



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

4th February 2026

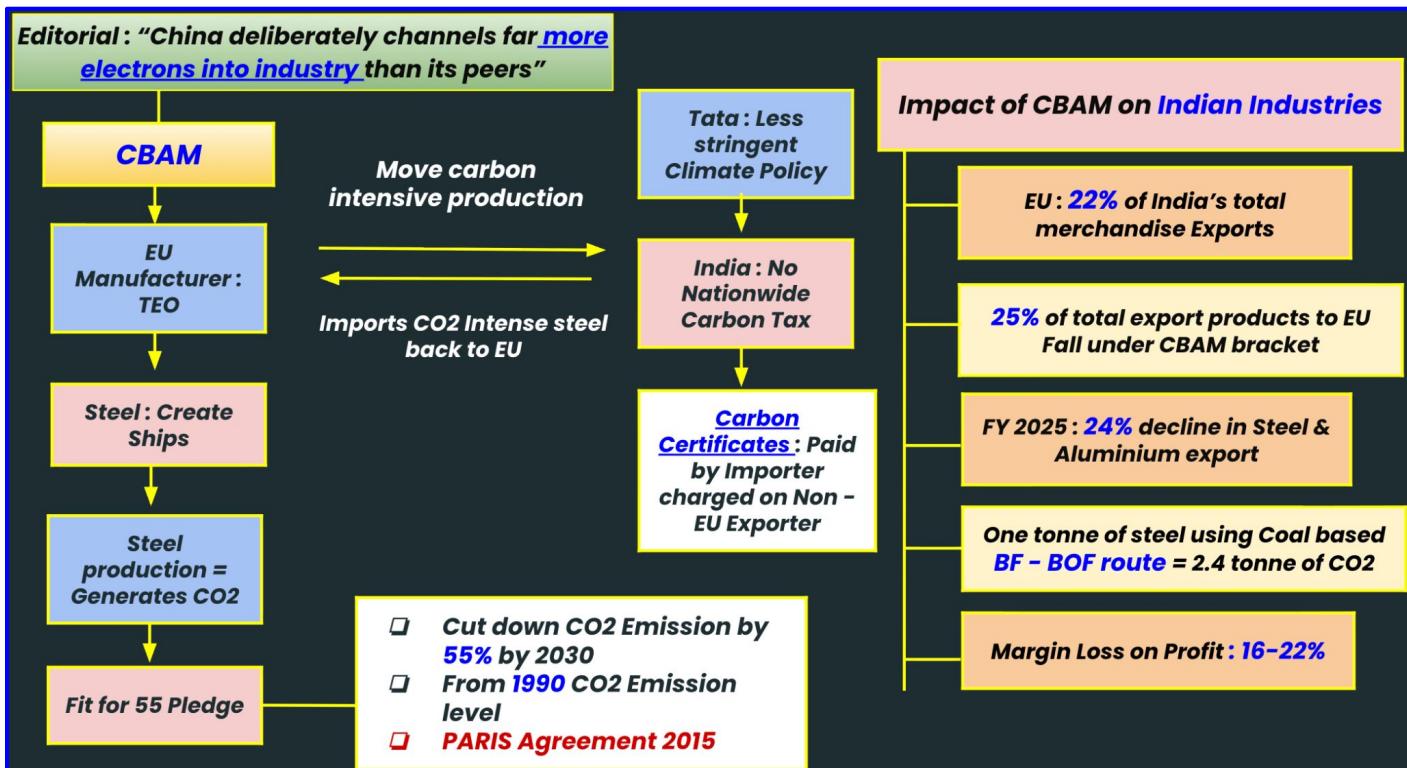
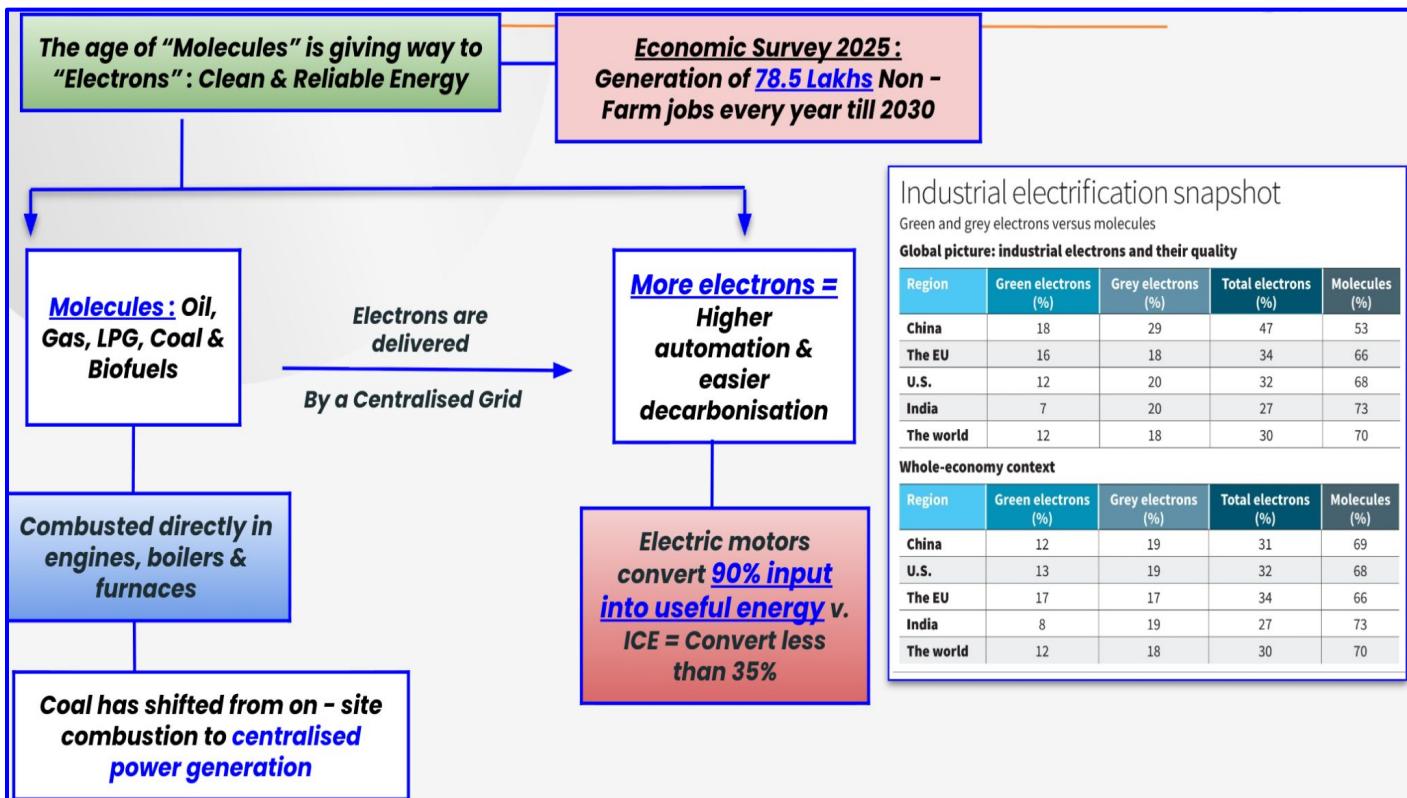


India's Next Industrial Shift : Electrons over Molecules



CONTEXT: The lead editorial showcase China's magnanimous rise in "Electron" based energy production, challenges which India faces & the need of Carbon Capturing & Trading in future .

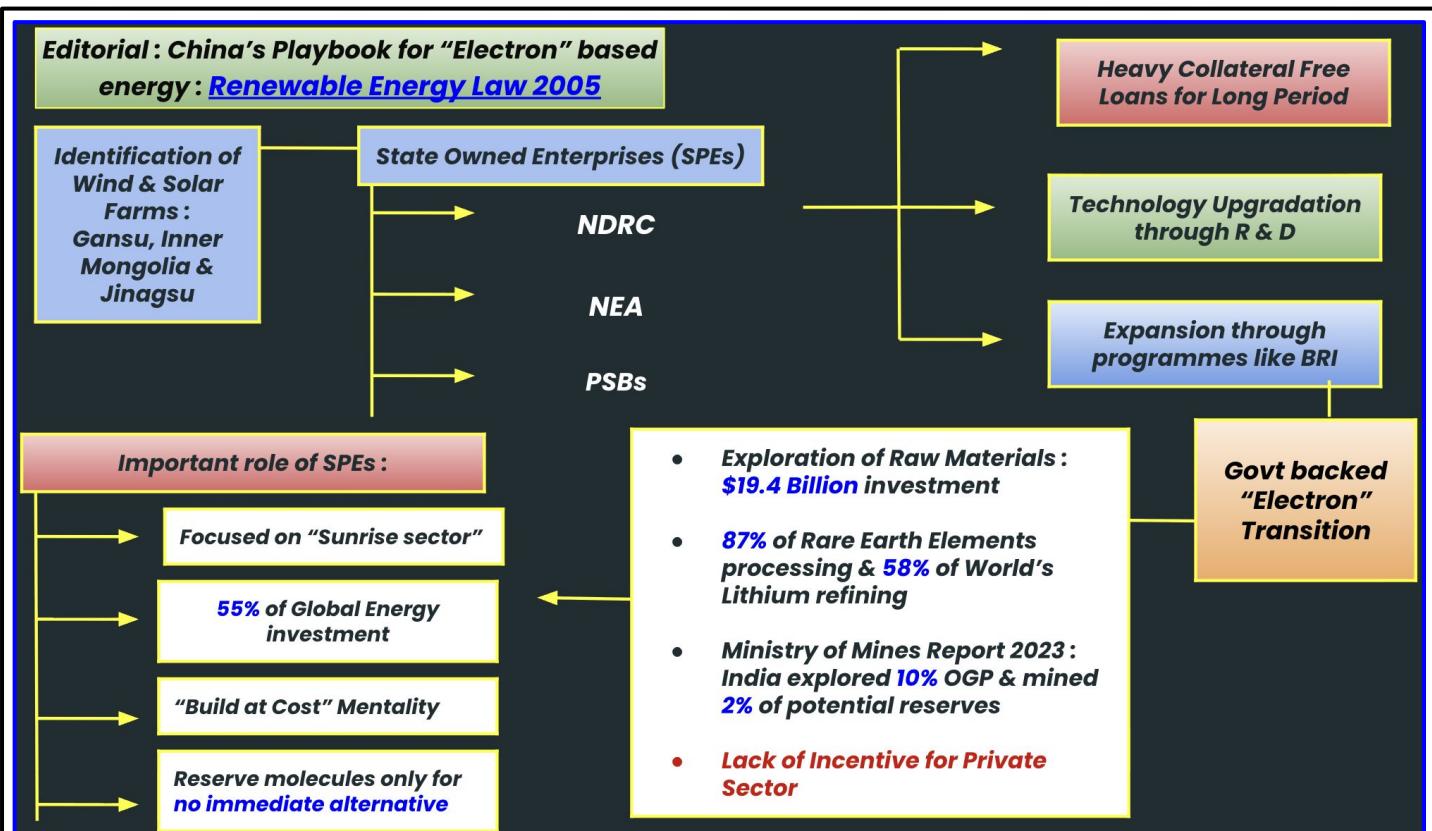
Mains Heading 1 : The 'Molecule" v. "Electron" Debate :



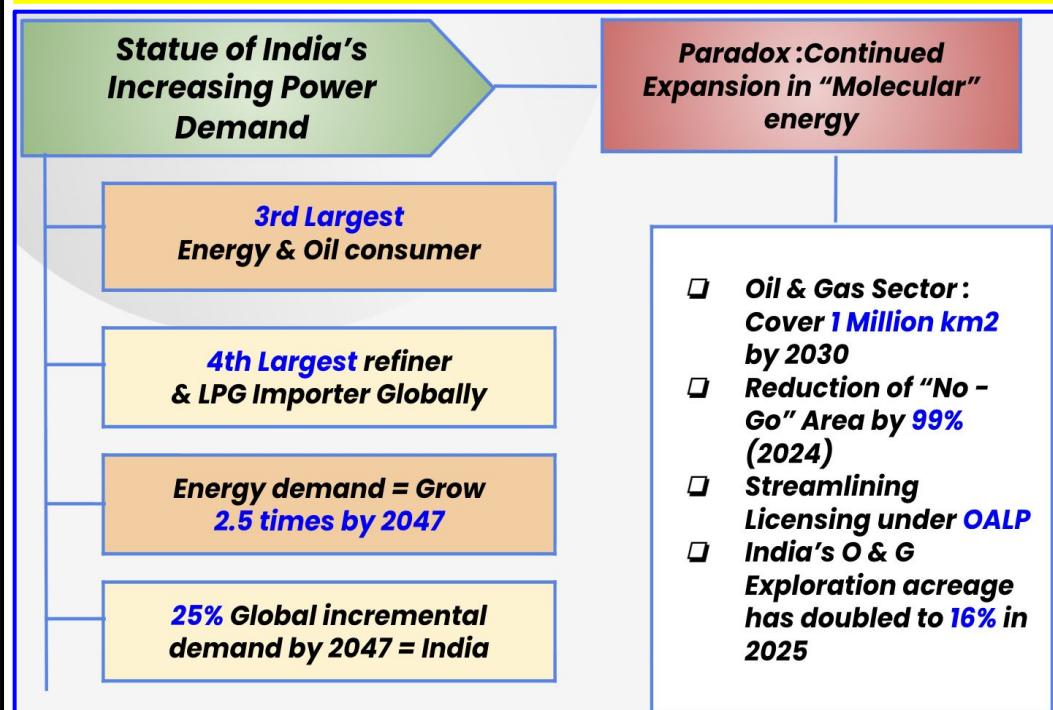
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Mains Heading 2 : Status of India's ["Energy Sector"](#):



Editorial:
Industrial electron
remains 25%
of Energy use
& Green
electrons just
7-8% of final
energy



CONTEXT: The lead editorial showcase China's magnanimous rise in "Electron" based energy production, challenges which India faces & the need of Carbon Capturing & Trading in future .

Mains Heading 3 : Impetus on Green Energy:

Solar Energy

Forty-five-fold increase - 3 GW in 2014 to nearly 135.81 GW by December 2025

On Grid

- PM Surya Ghar Mission - 8 GW of rooftop capacity installed (Dec 2025)
- PM Kusum Component C – 11,781 grid-connected solar pumps solarised, and 11,89,787 Feeder-Level Solarisation (FLS) pumps completed (Dec, 2025)
- Development of solar parks and Ultra mega solar power projects - 55 solar parks with a combined sanctioned capacity of 39,973 MW approved and 16,121 MW capacity of solar projects installed (Dec, 2025)

Off-Grid

- PM Kusum (Component B) - more than 9.75 lakh standalone pumps installed (Dec, 2025)
- New Solar Power scheme (under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan) - 6897 households have been benefitted (Dec'2025)

Enablers

- PLI Scheme for High Efficiency solar PV Modules
- CPSU Scheme Phase II – 8.2 GW of capacity sanctioned, and 5.5 GW commissioned by December 2025

Wind Energy

- Wind has the fourth-highest wind installed capacity in the world – 54.51 GW(Dec 2025)
- 4.74 GW was added during the April-December 2025
- 30.04 GW of projects (Wind and Wind Hybrid) are under implementation
- Wind power generated 83.35 billion units of electricity during 2024-25
- Viability Gap Funding for Off-shore Wind energy projects

Bio - Energy

- National Bio-energy Programme – renewable energy from biomass, biogas, and waste-to-energy sources, promoting efficient waste management and decentralised clean energy access
- Installed capacity of biomass power and cogeneration projects at approximately 9.82 GW (grid-connected) and 0.935 GWeq (off-grid) as of Oct, 2025
- Installed capacity of waste-to-energy projects was 309.34 MW (grid-connected) and 546.28 MWeq (off-grid) as of Oct, 2025
- Installed 51.21 lakh nos. of small Biogas plants and 361 nos. of medium-sized biogas plants (with an aggregate capacity of 11.5 MW) as of Oct, 2025

National Green Hydrogen Mission

- Targets - 5 MMT of green hydrogen annually by 2030
- Production capacity of 862,000 tonnes of green hydrogen per year allocated to 18 companies and 15 firms awarded 3,000 MW of annual electrolyser manufacturing capacity
- Three Green Hydrogen Hubs designated: Deendayal Port Authority, Gujarat; V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority, Tamil Nadu; and Paradip Port Authority in Odisha



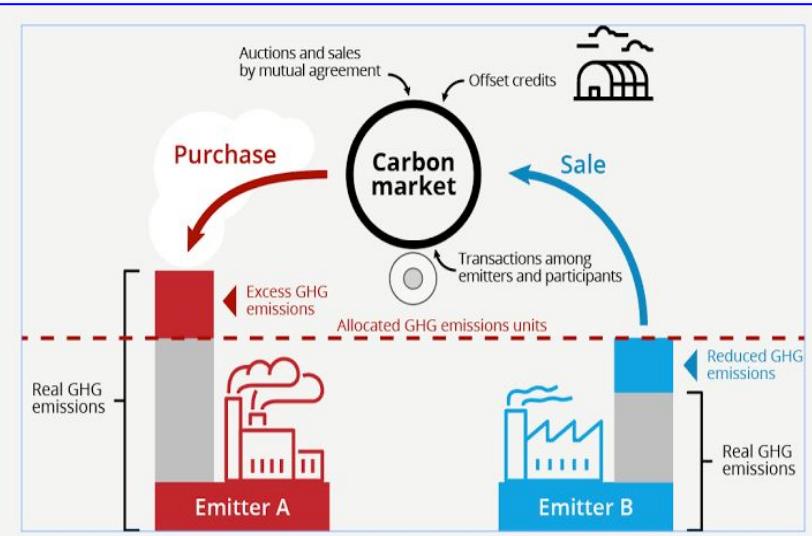
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Mains Heading 4 : Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) :

Energy Conservation Act 2022



BEE = Carbon Credit Certificate (CCC)
for reduction of 1 Tonne of CO₂

Regulation of trading activity =
Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)

Chart X.4: GHG emission intensity target setting process

Development of Sector Specific Strategy

Formulation of Industry Specific targets

Potential for energy efficiency, fuel switch, use of non-fossil fuel energy/feedstock and decarbonisation in the sector

Estimation of baseline GEI of each obligated entity.

Assessment of available technology and associated cost of their implementation

Comparing the GEI of each obligated entities in the same sub-sectoral group.

Assigning minimum target to the most efficient unit and highest target to the most inefficient unit.

ES 2026 : Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI) targets for four sectors: Aluminium, Cement, Chlor-Alkali & Pulp Paper

Mains Practise Question

Practise Question : What is the current status of Energy sector in India? What are the challenges that persists in complete "Green Transition" of Energy sector? What are the steps taken by the Government of India in this context? (15 Marks, 250 words)



CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Environment has notified the new Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 to be implemented by April 1, 2026 to promote reduction, recycle & reuse (3R) of Solid Waste in India

Mains Heading 1: India's Mounting Solid Waste Challenge:

What is "Solid Waste"?

Pre - Industrial Revolution:
Organic & safely disposable waste integrated into Geo - Chemical cycle

Wave of Industrially manufactured goods & materials

Waste from Residential & Commercial areas, E- Waste & Hazardous Plastic waste

Intensity of Threat: CPCB Report 2024:

- India: **1.85 Lakh tonnes** of waste daily
- 96% collected > 61% treated > 21% landfilled
- 0.34 kg / person / per day (2023) to **0.7 kg / person / day** (2025)
- Surpass **Germany** (4th position) by 2030
- Only about **50%** of generated waste is treated

India to generate 0.7kgwaste per person per day: by 2025: Report

Clean India Journal Editor



The rise in living standards fuelled by the industrial revolution and economic growth has dramatically reshaped consumption patterns, resulting in complex challenges for solid waste management (SWM). This shift in lifestyle has significantly increased the proportion of inorganic materials in waste, complicating SWM and elevating it to a global concern. A Report

Composition of Solid Waste in India (2024)

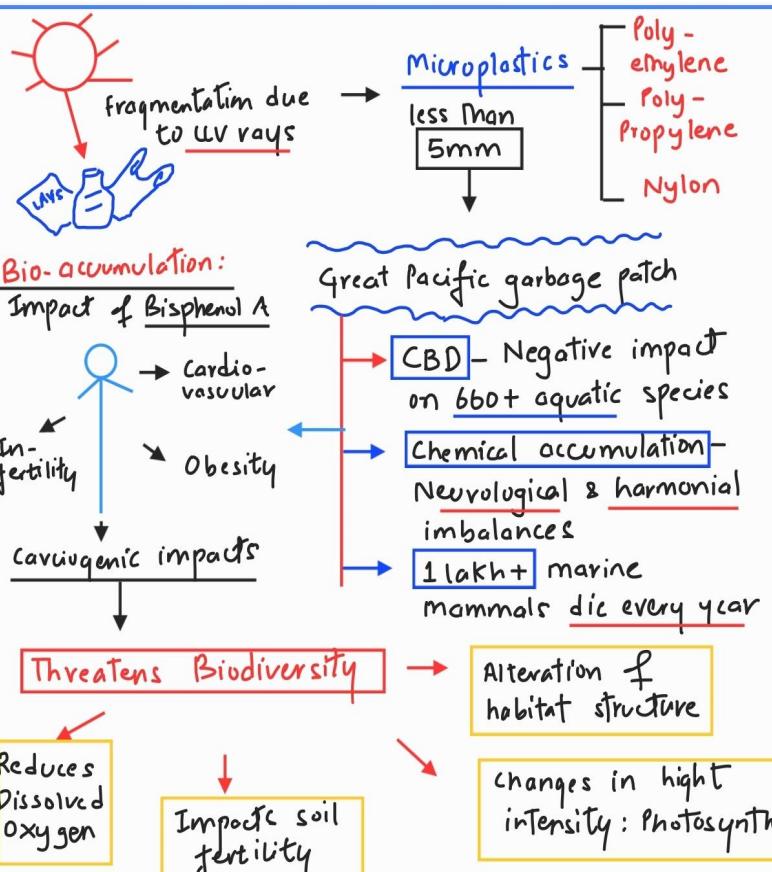
Biodegradable Organic Matter: **51%**

Recyclable Material: **17%**

Ash Content: **30-40%**

Paper Making: **3-6%**

INERT Material: Glass + Plastic + Metals : 3-6%



Solid Waste Management Rules 2026



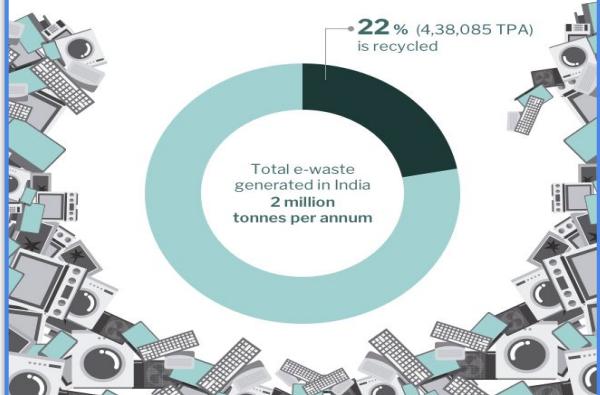
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E-WASTE

E-Waste On The Rise: India Is Now One Of The Top Five E-Waste Producers In The World: Report

According to a joint study by ASSOCHAM-NEC, Maharashtra contributes the most to the 2 million tonnes of e-waste generated in India. The state generates 19.8 per cent (3,96,000 tonnes per annum) of country's e-waste, but recycles only about 47,810 tonnes per annum

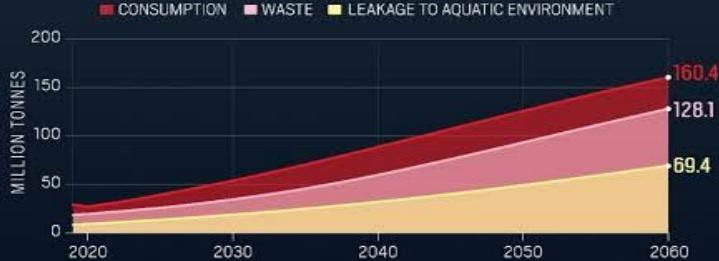
E-Waste Recycling In India



INDIA'S PLASTIC USAGE MAY RISE 4 TIMES BY 2050



THREAT OF PLASTIC WASTE IN INDIA



TOP 5:
China > USA >
INDIA > Brazil
> Mexico

Just **12** countries are responsible for World's mismanaged plastic waste

220 million tonnes of Plastic waste will be created in 2025

Plastic
Overshoot
Day Report:
EA Earth
Action

50% world population: Living in areas where plastic waste has exceeded managing capacity

2024:
117 Days of "Overshoot"

70 million tonnes of Plastic waste ends up in Natural environment



Solid Waste Management Rules 2026



CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Environment has notified the new Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 to be implemented by April 1, 2026 to promote reduction, recycle & reuse (3R) of Solid Waste in India

Mains Heading 2: Reasons behind **“Insufficient Management” of Solid Waste?**

Rising Waste Generation outpaces the SWM Infrastructure in country

Financial Constraints faced by Municipalities: Waste collection to advance treatment facilities

“Outdated technology & inadequate workforce training”

Lack of “Decentralised” solid waste management system

**Why Waste
is Winning in
India?**

CPCB: “Lack of Civic sense”

CPCB Report to Indians



Zero civic sense

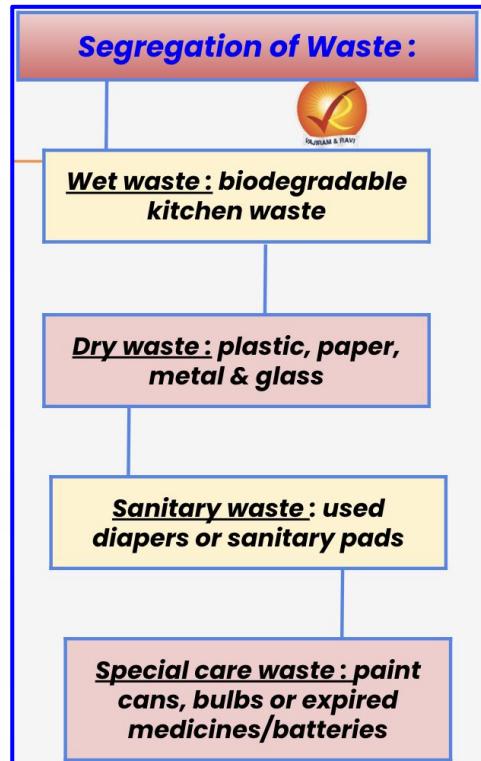
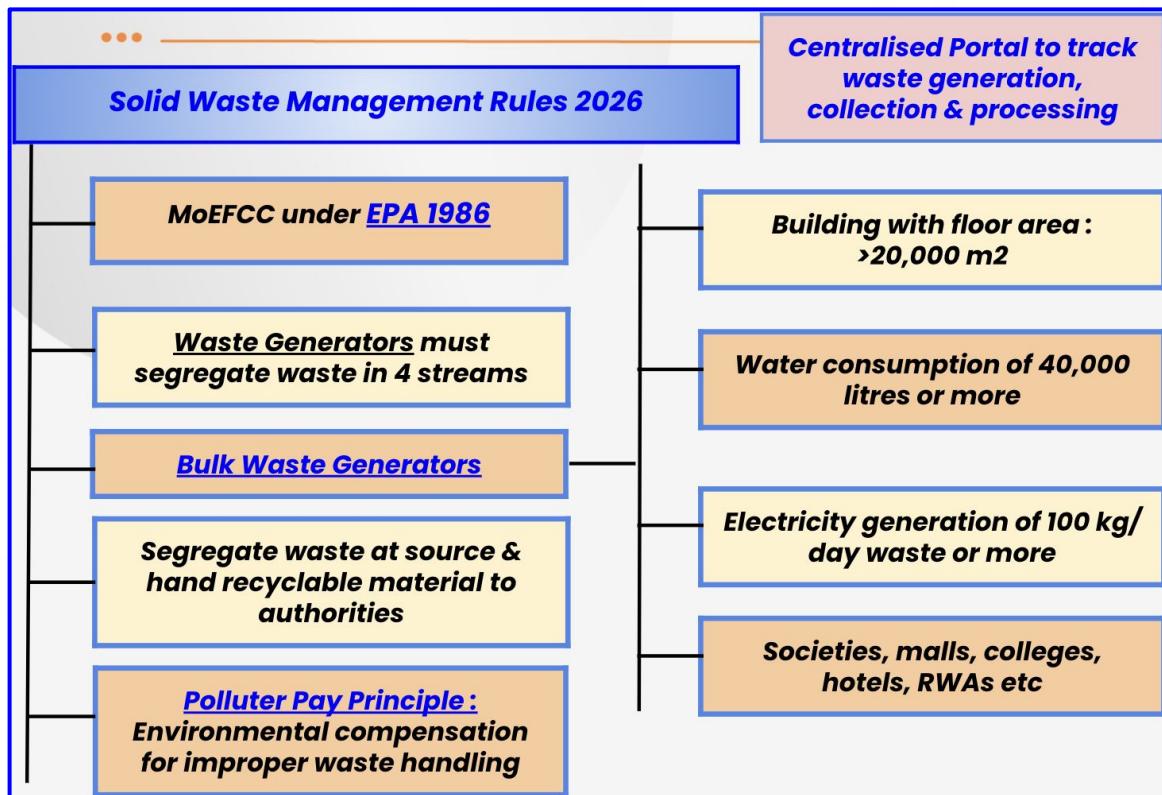


Solid Waste Management Rules 2026



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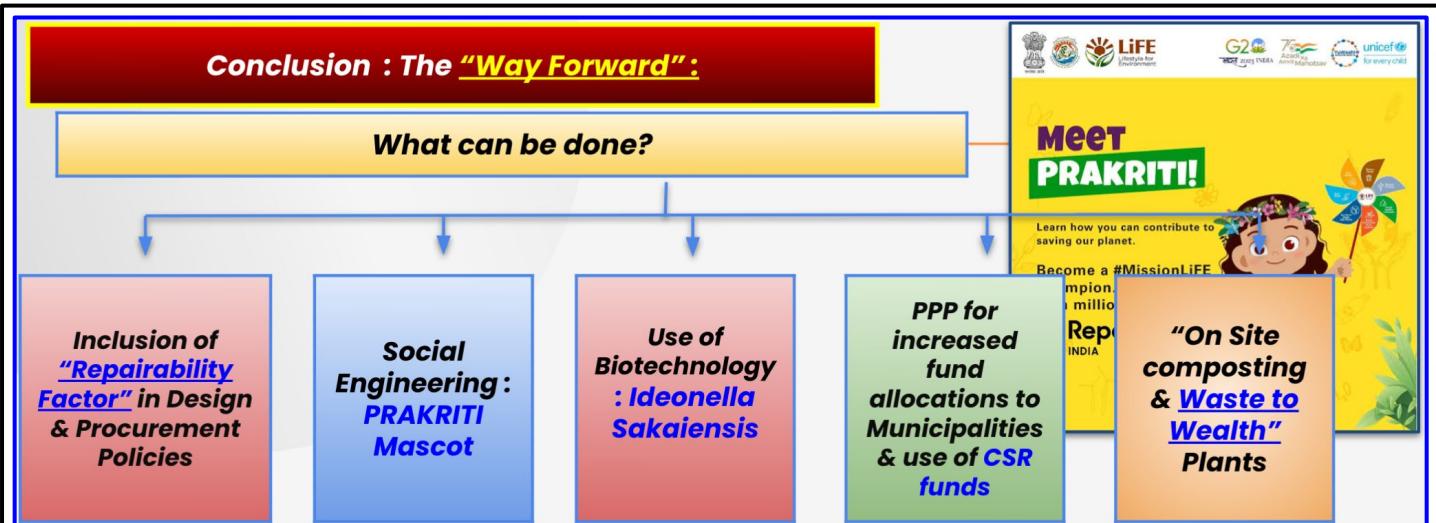
Mains Heading 3 : What are the Steps taken by India?



Solid Waste Management Rules 2026



CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Environment has notified the new Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 to be implemented by April 1, 2026 to promote reduction, recycle & reuse (3R) of Solid Waste in India



TV BRICS INTERNATIONAL MEDIA NETWORK

05:15 «BRICSterview»

12.01.26 • 15:00 • Ecology

China's Hangzhou leads global shift towards zero-waste cities

On Tuesday, Australia takes another step towards reshaping its throw-away society.

A range of single-use plastic, including straws, cutlery and micro beads in shampoo, will be banned in its most populous state, New South Wales (NSW), in a bid to reduce waste.

Mains Practise Question

Question : What are the concerns related to “Solid Waste Management”? How far India has fared in this direction? Provide suggestive measures. (10 Marks, 150 words)



Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2021



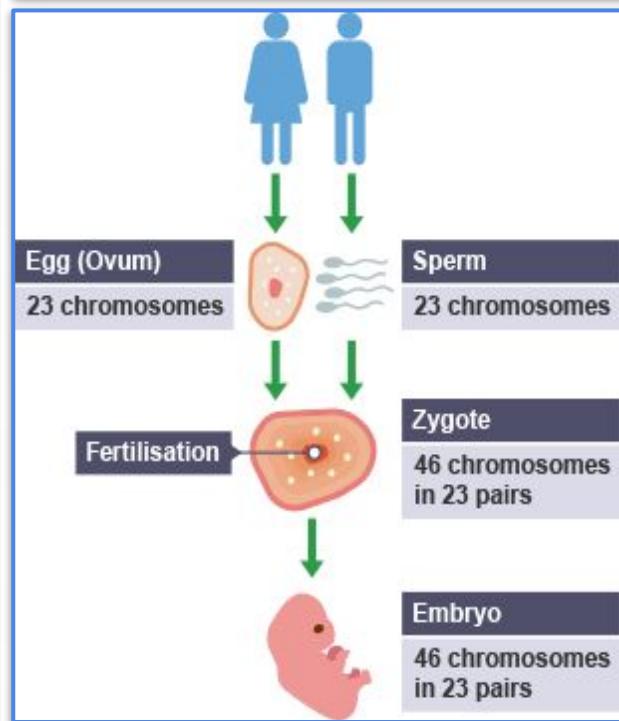
SYLLABUS: G.S. 2 : Important Government Acts

Newspaper: Indian Express **Page No:** Explained

Context of News :

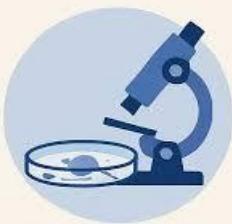
THE DELHI High Court last week issued notice on a PIL that asks whether the law can require viable frozen embryos to be destroyed rather than donated, even when couples consent on both sides.

To oppose what it describes as a “blanket prohibition” on “altruistic, voluntary, consent-based donation” to infertile couples, the plea challenges provisions of the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021, and its Rules, which permit embryos to be created using donor sperm and donor eggs but prohibit the donation of unused frozen embryos for reproductive use by another couple.



IVF

EXPLANATION AND DETAILS



IVF is a fertility treatment where an egg is fertilized by sperm outside the body, in a lab, and then embryo is placed into the uterus.

KEY STEPS

- Egg Retrieval**
Eggs are collected from the ovaries using a needle under ultrasound guidance.
- Ovarian Stimulation**
Hormone injections are given to stimulate the ovaries to produce multiple eggs.
- Sperm Collection**
A sperm sample is taken from the male partner or a donor.
- ICSI**
- Embryo Culture**
Fertilized eggs (embryos) are monitored for a few days as they grow.
- Embryo Transfer**
One or more embryos are placed into the woman's uterus.
- Pregnancy Test**
About 10-14 days later, a blood test checks if pregnancy has occurred.

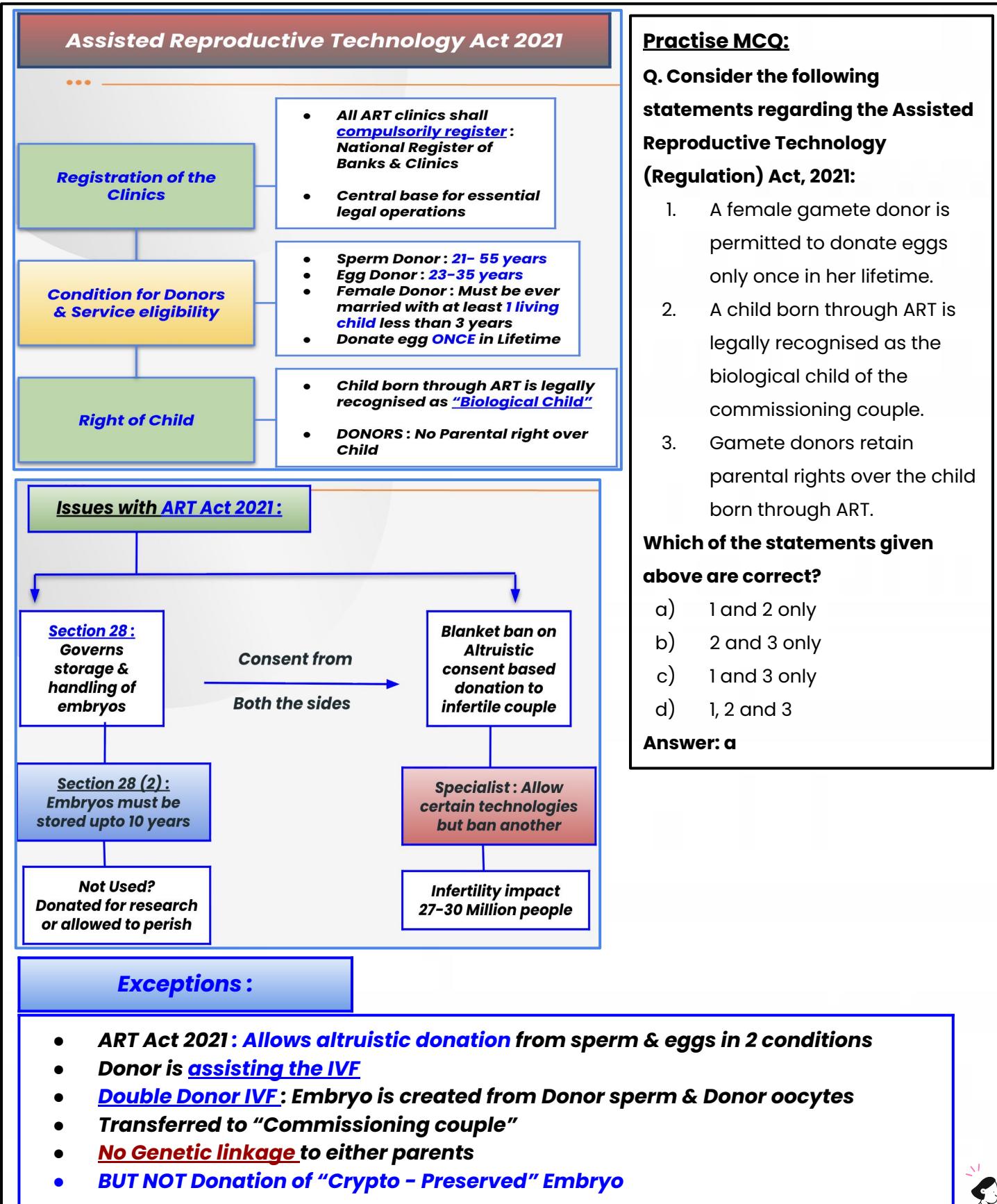


Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2021



SYLLABUS: G.S. 2 : Important Government Acts

Newspaper: Indian Express **Page No:** Explained



No Case for scrapping MPLAD Funds



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Important Government SCHEMES

Newspaper: The Hindu **Page No:** 9

Context of News:

The case at hand

Last month, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) alleged that three Congress MPs from Rajasthan had misused the MPLADS funds. The party claimed that Brijendra Singh Ola of Jhunjhunu had allocated ₹25 lakh, Rahul Kaswan of Churu had allocated ₹50 lakh, and Sanjana Jatav of Bharatpur had allocated ₹45 lakh for developmental work in the Kaithal district of Haryana, instead of utilising the funds for developmental work within their constituencies in Rajasthan. This, the BJP argued, ran contrary to the core objective of MPLADS. It raised concerns about the appropriateness of allocating public funds across State boundaries. The party further

MPLAD Scheme:

Central Sector Scheme: Funds released by MoSPI	₹5 crore per annum released by MoSPI in 2 equal installments	Used ONLY for Durable Community Assets: Roads, Schools, Health Infra etc	Private assets not permitted? Created for SC/ST or Disadvantaged groups
MPLAD Guidelines 2023 : Recommend eligible work upto ₹50 Lakh / year "outside constituency" or State	Except in cases on "Natural Calamities": Recommend upto ₹1 crore	MP's ONLY Recommend work: No role in execution or funds handling	District Authority: Sanctioning, Executing & monitoring works recommended by MPs

At least 15% funds must be spent for SC areas & 7.5% for ST areas

Non - Lapsable and can be carried forward: Ensure continuity of Development Projects

18th Lok Sabha = 5,486 crore has been allocated for MPLADS funds

Utilization = 1,453.69 crore (26%)

17th Lok Sabha = 75% funds were utilised of total 4,837.87 crore allocated

17th Lok Sabha = 41,143 out of 96,211 (42%) works were completed

16th Lok Sabha (2014-2019) = only 8.7% funds remained unused

Notable members = Sant Balbir Singh, Iqra Chaudhary & Tejasvi Surya

Suggestion: Organise short workshops with consultants



No Case for scrapping MPLAD Funds

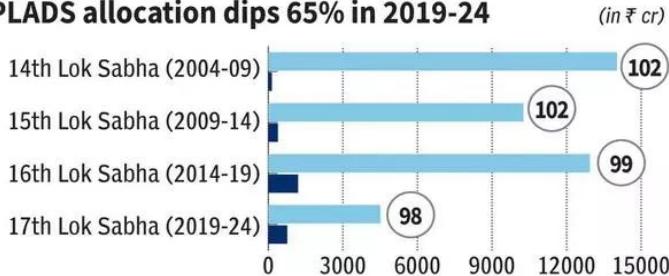


SYLLABUS: Prelims: Important Government SCHEMES
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page No:** 9

Local area development

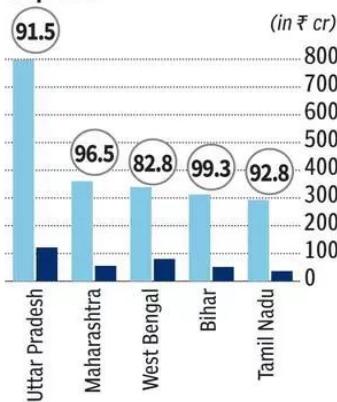
■ Funds released by Central government ○ % of funds utilised ■ Unspent balance with district authority

MPLADS allocation dips 65% in 2019-24

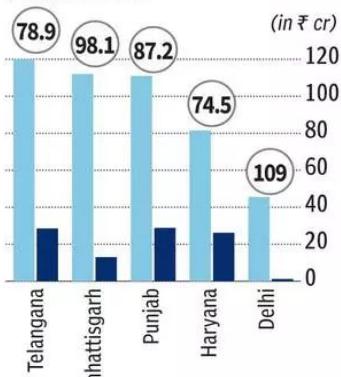


Large States receive more funding under the scheme

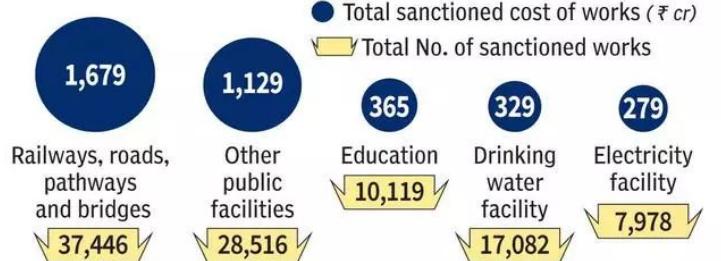
Top five



Bottom five



Public infra remains a priority sector



3. With reference to the funds under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), which of the following statements are correct ?

1. MPLADS funds must be used to create durable assets like physical infrastructure for health, education, etc.
2. A specified portion of each MP's fund must benefit SC/ST populations.
3. MPLADS funds are sanctioned on yearly basis and the unused funds cannot be carried forward to the next year.
4. The district authority must inspect at least 10% of all works under implementation every year.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- 1 and 2 only
- 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 4 only

Practise MCQ:

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the MPLAD Scheme:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
2. Funds under the scheme are released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
3. Members of Parliament can recommend works but have no role in the execution or handling of funds.
4. At least 15% and 7.5% of the annual MPLADS funds must be spent in areas inhabited by SC and ST populations, respectively.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 1 and 4 only

Answer: b



LoP & Suspension of MPs

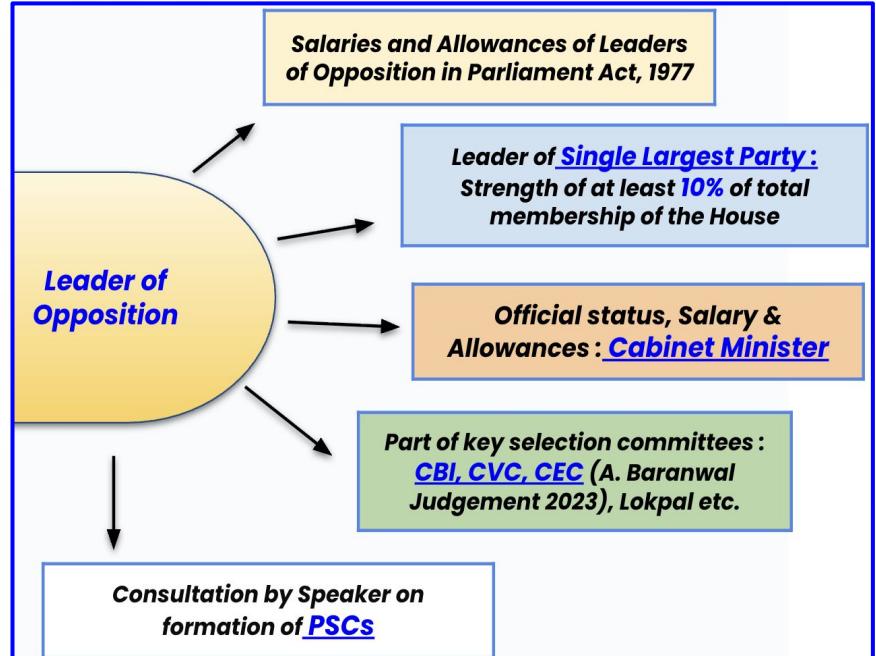


SYLLABUS: Prelims : Important functions of Parliament

Newspaper: Indian Express **Page No :** 01

Context of News :

THE STANDOFF between the Opposition and the government intensified on Tuesday as Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi stepped up his attacks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he was not allowed to quote from or speak about former Army Chief General M M Naravane's unpub-



lished memoir and eight Opposition MPs were suspended for the remainder of the Budget Session.

Suspension of MPs of Lok Sabha :

Speaker of LS or Chairman of RS

Types of Suspension

- **Maintain "Order":** Smooth functioning of House
- **Article 118:** Each house can make rules to regulate procedures & conduct of business
- **No Separate statute:** Parliament Discipline Act

Rule 373:
Immediate Withdrawal for remainder of that day's sitting only

Rule 374:
Motion moved by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs : Suspended for remainder of session

Rule 374 A:
Automatic suspension: Coming into well of house, shouting slogans or obstructing proceedings deliberately

Raja Ram Pal v. Speaker of Lok Sabha 2007:
SC upheld Parliament's power to discipline members & **parliamentary privileges** (Art 105) is subject to **Judicial Review** on ground of "illegality & unconstitutionality"



SYLLABUS: Prelims : Important functions of Parliament

Newspaper: Indian Express **Page No :** 01

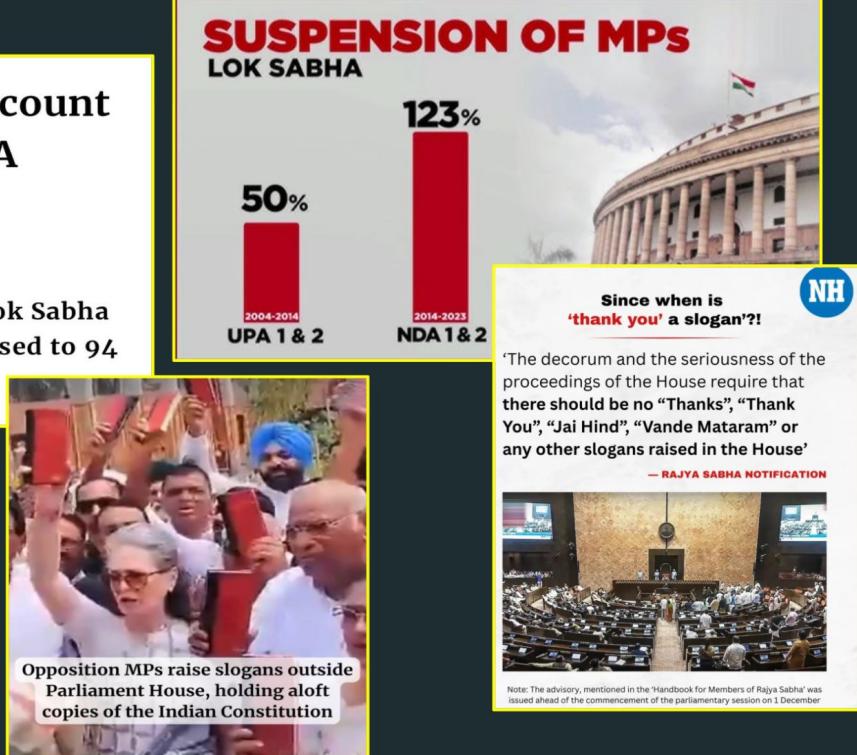
Suspended Lok Sabha MP count nearly doubles during NDA terms | Data

October 07, 2023 09:54 am | Updated 03:26 pm IST

During the terms of UPA I and II, 50 Lok Sabha MPs were suspended; the count increased to 94 during the terms of NDA I and II

Record 78 MPs suspended in a single day; Opposition terms it 'murder of democracy' by 'autocratic Modi government'

In the Winter Session so far, 92 MPs have been suspended; multiple Bills were passed amidst the chaos and repeated adjournments; "All democratic norms are being thrown into the dustbin," says Congress' Mallikarjun Kharge



Practise MCQ:

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Leader of the Opposition in India:

1. The office of the Leader of Opposition is defined in the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.
2. The Leader of Opposition is the leader of the single largest party having at least 20% of the total membership of the House..

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: a



First time data under NAMASTE Scheme



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Important Government Schemes

Newspaper: The Hindu **Page No : 14**

Context of News :

The Union government on Tuesday released data for the first time on the ongoing enumeration of waste-pickers across the country, showing that a total of 1.52 lakh such workers had been profiled and validated so far in urban areas of 35 States and Union Territories. At the national level, 84.5% of overall waste-pickers were from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and the Other Backward Classes, while 10.7% were from communities in the General category.

Waste-picking labour profile

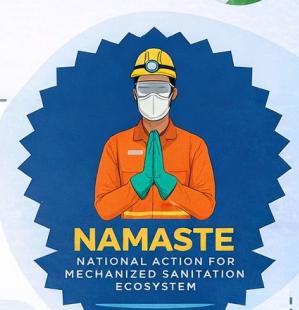
This enumeration of sewer and septic tank workers and waste pickers was part of the govt.'s NAMASTE scheme

- Out of 1.52 lakh profiled waste pickers, 84.5% were from SC, ST, or OBC communities
- However, in Delhi and Goa, a majority of such workers were from General communities
- About 48.7% of workers are women, 51.3% are men, and 0.007% are transgender people
- On Tuesday, the Social Justice Ministry said that 859 people had died due to cleaning of sewers and septic tanks since 2014



Key Components of

NAMASTE Scheme



Profiling of Sewer/Septic Tank Workers (SSWs)

Occupational Safety Training and PPE Kits Distribution

Support for Safety Devices to Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs)

Health Insurance Coverage under Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY

Livelihood Support and Enterprise Development

Convergence of MoSJE and MoHUA Programs

Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Campaign

MIS and Dedicated Website

- 1 Profiling of Sewer/Septic Tank Workers (SSWs)
- 2 Occupational Safety Training and PPE Kits Distribution
- 3 Support for Safety Devices to Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs)
- 4 Health Insurance Coverage under Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY

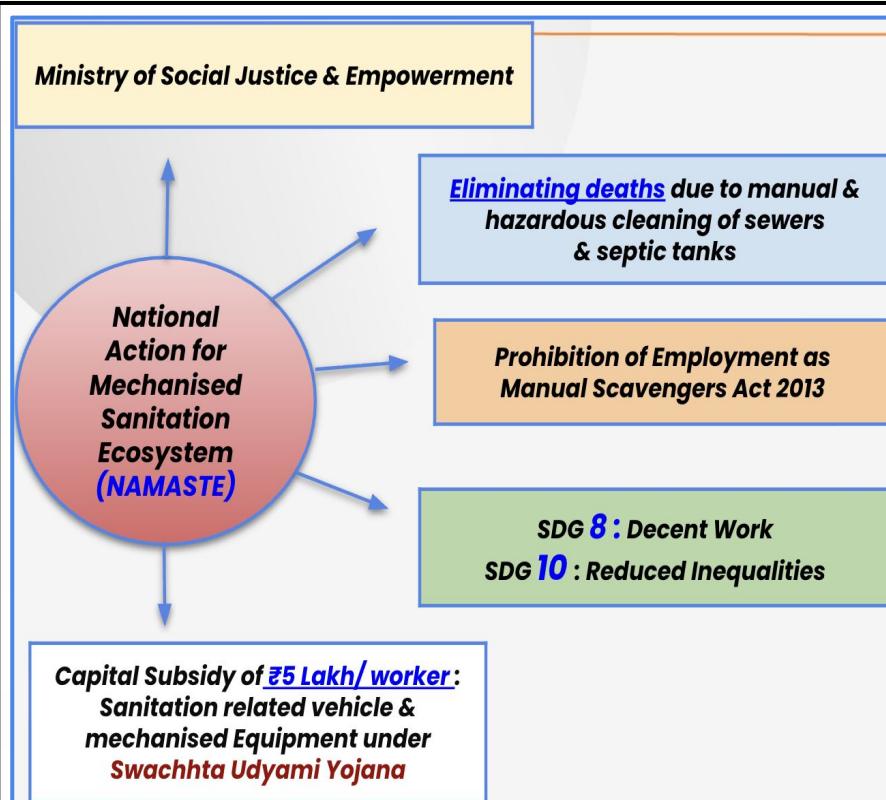


First time data under NAMASTE Scheme



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Important Government Schemes

Newspaper: The Hindu **Page No : 14**



Practise MCQ:

Q. Consider the following statements about the NAMASTE Scheme:

1. It aims to ensure the safety and dignity of workers involved in cleaning sewer lines and septic tanks.
2. It offers a capital subsidy of up to ₹5 lakh for the purchase of sanitation-related vehicles and equipment.
3. The scheme is implemented by the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation.

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

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

Answer: c



"Turtle Trails" in Budget 2026



SYLLABUS: Prelims : Important Fauna in News

Newspaper: The Hindu **Page No : 04**

Context of News :

The Union Budget's proposal to develop 'turtle trails' along key nesting sites in the coastal areas of Odisha, Karnataka and Kerala has triggered sharp scepticism and concern among conservationists and researchers, who argue that mass nesting sites should be kept free from anthropogenic pressure.

Arribada: Mass Nesting of Olive Ridley Sea turtles

Recorded **ONLY** along India & Costa Rica & "some" handful of beaches

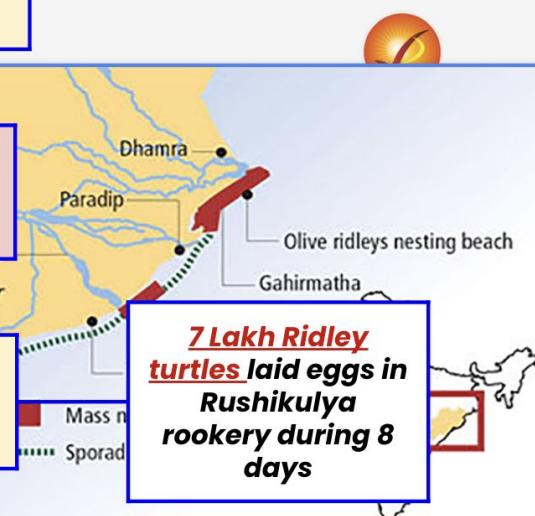
Odisha: **World's largest mass nesting ground for Olive Ridley Turtles**

7 Lakh Ridley turtles laid eggs in Rushikulya rookery during 8 days

Odisha: **Gahirmatha** in Kendrapara district & **Rushikulya** in Ganjam

Conservationist:
Declare a "No - Go" Zone

No "Outsider" in Gahirmatha:
Proximity of **Missile testing range of Chandipur**



"Turtle Trails" in Budget 2026

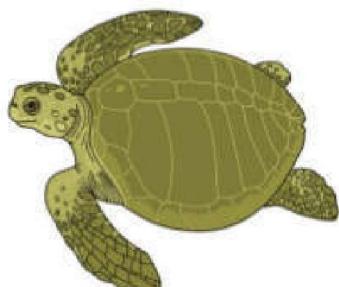


SYLLABUS: Prelims : Important Fauna in News

Newspaper: The Hindu **Page No : 04**

KNOW THE OLIVE RIDLEY

They are smallest and most abundant of all sea turtle species. Other sea turtles in India include Green sea turtles, Hawksbill, Leatherback turtles, Loggerhead turtles



35-50
KG
WEIGHT

50
YEARS
LIFESPAN

SIZE: 2-2.5 FEET

■ **Food:** They feed on shrimp, snails, crabs, jellyfish, other varieties of fish and their eggs.

HABITAT IN INDIA

Traditionally, Olive Ridley turtles are found in large numbers on the eastern coast of India. The highest number of mass nesting happens in Odisha, while highest solitary nesting is observed in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh.

PROTECTION STATUS

■ Categorised as 'Vulnerable' in the IUCN Red List, studies show that Olive Ridleys have experienced a 30-50

Source: Maharashtra Forest Department

percent decline worldwide.

■ Rate of survival is very low: For over 1,000 hatchlings that enter the sea waters, only one survives to adulthood.

■ The Ridleys are protected under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, which means they are accorded the highest level of protection with hunting and trade of the species strictly prohibited.

■ Threats: Fishing; exploitation of nesting beaches; illegal poaching for meat, eggs, shells, leather etc.

Ministry of Defence



Operation Olivia: ICG protects over 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley Turtles along the Odisha Coastline

Posted On: 19 MAY 2025 1:07PM by PIB Delhi

Practise MCQ:

Q. Turtle trails announced in the Union Budget 2026-27 will **NOT** be developed in which of the following regions?

- Odisha
- Karnataka
- Kerala
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Answer: d

IUCN Red List :
Vulnerable

CITES :
Appendix 1

WPA 1972 :
Schedule 1
(Highest Protection)





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