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The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

4th September 2025



Should Reservations exceed 50% cap?

CONTEXT: The Core Issue: Should the Supreme Court's 50% cap on total reservations be breached to accommodate demands from dominant communities?



2 Types of Equality: Formal vs. Substantive

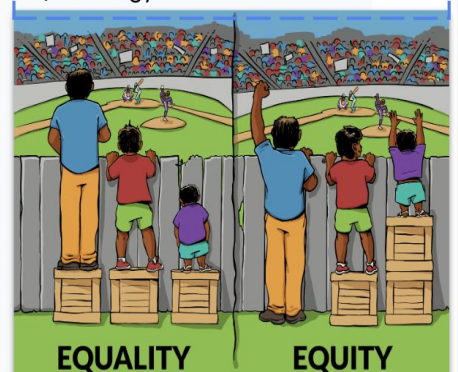
EQUALITY

Equality means each individual or group of people is **given the same resources or opportunities.**

UPSC PYQ (P) 2017

One of the implications of equality in society is the absence of:

- a) Privileges
- b) Restraints
- c) Competition
- d) Ideology



EQUALITY

EQUITY

Formal Equality

Substantive Equality

Meaning

Treating every individual exactly the same, **regardless** of their starting point or historical context.

Providing **differential treatment** to correct historical and structural injustices and to ensure equal outcomes.

View on Reservation

Reservation is an **exception** to the general rule of equality of opportunity. It is a **necessary evil** but must be limited.

Reservation is a **facilitator and continuation** of the goal of equality of opportunity. It levels the playing field.

UPSC PYQ (P) 2018

Which of the following reflects the most appropriate relationship between law and liberty?

- a) If there are more laws, there is less Liberty
- b) If there are no laws there is no liberty
- c) If there is liberty, laws have to be made by people
- d) If laws are changed too often liberty is in danger

UPSC PYQ (P) 2023

In essence, what does 'Due Process of Law' mean?

- a) The principle of natural justice
- b) The procedure established by law
- c) Fair application of Law
- d) Equality before law

UPSC PYQ (P) 2019

In the context of polity, which one of the following would you accept as the most appropriate definition of liberty?

- a) Protection against the tyranny of political rulers
- b) Absence of restraint
- c) Opportunity to do whatever one likes
- d) Opportunity to develop oneself fully

UPSC PYQ (P) 2020

A constitutional government by definition is a:

- a) Government by legislature
- b) Popular government
- c) Multi-party government
- d) Limited government



Should Reservations exceed 50% cap?

CONTEXT: The Core Issue: Should the Supreme Court's 50% cap on total reservations be breached to accommodate demands from dominant communities?

The Constitutional basics (📌 Article cheat-sheet)

Equality guarantee	Art. 14	Equality before law / equal protection.
Non-discrimination	Art. 15(1)-(2)	No discrimination on religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth.
Special provisions in education	15(4)	State can make special provisions for SEBCs, SCs, STs (incl. educ).
	15(5) (93rd Amend., 2005)	Quota in educational institutions , incl. private unaided (but not minority institutions).
	15(6) (103rd Amend., 2019)	EWS reservation in education (up to 10%).
Public employment	16(1)	Equality of opportunity in public jobs.
	16(4)	Quota for backward classes not adequately represented.
Promotions	16(4A) (77th Amend., 1995)	Reservation in promotion for SC/ST (subject to conditions).
Carry-forward	16(6) (103rd Amend., 2019)	EWS reservation in jobs (up to 10%).

The 50% ceiling – origin, status ⚖️

<i>Balaji v. State of Mysore (1962)</i>	Reservations "within reasonable limits ". Court struck down a 68% reservation order.	First: idea of a quantitative limit . Suggested that reservations beyond 50% would violate equality.
<i>State of Kerala v. N. M. Thomas (1975)</i>	Reservation is not an exception but a facet of equality.	Championed substantive equality . However, did not directly rule on the 50% cap.
<i>Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Upheld 27% reservation for OBCs. ✓ Reaffirmed the 50% cap (except in "extraordinary situations"). ✓ Introduced the "Creamy Layer" concept for OBCs. 	
<i>Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India (2022)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Upheld 10% EWS Reservation. Held that the 50% cap applies only to backward classes (SCs, STs, OBCs) and not to the EWS quota which is based on economic criteria. 	Opened a door for exceeding 50% technically (Total now is 59.5%), but kept the core intact for caste-based reservations.



Should Reservations exceed 50% cap?

CONTEXT: The Core Issue: Should the Supreme Court's 50% cap on total reservations be breached to accommodate demands from dominant communities?

The Ground Reality

A. The Problem within OBCs (Rohini Commission Findings)

- Just **25%** of OBC castes (~150/600) have garnered **97%** of jobs + edu
- Nearly 1,000 OBCs 0 representation
- Implication:** The "elite" within the OBCs benefit repeatedly

Under consideration

The Justice G Rohini Commission's report offers a major departure from the traditional way in which reservation policy is handled. It is divided into two parts

1 How the OBC quota should be allocated

An updated list of all 2,633 OBC castes across India

'Quantum of benefits'
The sub-categorisation is "on the basis of quantum of benefits enjoyed by different communities" as compared to social status and traditional occupation

Set up in 2017: The commission was created in October 2017 to, among other reasons, ensure the benefits of reservation were not restricted to a few dominant OBCs

SCs/STs: Should there be a "Creamy Layer"?

- Punjab v. Davinder Singh, 2024*

'UNEQUALS CAN'T BE TREATED EQUALLY'

➤ Justice B R Gavai, the lone Dalit on the 7-judge bench, said the **child of a Scheduled Caste IAS/IPS or civil service officer cannot be equated with the child of a poor SC person** studying in a gram panchayat/zila parishad school

➤ He said opposition to sub-classification is like the tussle in a train's general compartment. 'Firstly, persons outside...struggled to get into the general compartment. However, **once**

they get inside it, they make every attempt possible to prevent persons outside... from entering it'

➤ In her dissenting verdict, Justice Bela Trivedi said the Scheduled Castes are a 'homogeneous class', '**cannot be tinkered with by states**'

➤ She said **states cannot enact law to provide quota or give preferential treatment** to a particular caste by sub-dividing SCs. Only Parliament can

The Big Question: Should the 50% Cap be Breached?

Arguments to **exceed** the 50% cap (✓)

- Demographics & under-representation
- Substantive equality logic
 - N.M. Thomas:** temporarily, subject to review if **deep barriers**
- State-specific** solutions
- Exceptional** circumstances clause
 - Indra Sawhney allows

MANY STATES BREACHED CEILING

“Reservation being extreme form of protective measure... should be confined to minority of seats. Even though the Constitution does not lay down any specific bar... the principle of balancing equality ordains reservation, of any manner, not to exceed 50%

—9-member SC bench on Nov 16, 1992 in Indra Sawhney judgment

➤ Since the 1992 order, several states have passed laws breaching 50% ceiling, including **TN, Maharashtra, Haryana, Telangana, Andhra, MP, UP, Rajasthan & Chhattisgarh**

➤ Many of these laws have either been stayed or are facing legal challenges

➤ SC was hearing challenge to Maharashtra govt's decision to extend quota to Marathas

Arguments to **retain** the 50% cap (⌚)

- Hollow out **merit/open seats**, undermining **Art. 16(1)**
- Backlash from the "general" category
 - Social Cohesion**
- Dr. Ambedkar's Vision (Minority measure)
- Alternative Solutions**

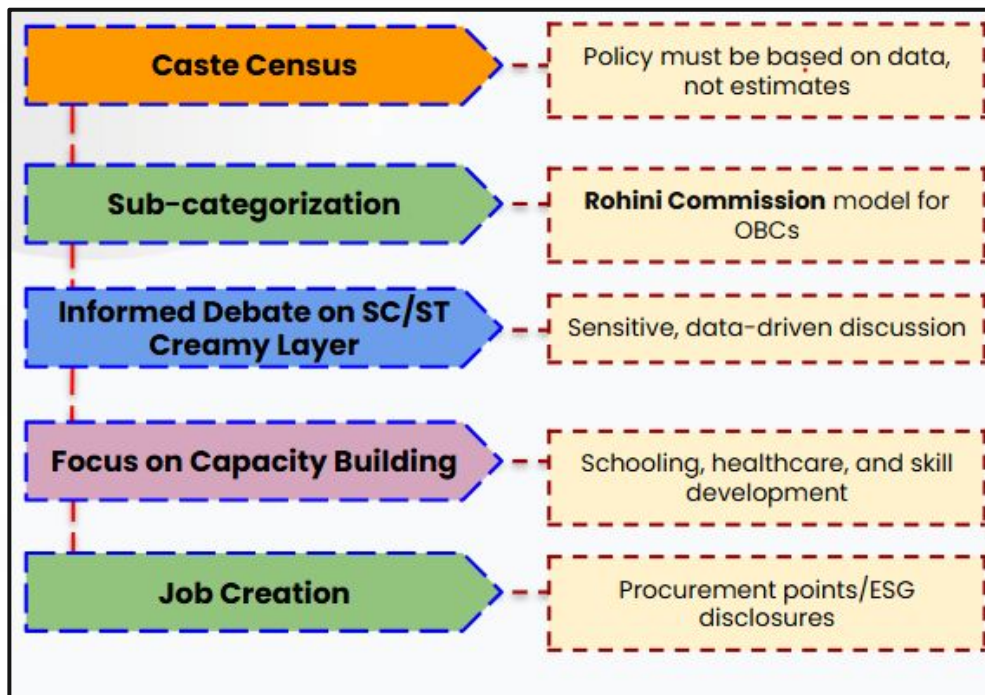


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The Way Forward: A Multi-Dimensional Approach



Education & Employment Indicators by Social Group

The table shows the Percentage distribution of persons by general education level, workers in usual status by broad status in employment, and employees in posts and services of the Central government

	ST	SC	OBC	General	Data sources
Percentage distribution of persons of age 7 years and above by general education level					
Literacy rate	69.6	72.4	76.9	85.9	Household Social Consumption on Education in India, NSS 75th Round (July 2017 - June 2018), NSO, MoSPI, Gol
Secondary Education	9.9	11.5	13.5	15.8	
Higher Secondary Education	6	7.7	9.4	12.8	
Graduate	3.3	4.1	5.9	12.3	
Post Graduate and above	0.7	0.9	1.2	3.4	
Percentage distribution of workers in usual status (ps+ss) by broad status in employment					
Regular wage/ Salaried	12.3	19.8	20.1	30.6	Periodic Labour Force Survey 2021-22, NSSO, MoSPI, Gol
Casual Labour	28.9	38.2	20	11.2	
Self-employed	58.8	42.1	59.9	58.2	
Percentage distribution of employees in posts and services of the Central Government					
Group A	5.9	13.0	16.6	64.6	Annual Report 2021-22, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Gol
Group B	7.1	16.8	16.7	59.5	
Group C	7.8	17.7	22.8	51.7	
Total	7.7	17.5	22.1	52.7	



Should Reservations exceed 50% cap?



CONTEXT: The Core Issue: Should the Supreme Court's 50% cap on total reservations be breached to accommodate demands from dominant communities?

Mains Practise Question

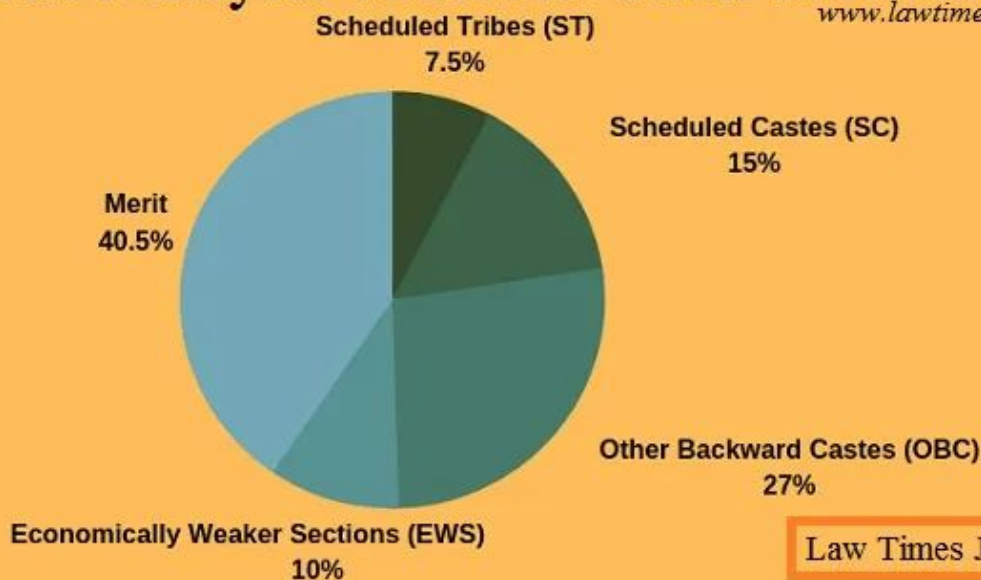
The debate on the 50% cap is a reflection of India's ongoing struggle to reconcile the ideals of formal equality with the pressing need for substantive justice.

Comment.

(15 Marks, 250 words)

An Analysis of Reservation in India

www.lawtimesjournal.in



Law Times Journal



CONTEXT: India to Enact Law on High Seas

① Basics First – What are High Seas?

UNCLOS

The Law of the Sea Treaty



Overview

- Full name: United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea
- Adopted: 1982 (Montego Bay, Jamaica)
- Came into Force: 1994
- Parties: 169 countries + of 2024)
- Nickname: "Constitution of the Oceans"



Maritime Zones Defined by UNCLOS

Zone	Extent from Baseline	Key Rights of Coastal State
Territorial Sea	Up to 12 nm	Full sovereignty, foreign ships
Contiguous Zone	12–24 nm	Enforces customs, Immigration, sanitation laws
Exclusive Economic Zone	Up to 200 nm	Rights to explore, exploit, conserve marine resources
Continental Shelf	Up to 350 nm (in some cases)	Rights over seabed resources (oil, gas, as minerals)
High Seas	Beyond EEZ	Open to all states for navigation, fishing, and research



Definition: Areas of the ocean **beyond national jurisdiction** → outside 200 nautical miles (EEZ) of any country.

Current Status: Open to all countries for:

- Navigation & overflight
- Fishing
- Undersea cables/pipelines
- Seabed mining

All at sea

Sovereign territory

Sovereign rights to the water column and the continental shelf

Extension possible to cover continental shelf

BASELINE

12nm 12nm

200 nautical miles

Territorial water:

It usually begins at the mean low-water baseline. Sovereignty covers the airspace above and the seabed below.

Contiguous zone:

States may exercise the control necessary to prevent others from infringing its customs, immigration and other laws.

Exclusive economic zone:

Within the EEZ, states have control of economic resources (including mining and oil explorations), but cannot prohibit legal passage and loitering. They can request an extension to their EEZ to cover part or all of the continental shelf.

The high seas:

Also known as international waters, they are beyond national jurisdiction.



CONTEXT: India to Enact Law on High Seas

UPSC PYQ (P) 2022

With reference to the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea, consider the following statements:

1. A coastal state has the right to establish the breadth of its territorial sea up to a limit not exceeding 12 nautical miles, measured from baseline determined in accordance with the convention.
2. Ships of all states, whether coastal or land-locked, enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea.
3. The Exclusive Economic Zone shall not extend beyond 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

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

2 The High Seas Treaty / BBNJ

ENVIRONMENT

Ocean treaty: Historic agreement reached

UN member states have agreed on a legal framework to protect the world's oceans. The High Seas Treaty places 30 percent of the seas into protected areas by 2030, aiming to safeguard and recuperate marine nature.








Oceans cover more than
70 percent
of our planet's surface

The ocean has absorbed
90 percent
of the world's excess heat

Every year at least
8 million
tonnes of plastic waste end
up in the world's oceans



CONTEXT: India to Enact Law on High Seas

 Marine Protected Areas	Like national parks in oceans → restrict destructive activities.
 Environmental Impact Assessments	Mandatory before large-scale activities like seabed mining or deep-sea exploration.
 Marine Genetic Resources	Equitable sharing of benefits from resources used in pharma, cosmetics, biotech.
 Capacity-building & Technology Transfer	Help developing countries access marine tech & benefits.
 Global Governance	Decisions through UN frameworks, ensuring fair participation.

Adopted under: (UNCLOS, 1982)

Legally binding: Yes 

3 **India's Strategic Move: Possible Structure**

1 Definitions Section

Clear definitions of:

- **High Seas, Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs), Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).**
- **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).**
- **Blue Economy, Benefit-sharing, Commons governance.**

2 Institutional Framework

Likely to set up a **National Authority for High Seas (NAHS)**, similar to:

- *National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)* (under Biodiversity Act).
- Functions:
 - Grant permissions for India's projects in High Seas.
 - Approve & monitor **Marine EIAs**.
 - Coordinate with UN bodies & other nations.
 - Represent India in **BBNJ negotiations & dispute settlement**.

👉 Could be placed under **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, but with coordination with MEA, MoEFCC, and Shipping.



CONTEXT: India to Enact Law on High Seas

3 India's Strategic Move: Possible Structure

3 Key Provisions

A. 🌱 Marine Biodiversity Protection

- Identification & declaration of **Marine Protected Areas** in high seas.
- Restrictions on destructive fishing practices (deep-sea trawling, drift nets).
- Rules for pollution control (plastics, dumping, oil spills).

B. 🧬 Marine Genetic Resources & Benefit Sharing

C. ⚖️ Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)

- Any Indian company/government project (deep-sea mining, cable laying, energy infrastructure) → needs **Marine EIA approval**.
- **Cumulative impact assessment** (pollution, biodiversity loss).

D. ⚒️ Seabed Mining & Mineral Resources

- Rules for Indian deep-sea mining projects

E. 🚢 Rights & Responsibilities of Indian Vessels

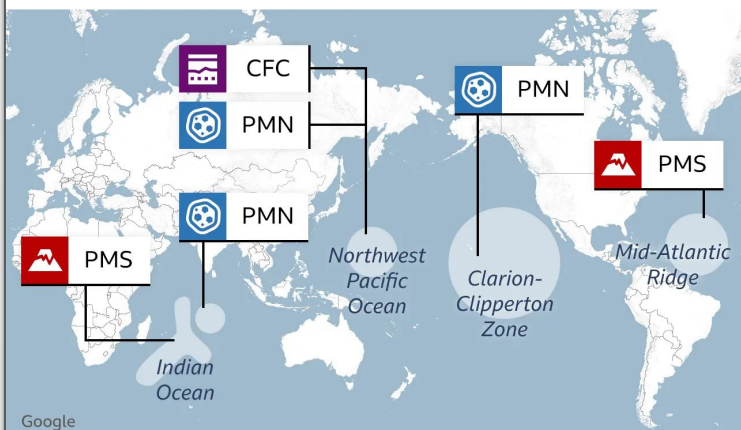
Mains Practise Question

India is not just preparing for a new international treaty; it is preparing to conquer the next frontier of its economic and strategic destiny—the deep blue sea. Comment.

(15 Marks, 250 words)

Exploration areas for minerals in the international seabed area*

Contracts with the ISA for exploration



Number of active contracts

- Polymetallic nodules (PMN): 19
- Polymetallic sulphides (PMS): 7
- Cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts (CFC): 4

*The part under ISA jurisdiction is defined as “the seabed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.”

Source: International Seabed Authority (ISA)

BBC

4th September 2025

SYLLABUS : G.S.3: Changes in industrial policy
Newspaper : The Hindu Page No : 13

National Critical Minerals Mission

National Critical Mineral Mission

Proposed expenditure = **Rs. 16300 crore** Import duty on critical minerals scrapped
PSUs expected to invest = **Rs. 18000 crore** Four mineral processing parks to be developed
Total investment = **Rs. 34,300 crore**

2 objectives of the mission

- To secure India's critical mineral supply chain
- Strengthening the value chains by enhancing technological, regulatory, and financial ecosystems

The **7 mission components** are structured to address short, medium, and long-term goals, aligning with Atmanirbhar Bharat's & Viksit Bharat's broader vision.



We will set up a Critical Mineral Mission for domestic production, recycling of critical minerals, and overseas acquisition of critical mineral assets. Its mandate will include technology development, skilled workforce, extended producer responsibility framework, and a suitable financing mechanism."



- Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman,
Union Budget speech 2024-25



Parliament Clears Landmark Mines and Minerals
Amendment Bill, 2025 to Boost Critical Mineral Production

India passes Mines & Minerals Amendment Bill 2025 to liberalise mining, enhance domestic critical mineral output, and modernise MMDR Act...

2 weeks ago

 Partner Country	 Focus Area
Australia	Lithium, cobalt, rare earths; MoUs signed for joint exploration
Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile	Lithium triangle cooperation
Russia	Titanium and rare earths
US-led Minerals Security Partnership	Strategic alignment for supply chain resilience

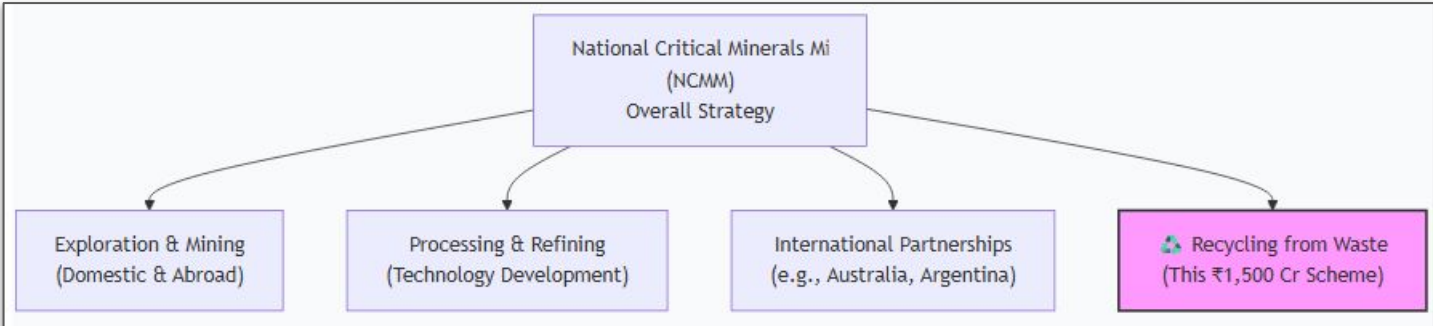








4th September 2025

SYLLABUS : G.S.3: Changes in industrial policy
Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No :** 13



Decoding the ₹1,500 Crore Scheme: Recycling



 Implementation Period	6 years (FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31)
 Target Waste Streams	E-waste, Li-ion Battery (LIB) Scrap, Catalytic Converters
 Beneficiaries	Large recyclers + MSMEs/Start-ups (1/3rd outlay reserved)
 Incentive 1: Capital Subsidy	20% subsidy on Plant & Machinery
 Incentive 2: Operating Subsidy	Subsidy on incremental sales over base year (FY 2025-26). Phased: 40% in Y2, 60% in Y5.
 Incentive Caps	Large Entity: ₹50 Cr (Total), ₹10 Cr (Operating) Small Entity: ₹25 Cr (Total), ₹5 Cr (Operating)



4th September 2025

SYLLABUS : G.S.3: Changes in industrial policy

Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No :** 13

UPSC PYQ (P) 2012

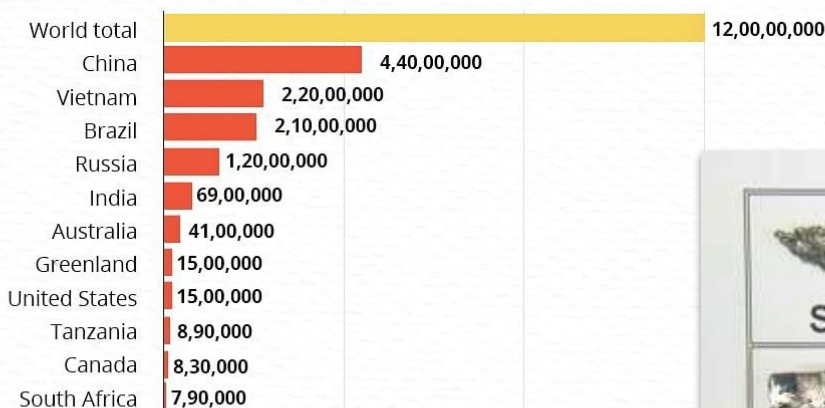
Recently, there has been a concern over the short supply of a group of elements called 'rare earth metals'. Why?

1. China, which is the largest producer of these elements, has imposed some restrictions on their export.
2. Other than China, Australia, Canada and Chile, these elements are not found in any country.
3. Rare earth metals are essential for the manufacture of various kinds of electronic items and there is a growing demand for these elements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Reserves in metric tonnes of REO (rare earth oxides) as of 2020



4th September 2025

SYLLABUS: GS 3: Internal security

Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page No :** 13

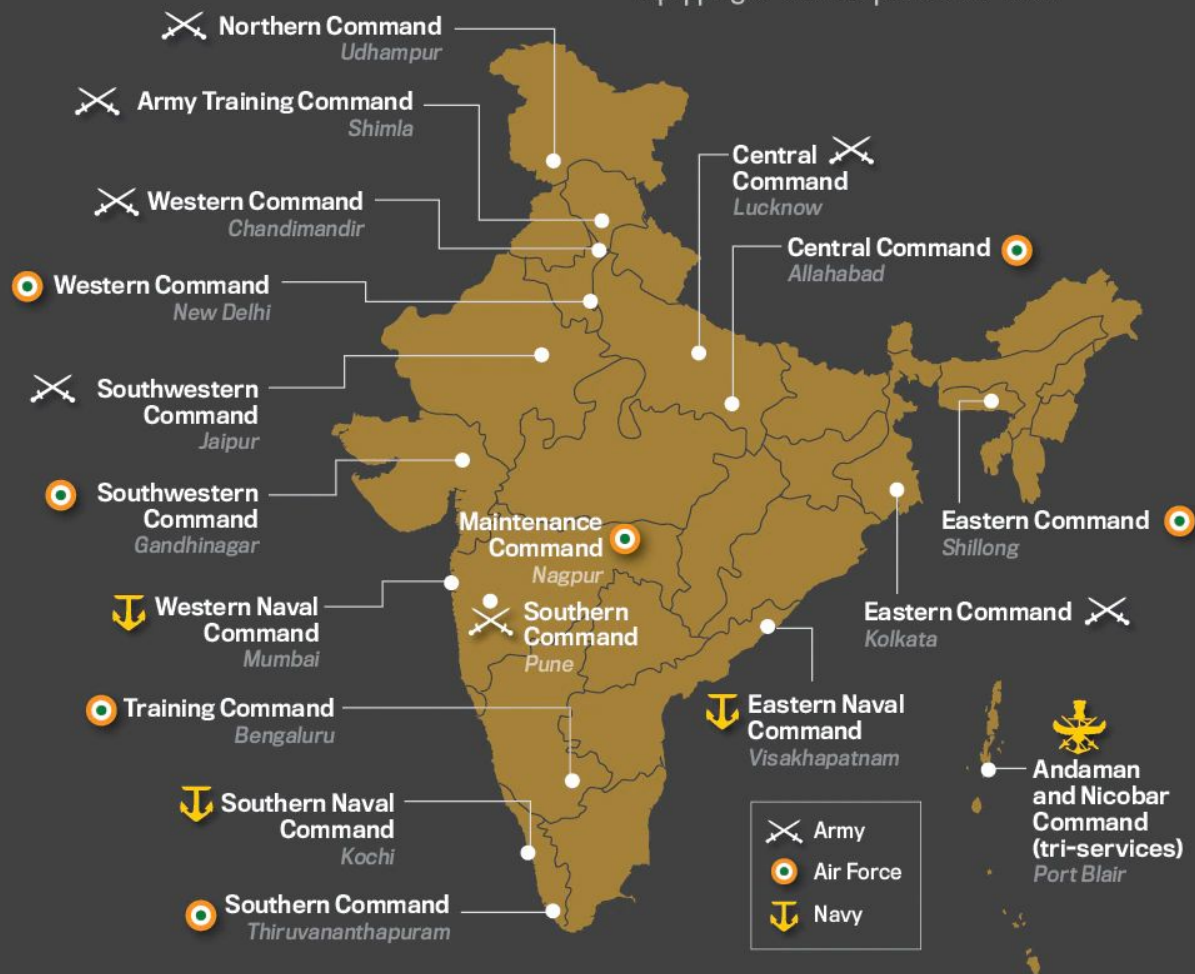


What is Theaterisation?

A PROLIFERATION OF COMMANDS

NOW

India has just one tri-service command and 17 single-service commands with little or no coordination among them. If all theatre commands report to the CDS, as the Lt Gen D.B. Shekatkar Committee proposed, then the three chiefs will have to oversee just the training and equipping of their respective services



4th September 2025

SYLLABUS : GS 3 : Internal security

Newspaper : The Indian Express **Page No :** 13



What is Theaterisation?

Integration of Army, Navy, and **Air Force** resources under **single theatre commanders** for defined geographical regions.

Current System: 17 Separate Service Commands

- **Army:** 7 Commands (e.g., Northern, Western, Eastern Command)
- **Air Force:** 7 Commands (e.g., Western, Southwestern, Eastern Air Command)
- **Navy:** 3 Commands (e.g., Western, Eastern, Southern Naval Command)
- **Tri-Service:** 2 Commands – Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) and Strategic Forces Command (SFC – manages nukes).



The Proposed Models: How Might it Look?

Model		Key Features	Potential Challenges
1. Domain-based Theatre Commands (Initial Plan)	4 functional theatres	1. Air Defence Command 2. Maritime Theatre Command 3. Western Land Theatre Command (for Pakistan) 4. Eastern Land Theatre Command (for China)	The IAF was strongly opposed. It felt this would "divide" its limited air assets (fighters, jets) and reduce its flexibility to move them across theatres as needed.
2. Adversary-based Integrated Theatre Commands (Newer Plan)	Theatres based on the primary threat	1. Western Theatre Command (Pak) 2. Northern/Eastern Theatre Command (for China) 3. Maritime Theatre Command (IoR) 4. (Possible) Air Defence Command or Functional Command	More logical from a threat perspective. However, the debate continues on the control of air assets and the integration of cyber/space domains.



4th September 2025

SYLLABUS : GS 3 : Internal security

Newspaper : The Indian Express **Page No :** 13



Why is India Doing This?



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE: WHO, WHAT

Department of Defence
Headed by Defence Secretary

Department of Military Affairs
Headed by the CDS

Department of Defence Production
Headed by Secretary Defence Production

Department of Defence Research and Development
Headed by DRDO chief

Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare
Headed by Secretary ESW

DUAL-HATTED ROLE OF CDS

- Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee
- Head of Department of Military Affairs in Defence Ministry



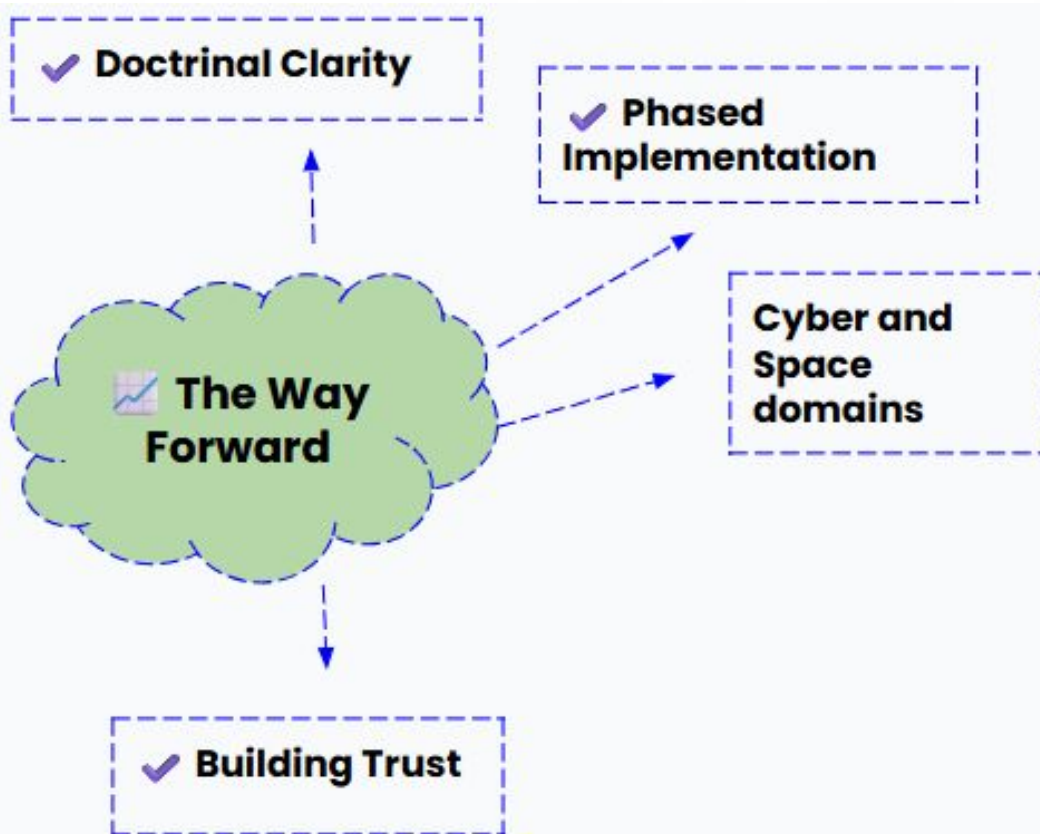
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SYLLABUS : GS 3 : Internal security

Newspaper : The Indian Express **Page No** : 13

! The Challenges

- **Indian Air Force's Apprehensions**
 - Division of Scarce Assets
 - "Support arm" for Army, Navy?
 - Not blindly copy the US
- **Who** will be the theatre commanders?
- **How** will the **budget** be divided?
- **70 years friction**
- **Human Resources**



4th September 2025

SYLLABUS : GS 2: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population

Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No :** 10



Co-location of Anganwadis with Schools

In a bid to ensure continuity in early childhood education, the Union government on Wednesday issued guidelines to facilitate co-location efforts to place almost 11 lakh anganwadis on the premises of primary schools.

Anganwadi centres cater to the nutrition and early learning needs of children between zero and six years, and locating them on school premises enables a smooth transition to formal schooling in Class 1. The guidelines were issued jointly by the Ministries of Education and Women and Child Development, which oversees anganwadi centres.



1975, under ICDS

Coverage: ~8L benef

Lack of social security

First contact point for ECCE

Understanding the Key Terms

- **Co-location**
- **Balvatika** (NEP, 2020; 5-6yrs)
- **Aadharshila** National Curriculum for ECCE (MoWCD)



Key Features of the New Guidelines

“Before this, there were no synergistic and convergence guidelines on how AWCs and schools having Grade 1 should work together. There was a sense in the field that the role of anganwadi was different from that of schools and that there was no organic link between the two,” he noted, adding that it is vital to map anganwadis to the nearest schools to ensure that lower-income group children are provided access to pre-primary education.

that the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry IDs (APAAR IDs) now being provided to school children from Class 1 onwards can be extended for children between the ages of three and six who attend anganwadis, for easier tracking.

He added that the MoE is in discussion with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to ensure that the civil registration and Aadhaar databases can be linked for a child from the moment they are born and assigned an identity. “This unique

Physical Co-location & Mapping

Problem: 2 separate databases:

- Poshan Tracker (MoWCD): Tracks children in AWCs.
- UDISE+ (MoE): students in schools.

Solution: Lifelong ID (Aadhaar + CRS)

- Poshan Tracker ID
- APAAR ID

Functional Convergence

- **Joint Activities**
- **Teacher Training**



4th September 2025

SYLLABUS: G.S. 3: Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.

Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page No:** 17



The Great Indian Economic Puzzle

DAYS AFTER the statistics ministry said India's GDP grew by a higher-than-expected 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter, a new survey by the ministry has painted a worrying picture about the state of the informal manufacturing sector in the country. On Wednesday, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's (MoSPI) first-ever Quarterly Bulletin of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises showed that the number of enterprises in the informal manufacturing sector reduced by 4.7 per cent in April-June to 2.06 crore compared to January-March.

EXPLAINED

E What are informal enterprises?

INFORMAL ENTERPRISES are those that are unincorporated, or not registered under the Companies Act of 1956 or the Companies Act, 2013. MoSPI's survey of unincorporated enterprises only covers a part of the non-agricultural economy, namely establishments in manufacturing, trade, and services, excluding construction.

Small scale of operation

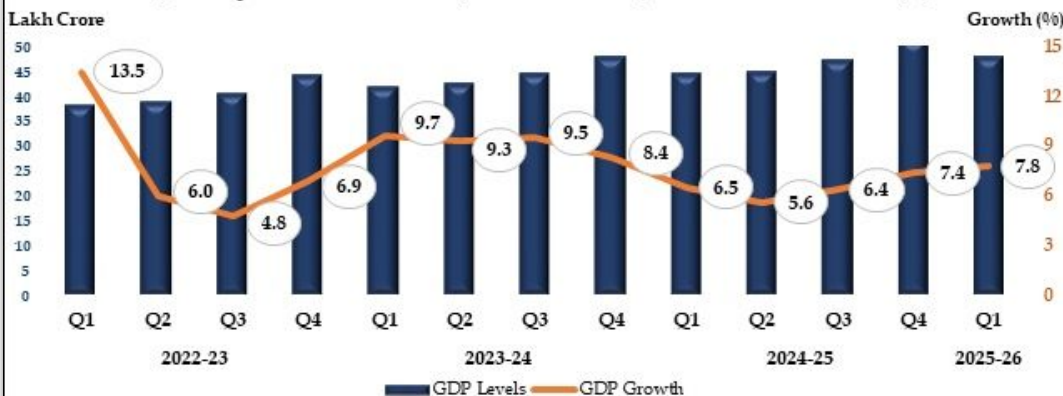
Unregulated

Lack of social security

Contributes significantly to employment but less to GDP

The Puzzle: How can the formal GDP data show a manufacturing boom while the ground-level informal data shows a bust?

Quarterly Real GDP Estimates (in Rs. Lakh Crore) and Y-o-Y Growth Rates (%)



Data based on Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises

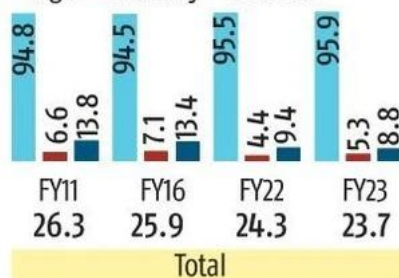
Informal sector GVA

Informal agri Informal industry Informal services (₹ trillion)



% share of informal GVA in total GVA

Agri Industry Services



GVA: Gross value added

Source: SRI Research




SYLLABUS: G.S. 3: Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.

Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page No:** 17

Diving Deeper into the New Survey Data

LABOUR LANDSCAPE

Indicator	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-June 2025
No of establishments in unorganised non-farm sector (fig in 100s)	7,85,367	7,94,240
Percentage of proprietary and partnership establishments	95.4	95.3
Percentage of hired worker establishments 	14	13.3
Number of Workers (fig in 100s)	13,13,380	12,85,725
Percentage share of working owners	58.3	60.2
Percentage share of hired workers	26.9	24.4
Percentage share of other workers (including unpaid family workers)	14.9	15.4

Source: MOSPI

A. The Big Picture: Informal Sector (All Non-Farm)

- Total Enterprises: 7.94 Crore (↑ 1.1% from previous quarter)
- Total Employment: 12.86 Crore (↓ 2.1% from previous quarter)

B. The Troublemaker: Informal Manufacturing Sector ⚠

- Number of Enterprises: 2.06 Crore (↓ 4.7%)
- Number of Workers/Employment: 3.35 Crore (↓ 9.3%)

C. The Performers: Other Sectors

- Trade Sector (e.g., small shops): Employment ↑ 0.2%
- Other Services (e.g., repair services): Employment ↑ 1.1%



SYLLABUS: G.S. 3: Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.

Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page No:** 17



Why is this a "Concern" and a "Puzzle"?

The Concerns

Jobless Growth?

K-Shaped Recovery?

Data Credibility

GDP might be overstated by ~1.5%

Vulnerability

Formal Story (GDP
Data)

Informal Story
(New Survey)

Mfg
Health

Booming!
(7.7%
growth)

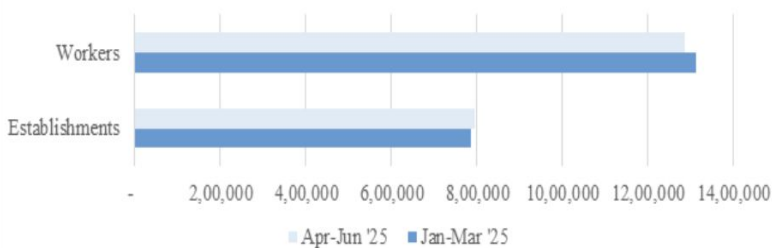
Contracting!
(9.3% job
loss)

Economy

Very
Strong
(7.8%
growth)

Mixed, with
worrying signs

Figure 1: Quarterly indicators from QBUSE



SYLLABUS : Prelims : Social Sector Initiatives

Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No : 7**

What is the Unique Disability ID Project?



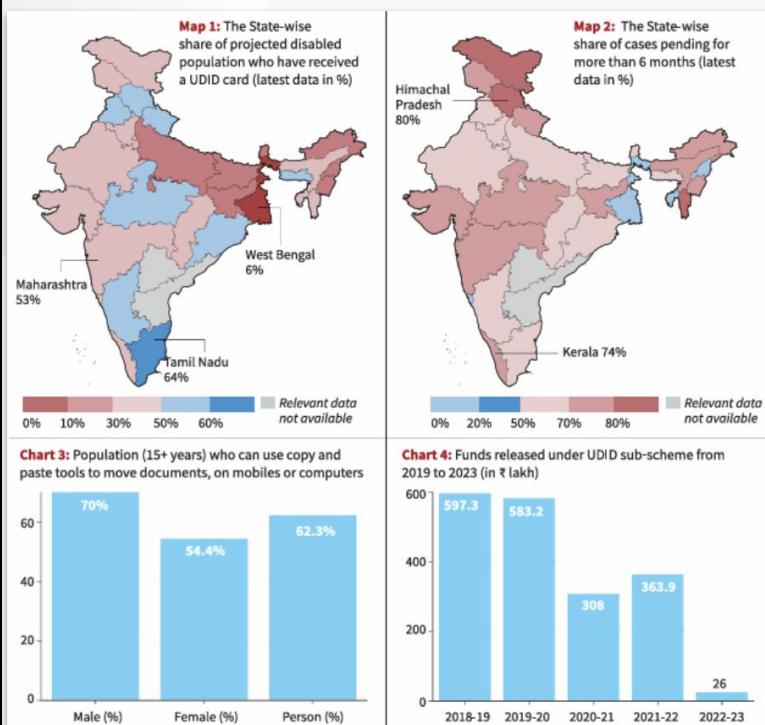
Launched in **2016** by **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**, under the **MoSJ&E**.

- Mandatory for all States/UTs
- Disability Certificates issued only via UDID Portal
- Integrated with **Swavalamban Yojana**

UDID Project Objectives

Identify PwDs	Cover all eligible individuals across India
Issue Unique ID Cards	Standardized format via online portal
Create National Database	Centralized, accessible, and secure
All Disabilities	RPwD Act, 2016 (21 types)
Improve Benefit Delivery	Scholarships, pensions, travel concessions
Ensure Uniformity	Across states and UTs
Enable Tracking	Monitor health and financial progress

UDID Coverage Crisis: The Stark Reality



Delayed Processing

Only 60% of Indians (15+) can use basic digital tools like copy-paste.

Funding Cuts

Key Stats at a Glance

% of PwDs with UDID	Less than 40%
Pending Applications	Over 11 lakh
Long-Pending (>6 mo)	60% of total
Worst-hit States	HP, Ladakh, Mizo
Best-performing States	TN, Megh, Od, Kar
West Bengal	Only ~6%

4th September 2025

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Unique Disability ID Project:

1. It was launched in 2016 by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
2. It covers all types of disabilities recognised under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

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

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. Navchetana is the National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation for Children aged 3 – 6 years.
2. Aadharshila is the National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education for Children aged 0 - 3 years.
3. Both are administered by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

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

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

Answer: a

Q3. How many of the following statements regarding the significance of Theatre Commands for India is/are correct?

1. Effectively address traditional warfare challenges posed by Cyber-attacks, drone swarms, precision missiles, etc.
2. Promotes Optimal Resource Utilisation.
3. Enables faster decision-making.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: b

Q4. Which among the following statements is NOT correct regarding the National Critical Mineral Mission?

- a) Under this Geological Survey of India has been tasked with conducting explorations.
- b) The Centre of Excellence on Critical Minerals would regularly update the mineral list.
- c) It intends to secure India's critical mineral supply chain.
- d) The Ministry of Earth Sciences will be the administrative Ministry.

Answer: d

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement:

1. It is an international treaty under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
2. It sets precise mechanisms for the sustainable use of marine biological diversity.
3. It will not be a legally binding treaty.

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

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

Answer: b





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