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Institute for IAS Examination

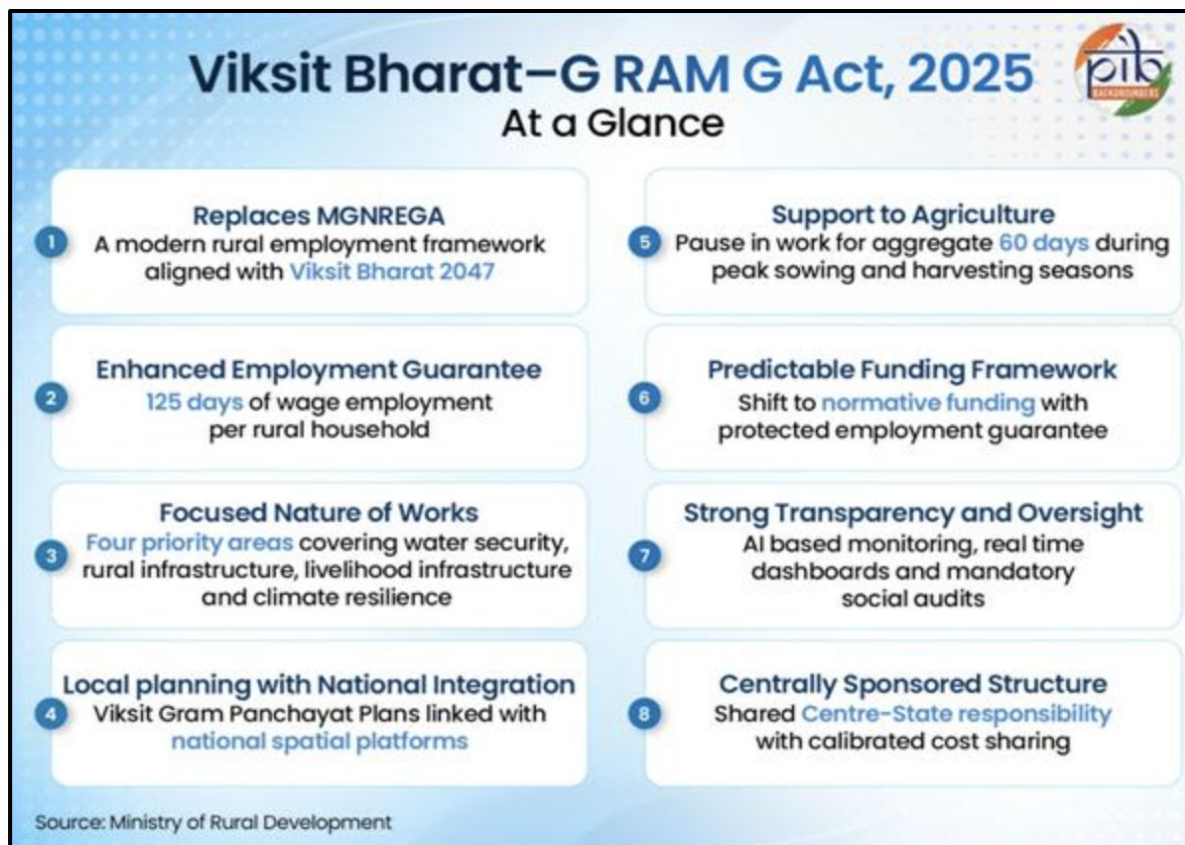
The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

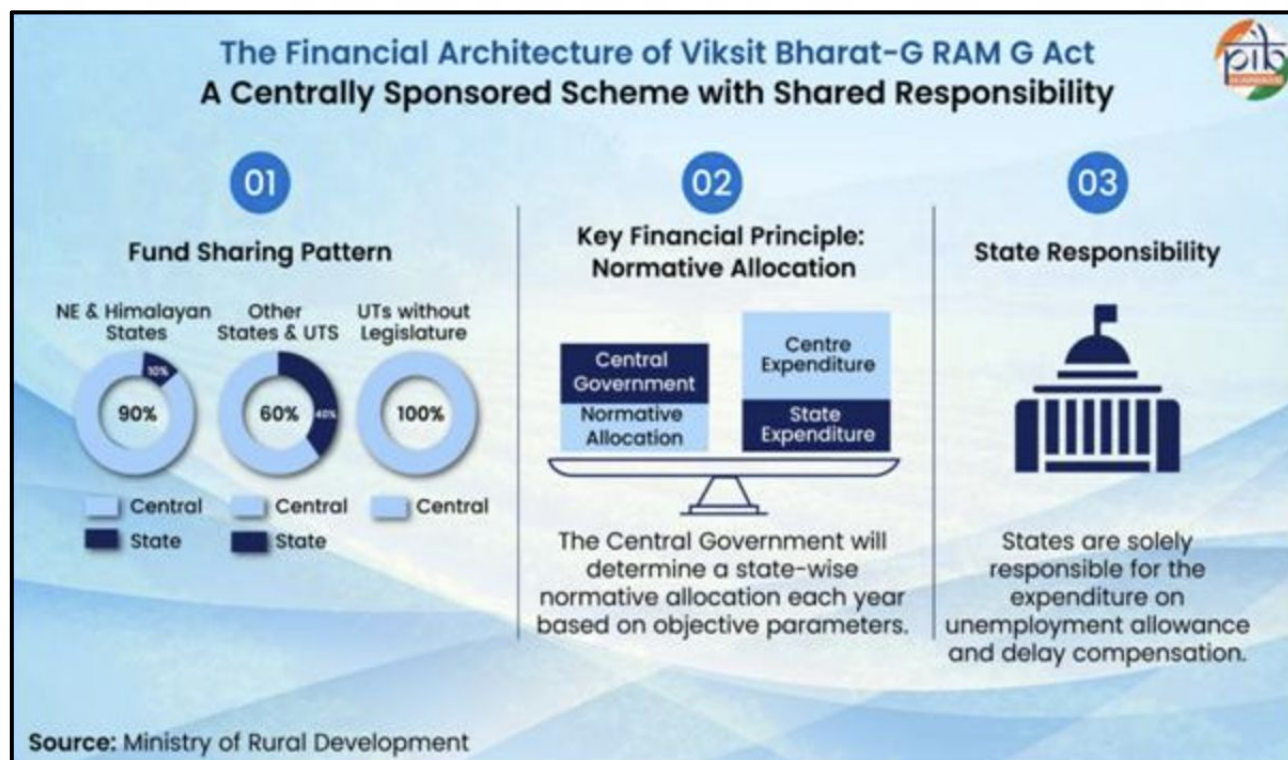
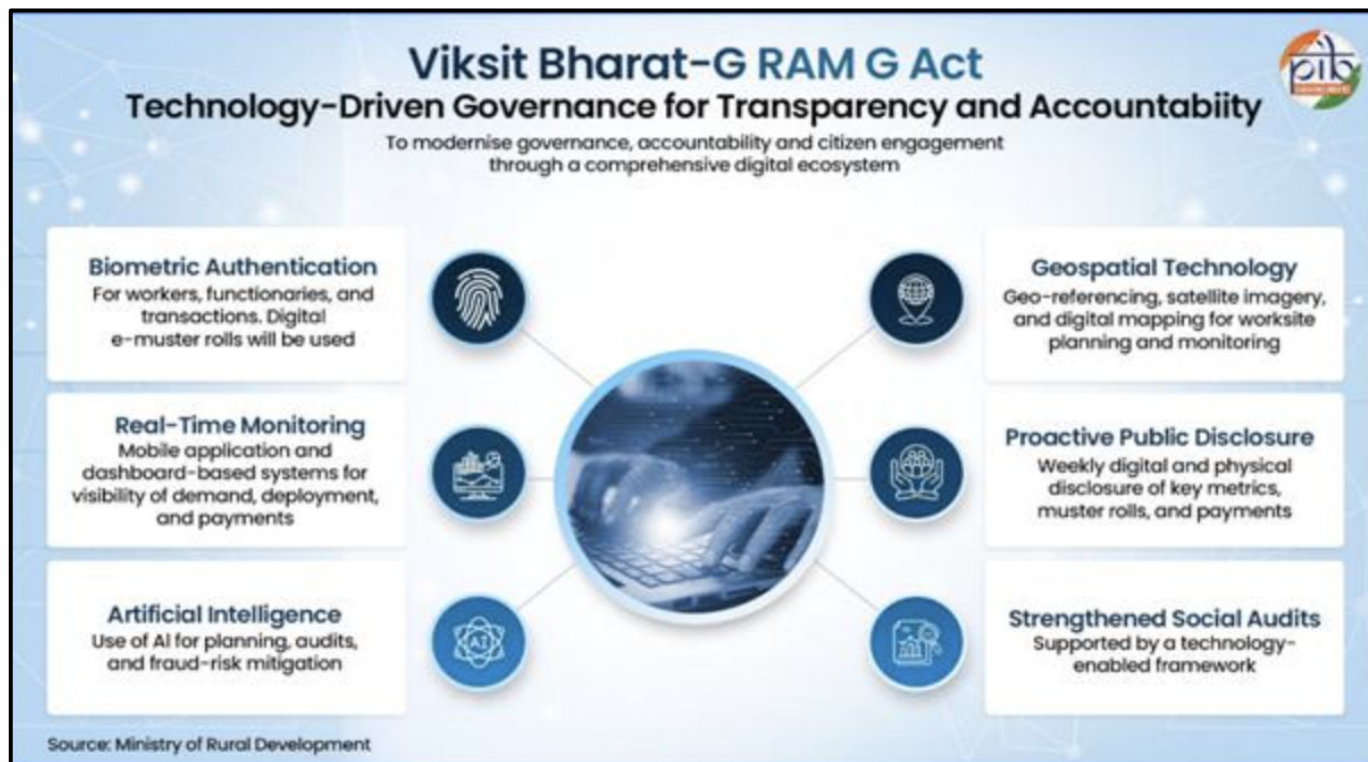
6th February 2026



CONTEXT: Kerala Assembly has passed a resolution demanding the restoration of MGNREGA.



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MGNREGA v/s VB-G RAM G

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Implementing and Monitoring Authorities

The Act establishes a clear institutional framework to ensure coordinated, accountable, and transparent implementation of the Mission across national, State, district, block, and village levels.

- Central and State Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Councils provide policy guidance, review implementation, and strengthen accountability.
- National and State Steering Committees drive strategic direction, convergence, and performance review.
- Panchayati Raj Institutions lead planning and execution, with Gram Panchayats implementing at least half of the works in terms of cost.
- District Programme Coordinators and Programme Officers manage planning, compliance, payments, and social audits.
- Gram Sabhas play a strengthened role in conducting social audits and ensuring transparency through access to all records.

What makes Viksit Bharat-G RAM G better than MGNREGA?



MGNREGA

100 days of wage employment per rural household

Multiple and scattered categories of works with limited strategic focus

Center bears unskilled wage costs, states bear unemployment allowance

No explicit statutory "pause window"

Demand based funding with unpredictable allocations

Gram Panchayat planning is central

Viksit Bharat-G RAM G

125 days of wage employment per rural household

4 clearly defined priority areas focusing on water security, rural infrastructure, livelihoods and climate resilience

State cost-sharing for wages, 60:40 for most states, 90:10 for certain special-category regions

States can notify up to 60 days in a FY when work will not be executed

Normative funding ensuring predictable budgeting while protecting the employment guarantee

Integrates institutionalised convergence and infrastructure planning

Source: Ministry of Rural Development



MGNREGA v/s VB-G RAM G

CONTEXT: Kerala Assembly has passed a resolution demanding the restoration of MGNREGA.

Need for VB-G RAM G :

- **Broader socio-economic changes:**
 - **Poverty levels** declined from **27.1% in 2011-12 to 5.3% in 2022-23**, supported by rising consumption, improved financial access, and expanded welfare coverage.
 - **Findings of HCES:2023-24:**
 - **Consumption inequality**, both in **rural and urban areas**, for almost all the **18 major states has declined** in 2023-24 from the level of 2022-23.
 - **At all-India, the Gini coefficient of consumption expenditure** has declined:
 - **To 0.237 in 2023-24 from 0.266 in 2022-23** for rural areas
 - **To 0.284 in 2023-24 from 0.314 in 2022-23** for urban areas.
 - **PMJDY:**
 - 33% of Jan Dhan accounts have been opened in urban/metro areas while 67% opened in rural/semi-urban areas.
 - **Women:** 56% Jan Dhan accounts belong to women.
 - **Equity ensured through rule-based "Normative Allocations"**

- **Corruption in MGNREGA:** FY 2023-24, **social audit units** flagged misappropriation amounting to **₹27.5 crore under MGNREGA**.
- **Fiscal Correction:**

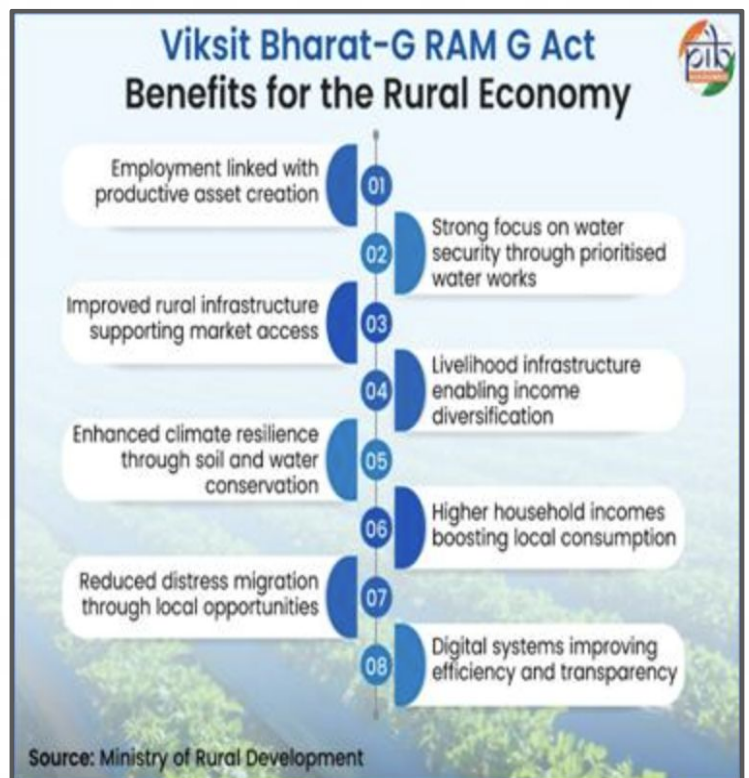
Why shift from Demand-Based to Normative Funding?

"Normative allocation" means the allocation of the fund made by the Central Government to the State.

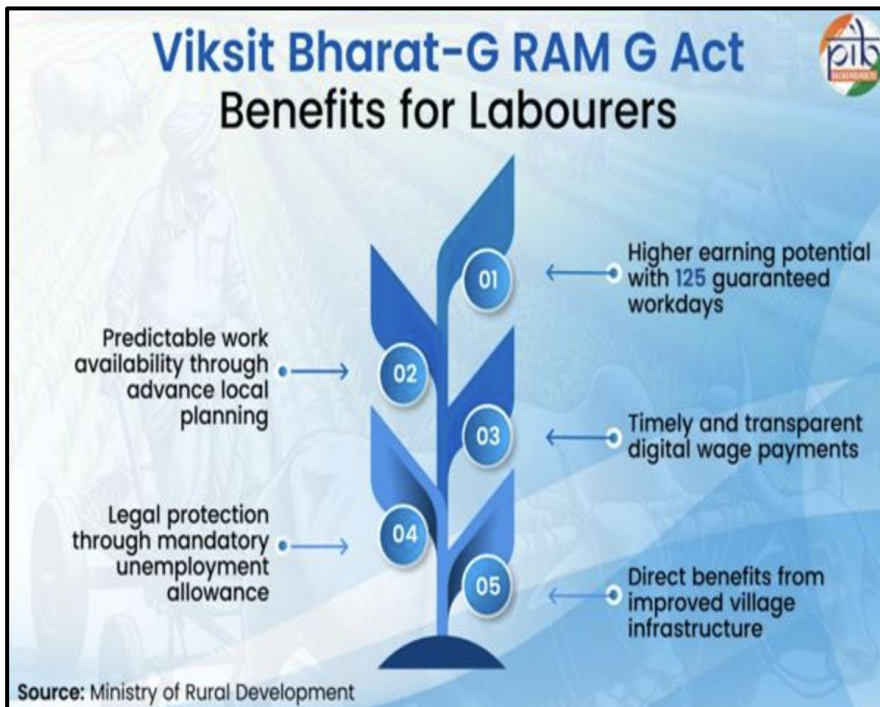
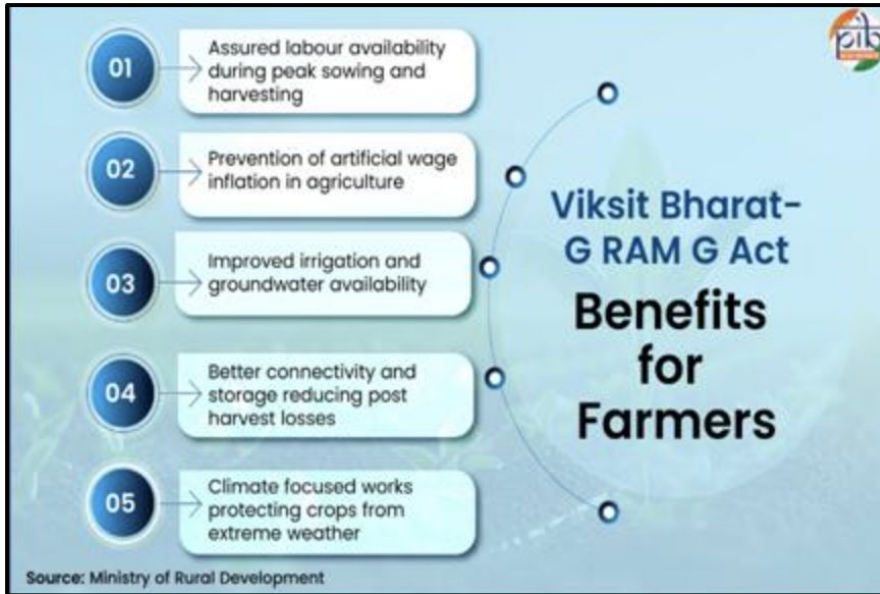
A demand-based model leads to unpredictable allocations and mismatched budgeting. Normative funding aligns the scheme with the budgeting model used for most Government of India schemes, without reducing the employment guarantee, through the use of objective parameters, ensuring predictable and rational planning while preserving the legal entitlement to employment or unemployment allowance.

- **Better Planning**

Significance of VB-G RAM G :



CONTEXT: Kerala Assembly has passed a resolution demanding the restoration of MGNREGA.



Mains Practise Question :

"Discuss the need for the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill. Examine its potential benefits for rural livelihoods and the challenges in its implementation."

(15 Marks, 250 words)

Challenges :

- **Fiscal Federalism:**
 - Post GST
 - Unemployment Allowance burden
- **Black-out period clause**
 - Serve interest of land-lords & capitalists farmers
- **Shift from "demand driven" Framework to "Supply driven" Scheme:**
 - Normative allocations (Centre - parameters)
- **Top-Down Approach:**

Union government to "notify rural areas in a State" where the scheme will be implemented.
- **Wage rates to be fixed by Central government**
- **Exclusionary technical mechanisms:** "National Mobile monitoring System Software"



DISCOMs and the road Ahead



CONTEXT: DISCOMs show improvement in performance, recording a positive turnaround marked by reduced AT&C losses, a narrowed ACS-ARR gap and improved financial discipline.

Present Status of DISCOMs :

DISCOMs: now numbering **72 across the country** (44 State-owned, 16 private-sector entities, and 12 power departments).

- DISCOMs recorded a **positive Profit After Tax (PAT) of ₹ 2,701 crore** in the financial year **2024-25**, marking “a decisive turnaround” from a **loss of ₹67,962 crore in 2013-14**.
- **Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses:** have reduced from **22.62% in FY 2013-14 to 15.04% in FY 2024-25**.
- **Average Cost of Supply–Average Revenue Realized (ACS–ARR) gap** has narrowed from 78 paise per unit (kilowatt-hour) to 0.06 paise per unit, signalling much improved cost recovery.
- **Yet, not everything is rosy:** Many DISCOMs, if not most, have been able to achieve the turnaround, essentially due to **tariff subsidies received** from and the **takeover of losses by their respective governments**.
 - **Tamil Nadu, during 2024-25:** the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited – received ₹15,772 crore as tariff subsidy and ₹16,107 crore towards the takeover of losses.
 - In fact, the utility recorded a profit (after tax) of ₹2,073 crore only after receiving the State government’s largesse.

• **Power Finance Corporation Limited:**

- **Rajasthan: Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited**, which recorded a profit of ₹92 crore, but this was after the receipt of ₹ 11,625 crore towards tariff subsidy and ₹ 2,540 crore towards loss takeover.

Challenges:

- ❖ **Higher cost of Power from Thermal power plants:** Long term “power purchase agreements” while Solar power is cheaper now-a-days.
 - **The Energy and Resources Institute:**
 - solar power + Battery Energy Storage Systems: ₹3.9–₹4.3 per kWh
 - Thermal Power Plants : ₹5.4–₹5.8 per kWh
- ❖ **Lack of autonomy to State Electricity Regulatory Commissions:** fixing tariffs – subsidised electricity to residential & agriculture sector.
- ❖ **Cross- subsidisation:** Higher tariffs for bulk consumers
 - **Open Access policy under Electricity Act of 2003:** allows bulk consumers (typically **1 MW and above**) to **purchase electricity directly from generators** bypassing the DISCOMs.



CONTEXT: DISCOMs show improvement in performance, recording a positive turnaround marked by reduced AT&C losses, a narrowed ACS-ARR gap and improved financial discipline.

- **High AT&C losses:** 15.04% in FY 2024-25 –
 - Lack of **Smart metres**
 - **Absence of separate feeders** for agricultural use from non-agricultural use in States such as Tamil Nadu.
- **Higher dependence on State Governments:** e.g Tamil Nadu & Rajasthan
- **Fragile Finances:** may have to effect pay revision for employees in a few years, the probability of them slipping back to square one i.e. revenue deficit is quite high.

Steps Taken:

- **Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme:** reduce AT&C losses to 15% by 2025 & reduce ACS & ARR gap to Zero.
 - through infrastructure modernization (pre-paid metres) and accelerated smart metering.
- **Additional Prudential Norms:** Linking access to finance for Power sector Utilities to achievement against performance benchmarks to promote fiscal and operational discipline.
- **Franchise model of discoms:** Bhiwandi, Maharashtra

- **Delhi (Privatisation Model):** Tata Power DDL and BSES reduced AT&C losses from over **50% in 2002 to below 8%** in recent years.
- **Incentivizing states to implement critical power sector reforms**, with borrowing limits tied to performance metrics as part of **Additional Borrowing Scheme**.

Way Ahead:

- **No 'one size fits all approach':** Rural areas; State – owned, private : urban areas & Franchise Model: Tier II & III cities.
- **Regulatory reforms:** Autonomy to SERC & cost reflective tariffs
- **Operational reforms:** Universalisation of metering & Smart meters
- **Separating feeders for agricultural use from non-agricultural use:** Only then will there be data, closer to the real picture, regarding the quantum of power supplied to agriculturists.
- **Promoting the use of solar pumps in agriculture**
- **Address Freebie Culture:** offer free electricity universally to domestic consumers – as economically stronger sections of society invariably benefit disproportionately.

Mains Practise Question

"Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) remain the weakest link in India's power sector. Discuss the major challenges faced by DISCOMs. Evaluate the steps taken by the government to address these issues and suggest a way forward."

(15 Marks, 250 words)



New START Treaty



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Current events of International importance
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 16

About New START Treaty

- The **New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty** – limits the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads and delivery systems for US and Russia.
- **Background:**
 - **START-I:** signed between the US and the erstwhile USSR in **1991**, and came into force in **1994**.
 - capped the numbers of nuclear warheads and intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) that each side could deploy at **6,000 and 1,600 respectively**.
 - It **lapsed in 2009**.
 - **Replaced** first by the **Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT)**, also known as the **Treaty of Moscow**, and then by the **New START treaty**.
- **Entered into force on February 5, 2011**, and placed new verifiable limits on intercontinental-range nuclear weapons.
- **Duration:** 10 years, with a **single five-year extension, exercised in 2021**.
- In **February 2023**, **Russia suspended participation in New START** following the **Ukraine conflict**, halting inspections and data exchanges, though both sides continued to observe core numerical limits.

- **Key features of the New START treaty:**
 - **Warhead limits:** Caps each side at **1,550** deployed strategic nuclear warheads.
 - **Delivery system limits:** Maximum 700 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and heavy bombers
 - **800 total launchers**, deployed and non-deployed combined
 - **Verification and transparency:**
 - **On-site inspections:** allowed 18 on-site inspections a year
 - Regular data exchanges
 - Setup a **bilateral commission** to resolve issues
 - **Predictability mechanism:** Creates shared expectations that shape nuclear force planning even during political hostility.



New START Treaty



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Current events of International importance

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 16

Later Russia also unveiled several novel strategic systems, including the Sarmat heavy ICBM and the Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle. While

the U.S. successfully argued that these should be counted under New START, other systems like the nuclear-powered underwater drone Poseidon and nuclear-powered cruise missile Burevestnik remained outside the treaty's technical definitions.

New START's expiry also makes the prospect of including China and other nuclear states in a larger nonproliferation regime harder in practice. Washington can now argue that it shouldn't be the only state constrained while Beijing grows. Moscow can argue that it shouldn't accept constraints while NATO's aggregate capabilities shape its security environment. And Beijing has already argued that its arsenal is smaller than those of the U.S. and Russia and that therefore it's "not fair or reasonable" to demand it enter their disarmament framework now.

Today, for the first time since 1972, there are no legally binding limits on the number of strategic nuclear weapons the U.S. and Russia can deploy. The formal channels to verify the locations and status of nuclear forces have ceased to exist, forcing intelligence agencies to rely entirely on satellite imagery and other

unilateral methods, which are more error-prone and easier to politicise. Nuclear

In 2025, Arms Control Association board chairman Thomas Countryman argued that the most realistic near-term path is a regime with three prongs: the U.S. and Russia establishing measures to restore basic level of transparency, the P5 group standardising definitions and modest transparency practices; and setting up of nonproliferation tools such as hotlines, launch notifications, incident prevention, and fissile material security, to involve more states without immediately forcing them to count each other's warheads.



Motion of Thanks



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Polity

Newspaper: Indian Express

Page Number: 1

Motion of Thanks

- It is a **parliamentary procedure** in which a formal motion is presented to express gratitude or appreciation for the **President's Address** to both Houses of Parliament.
- The **President's Address is a statement of policy of the Government** and, as such, is **drafted by the Government**.
 - ◆ It contains a review of various activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies, projects and programmes which the Government wishes to pursue concerning important national and international issues.
- **Article 87:**
 - ◆ It provides for the '**special address**' by the President.
 - ◆ At the commencement of **1st session after each general election** to House of the People and
 - ◆ At the commencement of the **1st session of each year**,
 - ◆ The President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together.
 - ◆ **No other business is transacted** till the President has addressed both Houses of Parliament assembled together.

- The address of the president, akin to the '**speech from the Throne**' in **Britain, is discussed in both Houses of Parliament** through a motion called the 'Motion of Thanks.'
 - ◆ If any of the amendments are put forward and accepted then the Motion of Thanks is adopted in the amended form.
 - Amendments may refer to **matters contained in the Address** as well as to matters which, in the opinion of the member, the **Address has failed to mention**.
 - ◆ At the end of the discussion, **the motion is put to vote**.
- The discussion is concluded by the **reply of the Prime Minister or any other Minister**. Immediately thereafter, the amendments are disposed of and the Motion of Thanks is put to vote and adopted.
- The Motion of Thanks must be passed in the House, with a **simple majority**. Otherwise, it amounts to the **defeat of the government**. It is one of the ways through which the Lok Sabha can also express a **lack of confidence in the government**.
- The **limitation** of motion of thanks is that the members **cannot refer to matters** that are not under the **direct responsibility of the Central Government** or **mention the name of the President** in the debate.



SYLLABUS : Prelims: *Statutory Bodies*

Newspaper: *The Hindu* Page Number: 14

About NHRC

- **Establishment:** Established on 12th October **1993**, under the ***Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993***.
- ◆ It is in **conformity with the Paris Principles**, adopted at the **first** International workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights held in **Paris** in October **1991**, and **endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations** on 20 December, **1993**.
- **Section 2(1)(d) of the PHR Act, 1993** defines **Human Rights** as the rights relating to *life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual* guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the *International Covenants* and *enforceable by courts* in India.

→ Composition:

- ◆ **Full-Time Members:** The **chairperson** should be either a ***retired Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court***.
- ◆ **Members:**
 - a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court
 - a sitting or retired Chief Justice of a High Court
 - three individuals (with ***at least one being a woman***) who possess knowledge or practical experience in human rights.

Seven Ex-officio Members: In addition to these full-time members, the commission includes seven ex-officio members, comprising the chairpersons of various national commissions, including:

- The National Commission for Minorities
- The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (SCs)
- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (STs)
- The National Commission for Women
- The National Commission for Backward Classes (BCs)
- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.



SYLLABUS : Prelims: *Statutory Bodies*

Newspaper: *The Hindu* Page Number: 14

→ **Appointment:**

- ◆ **Chairman and members** appointed by the **President** on the recommendations of a **six-member committee**.
 - consists of the **Prime Minister**, the **Speaker** of the Lok Sabha, the **Deputy Chairman** of the Rajya Sabha, **leaders of the Opposition** in both Houses of Parliament, and the **Union Home Minister**.

→ **Tenure:** The chairman and members hold office for a term of **three years or until they reach the age of 70**.

Mandate

The NHRC's mandate is to protect and promote human rights in India, ensuring compliance with constitutional provisions and laws. It investigates human rights violations and negligence by public servants, intervenes in court proceedings involving such violations, and monitors the conditions in prisons and other institutions.

Here is a more detailed breakdown of the same:

1. Inquiry and Investigation:

- 1.1 The NHRC investigates human rights violations and negligence in preventing such violations by public servants, either on its own initiative or upon a petition.
- 1.2 It can intervene in court proceedings involving human rights violations, with approval of the court.
- 1.3 It undertakes visits to jails and other institutions under government control to monitor conditions.

2. Promotion and Awareness:

- 2.1 The NHRC promotes human rights awareness through educational programs, seminars, and other outreach initiatives.
- 2.2 It encourages NGOs and institutions working in human rights to promote awareness.
- 2.3 It studies international human rights treaties and recommends their effective implementation.

3. Research and Recommendations:

- 3.1 The NHRC undertakes and promotes research in the field of human rights.
- 3.2 It reviews safeguards for human rights under the Constitution and recommends measures for their effective implementation.
- 3.3 It can recommend compensation or prosecution against guilty public servants and may approach the Supreme Court or High Court for directions.

4. Other Key Functions:

- 4.1 The NHRC can requisition public records and copies thereof from courts or offices.
- 4.2 It submits annual reports to the Central and State governments.
- 4.3 It monitors the functioning of mental hospitals and protection homes under Supreme Court remit.



SYLLABUS : Prelims: International Groupings
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 15

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

NEW DELHI

Representatives of India and the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on Thursday signed the Terms of Reference for negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA). The GCC countries are together India's largest merchandise trade partners, with total merchandise trade exceeding that done with even the EU and the U.S.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) were signed by India's chief negotiator for the FTA, Additional Secretary Ajay Bhadoo, and his counterpart representing the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Raja Al Marzouki. The signing of the ToR is a necessary precursor for the start of formal negotiations. The GCC countries



The GCC countries are together India's largest merchandise trade partners.

are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

Bilateral benefit

Mr. Goyal pointed out that the two sides could significantly benefit from each other, with India's workforce both within the GCC countries as well as in India standing to gain from the eventual agreement.

"The GCC countries can help us with further diversification and growth of our energy sources, opportunities for our youth, and massive amounts of investments that different countries have already committed at different points of time, which will further get an impetus with a free trade agreement between India and the GCC nations," he added.

Gulf Cooperation Council :

- It is a regional political and economic alliance **established in 1981**.
- **Member countries:** It comprises **Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
- **Objective:** To foster economic, security, cultural, and social cooperation among its members.
- **Headquarters:** Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- The official language is **Arabic**.
- **Significance:**
 - **Strategic location:** GCC countries are located along the Persian Gulf, linking Europe, Asia, and Africa through maritime routes.
 - **Economic strength:** The GCC is a major energy hub, holding about 30% of the world's oil reserves and being a leading exporter of natural gas.



SYLLABUS : Prelims: International Groupings
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 15



PYQ 2016 :

Q. Which of the following is *not* a member of 'Gulf Cooperation Council'?

- (a) Iran
- (b) Saudi Arabia
- (c) Oman
- (d) Kuwait

Organizational Structure of the Gulf Cooperation Council

- **Supreme council**
 - It is the **highest authority of the GCC**, composed of the heads of the member states.
 - Its **presidency rotates alphabetically** according to the names of the countries.
 - It convenes in a **regular session annually**.
- **Ministerial council**
 - It is **composed of foreign ministers** or their representatives from member states.
 - It proposes policies and implements decisions of the Supreme Council.
- **Secretariat general:** Its responsibilities include preparing studies to enhance cooperation, coordination, and integration in joint Gulf projects and initiatives.



SYLLABUS : Prelims: Defence

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 12

Saurabh Trivedi

NEW DELHI

Ahead of French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to India for the artificial intelligence Summit, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, is scheduled to meet in the second week of February to consider key procurement proposals aimed at enhancing the operational capabilities of the armed forces.

A senior defence official confirmed that the DAC meeting would grant Acceptance of Necessity for several acquisition proposals. During his stay, President Macron is expected to meet Mr. Singh to discuss bilateral defence cooperation between India and France.

Another defence official said that multiple proposals will be tabled at the meeting, including the acquisition of 114 Rafale fighter aircraft from France. Following DAC clearance, the proposal will be placed



The procurement will take the total Rafale fleet in India to 176, with the IAF already operating 36. PTI

before the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by the Prime Minister, for final approval.

Under the proposed plan, the bulk of the aircraft will be manufactured in India, with indigenous components accounting for approximately 30% to 40% of the overall content, providing a significant boost to domestic defence manufacturing. The official added that 18 aircraft are likely to be acquired in flyaway condition to meet the Indian Air Force's im-

mediate operational requirements, while the remaining jets will be manufactured in India. The source code, however, will remain with the French side.

Largest acquisitions

Defence experts noted that once cleared by the CCS, the deal will rank among the largest defence acquisitions undertaken by India. The procurement will take the total Rafale fleet in the country to 176 aircraft, with the IAF already oper-

ating 36 Rafale jets and the Indian Navy having placed orders for 26 naval variants last year.

The AI summit is expected to see participation from representatives of several countries, including Brazil, Switzerland, Greece, Serbia, Spain and Finland.

Separately, Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, in his interaction with presspersons earlier, had flagged concerns over delays in fighter aircraft deliveries, noting that Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. has fallen behind schedule, partly due to delays in the supply of the F404-IN20 engines from GE.

The IAF has repeatedly underscored the urgency of strengthening its fighter fleet amid a rapidly evolving regional security environment. "To maintain a comfortable strength, we need two squadrons, around 30 to 40 aircraft, produced every year. Replacement is not a choice; it's a necessity," the Air Chief had said earlier.



SYLLABUS : Prelims: Defence

Newspaper: *The Hindu* **Page Number:** 12

Defence Acquisition Council

- It is the **highest decision-making body** of the **Defence Ministry** on capital acquisitions for the three services (**Army, Navy and Air Force**) **and the Indian Coast Guard**.
- **Chairmanship:** It is chaired by the **Defence Minister**
- **Origin:** formed, after the Group of Ministers recommendations on '**Reforming the National Security System**', in 2001, post **Kargil War (1999)**.
- **Functions:**
 - Gives approval to Capital acquisitions in the Long Term Perspective Plan.
 - Monitors the progress of major projects.
 - Grants acceptance of necessity for acquisition proposals.

Rafale Fighter Jet :

- Rafale is a **twin-engine** medium **multi-role combat aircraft**.
- **Manufactured** by the French company Dassault Aviation.
- **Speed:** Mach 1.8 with a combat radius of 1,000 km.
- **Avionics:** Equipped with RBE2 AESA radar, SPECTRA electronic warfare system, and Helmet Mounted Display, providing superior **situational awareness and survivability**.

Rafale Variants

- **Rafale C:** The **single-seat Air Force variant** has 75% fleet availability and is designed for high mission reliability.
- **Rafale B:** The **twin-seat variant** for **training and enhanced situational awareness**. It retains the combat capabilities of the C model.
- **Rafale M:** The **naval variant** is optimized for carrier operations with a reinforced nose and tail and specially designed landing gear.
- Rafale can carry out both **air-to-ground as well as air-to-air attacks**.
 - **Air-to-Air:** Meteor (Beyond Visual Range missile), MICA (short-range, all-aspect missile)
 - **Air-to-Ground:** SCALP, HAMMER
 - **Anti-Ship:** Exocet and Naval SCALP (for maritime strike operations)



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Rafale Fighter Jet:

1. It is a single engine driven, multi-role combat aircraft.
2. It is capable of carrying out both air-to-ground and air-to-air attacks.
3. It is manufactured by the French company Dassault Aviation.

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: b

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Gulf Cooperation Council:

1. It is a regional political and economic alliance established in 1981
2. It comprises countries like Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar & Iran.

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

Q3. Among which of the following pairs of countries " New START Treaty" signed?

- a) India & USA
- b) USA & Russia
- c) India & Israel
- d) USA & Israel

Answer: b

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the National Human Rights Commission:

1. It is a Statutory body established under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993
2. The chairperson should be a retired Chief Justice of India only.
3. The chairman and members hold office for a term of five years or until they reach the age of 70

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

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

Answer: a

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Viksit Bharat G-RAM G scheme:

1. It aims to provide 125 days of wage employment per rural household.
2. It is a Central sector scheme under the Ministry of Rural Development.
3. States can notify up to 60 days in a Fiscal year when work will not be executed.

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: c





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