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The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

20th August 2025



Between Washington & Beijing: India's "China Card"



CONTEXT: India and China see chance to reset ties

- Mix of '3Cs'
- Modern Geopolitical Complexities

Evolution of Relationship

- **Ancient Era:** Cultural & Religious Ties: *Buddhism & Silk Route*;
- **Medieval Period:** Limited interactions; Maritime trade
- **Colonial Era (18th–20th Century):** *Shared experience of Western exploitation; Tagore's Visit; Shared anti-imperialist sentiment*
- **Post-Independence Cooperation (1947–1959):** PRC in 1950; Panchsheel Agreement (1954); Differences over Tibet
- **Conflict and Estrangement (1962–1988):** Sino-Indian War (1962), Sikkim (1967) and Sumdorong Chu Valley (1987); Diplomatic Freeze
- **Normalization and Strategic Rivalry (1988–Present):**
 - Improved Relations (1988–2008)– Rajiv Gandhi's visit; 1993 Peace & Tranquility Agreement
 - Recent Challenges (2008–Present) – Border Disputes; Skewed Trade Relations; Geopolitical Rivalry
 - Current Context – **Wang Yi's August 2025** – Backdrop
 - **India's Strategic Hedging** – RIC; BRICS

Issues & Challenges

- **Border Disputes and Territorial Claims:** LAC – frequent standoffs; Aksai Chin & Arunachal; 'dual-use villages'
- **Economic Imbalances and Trade Deficit:** 'massive trade deficit'; Exponential rise in exports from China; 'Consistent' backdoor entry

- **Water Resource Disputes:** Control over *upstream rivers*; constructed multiple dams – Medog; no water-sharing treaty between; *Hydrological data*
- **Cyber Threats:** Frequent cyber attacks; Banning of Chinese apps
- **Regional Influence Competition:** BRI's CPEC; port facilities – *dual purpose*; military cooperation – Pakistan
- **Diplomatic and International Forums:** India's NSG & UNSC membership; Deep inroads in Latin America, Africa – CMs

Himalayan super-dam plan

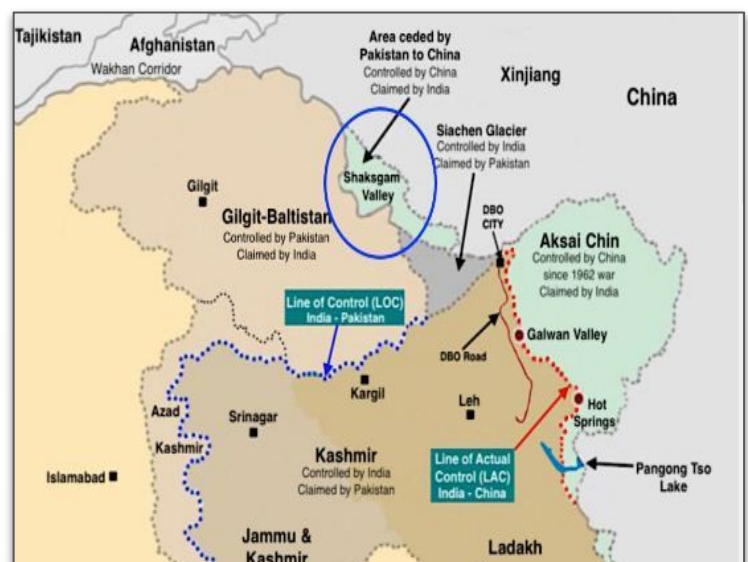
China's *Medog dam* – mentioned in an unscheduled plan revealed in March – would produce triple the electricity of the Three Gorges, the world's largest power station

Major dam projects

On the upper reaches of the Brahmaputra/Yarlung Zangbo, and associated tributaries

● Operational dams ● Under construction ● Planned

Medog
Proposed
60GW-capacity
Super-dam



Between Washington & Beijing: India's "China Card"



CONTEXT: India and China see chance to reset ties

Importance of China for India

- **Raw Material Dependency:** India's 2nd largest trading partner; Heavily reliant - Chinese supplies; >70% APIs, electronic components; 80% of its total solar imports
- **Technology and Digital Infrastructure:** Despite bans, Chinese dominance; Chinese smartphone; Critical telecommunications & Battery tech
- **Investment and Expertise:** Technical expertise; Several Indian startups - substantial Chinese investments
- **Trade Route Dependency:** SE Asia - RCEP Members; South China Sea and Malacca Strait
- **Diplomatic space:** BRICS, SCO, G20
- **Strategic Hedge:** Overdependence on US

SERIES OF STEPS

THREE new mechanisms to manage border

AGREE to discuss de-escalation at LAC

FACILITATE trade and investment flows

BORDER trade via designated points

RESUMPTION of direct flights at earliest

Way forward for India

- **Economic Diversification and Self-Reliance:** domestic manufacturing capabilities - PLI, Semiconductor Mission; **Strategic partnerships** - Japan, South Korea & EU nations; Boost MSMEs; standards & certification processes
- **Strategic Military Modernization:** Along the LAC; Enhance surveillance capabilities; mountain warfare capabilities
- **Regional Leadership Enhancement:** Increased assistance; BIMSTEC, IORA; alternative supply chain networks - SCRI, MSP
- **Diplomatic Engagement Strategy:** Dialogue through *multiple channels*; Active participation in multilateral forums; issue-based coalitions; Continue '**strategic autonomy**'

Mains Practise Question:

"In the backdrop of an evolving global order marked by US-India Trade Tensions and US-China Rivalry, India finds itself navigating a complex relationship with China. Critically examine how India can balance its strategic vulnerabilities with economic dependencies in shaping its foreign policy towards China."



Towards a New Revolution in Indian Agriculture

20th August 2025

CONTEXT: India was ahead of China in agricultural research in the late 1960s, but today, China has eight agricultural research institutions in the world's top 10 and India does not have any in the top 200.

What was Green Revolution?

- increase - production and quality of food crops - new technologies

But why did India need it?

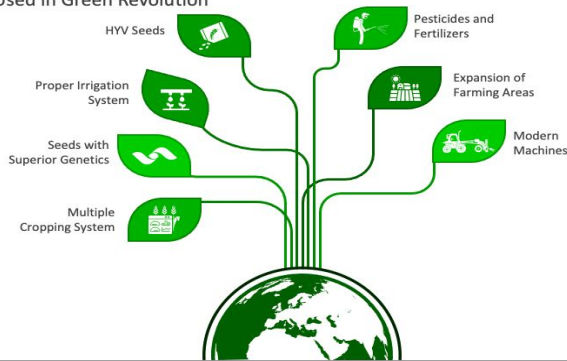
- Food Crises - 1960s - Various factors
- Vulnerable to External Pressures
- Self-reliance and Food Security
- Modernize Agriculture

Mechanisms/Ways adopted

- HYV Seeds
- New Irrigation Methods
- Mechanization - Agricultural Practices
- Chemical Fertilizers and Pesticides
- Multiple Cropping
- Expansion of the Farming Area

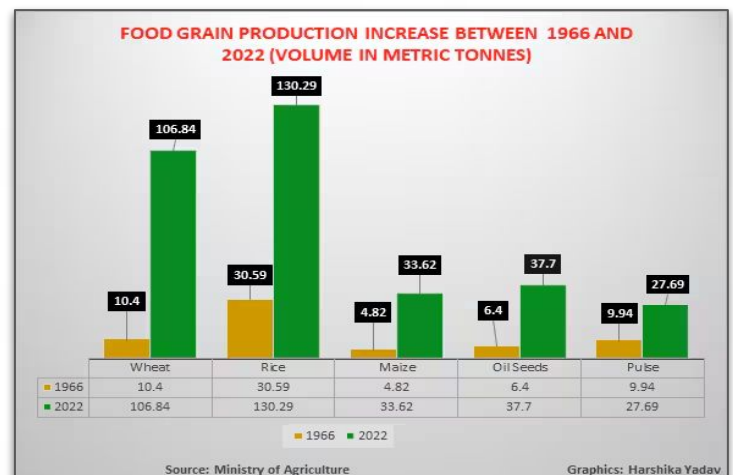
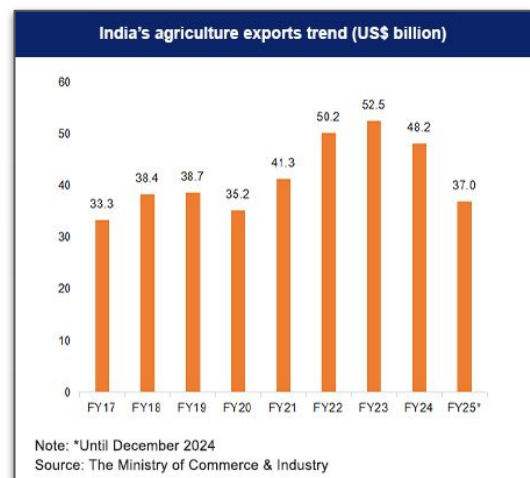
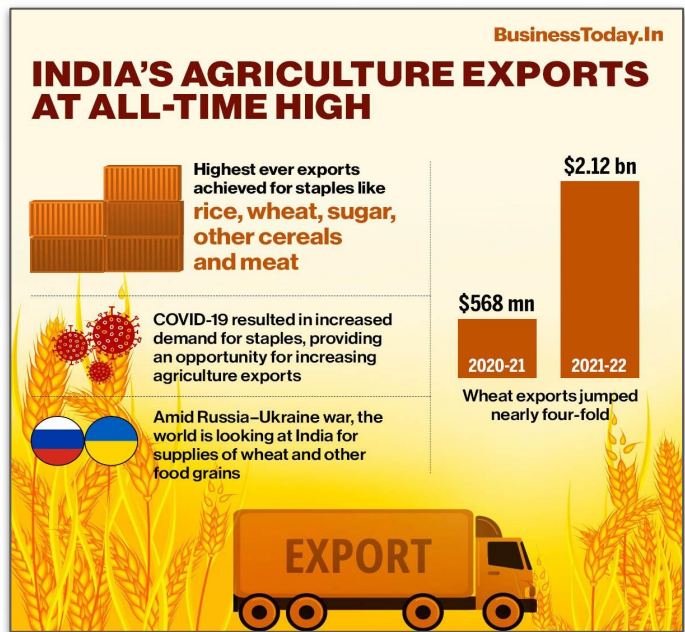
GREEN REVOLUTION

Methods Used in Green Revolution



Impacts of the Green Revolution

- **Increased Food Production** - New HYVs - Dwarf; 1978-79
- **Reduced Food Imports** - Net Exporter; 18.5 mt 2020-21
- **Poverty Alleviation** - 50.1% (1993-94) to 25.7% (2011-12)
- **Technological Advancements** - sustainable & efficient practices
- **Rural Development** - roads, electrification, irrigation
- **Reduction in Land Conversion** - positive environmental impacts
- **Economic Growth** - Key Driver



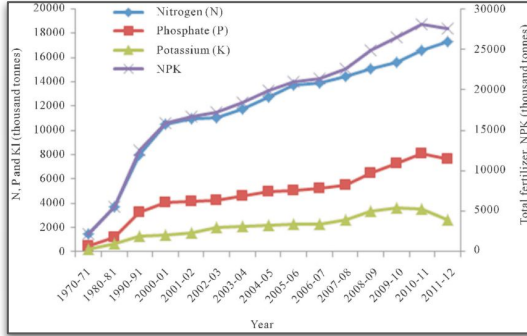
Towards a New Revolution in Indian Agriculture

20th August 2025

CONTEXT: India was ahead of China in agricultural research in the late 1960s, but today, China has eight agricultural research institutions in the world's top 10 and India does not have any in the top 200.

Challenges brought by the Green Revolution

- **Unprecedented Environmental Degradation** - synthetic inputs; soil erosion and water pollution
- **Loss of Biodiversity of Crops** - Indigenous rice types and Millets
- **Social and Economic Inequalities** - Rural Indebtedness
- **Increased Vulnerability of Crops** - Diseases

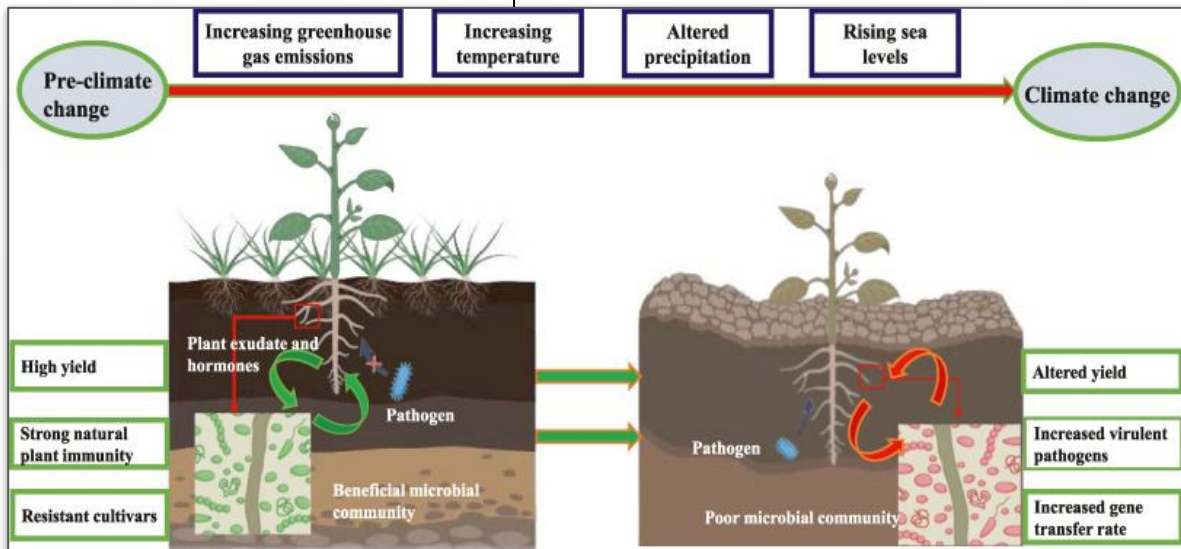
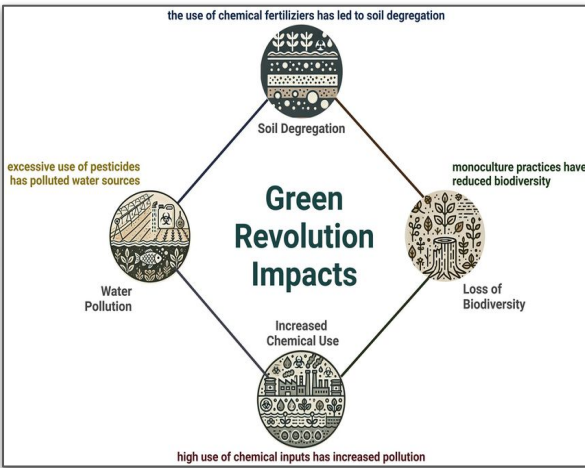


Solution? - Green Revolution 2.0

Make Agriculture - *Adaptive and Resilient* - CC & S-E Inequalities - **Food Security + Nutritional Security**

Mechanisms/Instruments - G.R. 2.0

- **Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering** - GM Crops
- **Precision Agriculture** - advanced technologies - optimize - use of resources, Micro-Irrigation
- **Sustainability** - Practices - conserve soil health, ZBNF
- **Diversification** - Away from R-W System
- **Farmer-Centric Innovations** - FPOs, CHCs
- **Holistic Approach** - Soil Health, Food SC
- **Environmental Considerations** - Mitigate - environmental impacts
- **Climate-Resilient Practices** - weather patterns & extremes



Towards a New Revolution in Indian Agriculture



CONTEXT: India was ahead of China in agricultural research in the late 1960s, but today, China has eight agricultural research institutions in the world's top 10 and India does not have any in the top 200.

GREEN REVOLUTION 2.0

COMPONENTS OF GREEN REVOLUTION 2.0



BIOTECHNOLOGY & GENETIC ENGINEERING

- Development of climate-resilient, high-yield, and pest-resistant crop varieties
- GM crops, tissue culture, and gene editing



WATER USE EFFICIENCY

- Drip and sprinkler irrigation
- Micro-irrigation
- Watershed management & aquifer recharge



PRECISION AGRICULTURE & DIGITAL TECH

- Use of IoT, drones, AI, and GIS in farming
- Real-time weather, soil, and crop monitoring
- Digital platforms for advisory and market access



FARMER-CENTRIC INNOVATIONS

- Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)
- Custom Hiring Centres for small/marginal farmers
- Access to credit, insurance, and storage facilities



INSTITUTIONAL & POLICY SUPPORT

- MSP reforms & procurement of diverse crops
- Soil Health Card Scheme
- PM-KISAN, PMFBY for financial security



CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

- Low-emission, resource-efficient techniques
- Carbon farming and agroforestry
- Resilient supply chains and climate-risk insurance

Mains Practise Question:

Discuss the need for a new revolution in Indian Agriculture in the context of current challenges. Highlight the challenges and the way forward to ensure food security, environmental sustainability, and farmer welfare.



Sedition Redux: Section 152

SYLLABUS : GS 2: Constitution - FRs

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 8

Filing frivolous cases against publications and summoning journalists without proper investigation or perusal of material evidence have become a part of the police playbook in States ruled by vindictive politicians who brook no criticism. The Assam Police's decision to reportedly summon the founding editor Siddharth Varadarajan and consulting editor Karan Thapar of The Wire under Section 152, among others, of the BNS, is yet another case of the state trampling on press freedom. The fact that the summons were issued by the Guwahati Crime Branch to the journalists in a fresh sedition FIR on the same day, August 12, when the Supreme Court had issued notice on The Wire's petition challenging the constitutional validity of the new sedition law (Section 152) and had protected them from any "coercive action" by the Assam Police, makes these actions egregious. The summons, apart from another one related to a case registered at the Morigaon Police Station, seem to pertain to a report in The Wire on Operation Sindoor. The Wire has also pointed to other disturbing issues – the summons do not carry the FIR date or provide any details of the alleged offence or include a copy of the FIR – all of which are mandatory according to the BNS sections associated with the summons. In addition, keeping the FIRs secret and not mentioning the reasons for the summons hint at police intimidation.

Critics of Section 152 had rightly feared that it was a rebranded version of the colonial-era sedition law, whose cases the Court had kept in abeyance in 2022. Section 152 has even more expansive and dangerous provisions, setting the bar much lower for prosecution than the previous sedition law. Terms such as "knowingly" could allow for prosecution even where there was no malicious intent to cause harm, unlike Section 124A's strict requirement to prove clear intent to incite disaffection. The vague language around "sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India" provides dangerous latitude to law enforcement agencies. Even legitimate acts such as criticism of government policy could be construed as "endangering unity". Without clear definitions or safeguards, Section 152 can target individuals for merely expressing opinions that authorities deem threatening. This law's invocation against journalists questioning government narratives creates a chilling effect on press freedom. The Court's intervention in The Wire's case, to examine Section 152's constitutional validity while protecting journalists from coercive action, acknowledges the potential for abuse. However, the Assam Police's defiant response suggests that without stronger judicial oversight and clearer guidelines, Section 152 will continue to be weaponised against dissent. The onus now lies on the Court to recognise the unconstitutionality of the sedition laws, in their earlier form or rebranded, which have no place in a democratic society.

Landmark ruling: SC orders Sedition law to be kept in abeyance

SABRANGINDIA MAY 11, 2022

f t in

Apex Court urges Centre and states to refrain from registering any FIRs invoking Section 124-A IPC; those already booked under the section can seek bail

Section 124A. Sedition.

Previous | Next

¹[124A]Sedition.—Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, ²*** the Government established by law in ³[India], ⁴*** shall be punished with ⁵[imprisonment for life], to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine.

Explanation 1.—The expression "disaffection" includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity.

Explanation 2.—Comments expressing disapprobation of the measures of the Government with a view to obtain their alteration by lawful means, without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, do not constitute an offence under this section.

Explanation 3.—Comments expressing disapprobation of the administrative or other action of the Government without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, do not constitute an offence under this section.]

152. Act endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.—Whoever, purposely or knowingly, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or by electronic communication or by use of financial mean, or otherwise, excites or attempts to excite, secession or armed rebellion or subversive activities, or encourages feelings of separatist activities or endangers sovereignty or unity and integrity of India; or indulges in or commits any such act shall be punished with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Explanation.—Comments expressing disapprobation of the measures, or administrative or other action of the Government with a view to obtain their alteration by lawful means without exciting or attempting to excite the activities referred to in this section do not constitute an offence under this section.

Summary Table

Timeframe	Development
2022 (May 11)	SC puts Section 124A IPC "in abeyance"; halts further sedition prosecution.
2022–2023	Law Commission recommends retention; BNS Bill drafted to replace IPC.
2024 (July 1)	BNS comes into force; new offences created—Sections 152 and 147.
2024–2025	Academic and judicial critique of Section 152's breadth and risk of misuse.
2025	SC issues notices challenging Section 152; rulings caution against overreach in its use.



SYLLABUS : GS 2: Constitution - FRs

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 8

1. Recent Incident

- Assam Police summoned *The Wire* editors **Siddharth Varadarajan** and **Karan Thapar** under **Section 152 of BNS**.
- Summons were issued the same day (August 12) when the SC had *already protected them from coercive action* in a petition challenging the law's validity.
- **Summons lacked key legal details** like FIR date, copy of FIR, or nature of allegations – *raising concerns of intimidation*.

2. Section 152 of BNS: A Rebranded Sedition Law

- Critics had warned it was a **renamed version of colonial-era Section 124A IPC (sedition)**.
- Section 152 is broader and more dangerous:
 - **Lower threshold for prosecution** – terms like “knowingly” dilute intent requirement.
 - **Vague grounds** – “sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India” open to wide interpretation.
 - **Risk of misuse** – even fair criticism of government policies could be criminalised.

3. Threat to Press Freedom

- Targeting journalists creates a **chilling effect on free expression**.
- *Lack of safeguards* enables arbitrary police action.
- Using secrecy and vague summons signals intimidation against media critical of the government.

4. Judicial Oversight and Way Forward

- SC has intervened by examining Section 152's constitutionality and shielding journalists.
- However, **defiance by police authorities** shows that judicial orders alone may not prevent misuse.
- Stronger oversight and recognition of sedition's **incompatibility with democracy** are essential.



In 2018, when POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched, the government had set a target to reduce stunting among children in India by at least 2% points each year. A stunted child is too short for his or her age as a result of chronic or recurrent malnutrition.

In 2016, 38.4% of children under five were stunted in India. As per this plan, the share should have fallen to 26.4% by 2022. During the launch, however, the government had set an even more ambitious target – to bring stunting down to 25% by 2022 – a goal it called ‘Mission 25 by 2022’. Seven years after the launch, Poshan Tracker data for June 2025 showed that 37% of children under five in India were stunted – barely 1% point lower than in 2016 (Chart 1).

“The fact that the needle has barely moved points to deeper systemic issues,” says Dr. Vandana Prasad, a community paediatrician and former member of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. She calls persistent stunting “the tip of the iceberg of deprivation”.

While India has a strong tradition of breastfeeding, only 64% of babies under the age of six months are exclusively breastfed. Here, class divides play a serious role. “A teacher in a government school may get six months’ maternity leave to breastfeed. But a domestic worker is back to work within two weeks. How will she feed her child every two hours as required,” Dr. Prasad asks.

The quality of diet for both the mother and child is another key factor linked to stunting. Carbohydrate-heavy meals dominate most Indian households, especially among the poor. “In some Adivasi communities I have worked in, people eat mounds of rice because that is all they have access to. People eat dal once a week or even once a month,” says Dr. Prasad.

Only around 11% of Indian children under two years met the standard for a minimum acceptable diet in India, as of 2019-21. The minimum acceptable diet mea-

Research shows that stunting is linked to a host of factors – from teenage pregnancies and poor diets of both the mother and the child to anaemia during pregnancy and inadequate breastfeeding in the early years (Table 3). Evidence also points to associations with caesarean deliveries (C-section), children living in unsanitary conditions, and drinking unsafe water. Data further shows a strong link between stunting and the mother’s level of education.

“Stunting is often visible right at the time of birth. Nearly half of India’s stunted children are already small when they are born,” says Dr. Prasad, underscoring how deeply it is tied to maternal health.

Teen mothers are more likely to give birth to babies who struggle to

grow. Experts say this is because a woman’s body is not ready for pregnancy at such a young age. Adolescent mothers are also less likely to be able to adequately care for their child after birth. Despite legal restrictions, child marriages have not been eradicated in India. Consequently, as of 2019-21, close to 7% of women aged 15-19 had begun childbearing in India.

sure the share of children aged 6-23 months who receive both adequate dietary diversity and meal frequency (or, for non-breastfed children, at least two milk feeds along with diverse and frequent meals). While some States have introduced eggs in Anganwadi meals, access to protein and micronutrient-rich foods is limited.

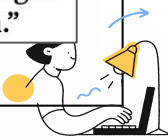
Anaemia among mothers, closely tied to women’s nutrition, is another reason for stunting among children. In 2019-21, in India, nearly 57% of women aged 15-49 and 67% of children under the age of five were anaemic.

Education plays a key role in breaking the cycle of stunting. Data from 2019-21 shows that nearly 46% of children born to mothers with no schooling were stunted, compared to only 26% of children whose mothers had 12 or more years of schooling. Mothers with higher levels of education are far more likely to access antenatal care, follow better nutrition practices, and delay early pregnancies, all of which improve child health outcomes.

C-sections have increased in India from 9% in 2005-06 to over 22% in 2021. While C-sections are not a direct cause of stunting, they can disrupt early breastfeeding practices. Babies delivered surgically often miss out on immediate breastfeeding, especially the first milk or colostrum, which contains all the nutrients an infant needs.

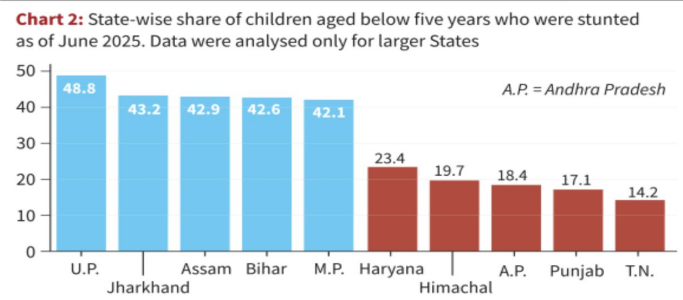
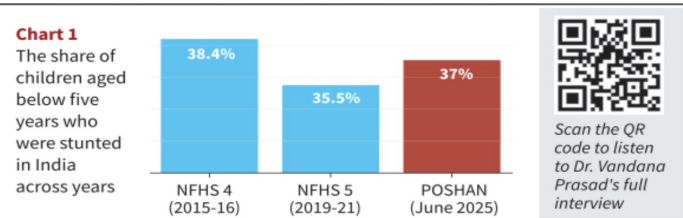
Sanitation deepens the disadvantage. Children exposed to open defecation and unsafe water are far more vulnerable to infections that sap their nutrition and stunt their growth. Open defecation, in particular, contaminates groundwater, which enters drinking supplies. This disrupts gut health by damaging the balance of good bacteria needed to absorb food. According to 2019-21 data, 19% of Indian households still practiced open defecation. Dr. Prasad explains, “There is a vicious cycle between infection and malnutrition. A malnourished child falls sick more often. When sick, the child eats less and absorbs less, which pushes the child further into malnourishment.”

The consequences stretch far beyond height. “Stunting has a correlation with poverty, less education, less employability, and weaker cognitive skills,” she says. “It locks families into an intergenerational cycle of deprivation.”



POSHAN Abhiyaan and Targets

- Launched in **2018**, with the aim to reduce child stunting by **2% points annually**.
- Baseline: **38.4% (2016)** → Target: **25% by 2022** ("Mission 25 by 2022").
- Current data (June 2025): **37% stunted**, just 1% improvement since 2016.



Why Stunting Persists? – Key Determinants

- Maternal Health & Teen Pregnancies**
 - Nearly half of stunted children are born small.
 - Early pregnancies weaken maternal and child health.
 - 7% of women (15–19 years)** had begun childbearing (2019–21).
- Education of Mothers**
 - Strong correlation: **46% stunted (no schooling)** vs **26% stunted (12+ years of schooling)**.
 - Education → better nutrition, antenatal care, delayed pregnancies.
- Delivery Practices (C-sections)**
 - Rise from **9% (2005–06)** → **22% (2021)**.
 - Can delay breastfeeding initiation, depriving infants of **colostrum**.
- Breastfeeding Practices**
 - Only **64% of infants <6 months** exclusively breastfed.
 - Economic class divide affects ability to breastfeed.

Table 3: Factors linked to stunting and their prevalence according to NFHS 5 (2019-21). Figures are in % and are average figures for India

Factors linked to stunting	NFHS 5 (2019-21) in %
Teenage pregnancy (women aged 15-19 who have begun childbearing)	6.8
Anaemia in children aged 6 to 59 months	67.1
Anaemia in mothers aged 15-49 years	57
Caesarean deliveries	22
Exclusive breastfeeding (for first 6 months)	64
Children (6-23 months) with a minimum acceptable diet	11
Share of households with no toilet facility	19

5. Poor Diet Diversity

- Diets are **carbohydrate-heavy**, lacking proteins & micronutrients.
- Only **11% of children (6–23 months)** receive a minimum acceptable diet.

6. Anaemia

- 57% of women (15–49 years)** and **67% of children under five** are anaemic.

7. Sanitation & Infections

- 19% households** practice open defecation.
- Unsafe water and poor sanitation weaken gut health → malnutrition-infection cycle.

Consequences of Stunting

- Not just short height:
 - Poor **cognitive development**, reduced **employability**, intergenerational **poverty cycle**.
 - "Stunting is the tip of the iceberg of deprivation."

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SYLLABUS : GS 3: Environment

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 4

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KOLKATA

The estimated population of saltwater crocodiles, one of the largest reptiles in the world, has increased in the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve (SBR) since last year, according to a survey by the West Bengal Forest Department.

“In comparison [to 2024], there is an increase in the number of all demographic classes [of saltwater crocodiles], specifically in the hatchling class. This is an encouraging sign as sighting of hatchlings is very rare and difficult in the terrain of Sundarbans,” states the Forest Department report, titled ‘Population Assessment and Habitat Ecology Study of



Successive governments in West Bengal have made significant efforts to conserve saltwater crocodiles. FILE PHOTO

Saltwater Crocodiles in Sundarbans 2025’.

According to the report, which was released a day earlier, the saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) is the largest in the crocodylian order.

The report describes them as “hypercarnivorous apex predators” that keep

flowing water ecosystems clean by feeding on carcasses. In India, saltwater crocodiles are distributed across the swamplands, rivers, mangroves of Odisha and West Bengal and the coastal areas around the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The estimated popula-

What do we know about the Saltwater Crocodile?

- About:
 - It is the **largest of the 23 species of ‘extant’ or living crocodylians**. This includes ‘true crocodiles’, alligators and caimans.
 - The saltie is also called the **‘estuarine crocodile’** and as the name suggests, is typically found in the **brackish water of estuaries**.
 - *It can also tolerate saltwater in the oceans and can travel long distances over the open ocean, making use of tidal currents.*
- Habitat:
 - The ‘saltie’ is today found in **three locations in India** – the **Sundarbans, Bhitarkanika National Park and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
 - It is one of the **three crocodiles native to the Indian Subcontinent**, along with the mugger crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*) and the gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*).

- It is also found in **Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Australia and the Solomon Islands**.
- During antiquity the species’ range extended from the Seychelles and Kerala, India in the west through to southeastern China, Palau and Vanuatu in the east.
- **Threats:**
 - *Habitat destruction, fragmentation, and transformation, fishing activities and use of crocodile parts for medicinal purposes.*

What is the protection Status of Saltwater Crocodiles?

- **IUCN List of Threatened Species:** Least Concern
- **CITES:** Appendix I (except the populations of Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, which are included in Appendix II).
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I**



SYLLABUS : GS 2: *Co-operative Societies*

Newspaper: *The Hindu* Page Number: 13

‘One seat reserved for SC/ST on boards of co-op societies’

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that two seats had been reserved for women, and one seat for Scheduled Castes (SC) or Scheduled Tribes (ST) on the boards of multi-State cooperative societies, while responding to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s questions on initiatives to increase SC/ST participation.

PART IXB

The Co-operative Societies

Part IXB of the Constitution grants constitutional status to co-operative societies and contains provisions for their democratic functioning. It was inserted by the Constitution (Ninety-seventh Amendment) Act, 2011.

- **Co-operative societies fall under Entry 32 of the State List (List II) in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.** Hence, regulation and governance of cooperative societies fall primarily under the jurisdiction of State Legislatures.
- The 97th Amendment added **Article 19(1)(c)** to Part III of the Constitution, which made **forming cooperative societies a part of the fundamental right to form associations or Unions or cooperative societies.**
- The Amendment Act also amended **Part IV by adding a new Directive Principle of State Policy under Article 43B.** This new article directs the State to **promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control, and professional management** of cooperative societies. By placing this in the DPSP, the Constitution gave a policy direction to the State for the development of cooperative societies. Though **not enforceable by Courts**, this provision guides legislative and executive action.
- Initially, the 97th Amendment inserted **Part IXB** (Articles 243ZH to 243ZT), making certain provisions mandatory for all States.

- However, in its 2021 judgment (***Rajendra N. Shah versus the Union of India***), the Supreme Court held that since cooperative societies are a State subject, the Amendment should have been ratified by at least half of the State Legislatures under Article 368(2). Since such ratification was not done, **Part IXB is not binding on the States for matters falling under their exclusive jurisdiction.**
- It should be noted here that **forming a cooperative society is a Constitutional Right** but being a member of the same is not a Right as guaranteed by the Constitution, the same is governed by the respective laws of the State related to cooperatives.
- The **Multi-State cooperatives fall in the jurisdiction of the Union Government via Entry 44 (Corporations whether trading or not, with objects not confined to one State) of the Union list (List I)**, hence the Central Government can make laws regarding the same.

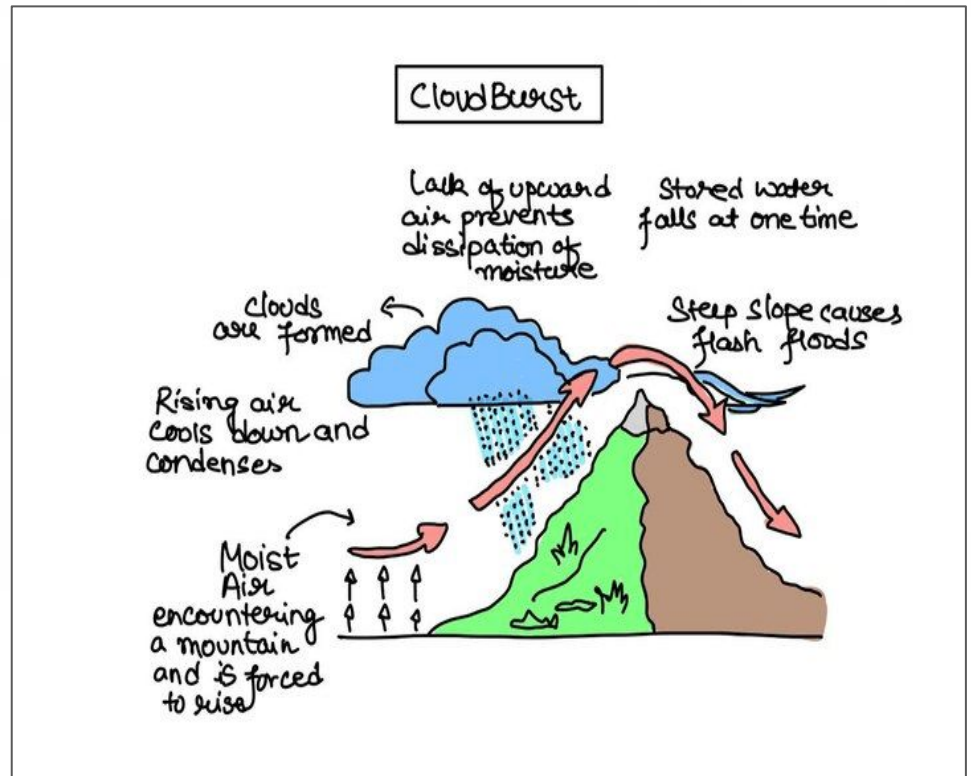


The death toll in the cloudburst-hit village of Chisoti in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district rose to 64 on Tuesday with the recovery of another body, even as the rescue and relief operations entered the sixth day.

A senior official said the decomposed body was recovered by the rescuers in the morning amid an intensified search operation due to an improvement in the weather.

Rescue teams are working in multiple locations, especially at a spot near a community kitchen frequented by Machail Mata pilgrims, which is believed to have suffered significant damage in the flash floods triggered by the cloudburst on August 14, the official added.

A total of 167 persons have been rescued while 39 persons are still missing.



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Cooperative Societies:

1. Regulation of Cooperative societies falls under the Union List in the 7th schedule of the Constitution.
2. The 97th Constitutional Amendment provided that forming Cooperative societies is a Fundamental Right.
3. Article 43B directs the State to promote the voluntary formation & autonomous functioning of cooperative societies

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

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

Answer: b

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Saltwater crocodile:

1. The saltwater crocodile is the largest in the crocodylian order.
2. In India, their population are distributed across the swamps, rivers, and mangroves of Odisha & West Bengal.
3. They are listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN List of threatened species.

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

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

Answer: c

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. "Mission 25 by 2022" was set by the Government of India to bring stunting down to 25% by 2022.
2. The POSHAN Tracker Data 2025 showed that 20% of children under five in India were stunted.
3. Data from 2019-21 shows that children born to mothers with no schooling are less stunted in comparison to children whose mothers had 12 or more years of schooling.

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

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

Answer: a

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Section 152 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 :

1. It penalises the acts that endanger the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India.
2. It covers not just physical actions, but also words, signs & electronic communications that incite or attempt to incite actions like secession or rebellion.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q5. Regarding the Green Revolution in India, consider the following statements:

1. It led to the introduction of High-Yielding Varieties seeds & new irrigation methods.
2. It aimed to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides.
3. It led to an increase in food production and a decline in food imports from other countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d





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