



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

22nd February 2026

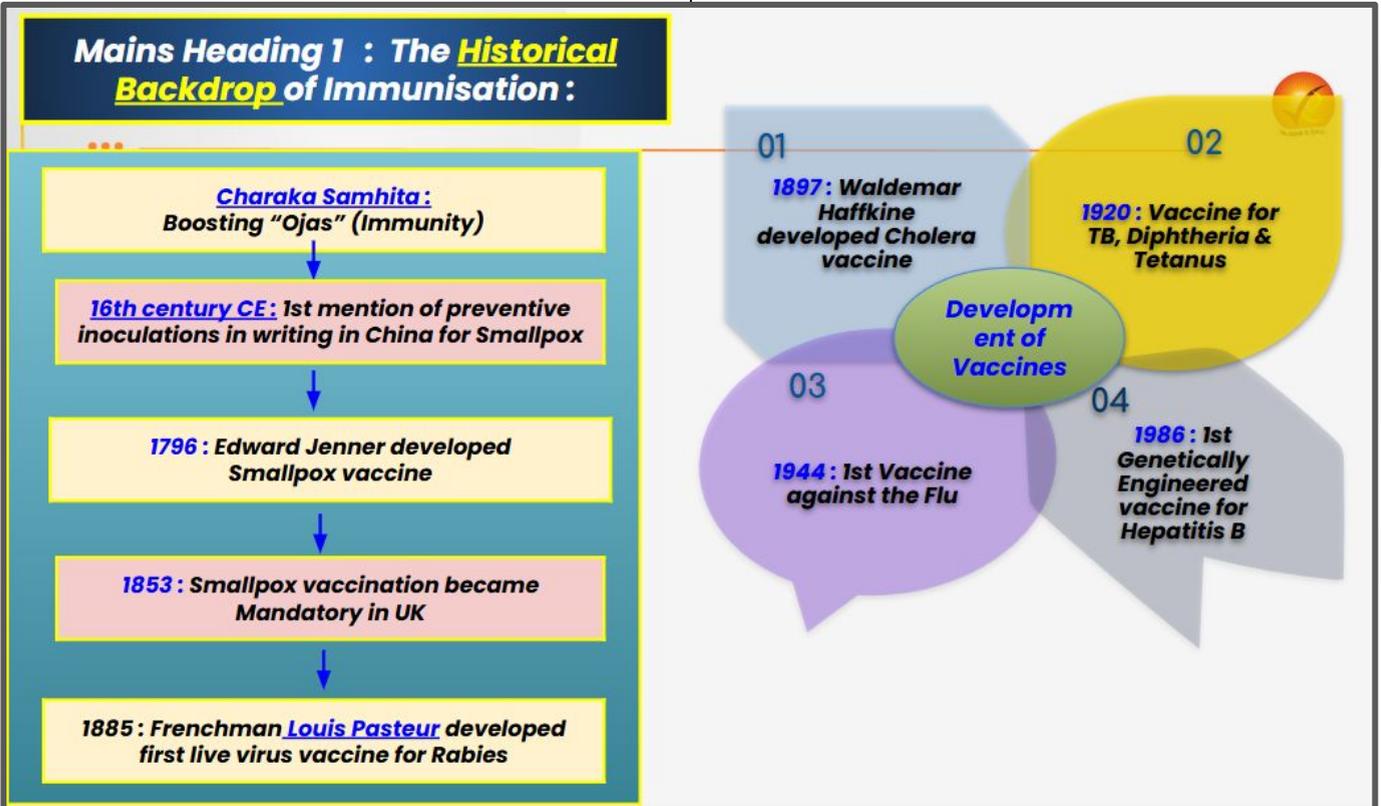


Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)

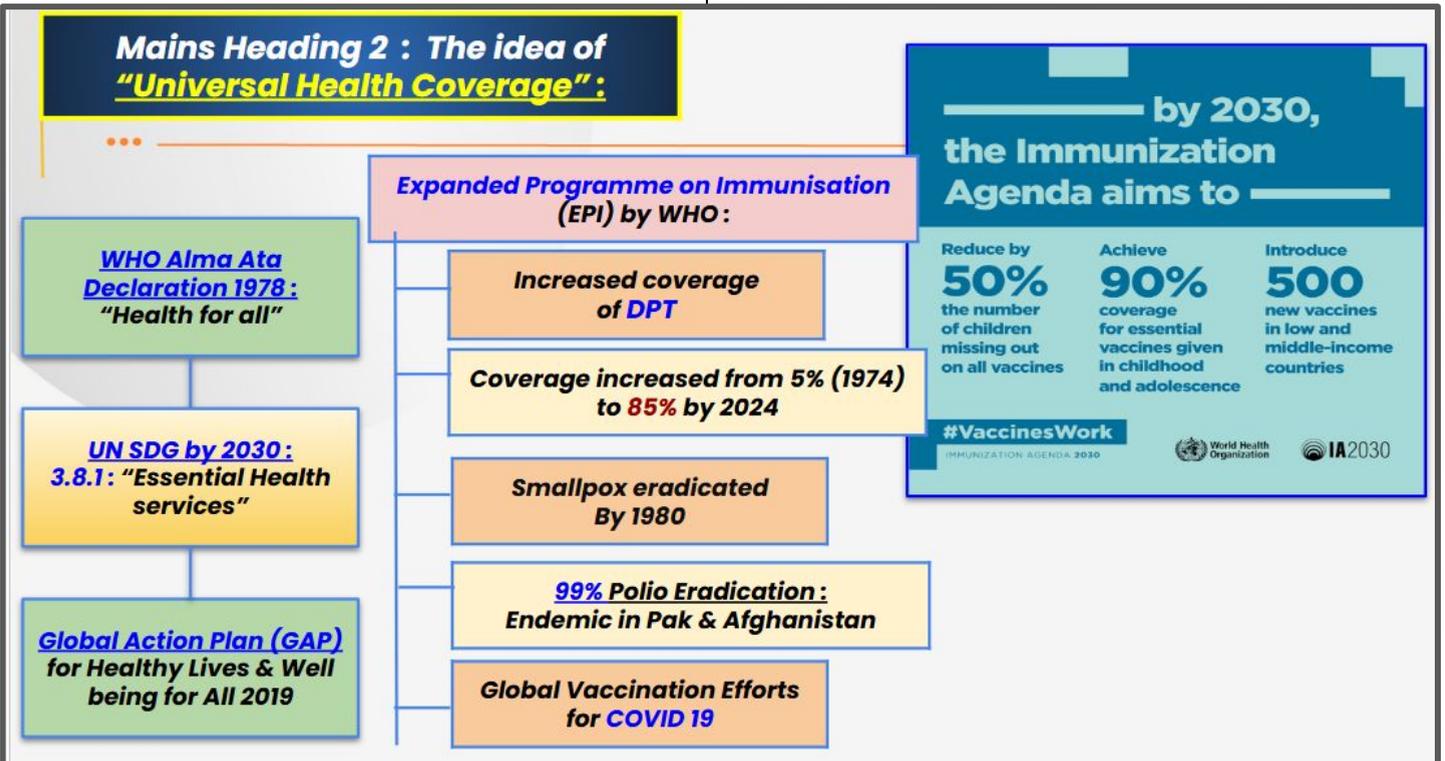


CONTEXT: The article showcases the improvements achieved by the Ministry of Health in the field of Immunisation and the impediments which still persist.

Mains Heading 1 : The Historical Backdrop of Immunisation :



Mains Heading 2 : The idea of "Universal Health Coverage":

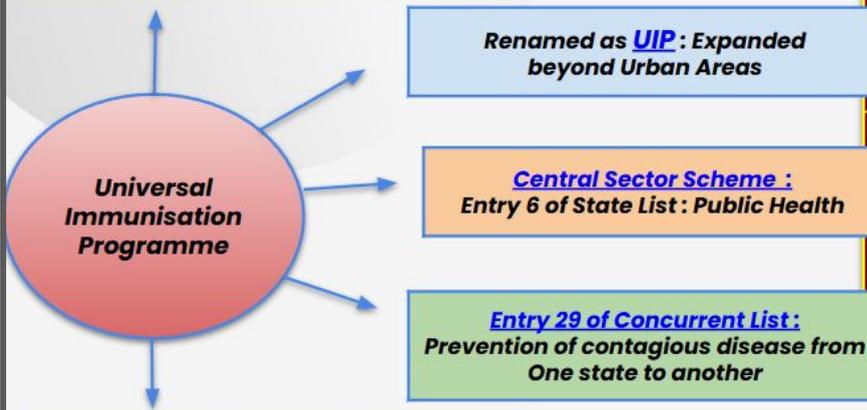


Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)

CONTEXT: The article showcases the improvements achieved by the Ministry of Health in the field of Immunisation and the impediments which still persist.

Mains Heading 3: India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) :

Expanded Programme on Immunisation in 1978 : Limited only in Urban areas



MoHFW : Target 3 crore + pregnant women & 2.7 crore + newborns annually

Mains Heading 3: India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) :

Economic Survey 2026 : "All in praise" for Efforts :

India's MMR = **93 per 1,00,000 women** (decline of 86% by 1990)

78% decline in Under - 5 mortality rate (Global decline : 61%)

Infant Mortality Rate : 25 per thousand live births (from 40 in 2013)

70% Decline in Neonatal Mortality Rate (54% globally between 1990-2023)

State with Highest MMR = **Madhya Pradesh (175)**

75% Pregnant & lactating mothers have insufficient Calorie & Protein Intake

70 Maternal mortality rate is defined as the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 100,000 live births.
 71 United Nations Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group Report (2000-2023): <https://tinyurl.com/ty8v3mhr>
 72 U5MR refers to the probability a newborn would die before reaching exactly 5 years of age, expressed per 1,000 live births.
 73 NMR is defined as the number of deaths during the first 28 completed days of life per 1000 live births in a given year.

Universal Immunisation Programme⁸⁵

U-WIN portal is a user-friendly platform that enables seamless access to immunisation records, flexible scheduling, and 'Anytime Access' and 'Anywhere' vaccination

- Total registered beneficiaries: 14.32 crore,
- Deliveries recorded: 1.62 crore, and
- Vaccination doses administered and recorded: 60.98 crore



Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)



CONTEXT: The article showcases the improvements achieved by the Ministry of Health in the field of Immunisation and the impediments which still persist.

Mains Heading 4: What are the "Persisting Challenges"?

The "Underlying Factors":

UNDP Report: **Local Inequalities:** Small Pockets with Low Coverage

Lack of Awareness & "**Vaccine Hesitancy**" v. Complacency of Population: "**Short term**" memory effect

Poor state of "**Primary Healthcare Infrastructure**"

Low **Private Share Investment** in Healthcare

Low **Capacity Building** at Grassroot level

Challenges in "Number":

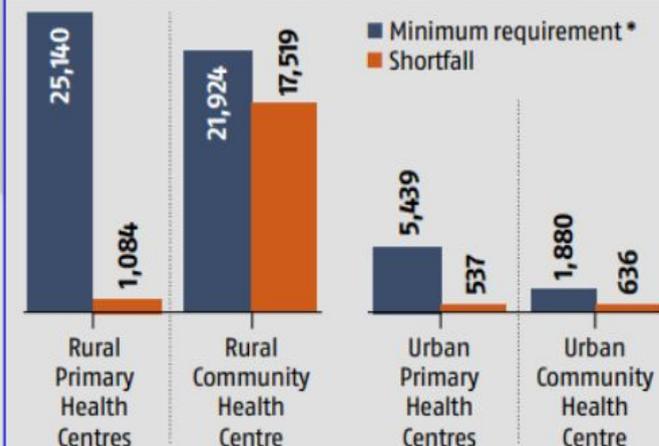
UNICEF's State of World Children Report 2024: Childhood immunisation: Declined for 1st time in decade

WHO: "India has **1.6 million Zero - Dose Children** in 2023"

NFHS - 5 (2021-23): Only **76.4% Children** were "Fully Immunised"

Mains Heading 4: What are the "Persisting Challenges"?

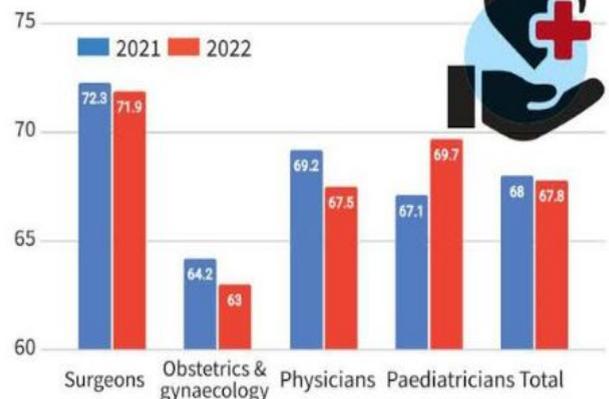
GOVERNMENT HEALTH CENTRES FACE SHORTFALL



*WHO standard that mandates the minimum requirement of doctors based on population
Source: IndiaSpend, Rural Health Statistics 2020-21

Glaring gap

Overall, 67.8% sanctioned posts of specialists at Community Health Care Centres in India are vacant, according to Rural Health Statistics 2021-22. The chart shows vacancies (in %) of specialists in CHCs across specialities



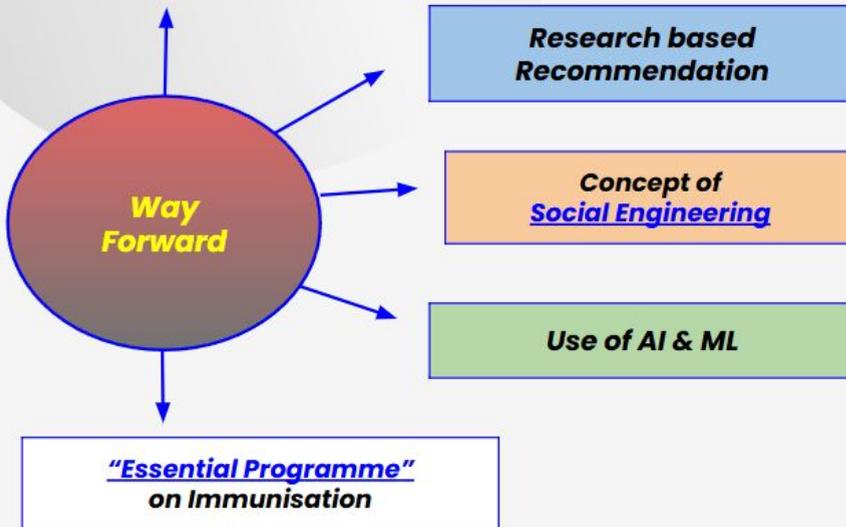
Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)



CONTEXT: The article showcases the improvements achieved by the Ministry of Health in the field of Immunisation and the impediments which still persist.

Mains Heading 5: What can be the "Way Forward" ?

Vaccination under JSS & PM - JAY



Context of News :

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Saturday launched the indigenously manufactured tetanus and adult diphtheria (Td) vaccine at the Central Research Institute (CRI) in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh.

Describing the indigenous launch of the vaccine as a momentous occasion, he said the launch marks a significant step towards safeguarding national health security and strengthening India's public health infrastructure.

Mains Practise Question

Practise Question : What is Expanded Programme on Immunisation? What are the key challenges in achieving "Universal Immunisation" globally? Substantiate. (10 Marks, 150 words)



CAQM tighten norms for Industries



CONTEXT: The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & adjoining Areas (CAQM) has imposed a stricter particulate matter (PM) emission limit on industries to curb the menace of Air Pollution

Mains Heading 1: The "Urgent Call" for Structural Reforms :

Context of News :

The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) on Saturday proposed a stricter particulate matter (PM) emission limit of 50 milligrams per normal cubic metre (mg/Nm³) for industries across Delhi-NCR, replacing the earlier 80 mg/Nm³ standard notified in June 2022.

Delhi : Pollution "Capital"?

WHO Report 2024 :
3rd most polluted country

Delhi : World's most polluted capital city

96% population exposed to high level of PM 2.5

LANCET Report 2023 :
Air pollution : 11% deaths per annum in Delhi

What is the "extent"?

While the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 24-hour guideline for PM 10 is 50 µg/m³, Delhi's hourly readings were already over 16 times higher, showing how high pollution levels surged before the festival night.

Mains Heading 2: The "Cause" behind "Breathing Crisis":

Air pollution impacting Red Fort walls, finds study

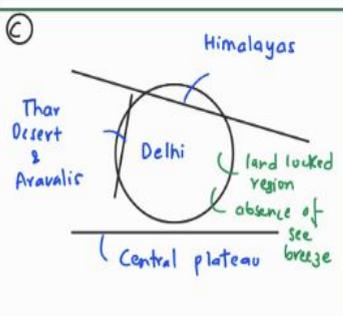
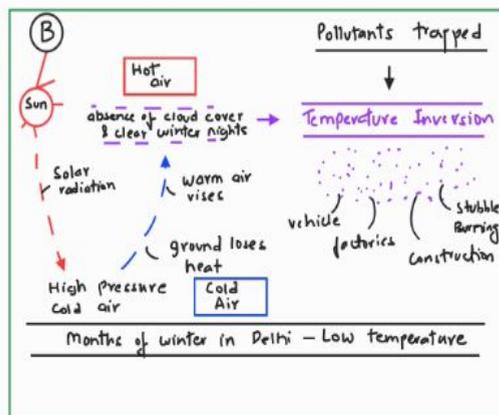
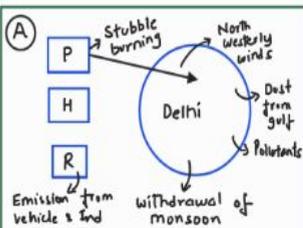
Punjab records 27 incidents of stubble burning in five days

State intensifies awareness campaign; hotspots identified; govt. sanctions 15,613 crop residue management machines against 16,837 applications

Delhi world's most polluted capital city again, India has third worst air quality out of 134 countries: Report

Delhi's PM2.5 levels worsened from 89.1 micrograms per cubic metre in 2022 to 92.7 micrograms per cubic metre in 2023.

CAUSES OF POLLUTION IN DELHI



- Expansion of "Grey Infrastructure"
- Absence of Green-Blue spaces
- land use changes
- Rapid urbanisation

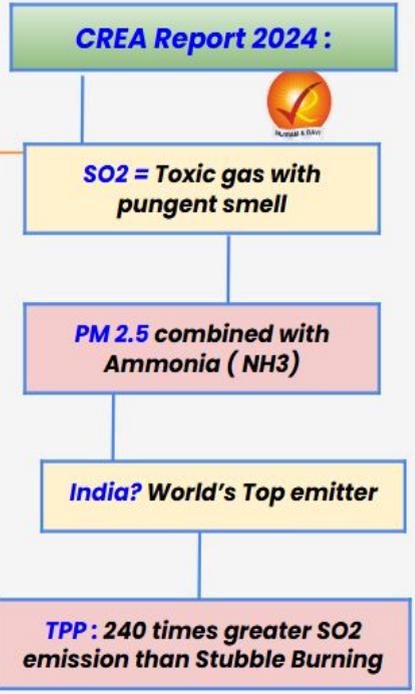
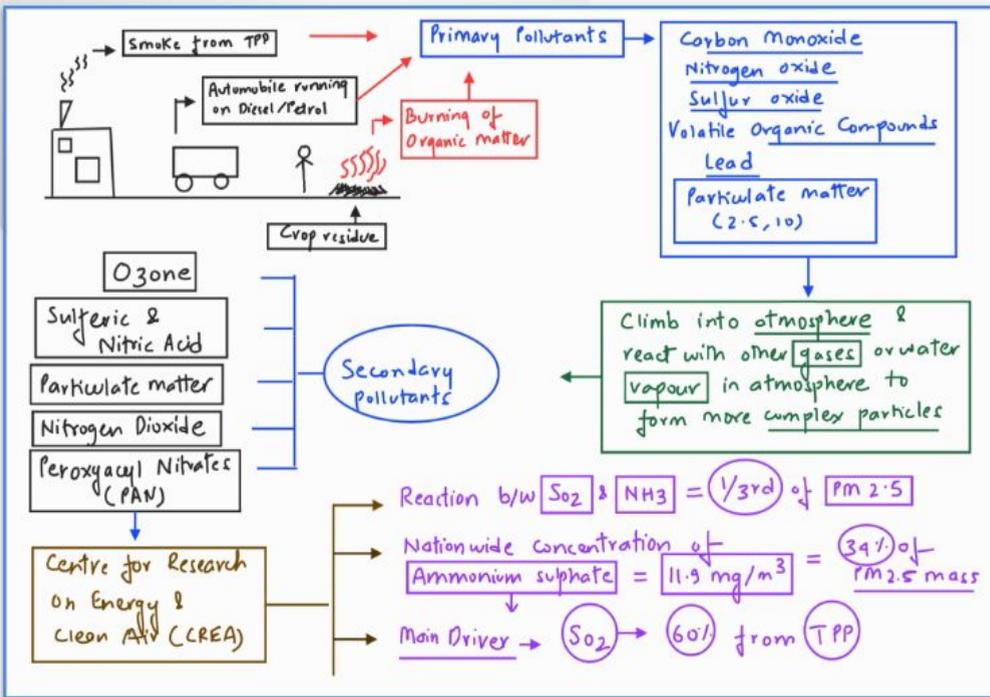


CAQM tighten norms for Industries

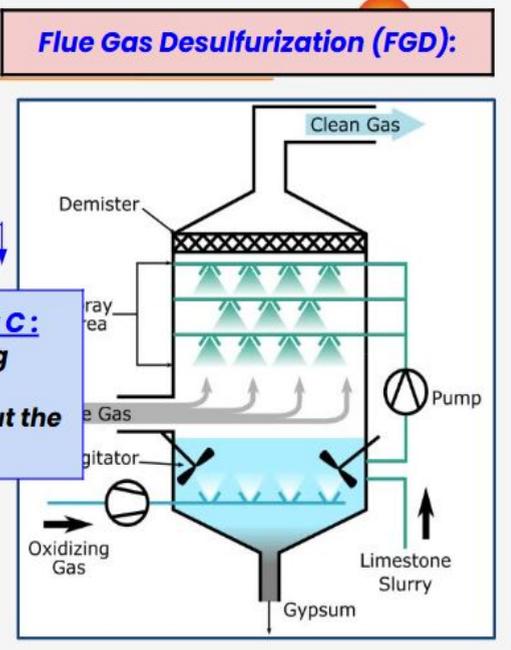
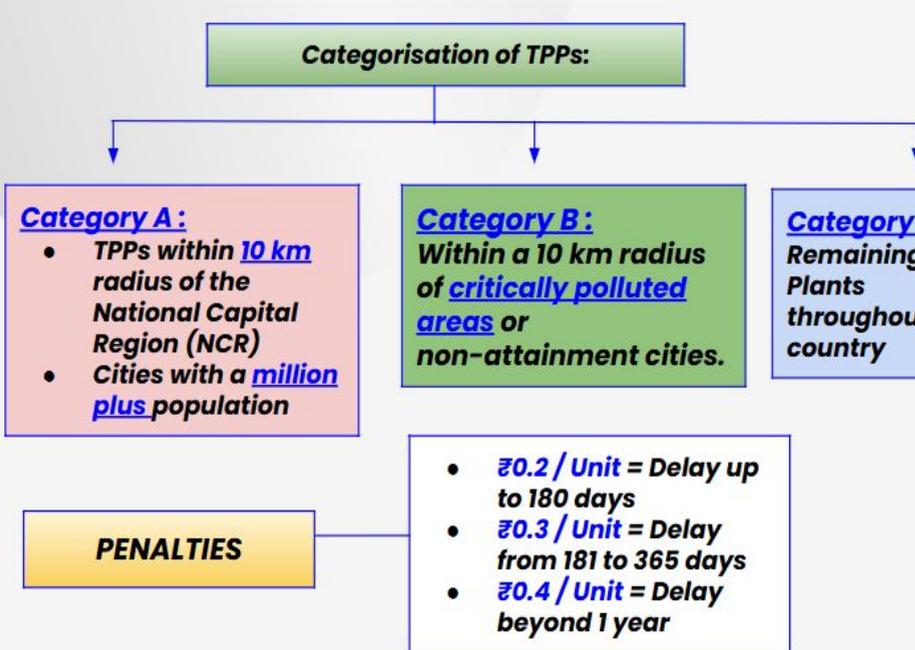


CONTEXT: The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & adjoining Areas (CAQM) has imposed a stricter particulate matter (PM) emission limit on industries to curb the menace of Air Pollution

Mains Heading 2: The "Cause" behind "Breathing Crisis":



Mains Heading 3: The "Government's Response":



CAQM tighten norms for Industries



CONTEXT: The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & adjoining Areas (CAQM) has imposed a stricter particulate matter (PM) emission limit on industries to curb the menace of Air Pollution

Mains Heading 3: The "Government's Response":

"Pollution is measured as per NAQI developed by CPCB":

Precedent for Government:

Stockholm Declaration 1972 :
Right to Clean Environment

Article 48 A :
Protect Environment

Article 51 A (g) :
Duty of citizen to protect
environment

MC Mehta v. UOI 1988 :
Polluters Pay Principle

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)

- ❑ Statutory body
- ❑ Commission for Air Quality Management Act 2021
- ❑ Prevention of Air pollution in Delhi - NCR and adjoining areas
- ❑ Accountable to Parliament
- ❑ Chairperson : Secretary

- ❑ Particulate Matter (2.5 & 10)
- ❑ Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)
- ❑ Sulphur
- ❑ Carbon Monoxide (CO)
- ❑ Ammonia (NH₃)
- ❑ Lead (Pb)
- ❑ Ozone (O₃)

Mains Heading 3: The "Government's Response":

National Clean Air Programme :

Other Steps Taken :

National Clean Air Programme

SATAT & FAME Scheme

Ban on use of Pet Coke &
Furnace Oil as fuel

Technical Interventions :
Happy Seeder

Adoption of GREEN Crackers :
SWAS, STAR & SAFAL

- ❑ Target : 40% reduction in PM Levels by 2025-26 under NCAP from 2017 level
- ❑ Cities to be covered : 102
- ❑ 131 cities to be ranked on actions to reduce air pollution
- ❑ City specific air pollution abatement action plan
- ❑ International Support Agencies : World Bank, Swiss Development Corporation etc

Mains Practise Question

Question : Discuss the major sources and impacts of air pollution in India. Examine the effectiveness of existing policy measures and suggest a comprehensive strategy to address the issue.
(10 Marks, 150 words)



Why Pax Silica matters?

SYLLABUS : Prelims Current Events of National and International Importance
Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 11**

Why Pax Silica matters?

Context of News :

INDIA ON Friday signed the Pax Silica declaration on the side-lines of the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, formally entering the American-led strategic initiative to counter China's dominance in artificial intelligence and technology supply chains.

The Donald Trump administration had launched the grouping on December 12, but left India out of its first list.

Why it is Important for India?

Mineral	Importance	Import Dependency
Bismuth	Pharmaceutical and chemicals	85.6%
Lithium	EV batteries and energy storage	82%
Silicon	Semiconductor & solar panels	76%
Titanium	Aerospace & defence applications	50%
Tellurium	Solar power & thermoelectric devices	42%

Issue 1 : Trade Deficit :

- July 2025 : India's Imports : \$113 Billion - India's Exports : \$14.25 Billion
- Trade Deficit : \$1.1 Billion in 2004 to \$99 billion in 2024
- China's trade deficit = 35% of India's total trade imbalance
- Why so serious?

Issue 2 : Creation of "Critical dependence" :

- Antibiotics = 97% supply of Erythromycin
- Electronics = 86% of flat panel displays & 80% of Laptops
- Renewable Energy = 82% of solar cells & 75% of Lithium ion batteries

GTRI : "Overwhelming dominance gives Beijing potential leverage against India turning supply chains into a tool of pressure in times of political tension"

Chart 3a
India depends most on Chinese imports for producing its own exports

Foreign value-added (FVA) contribution of each country to India's exports (as a % of total FVA in exports) in 2019

Country	FVA Contribution (%)
China	34.1
Others	35.5
Germany	5.2
US	4.9
South Korea	4.4
Russia	3.6
Australia	3.4
Saudi Arabia	3.0
Switzerland	3.0



Why Pax Silica matters?

SYLLABUS : Prelims Current Events of National and International Importance
Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 11**

Why Pax Silica matters?

What is Pax Silica?

- It is **NOT** a Formal Treaty
- US Led Initiative to counter China's dominance in Critical Minerals & Semiconductors
- QUAD, Netherland, Singapore & South Korea
- EU & OECD as "Observers"
- China + 1: Securing global technology & AI Supply chains

Initiatives by USA & India for Semiconductors :

USA

- CHIPS Act 2022**: Subsidies for Semiconductor manufacturing
- Export restrictions** on Advanced AI Chips
- Chip 4 Alliance Framework**: U + J + SK + Taiwan
- "**Friend shoring**" strategy

India

- KABIL** : To secure overseas Mineral assets
- Deep Ocean Mission** for Ocean Exploration
- National Semiconductor Mission**

Why Pax Silica matters?

Six Core Components of Deep Ocean Mission

<p>Manned Submersible (MATSYA 6000) Depth: 6,000 meters Carries 3 aquanauts</p>	<p>Deep Sea Mining System Targets cobalt, nickel, copper</p>
<p>Ocean Climate Advisory Services Seasonal to decadal forecasts</p>	<p>Biodiversity Exploration Marine microbes, flora, fauna for pharma & biotech</p>
<p>Ocean Energy & Desalination OTEC-powered freshwater systems</p>	<p>Survey of Hydrothermal Sulphides Mapping mid-ocean ridges</p>

INDIA SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION (ISM)

Administrative Ministry
Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeiTY)
Government of India

Central Sector Scheme

- Fully Funded by: Government of India
- Financial Outlay: **₹76,000 Crore** (approx. USD 10 Billion)

Gujarat

- Dholera Region
- Key Semiconductor Manufacturing Hub

Telangana

- Semiconductor Packaging & Testing Unit
- Approved

Fiscal Incentive Structure

Category	Fiscal Support
Semiconductor Fabrication Plants	Up to 50% of Project Cost
Display Fabrication Units	Up to 50% of Project Cost
ATMP/OSAT Units	Up to 50% of Capital Expenditure
Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme	Up to 50% of Eligical Expenditure

Incentive

Up to **50% Fiscal Support**

Fis all argale proveds



SYLLABUS: Prelims History of India
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number:** News in Frames

Three Hoysala temples of Karnataka inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage sites

All three temples are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India and the nominations were entered as 'The Sacred Ensembles of Hoysalas'

Context of News :

Across the quiet farmlands of Hassan, Mandya and Mysuru stand some of Karnataka's most remarkable yet overlooked Hoysala-era monuments – temples and *basadis* (shrines) that once formed the spiritual fabric of a thriving medieval kingdom. Built between the 11th and 13th centuries, these shrines reveal the dynasty's signature blend of devotion and sculptural mastery, extending far beyond the celebrated sites of Belur, Halebidu and Somanathapura.

Splendour of Hoysalas

Nagara	Dravida	Vesara
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tallest Shikhara above Garbhagriha Entrance : Ganga, Yamuna, Yaksha, Yakshini Generally absence of elaborate Vedicas and Toranas Jagati Platforms Panchayatan style 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vimana Absence of "Urushikhara" : Subsidiary shrines do not have Vimanas Garbhagriha Entrance : Dvarpala, Mithuna, Navagraha Large Gopurams : Gateways "Kund" within the Temple premise Panchratha, Triratha & Saptaratha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curvilinear Shikhara & Stepped Vimana Developed under Chalukyas (543-755 CE) Bhadra : Multiple projections Pradakshina Path around Garbhagriha Dvikuta, Trikuta & Catuskuta (sanctums)

Splendour of Hoysalas

Chennakesava Temple of Hoysalas (1000-1036 CE) :

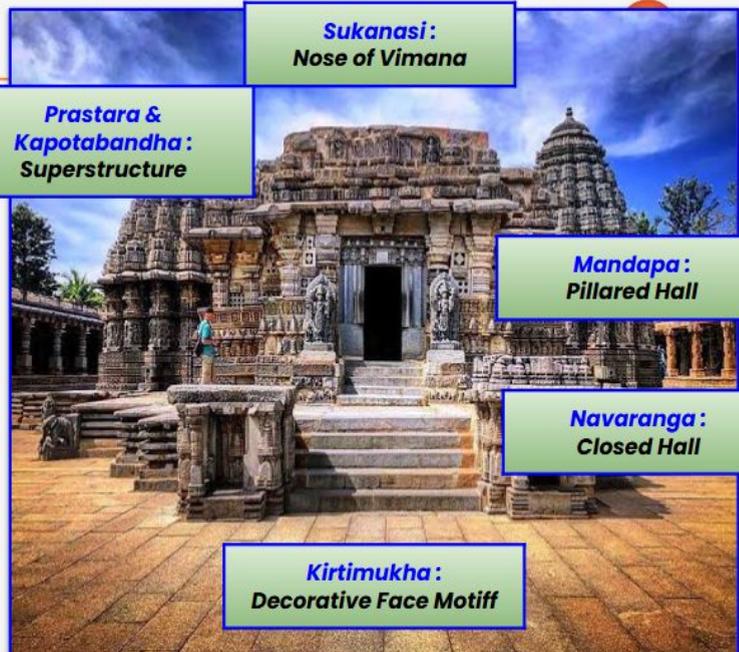
Use of Smooth **Chlorite Schist & Soapstone**

Bank of **Kaveri River** in Karnataka

Vaishnavite Temple : Influence of **Alvars**

Star shaped **Jagati & Pradakshina Path**

Carved **Madanika Figure & Bhumija Style**



SYLLABUS: Prelims History of India
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number :** News in Frames

Splendour of Hoysalas



Hoysaleswara Temple, India, showing the Hoysaleswara Temple, where the Hoysaleswara Temple is located. The Hoysaleswara Temple is a Hindu temple complex in Hoysaleswara, India. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temple is a masterpiece of Indian art and architecture. It is a Hindu temple complex in Hoysaleswara, India. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temple is a masterpiece of Indian art and architecture. It is a Hindu temple complex in Hoysaleswara, India. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temple is a masterpiece of Indian art and architecture.



Epic in stone: A raging battle between Rama and Ravana is depicted across the walls of the Hoysaleswara temple, a 12th-century Shiva temple.



Hoysaleswara Temple, India, showing the Hoysaleswara Temple, where the Hoysaleswara Temple is located. The Hoysaleswara Temple is a Hindu temple complex in Hoysaleswara, India. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temple is a masterpiece of Indian art and architecture. It is a Hindu temple complex in Hoysaleswara, India. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temple is a masterpiece of Indian art and architecture.



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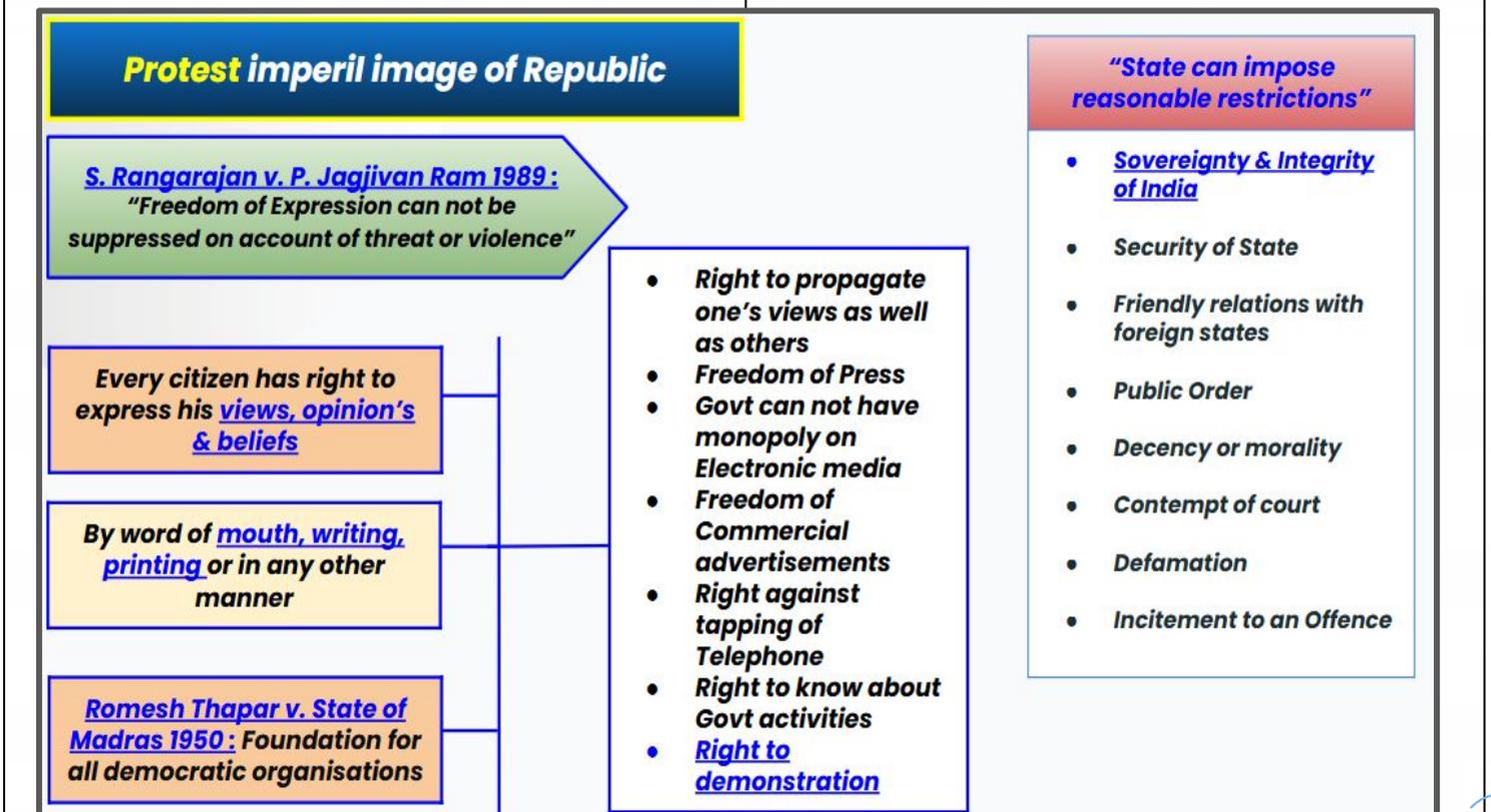
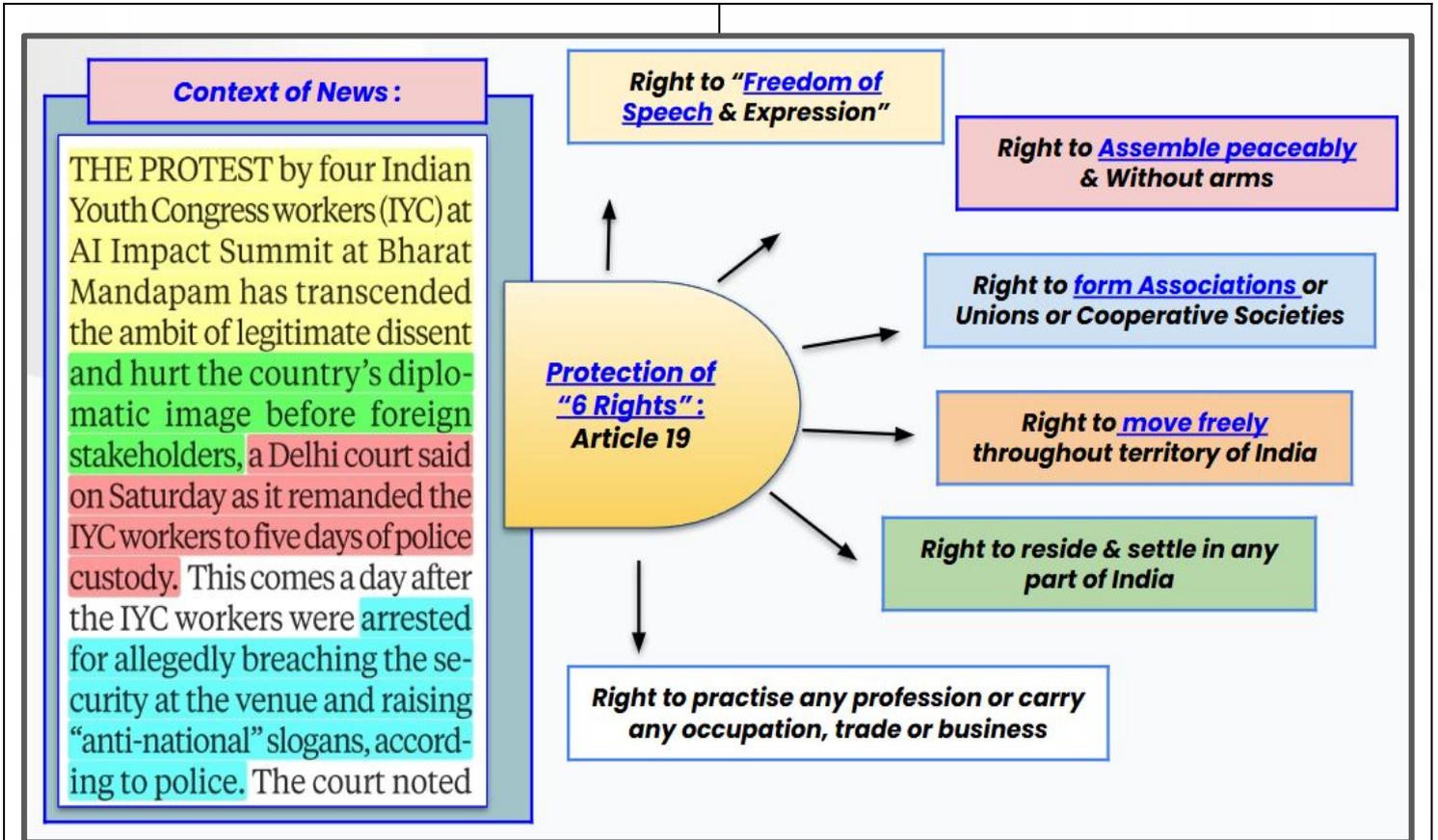
Tantric traces: Built in 1134 CE, the Lakshmi Devi temple stands in stark contrast to the dynasty's later creations, with its highly ornate architecture. Its stone-cut towers frame a rare Mahakali shrine guarded by skeletal beings, figures associated with early tantric traditions.



Protest imperil image of Republic



SYLLABUS : Prelims Indian Polity and Governance
Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 03**



Constitution released in Tamil & Gujarati



SYLLABUS : Prelims Current Events of National and International Importance
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number : 10**

International Mother Language Day

Context of News :

Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan on Saturday released the updated versions of the Constitution of India in Tamil and Gujarati languages, along with the 8th Edition of the Legal Glossary (English-Hindi) at Uprashtrapati Bhavan (Vice-President's Enclave) on the occasion of International Mother Language Day. Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal was present.

Demand for creation of "Bangladesh" :

Socio - Cultural

- Demand for "Bengali" as Lingua Franca
- One Unit Programme = Imposition of Urdu
- 21st Feb, 1952 = Shaheed Minar in Dhaka
- 1999 = 21st February as "International Mother Language Day" by UNESCO

Socio - Economic

- "6 point Programme" by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
- "Power of taxation & revenue collection"
- East Pakistan = 70% Pakistan's export revenue of Jute & Tea
- "Policy Blindness" = Bhola Cyclone in November, 1970

March 26, 1971 :
Declaration of Independence by "Mukti Bahini"

International Mother Language Day

Theme for 2026 :

Theme for International Mother Language Day in 2026 is "Youth voices on multilingual education"

NEP 2020 about Multilingual Education

The medium of instruction until **Grade 5 & preferably till Grade 8 : mother tongue or regional language**

Three language formula : 2/3 must be "native" to India

No language will be imposed on any state

Vedanta school of RR Roy 1825 : Technical education in Vernacular languages

Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI)

UPSC Prelims 2021

50. Consider the following statements :

- 21st February is declared to be the International Mother Language Day by UNICEF.
- The demand that Bangla has to be one of the national languages was raised in the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

New Kashmir Wheat Varieties



SYLLABUS : Prelims Indian and World Geography (Physical, Social, Economic)
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number : SCIENCE**

New Kashmir Wheat Varieties

Context of News :

Scientists at the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir (SKUAST-K) have developed two wheat varieties that could help farmers harvest on time and boost the region's total food grain production.

Rabi Crop : October (Sown) - June (Harvested)

Well drained loamy & m clay loam soil

Optimum Rainfall : 50-75 Cm per annum

India : 2nd largest producer

China is the largest Producer

Government clears export of 25 lakh tonnes of wheat

As of April 1, 2026, the total wheat availability in the central pool with Food Corporation of India (FCI) is projected at around 182 lakh tonne

Major source of Carbohydrates & Gluten Protein

Uttar Pradesh : Largest Wheat producing state

New Kashmir Wheat Varieties

Timely harvest

New wheat varieties are suited for mid-altitude regions up to about 1,850 m

Both varieties are broadly similar to earlier wheat types in agronomic traits and cold tolerance. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



- SKUAST-Kashmir scientists have bred two early-maturing wheat varieties mindful of Kashmir's rice, wheat cropping calendar
- High-yielding wheat brought from subtropical regions matured too late in Kashmir, delaying the transplantation of paddy
- Of the new varieties, SW-4 matures by late May while SW-3 matures in early June
- The new varieties aim to keep the yields

competitive while prioritising a timely harvest for farmers

- Researchers used conventional cross-breeding, pedigree selection, and multi-site trials over nearly a decade to develop the varieties
- Both varieties resist yellow rust fungal disease and yield reliable quantities of fodder, improving farmers' ability to manage risk

How climate change affects India's wheat production

High temperatures cause early flowering and faster ripening, affecting the quality and quantity of wheat crop yield.

Stages	Optimum Temperature (°C)	Minimum Temperature (°C)	Maximum Temperature (°C)
Seed germination	20-25 ± 1.2	3.5-5.5 ± 0.44	35 ± 1.02
Root growth	17.2 ± 0.87	3.50 ± 0.73	24.0 ± 1.21
Shoot growth	18.5 ± 1.90	4.50 ± 0.76	20.1 ± 0.64
Leaf initiation	20.5 ± 1.25	1.50 ± 0.52	23.5 ± 0.95
Terminal spikelet	16.0 ± 2.30	2.50 ± 0.49	20.0 ± 1.60
Anthesis	23.0 ± 1.75	10.0 ± 1.12	26.0 ± 1.01
Grain filling duration	26.0 ± 1.53	13.0 ± 1.45	30.0 ± 2.13

Optimal temperature required for different stages of growing wheat.



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Pax Silica' initiative:

1. Pax Silica is a strategic initiative led by the United States to counter China's dominance in artificial intelligence and technology supply chains.
2. India signed the Pax Silica declaration during the AI Impact Summit held in New Delhi.

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. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

S.N o.	Features of Hoysala Temples	Style
1.	Ganga, Yamuna at entrance	Nagara
1.	Dvarapala and Mithuna figures at entrance	Dravida
1.	Curvilinear Shikhara & Stepped Vimana	Vesara

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: d

Q3. Which of the following are valid grounds for imposing reasonable restrictions on freedom of speech and expression under Article 19?

1. Sovereignty and integrity of India
2. Friendly relations with foreign States
3. Public order
4. Protection of minorities

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: a

Q4. With reference to International Mother Language Day, consider the following statements:

1. It is observed annually on 21st February.
2. The theme for 2026 is "Youth voices on multilingual education."
3. It is declared and observed under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q5. With reference to the recently developed wheat varieties in Kashmir, consider the following statements:

1. They were developed by scientists at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K).
2. The objective is to enable timely harvesting and enhance overall foodgrain production in the region.

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





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