

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

16th September 2025



Supreme Court order on Waqf Act



CONTEXT: The Supreme Court on Sunday stayed certain provisions of the Waqf Amendment Act

WHAT'S WAQF?

A wagf is established when an individual voluntarily dedicates property for religious, charitable or pious purposes in accordance with Islamic law. This dedication permanently transfers ownership from the individual to God, making the property inalienable and managed by an appointed supervisor (mutawalli). Waqf properties include mosques, prayer grounds, shrines, Sufi centres, graveyards, educational institutions and shelter homes. Waqf boards-statutory bodies under the Waqf Act-administer these properties at the state level. The Central Waqf Council, established in 1964, provides national oversight

872,000

No. of properties

Waqf boards manage, covering over 9.4 lakh acres

59,000

properties face encroachment by private individuals, businesses and even government entities waqf boards functioning across the country

₹12,000 cr.

Annual revenue

waqf properties could potentially generate. Actual collection is around Rs 200 crore (Sachar Committee Report, 2006)

What is the Waqf Act, 1995?

As per this act, Waqf is "the permanent dedication of movable or immovable property for the purposes enshrined in Islam as pious, religious, or charitable."

What are Waqf properties?

Waqf properties are donated by followers of Islam and are managed by members of the community. Each state has a Waqf Board, which is a legal entity that can acquire, hold, and transfer property. Waqf properties cannot be sold or leased permanently.

<u>Legal Framework:</u>

- **1954:** The first Waqf Act was passed by Parliament.
- 1995: The Act was repealed and replaced with the Waqf Act, 1995, which granted more powers to Waqf Boards and formalized the regulation of Waqf properties.
- **2013:** Amendments gave Waqf Boards significant authority to declare properties as Waqf.

- Mutawalli: Each Waqf is managed by a mutawalli, or caretaker, who ensures the property is used according to its intended purpose.
- Survey Commissioner:
 Appointed to identify and list Waqf properties by conducting local investigations, examining records, and summoning witnesses.
- Waqf Boards: State-level statutory bodies responsible for managing Waqf assets. They can:
 - a. Administer and recover Waqf properties
 - b. Authorize transfer of immovable Waqf property (sale, lease, mortgage, etc.) with two-thirds board approval
 - c. Take legal action when necessary
- Central Waqf Council (CWC): Established in 1964, the CWC advises and oversees State Waqf Boards.



Supreme Court order on Waqf Act

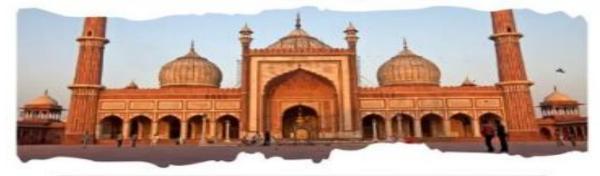


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14 MAJOR CHANGES IN THE WAQF ACT



Control Over Waqf Properties

- ② 2 women and 2 non-Muslim members to be included.
- Representation for Shia, Sunni, & backward Muslim communities.
- Separate Waqf Boards for Bohra and Agakhani Muslims.
- Central govt can appoint 3 members to the Joint Waqf Council (earlier 2, all Muslim).

Control Over Waqf Properties

- Govt-appointed auditor or CAG to audit Waqf assets. District Collector, not Survey Commissioner, to handle surveys.
- Waqf properties must be registered with the Collector.
- Collector can declare Waqf land as govt property and update records.
- No property will be Waqf without proper documentation.



Supreme Court order on Waqf Act



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DELHI WASF BOARD SOLET OF CHILD CONTROL OF CHILD CONTROL

CONTEXT: The Supreme Court on Sunday stayed certain provisions of the Waqf Amendment Act

Status of major provisions

TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

- Collector's authority to unilaterally declare land as waqf or govt property and change revenue records.
- Requirement that only a practising Muslim for 5 years can create waqf, pending state-level rules.
- Creation of third-party rights in disputed waqf properties during tribunal or court proceedings.
- Limit of four non-Muslim members in the Central Waqf Council.
- Limit of three non-Muslim members in state waqf boards.

ALLOWED TO REMAIN

- Mandatory centralised registration of waqf properties on a national digital portal.
- Removal of the "waqf by user" provision.
- Application of the Limitation Act to claims or interests in waqf property.
- Exclusion of properties gifted or donated by non-Muslims from the act's purview.
- Prohibition on declaring land in scheduled or tribal areas as waqf.

<u>Associated Concerns With the Amendment:</u>

- Reduced Powers of Waqf Boards:
 Section 40 deleted, Power shifted to government officials, Weakens Waqf Board authority.
- Excessive Government Control:
 Increased role of DM,Bureaucratic interference, Centralized decision-making
- Violation of Religious Autonomy:
 Non-Muslims on Waqf Boards,
 Undermines Article 26 (religious freedom), Community rights compromised.
- Ambiguity in 'Practising Muslim: No clear legal definition, Risk of misuse and misinterpretation, Legal uncertainty
- Removal of 'Waqf by User': End of recognition through long-term religious use, Threat to historic mosques, dargahs, graveyards, Loss of protection

Religious Freedom Undermined :

State control over religious endowments, Community autonomy reduced, Encroachment on faith-based management

 Increase in Legal Disputes: New verification rules, More litigation, delays, Confusion in property status

The Way Forward:

- Dialogue, Communications-Stakeholders Consultations, Tech for monitoring, compliance, and revenue tracking
- Define Key Terms Clearly: "practising Muslim": Standard criteria for property classification
- Focus on revenue generation for community welfare
- Clear dispute resolution mechanism:
 Protect properties from encroachment and illegal transfers

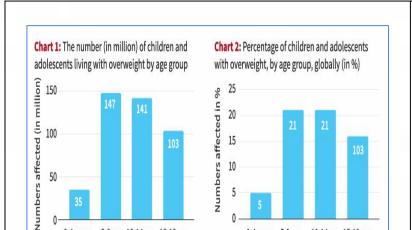


India: The new obesity capital

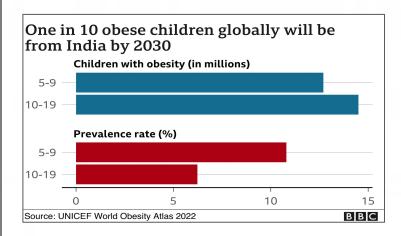


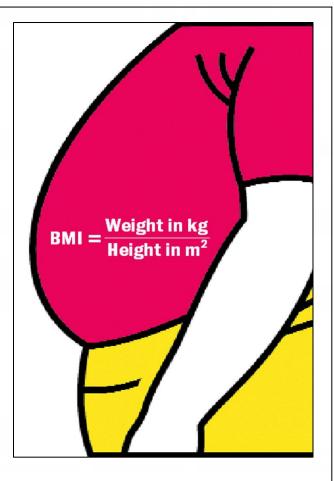
CONTEXT: A write up has appeared focusing on rising obesity

0-4 years 5-9 yrs 10-14 yrs 15-19 yrs



0-4 years 5-9 yrs 10-14 yrs 15-19 yrs





Basic determinants

- •Income;
- •Information;
- Technology;
- •Employment;
- Infrastructure

Underlying causes

- •Sedentary lifetsyle;
- •Lack of dietary diversity;
- Poor infant and child feeding practices;
- •Poor water and sanitation

Immediate determinants

- Physical inactivity;
- •Poor dietary intake;
- Disease

<u>Issues</u>

- Maternal overnutrition (overweight and obesity);
- •Child undernutrition (stunting, wasting and underweight)

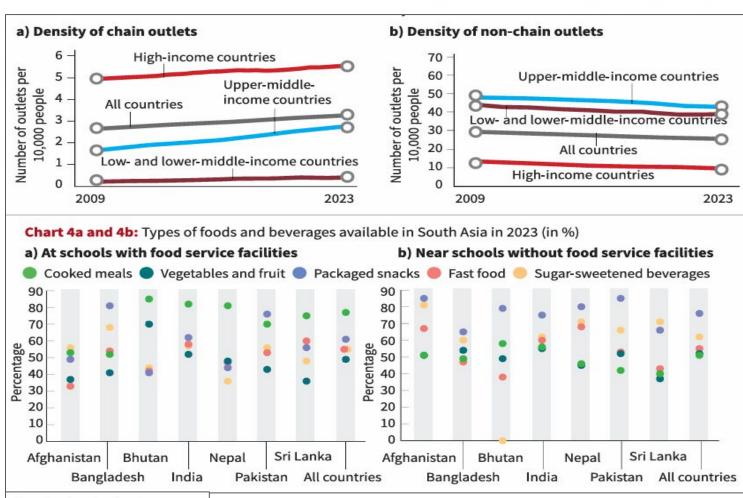
Consequences

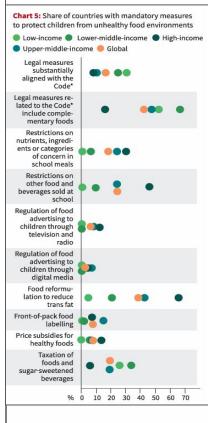
- •NCDs;
- •Poor reproductive health;
- •Growth retardation;
- •Impaired cognitive development

India: The new obesity capital



CONTEXT: A write up has appeared focusing on rising obesity





Reasons for Rising Obesity:

- Ultra Processed Foods
- Regulatory Challenges

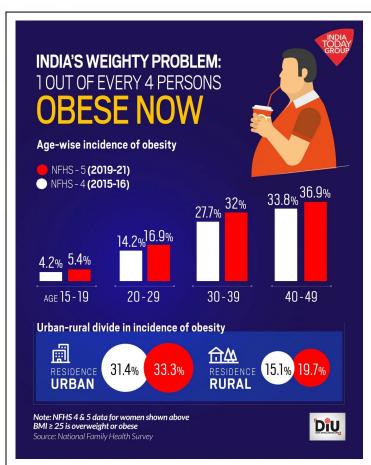
National Trends: NFHS-5:

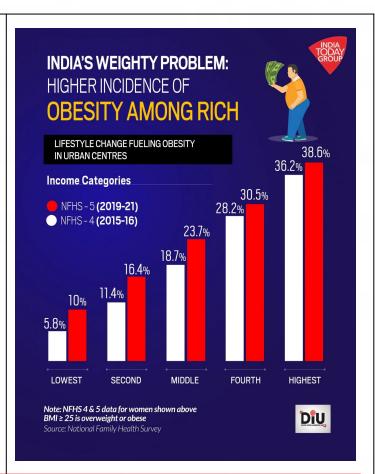
- Increases with age: from 7% (men 15-19 yrs) to 32% (men 40-49 yrs).
- Rises with income: from 10% (lowest quintile) to 37% (highest quintile).
- Affects both genders: Waist-hip ratio increases from 46% to 65% in women, 28% to 60% in men (ages 15-49).
- **Urban-rural divide:** Overweight/obesity affects 46.1% of urban men, 43.1% of urban women, compared to 35.4% and 31.6% in rural areas.

India: The new obesity capital



CONTEXT: A write up has appeared focusing on rising obesity







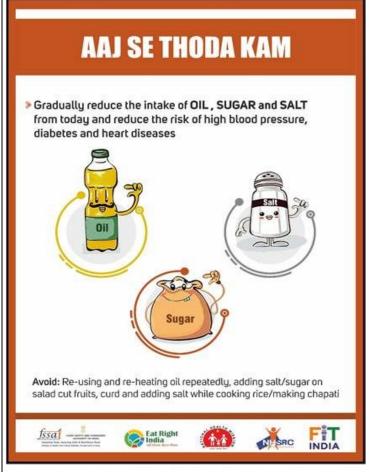


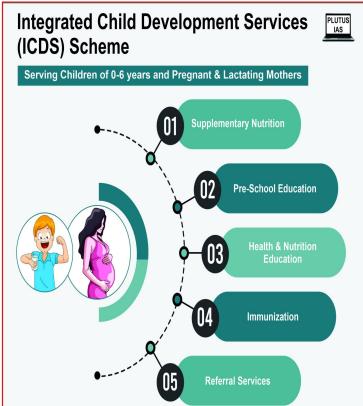


India: The new obesity capital



CONTEXT: A write up has appeared focusing on rising obesity











India: The new obesity capital



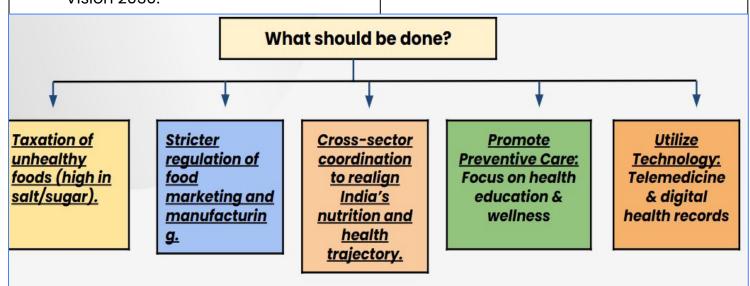
CONTEXT: A write up has appeared focusing on rising obesity

<u>Global Best Practice:</u> Saudi Arabia Model:

- 50% tax on sugary drinks, 100% on energy drinks.
- Mandatory calorie labelling, sodium limits in processed food.
- Recognized by WHO for trans fat elimination and sodium best practices.
- Integrated strategy across policy, industry, and civic engagement under Vision 2030.

Chile's Warning Label Model:

- Black front-of-pack warning labels on HFSS (High Fat, Salt, Sugar) foods.
- Marketing restrictions on junk food, especially to children.
- School food regulations: Banned unhealthy foods.





SC on anticipatory bail in caste crime



16th September 2025

SYLLABUS: GS 2: Executive & Indian Constitution

Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 14

The story so far:

n September 1, the Supreme Court quashed a Bombay High Court order that had granted anticipatory bail to an accused of caste crimes. In the case of Kiran vs Rajkumar Jivaraj Jain, a Bench led by Chief Justice of India B. R. Gavai held that Section 18 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, creates a specific bar against anticipatory bail for crimes made out prima facie. This case involves caste-based assault, abuse, and intimidation linked to an electoral dispute.

excludes the application of Section 438 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) (Section 482 of BNSS), which allows anticipatory bail. The Parliament has inserted this bar to protect victims from intimidation and to ensure effective prosecution.

Drawing upon precedents such as State of M.P. vs Ram Krishna Balothia (1995), Vilas Pandurang Pawar vs State of Maharashtra (2012), and Prathvi Raj Chauhan vs Union of India (2020), the court reiterated that offences under the Act form a distinct class tied to systemic

untouchability and caste discrimination. The bar is constitutionally valid and does not violate Article 14 or 21 of the Constitution. Courts, the Bench clarified, cannot conduct a "mini-trial" at the bail stage and are only required to examine whether a prima facie case exists.

In this case, the use of caste slurs, the public nature of the assault, and the electoral motive made the offence squarely fall within the ambit of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, thereby ruling out anticipatory bail.

Why is anticipatory bail barred under the SC/ST Act?

The Supreme Court underlined that Section 18 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, categorically

Key observations

The Bench clarified that insults and assaults that occur outside the complainant's house, in a manner visible to others, count as acts "within public view," a statutory requirement under Section 3(1)(r). It further noted that the attack was triggered by the complainant's voting choice, which attracted Section 3(1)(o) of the Act that criminalises coercion or retaliation in voting against SC/ST members. Independent witness accounts, recovery of weapons, and

The way forward

The ruling reinforces that the SC/ST Act is not a procedural formality but a substantive shield to safeguard the dignity and security of vulnerable communities. The bar on anticipatory bail, although strict, is constitutionally sound because it addresses the very real threat of intimidation and retaliation against Dalit and tribal complainants.

Going forward, courts must respect the legislative intent of Section 18 and avoid diluting its force by treating allegations as exaggerated without trial, and apply the "prima facie test" strictly on the face of the FIR, without slipping into evidentiary analysis. The judgment also recognises

TYPES OF BAIL

MEANING

REGULAR BAIL Bailable offence -(Section 478 of BNSS)



Accused has a right to bail upon arrest, with a mandatory release under Section 478 & indigents may be released on a bond without sureties.

Non - Bailable offence - (Section 480 of BNSS)



Accused has a right to bail upon arrest, with mandatory release if bail is posted, and indigents may be released on a bond without sureties.

.....

ANTICIPATORY BAIL (Section 482 of BNSS)



It allows an accused person to apply for bail before their arrest.

STATUTORY BAIL OR DEFAULT BAIL (Section 187(2) of BNSS)



The term is limited to 15 days during the first 40/60 days of a 60/90-day detention period.

INTERIM BAIL (Section 483 of BNSS)



Interim bail is a temporary release for an accused during their trial.

What is 'involution'?



16th September 2025

SYLLABUS: GS 3: Growth and Development Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 10

The story so far:

or some years now, the Chinese economy has faced what has locally come to be called nêijuân, or an involution. It is a process in which rivals in certain sectors indulge in price wars, attempting to capture market share and clear out oversupply of goods. However, these price wars are counterproductive, as they reach thresholds where the retail price of the product is so low that even the production costs cannot be realised. pushing firms into losses. This has been most apparent lately in China's electric vehicle sector, so much so that China's President Xi Jinping has prescribed corrective measures in a recent article in Oiushi. This phenomenon is not new in

price wars.

Industry leaders themselves have called this an "involution." Beijing has begun an anti-price-war push as top executives warn of severe consolidation among the 120-130 EV makers in the country.

What is the Chinese government doing to rein in the process in the EV sector?

On May 31, the Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) assured to rein in involution in the EV sector. This was followed by June 30 news coverage in the Chinese media, which framed a Politburo communication as Mr. Xi's "war on price wars".

On July 24, Beijing released a draft overhaul of the pricing law to curb below-cost selling and algorithmic pricing abuses.

On Monday, Mr. Xi's article in *Qiushi*, the Chinese Communist Party's theoretical magazine, called for curbing "disorderly price competition" and an "orderly exit" of outdated capacity, the clearest sign yet that the Central government plans a phased slowdown of price wars.

on Chinese EVs, set at 100% (from 2024), along with higher duties on EV batteries and parts, effectively mean a trade embargo on Chinese EVs by the United States. Since October 30, 2024, the EU has imposed "countervailing duties" on Chinese EVs (e.g., BYD 17.0%, Geely 18.8%, SAIC -35%), on top of the standard 10% import duty. This is to ostensibly counter the "subsidies" provided by China to its EV sector. But, Europe's auto sector is at an inflection point with plummeting sales in its iconic brands as Europeans begin to buy the technologically superior Chinese EVs at highly competitive prices. The countervailing duties are a desperate attempt to save Europe's once export-heavy auto industry. The commission has also entertained talks on minimum price undertakings in 2025.

Turkiye added a 40% extra tariff on Chinese vehicles in 2024, and Mexico has moved toward a 50% tariff to head off U.S.-bound transshipment.

As a result, Chinese Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) intensified competition at home, fuelling

Trade Remedies Allowed By WTO

Anti-dumping duty | If a company exports a product at a price lower than the price it normally charges in its home market, it is said to be "dumping" the product. Govts have to establish that dumping is causing material or genuine injury to domestic industry

Countervailing duty | If

domestic producers are hurt by imports of subsidised products, countervailing duty can be imposed

Safeguard action | It allows a country to temporarily restrict imports of a product if its domestic industry is injured or threatened with injury due to an import "surge"

Aadhar is part of Statute, can be used by Voters



16th September 2025

SYLLABUS: GS 2: Government Policies & Interventions

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 10

The Supreme Court on Monday said Aadhaar was part of the right-to-vote statute, and voters were permitted to utilise the unique identity proof to the extent permitted by the law.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi was responding to submissions intended to portray Aadhaar as inferior to the 11 documents listed by the Election Commission for voter verification during the special intensive revision of Bihar electoral rolls.

This has come barely a week after the court declared Aadhaar as the "12th document" aggrieved voters could attach in their claims and objections for including or excluding names on the voter list.

Plea against order

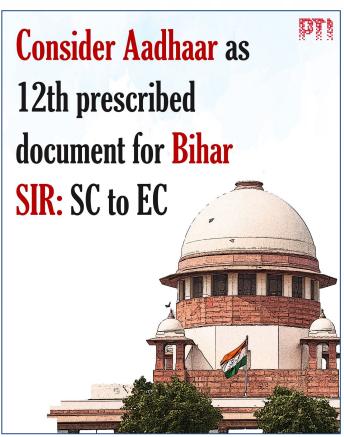
Section 23(4) of the Representation of the People Act allows use of Aadhaar to authenticate entries

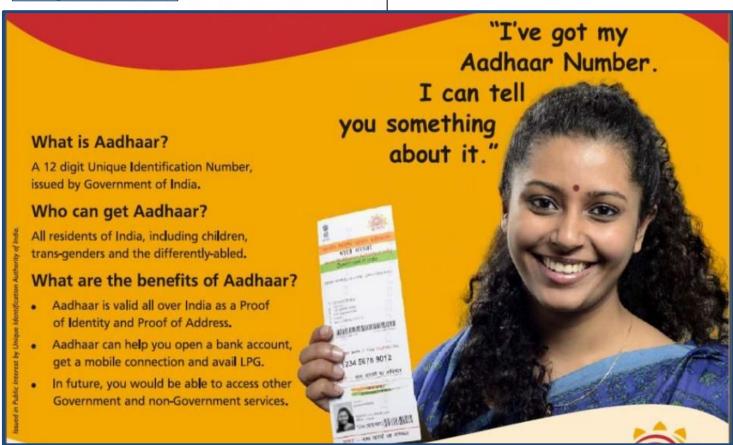
then what Aadhaar was meant to prove. Mr. Upadhyay said it was merely a "simple" proof of identity.

Referring to Section 23 (4) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, Justice Bagchi asked if Aadhaar was not part of the statute which governed the EC with regard to the right to vote and inclusion on the rolls.

The Section permits EC officials to use Aadhaar to authenticate entries on the electoral rolls.

To this, Mr. Upadhyay argued that Aadhaar could not be equated with any of the other 11 documents. "So, are you saying that a land record (one of the 11



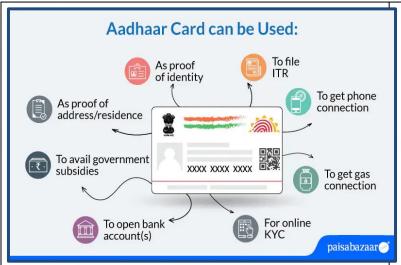


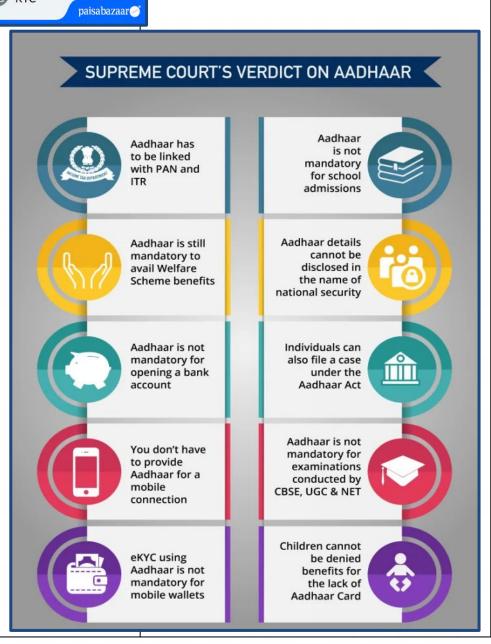
Aadhar is part of Statute, can be used by Voters



SYLLABUS: GS 2: Government Policies & Interventions

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 10





Periodic Labour Force Survey



16th September 2025

SYLLABUS: GS 3: Employment, Growth & Development

Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 15

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG the female youth rose for the third time in four months in August, according to data from the statistics ministry's latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), even as the all-India unemployment rate declined to a joint fivemonth low of 5.1 per cent.

As per the PLFS data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Monday, the unemployment rate for urban females in the 15-29 years age bracket rose to 25.7 per cent in August, more than 10 percentage points higher than the figure for young

urban males. At 15.6 per cent, the August unemployment rate for young urban males was down from 17.1 per cent the previous month. This helped drag down the overall urban youth unemployment rate to 18 per cent from 19 per cent.

The picture was similar in rural India: the female youth unemployment rate rose to 14.3 percent, while that for males declined to 12.6 percent. Both numbers stood at 13 percent in July. The increase for females and decrease among males cancelled each

Indicator Definition Worker Percentage of employed **Population Ratio** persons in the population. (WPR) Labour Force Percentage of persons in the **Participation** labor force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in Rate (LFPR) the population. Unemployment Percentage of persons unemployed among persons in Rate (UR) the labour force. **Activity Status** Determined based on the activities pursued by a person during a specified reference period (preceding date of survey). **Current Weekly** Reference period is 7 days. Status (CWS)

Reference period is 365 days.

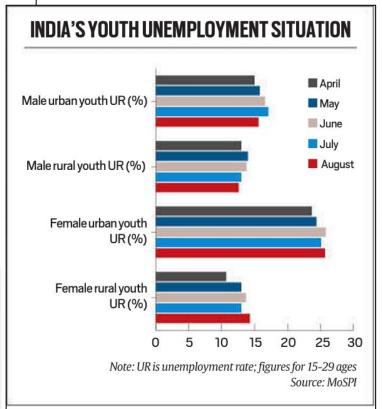
Usual Status

other out, leading to the rural youth unemployment rate staying steady at 13 per cent in August.

The rise in unemployment among the female youth came amid only a slight increase in their Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) to 21.4 per cent from 21.1 per cent and an unchanged Worker Population Ratio (WPR) of 17.6 per cent at a national level.

For young males, the all-India LFPR declined to 60.7 per cent from 60.9 per cent, driven by a 70-basis-point (bps) drop in their rural LFPR. Young rural males also saw their WPR decline to 53.4 per cent from 53.7 per cent.

The monthly jobs data is based on the Current Weekly Status (CWS) approach. Under





Plans for second Indigenous population of Cheetahs in MP



16th September 2025

SYLLABUS: GS 3: Conservation

Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 13

TO BUILD a second home for the cheetah in India, Madhya Pradesh plans to introduce a female into the Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary, the Chambal river valley wildlife park into which two males were released in April.

Kuno National Park, the cheetahs' first home, now has 29 of the big cats. The cheetah had been extinct in the wild in India before 20 individuals were transported from southern Africa in two batches in 2022 and 2023.

The planned relocation of a female to Gandhi Sagar, which straddles the districts of Mandsaur and Neemuch on Madhya Pradesh's border with Rajasthan, carries the exciting prospect of a potential new population of cheetahs some 280 km from Kuno.

Nineteen of the cheetahs now in Kuno were born in India, and are doing well. The plan for a mating program at a second

location is being pursued against the backdrop of deadlocked talks to get more of the animals from South Africa, Kenya, and Botswana.

After the first few days, she begins moving in a 'star' pattern in various directions,

but always coming back to the den.

The female nurses her cubs for about 4 months, and during this period and in the latter weeks of her pregnancy, she expends 2-5 times more energy in attempts to avoid predators and search for water and food.

Cheetah cubs grow faster than the young of any other large felid, gaining about 45 grams of weight daily. To



grams of weight daily. To maintain adequate milk production for cub growth, the mother needs more than 1.5 kg of food every day.

Threats to mothers & cubs

J S Chauhan, architect of the Kuno National Park and a former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) of Madhya Pradesh, told The Indian Express that it is a "good idea" to try to increase the cheetah population, and more females should be introduced into Gandhi Sagar. However, it is important to ensure there are enough prey

to support more of the animals, he said.

The presence of leopards, a co-predator, in the same area is a major concern. Twenty-four leopards were counted in the 64-sq-km cheetah enclosure at Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in late 2024, and 17 of them were relocated by March 2025.

The leopard density in Gandhi Sagar is now less than in Kuno, while the enclosure in which the female will be housed is much larger.

Officials will monitor the female, which is likely to be moved to Gandhi Sagar after the monsoon, and the two males, Prabhash and Pavak, closely before they are allowed to mate.

In May 2023, Daksha, a female, died after suffering grievous injuries in a violent interaction with two male cheetahs during a mating attempt.

Monitoring the process

A dedicated team will monitor the female cheetah's hunts and watch out for



Plans for second Indigenous population of Cheetahs in MP



SYLLABUS: GS 3: Conservation

Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 13





Daily Quiz



16th September 2025

Q1. Consider the following statements:

- Gandhi Sagar sanctuary on the Chambal river valley is an important protected site for the conservation of the Asiatic Cheetah.
- 2. Asiatic Cheetahs are considered the second fastest land animal.
- 3. Asiatic Cheetahs are listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

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 Anticipatory Bail:

- The Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes
 Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989 provides for
 Anticipatory bail for crimes committed against the
 vulnerable section of society.
- 2. Section 482 of Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Samhita provides for anticipatory bail under which an accused can apply for bail even before arrest.

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: b

Q3. The Chinese economy is considered to be facing "Involution". Which of the following statements correctly describes the concept of "Involution"?

- a) It is a process in which high inflation in the economy leads to large scale job creation.
- It is a process in which rivals in certain sectors indulge in price wars, attempting to create a monopoly.
- c) It is a process in which the market phases a K-shaped recovery or uneven recovery of different sectors after an economic overhaul.
- d) It is a process in which, with increasing domestic production, the unemployment level in the economy decreases significantly.

Answer: b

Q4. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Worker Population Ratio (WPR) is the percentage of employed persons in the population.
- Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is the percentage of people in the labour force, excluding those who are currently seeking work.

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: a

Q5. Which of the following statements regarding the Aadhaar is NOT correct?

- a) It can only be issued to an Indian citizen.
- b) It is a unique 12-digit identification number for the residents of the country.
- c) It is a valid proof of identity & address.
- d) It can be used to file Income tax returns.

Answer: a





VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121 Visit us at: www.vajiramandravi.com