



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

5th September 2025

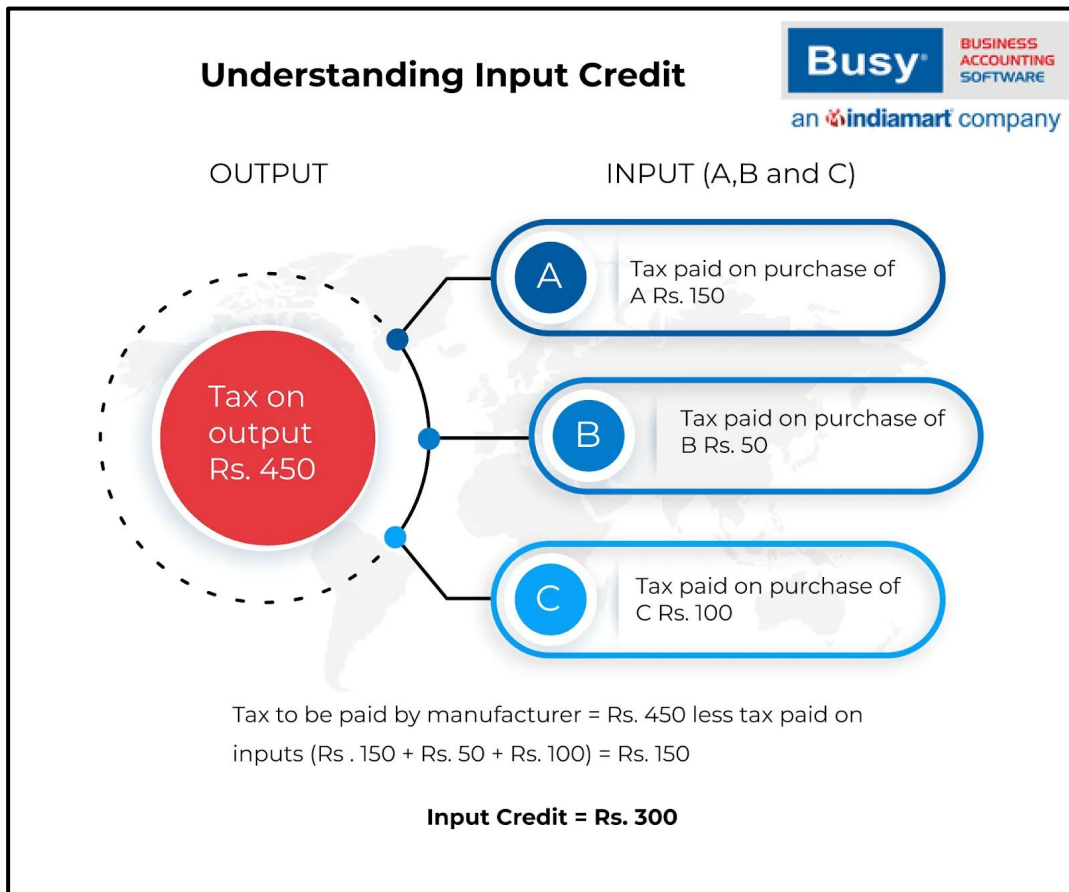


GST Reforms 2.0: Relief , Simplification & Growth for all

CONTEXT: Recently **GST Council cleared the GST 2.0 reforms**. The new rates will come into effect from **22nd September**.

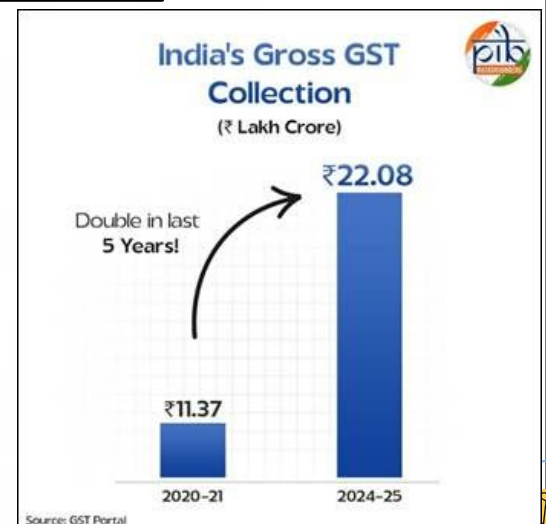
Problems with the Pre-GST Era (VAT system):

- India's indirect tax system was **highly fragmented & compliance-heavy**.
- **Lack of Uniformity:** Different rules for returns, audits, and penalties created confusion.
- **Weak input tax credit** provisions allowed misuse and tax evasion.
- **Double taxation** (VAT plus service tax) increased the burden on both businesses and consumers.



Why GST is a Milestone:

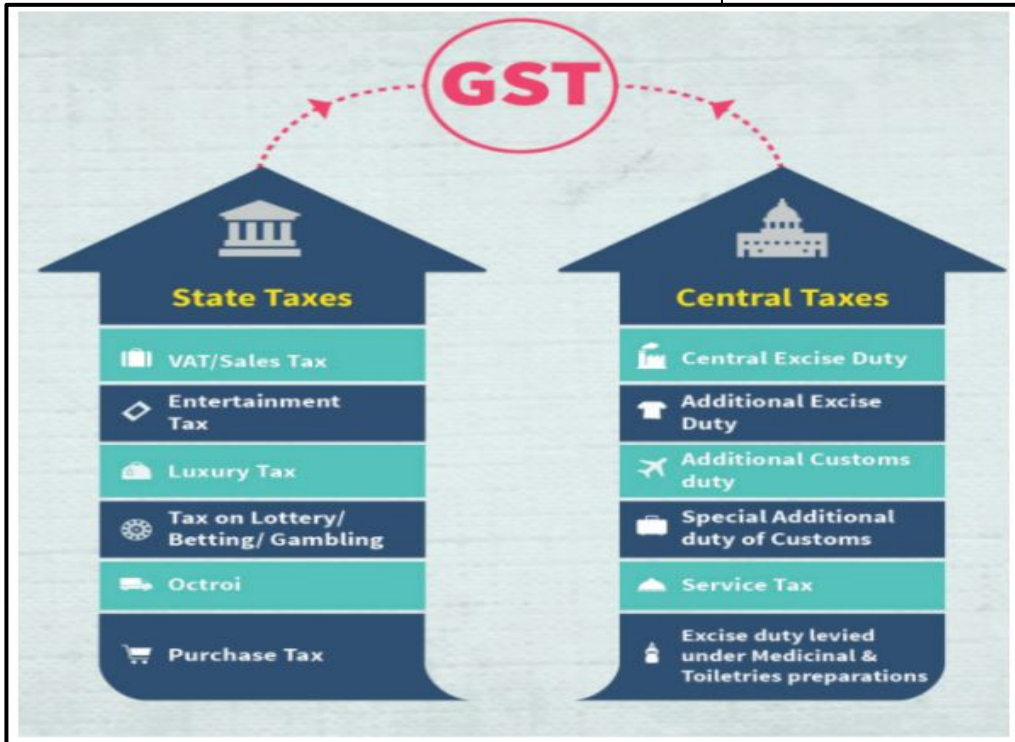
- **Unified Tax Structure:** Subsumed **17 different taxes and 13 cesses** into one unified tax.
- **Formalization of the economy:** taxpayer base has grown from 66.5 lakh in 2017 to 1.51 crore in 2025.
- **Record Revenue Growth:**
- **Eliminated cascading of taxes (tax on tax)**



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7 PILLARS OF NEXT-GEN GST REFORMS



Pillar 1

Building on the success of GST.

One Nation, One Tax
Expanded the taxpayer base
Simpler 2-tier system (5% & 18%)

Pillar 2

Rationalising rates for fairer taxation.

Smoother duty structures
Faster processing of refunds

Pillar 3

Simplifying filing through technology.

Easy registration for small & low-risk businesses
90% upfront provisional refunds for exporters
Digital compliance with e-invoicing
AI-driven risk detection

Pillar 4

Putting consumers first.

Essential goods in the 0-5% bracket
High-value items like cars down from 28% > 18%

Pillar 5

Empowering MSMEs & manufacturers.

Fixed inverted duty structures
Simpler rates to support Make in India

Pillar 6

Stronger states, stronger Bharat.

Sustainable revenue growth for all states
Rationalised rates will increase demand

Pillar 7

Lower taxes = Higher spending.

Families buy more, demand rises, industries grow.
Cheaper appliances, electronics will increase demand

Source- Ministry of Finance



GST Reforms 2.0: Relief , Simplification & Growth for all

CONTEXT: Recently **GST Council cleared the GST 2.0 reforms**. The new rates will come into effect from **22nd September**.

Sector-wise follow-up of the reforms and their expected impact:



FOOD

Item	Existing GST rate	New rate
Ultra-high temperature (UHT) milk	5%	0%
Butter, ghee, cheese, and dairy spreads	12%	5%
Dates, mangoes, citrus and other fruits	12%	5%
Vegetable products	18%	5%
Fish fats and oils	12%	5%
Refined sugar goods	12%	5%
Chocolates and cocoa products	18%	5%

Item	Existing GST rate	New rate
Cornflakes and cereal	18%	5%
Pastry, biscuits, and cakes	18%	5%
Nuts	12%	5%
Coffee and coffee extracts	18%	5%
Ice cream and other edible ice	18%	5%
Paratha, parotta and other Indian breads	18%	0%
Pan masala*	28%	40%
Soya milk drinks	12%	5%



SERVICES

**Input Tax Credit*

Item	Existing GST rate	New rate
All individual health insurance, along with reinsurance thereof	18%	0%
Air transport of passengers in other than economy class	12% with ITC*	18% with ITC
Hotel accommodation (₹7,500 or below)	12% with ITC	5% with ITC
Admission to casinos, race clubs, any place having casinos or race clubs, or sporting events like the IPL	28% with ITC	40% with ITC

FARMING EQUIPMENTS



AUTOMOBILE

Item	Existing GST rate	New rate
Motor vehicles	28%	18%
Motorcycles of engine capacity exceeding 350 cc	28%	40%
Bicycles and other cycles	12%	5%



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Sector-wise follow-up of the reforms and their expected impact:



Making EDUCATION More Affordable!

Study Essentials like Pencils & Sharpeners, Notebooks, Exercise & Graph Books, Maps & Atlases get cheaper, making learning more affordable.

12% GST → NIL

Source- Ministry of Finance



HEALTH MADE AFFORDABLE

GST Cut on Medicines

12% → 5%

NIL on Specified Drugs

Common Medicines, Chronic Care Medicines, Antibiotics among many others

Source- Ministry of Finance



INDIVIDUAL INSURANCE NOW GST FREE

OLD GST RATE: 18% → NEW GST RATE: NIL

INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE

INDIVIDUAL LIFE INSURANCE

✓ ZERO GST = BIG SAVINGS ON PREMIUMS.
✓ MORE AFFORDABLE FAMILY PROTECTION
✓ MONEY SAVED > HIGHER COVER, BETTER BENEFITS

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF FINANCE

 TEXTILES		
Item	Existing GST rate	New rate
Sewing thread, twine, textile materials, fabrics, carpets	12%	5%
Quilted textile materials	12%	18%



GST Reforms 2.0: Relief , Simplification & Growth for all



CONTEXT: Recently **GST Council cleared the GST 2.0 reforms**. The new rates will come into effect from **22nd September**.

Issues:

- ❖ **Concerns of Textile sector:** 18% duty for garments priced above ₹2,500 each.
- ❖ **Aviation Sector:** higher GST on non-economy seats – make premium travel more expensive – potentially making some routes unviable.
- ❖ **Issue of inverted duty structure on edible oils continues:**
 - GST rate on raw materials in their industry is higher than the rate on the finished product.
- ❖ **Federal Issues:**
 - Reduction in rates would adversely affect State's revenue
 - **Opposition Demanding** – all States be compensated for a period of five years, considering 2024-25 as the base year

Mains Practice Question

"The proposed GST 2.0 reforms aim to simplify compliance and broaden the tax base. Critically examine the challenges in the current GST regime and evaluate how GST 2.0 can address them."

(15 Marks, 250 words)

PYQ

"Enumerate the indirect taxes which have been subsumed in the goods and services tax (GST) in India. Also, comment on the revenue implications of the GST introduced in India since July 2017."

(2019)



What's in New Foreigners Act



CONTEXT: Over the past few days, the government has **notified various Rules and Orders under The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025**, which came into **effect on September 1**.

- **Aim:** overhaul of India's system for regulating the entry, stay, and exit of foreign nationals, and identify exemptions available to certain classes of foreigners.
- **Need for the overhaul:**
 - ◆ **Piecemeal notifications:**
 - The previous legal framework, based on *pre-Independence statutes* and piecemeal notifications, was widely seen as being *fragmented & complicated*.
 - ◆ **Ambiguous interpretations:**
 - ◆ **Issues with Exemptions:**
 - such as **Tibetan refugees, Sri Lankan Tamil refugees, citizens of Nepal and Bhutan**, etc., were scattered across multiple orders.
 - ◆ **Reporting Issues:** often manual or delayed, resulting in data gaps for enforcement.
 - ◆ **Ambiguity in enforcement:** powers of local vs. central authorities, scope for compounding offences, and the rules for protected/restricted areas were not uniform throughout the country.

Consolidating old Acts

The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, was passed by Lok Sabha on March 27 and by Rajya Sabha on April 2, and received the assent of the President on April 4.

The Act replaced The Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920; The Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939; The Foreigners Act, 1946; and The Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000, consolidating India's regime for the entry, stay, movement, and exit of foreigners under a single statute.

- **Provisions of The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025:**
 - ◆ **Possession of valid documents:** All entrants must possess a valid passport or travel document and, if a foreigner, a valid visa — **unless explicitly exempted by the Act or by special orders of the central government**.
 - ◆ **Entry and exit only via notified posts:** including all major airports, seaports, land border posts, and rail posts, through which foreigners can legally enter and exit India.
 - ◆ **Powers of the Immigration Officer:** Officers at notified immigration posts have the **final authority** – power to validate or refuse entry or exit on *national security grounds*.
 - ◆ **Defined registration and control mechanism:**
 - Foreign nationals *must register with designated Registration Officers*.
 - The *district superintendent of police / deputy commissioner of police* has been **designated as the local civil authority** for immigration and foreigners' regulation. A network of Foreigners' Regional Registration Officers has been vested with powers for *specific regions and functions*.
 - **Obligations of accommodation providers and institutions:**
 - Hotels, hostels, paying guest homes, religious institutions, and similar establishments **must collect particulars of foreigners**, obtain their *signatures or thumb impressions*.
 - *transmit a duly filled form electronically to the authorities within 24 hours of both arrival and departure of every foreigner*, including holders of Overseas Citizen of India cards.



What's in New Foreigners Act



CONTEXT: Over the past few days, the government has **notified various Rules and Orders under The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025**, which came into **effect on September 1**.

- **Educational and medical notifications:**
 - Universities and hospitals must **notify the Registration Officer about foreigners** admitted or treated.
 - Hospitals must electronically *report every birth and death of a foreigner within seven days*.
- **Authority to shut down resorts, clubs:**
 - The **civil authority** has the power to control, restrict, or shut down **places frequently visited by foreigners** if there are **security, legal, or public order concerns**.
 - Such orders may be issued if, in the authority's opinion, the foreigner "is a criminal, linked to unlawful associations, or otherwise undesirable".
- ◆ Those responsible for such premises **cannot shift operations elsewhere without permission**.
- **Special permit for protected/ restricted areas:**
- ◆ which must be applied for *through designated online portals or mobile apps*, with clearly specified forms and procedures.
- **Exempted categories:**
- ◆ **Members of the Indian military** entering/ exiting the country on duty, and their families if traveling on government transport;
- ◆ **Citizens of Nepal and Bhutan** entering India via designated land or air borders (**except** through China, Macau, Hong Kong, or Pakistan), or possessing valid passports for air entry to other destinations.
- ◆ **Tibetan refugees with special entry permits**, especially those who entered *between 1959 and May 30, 2003*, or later under designated

posts; but only if registered with authorities and holding a registration certificate.

- **Minority community refugees** from *Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan* (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians) who fled religious persecution and entered India **on or before December 31, 2024**, even if without valid travel documents or with documents that subsequently expired.
 - MHA sources said this provision is **for those who are seeking long term visas**, and will **have to acquire Indian citizenship through naturalisation** if they entered **after the CAA cutoff date**.
- **Registered Sri Lankan Tamil nationals** who sheltered in India up to January 9, 2015.
- **Holders of diplomatic and official passports** from certain countries where visa requirements are waived under intergovernmental agreements, or residents from nations *eligible for "visa on arrival" at specific ports*.
- **Foreign military personnel aboard warships** visiting India for humanitarian exercises/ events, unless excluded by a separate government notification.



What's in New Foreigners Act

CONTEXT: Over the past few days, the government has **notified various Rules and Orders under The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025**, which came into **effect on September 1**.

New in the statute

Apart from consolidating scattered laws, the Act and Rules introduce the following:

Digital and electronic records: The digital notification through portals and mobile apps that is required of accommodation providers, hospitals, and universities will create a robust database for enforcement and public health management, and making citizenship decisions.

Graduated fines/compounding system: For infractions such as overstaying, non-registration, violation of visa terms, unauthorised visit to protected areas, and **failure to notify authorities**, the Rules prescribe graduated fines ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 5 lakh.

Different rates apply to Tibetans, Mongolian Buddhist monks, and certain national groups from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, where fines are as low as Rs 50.

Protections and appeal mechanisms: The Rules clarify appeals for fines and penalties, and exceptions for certain humanitarian cases. They provide limited protection for bona fide mistakes or compliance done in good faith.

Centralisation and delegation: The Act empowers the central government to delegate functions to states and Union Territories, with power to modify, cancel, or issue special or general directions at any time.

No discretionary exemptions at local levels: All exemptions for entry, visa, documentation, and protected/ restricted area permits will be on the basis only of orders published by the central government – removing ambiguity that has allowed local variations.

→ Likely boost for enforcement:

- ◆ **Clearly designated officers and electronic records**, the margin for error or *ambiguity* is expected to be reduced.
- ◆ **Several offences can now be compounded** quickly by paying the prescribed fines, *reducing the burden on courts* and making resolution more efficient.
- ◆ The **listed exemptions** for Tibetans, Sri Lankan Tamils, and the minority communities from Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Pakistan have done away with the *scope for discretion on a case-to-case basis*.

Mains Practice Question

"The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 represents a significant overhaul of India's colonial-era immigration framework. Analyze how the new legislation enhances national security, regulatory control, and institutional accountability. Critically assess its implications for civil liberties and institutional compliance."

(15 Marks, 250 words)



5th September 2025

Peace Pact with Kuki – Zo groups

Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Role of non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 1

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry and the Manipur government signed a Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact with the Kuki-Zo insurgent groups on Thursday with “re-negotiated terms and conditions or ground rules”, the Ministry said on Thursday.

The development comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s expected visit to Manipur on September 13, his first since violence between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people erupted on May 3, 2023.

Security forces will conduct verification of cadres and de-list foreign nationals, if any, the Ministry said. A government official said once identified, the foreign nationals would be

Core pact

The agreement was signed with ‘re-negotiated terms and conditions or ground rules’

■ The revised ground rules reiterate territorial integrity of Manipur and relocation of camps run by insurgent groups



■ The rules also stress need for a negotiated solution to bring lasting peace and stability to the State

deported. The revised ground rules reiterate territorial integrity of Manipur and relocation of camps of insurgent groups.

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TIGHTENED NORMS

» PAGE 12

Centre, Manipur ink pact with Kuki groups

Prior to May 3, 2023, the SoO groups demanded autonomous territorial councils within Manipur, but post-violence the demands changed.

Asked if the SoO groups have given up their demand for a separate administration or Union Territory with a legislature, Seilen Haokip, spokesperson Kuki National Organisation (KNO), one of the signatories, told *The Hindu*, “Though the agreement speaks about territorial integrity of Manipur, it also mentions political settlement within the Constitution of India. The Constitution speaks about the integrity of the country, not a district or a State.”

He added that “negotiated political settlement within Constitution of India” is a new inclusion in the agreement as it was not there in the 2008 text when the demand was for territorial councils in Manipur. The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC), a conglomerate of civil society organisations, agreed to open the National Highway-2 (Imphal-Dimapur) passing through Kangpokpi district “for the free movement of commuters and essential goods”, the Ministry said.

- It lays down the **mechanism to monitor activities of cadres**, including a requirement that they obtain Aadhaar cards.
- The revised pact, **valid for a year**.
- It says *stipend will be paid only through Aadhaar-linked bank accounts* to those members who are *present in the camps during inspection*.
- Photo identity cards *shall be provided by the Manipur Police*.
- **Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People’s Front (UPF) –**
 - shall have *six camps each, instead of the 14 they operate presently*.
 - The **camps shall not be located** close to:
 - *populated areas, National Highways and within areas vulnerable to conflict.*
 - *camps are to be located at reasonable distance from the Myanmar border as well as inter-State boundaries.*
- **Physical verification of cadres:**
 - By a **Joint Monitoring Group** – headed by the *Principal Secretary (Home)* of the Manipur government.
 - A complete list of the cadres will be prepared by the government with *name, date of birth, and other details along with latest photographs*.



5th September 2025

Peace Pact with Kuki – Zo groups

Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Role of non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 1

- SoO agreement shall be **followed by tripartite dialogue with KNO and UPF** to pave the way for a *negotiated political settlement under the Constitution of India* in a time-bound manner.
- The pact **bars groups from having association** with any other armed group, within the country or outside; from recruiting new cadres; and carrying out offensive operations against security forces, other groups, and the public.
- The Army, Assam Rifles, Central Armed Police Forces and the the State Police **shall not launch operations against the groups** “as long as they abide” by the agreement.

About Kuki Tribe

- **Ethnic Identity & Geography**
 - The Kukis are an **ethnic group comprising multiple tribes**.
 - Inhabited regions: **Manipur, Mizoram, Assam** (India); parts of **Myanmar (Burma)**; and **Bangladesh** (Sylhet district & Chittagong Hill Tracts).
- **Kindred Tribes**
 - Closely related to the **Chin people (Myanmar)** and **Mizo people (Mizoram)**.
 - Together, they are collectively known as the **Zo people**.
- **Colonial Terminology**
 - “Kuki” is **not a self-chosen identity** but a **colonial construct**.
 - The British classified them as **“Old Kukis” and “New Kukis”** for administrative convenience.
- **Cultural Institutions**
 - **Sawm**: community center for boys where they learn under the guidance of elders.
 - **Lawm**: Youth club fostering **social bonding, community service, and practical skills**.
- **Traditional Economy**
 - Practised **Jhum (shifting) cultivation** in forested hills.
 - This enabled **expansion of settlements** across wooded areas over generations.
- **Inter-Ethnic Conflicts:**
 - Their expansionist land ownership patterns due to Jhum cultivation put them at odds with the Nagas, who practised territorial agriculture, and the Meiteis, who lived in the cultivated valley areas.



Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Issues related to Education
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 1

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

For the seventh straight year, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras claimed the top overall position in the higher education rankings announced by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) on Thursday. It also remained the country's best engineering college for the tenth straight year.

The NIRF's methodology, however, came in for some criticism from Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who presented the India Rankings



Six IITs make it to the **best 10** higher educational institutions in the overall ranking

- 1 Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
- 2 Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
- 3 Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
- 4 Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
- 5 Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
- 6 Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
- 7 Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
- 8 All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi
- 9 Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi
- 10 Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

SOURCE: NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL RANKING FRAMEWORK

2025 awards. He was especially skeptical about the 'peer perception' parameter, that carries 10% of marks for the ranking, and suggested that the NIRF

should ensure that government-funded institutions do not fall behind because of this yardstick.

After the 2024 rankings, States and State-run educa-

tional institutions had alleged that the rankings reflected "regional bias" as metropolitan education institutions score higher on the 'peer perception' criteria, in comparison to suburban or State-run higher education institutions.

The other parameters that the NIRF currently considers for the overall category are teaching, learning, and resources; research and professional practice; graduation outcomes; and research and inclusivity.

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Mr. Pradhan said he was confident that the NIRF would evolve into one of the best accreditation frameworks by including more parameters such as entrepreneurs created by an institution, involving more data-driven approaches, and including more categories and institutions in the future.

The top 100 institutions in the overall category comprised 24 State universities, 22 private deemed universities, 19 IITs and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), nine private universities, eight National Institutes of Technology, seven Central universities, five medical institutions, four Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, one college, and the Indian Agriculture Research Institute.

IISc, Bengaluru topped the universities category for the tenth consecutive year and also stood first in the research institutions category for the fifth consecutive year. IIM Ahmedabad was the best institution for management studies for the sixth consecutive year. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi occupied the top slot among medical institutions for the eighth consecutive year and also topped the rankings in the dental category for the first time.



Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Issues related to Education
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 1

THE TOPPERS

OVERALL

	2025	2024
1	IIT Madras	IIT Madras
2	IISc Bangalore	IISc Bangalore
3	IIT Bombay	IIT Bombay
4	IIT Delhi	IIT Delhi
5	IIT Kanpur	IIT Kanpur

ENGINEERING

	2025	2024
1	IIT Madras	IIT Madras
2	IIT Delhi	IIT Delhi
3	IIT Bombay	IIT Bombay
4	IIT Kanpur	IIT Kanpur
5	IIT Kharagpur	IIT Kharagpur

MANAGEMENT

	2025	2024
1	IIM Ahmedabad	IIM Ahmedabad
2	IIM Bangalore	IIM Bangalore
3	IIM Kozhikode	IIM Kozhikode
4	IIT Delhi	IIT Delhi
5	IIM Lucknow	IIM Calcutta

UNIVERSITIES

	2025	2024
1	IISc Bangalore	IISc Bangalore
2	JNU	JNU
3	Manipal Academy of Higher Education	Jamia Millia Islamia
4	Jamia Millia Islamia	Manipal Academy of Higher Education
5	Delhi University	Banaras Hindu University

COLLEGES

	2025	2024
1	Hindu College	Hindu College
2	Miranda House	Miranda House
3	Hans Raj College	St. Stephen's College
4	Kirori Mal College	Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Centenary College, West Bengal
5	St. Stephen's College	Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, Delhi

Source: NIRF 2025 report

- Introduced by the **Ministry of Education**, in **2015**.
- Objective:**
 - It aims to provide a **fair and transparent assessment of higher education institutions** across India based on various parameters.
 - It aims to **facilitate students to make informed decisions** about their education and encourages institutions to improve their standards and quality.
- Frequency:** Each institute and university is evaluated and assessed every year, and the NIRF rank is **updated annually**.



Fig. 1: NIRF Parameters for Ranking of Institutions

Syllabus: Prelims: Geography
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 12

The water level of the Yamuna river at the Old Railway Bridge peaked this season at 207.48 metres between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. on Thursday before beginning a gradual decline, according to Central Water Commission (CWC) data.



River wrath: Vikaspuri under water on Thursday after a fresh spell of rain; (right) people shifting their belongings to a relief camp near Signature Bridge area. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR & SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

About Yamuna

- It is the **longest and westernmost tributary** of the Ganga.
- **Origin:** from the **Yamunotri Glacier** on western slopes of Banderpunch Range, Uttarakhand.
- The **1,376 km long** Yamuna flows solely through India, **crossing three states:** Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana.
- The Yamuna then **passes Delhi**, where it **feeds the Agra Canal**.
- **Near Prayagraj (Allahabad)**, Yamuna joins the Ganges River.
- The **confluence of the two rivers** is an especially **sacred place to Hindus** and is the site of annual festivals as well as the **Kumbh Mela**, which is held every 12 years.
- Chambal River is Yamuna's biggest tributary on the right.
- **Tributaries:**
 - **Chambal, Sind, Betwa & Ken** – right bank
 - **Hindon, Rind, Sengar, Varuna** – join it on its left bank.
- Functioning as an **attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti**, Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Functions:**
 - The Commission is entrusted with the general responsibilities of **initiating, coordinating, and furthering, in consultation with the State Governments** concerned, **schemes for control, conservation, and utilization of water resources** throughout the country for **purposes of** Flood Control, Irrigation, Navigation, Drinking Water Supply, and Water Power Development.
 - It also undertakes the **investigations, construction, and execution** of any such schemes as required.
- **Organisation Structure:** headed by a Chairman, with the status of Ex-Officio Secretary to the Government of India.
- **3 wings:** Designs and Research Wing, River Management Wing & Water Planning and Projects Wing.



Syllabus: Prelims: Places in News
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 12

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Singapore on Thursday acknowledged India's plans to patrol the strategically important Malacca Straits. The discussion was part of the agenda when Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong at Hyderabad House where the two sides signed five agreements, including one to export green energy from India to Singapore through dedicated ports.

"Today, we have charted a detailed roadmap for the future of our partnership. Our cooperation will not remain confined to traditional areas. In keeping with the needs of changing times, advanced manufacturing, green shipping, skilling, civil nuclear energy, and urban water management will also emerge as focus points of our collaboration," said Mr. Modi welcoming his Singapo-



PM Narendra Modi with his Singapore counterpart Lawrence Wong at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

rean counterpart who paid a three-day visit to India.

A joint statement said the two sides will deepen defence technology cooperation in "quantum computing, AI, automation and unmanned vessels". Both sides will cooperate to enhance maritime security, "submarine rescue" in the "Indo-Pacific" and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, said the statement, adding that "Singapore

acknowledges with appreciation India's interest in the Malacca Straits Patrol".

Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, P. Kumaran said India is interested in patrolling the Malacca Straits as it is next to the Andaman Sea and said that talks are on. Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore patrol the Straits and India is expecting some kind of synergy among member countries.



Malacca Strait

- **Connects** the **Andaman Sea** (Indian Ocean) and the **South China Sea** (Pacific Ocean).
- Stretching about 800km, it is the **longest strait in the world**.
- It **runs between** the *Indonesian island of Sumatra* to the west and peninsular (West) *Malaysia* and extreme southern *Thailand* to the east and has an area of about 25,000 square miles.
- Through this corridor, **approximately 60% of the world's maritime trade transits**, and is the main source of oil supply for two of the main Asian consumers: the People's Republic of China and Japan.



Strait of Malacca



Syllabus: Prelims: Places in News
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 12

Strait	Location (Between)	Connects
Strait of Gibraltar	Spain (Europe) & Morocco (Africa)	Atlantic Ocean ↔ Mediterranean Sea
Strait of Hormuz	Oman & Iran	Persian Gulf ↔ Gulf of Oman (Arabian Sea)
Bab-el-Mandeb	Djibouti (Africa) & Yemen (Asia)	Red Sea ↔ Gulf of Aden (Arabian Sea)
Bosporus	European Turkey & Asian Turkey	Black Sea ↔ Sea of Marmara
Dardanelles	European Turkey & Asian Turkey	Sea of Marmara ↔ Aegean Sea
Palk Strait	Tamil Nadu (India) & Sri Lanka	Bay of Bengal ↔ Gulf of Mannar (Indian Ocean)
Bering Strait	Russia (Chukotka) & USA (Alaska)	Bering Sea ↔ Arctic Ocean
Sunda Strait	Java & Sumatra (Indonesia)	Java Sea ↔ Indian Ocean
Lombok Strait	Bali & Lombok (Indonesia)	Java Sea ↔ Flores Sea (Pacific access)



Syllabus: GS 2: Statutory Bodies

Newspaper: Indian Express, **Page No.** 12

A HIGH-LEVEL committee set up after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day call for next-generation reforms will this week take up industry concerns over certification requirements under **Quality Control Orders (QCOs)** administered by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

QCOs are government notifications that make it mandatory for manufacturers to secure BIS certification before selling or importing specified products. The committee, headed by former Cabinet Secretary and current NITI Aayog member **Rajiv Gauba**, will on Saturday review the hurdles industries face in obtaining these approvals and examine bottlenecks in standards and processes that affect productivity and competitiveness.

At Saturday's meeting, the Gauba panel will consider proposals such as digital mechanisms, self-certification models, and third-party inspections to ease compliance.

About Bureau of Indian Standards

- It is the **National Standards Body of India** established under the **BIS Act 2016**.
- It works under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**.
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi
- **Objective:** Harmonious development of the activities of standardisation, and quality assurance of goods and articles.
 - ◆ It operates various schemes like **Product Certification (ISI mark), Hallmarking of Gold and Silver Jeweller, ECO Mark Scheme** (for labeling of **environment friendly products**).
- It **represents India** in *International Organization for Standardization* and *International Electrotechnical Commission*.



Q1. Regarding the Goods and Services Tax (GST), consider the following statements:

1. GST in India is a destination-based, indirect tax that subsumes most indirect taxes levied by the Union and the States.
2. Alcohol for human consumption has been kept outside the purview of GST.
3. Petroleum crude, petrol, natural gas and electricity are presently included under GST.

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

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

Answer: b

Q2. Regarding the Kuki Tribe in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Kukis are primarily concentrated in the north-eastern states of India, especially Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland.
2. They belong to the Tibeto-Burman linguistic family and are part of the larger Zo/Chin ethnic group spread across India, Myanmar, and Bangladesh.
3. Traditionally, the Kukis practice shifting cultivation (jhum) and have a strong clan-based social organisation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q3. Regarding the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Education in 2015 to rank higher education institutions in India.
2. The ranking is based on parameters such as Teaching, Learning & Resources, Research and Professional Practices, Graduation Outcomes, Outreach & Inclusivity, and Perception.
3. NIRF provides rankings only for universities and does not cover specialised domains like law, architecture, or management.

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

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

Answer: b

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Yamuna River:

1. The Yamuna originates from the Yamunotri Glacier on the southwestern slopes of the Bandarpunch range in Uttarakhand.
2. Chambal and Betwa are the left-bank tributaries of the Yamuna.
3. The Yamuna meets the Ganga at Prayagraj.
4. Hindon and Tons are among its right-bank tributaries.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q5. Regarding the Strait of Malacca, consider the following statements:

1. It connects the Andaman Sea with the South China Sea.
2. It forms a maritime boundary between Indonesia and Malaysia.
3. It is the widest natural strait in the world and hence has no choke point significance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b





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