



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**06th August 2025**



# India's presence amid broken geopolitics

**CONTEXT:** The world order today is fragmented — countries are acting to protect their own interests.

## The Global Context

### Types of world order

Polarity in international relations

Major powers —  
Smaller states —  
Alliances —



#### Unipolarity

One superpower dominates global order, with no other state able to challenge its status

Example:

United States after the fall of the USSR in 1991

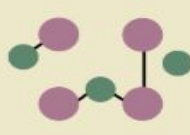


#### Bipolarity

Two major superpowers compete for dominance, forcing others to choose sides

Example:

United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War



#### Multipolarity

Three or more major powers compete to secure their interests, without aiming for global dominance

Example:

Interwar period (1919-1939), or most of history

Sources: Stimson Center, Post factum

Post factum

**Old model:** "We trade freely, follow WTO rules, cooperate in crises."

**New reality:** "We protect our markets, use sanctions, weaponize trade & technology."

### The "Broken Template" of Geopolitics:

- **Alliances** are no longer based on shared values
- **Weaponization** of Economics
- Erosion of **Multilateralism**

## India's Issues

### ● The Unpredictable United States

- On Terrorism
- On Trade and Economy
- On Regional Stability

### ⚖ Double Standards in the West

- **Example 1: Tech & Trade with China**
- **Example 2: EU Oil Imports**

### An Aggressive China

- **New group** (Pak + BD); next Dalai Lama, trade surplus, Brahmaputra River

## RUSSIA

### Who buys Russian crude oil?

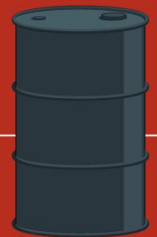
In 2023, crude oil was Russia's biggest export commodity valued at \$122bn.

China buys nearly half, followed by India and the European Union.

China  
49%  
\$60.7bn

India  
39.9%  
\$48.6bn

European Union  
8.2%  
\$10.03bn



# India's presence amid broken geopolitics

**CONTEXT:** The world order today is fragmented — countries are acting to protect their own interests.

## 🇮🇳 India's Evolving Strategy: The "Tightrope Act"

### Old Strategy (Being on the Sidelines)

Deccan Herald

Global South Credibility: India's Neutral Stance Undermines Leadership Ambitions

Geopolitical Spotlight: India's reluctance to take firm positions on global conflicts is eroding its leadership credibility in the Global...

3 weeks ago

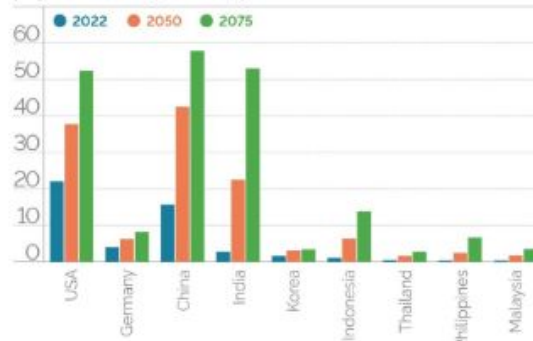


### New Strategy

- Calling Out **Double-Speak**
  - **Taking a Stand**
  - **Multi-Alignment**
1. **The West:** The Quad (India, U.S., Japan, Australia).
  2. **The "Anti-West" Bloc:** BRICS (and new members) and SCO

### China and India Are Set to Surpass the US

Selected countries' real GDP in US\$ (trillion) in 2020 and projections for 2050 and 2075



Source: Goldman Sachs, Dec 2022

ISPI

### Strategic Actions for Multi-Alignment

#### 1. With the West

- Free and open **Indo-Pacific**
- Focus on **Technology** (iCET)
- Finalize **Trade Deals**
- Asserting **right to make sovereign decisions.**

#### 2. With Russia

- Maintain Defense & Energy Ties
- Leverage Multilateral Forums
- Finalize **Trade Deals**
- Gradual **Diversification**

#### 3. With China

- **No normalization** of relations until the border situation is resolved
- Economic **De-risking**
- **Diplomatic** Engagement

#### 4. With the Global South and the Neighbourhood

- **Be a "Leading Voice"**
- Offer a **Credible Alternative**
- **"Neighbourhood First"**

### MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

For India to navigate a world of unpredictable allies, hypocritical trade partners, and an aggressive neighbour, multi-alignment is not just a choice—it is a necessity. Comment. (15 Marks, 250 words)

As India is consolidating its new role as a global power, the multi-alignment policy has worked towards strengthening her position on the global platforms. India is taking successful steps forward in balancing the Global North and Global South while continuing the "multi-pivot" approach.



# Centre Opposes Lowering Age of Consent

**CONTEXT:** The Union Government has told the Supreme Court it opposes lowering the age of consent from 18 to 16 years under child protection laws.

## Key Features of POCSO Act

**1 Definition of a Child:** Any person below 18 years

### 2 Types of Sexual Offences Covered

<b>Penetrative Sexual Assault</b>	Any form of sexual penetration (rape).
<b>Non-Penetrative Sexual Assault</b>	Touching private parts, making a child touch someone else.
<b>Sexual Harassment</b>	Stalking, showing pornography, making sexual remarks.
<b>Child Pornography</b>	Recording, distributing, or possessing explicit content of children.
<b>Aggravated Sexual Assault</b>	More severe if committed by a <b>family member, teacher, police officer, or someone in authority.</b>

### 3 Special Safeguards for Victims

- ✓ **Child-friendly** investigation (police = protectors).
- ✓ **Fast-track courts** (cases be resolved within 1 year).
- ✓ No **direct confrontation** between victim and accused.
- ✓ **Mandatory reporting**

### 4 Punishments Under POCSO

<b>Penetrative Sexual Assault</b>	10 years to life imprisonment.
<b>Aggravated Penetrative Assault</b>	20 years to <b>death penalty</b> (2019 amendment).
<b>Non-Penetrative Assault</b>	3–5 years imprisonment.
<b>Child Pornography</b>	5 years + fine.

## The POCSO Act: Protecting Children

The POCSO Act, enacted in 2012, strengthens legal protections for children against sexual abuse and exploitation in India. It defines offenses, prescribes punishments, and facilitates child-friendly justice and rehabilitation.

POCSO  
ACT

## Key Preventive Measures in the POCSO Act

- Mandatory Reporting**  
Section 19 requires anyone suspecting child sexual abuse to immediately report it to authorities. Failure can result in penalties.
- Child-Friendly Procedures**  
Special courts handle cases sensitively, allowing victims to testify remotely to protect their dignity and minimize trauma.
- Public Awareness**  
The Act mandates awareness campaigns and education programs to empower children and inform the public.



Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC)



## POCSO Act

-  **Child Friendly**
-  **Can avail Emergency Medical Treatment**
-  **Provisions for avoiding re-victimisation of the child**
-  **Special Court to decide compensation for the child**
-  **Can testify through Video-link**
-  **Child is given police protection during the Investigative Procedure**



# Centre Opposes Lowering Age of Consent

**CONTEXT:** The Union Government has told the Supreme Court it opposes lowering the age of consent from 18 to 16 years under child protection laws.

## UPSC PYQ (P) 2010

With reference to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, consider the following:

1. The Right to Development
2. The Right to Expression
3. The Right to Recreation

Which of the above is/are the Rights of the child?

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

## Legal & Constitutional Framework

<b>Article 15(3)</b>	Allows special laws for protection of women & children
<b>Article 21</b>	Right to life, dignity, privacy
<b>Article 39(e)-(f)</b>	Protect children from abuse, ensure childhood development
<b>UNCRC</b>	India obligated to protect children <b>till 18 years</b>





# Centre Opposes Lowering Age of Consent

**CONTEXT:** The Union Government has told the Supreme Court it opposes lowering the age of consent from 18 to 16 years under child protection laws.



## Centre's Rationale

Age of consent is age at which a person is considered to be legally competent to consent to sexual acts.

## ✓ 2007 WCD Ministry study:

53.22% of children faced **sexual abuse**  
50% of abusers were **known figures**

Statutory Protection	Age 18 ensures <b>non-negotiable shield</b> against exploitation	Law / Provision	Current Rule
High Risk of Abuse	Lowering age could be exploited by traffickers, abusers & older predators	<b>POCSO Act, 2012</b>	Sexual activity with anyone <b>under 18</b> = statutory offence, regardless of consent
Vulnerability of Minors	Many minors lack <b>legal, emotional, developmental capacity</b> to give informed consent	<b>Section 375 IPC</b> (Sec. 63 of BNS, 23)	Sexual intercourse with a girl <18 years = <b>rape</b>
Ground Reality	Abuse often by <b>known persons</b> – lowering age makes it harder to protect	<b>Indian Majority Act, 1875</b>	Defines majority age as <b>18 years</b>
International Obligations	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child mandates protection till <b>18 years</b>	<b>Juvenile Justice Act, 2015</b>	"Child" = person below <b>18 years</b>
Parliamentary Intent	18 years chosen deliberately across <b>multiple laws</b> for child protection	<b>Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006</b>	Marriage below 18 for girls is prohibited

## ✗ Problems with Current Law

**Controversy:**  
Age of Consent

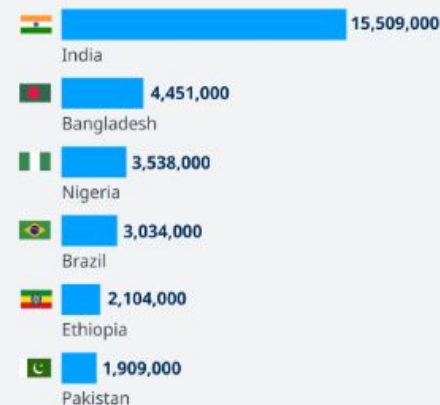
**Criminalizes Teen Relationships**

**PARENTS & Inter-caste or inter-religious relationships**

**Courts burdened – 25% of POCSO cases**

**Violates Privacy – Abortions**

## Countries with the highest number of child marriages\*



Source: Population data from United Nations |  
\*Women who were first married or in a union before they were 18-years-old

© DW

**POCSO Act Often Misused To Settle Personal Scores, Even In Matrimonial Disputes False Accusations Made To Deny Custody To Father: Kerala HC**

Manju Elsa Isaac

8 July 2024 5:45 PM

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**POCSO ACT**

Age disaggregation of children who are victims of sexual abuse (Girls and Boys)



Source : NCPR 2016





# Centre Opposes Lowering Age of Consent

**CONTEXT:** The Union Government has told the Supreme Court it opposes lowering the age of consent from 18 to 16 years under child protection laws.

## Counter-Argument: Indira Jaising (Amicus Curiae)

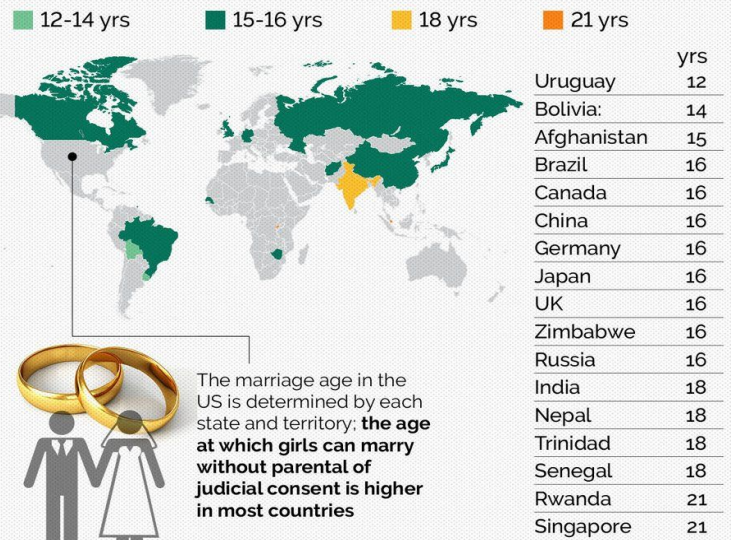
### ✓ NFHS-5 Data:

39% of women had their **first sexual experience** before 18.  
45% of **unmarried girls** (15-19) use contraception

💡 Proposal	📄 Rationale
<b>Close-in-age Exception</b>	Consensual sexual activity between <b>16-18-year-olds</b> shouldn't be criminalised
<b>Avoid Misuse of POCSO</b>	Prevents prosecution in cases of <b>mutual adolescent relationships</b>
<b>Redefine "Child" in POCSO</b>	Exclude adolescents (16-18) from "child" definition <b>for consensual cases</b>
<b>Align with Protection Goals</b>	Law should focus on <b>exploitation</b> , not criminalising <b>consensual peer relationships</b>

## LEGAL AGE OF MARRIAGE FOR WOMEN

As India proposes to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years, a look at minimum age at which some countries allow females to marry with parental consent



Source: UN Data, news reports

**NEWS18**  
creative

## What is judiciary's stand wrt age of consent?

<i>Rama v. State Karnataka</i>	High Court quashed criminal proceedings; <b>consensual relationship</b> of a minor girl.
<i>Vijayalakshmi v. State Rep (2021)</i>	" <b>punishing an adolescent boy</b> who enters into a <b>relationship</b> with a minor girl was never the objective of POCSO Act"
<i>Skhemborlang Suting v. State of Meghalaya (2021)</i>	<b>Couple got entangled</b> under POCSO Act as the wife was a minor
<i>Karnataka High Court</i>	Asked the Law Commission to <b>rethink the age criteria for consent</b>
<i>Madhya Pradesh High Court</i>	<b>Gross injustice</b> in cases of <b>rape</b> where de facto consent is present.

### Recommendations of Law Commission

**Favours retaining the age**

**Less sentence wrt age 16**

**Marital rape**

**International regulatory landscape**

**Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram**



# Centre Opposes Lowering Age of Consent

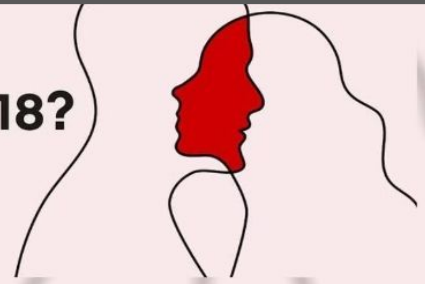
**CONTEXT:** The Union Government has told the Supreme Court it opposes lowering the age of consent from 18 to 16 years under child protection laws.

## Mains Practise Question

**Should India lower the age of consent to 16? Critically Analyse.**

(15 Marks, 250 words)

16 OR 18?

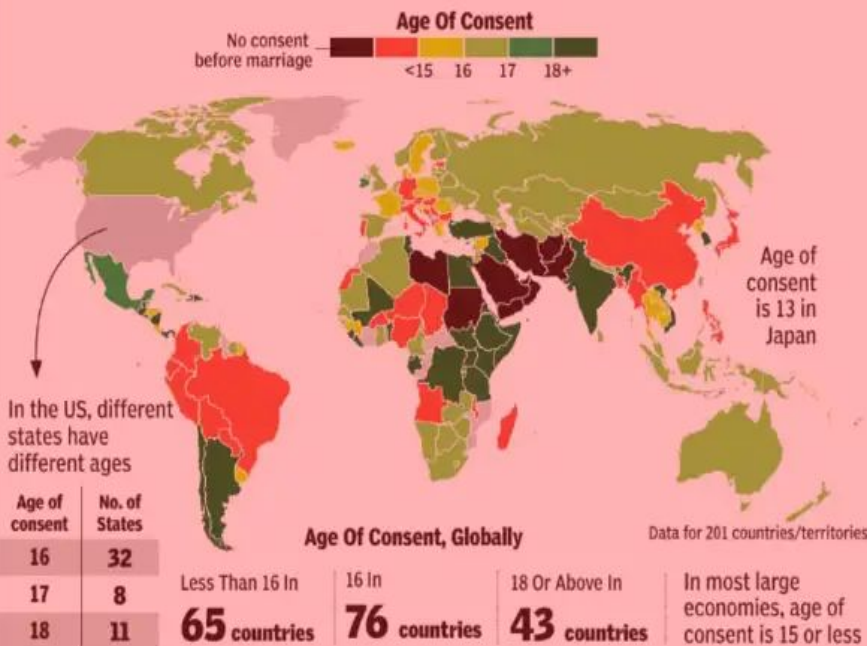


## India Needs to Lower Age of Consent (And Stop Misuse of Child Protection Laws)

"The current age of consent, which is 18 years, does not reflect societal realities and results in the law criminalising adolescent sexuality rather than focusing only on child sexual abuse."

## IT'S 16 OR LESS IN MOST COUNTRIES

There is no uniform standard globally for the age of consent. Determining it involves a delicate debate: fix it too low and it might lead to risky sexual behaviour among adolescents; set it too high, and it may over-criminalise teenagers



### US And 'Romeo & Juliet' Laws

Such laws are applicable in 26 US states, offering 'close-in-age exemption', which is available based on certain criteria. For example, in Delaware, where the age of consent is 18, this exemption applies when minors aged 16 and 17 have sex with a person who is less than 30 years of age or if they are married at that time.

### How India Went From 10 To 18

10 yrs	Indian Penal Code, 1860
12	Age of Consent Act, 1891
14	IPC amendment, 1925, Sharda Act (Child Marriage Restraint law), 1929
16	IPC amendment, 1940
18	Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1978

Source: Ageofconsent.net





**SYLLABUS : Prelims** : Indian & World Geography **GS 1, 3** : Important Geophysical phenomena, Disaster and disaster management

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

## Why Uttarkashi (HIMALAYAS) Is So Vulnerable



### 1 High-altitude Himalayan District

Sources of **Ganga & Yamuna**  
Glaciers, steep valleys, deep gorges

### 2 Steep Slopes = Fast Water Flow

### 3 Loose Soil + Moraine from Past Landslides

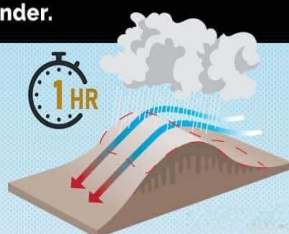
### What Happened This Time

- **Climate Change**
- Heavy, continuous **rain** for 3 days
- **Topography**
- **Mudslides & debris** flows
- Debris-laden water @speed

## WHAT IS A CLOUDBURST?

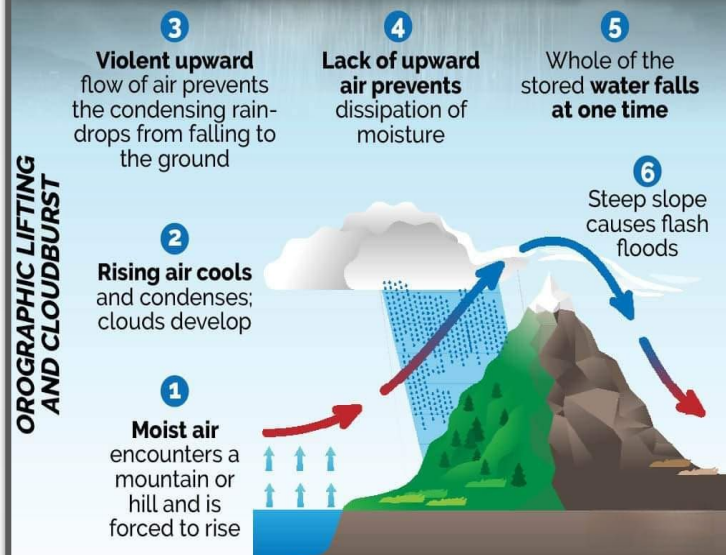
A cloudburst is a sudden and intense rainfall that is typically brief and localised. **These events are particularly common in mountainous regions and are often accompanied by hail and thunder.**

According to the IMD, if **10 cm rainfall** is received at a station in one hour, the rain event is termed as cloud burst.



## WHAT CAUSES CLOUDBURSTS?

Cloudbursts occur only via orographic lift i.e. a situation when a warm air parcel mixes with cooler air, resulting in sudden condensation.





**SYLLABUS : Prelims** : Indian & World Geography **GS 1, 3** : Important Geophysical phenomena, Disaster and disaster management

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

## ✗ Why This Was NOT a Cloudburst

A huge cloudburst in Dharali village of Uttarkashi has caused widespread devastation, claiming the lives of at least 4 individuals and leaving more than 50 others missing.

### IMD Definition:

Rainfall  $\geq 100$  mm in  
1 hour over  $\sim 10$  km  $\times$   
10 km area.

### 📊 Rainfall Data for Tuesday (Uttarkashi):

- 24-hour total: **2.7 mm** ☁️ (well below threshold)
- No 1-hour burst meeting **cloudburst criteria**.
- Heavy rain occurred in **other parts** of Uttarakhand (e.g., Haridwar: 300 mm in 24 hrs).

### 📌 How Landslides Trigger Flash Floods

- ▲ Steep Himalayan Slopes
  - ☁️ Heavy Rain for Days
  - ↓
  - Soil Saturates & Loosens
  - ↓
  - 🏠 Landslide/Mudslide Falls
  - ↓
  - Debris Enters Rivers at High Speed
  - ↓
  - ➡️ Fast-moving water downstream
  - ↓
  - 🌊 Flash Flood in Villages

## 🔧 Mitigation & Preparedness



### 📌 Early Warning Systems

### 📌 Zoning & Land Use Regulation

### 🌳 Eco-restoration

### 📌 Community Alerts





# India & Philippines Upgrade Ties

**SYLLABUS :** Prelims Current events of National & International importance **GS 2:** Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests  
**Newspaper** The Hindu **Page Number :** 01

## IN PH India-Philippines



1949	India-Philippines diplomatic relations established
2024 (Apr)	Philippines became <b>first foreign buyer of BrahMos missile system</b> from India
2025 (Aug)	First bilateral naval drill in disputed South China Sea
Policy Links	<b>Act East Policy, SAGAR, MAHASAGAR</b> doctrines guide India's Indo-Pacific engagement

### India's Maritime Doctrines

- SAGAR** – Security And Growth for All in the Region
  - Free, open, inclusive **Indo-Pacific**
  - Infrastructure & Investment**
- MAHASAGAR** – Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions (2025)
  - Integrates **QUAD** cooperation

## IN PH 1st Bilateral Naval Exercise in the South China Sea

### Disputed claims in the South China Sea

#### Claims

- China
- Philippines
- Malaysia
- Brunei
- Vietnam

**Area:** South China Sea covers more than 3 million sq km

**Trade:** Over \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes through the sea annually

**Oil and gas:** Major unexploited oil and gas deposits are believed to lie under the seabed



Sources: CSIS/AMTI/D. Rosenberg/Middlebury College/Harvard Asia Quarterly/Phil govt/China Maritime Safety Administration

AFP

### About the Exercise

**Location:** Near **Scarborough Shoal**

**Participants:** Indian Navy ships & aircraft, Philippine Navy ships.

#### Why This Exercise Matters

- Counters **China's aggression**
- INDIA** = security partner
- Coordination with **ASEAN navies**
- Supports **safe sea lanes**
- Support for **freedom of navigation** (UNCLOS 1982).

**Econ Value** 11 bn barrels of **oil**, 190 tn cubic feet **natural gas**

**Fishing** **Half of world's fishing vessels** operate here

**Trade Route** **21% of global trade** (~\$3.37 trillion)



# India & Philippines Upgrade Ties



**SYLLABUS : Prelims** Current events of National & International importance **GS 2:** Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests  
**Newspaper** The Hindu **Page Number :** 01

## Other areas of cooperation

<b>Hydrography Ship</b>	Indian hydrography ship joins mapping & survey operations
<b>Coast Guard MoU</b>	Terms of Reference for <b>Indian Coast Guard – Philippine Coast Guard</b> cooperation
<b>Counter-Terrorism</b>	Philippines condemned Pahalgam terror attack
<b>Legal Agreements</b>	Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters; Transfer of Sentenced Persons
<b>Trade &amp; Economic Cooperation</b>	
<b>Preferential Trade Agreement Talks</b>	Lower tariffs, boost bilateral trade
<b>Double Tourism &amp; Business Links</b>	<b>Direct flights</b> starting 2025; <b>Free e-tourist visas</b> for Filipinos for 1 year
<b>Digital Economy</b>	India to support <b>Philippines Sovereign Data Cloud</b> project
<b>Information Fusion Centre</b>	Invite for Philippines to join India's IFC-IOR for maritime domain awareness

### UPSC PYQ (P) 2018

Consider the following pairs:

Regions sometimes	Country mentioned in news
1. Catalonia	Spain
2. Crimea	Hungary
3. Mindanao	Philippines
4. Oromia	Nigeria

Which of the above is/are the Rights of the child?

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

### UPSC PYQ (P) 2011

Southeast Asia has captivated the attention of global community over space and time as a geostrategically significant region. Which among the following is the most convincing explanation for this global perspective?

- (a) It was the hot theatre during the Second World War
- (b) Its location between the Asian powers of China and India
- (c) It was the arena of superpower confrontation during the Cold War period
- (d) Its location between the Pacific and Indian oceans and its preeminent maritime character





# How should money laundering be tackled?

**SYLLABUS : Prelims** Current events of National & International importance **GS 3:** Money-laundering and its prevention  
**Newspaper** The Hindu **Page Number : 10**

## Understanding Money Laundering – From Basics



### 1. Place- ment

Introducing illegal money into the financial system.  
**Smurfing** – breaking large sums into smaller deposits.

*Breaking ₹1 crore into 200 deposits of ₹50,000.*

### 2. Layer- ing

Moving funds between multiple accounts, countries, or assets to hide the trail.

*Sending funds through offshore shell companies.*

### 3. Integra- tion

Bringing the "cleaned" money back into the economy as legitimate income/assets.

*Investing in real estate, starting a business, or buying luxury goods.*

### Definition (PMLA, 2002):

Money laundering is the process of **concealing or disguising** the origins of money obtained through illegal means, so that it appears legitimate ("untainted").

### WHO IS A LAUNDROMAT?

### ⚠ Impacts of Money Laundering?

## ✓ Measures to Improve AML in India

### 📖 Prevention of Money Laundering Act

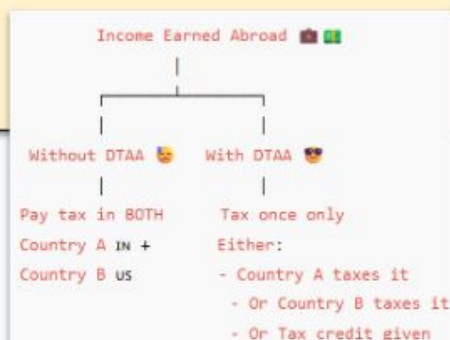
#### (PMLA), 2002

- Burden of Proof/ ECIR/ Property/ ED

### 🌐 Role of FATF & Global Standards

### ✳ Double Taxation Avoidance

### Agreement



### ⚖ Judicial Observations

Vir Bhadra Singh vs ED (2017)

ECIR enough; no FIR needed

P. Chidambaram vs ED (2019)

Hiding illegal sources harms financial system & sovereignty

Vijay Madanlal Chaudhury vs UOI (2022)

Scheduled offence needed for prosecution, but **property can be attached earlier** → risk of misuse

# How should money laundering be tackled?

**SYLLABUS :** Prelims Current events of National & International importance **GS 3:** Money-laundering and its prevention  
**Newspaper** The Hindu **Page Number :** 10

## 🚧 Challenges in Tackling Money Laundering

📅 Since **2015: 5,892 cases** under PMLA.  
✅ **Convictions: 15 only** 😬 → Very low success rate.

📉 **Low conviction** rate.

🏛️ **Political misuse** of ED powers.

👮 **Poor coordination** between ED, RBI, SEBI, FIU.

🐢 **Slow trials** in special PMLA courts.

🌐 Hard to trace **cross-border** transactions.

📄 **Weak compliance** by some banks on KYC.

BusinessToday.In

## INVESTIGATION IN CASES OF MONEY LAUNDERING



Searches conducted  
**3,086**



Enforcement reports recorded  
**4,964**



Prosecution Complaints filed  
**943**



Persons convicted  
**23**

Note: Investigations from July 2005- Feb 2022  
Source: Ministry of Finance

TheWire

### The Supreme Court's Complicity in the ED's Unchecked Power

In oral remarks, the court now voices concern. But these rhetorical flourishes cannot substitute for jurisprudential clarity and...

1 week ago



## ✅ What Can Be Done?

✂️ **Strengthen ED investigation skills** → forensic accounting.

🤖 **Use AI & data analytics** to track suspicious transactions.

👉 **Better inter-agency coordination.**

⚡ **Fast-track special courts** for PMLA cases.

🚫 **Prevent political misuse** → independent oversight.

🗣️ **Public awareness** on KYC, suspicious transactions.

🌐 **Stronger treaties** → DTAA, MLAT

## Anti-Money Laundering Regulators in India



**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**



**Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)**



**Enforcement Directorate (ED)**



**Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**



**Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**



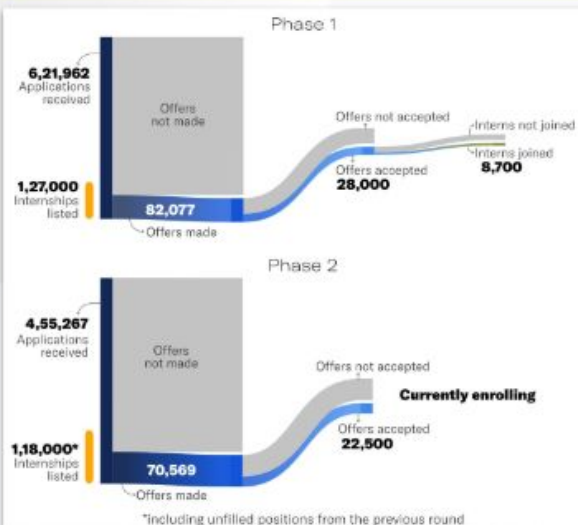


**SYLLABUS : Prelims :** Economic Development  
**GS 2 :** Government policies and interventions  
**Newspaper** The Indian Express **Page Number : 17**

## About the PM Internship Scheme

<b>Target group</b>	Youth aged <b>21–24 years</b> from <b>low-income households</b> (≤ ₹8 lakh annual income).
<b>Internship duration</b>	<b>12 months</b> full-time in top 500 companies.
<b>Pilot goal</b>	<b>1.25 lakh</b> youth.
<b>Long-term goal</b>	<b>1 crore</b> internships in 5 years.
<b>Sectors</b>	24
<b>Exclusions</b>	IIT, IIM, NLU, CA, MBA, MBBS graduates; students from premier institutions
<b>Educational eligibility</b>	10th / 12th / ITI / Polytechnic / Diploma holders, fresh graduates from <b>non-premier institutions</b> .
<b>Stipend</b>	₹4,500/month ( <b>Govt.</b> ) + ₹500 (Company <b>CSR</b> ) + ₹6,000/year

## ✂ Issues Identified in Pilot Phases



Number of interns by company (top 10)

ONGC	841	NSE	437
NTPC	685	Rolience Industries	402
Power Grid Corp.	549	Indian Oil Corp.	344
Oil India	492	MRF	257
HDFC Bank	490	Numaligarh Refinery	233

scheme; the Committee urges the Ministry to act swiftly and decisively to overcome/address the key challenges faced during pilot phase viz. mismatch between the number of internship opportunities offered and actual participation; longer duration of internships; under-utilisation of funds; imbalanced gender ratio of male to female interns stands at 72:28; lack of alignment between candidates' interests and the roles offered," the report stated.

The gender imbalance with the ratio of male to female interns of 72:28 was one of the key concerns flagged by Parliament's Standing Committee on Finance to the government, as per a report of the Committee tabled in Lok Sabha on Monday. "While appre-

1. Low **Acceptance & Joining Rates**
2. **Gender Imbalance**
3. **Fund Utilisation Issues**
4. **Eligibility Concerns**
5. **Skills-Industry Gap**

# PM Internship Scheme



**SYLLABUS : Prelims :** Economic Development

**GS 2 :** Government policies and interventions

**Newspaper** The Indian Express **Page Number : 17**

## Reforms Introduced for Round II

### Transparency in information:

- Company name, profile, **geotagged location** shown before application.
- Extra benefits offered by companies displayed.

**IEC campaigns:** Awareness drives to boost participation.

**Encouragement to states:** State dashboards for monitoring.

**Focus on inclusivity:** Steps to increase **female participation**.

Parameter	Round I	Round II
<i>Internship opportunities posted</i>	1.27 lakh	71,000+ offers made so far
<i>Applications received</i>	6.21 lakh	4.55 lakh applications
<i>Applicants</i>	1.81 lakh	2.14 lakh
<i>Offers accepted</i>	28,000	22,500+ (selection ongoing)
<i>Female applicant share</i>	31%	41%





06th August 2025

**SYLLABUS : Prelims :** Current events of National & International importance

**GS 2 :** Government policies and interventions

**Newspaper** The Hindu **Page Number :** 16

## **Ayurveda Aahara: Traditional Food Wisdom**

### AyushAhar Logo

Letters "ॐ" and "A" Combined in Such a Way That They Appear to be a Single Form

Symbolic 5 Leaves Represents 5 Elements viz Ether (Akash), Air (Vayu), Fire (Agni), Water (Jal/Asas) and Earth (Prithvi)

**आयुर्वेद आहार**  
**Ayurveda Aahara**

Color Green or Colore Tones of the Logo Representing Ayurveda Aahara is Natural, Biotic, Wholesome, Herbal & Organic

To Help Consumer to Identify the Product as Ayurveda Aahara

The Design of the Logo is Such That it Contains Initial Letter of Words आयुर्वेद and Aahara in Devanagari & English

### Ministry of Ayush + FSSAI

#### Meaning

Ayurvedic food products prepared according to principles in classical Ayurvedic texts.

#### Core Idea

#### Food = Medicine

Diet should maintain **balance** in body & mind.

#### Key Principles

Seasonal suitability (**Ritucharya**), body constitution (**Prakriti**), use of herbs & spices, natural & minimally processed ingredients.

#### Therapeutic Value

Improves digestion (**Agni**), boosts immunity (**Ojas**), supports longevity (**Ayush**).

## **Highlights of the New List**

### **Food Safety and Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations, 2022**

- Recognises **Ayurveda-based food preparations**
  - **Categories** wrt traditional recipes, ingredients & processes
- **Source:** Classical Ayurvedic texts listed in **Schedule A**
  - Eg: Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, Bhavaprakasha

#### Flexibility:

- FBOs can request inclusion of **new** products.
- Must provide **references** from authoritative Ayurvedic texts.
- All **changes** to be notified by FSSAI.

### **Examples of Ayurveda Aahara Preparations** (Indicative, from classical texts)

<b>Grains</b>	Shashtika Shali rice	Easily digestible, nourishes tissues
<b>Beverages</b>	Jeera water, herbal decoctions	Improves digestion, detox
<b>Snacks</b>	Roasted gram with spices	Light, balances Kapha
<b>Milk</b>	Turmeric milk	Anti-inflammatory, boosts immunity
<b>Fermented Foods</b>	Takra (buttermilk)	Enhances gut health

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding punishments under the POCSO Act:**

1. Penetrative Sexual Assault is punishable with 10 years to life imprisonment.
2. Aggravated Penetrative Sexual Assault may attract the death penalty, as per a 2019 amendment.
3. Non-Penetrative Sexual Assault carries a penalty of 3 to 7 years imprisonment.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Cloudbursts :**

1. It typically occurs due to orographic lifting, where moist air is forced to rise over hills or mountains.
2. A violent upward flow of air during the process can prevent raindrops from falling, leading to the sudden release of water.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding India-Philippines relations:**

1. India and the Philippines established diplomatic relations in 1949.
2. In April 2024, the Philippines became the first foreign country to purchase the BrahMos missile system from India.
3. India and the Philippines held their first bilateral naval drill in the South China Sea in August 2025.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the stages of money laundering:**

1. Placement involves introducing illicit money into the financial system, often through tactics like smurfing.
2. Layering refers to moving money across multiple accounts, assets, or borders to obscure its origin.
3. Integration is when the illicit money is withdrawn and donated to charities anonymously.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the PM Internship Scheme:**

1. It targets youth aged 21-24 years from households with an annual income  $\leq$  ₹8 lakh.
2. Students from IITs and IIMs are given preference under this scheme.
3. The long-term goal is to provide 1 crore internships in 5 years.

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

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

**Answer: b**







# **VAJIRAM & RAVI**

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