



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**2nd September 2025**



# Equilibrium with Tianjin Declaration



**CONTEXT:** At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit, **Tianjin (2025)** → India, Russia, China showcased unusual warmth.

## Current Dynamics of Tianjin troika, Hello Trump



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Tianjin on Monday. ANI

**Oppose terrorism: PM at SCO summit** **Modi touts peace as he meets Putin**

**TIANJIN**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked whether "open support" of terrorism by some countries was acceptable, as he spoke at the summit meet of the heads of state of the SCO on Monday. "We must jointly oppose terrorism in all its forms and colours," he said. » PAGE 11

**TIANJIN**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday and stressed the need for a ceasefire in Ukraine. "Had an excellent meeting with President Putin... Discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in all sectors," he said. » PAGE 11

**Geopolitical flux**  
Trump's US vs India + China  
Washington's tilt towards Pakistan

**Mutual costs of prolonged hostility: Ind - Ch**

**Economic compulsions**

- PM Strategy**
- Visit to Japan
  - No Asia Monopoly
  - Neighbourhood Watch

## SCO heads strongly condemn terrorist attack in Pahalgam

'PRIORITISE GLOBAL SOUTH'

**Xi pushes for equal, multipolar global order as he slams Trump over tariffs**

Says rules of a few countries must not be imposed upon others, calls for opposing 'bullying practices'

**Opp urges caution, cites Pak-China 'jugalbandi'**

Tharoor calls engagement 'right step,' says can't be 'victims' of both US and China

## Highlights of a Hypothetical "Tianjin Declaration"



**FOR THE RECORD**  
NARENDRA MODI

I am pleased to participate in the 25th SCO summit. I extend my sincere gratitude to President Xi for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality.

Today marks Uzbekistan's Independence Day, and yesterday was the National Day of Kyrgyzstan. On this occasion, I extend my congratulations and best wishes to both leaders.

Over the past 24 years, the SCO has played a vital role in connecting the extended family across the Eurasian region. As an active member, India has always contributed in a constructive and positive manner.

India's vision and policy towards the SCO are built on three key pillars: **S** – Security, **C** – Connectivity, **O** – Opportunity.

- Commitment to **Multipolarity**
- Upholding **Sovereign Equality**
- Deepening **Eurasian Economic Integration**
- **Dialogue** over Confrontation
- Cooperation in **New Domains**





# Equilibrium with Tianjin Declaration



**CONTEXT:** At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit, **Tianjin (2025)** → India, Russia, China showcased unusual warmth.

## Implications for India: A Strategic Balancing Act:

- Vindication of **Multi-Alignment**
- Own **national interests**
- A **Fragile Détente with China**
  - Transactional peace
  - Trust deficit? Borders?
- Russia as India's **"Special and Privileged Partner"**
- Increased **Leverage with the West**
- **Neighbourhood engagement**



## PANCHSHEEL

### पञ्चशील

- Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty एक-दूसरे की प्रादेशिक अखंडता और संप्रभुता का परस्पर सम्मान
- Mutual non-aggression परसपर अनाक्रमण
- Mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs एक-दूसरे के आन्तिक मामलों में परस्पर अदोष
- Equality and mutual benefit समानता और परस्पर लाभ
- Peaceful co-existence शांतिपूर्णा सह-अस्तित्व

## Economic Implications:

**Single biggest challenge :**

- **India "outsourcing its manufacturing future" and becoming an "economic subsidiary of China"**

**Reinforcing Technological Autonomy**

- **Why Japan's Bullet trains; NOT China's 5G?**

## The Chinese-Indian Trade Relationship

Trade in selected goods between China and India in 2023\*



▲ % change since 2019

### Chinese exports to India

Electronics and machinery	\$70.3B	▲ +104%
Chemical products	\$20.3B	▲ +56%
Metals	\$8.4B	▲ +42%
Plastics and rubber	\$6.4B	▲ +83%
Textiles	\$5.0B	▲ +35%

### Indian exports to China

Minerals and oil	\$5.8B	▲ +9%
Chemical products	\$2.1B	▼ -43%
Electronics and machinery	\$1.9B	▲ +6%
Metals	\$1.3B	▲ +8%
Fish, Crustaceans, Molluscs	\$1.2B	▼ -8%

### Total exports

China to India	\$125.0B	▲ +76%
India to China	\$18.1B	▼ -7%

Source: UN Comtrade/BACI International via OEC/MIT



statista

## What should India do as way forward?

- Engage Everyone, **Commit to No One**
- Leverage **Every Forum**
- **Bridge the Power Gap** with China
  - "peace through strength"
  - Atmanirbhar Bharat
- Nurture the **Russia Connection**
- Strengthen Ties with **Like-minded Powers**
- **'Neighbourhood First' policy**
- **GDP growth rate of 7-8%**
- **Technological Self-Reliance**



# Equilibrium with Tianjin Declaration



**CONTEXT:** At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit, **Tianjin (2025)** → India, Russia, China showcased unusual warmth.

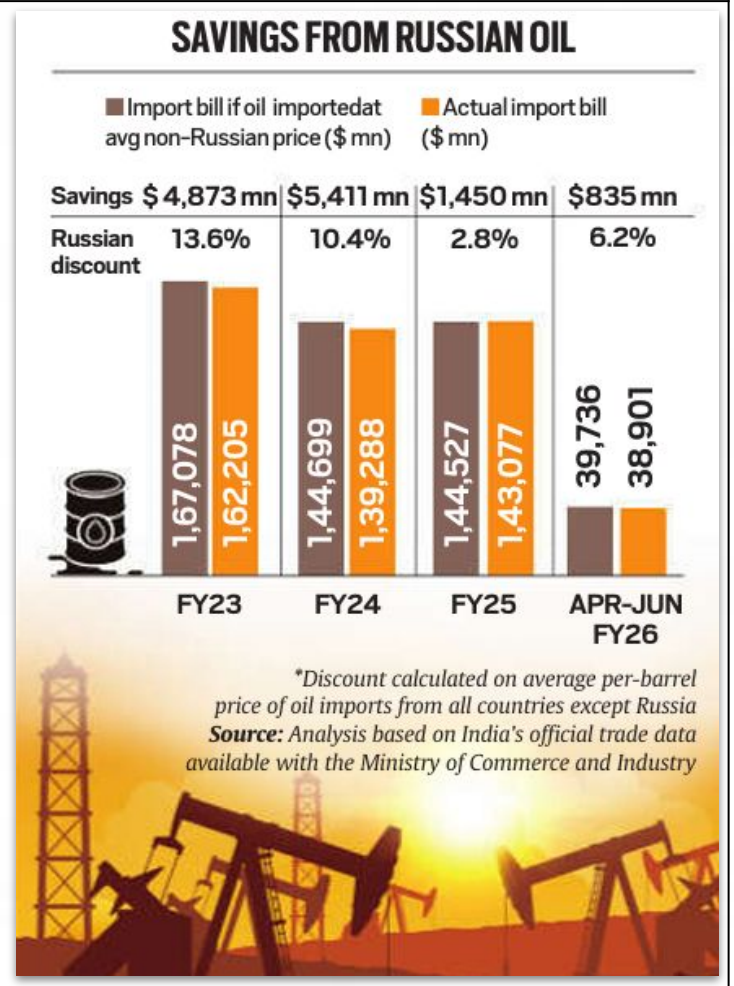
The Indian Express

Moscow's oil helped India save \$12.6 billion in 39 months; presumptive savin...



2 hours ago

**Mains Practise Question :**  
**"There are no ideal relationships, especially between major powers." In the context of contemporary India-China relations, critically analyze this statement. How does the concept of 'seeking equilibrium' define India's China policy?**





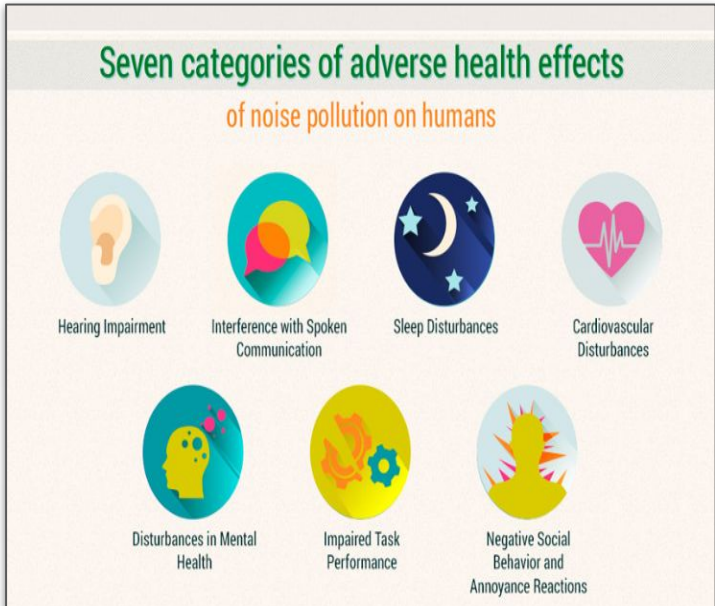
# Noise Pollution is rising

**CONTEXT:** Urban noise is becoming a **silent public health crisis** in India.

**Noise pollution** = unwanted/ harmful sound that disrupts health, wellbeing, or environment.

**Decibel scale (dB):**

- Whisper – 30 dB
- Normal conversation – 60 dB
- City traffic – 85 dB
- Above 85 dB (long exposure)



**Legal & Policy Framework in India**

- **Noise Pollution Rules, 2000:** Classifies zones (industrial, commercial, residential, silence zones)

**Constitutional Provisions:**

- **Art. 21** → Right to life includes peaceful environment.
- **Art. 48A** → Duty of State to protect environment.
- **Art. 51A(g)** → Fundamental duty to protect natural environment.

**Judicial Interventions:**

- *In Re: Noise Pollution (V), 2005* – loudspeakers & firecrackers regulated.
- SC 2024: Excessive noise = violation of **Art. 21 (life & dignity)**.

**Institutions:** CPCB, SPCBs, Traffic Police, Municipal bodies.

Category of Area/Zone	Day-time (6 am-10 pm) Limit in Decibels (dB)	Night-time (10 pm-6 am) Limit in Decibels (dB)
Industrial Area	75	70
Commercial Area	65	55
Residential Area	55	45
Silence Zone	50	40



# Noise Pollution is rising



**CONTEXT:** Urban noise is becoming a **silent public health crisis** in India.

## Key Challenges in India:

- 📶 **Data gaps:** NANMN sensors wrongly placed (25–30 ft high, not ground level).
- 🏛️ **Regulatory fragmentation:** SPCBs, police, municipal bodies.
- 🔴 **Weak enforcement:** Loudspeakers, construction activity continue unchecked.
- 📣 **Low civic awareness:** Noise normalized
- 🔄 **Urban expansion:** Construction, traffic, logistics intensify noise.
- 🕊️ **Cultural factors:** Festivals, political rallies, religious processions use amplified sound.

## Way Forward:

### Policy & Governance

- 📄 National Acoustic Policy (like NAAQS).
- 🏛️ Inter-agency coordination → CPCB, SPCBs, municipal bodies, traffic police.
- 🏙️ Smart city integration → IoT noise sensors, public dashboards.

### Enforcement

- 🚫 Mandatory **labelling of noise zones** in cities.
- 🔴 Fines & penalties for honking, night-time construction, loudspeakers.

- ⌚ Strict night curfew for construction activities.

### Public Awareness & Civic Culture

- 📣 Campaigns → “No Honking Days,” driver education, school awareness.
- 🎓 Noise awareness in traffic training, RTO licensing.
- 🏙️ Embed “sonic empathy” → cities designed for **sound comfort**.

### Urban Planning:

- 🌳 Green buffers, acoustic walls near highways & airports.
- 🏠 Zoning laws → protect schools, hospitals, residential zones.
- 🎵 Noise-mapping in city master plans.

### Mains Practise Question :

**Noise pollution is not just an irritant – it is a rights issue, a health crisis, and an ecological threat that demands urgent, rights-based policy action. Comment.**







**SYLLABUS : GS 2 : Indian Constitution – features**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 12**

## ALL ABOUT RTE ACT

■ It guarantees free and compulsory education at a neighbourhood school to children in the age group of 6 to 14 years (Classes I to VIII). It applies to all states except J&K

■ It was passed by Parliament on August 6, 2009, and came into effect on April 1, 2010

■ With the passage of the Act, India became one of 135 countries in the world that make education the fundamental right of every child

■ The Act also provides for 25 per cent reservation in

private schools for children from economically weaker sections

■ It prohibits all unrecognised schools from practice (gives them three years to meet basic standards defined under the Act), and makes provisions for no donation or capitation fees and no interview of the child or parent for admission

■ It provides that no child shall be held back, expelled, or required to pass a Board examination until the completion of elementary education

Art. 21A	Free & compulsory education for 6-14 yrs.
Art. 30(1)	Right of religious and linguistic minorities to establish & administer educational institutions of their choice.
Art. 15(5)	Permits special provisions for admission of socially & educationally backward classes/SC/ST in private institutions, but <b>excludes minority institutions.</b>

(5) Nothing in this article or in sub-clause (g) of clause (1) of article 19 shall prevent the State from making any special provision, by law, for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes in so far as such special provisions relate to their admission to educational institutions including private educational institutions, whether aided or unaided by the State, other than the minority educational institutions referred to in clause (1) of article 30.

### Current Position:

- **Minority-run institutions** are exempt from RTE's 25% EWS quota.
- All other pvt schools (aided/unaided): implement 25% EWS.

### ✓ In Favour of Exemption

- **Constitutional guarantee** (Art. 30): Protection of minority rights is part of secularism.
- **Preserve autonomy**: Imposing quota may alter character & ethos of minority institutions.
- **Avoid overreach**: The Constitution deliberately excluded minority institutions in Art. 15(5).

### ✗ Against Exemption

- **Creates inequality**: Poor children lose access to quality education in minority schools.
- **Misuse of "minority tag"**: Many elite institutions (e.g., Christian schools in metros) cater to affluent children but claim minority exemption.
- **Dilutes RTE goals**: Large share of reputed schools remain outside RTE coverage, weakening universalisation.

### Pramati Educational & Cultural Trust Case (2014)

- Section 12(1)(c) of RTE (25% EWS quota) → **violates minority rights.**
- Minority schools → **completely exempt** from RTE Act.

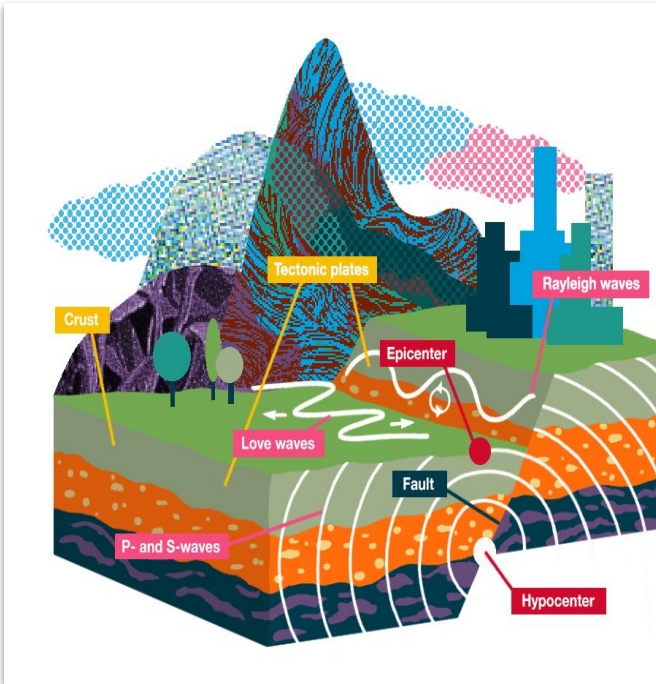
### Datta-Manmohan Bench (2025)

- Observed: 2014 ruling **"unknowingly jeopardised universal elementary education"**.
- Concerns:
  - Weakens **inclusivity & shared schooling vision** of Art. 21A.
  - Promotes **fragmentation & social divides.**
  - Opened **misuse** → many institutions acquiring "minority" tag to avoid RTE

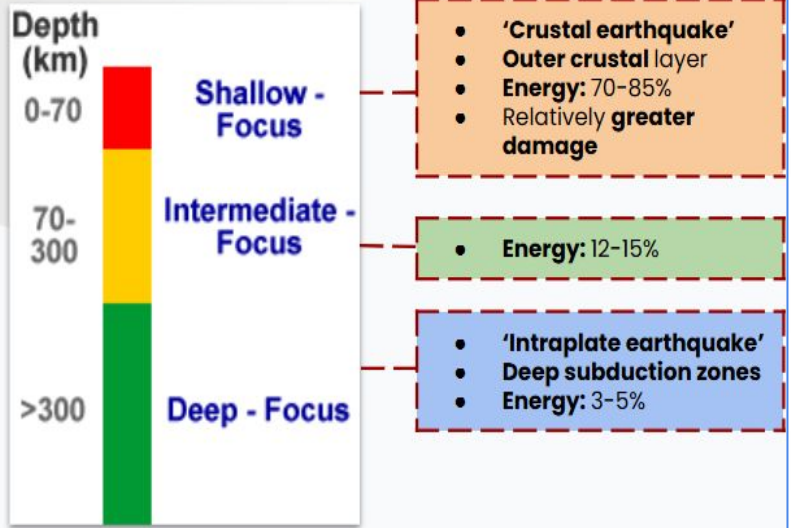


**SYLLABUS : Prelims : Indian & World Geography**  
**Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 16**

## How Earthquakes Occur?

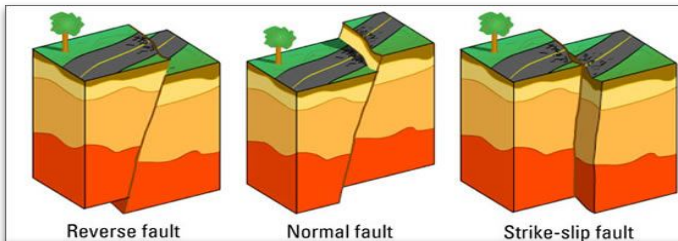


## Earthquakes based on the **depth of focus**



## Why does a quake's depth matter?

Shallow quakes — of depth upto 70 km — are generally more dangerous as they carry more energy when they emerge to the surface, compared to quakes that occur deeper underneath. Deeper quakes spread farther as seismic waves move radially upwards to the surface, but the waves lose energy while travelling greater distances.



An earthquake is an intense shaking of the ground caused by movement under the Earth's surface. It happens when two blocks of the Earth slip past one another, which releases stored 'elastic strain' energy in the form of seismic waves.

The Earth's crust is fragmented into tectonic plates, whose edges, called plate boundaries, constitute faults, or zones of fractures between blocks of rock. The tectonic plates move slowly, sliding past and bumping into one another. An earthquake occurs when a plate has moved far enough and its rough edge, stuck on a fault, ultimately overcomes friction and slips. The point below the Earth's surface where an earthquake starts is called the hypocenter, and the location directly above it on the surface is called epicentre.

Seismic waves produced by a magnitude 6 earthquake have 10 times higher amplitude than the ones produced by a magnitude 5 earthquake. The energy differential is even higher, 32 times for every change of 1 in magnitude.

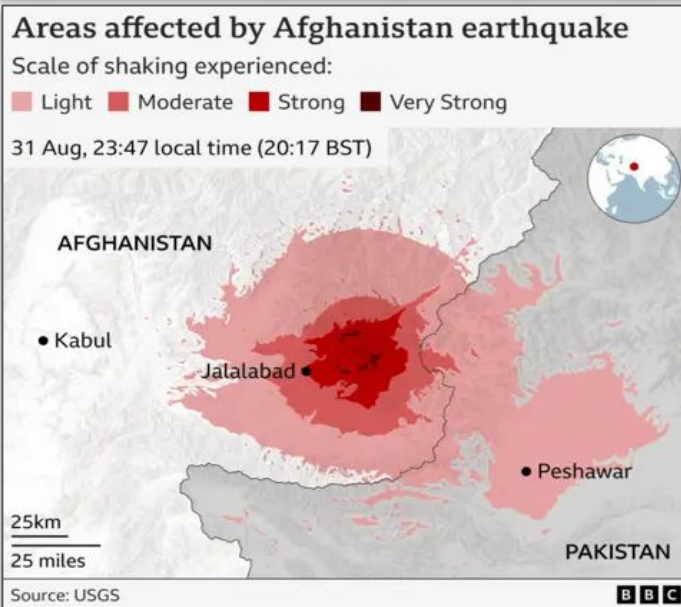
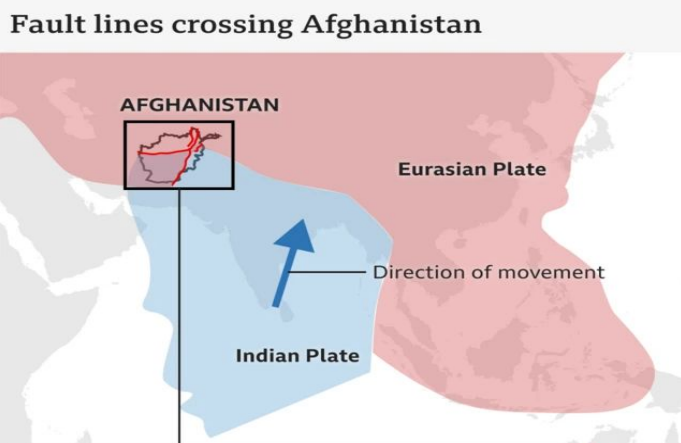




# Afghanistan Earthquake

**SYLLABUS : Prelims : Indian & World Geography**  
**Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 16**

## Afghanistan Earthquake: A Humanitarian Catastrophe:



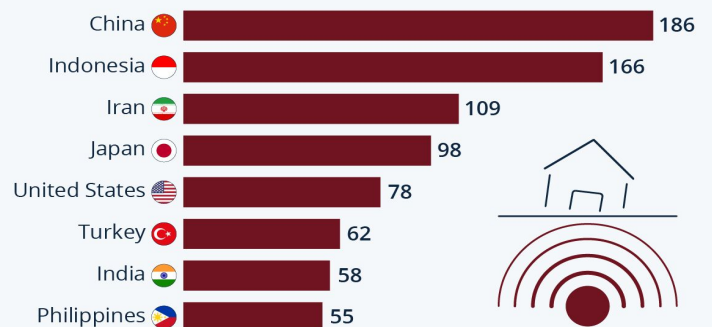
AN EARTHQUAKE of 6.0 magnitude struck north-east Afghanistan on Sunday night, killing more than 800 people and injuring at least 2,000. The epicentre was 27 km northeast of Jalalabad in Nangarhar province, and its depth was just 8 km. Afghanistan is particularly vulnerable to earthquakes. In 2023, the country's Herat province experienced three major earthquakes, which killed almost 1,300 people and injured around 1,700. In 2022, a 5.9-magnitude quake killed at least 1,300 people in the country's southeast.

### Why does Afghanistan experience earthquakes frequently?

Afghanistan lies on a number of fault lines where the Indian and Eurasian plates meet. These plates collide often, leading to significant tectonic activity. Brian Baptie, a seismologist at the British Geological Survey, told Science Media Centre, "With India moving towards Eurasia at around 45 mm each year, this collision zone is one of the most seismically active regions on Earth, accounting for around 15% of all seismic energy released around the world each year. This is an area of very high seismic hazard, with regular earthquake activity spreading across complex fault systems..." The Hindu Kush region has seen 12 quakes of magnitude greater than 7 since 1900, according to Baptie.

## The Countries Hit by the Most Earthquakes

Countries with the highest number of major earthquakes between 1990 and 2024



As of Jan. 2, 2024. Earthquakes with at least \$1M in damages, 10 deaths, a magnitude of 7.5 or a tsunami (one criteria min.)



# Nationwide Rollout of E20 Petrol



**SYLLABUS : GS 3 : Infrastructure: Energy**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 10**

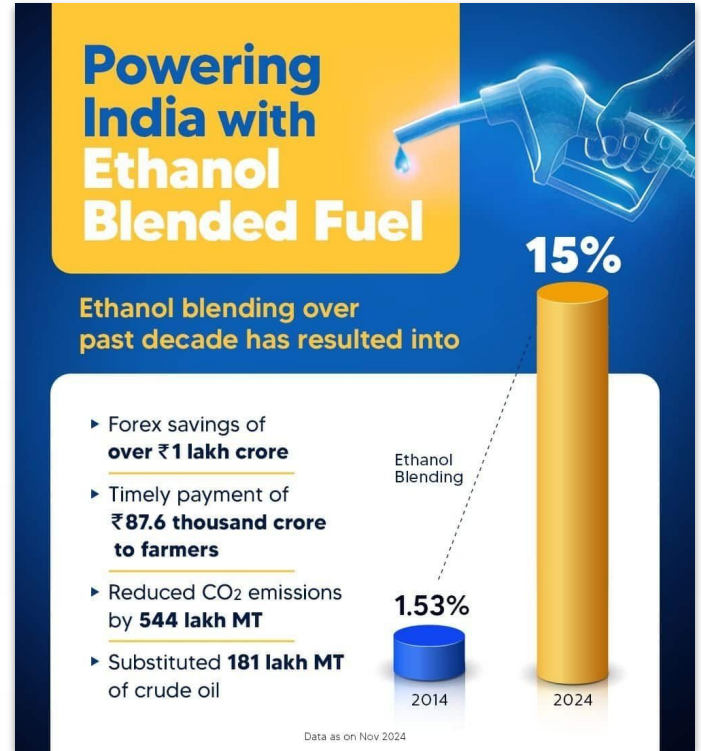
## What is Ethanol Blending:

**Ethanol:** Biofuel ( $C_2H_5OH$ ) from sugarcane, maize, damaged foodgrains.

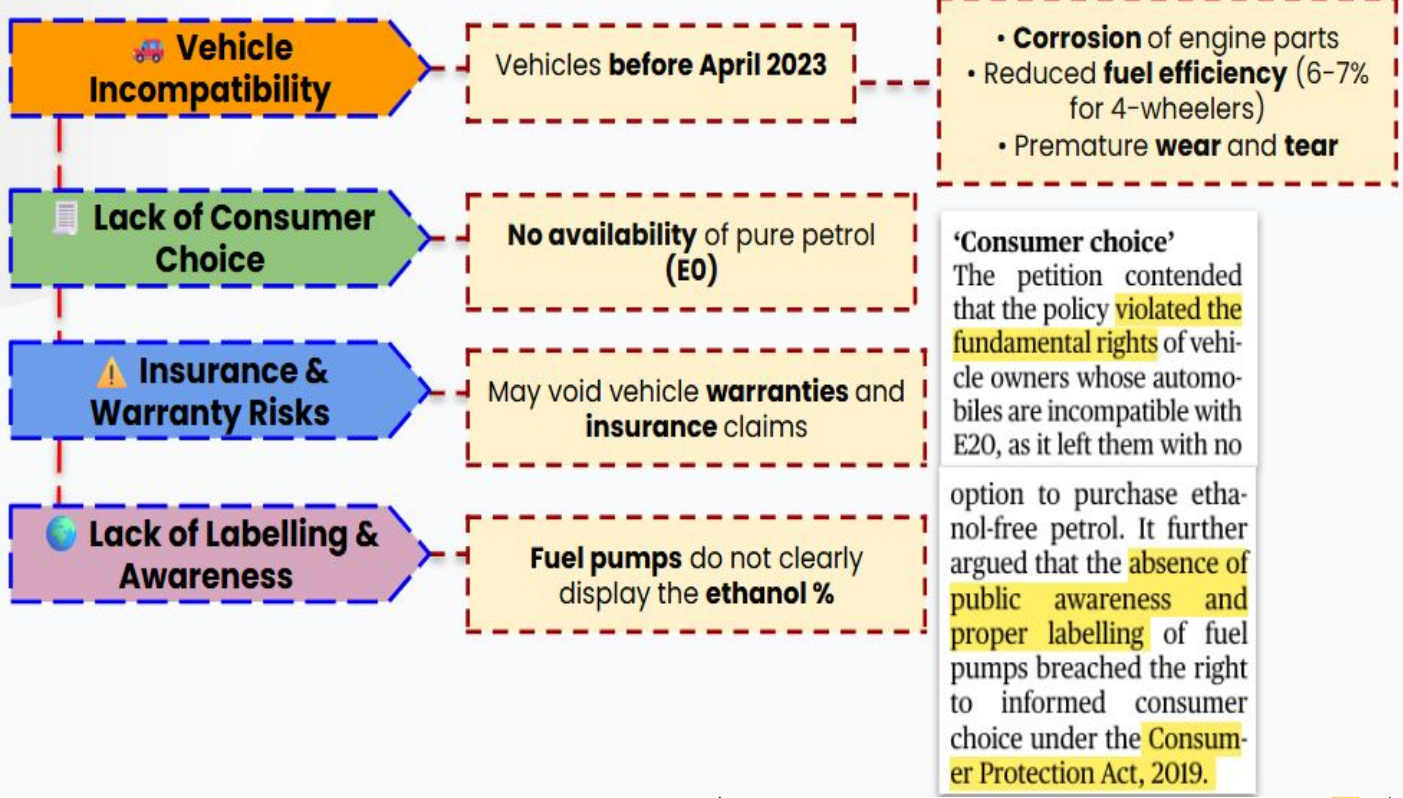
**E20 fuel:** Petrol blended with 20% ethanol.

### Earlier phases:

- **E5** (5% ethanol), **E10** (10% ethanol).
- Now phased out → E20 gradually replacing.



## The Petitioner's Arguments (Why They Challenged E20)



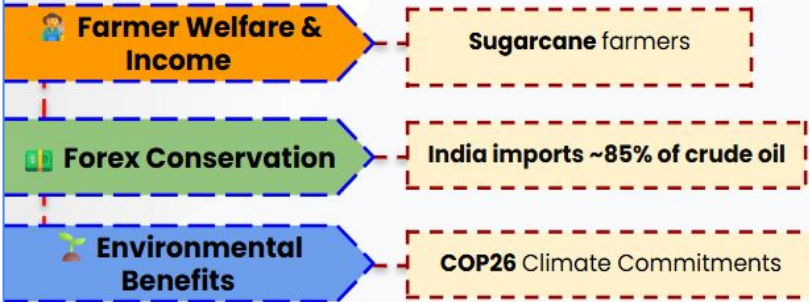


# Nationwide Rollout of E20 Petrol



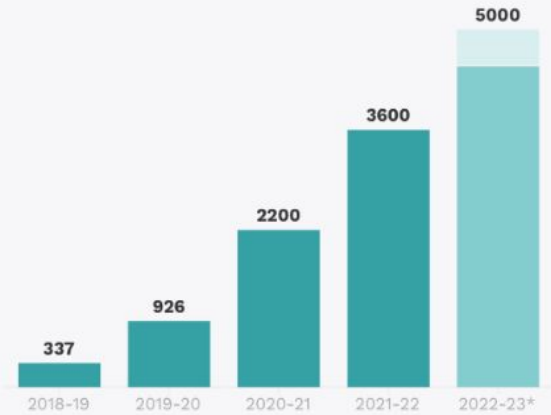
**SYLLABUS : GS 3 : Infrastructure: Energy**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 10**

## The Union Government's Defence



## Use of sugar for fuel is rising sharply

Sugar diverted to ethanol production in India, '000 metric tonnes



Source: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution • \*2022-23 target, divided into lower and upper production targets

**Net zero and 1.5 degrees**

Countries are called on to reach **net-zero carbon emissions by 2050** and to keep global temperatures below 1.5C

**Protect ecosystems and habitats**

States are encouraged to **protect and restore ecosystems** and build resilient infrastructures to withstand climate change

**Mobilise finance**

Developed nations are asked to mobilise **\$100bn in climate finance** per year for poorer nations to tackle climate change

**Collaboration**

Parties at COP26 will need to **collaborate** to finalise the **Paris Rulebook**, which sets out the rules of the Paris Agreement

## Other Government Initiatives

### National Biofuel Policy 2018

<b>Loan Support</b>	Ethanol Interest Subvention Scheme (6%)
<b>GST Reform</b>	18% to 5%
<b>E20 Compliance</b>	BS-VI; April 2025
<b>E27 Rollout</b>	by 2030
<b>Vehicle R&amp;D</b>	Develop <b>E20-E100</b> compliant engines

Gen	Feedstock Source	Technology & Features
<b>1st Gen</b>	Food crops (e.g., sugarcane, corn, vegetable oils)	Conventional fermentation and transesterification
<b>2nd Gen</b>	Non-food biomass (e.g., agricultural waste, forest residues)	Advanced biochemical and thermochemical processes
<b>3rd Gen</b>	Algae and aquatic biomass	Cultivation in controlled environments; high lipid yield
<b>4th Gen</b>	Genetically engineered feedstock + CCUS	Synthetic biology + CCS (Carbon Capture & Storage)

## SYLLABUS : GS 3 : Indian Economy

Newspaper : Indian Express Page Number: 15



## What Are Bond Yields?

Bond yield is the **return** (or **income**) you earn from investing in a bond, usually shown as a percentage.

### Basic Formula

$$\text{Bond Yield} = (\text{Annual Interest} / \text{Market Price}) \times 100$$

If the **Bond's Price GOES DOWN** (e.g., to ₹800)

- ₹50 / ₹800 = 6.25%
- ✓ **Yield GOES UP** when Bond Price GOES DOWN

If the **Bond's Price GOES UP** (e.g., to ₹1,200)

- ₹50 / ₹1,200 = 4.16%
- ✓ **Yield GOES DOWN** when Bond Price GOES UP

**For Governments & Companies:**  
Cost of borrowing

**For Investors:**  
Level of risk and future inflation  
If investors are worried, they sell bonds, causing prices to fall and yields to rise.

**Typical Rule:** Repo Rate Cut → Lower Interest Rates → Higher Demand for Existing Bonds (Higher Prices) → Lower Bond Yields.

**The Current Anomaly:** Repo Rate Cut → But Bond Yields are **RISING**

## The Two Key Factors Driving Yields

### Higher.

#### Factor 1: The RBI's Hawkish Stance on Inflation

- RBI: inflation to rise to **4.9% in Q1 2026-27**
- Market Reaction: higher yield today to compensate for that future inflation risk**

#### Factor 2: Fiscal Concerns & Fear of Higher Government Borrowing

- GST slabs: short-term revenue shortfall of ₹50,000 - ₹60,000 crore.
- Government might have to borrow more
- New bonds** increases supply > **Price** of bonds falls > **yield** rises

## 'RBI'S HAWKISH STANCE LEADS TO SPIKE'



The central bank has slashed the repo rate by 100 bps so far this year. *File*

**RBI's HAWKISH** stance on inflation and concerns over higher govt borrowing due to proposed tax reforms are responsible for rise in yields  
**BOND YIELDS** typically fall when interest rates are cut, but the market's reaction has been different this time. When bond yields rise, it usually indicates falling bond prices, reflecting selling pressure

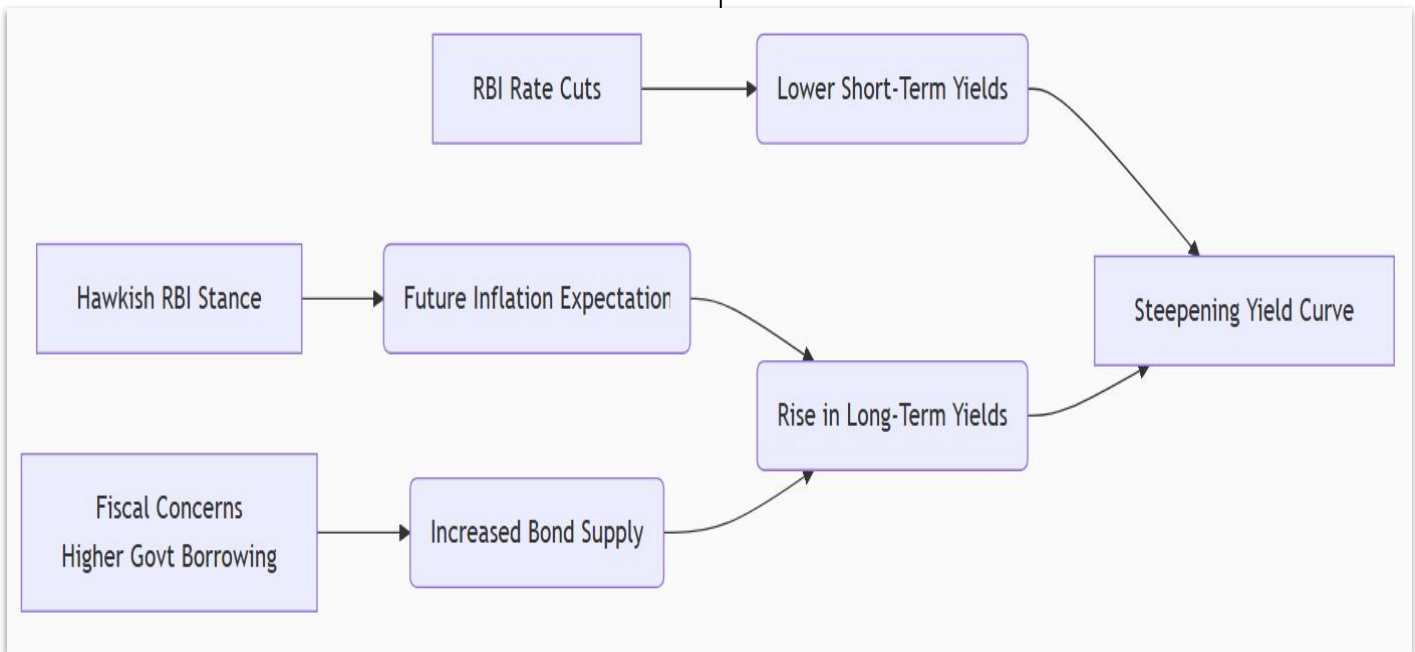







# Bond yields

**SYLLABUS : GS 3 : Indian Economy**

**Newspaper : Indian Express Page Number: 15**



Tool	Mechanism	Expected Impact
 <b>Alter Borrowing Strategy</b>	Government shifts its borrowing towards <b>shorter-term bonds</b> instead of long-term ones.	Reduces the supply of long-term bonds, easing pressure on long-term yields.
 <b>Open Market Operations (OMOs)</b>	The RBI buys long-term government bonds from the open market.	Increases demand for long-term bonds, pushing their price up and yield down.
 <b>Operation Twist</b>	The RBI sells short-term bonds and uses the proceeds to buy long-term bonds.	Specifically targets bringing down long-term yields without new bonds.



**SYLLABUS : Prelims : Current events of National & International importance**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 12**



## New Bairabi–Sairang Rail Line in Mizoram

### DEEPER CONNECTIVITY IN NORTH-EAST



Mizoram will soon be connected to the national railway network when Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the 51.38-km Bairabi-Sairang broad-gauge line, constructed at an estimated ₹5,021 crore, in the second week of September.

The official said almost all essential items to Mizoram were brought from Silchar in Assam, a journey of about 10 hours by road. With the new line, the travel time gets reduced to about three hours.

### Engineering feat:

- **48 tunnels** (12.85 km total, longest 1.37 km).
- **55 major bridges** (longest 1.3 km).
- **87 minor bridges.**
- **Krung Bridge:** 114 m tall (landmark).

### Executed in 4 packages

(Bairabi–Hortoki–Kawnpui–Mualkhang–Sairang).

**Safety clearances:** Freight & passenger operation authorised in 2024–25.

### Expected Impact

- **Travel time:** Silchar (Assam) → Mizoram cut from 10 hrs (road) → ~3 hrs (rail).
- **Economic growth:** essential goods, market access for farmers.
- **Tourism boost:** Scenic 80-min journey through forests, valleys & rivers.
- **Regional integration:** Connects Mizoram to Assam, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Strategic importance:** Better border connectivity (Myanmar proximity).

### Challenges

- **Engineering difficulties:** Hilly terrain, tunnelling, landslide-prone areas.
- **Cost overrun:** ₹5,021 cr. for 51 km
- **Maintenance & safety:** Bridges & tunnels in seismic/hilly zones
- **Environmental impact:** clearance, sensitivity.





2nd September 2025

**Q1. Consider the following statements :**

1. "Right to live in a peaceful environment" is an integral part of the fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.
2. Article 48A of the Constitution directs the State to protect the environment.
3. Under Article 51A(g), protecting the Natural environment is a fundamental duty of every citizen.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Right to Education Act 2009 :**

1. It guarantees free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14 years.
2. With the passage of the Act, India became the first country in the world to make education a fundamental right for every child.
3. The Act strictly prohibits any kind of reservation of seats in schools, especially in private schools.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Q3. Consider the following statements:**

1. An earthquake happens when two blocks of Earth slip past one another, releasing stored "elastic strain" energy in the form of seismic waves.
2. The Earth's crust is fragmented into tectonic plates, which constitute faults, or zones of fractures.
3. The point below the Earth's surface where an earthquake starts is called as Hypocentre.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Q4. Consider the following statements:**

1. Ethanol blending into petrol can lead to savings of FOREX reserves & reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
2. The Government of India has achieved the 20% Ethanol blending target in Petrol by almost 5 years in advance.
3. The Government of India is setting up Bio-refineries for the production of 1st Generation Biofuel.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Q5. Which of the following statements regarding the Bond Yields is NOT correct?**

- a) It is the return that one person earns after investing in a bond.
- b) If the Bond price goes down, the yield on the bond goes up.
- c) Repo Rate cut by the Central Bank of India usually leads to lower bond yields.
- d) If the Bond price goes up, the yield on the bond goes up.

**Answer: d**





# **VAJIRAM & RAVI**

## **Institute for IAS Examination**

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