



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS** Handout

**1st August 2025**



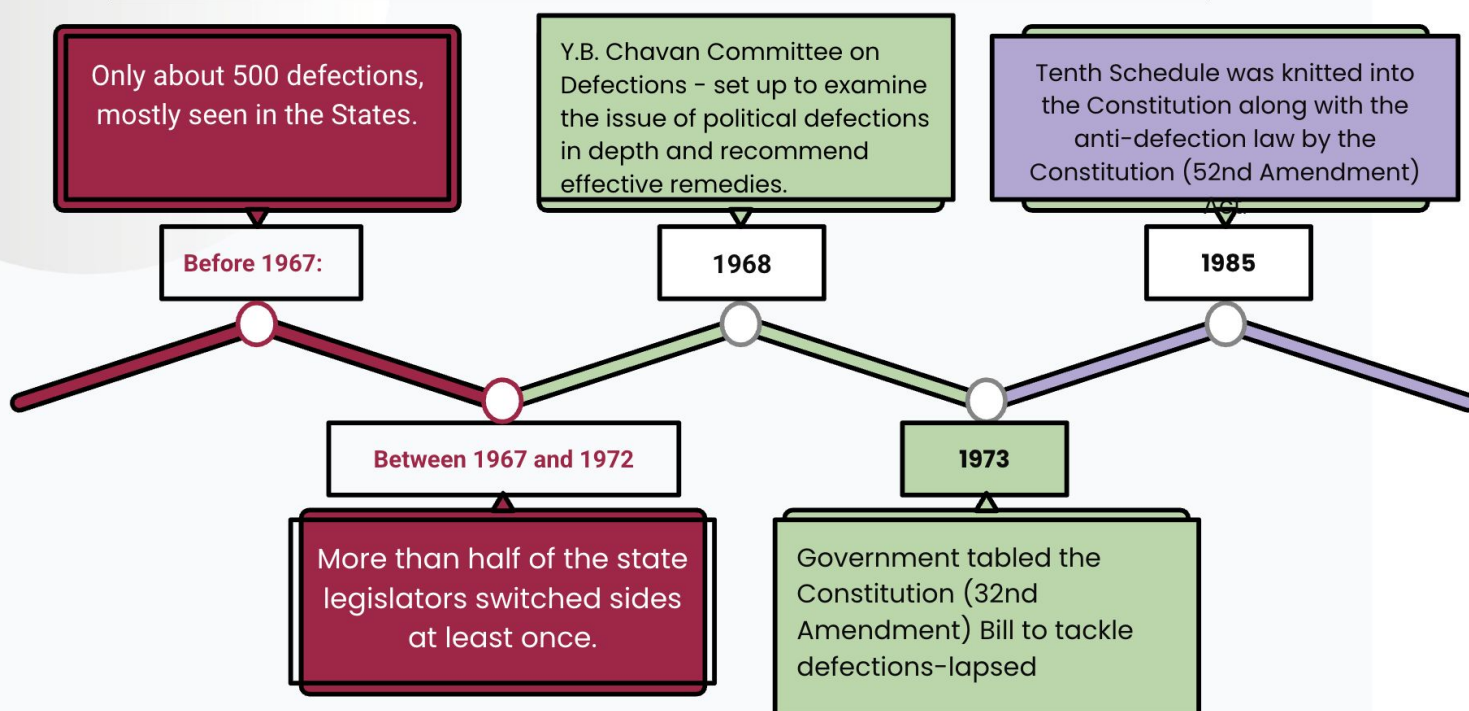
**CONTEXT:** The Supreme Court on Thursday urged Parliament to revisit provisions of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

## Anti Defection Law

- **52nd Amendment Act of 1985** – Tenth Schedule
  - Why ? Ensure that politicians are held accountable
- **Provisions**
  - **Disqualification** of any member of any political party
    - **Voluntarily** giving up membership of party
    - **Voting against/ abstaining**
  - **Independent** Members
  - **Nominated** members
  - Exceptions ( $\frac{2}{3}$  **Merger, Presiding Officer**)
- **Deciding Authority, Rule-Making Power** (Speaker/ Chairman; **Final**)
- **Role of Whip**

Data Point	Details
<b>Lok Sabha MPs (2016–2020)</b>	12 MPs defected to recontest polls (ADR data)
<b>MLAs Switching Parties</b>	45% of MLAs have switched parties
<b>MLAs Defecting to Contest Fresh Elections</b>	357 MLAs defected; 170 (48%) won
<b>Re-election Rate (MLAs &amp; MPs)</b>	52% of 433 defected MLAs and MPs were re-elected

## Evolution of Anti Defection Law



**CONTEXT:** The Supreme Court on Thursday urged Parliament to revisit provisions of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

### What Changed in the Law?

- **Initial Provisions and Loopholes in the Law**
  - **The One-Third Split Rule**
- **Total number of ministers** shall not exceed **15%** of the total strength of the Lok Sabha. (@States: Minimum: 12)
- Member disqualified on ground of defection also **disqualified** from being appointed as a **Minister**.
- Member disqualified on the ground of defection shall also be **disqualified from holding any remunerative political post**.
- **Exemption** from disqualification in case of split by  $\frac{1}{3}$  of members of a legislature party **has been deleted**.
  - Defectors have no more protection on the grounds of splits.

Q. Which one of the following Schedules of the Constitution of India contains provisions regarding anti-defection?

(2014)

- (a) Second Schedule
- (b) Fifth Schedule
- (c) Eighth Schedule
- (d) Tenth Schedule

### Need for an Anti-defection Law

To ensure loyalty of members to political party and its policies.

To uphold the will of the people.

To facilitate democratic realignment of parties in the legislature by merger of parties.

To prevent non-developmental expenditure incurred on irregular elections.

To provide greater political stability by checking the propensity of legislators to change parties.





**CONTEXT:** The Supreme Court on Thursday urged Parliament to revisit provisions of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

## Anti-Defection Law – Why It Needs Overhaul

### No Accountability for Political Parties

- Law targets individual legislators, not parties that engineer defections.
- Political parties face no consequences for inducing defections.

### Flawed Merger Provision

- Defections allowed if two-thirds of members support a merger.
- Focus is on numbers, not intent — legitimizing bulk defections.

### Excessive Power with Presiding Officer

- Disqualification decided by Speaker/Chairperson, often partisan.
- Lacks independent or time-bound judicial oversight.

### Fuels Political Instability

- Discourages internal dissent; leads to en masse resignations.
- Enables toppling of governments, hampers governance.

### Other Issues in the Prevalent Idea of Anti-defection

- **Restricts freedom of speech and expression** of legislators.
- **Reduces accountability** of elected representatives.
- **Undermines representative government.**

## Judicial pronouncement

- *Kihoto Hollohan vs. Zachillhu and Others* (1992)
  - a. Supreme Court of India **upheld the constitutionality of the law**
- *G. Viswanathan vs. Hon'ble Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly* (1995)
  - a. **Decision of the Speaker is final** and cannot be challenged in a court of law.
- *Ravi S. Naik vs. Union of India* (1994)
  - a. Speaker or Chairman of the relevant legislative body can disqualify an elected representative for defection
- *Keisham Meghachandra Singh* (2020)
  - a. Speaker's role in defection cases be replaced by an **independent tribunal** to prevent bias

### 'FINISH PROCEEDINGS IN 3 MTHS'

- SC sets **three months as the outer limit** for Speakers to **conclude disqualification proceedings** against defectors
- Recommends that Parliament should amend Constitution to set up a permanent tribunal to decide cases. Tribunal can be **headed by retired SC judge or HC CJ**
- SC emphasises that **ensuring purity of anti-defection law** under

the 10th Schedule is vital to democracy's functioning

- SC decision came in a case related to **Manipur Congress MLA T Shyam Kumar**, who switched to BJP and became a minister after the party formed govt in 2017
- A dozen pleas seeking Shyam's disqualification were filed but Speaker sat over them. SC asks Speaker to **decide in four weeks**



**CONTEXT:** The Supreme Court on Thursday urged Parliament to revisit provisions of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

### The Path Ahead

- **Narrow Definition of Defection** : Clearly define defection to prevent misuse, while allowing independent thinking and expression.
- **Promote Intra-Party Democracy** : Encourage internal debate and acceptance of dissent within parties.
- **Ethics Committee Involvement** : Use Ethics Committee (as in Cash-for-Query case) to check horse-trading and unethical conduct.
- **Independent Decision-Making** : As per 2nd ARC, disqualification should be decided by President/Governor on EC's advice — not by partisan Speakers.
- **Make It an Internal Party Issue** : Allow parties to expel defectors without affecting their seat; defection to be treated as an intra-party matter.
- **Clarify 'Voluntarily Giving Up Membership'** : Define this term explicitly to avoid ambiguity and arbitrary interpretation.

- **Dinesh Goswami Committee (1990)**
  - a. transparent issuance of whips and measures to limit the Speaker's discretionary powers
- **Hashim Abdul Halim Committee (1994 and 2003)**
  - a. Independent tribunal
- **Law Commission's 170th and 255th Reports**
  - a. Speaker to a neutral body
- **National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2002)**

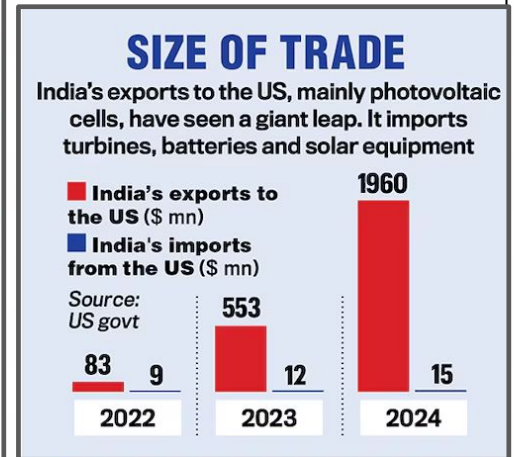
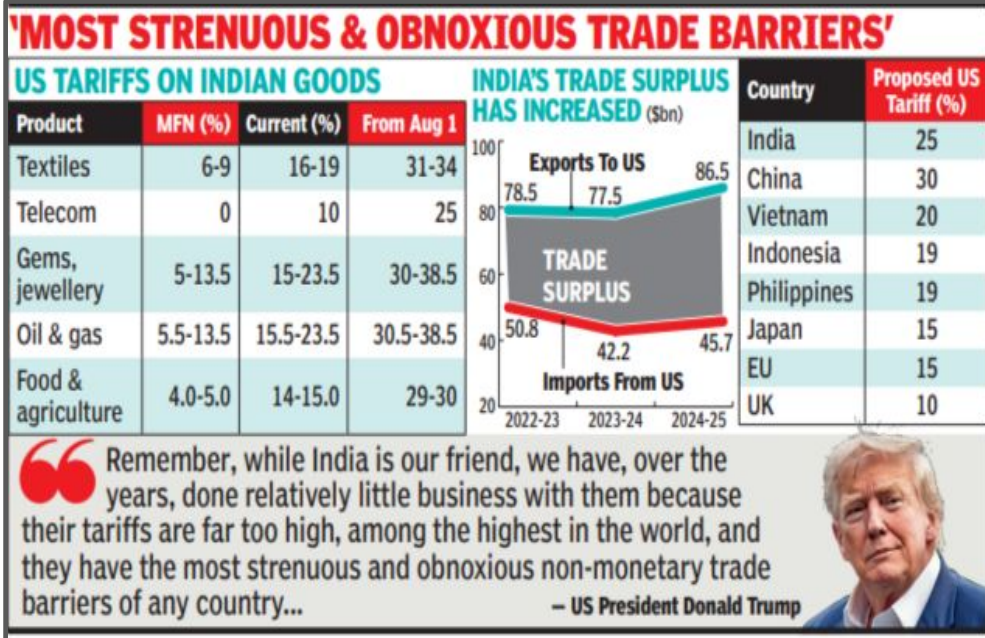
### Mains Practice Question

**Examine the relevance of the Anti-Defection Law in contemporary Indian politics. Should it be reformed or repealed? (10 Marks, 150 words)**





**CONTEXT:** A write-up has appeared in the backdrop of the US President's announcement of a 25% tariff on India.



## Possible Impact of Tariffs

### Why This Tariff Now?

- Pressure politics, not trade economics.
  - India buys Russian oil- imports (rose from 2% in FY22 to 36% in FY25)
  - Defence Dependence
  - Refuses GM crops & US dairy
  - Ego- Ceasefire
  - Pakistan

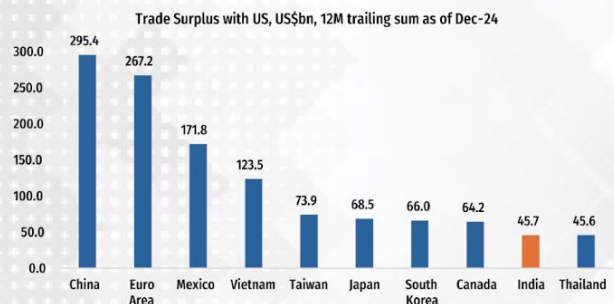
### Not All Lose – IT Could Gain

- Infosys, TCS, HCLTech benefit if INR weakens.
- In 2019, IT outperformed during tariff uncertainty.

### India's Position in 2025

- \$640B forex reserves, strong domestic demand (~60% of GDP)
- PLI schemes, high infra capex
- Less reliant on US than before

### INDIA HAS THE SEVENTH LARGEST TRADE SURPLUS WITH THE US...



**CONTEXT:** A write-up has appeared in the backdrop of the US President's announcement of a 25% tariff on India.

- In FY24, India exported goods worth \$81.2 billion to the US (~11% of total exports).
- Trump's 25% tariff hike (2025) impacts key sectors — making Indian goods costlier in the US market.

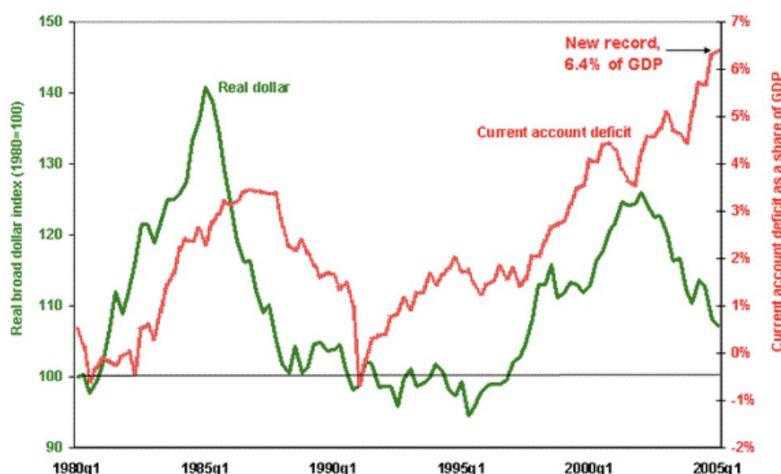
- **Textiles & Apparel** - \$25B
  - Cotton shirts, yoga wear, home linen
- **Pharmaceuticals** : \$8.7B
  - Generic drugs (cancer, insulin)
- **Gems & Jewellery** : \$11.2B
- **Electronics & Machinery** : \$15B

- **Importers/Consumers in US**, not Indian exporters.  
A \$10 shirt becomes \$12.50; \$100 drug = \$125
- India still delivers **value**, unlike **Chinese overcapacity dumping**.

## Why US is so vocal for tariffs?

- **Rise of China as a Strategic Competitor**
- **Reshoring & De-risking Post-Pandemic**
- **Trade Deficit and Domestic Political Pressure** : \$279 billion in 2023 (China)
- **Geopolitical Messaging**
- **Address the Structural Economic Concerns**

Overvaluation of the dollar since 1995 contributes to the trade deficit

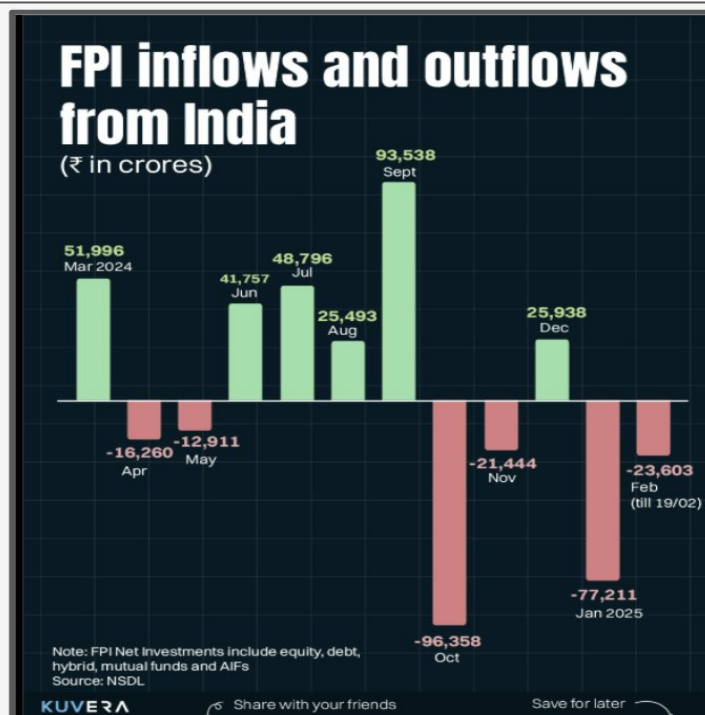




**CONTEXT:** A write-up has appeared in the backdrop of the US President's announcement of a 25% tariff on India.

### Key Economic Impacts

- **India's exports to US** = just over **2% of GDP**, but **composition matters** (textiles, pharma, auto parts, chemicals).
- Tariffs may cost India **\$30 billion** in export earnings.
- **Sectors hit:** Supply chains, employment, short-term GDP momentum.
- **Rupee weakened ~2% in July 2025**, as **\$1.4B FPI outflows** occurred.
- **RBI's challenge:** balancing inflation (projected ~3% in FY26), capital outflows, and growth.



### What Should be done?

- **Diversify Energy Imports** : Shift from Russian crude to **US LNG & oil**, reducing strategic friction.
- **Strengthen Domestic Demand** : Leverage India's **60%+ consumption-led GDP** to cushion trade shocks.
- **Boost Indigenous Defence Production** : Reduce Russian dependency via **joint ventures** with US & EU.
- **Enhance Export Competitiveness** : PLI schemes + FTAs (with EU, UAE, Australia) to access alternative markets.
- **Maintain Policy Credibility** : RBI must ensure **macro stability**, anchor inflation, and manage rupee volatility prudently.



### Mains Practice Question

Discuss the current status of India-US trade relations. Analyze the potential impact of high tariffs on bilateral trade and suggest measures to enhance economic cooperation between the two countries. (10 Marks, 150 words)





**Syllabus: GS 3:** Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation

**Newspaper:** Indian Express, **Page No. 12**

**A**s the global demand for sustainable energy soars and countries strive to meet climate commitments, silicon photovoltaics have emerged as the most widely adopted solution, transforming landscapes from urban rooftops to sprawling rural installations. Yet as the energy transition accelerates, a critical question surfaces: are conventional silicon panels, despite their proven track record, truly the most effective path forward, or is it time to embrace next-generation technologies promising higher efficiencies and lower environmental footprints?

The landscape is further complicated by new demands such as the widespread production of green hydrogen, touted as a key enabler of deep decarbonisation. Today's solar panel technologies not only affect the quantity of clean electricity generated but directly shape the potential and credibility of downstream solutions like green hydrogen, green ammonia, and green methanol. As nations grapple with land constraints, rising carbon dioxide levels, and the urgency of energy self-sufficiency, the imperative grows not just to deploy more renewables but to invest in smarter, more efficient, and more diverse energy innovation.

commercialised.

Because silicon solar panels' efficiency is below 18%, they need to have greater area exposed to the sun than panels of higher efficiency. When the efficiency doubles, the required collection area halves.

Land area is becoming a rarer commodity: countries are urbanising rapidly even as increasing environmental consciousness, driven by the pressures of climate mitigation, render green spaces too valuable to be diverted for solar power plants.

Silicon photovoltaics are also slow runners in the world's race to catch up with its own growing energy demand.

### Silicon photovoltaics

The widely used solar panels, or silicon photovoltaics, were originally invented by researchers at Bell Laboratories in the U.S. in 1954 and first deployed on satellites so they could generate power in space. From there, they slowly entered other industries over time until, in the last few decades, their adoption exploded worldwide.

Current solar panels generally have a reported efficiency of around 18-21% and an in-field efficiency of 15-18%. In the last 15 years or so, around 80% of the supply of solar panels has been from China. In India, the production of silicon solar cells has reached around 6 GW and is expected to increase further in the coming years.

At this juncture, as the world prepares to invest more in solar power even as the ability to harness it has become a strategic ability, an important question has arisen: should we continue to adopt silicon solar panels even though superior, more efficient technologies have become available?

The best research-based solar cell efficiency chart has been regularly updated from 1976 for a broad range of photovoltaic technologies. There are many, with the maximum efficiency of around 47% being achieved by single junction gallium arsenide thin-film technology. Many of these photovoltaic setups have already been demonstrated at a high level and are ready to be commercialised.

While 4.45 TWh of renewable energy generation capacity had been installed until the end of 2024, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere has continued to increase – from 350 ppm in 1990 to around 425 ppm in 2025 – implying energy demand is only increasing faster.





**Syllabus:** GS 3: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation

**Newspaper:** Indian Express, Page No. 12

### Costs of green hydrogen

The widespread adoption of silicon photovoltaics also has implications for the 'greenness' of green hydrogen, among other fuels. Hydrogen as a fuel can be produced by using a large electric current to break apart water molecules ( $H_2O$ ). If this current comes from a renewable energy source, the resulting hydrogen is called green hydrogen.

Green hydrogen is environment friendly and doesn't emit any greenhouse gases when it is combusted. However, the current electrolysis technologies available consume more energy to produce green hydrogen than its energy value in use. The yet other costs hydrogen imposes include that of its storage and transportation, which are very difficult because of the element's extremely low density, which causes it to leak easily.

As alternatives, experts have proposed infusing the green hydrogen into molecules like green ammonia ( $NH_3$ ) and green methanol ( $CH_3OH$ ), which are

easier to transport, before extracting the green hydrogen at the destination.

However, using green hydrogen to produce green ammonia or methanol by conventional catalysis methods, followed by stripping hydrogen out of those molecules, also requires a significant amount of energy.

Thus, at the first step itself – the act of generating renewable energy from silicon photovoltaics – there is a compromise on efficiency (that is, by not adopting more efficient solar power technologies). And in the subsequent steps, energy is consumed for electrolysis, storage or conversation, transport, and finally utilisation. As a result, the greenness of green hydrogen should not be taken at face value.

### CO2 recycling

One alternative is to produce green methanol or ammonia directly from water, sunlight, and carbon dioxide or nitrogen, respectively. The plants in our gardens are already doing this everyday in a process called photosynthesis. Similarly, some scientists are working on a process called artificial photosynthesis, or APS. Currently, while APS technologies are restricted to the lab bench, some bright spots indicate they have a promising future.

As the world's various net-zero targets





**Syllabus:** GS 3: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation  
**Newspaper:** Indian Express, **Page No. 12**

come into view, it's important to develop and perfect diverse technologies, rather than just a few, so that it has the best shot of achieving carbon-neutral economies.

Europe is already working on 'Renewable Fuels of Non-Biological Origin', or RFNBO, which is the production of fuels with renewable energy and resources and without biomass. India should also work on such futuristic solutions to become energy independent, from its current position of importing nearly 85% of different forms of energy resources (including oil, coal, and natural gas) from other countries.

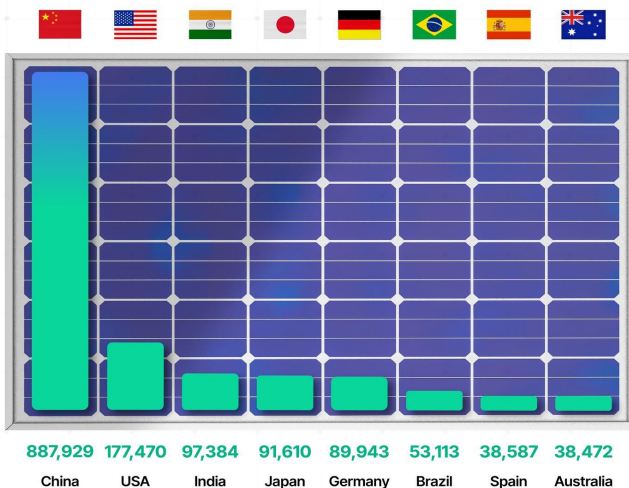
As geopolitical conflicts proliferate and the supply of energy is increasingly disrupted, achieving energy self-sufficiency is paramount. As such the Government of India should consider spending more on research, innovation, and technology development with help from the private sector.

Prevention is better than cure. Spending ₹1 crore on preventing pollution today will save us from having to spend several crore in the future on damage control. While green hydrogen and silicon photovoltaics are good technologies, the world already needs better, that is, more efficient, more practicable, more economic, and more diverse solutions.

*Chinnakonda S. Gopinath is visiting professor, IIT Palakkad.*

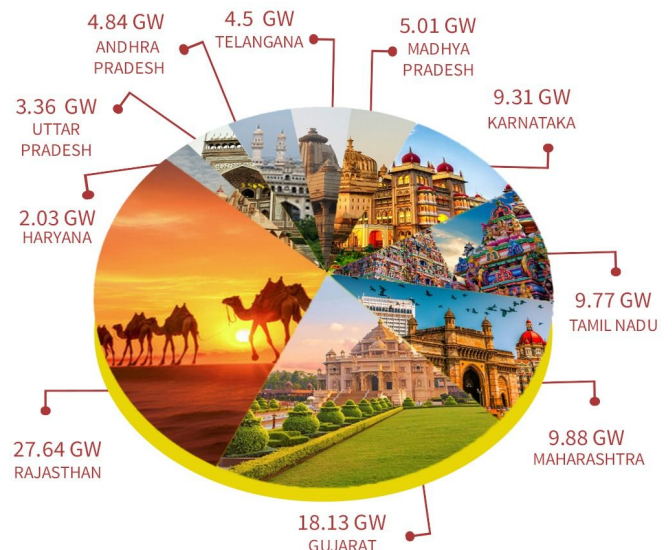
## Countries with Highest Solar Energy Capacity

Electricity Capacity (MW)



Source: IRENA (2024)

## TOP SOLAR ENERGY PRODUCING STATES





**Syllabus:** GS 2: Executive, Indian Constitution, Fundamental Rights, Judiciary  
**Newspaper:** Indian Express, Page No. 12

**AMAAL SHEIKH**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE SUPREME Court this week reserved its verdict in a clutch of petitions challenging the age cap for couples seeking to have a child through surrogacy, especially those couples who had started the process before the current law on this matter was enacted by Parliament.

The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021 and the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, prescribe the legal framework for surrogacy.

Together, these laws lay down age limits on those intending to have a child through surrogacy. The intending woman, if married, must be between 23 and 50 years of age; fathers must be between 26 and 55, and single women must be between the ages of 35 and 45 years.

### The case before SC

Several writ petitions have been filed

before the Supreme Court by couples who find themselves stuck in the process due to a change in the law on surrogacy. Essentially, they had begun their treatment before the enactment of the law, but the new law's age limits make them ineligible for surrogacy.

A Supreme Court Bench comprising Justices B V Nagarathna and K V Viswanathan heard three petitions filed by couples requesting eligibility certificates under the Surrogacy Act, arguing that they had initiated the process before the Act was brought in.

In one of the petitions, the husband is 62 years old, while the wife is about 56 years old. The couple lost their only child in 2018 and, desirous of having another child, began fertility procedures in 2019.

After facing delays due to the disruptions induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, they were able to eventually arrange for an embryo transfer in early 2022.

The petition states that their pregnancy was unsuccessful — and by the time they

sought to proceed with another transfer, they had crossed the age limit laid down by the surrogacy law.

The petitioners argued that the retrospective application of these conditions was unreasonable, especially when medical procedures were already underway at the time the Act came into force.

They also submitted that the age limit created an unreasonable classification, violating Article 14 of the Constitution, and also interfered with reproductive autonomy, which is a facet of Article 21, which protects personal liberty.

Regulatory laws usually offer transitional safeguards for those navigating compliance during a legislative shift. These provisions are called "grandfather clauses", which "grandfather in" certain existing situations. The Surrogacy Act has no such transitional clauses.

The petitioner's challenge also raised broader concerns, including the right of sin-

gle, unmarried women to pursue parenthood through surrogacy, a choice that the current law does not accommodate.

### Provisions of the law

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, and the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021, enacted in January 2022, together ban commercial surrogacy and allow only altruistic surrogacy.

According to the government, this change in law was intended to prevent the commodification of reproductive labour and to impose procedural safeguards to ensure that surrogacy is used only in cases of medical necessity.

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act lays down eligibility conditions for couples intending to seek surrogacy. The law states that for intending couples, the woman must be between 23 and 50 years of age, and the man between 26 and 55 years.

The process requires the couple to ob-

tain a certificate of essentiality, which includes proof of infertility, a court order establishing parentage and custody, and insurance for the surrogate.

Single women are eligible only if they are widows or divorcees between the ages of 35 to 45. This is under challenge before the SC on the grounds that the definition of single women excluding unmarried women is arbitrary and violative of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.

The SC has not taken up this issue in the current batch of petitions for adjudication.

### Court's questions

The government has defended the age restrictions on grounds of medical safety. It has said that the statutory age caps are based on recommendations from medical experts, and align with practices in reproductive health.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati argued that the age limits align with natural reproductive timelines, which she said is necessary for protecting

the welfare of the child.

When the ASG mentioned the risks associated with geriatric pregnancies, Justice Nagarathna pointed out that some couples "will take the risk" anyway. Essentially, the Bench asked why surrogacy as an option must be outlawed for an older couple when natural geriatric pregnancies are not outlawed.

The ASG responded that advanced parental age influences both an unborn child's health through genetic and epigenetic changes, and also the filial love that a child requires for 20 years of their life.

"Rational nexus to the object of the Act is absent by having this age bar, especially as there is a void regarding not taking care of the couples who have already commenced. Genuine intending couples who had commenced surrogacy, the Act doesn't care for them and puts an embargo. Stop, no children! Look how harsh it is," Justice Nagarathna said, emphasising that the Surrogacy Act's intent is to prevent commercial surrogacy, not genuine parenthood.

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## Questions over age gap over surrogacy law



**Syllabus:** GS 2: Executive, Indian Constitution, Fundamental Rights, Judiciary  
**Newspaper:** Indian Express, **Page No. 12**

Category	Details
Definition	A practice where a woman gives birth to a child for an intending couple with the intention to hand over the child after birth to the intending couple.
Type of Surrogacy Permitted	<b>Altruistic surrogacy</b> only – no monetary compensation except medical expenses and insurance.
Prohibited	<b>Commercial surrogacy</b> is banned.
Eligibility (Intending Couple)	Must suffer from <b>proven infertility</b> as per medical certification.
Rights of Surrogate Child	Child is deemed to be the <b>biological child</b> of the intending couple.
Abortion Provisions	<b>Prohibited at any stage</b> of surrogacy except under conditions prescribed by law (e.g., MTP Act).
Eligibility – Surrogate Mother	Must be a <b>married woman</b> (25–35 years) with a child of her own; can be a surrogate only once; must be <b>medically and psychologically fit</b> .
Relation to Couple	Originally required to be a <b>close relative</b> ; <b>[Updated: Now any willing woman is allowed as per amended rules (2022)]</b> .



**Syllabus: GS 2:** Indian Constitution, Judgements & Cases, Government Policies & Interventions

**Newspaper:** The Hindu, Page No. 4

The Maharashtra government has withdrawn its decision to implement 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in private medical colleges, asserting that the quota will only apply if the Central government or the respective medical councils increase the existing number of seats to ensure it does not affect other category allocations.

In a notification issued on Wednesday, the State Medical Education & Drugs Department stated that the Centre must compensate for the impact of the reservation on seats for other categories.

“For MBBS, BDS, BAMS, BHMS, and BUMS courses, this reservation will apply only if additional seats are sanctioned by the Central government or the respec-

tive council,” said Dileep Sardesai, Commissioner and Competent Authority of the State Common Entrance Test (CET) Cell.

“For all other courses, the 10% EWS quota will be implemented on the currently available seats,” Mr. Sardesai added.

### Aspirant protests

The move follows backlash from medical aspirants and their parents after the CET Cell declared commencement of admissions for medical undergraduate courses. In its NEET-UG 2025 information brochure released on July 23, it mentioned the inclusion of a 10% EWS quota in private medical colleges.

The Association of Private Medical Colleges has also opposed the decision and conveyed its concerns in writing to Medical Education Minister Hasan Mushrif.

## HOW THE EWS RESERVATION CAME ABOUT

In 2019, the Parliament passed the **103<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of the Constitution**, allowing the government to institute the EWS quota



The government said that 10% of seats in educational institutions and government jobs would be set aside for people from poorer sections, **on the basis of their land holdings, monthly income, or size of the dwelling.**



The quota also **covers private unaided educational institutions**, except the minority educational institutions.



The **quota excludes** Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) from its ambit.



## WHAT IS THE 103<sup>RD</sup> AMENDMENT

The amendment inserted **Articles 15(6) and 16(6)** in the Constitution.



### ARTICLE 15

of the Constitution **forbids discrimination** on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.

### ARTICLE 16

**guarantees equality** of opportunity in public employment.



The additional clauses **allowed the government to bring in a 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of society.** It also empowered state governments to give reservations on the basis of economic backwardness.





**Syllabus:** GS 2: Indian Constitution, Judgements & Cases, Government Policies & Interventions

**Newspaper:** The Hindu, Page No. 4

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR EWS QUOTA

Those who are not covered by reservations granted to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, but have **AN ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME OF LESS THAN ₹ 8 LAKH**



They cannot claim benefits if their families own **MORE THAN 5 ACRES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND OR 1,000 SQUARE FEET OF RESIDENTIAL LAND.**



**NEWS18**  
creative

Issues	Justices Maheshwari, Trivedi and Pardiwala	Chief Justice Lalit and Justice Bhat
Can reservations be provided on an economic criteria?	YES	YES
Can SC/ST/OBC groups be excluded from EWS reservation benefits?	YES, they form a separate disadvantaged group.	NO, SEBCs form the bulk of the poorest population of India.
Can EWS reservations exceed 50% limit?	YES, the 50% limit is flexible and applies only to SEBCs	NO, breaching the 50% limit here will be a gateway for further compartmentalisation



**Syllabus:** GS 3: Food Processing, Infrastructure  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu, Page No. 15

## PM Kisan Sampada Yojana

**Objective**—creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.

**Launched** - 2017



## Prelims Pointers

**Ministry of Food Processing Industry (MoFPI)**  
**Central Sector scheme**

### Objectives of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

- To supplement agriculture.
- To create processing and preservation capacities.
- To modernize and expand existing food processing units to increase the level of processing.
- To add value leading to the reduction of wastage.

### Seven Component Schemes Under PMKSY

1. Mega Food Parks.
2. Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure.
3. Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters.
4. Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages.
5. Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities.
6. Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure.
7. Human Resources and Institutions.





**Q1. Regarding the Anti-Defection Law in India, consider the following statements:**

1. Disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law is decided by the Chair of the House.
2. A nominated member of a House is disqualified if they join a political party after six months of taking the seat.
3. The decision of the Speaker regarding disqualification is subject to judicial review.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Q2. Regarding Renewable Fuels of Non-Biological Origin (RFNBOs), consider the following statements:**

1. RFNBOs include hydrogen and liquid fuels produced from renewable electricity through electrolysis or other chemical processes.
2. They are distinguished from biofuels because they are not derived from agricultural or forestry products.
3. The European Union recognises RFNBOs as part of its renewable energy targets.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Q3. Regarding the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, consider the following statements:**

1. The Act permits only altruistic surrogacy and prohibits commercial surrogacy.
2. Only Indian married couples, single women (widows or divorcees), and foreigners married to Indians are eligible for surrogacy under this Act.
3. The surrogate mother must be a married woman having at least one biological child of her own.

4. A National Surrogacy Board and State Surrogacy Boards are to be constituted for implementation and regulation.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Q4. Regarding the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019, consider the following statements:**

1. It provides for 10% reservation in public employment and educational institutions for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of citizens.
2. It inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6) into the Constitution.
3. The benefits of this reservation are available to both SCs and STs, along with OBCs.
4. The Supreme Court has upheld the constitutional validity of this amendment.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Q5. Regarding the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPAD A Yojana (PMKSY), consider the following statements:**

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to ensure food security for small and marginal farmers.
2. The scheme aims to create modern infrastructure for food processing and reduce post-harvest losses.
3. Components of the scheme include Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain, and Agro-Processing Clusters.

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

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

**Answer: b**





# **VAJIRAM & RAVI**

## **Institute for IAS Examination**

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

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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](http://www.vajiramandravi.com)