



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

29th August 2025



CONTEXT: PM Modi visiting Japan for 15th India Japan Annual Summit

Evolving Ties:

The era of strategic reset

- PM Yukio Hatoyama (2009)
- "East Asian Community" vision
- JICA investments
- Caution in defence cooperation

The era of strategic consolidation

- PM Naoto Kan (2010–2011) solidified ties
- CEPA
- Civil nuclear cooperation talks

The era of strategic elevation

- PM Shinzo Abe (2012–2020)
- Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy
- Annual "2+2" Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogues
- Major investments in infrastructure
- Cultural diplomacy

The era of pragmatic continuity

- PM Yoshihide Suga
- PM Fumio Kishida: Focus on cybersecurity, supply chains, and green energy
- Launched Japan-India Digital Partnership
- PM Shigeru Ishiba: defence and multilateral engagement
- New collaboration avenues in space and satellite technology

Significance of India-Japan Ties

Geo-economic

- Major Financial Commitment
 - FDI
- Strategic Economic Diversification
- Economic Security Initiative
- Strategic Financing for Security

Geo-strategic

- Japanese Pacifist Restraint to Security Engagement
- Enhanced Defence & Security
 - Exercises: Malabar (US, Australia), Milan (multilateral naval), JIMEX (bilateral maritime), Dharma Guardian (Army)
- Operational Convergence
- Shared Strategic Concerns over China
 - Chinese military assertiveness
 - Territorial tensions

Geopolitical

- Rules-Based Order
- Non-Zero-Sum Engagement
- Cornerstone of Indo-Pacific Strategy
- India's Strategic Anchor
- Strategic Autonomy
- Quad Stability



CONTEXT: PM Modi visiting Japan for 15th India Japan Annual Summit

Technological

- Advanced Technology Transfer
- Upgraded Digital Partnership

Others

- Maritime Domain Awareness
- A Model for Regional Cooperation
- Long-Term Strategic Intent
- Tourism & Diaspora

Northeast Development

- Strategic Alignment
- JICA & ODA loans
- Infrastructure Focus
 - Road Projects
 - Enhanced Connectivity
 - Urban Development
- Environmental Projects
- Energy Cooperation
 - Green Loan
 - Green ammonia
- Bamboo Initiative
- Healthcare Investment
- People-to-People Ties
 - Educational Programs
 - Historical Connection
- Recent Commitment

Significance for Japan

- Demography
- Market
- Investment Opportunities
- Raw Material

Challenges

- Bilateral Trade
 - \$22.8 bn in FY 24
- Strategic divergence
 - Stance on China
 - Stance on Russia-Ukraine war
 - Ties with US
- Osaka Track boycott
- Delay in Implementation of Projects

Suggestions

- Coherence in Indo-Pacific
- Cooperation in emerging areas
- Review implementation of CEPA
- B2B & P2P

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION:

"India-Japan relations have evolved into a strategic partnership rooted in shared democratic values and mutual interests in the Indo-Pacific. Examine the significance of India-Japan ties in the current global context. Discuss the major challenges impeding deeper cooperation between the two nations."



CONTEXT: Under the Samudrayaan Project, India plans to send 3 humans to 6km depth by 2027

- Deep Sea Mission
- UN ISA allocated 75k sq km
- Cu, Ni, Co, Mn

Significance

- Mineral & Energy resources
- Food security
- Marine biotechnology
- Environmental & climate research
- Undersea Infra
 - a. fibre optic cables
 - b. oil pipelines, mining equipment, and research stations
- Maritime security
- Blue economy

Challenges

- Extreme Pressure & Structural Integrity
 - Underwater sound propagation
 - OceanGate Titan submersible disaster
- Environmental Risks
- Prohibitive Costs & Technological Barriers
- Infrastructure Constraints
- Legal & Geopolitical Constraints

Only a few countries, such as the US, Russia, China, Japan, and France, currently possess deep-sea exploration capabilities. India will join this select group of nations with the Samudrayaan Project, which is among the six components of the Deep Ocean Mission approved by the Union Cabinet in 2021.

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NCE**

At the cost of Rs. 4,077 crores over five years, the mission will:

■ Develop technologies for deep sea mining and underwater vehicles and robotics, including a crewed submersible;

■ Develop an ocean climate change advisory service, with observations and models for future projections of climate variables;

■ Look for technological innovations to explore and conserve deep-sea biodiversity;

■ Conduct deep ocean surveys, mainly to look for mineral deposits, specifically, polymetallic nodules, which comprise layers of iron and manganese hydroxides and are found

■ Develop technologies to derive energy and freshwater from the ocean; and

■ Establish an advanced marine station for developing capacities in ocean biology and engineering.



Deep Sea Exploration



CONTEXT: Under the Samudrayaan Project, India plans to send 3 humans to 6km depth by 2027

mans. Several factors have to be considered:

Vessel development: The first challenge is developing a vehicle capable of sustaining life in the deep sea. A titanium alloy with 80 mm thickness was chosen due to its strength. But titanium is rare, and not many countries are willing to share their reserves.

Dr M Ravichandran, Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, said, "When we say 80mm thickness, it has to be precisely the same across the sphere. Even a 0.2mm deviation could lead to the collapse of the structure under such intense pressures."

The sphere is to be fabricated through a precise technique called electron beam welding, where a focused beam of high-velocity electrons melts and joins the materials. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will carry out this process.

Maintaining environment: Given that the aquanauts will be restricted to the personnel sphere, life-support systems will be needed to maintain the environment within. They must ensure that the oxygen levels remain at a certain level and the carbon dioxide levels are managed, with equipment known as scrubbers absorbing the harmful gas.

The spheres will also be equipped with packed re-breather oxygen systems, which will be deployed during an emergency. They can recirculate exhaled air after removing carbon dioxide and adding oxygen, similar to systems used by deep-sea divers.

Aquanaut health: The aquanauts must be physically fit to conduct the missions well and handle any emergencies. They also tend not to eat or drink a lot before and during their mission as they cannot access wash-rooms. During his nine-hour-long dive, Cdr Singh limited his diet to some dry fruits.

Acoustic communication: Radio waves, the basis of day-to-day communications, cannot be used for deep-sea communications. Acoustic telephones, which carry information-laden sound waves to a receiver placed just underneath the surface of the water, are used instead.

Given other countries' reticence to share this technology, India has developed its own acoustic telephone. An initial test at a harbour failed because factors such as the temperature and salinity of the water also impact its efficacy. But the indigenous acoustic phone worked well in the open ocean.



Deep Sea Exploration



CONTEXT: Under the Samudrayaan Project, India plans to send 3 humans to 6km depth by 2027

Govt Initiatives

- Deep Ocean Mission
- Samudrayaan Mission
- National Institute of Ocean Technology: Develops AUVs, ROVs, underwater robotics, mining system
- EEZ & ECS Mapping
 - NCPOR
- OTEC & Offshore Energy Projects
 - NIOT

Suggestions

- Institutes of excellence
- Funding and incentivisation
- A strong, empowered body
- Ministry of Ocean Development
- "Mission-mode" projects
- Inherently "dual use" technologies

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION:

"Deep sea exploration holds immense potential for India's energy security, resource diversification, and scientific advancement. Discuss the significance and challenges of deep sea exploration for India. What are the major initiatives undertaken by the government to promote it."



Cotton: Import Duty Exemption



SYLLABUS: G.S. 3: Major Crops – Cropping Patterns in various parts of the country
Newspaper : The Indian Express; Page No : 13

Growing Conditions

- **Climate**
 - hot, sunny
 - long frost-free periods (210 days)
 - Temperatures 21 to 30C
 - Rainfall 50–75 cm
- **Soil Types:**
 - Deccan plateau black cotton soil
 - deep alluvial soils in north India
 - black clayey soils in central
 - mixed black and red soils in south
- **Sensitivity**
 - tolerate some salinity
 - vulnerable to waterlogging
- **Growth**
 - Kharif crop
 - 6 to 8 months to mature

Challenges

- **Pink Bollworm Pest:** 35% reduced cotton yields – Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan
- **Unpredictable Yields**
 - limited irrigation
 - declining soil fertility
 - erratic weather – unexpected droughts, excessive rainfall
- **Traditional Farming Methods:** small-scale farmers, no access to modern technologies
- **Rain-Fed Cultivation:** 2/3rd
- **Low Yield:** 480 kg/hectare, global average 800 kg/hectare

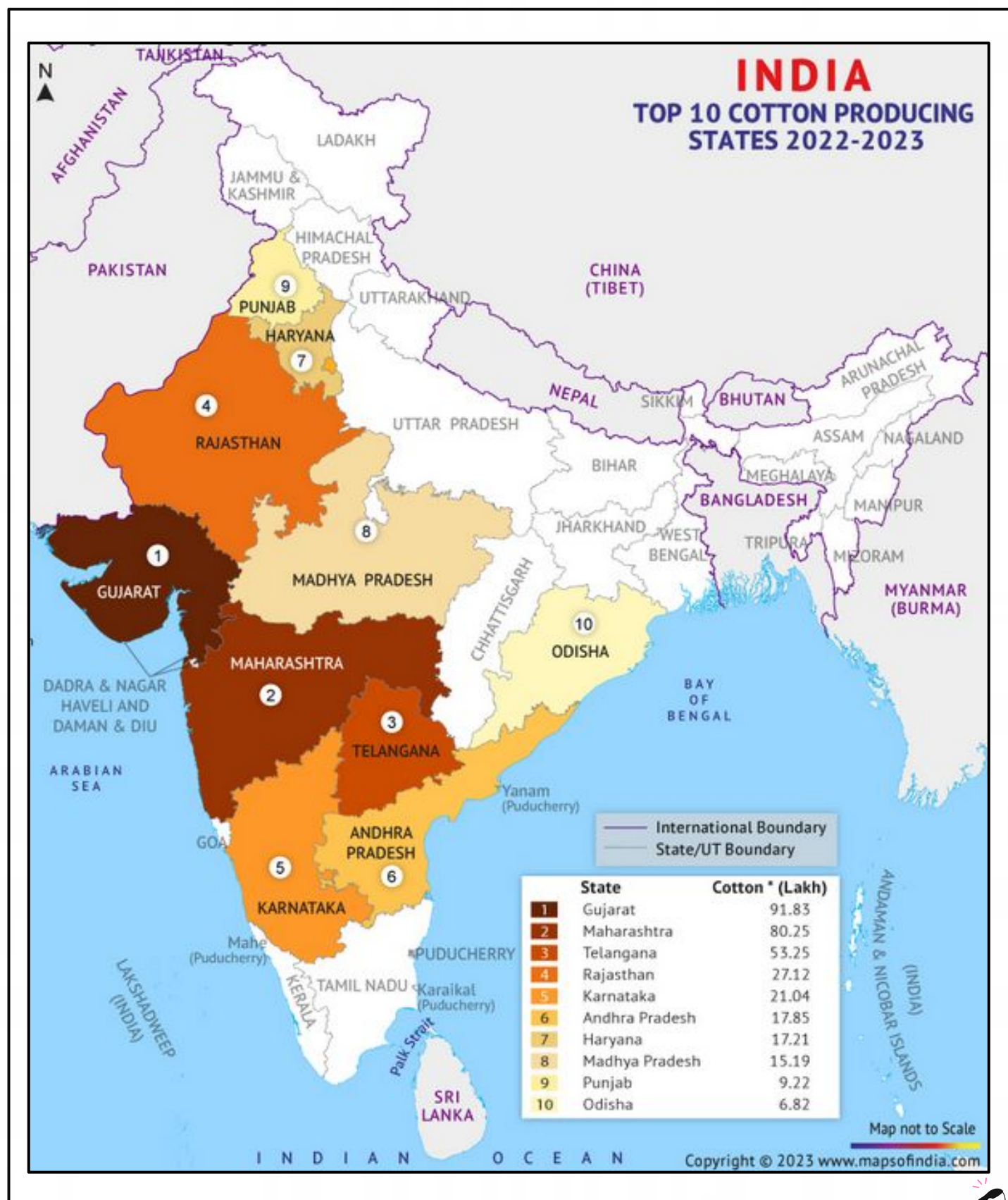
Govt Initiatives

- **Cotton Development Programme**
 - Under NFSM
 - Department of Agriculture
- **Cotton Corporation of India**
 - stabilizes prices when market rates fall
- **MSP Formula** – at 1.5 times the production cost
- **Textile Advisory Group** – Coordinates – productivity, pricing, and branding
- **Cott-Ally Mobile App:** MSP rates and procurement center information
- **Committee on Cotton Promotion and Consumption:** steady cotton supply to the textile industry



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Cotton: Import Duty Exemption

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"To augment the availability of cotton for the Indian textile sector, the Central Government had temporarily exempted the import duty on cotton from 19 August 2025 till 30 September 2025. In order to support exporters further, the Central Government has decided to extend the import duty exemption on cotton (HS 5201) from 30 September 2025 till 31 December 2025," the Ministry of Finance said in a statement.

The import duty exemption on cotton has been a long-standing demand of the Indian industry, but the government has maintained an 11 per cent duty

largely to protect small cotton farmers. Notably, cotton was among the four items that saw the sharpest increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the government in May this year as cotton production has been declining over the years.

However, the exemption extended till December 31 would impact farmers as plucking of cotton starts from October and is offloaded in the market by March. The period between October and March is known as the peak season. While the elimination of

Industry (CITI) said that US textile and apparel imports have begun surging from countries such as Vietnam and Bangladesh. "In

India's textile sector is dominated by cotton. The cotton value chain provides direct employment to nearly 35 million people and contributes around 80 per cent to India's total textile exports. India aims to more than double textile and apparel exports to \$100 billion by 2030.



SYLLABUS: G.S. 3: Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment
Newspaper : The Hindu; Page No : 9

Should States be compensated for revenue loss from GST reforms?

PARLEY

During his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a "Deepawali gift" to the people in the form of next-generation Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms. The Ministry of Finance subsequently said that a large part of these reforms involved moving GST from the current mainly four-tier system to a predominantly two-tier structure of 5% and 18%, along with an overall lowering of the average tax rate. What impact will this proposal have on revenues? And should the States be compensated for revenue loss? Pratik Jain and Manoj Mishra discuss these questions in a conversation moderated by T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan. Edited excerpts:

With the average tax rate set to come down, how do you think the government will maintain revenue?

Manoj Mishra: Whenever we talk about GST rate cuts, there is always an immediate concern of how much revenue we are really giving up. If you look at the proposals on the table, whether it is rationalising multiple slabs into just two, or cutting the 28% or 12% slab to 18% or 5%, the short-term impact is real. As per current estimates, that cut may impact ₹60,000 crore-₹1,00,000 crore per year, which is roughly 0.2-0.3% of India's GDP. In the first year of implementation (FY2025-26), when the new structure may only apply for part of the year, the likely hit would be closer to ₹45,000 crore. But this is not a permanent loss. A higher rate of around 40% on sin goods and luxury goods will help recoup some of the revenue. Second, when tax rates go down on essential goods and durables, consumption generally goes up. If you put more people into the formal billing system, you reduce leakages. We have seen this before. So, in my opinion, initially there will be a dip, but growing compliance and an increase in demand will make up for it to a large extent.

About 70% of GST revenues come from the 18% slab. That slab is not going to change materially, so the impact from these overall rate cuts is not likely to be very big. Do you agree?

Pratik Jain: You are right. That is the reason why the 18% slab is not being changed. One of the proposals was to merge the 12% and 18% slabs. But that is not happening because the government did not want to touch the 18% slab, given the revenue implications.

There are revenue implications with items moving from the 12% slab to the 5% one, and



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO

with many products moving from the 28% slab to the 18% one. But these implications would not be as severe as if the 18% slab was reduced to, say, 13% or 14-15%.

What would the average rate of GST be after the cuts?

PJ: Before GST came in, the average tax incidence was apparently around 15%. This got reduced to around 11.5% after GST came in and after the rate cuts. Currently, it is around 11.5%. The estimate is that it will be close to 10% after the rate cuts proposed by the Centre are implemented. That puts India with the best of the developed economies. To my mind, 10% is a very moderate rate. That should really put us in good stead, as we want to attract more manufacturing over a period of time.

GST revenues are divided between the Centre and the States. But are they divided equally among the States? In other words, will the revenue hit from the tax cuts be divided equally?

MM: The revenue distribution is not equal. When we talk about GST rate cuts, the impact is never going to be uniform. For example, States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are manufacturing and service-heavy States with strong urban centres. If GST is reduced on appliances or electronics, the immediate revenue collection from GST for these States would take a visible hit. On the other hand, States that are more dependent on agriculture, such as Bihar or Uttar Pradesh, may not see the same proportion of dent in revenue. This is simply because their consumption basket



As far as taxation is concerned, the States will have to start looking at their own systems and processes. They need to think of how they can plug leakages, increase the tax base, and attract more investment, so that they are self-sufficient in tax.

PRATIK JAIN

is tilted towards essentials, which are already exempted or are at a lower slab. When the GST Council cut rates in July 2018, there was an almost 3-4% dip in the monthly collections of States such as Maharashtra and Karnataka. But the smaller States, such as those in the north-east, barely felt any impact because their tax base is narrower.

Should the States' revenues be protected?

PJ: When GST was launched in July 2017, the Centre provided to the States a compensation guarantee for five years. At that point, they believed that five years is a long period for a transition and so, the States would start standing on their feet after that period got over. Five years have gone by and therefore, technically, there is no compensation (to be given). I think it is very difficult for the Centre to keep compensating the States for a regular tax. There are, of course, ways of looking at allocating more funds for, say, infrastructure development. But as far as taxation is concerned, the States will have to start looking at their own systems and processes. They need to think of how they can plug leakages, how they can increase the tax base, and how they can attract more investment, so that they are self-sufficient in tax. For a country such as ours, a regular compensation provided to the States for any loss on taxation is perhaps not an option.

MM: Whatever Pratik is saying is absolutely correct, but we have to understand that there is no equal distribution of GST revenue. So, the bigger States with larger manufacturing facilities receive a larger share of GST, while the smaller, less industrialised States receive a negligible share of total GST collections. There has to be some mechanism by which these States are compensated. Not necessarily by means of a compensation cess or something like that. There could be another mechanism. There could be a mechanism within the Consolidated Fund of India. I think in many of the developed countries which implemented a GST, initially this kind of process was followed. On the one hand, these countries provided a compensation

that came from GST itself, such as the compensation India's Centre gave the States, and on the other, these countries also provided support through their consolidated funds in the form of special packages.

PJ: I think that a separate fund could be created. A few years ago, Kerala had imposed a flood cess to raise funds for recovery. So, maybe a part of GST could go to a contingency fund where, depending on the specific situation in a State, the GST Council may decide to allocate funds. I think the States will have to see this (the rate cuts and rationalisation) as a larger reform: as a step towards ease of doing business in India and attracting more manufacturing and more investment into India. Yes, economic theories and past experience will tell you that when you reduce the tax rate, your tax base increases. But, obviously, the States will really want to see how this evolves. So, at this point in time, of course there will be some nervousness, but they must come together and appreciate and understand the long-term benefits of any tax reform.

So far, the GST Council has taken all decisions by consensus save maybe twice in its history. How optimistic are you that the GST Council will actually go ahead with the changes that the Centre is proposing and that it will not get derailed by the States which are not agreeing to this?

MM: I believe that they have already done their homework. Otherwise, the Prime Minister would not have announced this in his Independence Day speech. So, it is highly unlikely that GST Council will oppose these rate cuts. There could be some discussions around the compensation to make up for the losses, but the possibility that they will not go ahead with the rate cuts seems highly remote to me.

PJ: The Prime Minister made this statement and then it was reiterated by several government officials, so there already seems to be some consensus. I think that there could be discussions about some products, about whether they should fall in the 5% or 18% slab, for instance. Or there could be discussions about when this should be made effective. But I think they will go ahead with the decision – if not with a consensus, maybe with a vote. I see a very strong possibility of it happening in the next upcoming GST Council meeting.



To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

Impact of GST two-tier structure on revenues

- Estimated annual ₹60k cr – ₹1 lac cr (0.2-0.3% of GDP)
- Initial implementation (FY26) hit ~ ₹45k cr
- Revenue loss not permanent; can be recouped by:
 - ~40% tax rate on sin and luxury goods

- Increased consumption
- Improved compliance, formal billing
- 18% slab largely unchanged
- Average GST rate expected 10%
- Non uniform Impact:
 - Manufacturing/service-heavy States
 - Agriculture-dependent States
 - Narrower tax base states



States compensation for GST revenue loss



SYLLABUS: G.S. 3: Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment

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

Should the States' revenues be protected?

- Initial 5-year compensation guarantee
- Regular compensation mechanism?
- Expectation of self-sufficiency
- But revenue distribution is unequal
- Suggestion to create a new mechanism for support
 - A dedicated contingency fund e.g. Kerala flood cess
 - Support allocated from CFI
 - Long-term benefits
 - i. Attracting investment
 - ii. Boosting the tax base

GST Council

- **Composition - Article 279A(2):** Chair + Members
- **Vice-Chairperson**
- **Functions - Article 279A(4):**
 - Taxes, cesses, and surcharges which may be subsumed
 - Goods and services that may be subjected to, or exempted
 - Model GST Laws, principles of levy, apportionment of GST levied in course of inter-State trade, principles that govern the place of supply

- Threshold limit of turnover below which exempt.
- Floor rates with bands of GST
- Special rate for additional resources - natural calamity or disaster.
- **Article 279A(5):** recommend the date - PNG, ATF
- **Article 279A(11):** mechanism to adjudicate
- **Functioning of GST Council**
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ of the total Members - quorum
 - Every decision - $\frac{3}{4}$ of the weighted votes of the members present and voting
 - Central Government - weightage of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total votes cast



Looking for Prithu, the Assam King



SYLLABUS: G.S. 1: Indian History: significant events, personalities

Newspaper: The Indian Express; **Page No :** 12

"When Bakhtiyar Khilji destroyed Nalanda, the symbol of our ancient civilisation, he believed India's spirit could be broken. But in the sacred soil of Assam, Maharaja Prithu of Kamarupa rose in valour and struck him down, avenging that desecration," he said.

Today, Prithu is being projected as an Assamese icon, much like the Ahom general Lachit Borphukan, who is credited with defeating the Mughal Army in the 1671

Battle of Saraighat. But unlike Borphukan, who has long been central to Assam's historical imagination, Prithu's emergence is relatively recent.

Bakhtiyar Khilji in Assam

Bakhtiyar Khilji was a military general of the invader Muhammad of Ghor. He led a series of campaigns in eastern India, and is most commonly associated with the sacking of the Buddhist monastery in Nalanda.

Historians agree that the first Turko-Afghan incursion through modern day Assam in 1206 CE was thwarted. But the identity of the local ruler who defeated Khilji's armies is unclear.

The most direct local written reference is a rock inscription in Kanai Barasi Bowa, an archaeological site on the river bank in North Guwahati. The inscription states that the Turks who entered Kamrup were destroyed in the Saka area 1127 (1206 CE) but does not name any local ruler.

The Persian chronicle *Tabaqat-i-Nasiri* contains details of a military defeat at the hands of the "Rae of Kamrud" (Kamrup), and refers to a ruler named Bartu.

Based on these two facts, and later material referring to a ruler called Prithu, historian Kanak Lal Barua in his 1933 book *Early History of Kamarupa* wrote that "it is very probable that this Prithu Raja was the king of Kamarupa who caused the destruction of Bukhtiyar's forces in 1206 AD".

"The capital of Prithu was North Guwahati in the vicinity of which he repulsed... Bukhtiyar," Barua wrote.

However, the broad consensus among scholars, as noted by historian Nirode Baruah in his 2011 paper 'Kamarupa to Kamata: The political transition and the new geopolitical trends and spaces' had been that "the identity of Prithu is very difficult to establish."

EXPL
HIST



Looking for Prithu, the Assam king



SYLLABUS: G.S. 1: Indian History: significant events, personalities

Newspaper : The Indian Express; Page No : 12

Nalanda University

- New Nalanda University campus near Rajgir's ancient university ruins
- most ancient university on the Indian Subcontinent
- Founder: Kumar gupta in the early 5th century
- Era of Harshavardhan and the Palas
- center of learning, culture, and intellectual exchange
- monastic establishment
- Students from China, Korea, Japan, Tibet etc
- Subjects such as medicine, Ayurveda, religion, Buddhism, mathematics, astronomy, Indian philo
- destroyed in 1193, by Turkish ruler Qutbuddin Aibak's general Bakhtiyar Khilji
- UNESCO World Heritage Site



Elderly Women: caring for the quiet majority



SYLLABUS: G.S. 2: Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections

Newspaper : The Hindu Page No : Science

Issues of Elderly Women in India

- Longer but Unhealthier Lives: Higher average lifespan than men
- Socio-Cultural Barriers
- Decision-Making Gatekeepers
- Financial Insecurity & Dependency: 60% no personal income
- Lack of Health Insurance
- Digital Gender Gap
- Physical Access Barriers
- Lack of Gender-Sensitive Care
- Underdiagnosis of Chronic Conditions
- Late-Stage Cancer Diagnosis
- Higher Risk of Neurodegenerative Diseases
- Mental Health Neglect: Depression and anxiety due to loneliness, caregiving stress, and widowhood

Suggestions for Elderly Women in India

- Inclusive Data Collection: gender-disaggregated data
- Community-Based Outreach: Scale up mobile health units e.g., Kerala's Vayomithram Project
- Comprehensive Geriatric Screening: for under-diagnosed conditions e.g. osteoporosis, dementia
- Strengthen National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE)

• Pension Reforms

- a. Care credits
- b. State pensions indexed to inflation

• Evolved Health Insurance

- **Integrate Assistive Schemes:** Link Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (for aids and devices) with local health worker outreach

- **Promote Social Support Groups:** e.g., Kerala's Kudumbashree

- **Build Senior-Friendly Infrastructure**

- **Training for Healthcare Workers**



Demographic Dividend: a time bomb



SYLLABUS: G.S. 1: Population and Associated Issues

Newspaper : The Hindu; Page No : 8

Challenges in Utilising India's Demographic Dividend

- **Outdated Education System:** preparing students for disappearing jobs
- **Widespread Skills Mismatch:** only 43% deemed employable
- **High Graduate Unemployability:** 40-50% of engineering graduates
- **Automation Threat:** 70% of Indian jobs at risk
- **Lack of Career Awareness:** 93% aware of only 7 traditional careers
- **Insufficient Career Guidance:** 7% formal career guidance
- **Misaligned Degree Choices:** 65% pursue degrees not of interest
- **Traditional, Exam-Centric Focus**
- **Ineffective Skilling Initiatives**
- **Commoditized Online Certificates:** EdTech platforms focus on test prep
- **Risk of Social Unrest**



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Bamboo Development initiative:

1. It is a collaborative effort between India and China.
2. Its objective is to transform North East India into a hub of innovation and design for branded bamboo-based products.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q2. Which of the following statements regarding the Samudrayaan project is NOT correct?

- a) It is India's first manned mission to explore the deep ocean.
- b) India would become the sixth nation to undertake successful deep-ocean crewed missions.
- c) The submersible will go to a depth of 10,000 meters in the ocean.
- d) The project is part of the larger Deep Ocean Mission.

Answer: c

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Cotton:

1. It is a rabi crop.
2. It requires 100–200 cm of rainfall for its growth.
3. It requires at least 210 frost-free days.

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

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

Answer: a

Q4. Which of the following statements is NOT correct regarding GST Council?

- a) It is a constitutional body established under Article 279A.
- b) The Union Finance Minister is the Chairperson of the Council.
- c) To conduct a meeting half of the total members must be present.
- d) Every decision of the Council requires unanimous approval of all members.

Answer: d

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Nalanda University:

1. It was founded by Kumargupta I of the Gupta dynasty in 5th century CE.
2. Bakhtiyar Khalji, destroyed ancient Nalanda University in 1205 AD.
3. The ruins of Nalanda were declared as a UN World Heritage Site in 2016.

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

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

Answer: b





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