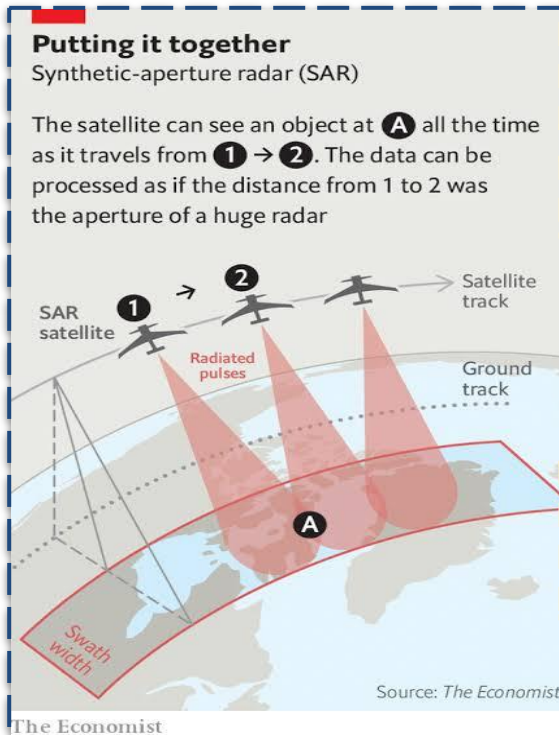


What is NISAR?

SYLLABUS: GS 3 Paper: Science & Technology

Newspaper: Indian Express: **Page Number:** EXPLAINED

What is a SAR?



Imaging radar : Sends signals in Non - Visible spectrum of EM Waves

Microwaves or Radiowaves

Returning signals : Distance, Velocity, Composition & Texture

12 Meter in Diameter : Ground based antenna of 20 Km Diameter

Prelims 2019 :

32. For the measurement/estimation of which of the following are satellite images/remote sensing data used?

1. Chlorophyll content in the vegetation of a specific location
2. Greenhouse gas emissions from rice paddies of a specific location
3. Land surface temperatures of a specific location

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Significance of NISAR :

Possibility of Collaboration for High Value & Long Gestation projects

Technology Transfer : L-Band SAR, 12 metre Antenna & GPS Control

Important information to tackle Climate Change & Natural Disasters

Significance

Strategic Partnership for Space : Artemis Accord



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS: Flora & Fauna

Newspaper: The Hindu: **Page Number:** 12

Context of the News :

The Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (KTR) in Assam has recorded the third-highest tiger density in India after the Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka and the Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand, says a report on the status of tigers in the reserve, which is better known for its one-horned rhinoceros.

Tiger Conservation Programme :

- **Project Tiger launched in 1973**
- **Pug - Mark method in 1972 : 1,827 tigers**
- **M - STRiPES : 3682 Tigers in 2022**
- **Critical Tiger Habitats in WPA 1972**
- **IUCN : Endangered**
- **CITES : Appendix 1**
- **WPA 2023 : Schedule 1**
- **WPA 2006 : Didn't prohibit diversion of Tiger protected areas for Development projects**

What is NTCA?

Statutory Body

WPA 2006

Chairperson : Minister of Environment & Forest

Project Tiger 1973



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS: Flora & Fauna

Newspaper: The Hindu: **Page Number:** 12

Decoding the key tiger report

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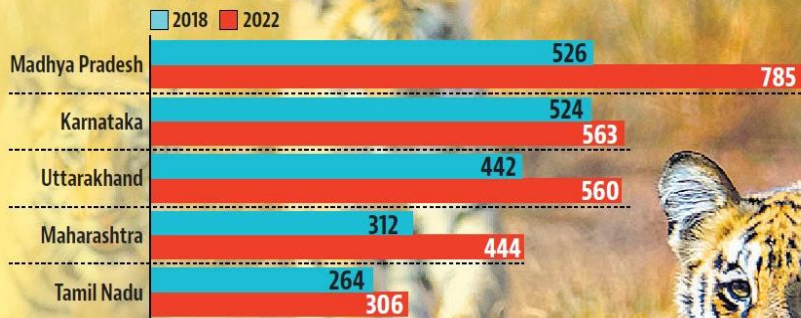
The upper limit of the tiger population is now estimated to be 3,925 and the average number is 3,682

Big cat
numbers in
the country

2,967
2018

3,682
2022

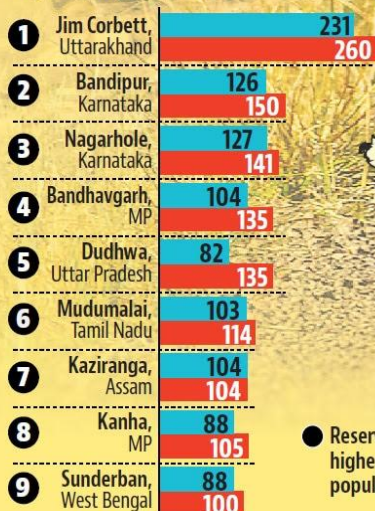
States with highest tiger numbers



States with lowest tiger numbers

	2018	2022		2018	2022
Nagaland	0	0	Jharkhand	3	1
Mizoram	0	0	Goa	3	5
			Arunachal	29	9

Reserves with highest tiger population



● Reserves with highest tiger population

Reserves with no tigers

Dampa, Mizoram, Kamlang, Arunachal Pradesh, Kawal, Telangana, Satkosia, Odisha, Sahyadri, Maharashtra



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS: Flora & Fauna

Newspaper: Indian Express: **Page Number:** EXPLAINED

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, JULY 28

IN HIS *Mann ki Baat* radio program on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the “first-ever grassland bird census” in Assam’s Kaziranga National Park, and the technology used for the exercise.

What is the bird census, and what was its methodology?

The census exercise

A team of forest officials, scientists, and conservationists carried out a survey between March 18 and May 25 to record the grassland bird population in Kaziranga National Park.

The idea emerged after doctoral student Chiranjib Bora, who is studying the black-breasted parrotbill, a threatened grassland bird, received the INSPIRE fellowship from the central government’s Department of Science & Technology, along with acoustic

monitoring tools to conduct his research.

Bora, along with Kaziranga authorities, decided to use the tools to count all grassland bird species in the park, 70% of which is covered by grassland.

“Our goal was to monitor which grassland bird species live in Kaziranga. Most of these bird species have become rare. They

are small, well-camouflaged birds that are not easily spotted, unlike wetland birds. Also, they live in peculiar habitats that are

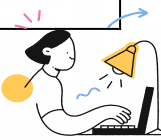
rapidly declining,” Bora said.

The survey prioritised 10 species that are either globally threatened or are endemic to the Brahmaputra floodplains: The Bengal florican, swamp francolin, Finn’s weaver, swamp grass babbler, Jerdon’s babbler, slender-billed babbler, black-breasted parrotbill, marsh babbler, bristled grassbird, and Indian Grassbird. In all, the survey recorded 43 grassland bird species, including one critically endangered, two endangered, and six vulnerable species on the

EXPLAINED ENVIRONMENT

Kaziranga NP

- **South of Brahmaputra River**
- **UNESCO WHS**
- **2/3rd of World’s One Horned Rhino listed as Vulnerable on IUCN**
- **Largest : Asiatic Water Buffalo**
- **Largest : Eastern race of Swamp Deer**
- **2006 : Tiger Reserve**



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS: Flora & Fauna

Newspaper: Indian Express: **Page Number:** EXPLAINED

DIAN RHINOCEROS

Solitary creatures, named after the unicorn

Geographic range: Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh in India; Also Nepal and Bhutan

Population: 3,500+
2,400 in Kaziranga National Park alone

Lifespan: 30-45 years
Height: 1.8-2 m tall (adult males)

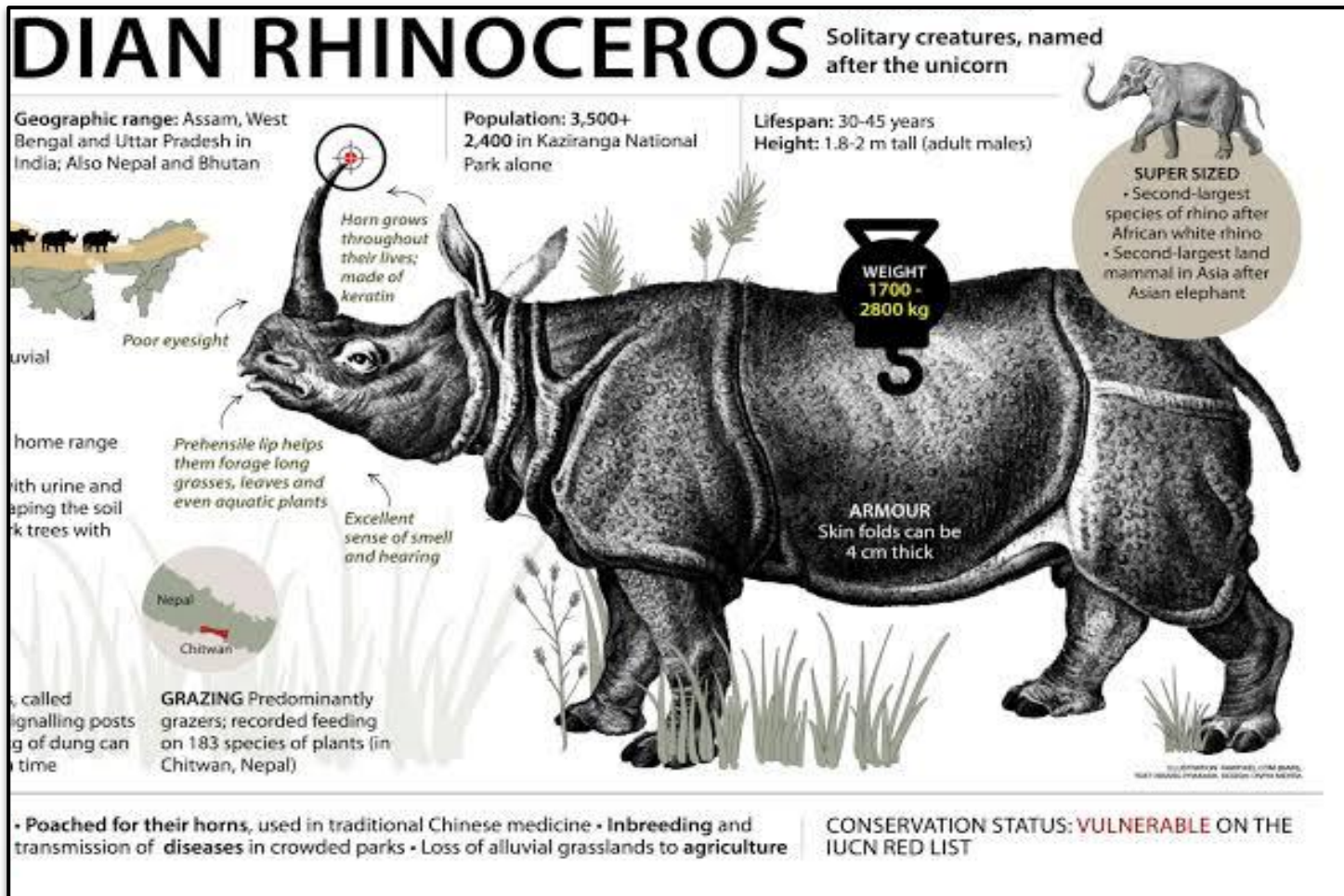
WEIGHT
1700 - 2800 kg

ARMOUR
Skin folds can be 4 cm thick

GRAZING Predominantly grazers; recorded feeding on 183 species of plants (in Chitwan, Nepal)

Conservation Status: **VULNERABLE** ON THE IUCN RED LIST

Threats: Poached for their horns, used in traditional Chinese medicine • Inbreeding and transmission of diseases in crowded parks • Loss of alluvial grasslands to agriculture

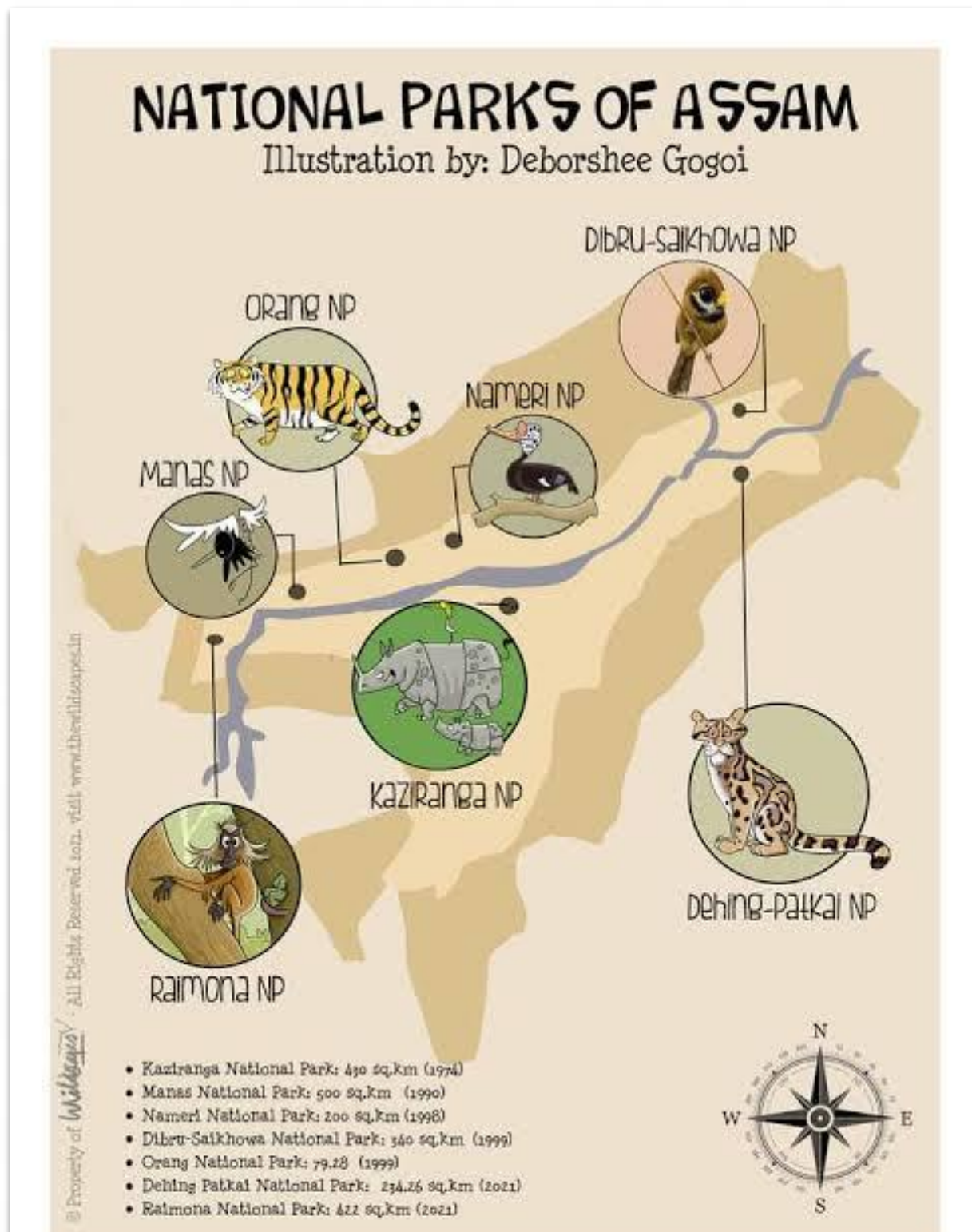


The infographic features a central illustration of a One-Horned Rhinoceros in its natural habitat. Surrounding the rhino are various text boxes and smaller illustrations. A map of India highlights the rhino's range in Assam, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh. A smaller map of Nepal shows the Chitwan National Park. A callout box describes the rhino's 'super sized' status as the second-largest species of rhino after the African white rhino and the second-largest land mammal in Asia after the Asian elephant. Another callout box describes the rhino's 'armour' as skin folds that can be 4 cm thick. A callout box describes the rhino's 'weight' as 1700-2800 kg. A callout box describes the rhino's 'horns' as growing throughout their lives and made of keratin. A callout box describes the rhino's 'poor eyesight'. A callout box describes the rhino's 'prehensile lip' which helps them forage long grasses, leaves and even aquatic plants. A callout box describes the rhino's 'excellent sense of smell and hearing'. A callout box describes the rhino's 'home range' as being marked with urine and sapling the soil with trees. A callout box describes the rhino's 'signalling posts' as being made of dung. A callout box describes the rhino's 'poached for their horns' used in traditional Chinese medicine. A callout box describes the rhino's 'inbreeding and transmission of diseases in crowded parks'. A callout box describes the rhino's 'loss of alluvial grasslands to agriculture'. A callout box describes the rhino's 'conservation status' as 'VULNERABLE' on the IUCN Red List.



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS: Flora & Fauna

Newspaper: Indian Express: **Page Number:** EXPLAINED



Q1. Regarding Gig Workers in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Code on Social Security defines 'gig worker' and 'platform worker'.
2. Gig workers are classified as employees under Indian labour laws.
3. NITI Aayog has projected India's gig workforce to exceed 2 crore by 2030.
4. Gig work is mandatorily covered under the Employees' State Insurance scheme.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q2. Regarding flash floods in India, consider the following statements:

1. Flash floods in hilly regions are caused solely by Cloudbursts.
2. Flash floods occur mostly during the monsoon season in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

Answer: a

Q3. Regarding the Gini coefficient, consider the following statements:

1. A higher Gini coefficient always implies lower economic growth.
2. It can be derived from the Lorenz curve.
3. It measures income inequality on a scale from 0 to 100.

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

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

Answer: a

Q4. Regarding NISAR, consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint Earth-observation mission of ESA and ISRO.
2. It will use both L-band and S-band synthetic aperture radars.
3. Its primary launch vehicle is Falcon 9.
4. One key aim is to study Earth's surface deformation.

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

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All Four

Answer: b

Q5. Regarding Kaziranga National Park, consider the following statements:

1. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a Tiger Reserve.
2. It hosts the world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceros.
3. It is the first site in India to be declared a Ramsar Wetland.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a





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