



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**24th February 2026**



# PRAHAAR: 1st Anti-Terror Policy



**CONTEXT:** MHA released "PRAHAAR", India's first-ever comprehensive National Counter Terrorism Policy and Strategy.

## Philosophy Behind PRAHAAR 🇮🇳:

**Document Name:** PRAHAAR (National Counter Terrorism Policy)

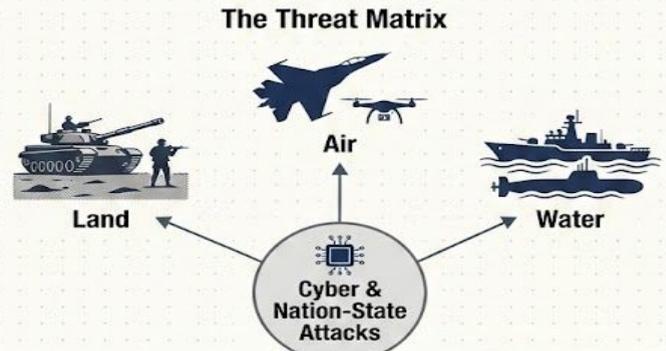
**Releasing Authority:** Ministry of Home Affairs

**Core Objective:** Protecting **critical sectors** & countering **multi-domain terror**.

The counter-terrorism strategy of India, 'PRAHAAR', flows from these ideals and is predicated on the following:

- Prevention of terror attacks to protect Indian citizens and interests;
- Responses, which are swift and proportionate to the threat posed;
- Aggregating internal capacities for achieving synergy in a whole-of-government approach;
- Human rights and 'Rule of Law' based processes for mitigation of threats;
- Attenuating the conditions enabling terrorism, including radicalization;
- Aligning and shaping the international efforts to counter terrorism;
- Recovery and resilience through a whole-of-society approach.

*Core Principle: Terrorism has no religion, ethnicity, or nationality.*



### Protected Sectors

- ✓ Power (Grid, Plants, Distribution) ⚡
- ✓ Indian Railways (Networks, Infrastructure) 🚂
- ✓ Aviation (Airports, Airlines) ✈️
- ✓ Ports (Major & Minor Ports, Shipping) 🚢
- ✓ Defence (Military Installations, Border Security) 🛡️
- ✓ Space (ISRO, Satellites, Launch Centers) 🛰️
- ✓ Atomic Energy (Nuclear Plants, Research) ⚛️



**UPSC 2021 M> Analyse the complexity and intensity of terrorism, its causes, linkages and obnoxious nexus.**

**PRAHAAR identifies multiple evolving dimensions of terrorism :**

### 1 Cross-Border Sponsored Terrorism

India has long faced:

- Pakistan-backed terror networks
- Handlers across border
- Proxy warfare model

### Named Threats:

- **Jihadi** terror outfits
- Frontal organisations
- **Sleeper cells**

### 2 Global Terror Groups

India identified:

- **Al-Qaeda**
- **Islamic State** of Iraq and Syria



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These groups:

- Incite violence online
- Radicalise youth digitally
- Operate sleeper modules

### 3 Cyber Terrorism & State Actors

#### New dimension added:

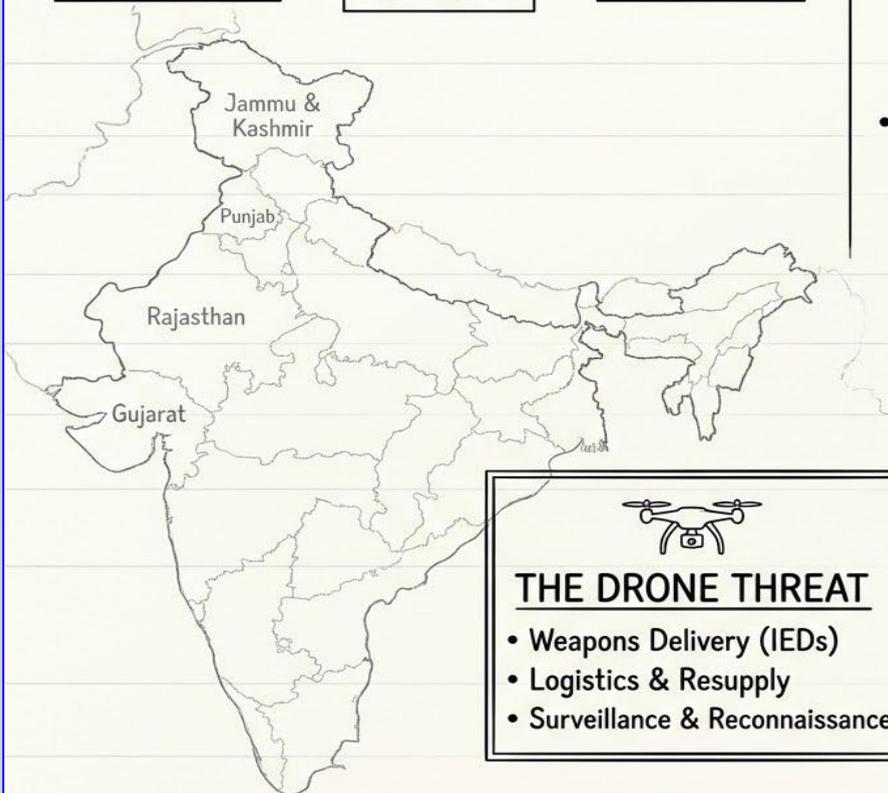
Criminal hackers and nation-states targeting India via cyber-attacks

#### Targeted Sectors:

Power grids, Railways, Aviation, Ports, Defence, Space, Atomic energy

📌 Shift toward **cyber-geopolitics & digital warfare**.

## The Evolving Tactics of Terror



#### TECH ARSENAL

- Dark Web, Crypto, & Encrypted Apps
- Social Media Radicalisation
  - Propaganda Dissemination
  - Targeted Recruitment
  - Remote Operations

- **C – Chemical** (Toxic agents, nerve gases)
- **B – Biological** (Pathogens, toxins, diseases)
- **R – Radiological** ('Dirty bombs', radioactive materials)
- **N – Nuclear** (Fissile materials, improvised devices)
- **E – Explosive** (IEDs, conventional explosives)
- **D – Digital** (Cyberattacks, infrastructure disruption, data theft)



# PRAHAAR: 1st Anti-Terror Policy



**CONTEXT:** MHA released "PRAHAAR", India's first-ever comprehensive National Counter Terrorism Policy and Strategy.

Analyse the **complexity** and **intensity of terrorism**, its causes, linkages and **obnoxious nexus**. (UPSC 2021 M)

## Emerging Technologies Used by Terror Groups

- ◆ Drones
- ◆ Encryption & Dark Web
- ◆ Robotics & AI misuse

## CBRNED Threat

**UPSC 2021 M** Discuss the types of **organised crimes**. Describe the **linkages between terrorists and organised crime** that exist at the national and **transnational levels**.

## Terrorism + Organised Crime Nexus

Terror groups increasingly:

- Use **criminal networks**
- Use **smuggling routes**
- Use **narcotics funding**
- Recruit via **gang networks**

## Transnational Terrorism

**Key message:**

**National actions alone insufficient.**

## Need:

- Regional cooperation
- International coordination
- Intelligence sharing
- Financial tracking

## Radicalisation & Youth Recruitment

## How Terror Groups Recruit:

- Social media
- Gaming platforms
- Encrypted apps
- Religious distortion
- Ideological propaganda

THE 'D-COMPANY' IS A CRIME SYNDICATE LED BY **DAWOOD IBRAHIM** - AN INDIAN NATIONAL WHO TURNED TO RADICAL ISLAMISM IN THE 1990'S AND USED **RESOURCES** AND **KNOW-HOW** OF THE SYNDICATE FOR HIS **TERRORIST OPERATIONS** IN COLLABORATION WITH TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS LIKE AL QAEDA AND THE TALIBAN



## Terrorism Impacts

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK CHANGE
1	Burkina Faso	8.581	↔
2	Pakistan	8.374	↓ 2
3	Syria	8.006	↓ 2
4	Mali	7.907	↓ 1
5	Niger	7.776	↑ 5
6	Nigeria	7.658	↓ 2
7	Somalia	7.614	↔
8	Israel	7.463	↓ 6
9	Afghanistan	7.262	↓ 3
10	Cameroon	6.944	↓ 2
11	Myanmar	6.929	↓ 2
12	Democratic Republic of the Congo	6.768	↑ 1
13	Iraq	6.582	↓ 2
14	India	6.411	↔
15	Colombia	6.381	↑ 1
16	Russia	6.267	↑ 21
17	Mozambique	6.251	↓ 2
18	Iran	6.056	↑ 7
19	Kenya	5.366	↓ 1
20	Philippines	5.166	↓ 1
21	Chile	5.162	↓ 4
22	Yemen	5.08	↑ 1
23	Chad	5.032	↓ 2
24	Togo	5.004	↑ 2
25	Palestine	4.93	↓ 4
26	Benin	4.802	↓ 2
27	Germany	4.748	↑ 13

### Human Lives Cost

### Society, Anxiety, Vulnerability

### International Relations

### Deviation of Resources

### Impact on the Economy

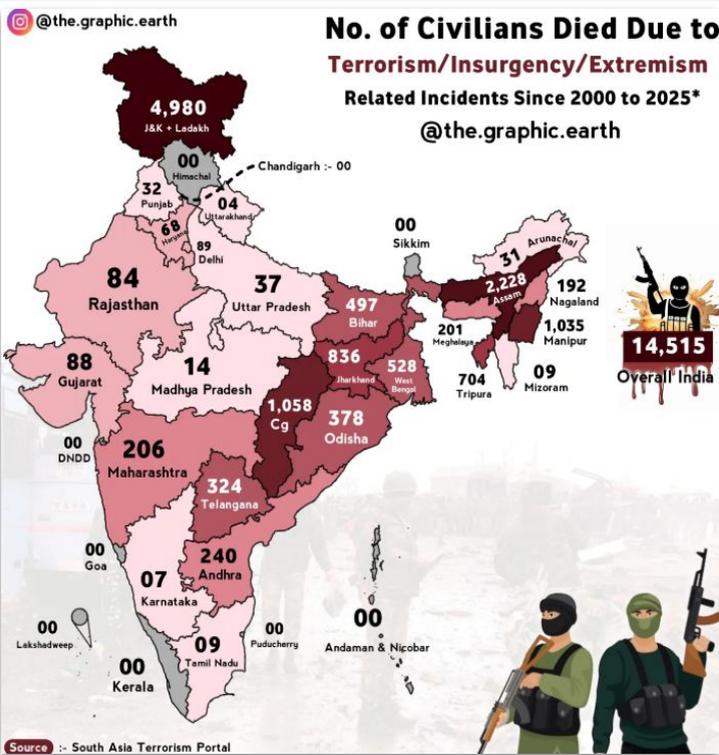
**Kargil Conflict Impact (2002):** The conflict-related costs were estimated at approximately **₹14.6 billion per day** for India.

**Informal Terror Financing (J&K):** The visible, ISI-sponsored "**Gross Terror Product**" (GTP) in Kashmir was estimated at roughly **₹3.5 billion per year**.

# PRAHAAR: 1st Anti-Terror Policy



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Following the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror incident, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted meetings with anti-terror units of all States and apprised them of the measures aimed at preventing and pre-empting such attacks.

Sealing the border with Pakistan using smart technology-aided fence will be in place by December next year.

**KIREN RIJJU** Minister of state for home affairs

## Underlining Role of Technology

Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) to be deployed on Pakistan border

CIBMS integrates manpower, sensors and command & control to facilitate quick responses

CIBMS will counter infiltration and cross-border terror attacks by using technology that can detect infiltration via land, underwater, air and tunnels

ITBP's operational requirements include better road network on LAC

## India's Multi-Dimensional Strategy to Curb Terrorism:

### Constitutional Framework:

- **7th Schedule:** 'Police', 'Public Order'
- **Centre's Role**
  - Capacity building
  - Central deployments

### Hard Infrastructure:

- **Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System**
- **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles**
- **Satellite surveillance**
- **Bharatmala**
- **Border Road Organization**
- **Vibrant Villages**
- **Joint patrolling**

## India's Multi-Dimensional Strategy to Curb Terrorism:

<b>Legal Regime</b>	UAPA Amendments (2019) NIA Act Amendments (2019)
<b>24/7 intel sharing</b>	Central Multi Agency Centre and State-level SMACs.  Strengthening State Intelligence Bureaus
<b>Preventive</b>	Operations by CAPFs, Army, and State Police

**Military Spending:** The Indian government has significantly increased defence production to combat threats, with annual defense production rising from ~₹40,000 crore in 2014 to over ₹1.30 lakh crore in 2024-25.



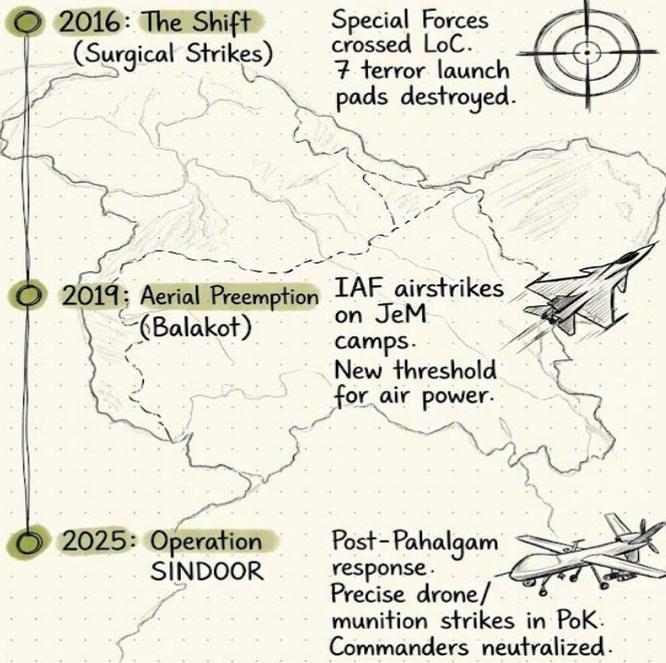
# PRAHAAR: 1st Anti-Terror Policy



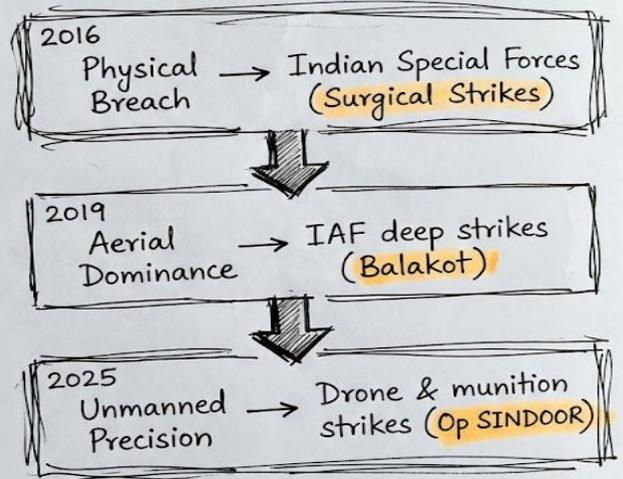
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## Evolution of India's Military Doctrine

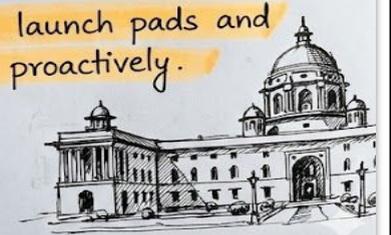
Shifted from Strategic Restraint ⇒ Punitive Deterrence (Cross-border operations to neutralize threats).



~~Strategic Restraint~~ → Punitive Deterrence



\*Objective: Destroy launch pads and command centers proactively.



## India's Multi-Dimensional Strategy to Curb Terrorism

### Financing of Terrorism

- Financial Action Task Force
- MHA: CFT Cell
- NIA: Terror Funding and Fake Currency Cell
- FICN Coordination Centre
- UN Security Council Resolutions
  - UNSCRs 1267, 1373
  - Section 51(A) of UAPA
- Operation Dhvast (2023-24)

### Advanced Tech & Global Diplomacy

#### A. Technological Upgrades:

- AI, Big Data Analytics, and Facial Recognition
- National Intelligence Grid

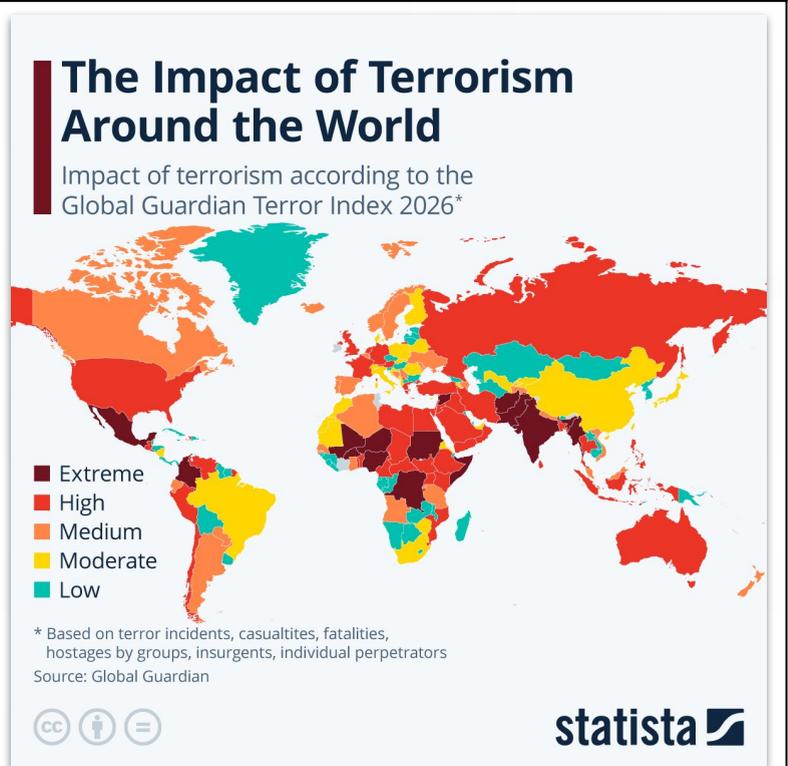
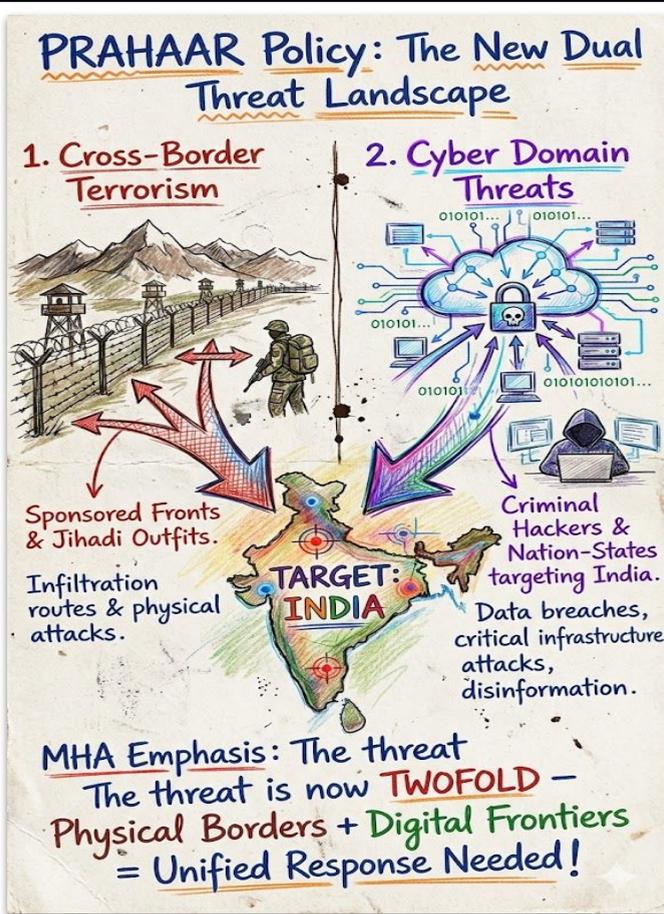
#### B. International Cooperation:

- UN Push (CCIT)
- Joint Working Groups on Counter-Terrorism with 26 countries (USA, Russia, China, UK, Israel).
- 5 multi-lateral forums: ASEAN, BIMSTEC, BRICS, EU, and QUAD-CTWG.
- 'No Money For Terror' (4th in Munich 2025)

# PRAHAAR: 1st Anti-Terror Policy



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## Mains Practise Question

**In light of the various initiatives taken by the Government of India to dismantle the terror ecosystem, analyse the effectiveness of the 'Whole of Government' approach. (15 Marks, 250 words)**



**CONTEXT:** A deep dive article in *The Hindu* exploring the contours of ECI independence.

## Election Commission of India

### 324. Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission

- The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice-President held under this Constitution shall be vested in a Commission (referred to in this Constitution as the Election Commission).
- The Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of other Election Commissioners, if any, as the President may from time to time fix and the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners shall, subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament, be made by the President.

### Why free & fair elections matter?

#### Basic Structure Doctrine

Article 326 = Right to Vote :

*Indira Gandhi v Raj Narain* (1975)

## UPSC PYQ (P) 2017

#### Consider the following statements:

- The Election Commission of India is a five-member body.
- Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.
- Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 3 only



### 1. Recent SIR controversy:

#### Main statutes

#### Representation of the People Act, 1950 & 1951

- Electoral rolls
- Registration
- Qualifications
- conduct of elections

### S.I.R VOTER DELETION

#### REGION WISE

	AVG REDUCTION	DROP IN VOTERS
STATE AVG	-4.89%	-15,809
SEEMANCHAL	-6.12%	-19,576
BHOJPUR	-5.56%	-17,927
ANGA PRADESH	-5.06%	-16,674
MITHILANCHAL	-4.94%	-16,018
TIRHUT	-4.62%	-14,572
MAGADH	-3.73%	-12,383

#ResultsWithNDTV

Source: ECI, M76 ANALYTICS

#### Types of roll revision

- Continuous updation
- Summary Revision
- Special Intensive Revision

**CONTEXT:** A deep dive article in *The Hindu* exploring the **contours of ECI independence**.

## Procedural safeguards that must be followed

Claims & objections

Hearings / field verification

Opportunity of appeal / review

instructions, reasons for deletion

## 2. Appointment of CEC – controversy:

### ◆ Pre-2023 Situation

- **Appointments by:** President → on advice of **Union Council of Ministers** (PM-led).
- **No statutory law** regulating the process.

### ◆ *Anoop Baranwal Case, 2023* (sc)

- Held: **“Free & fair elections” = basic structure of Constitution.**
- Ordered: Until Parliament enacts a law, appointments must be made by a **panel of 3:**
  - ✓ Prime Minister
  - ✓ Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha
  - ✓ Chief Justice of India (CJI)

👉 Introduced a **judicial check** on executive dominance.

### ◆ Parliament’s Response → 2023 Act

- Passed **new law** replacing SC formula with **PM + LoP + Union Minister**.
- Reduced judiciary’s role → restored **executive dominance**.

The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) shall be appointed on the advice of a committee comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Chief Justice of India. Where no Leader of the Opposition is available, the committee will include the leader of the largest Opposition party in Lok Sabha in terms of numerical strength.



### The **Chief Election Commissioner & Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023** :

#### Selection Committee 🏛️

- PM (Chairperson)
- LoP in Lok Sabha
- Union Cabinet Minister (nominated by PM)

#### Search Committee 🔍

- Chaired by Law Minister + 2 Secretaries
- Shortlists **5 names** → Selection Committee free to consider others also.

#### Eligibility 🎓

- Must have served as **Secretary-level officer** in Government of India.
- Integrity + election management experience.



# On the independence of the EC



**CONTEXT:** A deep dive article in *The Hindu* exploring the contours of ECI independence.

## Tenure & Service

- **6 years or till 65 years**, whichever earlier.
- Salary = **Supreme Court Judge**.
- **No reappointment** (CEC/EC).
- If EC becomes CEC → total tenure max 6 years.

## Resignation & Removal

- **CEC** → same as SC Judge (via impeachment).
- **EC** → removable only on **CEC's recommendation**.
- Both can resign to President.

## Removal Process :

### Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 324(5): CEC removable only like a Supreme Court Judge** (proven misbehavior/ incapacity).
- **Article 124(4): Requires impeachment via Parliament.**

## Key Differences: CEC vs. ECs

<b>CEC</b>	Impeachment like SC Judge (Parliament approval).
<b>ECs</b>	Removed <b>only on CEC's recommendation</b> .

Step 1

### Notice of Motion

Filed in Lok Sabha / Rajya Sabha with charges of misbehavior (e.g., bias, corruption) or incapacity.



Step 2

### Investigation

Committee formed (judges / MPs) to probe the charges.



Step 3

### Parliamentary Vote

Requires 2/3 majority of members present and voting in both Houses.



Step 4

### Presidential Order

If Parliament approves, the President issues an order to remove the CEC/EC.

Flowchart: Vertical sequence — Notice → Investigation → Parliamentary Vote → Presidential Order.

## Operational Controversies

### MCC Enforcement (2024)

- **Hate speech** or **divisive rhetoric** by "Star Campaigners"
- 'swift censure of opposition leaders.'

### The "Contempt" Vacuum

**Unlike the Supreme Court or High Courts, the ECI cannot punish anyone for contempt of its authority**

# On the independence of the EC



**CONTEXT:** A deep dive article in *The Hindu* exploring the contours of ECI independence.

The Gap in Autonomy		Status
<b>Independent Staff</b>	Goswami Committee (1990)	✗ Ignored
<b>Deregistration Power</b>	ECI (Multiple Proposals)	✗ Rejected
<b>Cooling-Off Period</b>	Law Commission (255th)	✗ Ignored

## EVM/VVPAT Verification

ECI's persistent refusal to allow a **100% count of VVPAT slips/ independent audit of EVMs**

**Source code = "State Secret"**

### Reforms & safeguards:

- **Strengthening EC autonomy** : CJI in selection com, **non-extendable tenure**, EC budget from CFI
- **Electoral roll reforms** : SOPs, **geo-tagged** verification, Portal, **Blockchain**
- **Legal & procedural** : Amend RPA rules for transparent deletion process.
- **Technology & privacy balance** : AI + Human in loop, avoid over-dependence on Aadhaar

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**CONTEXT:** A deep dive article in *The Hindu* exploring the contours of ECI independence.

## Mains Practise Question

**Discuss the challenges to free and fair elections in India in light of recent controversies over electoral rolls and EC independence. What reforms would you recommend?**

(15 Marks, 250 words)

### 'Alarming trend': Top court

The 'silence of the Constitution' on how to pick election commissioners has been exploited, the apex court said

"After TN Seshan (who was CEC between 1990 and 1996), the slide began when no person has been given a full term. What the government has been doing is that because it knows the date of birth, it ensures that anyone who is appointed as the CEC does not get his full six years... Be it the UPA govt or this government, this has been a trend."

"This is how the silences of the Constitution can be exploited. There is no law, no check. Everyone has used it to their interest... Pick up someone and give him a highly truncated tenure. He is obligated; does your bidding... we are not saying so but it looks like that."

— SC BENCH LED BY  
JUSTICE KM JOSEPH

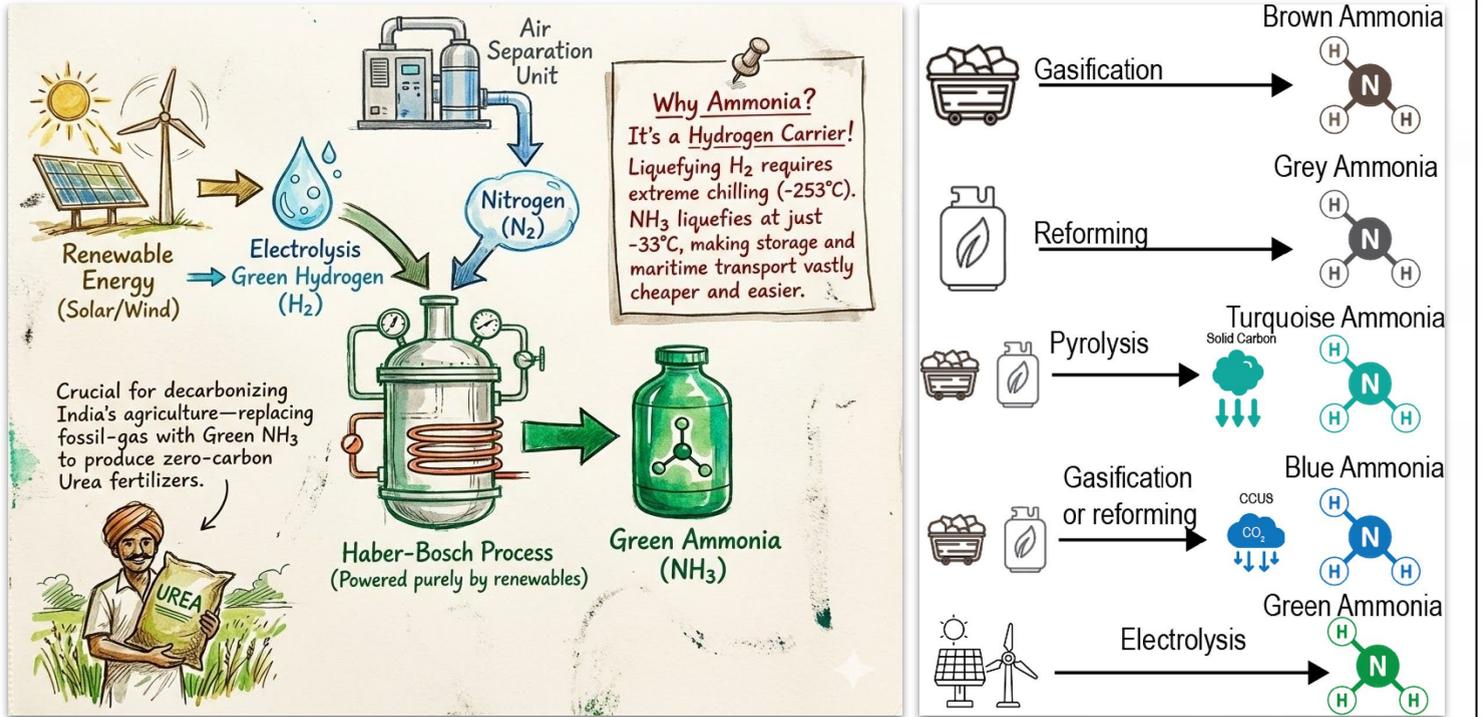


HT



**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Concepts of Green Ammonia**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 8**

## Decoding Green Ammonia



### UPSC PYQ (P) 2023

Consider the following heavy industries:

1. Fertilizer plants
2. Oil refineries
3. Steel plants

**Green hydrogen is expected to play a significant role in decarbonizing how many of the above industries?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

### The Green Fuel Spectrum: A Comparison

Fuel Type	Storage Difficulty	Volumetric Energy Density	Safety/ Toxicity
 Green Hydrogen (H <sub>2</sub> )	× <b>Very High</b> (-253°C) (Cryogenic storage or high pressure)	<b>Low</b> (Requires very high pressure, e.g., 700 bar)	<b>Highly Flammable</b> (Wide explosive range)
 Green Ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> )	<b>Moderate</b> (-33°C) (Easily liquefied under mild pressure)	<b>Medium-High</b> (Better than Hydrogen, worse than liquid fuels)	<b>Highly Toxic/Corrosive</b> (Hazardous if inhaled or contacted)
 Green Methanol (CH <sub>3</sub> OH)	<b>Low</b> (Liquid at room temp) (Easiest to store & transport)	<b>High</b> (Comparable to conventional fuels)	<b>Toxic</b> (Poisonous if ingested or absorbed)

**Takeaway:** Ammonia wins for heavy shipping and industrial scale, while Hydrogen is better for direct fuel cells and hard-to-abate sectors.



Paradip or Kandla Green Shipping Hubs

While Bio-Ethanol (E20) dominates India's road transport, Green NH<sub>3</sub> is the future for heavy maritime logistics under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Concepts of Green Ammonia**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 8**

### The SECI Tender: Shattering Global Price Benchmarks

**THE SCALE**

- **TARGET:** 724,000 TONNES/YEAR ACROSS 13 FERTILIZER PLANTS.
- **RESULT:** 15 BIDDERS, 7 AWARDEES (1 COMPANY ALONE TOOK 370K TONNES!).
- **THE ANCHOR:** 10-YEAR FIXED-PRICE OFFTAKE AGREEMENTS.

**COST COMPARISON**

~\$515/TONNE (GREY AMMONIA (FOSSIL-BASED)) vs \$572 - \$744/TONNE (GREEN AMMONIA (DISCOVERED PRICE))

**40%-50% CHEAPER THAN THE EU'S H2GLOBAL AUCTION!**

PRODUCTION SUBSIDIES FOR FIRST 3 YEARS: ₹8.82, ₹7.06, AND ₹5.3 PER KG.

DELIVERY POINTS STRATEGICALLY PRE-IDENTIFIED NEAR COASTAL FERTILIZER PLANTS FOR SHIPPING LOGISTICS.

### The SIGHT Programme & SECI Tender

**STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS FOR GREEN HYDROGEN TRANSITION (SIGHT)**

- Supports Domestic Manufacturing of Electrolysers
- Offers Incentives on Production of Green Hydrogen

---

**Bulk Order: Govt grouped the demand of 13 fertilizer plants**

**The Strategic Benefit IN**

- Replace 30% ammonia we currently import
- Port location; cheap transport using ships
- Safety from Global Shocks

## Global Comparison: India vs. The World

<b>EU</b>	<b>H2Global</b>
<b>South Korea</b>	<b>Clean Hydrogen Portfolio Standard</b>

### Propelling the momentum

India's approach is increasingly shaping the clean ammonia landscape worldwide, owing to its combination of low renewable energy costs, large-scale logistics, robust contract design and targeted incentives. **As more countries seek reliable clean ammonia imports to decarbonise industry, power and transport, India's successful auction model is well placed to shape emerging global market structures and accelerate adoption at scale.**



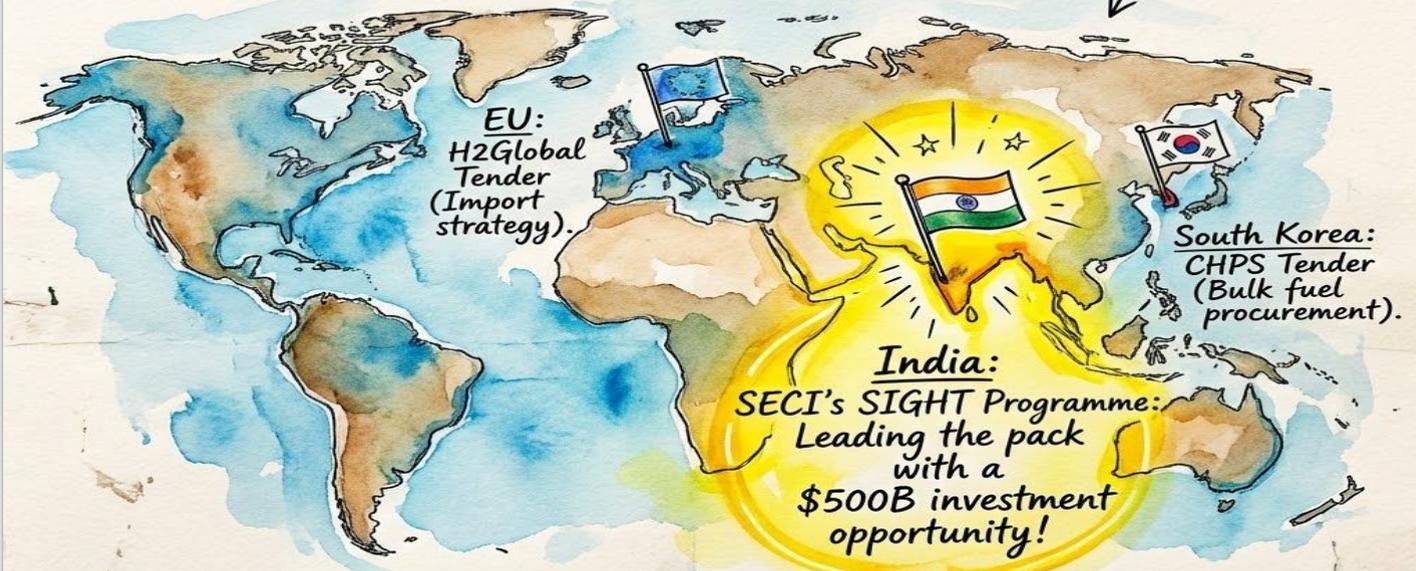
**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Concepts of Green Ammonia**  
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## Green Ammonia: The Fuel of Energy Independence

Nitrogen + Green Hydrogen  
= Green Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>).



↳ Applications: Fertilizers, Clean Energy, Marine Fuel.



Goal: Shifting from Energy Security ⇒ Energy Independence.



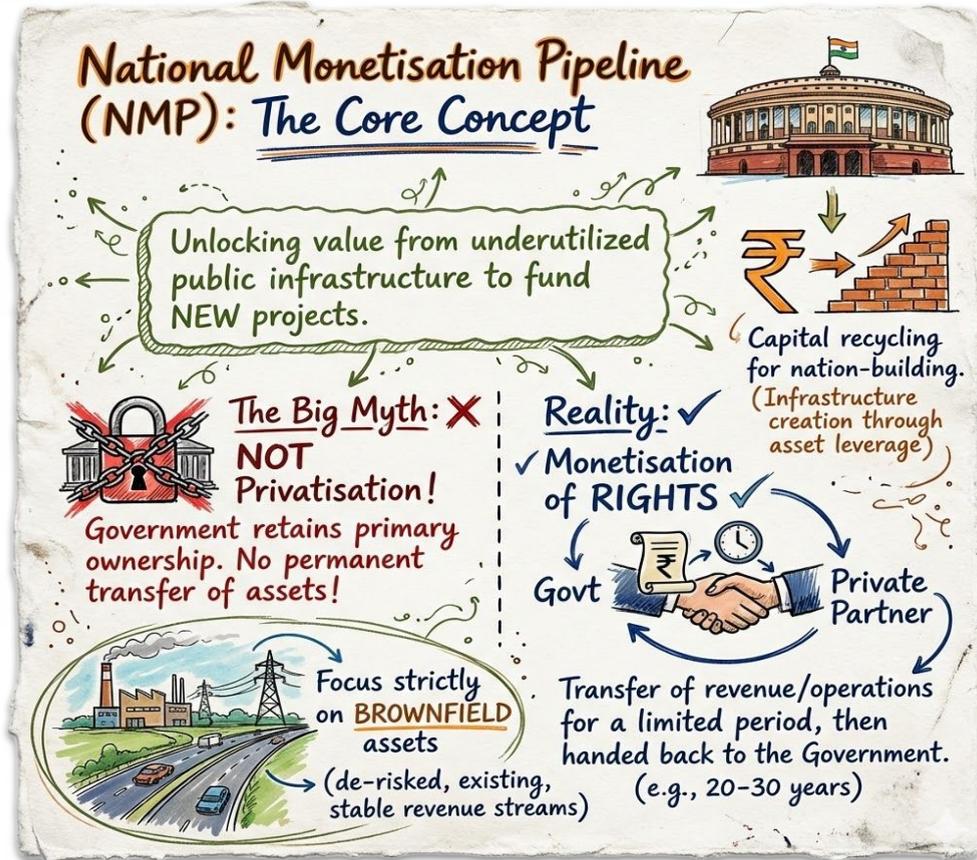
# National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0



**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Scheme details**

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

## What is Asset Monetisation?



Asset monetisation **does not mean outright "selling" of government assets.** It involves **unlocking the economic value** of **underutilised or "brownfield"** public infrastructure.



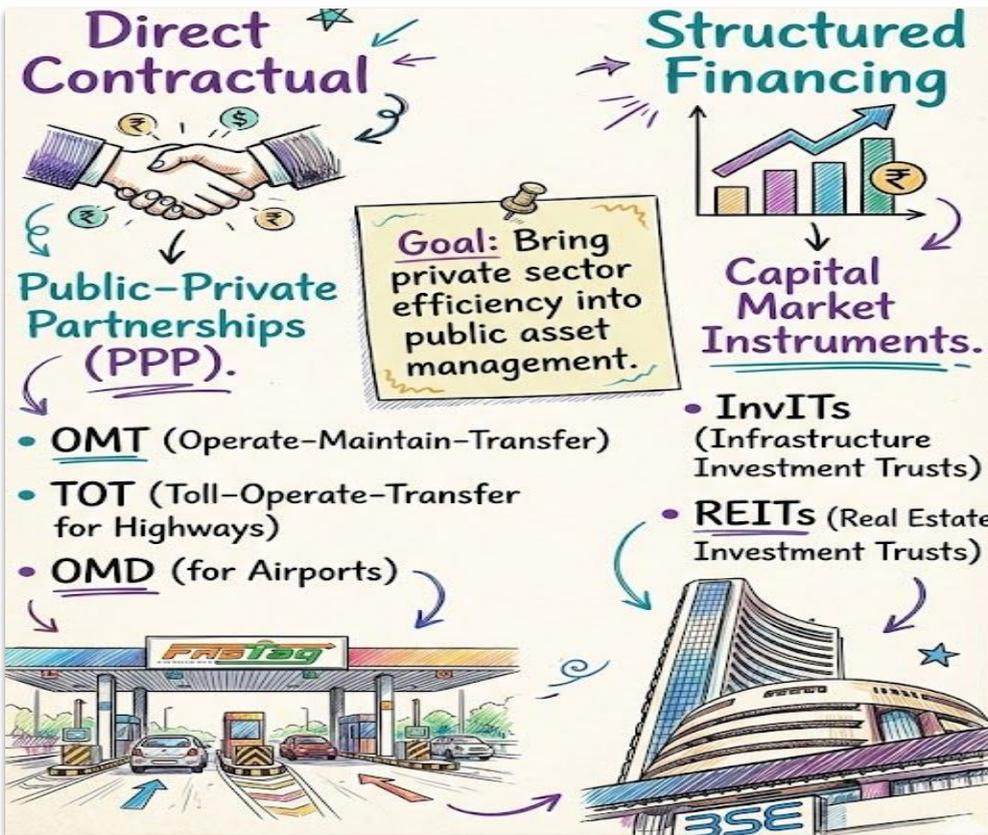
# National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0



**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Scheme details**

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

## Mechanisms Used



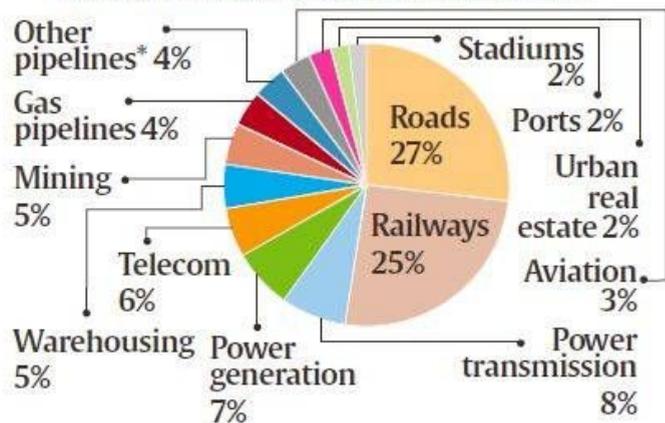
**Predecessor: NMP 1.0 Recap (2021-2025)** ⏪

## ₹6 LAKH CRORE MONETISATION PLAN

**INDICATIVE VALUE OF THE MONETISATION PIPELINE YEAR-WISE (Rs cr)**



**SHARE OF SECTORS IN TERMS OF INDICATIVE MONETISATION VALUE IN NMP**



\*Other pipelines and other assets; source: NITI Aayog



# National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0



**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Scheme details**

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

## Key Successes

- **89%** of target
- Popularised **TOT** for NHA
- **Infrastructure Investment Trusts**

**NMP 1.0 and 2.0 - achievements and annual targets**

(in Rs lakh cr)

YEAR	NMP 1.0	NMP 2.0
FY22-24	3.87	
FY25	1.43	
FY26		2.49
FY27		3.26
FY28		3.46
FY29		3.69
FY30		3.81

*The second phase of the pipeline is based on the mandate for 'Asset Monetisation Plan 2025-30' announced in the Union Budget for 2025-26 last year, but exceeds the figure of Rs 10 lakh crore mentioned therein*

**Private Sector Component**  
Rs 5.8 lakh crore

NMP 1.0 Achieved

**5.3L**

Cre (FY22-25)

Top Sector (2.0)

**26%**

Highways Share

Pvt. Investment

**5.8L**

Cre (Est.)

## NMP 2.0: The Blueprint (2025-2030) 🚀

📍 Swarajyamag

Centre Launches Rs 16.72 Lakh Crore Asset Monetization Plan for 2025-30

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday, 23 February, unveiled the blueprint for the second phase of India's public asset monetization...

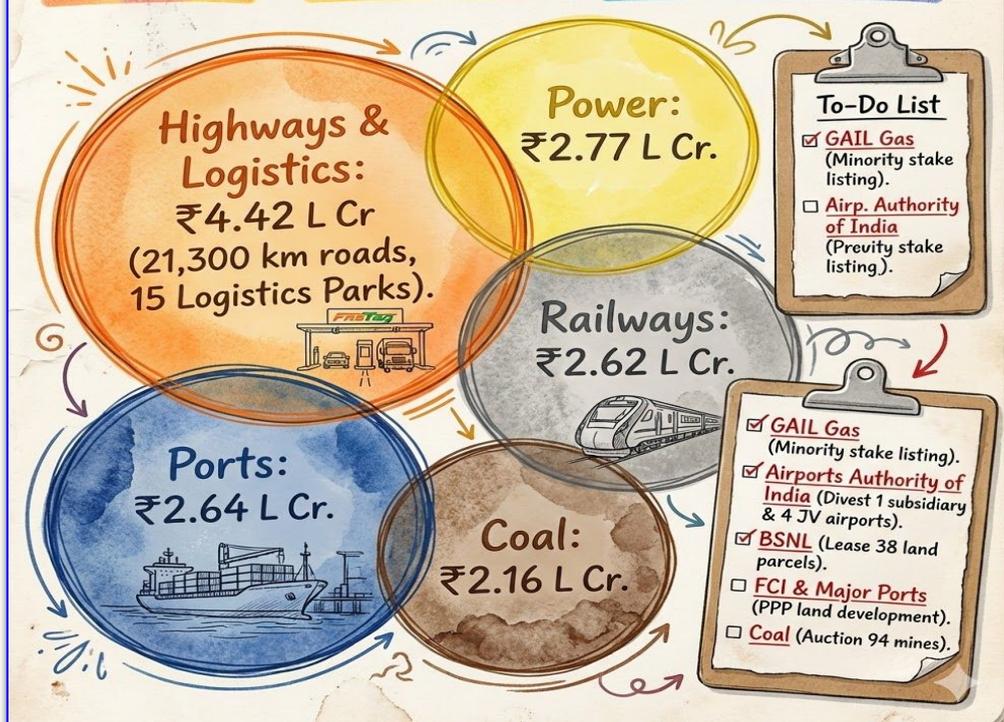
10 hours ago

**Timeline: 5-year**  
**FY 2025-26 to 2029-30**

**Total Estimated Potential: Rs 16.72 lakh cr**

1. Consolidated Fund of India
2. Direct Investment
3. PSU/Port Authority Allocation
4. State Consolidated Fund

## NMP 2.0: Where is the Value Unlocked?



# National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0



**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Scheme details**

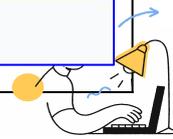
**Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 15**

## NMP 2.0: The Blueprint (2025-2030)

Sector	Estimated Value	Key Physical Targets / Assets Included
<b>Roads &amp; Highways</b>	Rs 4.42 lakh crore	21,300 km of <b>highways</b> , 15 <b>Multi-Modal Logistics Parks</b> , 6 <b>ropeways</b> .
<b>Power</b>	Rs 2.77 lakh crore	Transmission lines, generation assets.
<b>Ports</b>	Rs 2.64 lakh crore	Developing prime land parcels belonging to <b>Major Port Authorities</b> via PPP.
<b>Railways</b>	Rs 2.62 lakh crore	Stations, tracks, dedicated freight corridors.
<b>Coal</b>	Rs 2.16 lakh crore	Auctioning approximately <b>94 coal mines</b> .
<b>Mines (Non-Coal)</b>	Rs 1 lakh crore	<b>Mineral block</b> auctions.

## NMP 2.0: The Blueprint (2025-2030)

Sector	Estimated Value	Key Physical Targets / Assets Included
<b>Urban Infrastructure</b>	Rs 52,000 crore	Urban real estate, transit systems.
<b>Civil Aviation</b>	Rs 27,500 crore	Divestment of <b>AAI holdings</b> in 1 subsidiary and 4 Joint-Venture airports.
<b>Petroleum &amp; Natural Gas</b>	Rs 16,300 crore	Listing of a minority stake in <b>GAIL Gas</b> .
<b>Warehousing &amp; Storage</b>	Rs 10,000 crore	Developing <b>Food Corporation of India</b> land parcels via PPP.
<b>Telecom</b>	Rs 4,800 crore	Leasing 38 <b>BSNL</b> land parcels on a long-term basis.
<b>Tourism</b>	Rs 1,200 crore	Tourism infrastructure and estates.



**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Regulation of gambling/ financial markets**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 11**

What are Prediction Markets?

A prediction market is a **digital platform** where users purchase units (**shares**) of a '**probable event**' to make a **financial profit** if their predicted outcome occurs.

UPSC PYQ (P) 2020

With reference to "Blockchain Technology", consider the following statements:

1. It is a public ledger that everyone can inspect, but which no single user controls.
2. The structure and design of blockchain is such that all the data in it are about cryptocurrency only.
3. Applications that depend on basic features of blockchain can be developed without anybody's permission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

UPSC PYQ (P) 2011

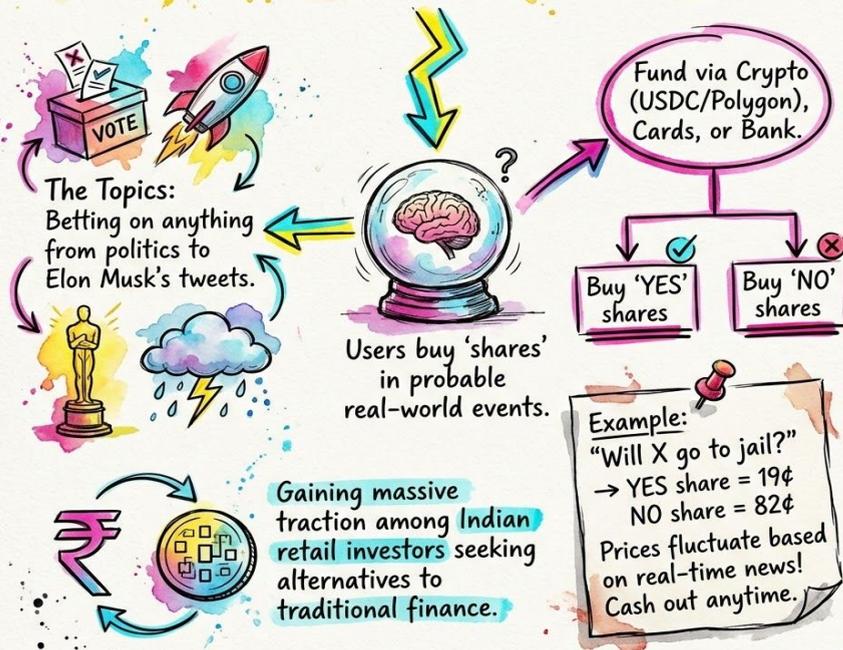
What is "Virtual Private Network"?

- (a) It is a private computer network of an organization where the remote users can transmit encrypted information through the server of the organization.
- (b) It is a computer network across a public internet that provides users access to their organization's network while maintaining the security of the information transmitted.
- (c) It is a computer network in which users can access a shared pool of computing resources through a service provider.
- (d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is a correct description of Virtual Private Network.

**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Regulation of gambling/ financial markets**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 11**

## Mechanism: How the Betting Works ⚙️

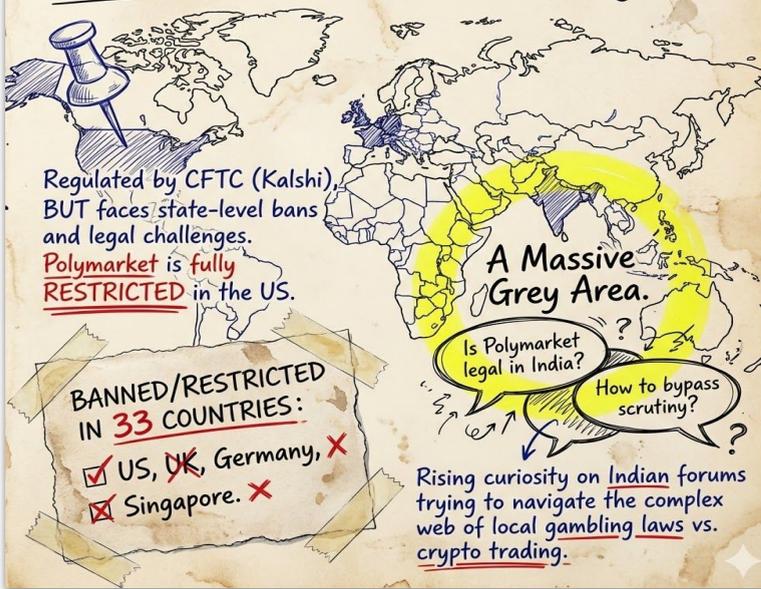
### Prediction Markets: Betting on Reality



<b>Funding Accounts</b>	Bank transfers, credit/debit cards, cryptocurrencies.
<b>Crypto Integration</b>	<b>USDC stablecoin</b> via Polygon blockchain.
<b>Dynamic Pricing</b>	'Yes' and 'No' share prices change constantly
<b>Exit Strategy</b>	Users can sell their shares before the deadline to cash in profits or cut losses.

## Indian Context & Legal Grey Area 🇮🇳

### Are Prediction Markets Legal?



### MAJOR ONLINE PLAYERS

From fantasy cricket to online ludo, skill-based games with the chance to win real money are attracting millions of users to multiple digital platforms daily

<b>DREAM11</b> 2008 100 mn+ Fantasy sports	<b>ZUPEE</b> 2018 50 mn+ Ludo, trump cards	<b>RUMMY CIRCLE</b> 2009 50 mn+ Online rummy	<b>APP</b> Year of launch Total downloads* Game type *from Google Play
<b>MY11 CIRCLE</b> 2019 50 mn+ Fantasy sports	<b>RUSH</b> 2021 50 mn+ Card/board games, fantasy sports	<b>WINZO</b> 2018 10 mn+ Card/board games, fantasy sports, etc.	<b>MOBILE PREMIER LEAGUE</b> 2018 10 mn+ Ludo, rummy, fantasy cricket, etc.



**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Regulation of gambling/ financial markets**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 11**

## Mechanism: How the Betting Works

**State subjects  
(Entry 34, List II)**

**"Game of Skill"  
VS  
"Game of  
Chance"**

**FEMA + RBI:  
"Betting on foreign  
platforms using  
foreign exchange  
or crypto"**

 The Hindu

Government, online companies spar in Supreme Court on GST over games of skill, chance

Supreme Court debates whether games of skill will be taxed under GST, sparking dispute between government and gaming companies.

5 May 2025



# Making India a full member @IEA



**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Important International institutions**  
**Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 13**

## International Energy Agency (IEA)

SQ SolarQuarter

Global Energy Leaders Meet In Paris As International Energy Agency Hosts Largest Ministerial With 54 Countries And USD 14 Trillion In Companies

IEA Ministers Strengthen Partnerships With Brazil, Colombia, India and Viet Nam as Global Energy Cooperation Expands.



### Basics

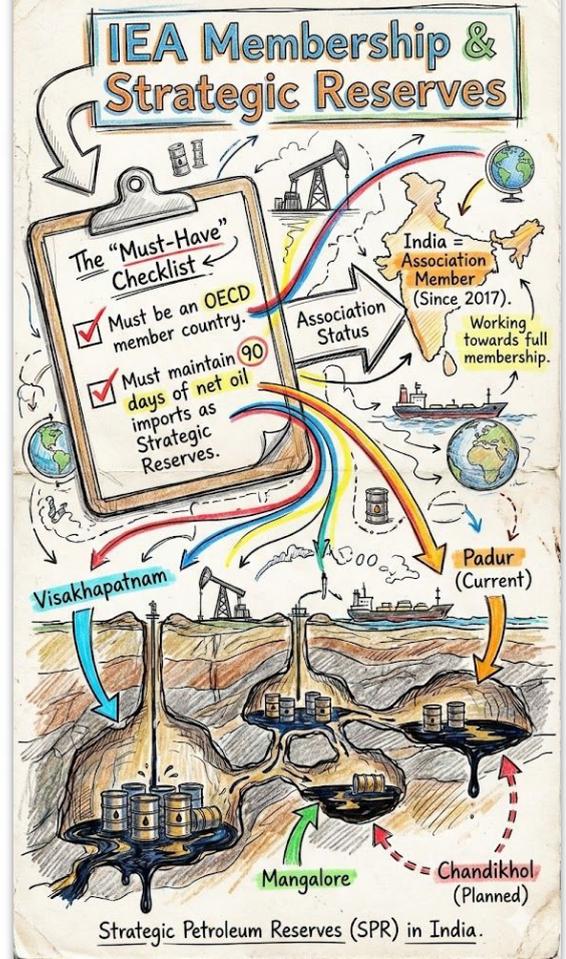
**Origin: 1974 by 17 countries**  
**1973 Yom Kippur War**

**Impact of Crisis; OECD to IEA**

**MANDATORY minimum strategic stocks**

**1991 Gulf War**  
**Russia- Ukraine in 2022**

**Members? 33 full members**  
**2020: Colombia**



## IEA's Evolution: From Oil to Energy Transition

### The Shifting Focus



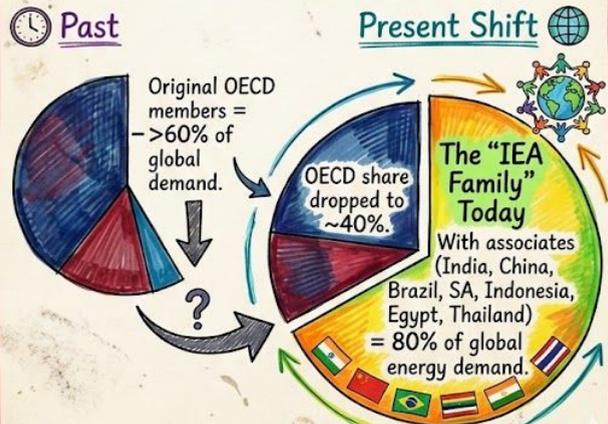
New domains:

- Renewables
- Climate Change
- Decarbonisation
- Energy Transition
- Critical Minerals

### Membership Expansion

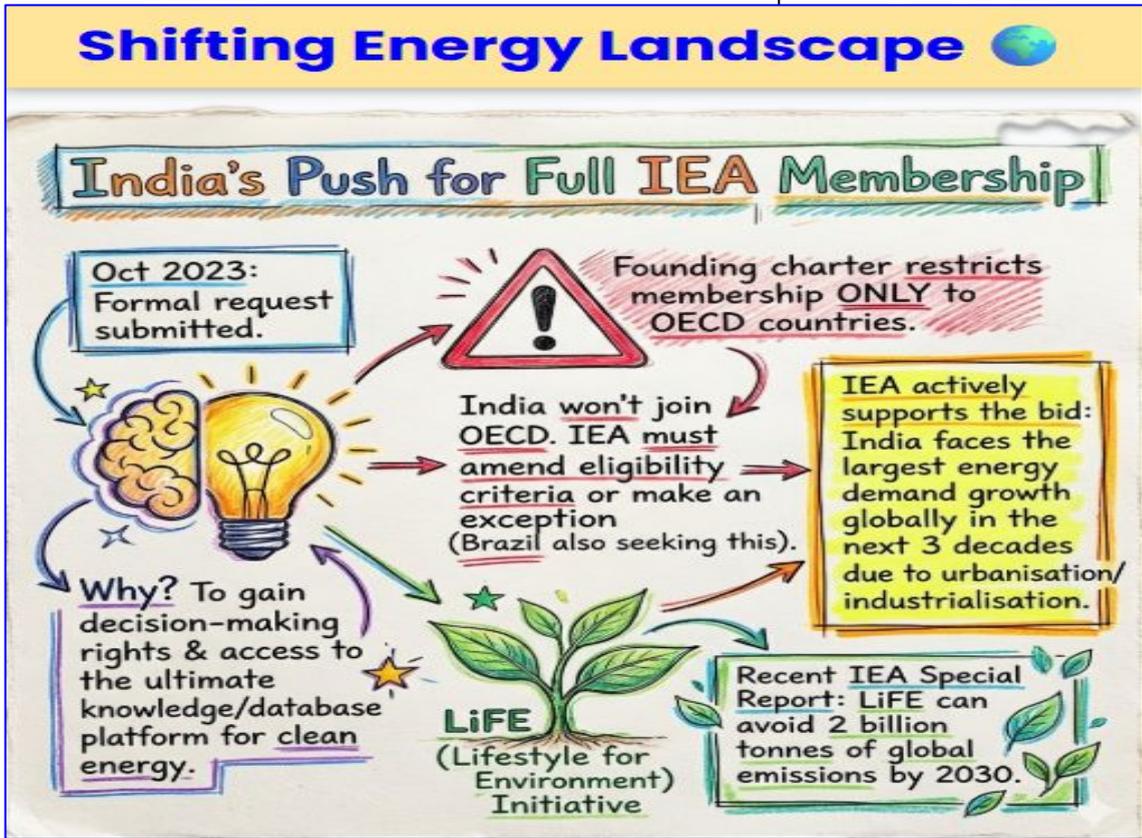
- \* Full Members: 32 + Colombia (33<sup>rd</sup>, joined OECD in 2020).
- 2015: Doors opened for Non-OECD Associate Members.
- Currently 13 Associate Members (India joined in 2017).

## The Demand Shift Diagram



**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Important International institutions**  
**Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: 13**

## Shifting Energy Landscape



## India's Quest for Membership: Key +ves 🎯

### IEA: Major Flagship Reports

**World Energy Outlook (WEO)** - The gold standard of energy analysis.

**Net Zero by 2050** - The roadmap for the global energy sector.

**World Energy Investment Report**

**India Energy Outlook** - India's unique renewable transition path documented by the IEA.

- Decision-Making Power**
- Knowledge Platform Access**
- Data Utilisation**
- Energy Security**
- Managing **Growth**
- Combating **Climate Change**
- Bilateral Strategic Alignment**
- Showcasing **Domestic Initiatives**
  - LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)
  - IEA report = LiFE avoid 2 bn tn of global emissions by 2030.



**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Flora and fauna**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 3**

**Project Cheetah**

### India's Cheetah Revival: A Timeline

**7 Decades Ago**  
Declared Extinct in India.

**Sept 2022**  
Batch 1: 8 Cheetahs from Namibia.

**Feb 2023**  
Batch 2: 12 Cheetahs from South Africa.

**Feb 2026**  
Batch 3: 8 Cheetahs from Botswana.

*World's fastest land animal returns to Indian soil.*

**NAMIBIA**  
**BOTSWANA**  
**SOUTH AFRICA**  
**CENTRAL INDIA**  
**INDIA**

## THE RETURN OF CHEETAHS

India will be home to the world's fastest land animal again after the feline was declared extinct in the country in 1952. Five female and three male cheetahs are all set to reach Kuno-Palpur National Park on 17 September as part of the reintroduction programme

**Fastest land animal**  
80 - 128 KM/H

**Fastest recorded speed**  
93 & 98 KM/H

**Stride**  
When cheetahs are running full speed, their stride (length between steps) is 21 ft approx.

**Average length**  
24" - 32"

**Adults weigh in avg.**  
21-72 KG

**Lifespan in the wild**  
10 - 12 yrs

**Skin**  
The cheetah's fur is covered in solid black spots, and so is their skin!

**Conservation status**  
Extinct (EX), Endangered (EW), Critically Endangered (CR), Vulnerable (VU), Near Threatened (NT), Least Concern (LC)

**7100** cheetahs are there in the wild approx.

**NEWS18 creative** Source: W

**African Cheetah:**  
Vulnerable

**Asiatic Cheetah:**  
Critically Endangered

**Nodal Agency:**  
NTCA

**Schedule I;**  
WPA, 1972



# More cheetahs at Kuno

**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Flora and fauna**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 3**

## Tracking the Translocations (Updated Feb 2026)

### Project Cheetah: The 3rd Translocation



	Origin Country	Arrival Date	Count & Sex Ratio	Current Status Highlights
1st	Namibia	Sept 2022	8 (5F, 3M)	Mothers: Jwala, Aasha.
2nd	South Africa	Feb 2023	12 (7F, 5M)	Mothers: Gamini, Veera, Nirva.
3rd	Botswana	Feb 2026	8 (6F, 2M)	Undergoing 1-month quarantine at KNP.
<b>Total</b>	Africa	2022 - 2026	28 Imported Adults	<b>Target population: 50 individuals.</b>

**Namibian Females**

- JWALA**: 8 cubs across 2 litters (March 2023 - first-ever cheetah birth in India and January 2024)
- AASHA**: 3 cubs (January 2024)
- GAMINI**: 6 cubs (March 2024)
- NIRVA**: 2 cubs - First litter (Nov 2024) → 6<sup>th</sup> litter in India; 5 cubs - Second litter (Apr 2025) → 8<sup>th</sup> litter in India
- VEERA**: 2 cubs - First litter (Feb 2025) → 7<sup>th</sup> litter in India

**India-born Female**

- MUKHI (INDIA-BORN)**: 5 cubs - November 2025 (First, second-generation litter)

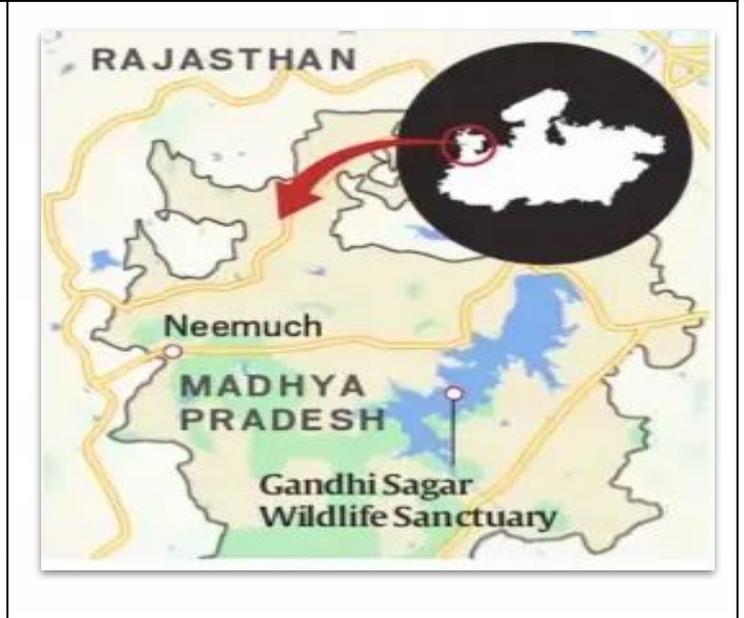
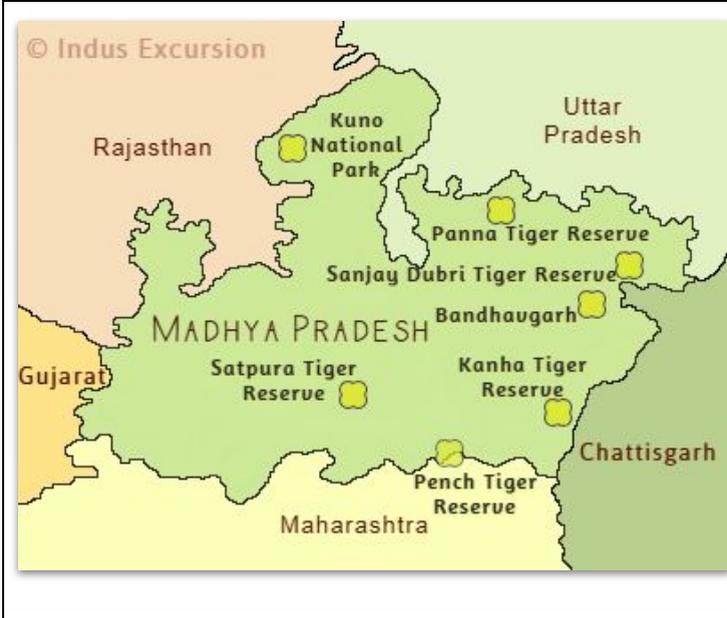
<b>Cub Boom</b>	<b>39 cubs born @KNP since 2023</b>
<b>Survival Rate</b>	<b>27 cubs</b>
<b>2nd Gen Success</b>	<b>Mukhi (India-born) Naturalised breeding</b>
<b>Meta-Population Management</b>	<b>3 @ Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary</b> <b>35 @KNP</b>



# More cheetahs at Kuno

**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Flora and fauna**

**Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 3**



**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Asiatic Cheetah :**

1. It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN list.
2. More than half of the Asiatic Cheetah's wild population has been wiped out in the last 100 years.
3. It is listed in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, providing them the highest degree of protection.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Prediction Markets:**

1. It is a digital platform where users purchase units (shares) of a probable event to make a financial profit.
2. It has gained massive traction among Indian retail investors seeking alternatives to traditional finance.

**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**

**Q3. Which of the following statements best describes the aim of the "SIGHT" Programme recently seen in the news?**

- a) It aims to provide free medical aid to People with Disabilities.
- b) It aims to create indigenous small reactors for nuclear energy.
- c) It aims to boost solar energy production to achieve the Panchamrit Target.
- d) It aims to support domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers to produce Green Hydrogen.

**Answer: d**

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the International Energy Agency (IEA):**

1. It was established in 1974 as a response to the "Oil crisis" which took place in 1973.
2. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
3. It publishes the annual World Energy Outlook report.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC):**

1. Article 324(5) of the Constitution states that the CEC can be removed only in the same manner as a Judge of the Supreme Court.
2. As per Article 124(4), the removal of the CEC requires impeachment by the Parliament.

**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**





# **VAJIRAM & RAVI**

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