



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

11th March 2026



ECA 1955 Invoked for Natural Gas



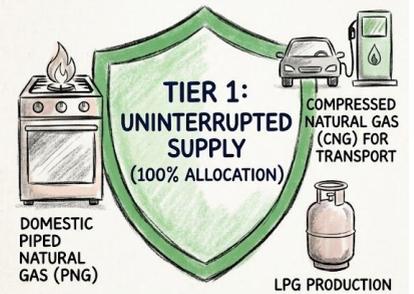
CONTEXT: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas invoked **Essential Commodities Act, 1955.**



Crisis Management: ECA Invoked for Natural Gas Allocation Amidst West Asia Tensions

Priority Tier	Sector / Industry	Guaranteed Allocation
1	Domestic Piped Natural Gas, Transport CNG, and LPG production.	100% (Uninterrupted, subject to availability).
2	General industries, manufacturing, and commercial consumers	80%.
3	Fertilizer manufacturing plants.	70%.
4	Oil refining companies.	Approx. 65%.
5	Petrochemicals (ONGC Petrol additions Ltd, GAIL Pata, Reliance O2C).	Full or Partial Curtailment.

MARCH 9 NOTIFICATION:
 MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (MoPNG) INVOKES THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955 TO ENFORCE A STRUCTURED, TIERED ALLOCATION OF NATURAL GAS.
 ALL ALLOCATIONS ARE PREMISED ON THE AVERAGE CONSUMPTION FROM THE PREVIOUS SIX MONTHS.



GOAL: SHIELD ORDINARY CITIZENS AND DAILY URBAN MOBILITY FROM THE CATASTROPHIC GLOBAL OIL MARKET SHOCK.

Items under ECA, 1955



Foodstuffs
Includes: Edible oilseeds, oils, pulses, sugarcane, and cereals
2020 Farm Laws



Fertilizers
Includes: Inorganic, organic, or mixed fertilizers



Seeds
Includes: Seeds of food crops, fruits, vegetables, cattle fodder, and jute seeds



Petroleum & Products
Includes: Petrol, diesel, kerosene, Naphtha, and Natural Gas



Raw Jute & Textiles
Includes: Raw jute and jute textiles



Pharmaceuticals
Includes: declared under the Act



Hank Yarn
Includes: Hank yarn made wholly from cotton



ECA 1955 Invoked for Natural Gas



CONTEXT: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas invoked **Essential Commodities Act, 1955.**

Core Provisions of the ECA 1955

Objectives of the Act

Ensure availability of essential goods

Ensure availability of essential goods

Maintain price stability

Protect consumers from exploitation

Protect consumers from exploitation

Ensures uninterrupted availability of essential goods to citizens at reasonable/fair prices.



Designed to crush Hoarding, Black Marketing, and Artificial Scarcity.

- Drugs,
- Fertilizers,
- Foodstuffs (edible oils, grains)
- Petroleum Products
- Raw Jute,
- Seeds.

Dynamic List: The Central Govt can add/remove items based on national crises. **Example:** Masks and Sanitizers were temporarily added during during the COVID-19 pandemic!

Section 3:

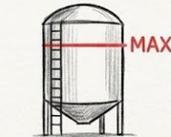


Empowers Central Govt to control production, supply, and distribution.

The Three Pillars of Action



Fixing selling prices to prevent inflation.



Capping how much wholesalers/retailers can store. Excess must be released to the market instantly.



Illegal stocks seized and auctioned. Up to 7 years imprisonment for violators.



Section 5:

Powers delegated to State Governments for local inspections, raids, and market surveillance.



ECA 1955 Invoked for Natural Gas

CONTEXT: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas invoked Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Geopolitical Vulnerability

Some 60% of India's LPG is imported, much of it from Persian Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar. With the Strait of Hormuz closed since March 1, LPG imports have been badly hit. OMCs such as Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation produce roughly 40% of India's LPG requirement domestically.



India's Dependency Data

Current natural gas consumption stands at **195 million metric standard cubic metres per day**

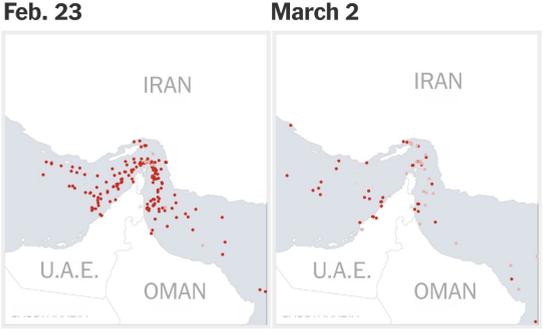
30% of India's overall natural gas requirements are routed directly through the volatile Strait of Hormuz.

Over **26%** OF THE WORLD'S SEABORNE CRUDE OIL IS TRANSPORTED THROUGH THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ

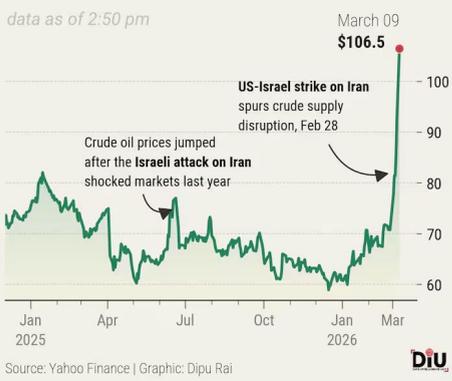
Region	Million Barrels per Day
China	5.4
India	2.1
South Korea	1.7
Japan	1.6
Europe	0.5
US	0.4
Other	2.6

Every **\$10** per barrel increase in global crude prices could reduce India's GDP by about **0.5%**

India imported **\$137 billion** worth of crude oil in FY25



U.S.-Israel War on Iran Fuels Oil Shock



Critical Analysis: Economic & Strategic Implications

- ### Positives
- Household cooking + Urban public transport
 - Urea and ammonia production
 - Inflation management

City	Old Price	New Price
Delhi	₹853	₹913
Kolkata	₹879	₹939
Mumbai	₹852.50	₹912.50
Chennai	₹868.50	₹928.50

Indian hotels grapple with gas shortage as West Asia conflict prolongs

UPSC PYQ (M) 2020

Indian constitution exhibits centralising tendencies to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. Elucidate in the perspective of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897; The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and recently passed Farm Acts.



ECA 1955 Invoked for Natural Gas

CONTEXT: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas invoked Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

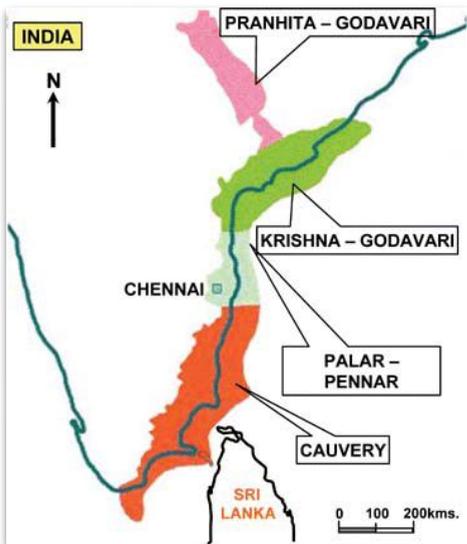
Challenge	How Centralisation Solves
Hoarding by Wealthy States	The Centre imposes uniform national Stock Limits , forcing rich states/traders to release excess goods into the national market.
Inter-State Price Disparity	The Centre fixes a uniform Maximum Retail Price for essential goods
Supply Chain Chokes	The Centre can order the targeted diversion of resources from producer states to deficit states.

Critical Analysis: Economic & Strategic Implications

Challenges & Negative Fallouts

- **Slashing industrial supply to 80% = INFLATION**
- **Petrochemical Paralysis** (*Reliance O2C, GAIL, Export, downstream plastic/chemical industries*)
- **Gross refining margins**
- **ECA + Force majeure = FDI?**
- **Exposes the strategic danger of relying on a single geographical chokepoint**

Way Forward



- Inflation will move up irrespective of passing off the burden to consumers
- Higher inflation will force RBI to raise interest rates which in turn will impact GDP growth and corporate earnings
- This is the reason why the stock market is going down
- Worst impacted segments will be those using crude inputs like paints, adhesives, and tyres
- Persistence of oil around \$100/barrel for the next 12 months could widen India's CAD to ₹2.4%-2.6% and lift CPI inflation to ₹5.5%-5.7%

Source Diversification	Accelerating Domestic Exploration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Krishna-Godavari Basin
Strategic Gas Reserves	



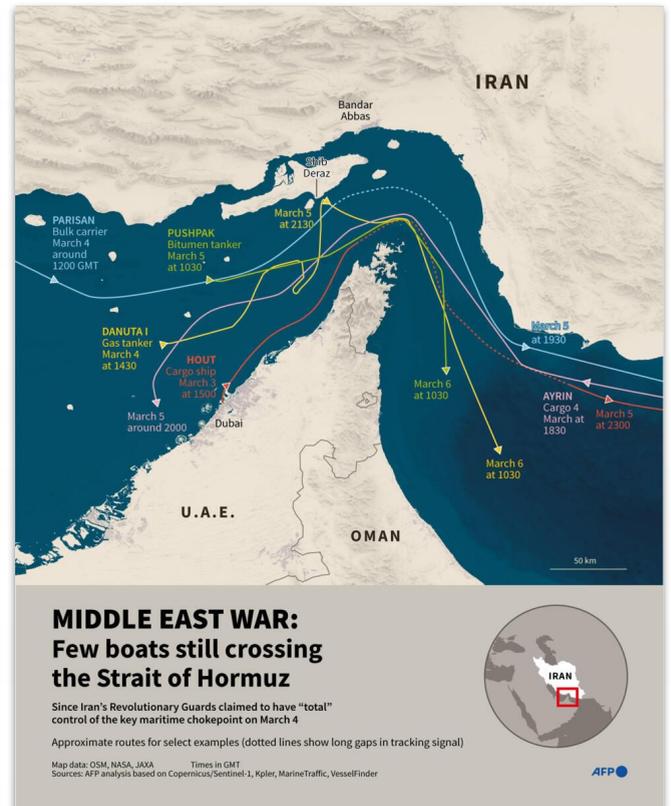
ECA 1955 Invoked for Natural Gas

CONTEXT: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas invoked Essential Commodities Act, 1955.



Mains Practise Question

The disruption of LNG shipments through the Strait of Hormuz exposes the fragile intersection of India's energy security and geopolitical volatility." In light of the government's decision to invoke the Essential Commodities Act to ration natural gas, evaluate India's vulnerability to global maritime chokepoints.
(15 Marks, 250 words)



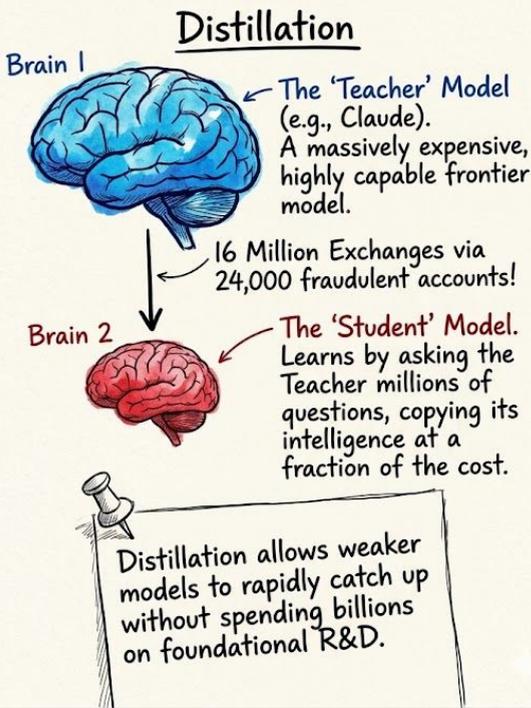
AI and National Security Calculus



CONTEXT: American AI labs, the Pentagon, and Chinese tech companies highlight a chaotic global landscape where **civilian algorithms are being rapidly drafted into the theatre of war.**

The AI Heist: What is Model Distillation?

US AI Lab Anthropic accuses Chinese labs of using deceptive tactics to 'steal' their frontier AI capabilities on an industrial scale.



The Core Technological Conflict

Model Distillation

Process where the outputs of a stronger, more advanced AI model are used to teach and train a weaker, cheaper AI model.

AI Anthropic @AnthropicAI X.com

We've identified industrial-scale distillation attacks on our models by DeepSeek, Moonshot AI, and MiniMax.

These labs created over 24,000 fraudulent accounts and generated over 16 million exchanges with Claude, extracting its capabilities to train and improve their own models.

10:15 AM · 2/23/26 · 13K Views

US control:
Semiconductor Sanctions.

China View
(Optimization)

DeepSeek Training Cost

5.6 Million USD

GPT-4 Training Cost

100 Million USD (Est)



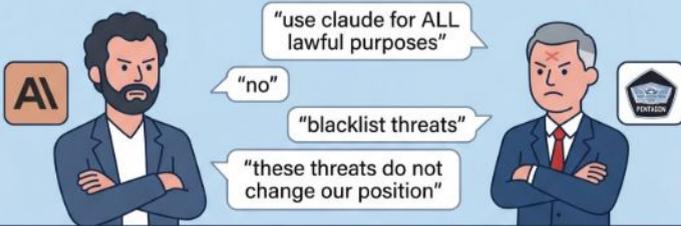
AI and National Security Calculus



CONTEXT: American AI labs, the Pentagon, and Chinese tech companies highlight a chaotic global landscape where civilian algorithms are being rapidly drafted into the theatre of war.

Trilemma: Anthropic, The Pentagon, and the "Kill Chain" ✂

ANTHROPIC CEO TELLS PENTAGON "NO."



ANTHROPIC'S FINAL MESSAGE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF WAR

NO FULLY AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS WITHOUT HUMANS

NO MASS DOMESTIC SURVEILLANCE FOR AMERICANS

"LIAR WITH A GOD-COMPLEX," "WANTS TO PERSONALLY CONTROL MILITARY," "OK PUTTING NATION'S SAFETY AT RISK"

PENTAGON TERMS: ALL LAWFUL AI USE

<p>REFUSED NO</p>	<p>AGREED YES</p>
------------------------------	------------------------------

Why AI Matters for National Security

Historically, **national security technologies** included:

- nuclear weapons
- missiles
- fighter jets
- satellites

Today, **AI is emerging as a strategic technology.**

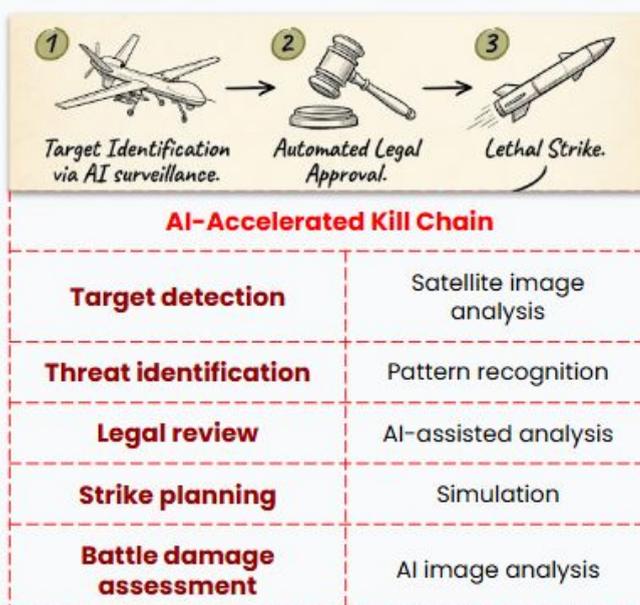
Reasons

AI can enhance:

- intelligence gathering
- military targeting
- cyber warfare
- autonomous weapons
- surveillance systems
- decision support

What is the "Kill Chain"?

Traditional kill chain	
Find	Identify target
Fix	Confirm location
Track	Monitor movement
Target	Decide attack
Engage	Strike
Assess	Evaluate result



AI and National Security Calculus



CONTEXT: American AI labs, the Pentagon, and Chinese tech companies highlight a chaotic global landscape where civilian algorithms are being rapidly drafted into the theatre of war.

Issues of these 2 events

Iran war heralds era of AI-powered bombing quicker than 'speed of thought'

The speed and scale of the US's AI war planning raises fears human decision-making may be sidelined



Severe ramifications

Competitive pressure to secure government clients

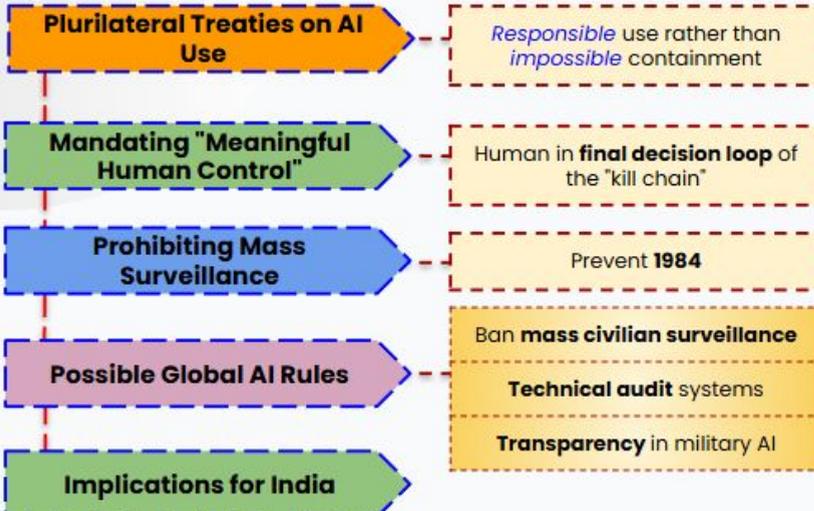
Guardrail Collapse, IP Theft Paradox

Fast-Tracking Lethality

The 'Cheap War' Paradox

"Nuclear" Analogy ☢️

Way Forward: Governance 🌐



GENEVA CONVENTIONS:
A COMMON HUMANITY

Switzerland.

429

is the total number of articles in the 4 Geneva Conventions.

HENRY DUNANT

The Swiss citizen Henry Dunant first came up with the idea of creating an international convention to protect victims of war.

12 AUGUST 1949

adoption of the 4 Geneva Conventions which protect wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of the armed forces (I & II), prisoners of war (III) and civilians (IV).

GENEVA

The Swiss city of Geneva shares its name with the Conventions and has become the global hub of humanitarian efforts.

WORLD-WIDE

With 196 state parties, the 4 Geneva Conventions have been universally ratified.

MILLIONS

of lives have been saved in hundreds of armed conflicts in the last 7 decades thanks to the 4 Geneva Conventions.

© FDFA, Presence Switzerland 2019 / Sources: International Committee of the Red Cross, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs



CONTEXT: American AI labs, the Pentagon, and Chinese tech companies highlight a chaotic global landscape where civilian algorithms are being rapidly drafted into the theatre of war.

Mains Practise Question

The dual-use nature of Generative AI renders traditional hardware-based export controls and corporate self-regulation obsolete in the realm of national security." Examine this statement in the context of 'model distillation' and the increasing integration of AI into military 'kill chains'. Suggest a robust global governance framework to address these challenges.

(15 Marks, 250 words)

 Peter Asaro, an expert on artificial intelligence and robotics, told AFP it appears likely that the United States and Israel have used AI to identify targets in Iran, pointing to what seems to be a very short planning phase and large number of targets.

While AI can speed things up, it also raises a range of moral and legal questions.



New FDI Norms for Border-Sharing Nations



SYLLABUS: Prelims:

GS 3 Paper: Investment models; Effects of liberalization on the economy

Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number:** 13

UPSC PYQ (P) 2021

Consider the following:

1. Foreign currency convertible bonds
2. Foreign institutional investment with certain conditions
3. Global depository receipts
4. Non-resident external deposits

Which of the above can be included in
Foreign Direct Investments?

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

UPSC PYQ (P) 2020

With reference to Foreign Direct Investment in India, which one of the following is considered its major characteristic?

- (a) It is the investment through capital instruments essentially in a listed company.
- (b) It is a largely non-debt creating capital flow.
- (c) It is the investment which involves debt-servicing.
- (d) It is the investment made by foreign institutional investors in Government securities.

Data Paradox: Trade vs. Investment

The primary driver behind this policy reversal is the **massive asymmetry between India's trade reliance on China** and **China's actual investment in India**.

Financial Year	India's Exports to China	India's Imports from China	Trade Deficit	Trend
2023-24	\$16.66 billion	\$101.73 billion	\$85.0 billion	Baseline
2024-25	\$14.25 billion (contracted 14.5%)	\$113.45 billion (rose 11.52%)	\$99.2 billion	Severe Widening
2025-26 (Apr-Jan)	\$15.88 billion (rose 38.37%)	\$108.18 billion (rose 13.82%)	\$92.3 billion	Persistently High

FDI Snapshot (April 2000 to Dec 2025):

China ranks a **lowly 23rd in FDI equity inflows** into India.
It accounts for a **mere 0.32% share** (only **\$2.51 billion**).



New FDI Norms for Border-Sharing Nations

SYLLABUS: Prelims:

GS 3 Paper: Investment models; Effects of liberalization on the economy

Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number:** 13

What was Press Note 3 (PN3) of 2020?

Mandate

COVID-19 pandemic and Galwan Valley clash

“Any foreign direct investment from **countries sharing a land border** with India (or where the beneficial owner of the investment is situated in those countries) **could only invest via the Government Route**.”

Nod for close to 80 FDI proposals from China

388 proposals received in all in two years, says RTI reply

Updated - July 24, 2022 08:35 am IST - New Delhi:

Border barrier | After changing the FDI policy to ensure better scrutiny of investments from China, the Centre has said it approved **80** out of **388** proposals from border-sharing nations

China connect: Almost all proposals cleared are from China. In March, the government informed Parliament that the value of FDI proposals cleared from China till then was **₹13,624 crore**

government approval mandatory for FDI from countries sharing a land border with India; up to **100% automatic FDI** is allowed in non-sensitive sectors

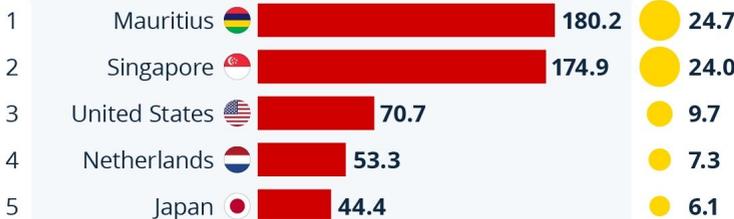
Immediate neighbours: India shares land border with Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan, Pakistan and China



Policy shift: On April 18, 2020, FDI policy was tweaked to make prir

China Has Not Been a Major Source of FDI into India

FDI* equity inflows to India from Apr. 2000 to Mar. 2025, by major investors (in billion U.S. dollars)



Why Ease Norms Now?

India-China Corporate Ties: Key Partnerships & Ventures

Overview of current joint ventures, agreements, and strategic alliances between Indian and Chinese companies.

TATA MOTORS JV
Joint Venture with Chinese automaker Chery Automobile Co. Ltd.

DIXON TECH JVs
Formed multiple Joint Ventures with Chinese entities: HKC Overseas, Chongqing Yuhai, Longcheer.

SONA BLW JV
Joint Venture with China's Jinnaitte Machinery Co. Ltd.

JSW GROUP PARTNERSHIP
Partnership with China's SAIC Motor & MG Motor India.

KAYNES TECH IMPORTS
Imports key components and parts from China.

MINDA CORP AGREEMENT
Technology licensing agreement with China's Sanco Connecting Technology to develop electrical distribution systems.

SOURCE: NDTV Profit Research Desk

Supply Chain Reality

Import Substitution Failure

Integrating into Global Value Chains

Job Creation

Thaw in ties



SYLLABUS: Prelims:
GS 2 Paper: Governance/Social Justice
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number: 5**

What is Jal Jeevan Mission?

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Jal Shakti

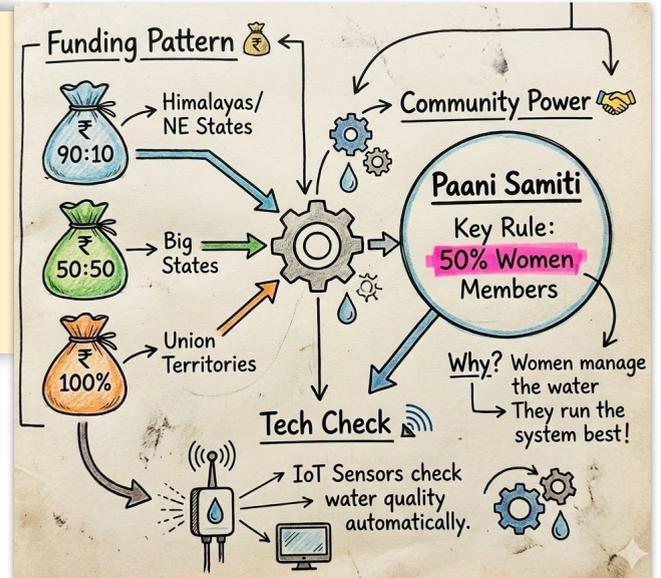
(Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation).

Target: To provide **Functional Household Tap**

Connection to every rural household by **2024**

(extended to **2025-26** for some states).

The "Golden Number": 55 LPCD (Litres Per Capita per Day).



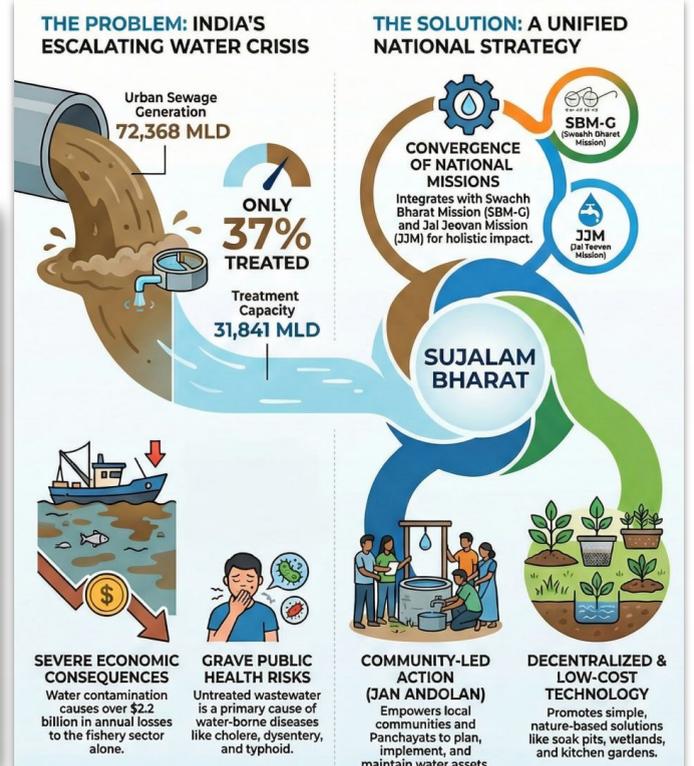
Current Status (As of 2025)

- Approx **80% of rural households**
- **100% Saturation Achieved:** Goa, Telangana, Haryana, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and UTs like A&N Islands, Puducherry.
- **Lagging States:** WB, Rajasthan, Jharkhand

"Sujalam Bharat": The Digital Overhaul

Sujalam Bharat Framework: A uniform national digital framework will be established to digitally map the entire water supply system **"from source to tap"**.

- **Unique IDs:** Under this new digital architecture, every village will be assigned a unique **Sujal Gaon/Service Area ID**.
- **Structural Reforms:** In the second phase, the Centre will sign **separate Memorandums of Understanding** with the states within three months to mandate and ensure structural reforms.



SYLLABUS : Prelims:

GS 2 Paper : Governance/Social Justice

Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number: 5**

The JJM has been marred with irregularities with the government taking a stern view in the middle of 2025. On May 21, 2025, an investigation by The Indian Express showed how changes in the Mission's guidelines three years back lifted a crucial check on expenditure and led to cost escalations. The investigation found this resulted in additional costs of Rs 16,839 crore or almost 15 per cent more than the estimated cost.

Decentralisation: Empowering Local Governance

The new guidelines heavily emphasize community ownership to ensure accountability.

- **Gram Panchayat Certification:** To ensure transparency, Gram Panchayats and Village Water & Sanitation Committees will be deeply involved in the commissioning and formal handover of the water schemes.
- **The 'Har Ghar Jal' Declaration:** A Gram Panchayat can only certify the completion of works and declare itself as 'Har Ghar Jal' *after* confirming that the State Government has established adequate in-village operation and maintenance mechanisms.

New Additional Allocation

Rs 1.51 lakh crore up to 2028.

Overall Scheme Outlay

Rs 8.70 lakh crore.

Total Centre's Share

Rs 3.59 lakh crore (which includes the initial Rs 2.08 lakh crore allocated in 2019).



Bullet train project

SYLLABUS: Prelims:
GS 3 Paper: Infrastructure (Railways)
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number: 6**

What Is a Bullet Train? Basic Principle

MAGLEV TRAINS

HOW IT WORKS

Maglev (magnetic levitation) trains use powerful magnets to float on the guideway.

Aerodynamic Design

ADVANTAGES

- very quiet
- low maintenance
- high speeds

SPEED

The fastest maglev trains have operational speeds exceeding 270 mph (430 km/h)

Feature	High-Speed Rail Track
Gauge	Standard Gauge (1435 mm)
Tech	Electric Multiple Units
Curves	Very wide radius
Gradient	Gentle slopes
Fencing	Animal/human crossing
Bridges/Tunnels	Special seismic design

→ **India's Project** includes a **7 km undersea tunnel** at Thane Creek and **long viaducts** to avoid level crossings.

Braking System

High-speed trains use **multiple braking technologies:**

- Regenerative Brakes**
- Disc Brakes & Eddy Current Brakes**

Why Distributed Power?

Project Snapshot

Total Length of Corridor	508 km (Mumbai → Ahmedabad)
Tunnel Completed	4.88 km (Shilphata–Ghansoli), part of 21 km underground stretch
Speed	Up to 320 km/h
Travel Time	2 hrs 7 mins (vs. current 9 hrs by train/car)
Implm Agency	National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited
Technology	Japanese Shinkansen E5 Series (Bullet Train)
Estimated Cost	₹1.08 lakh crore (Japan soft loan)



Bullet train project

SYLLABUS: Prelims:
GS 3 Paper: Infrastructure (Railways)
Newspaper: The Indian Express Page Number: 6

MUMBAI-AHMEDABAD HIGH SPEED RAIL CORRIDOR

Operational Speed: **320 km/hr**

Time (Limited stops): **2.07 hr**
 (All stops): **2.58 hr**

12 Stations: 8 Gujarat, 4 Maharashtra

STRUCTURES

- 12 Aesthetically Designed Stations
- 3 Rolling Stock Depots
- 8 Maintenance Depots
- High Speed Rail Multi Modal Hub, Sabarmati
- HSR Training Institute in Vadodara

VIADUCTS, BRIDGES, BANK, CUT & COVER, TUNNEL, MOUNTAIN TUNNELS

- Viaduct: 465 km
- Bridges: 10 km
- Bank, Cut & Cover: 7 km
- Tunnel (including 7 km Undersea): 21 km
- Mountain Tunnels: 5 km

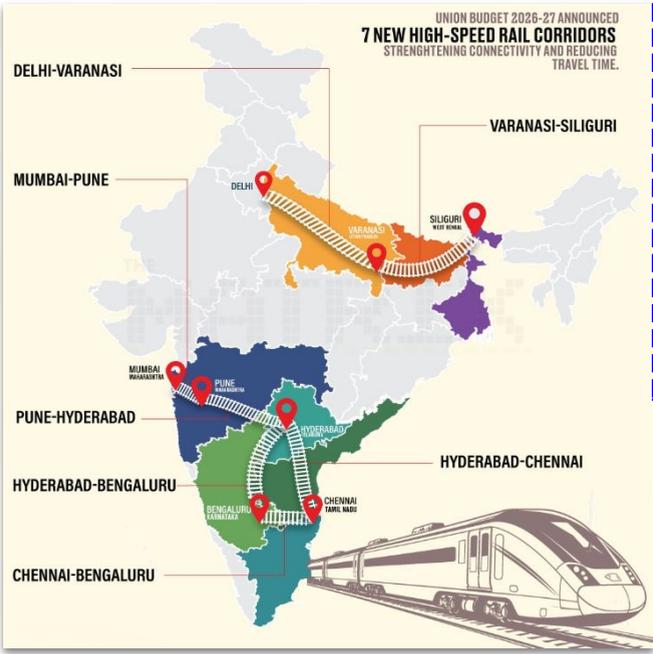
Total Length 508 km

GUJARAT: 348 km, DNH: 4 km, MAHARASHTRA: 156 km

STATIONS: SABARMATI, AHMEDABAD, ANAND, VADODARA, BHARUCH, SURAT, BILIMORA, VAPI, BOISAR, VIRAR, THANE, MUMBAI

Shift to 'Make in India' HSR

Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail line will commence operations using **indigenous Bharat-made Bullet trainsets (B28)** rather than relying entirely on Japanese imports for its inaugural run.



Manufacturer	Bharat Earth Movers Limited , Bengaluru
Current Status	2 initial trainsets are under development.
Design Speed	280 kmph => 320 to 350 kmph
Signalling System	ETCS Level 2

Rs 1.98 lakh crore COST!

- Taxes and Cess:** Rs 29,330 cr.
- Inflation:** Rs 19,084 cr
- Land & Rehabilitation:** Rs 16,695 cr.
- Tech Upgrades:** Rs 16,500 cr

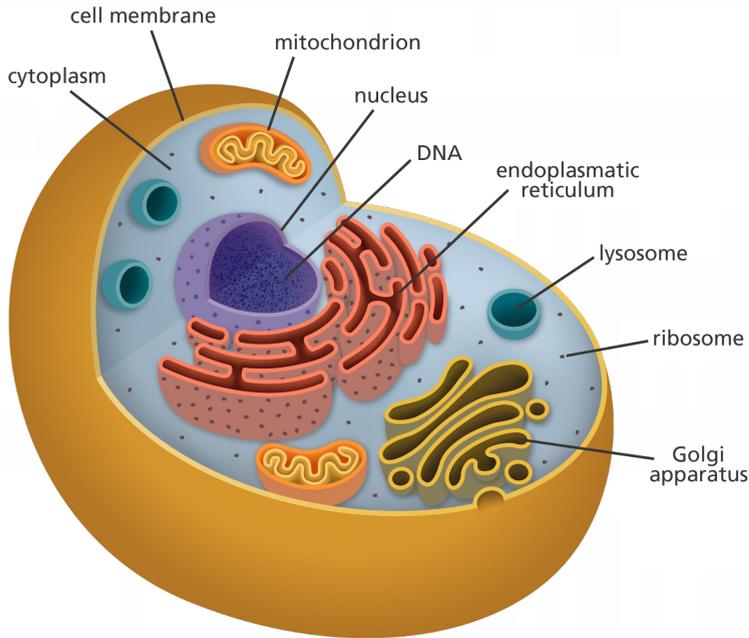


SYLLABUS: Prelims:

GS 3 Paper : Awareness in the fields of bio-technology

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: Science

How cells build life



1 First: What are **proteins**?

2 What are **amino acids**?

3 **What scientists want to do**

Artificial amino acids

A **designer protein**: custom-build for specific purposes.

Example uses:

- deliver medicine directly to cancer cells
- create new antibiotics
- build biological sensors
- treat genetic diseases

UPSC PYQ (P) 2020

Which of the following statements are correct regarding the general difference between plant and animal cells?

1. Plant cells have cellulose cell walls whilst animal cells do not.
2. Plant cells do not have plasma membranes unlike animal cells which do.
3. Mature plant cell has one large vacuole whilst an animal cell has many small vacuoles.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

UPSC PYQ (P) 2010

Which one of the following processes in the bodies of living organisms is a digestive process?

- a) Breakdown of proteins into amino acids
- b) Breakdown of glucose into CO₂ and H₂O.
- c) Conversion of glucose into glycogen.
- d) Conversion of amino acids into proteins.

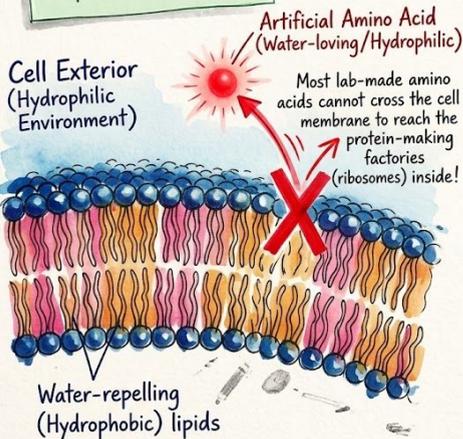


SYLLABUS : Prelims:
GS 3 Paper : Awareness in the fields of bio-technology
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: Science

What is a nutrient transporter?

Building Designer Proteins: The Cell Membrane Bottleneck

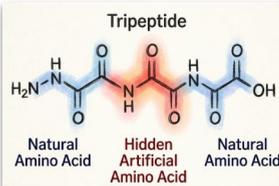
Proteins = chains of 20 natural amino acids. Lab chemists can make artificial amino acids with new powers (like attaching drugs to precise spots)!



Special proteins in membrane:

- Sugars
- Peptides
- Amino acids

Scientists modified ABC transporter protein:



Artificial amino acid

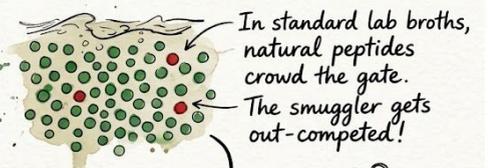
↓
Hidden inside a peptide

↓
Transporter thinks it is food

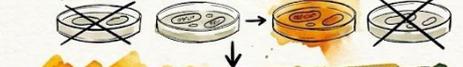
↓
Transporter carries it inside

- 1 Enzymes cut the peptide apart
- 2 Artificial amino acid is released
- 3 Ribosome uses it to make proteins

Directed Evolution: Upgrading the Transporter



- 1 Identify the 'clamps' on the transporter protein.
- 2 Create mutants of the transporter.
- 3 Repeatedly select the bacteria that import the artificial cargo the best (Directed Evolution).



The new mutant transporter is **10X MORE EFFICIENT** at grabbing unconventional amino acids, even in crowded conditions! Built directly into the *E. coli* genome.

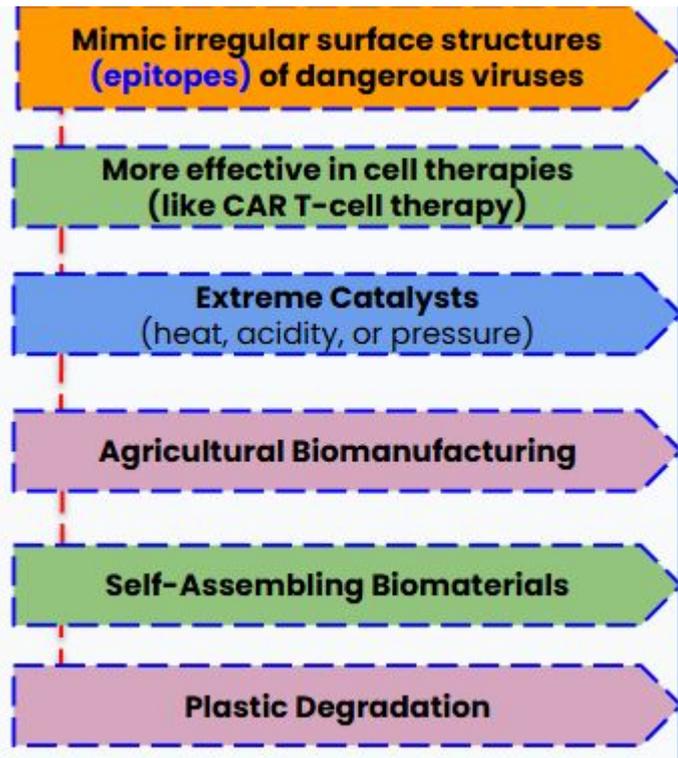
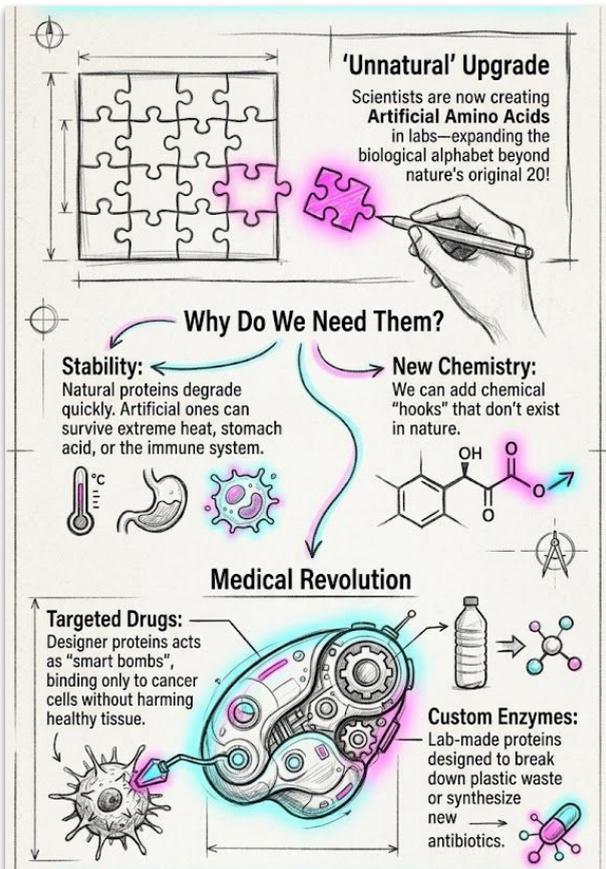


SYLLABUS : Prelims:

GS 3 Paper : Awareness in the fields of bio-technology

Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number:** Science

Real-World Applications of 'Designer' Proteins



SC/ST Atrocities (Prevention) Act



SYLLABUS : Prelims:

GS 2 Paper : Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population

Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number:** 6

Decoding the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act,

Core Objective & Scope

Prevent commission of offences of atrocities against SCs and STs.

- **Application:** only offences committed by persons who are other than SCs/STs
- **Implementation:** State + UTs

The "Atrocity" Spectrum



Dignity Crimes: Forcing a victim to eat obnoxious substances (human waste), tonsuring (shaving head), garlanding with footwear, or parading them naked.



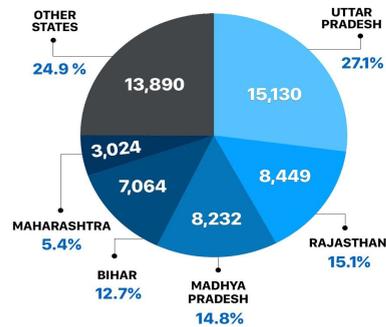
Economic & Social Strangulation: Wrongful occupation of land, cutting off water/irrigation rights, or enforcing a "social boycott"



Political Violence: Forcing a member of the SC/ST community to vote for a specific candidate or preventing them from filing a nomination.

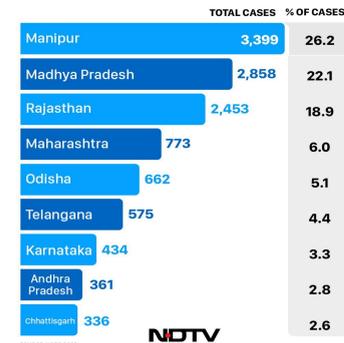
UP TOPS CRIMES AGAINST DALITS

Just six states account for almost 75% crimes against scheduled castes



MANIPUR HAS HIGHEST CRIMES AGAINST STS

The state accounts for over 26% cases, mostly due to rise in ethnic violence



SC/ST Atrocities (Prevention) Act



SYLLABUS : Prelims:

GS 2 Paper : Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population

Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number:** 6

Stringent Investigation Protocols

Parameter	Mandatory Legal Requirement	Special Courts
Nature of Offence	Cognizable (Arrest without a warrant).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment. State Govt + CJ of HC • Legal Representation: Public Prosecutor or appoint an advocate with at least seven years of practice
Officer Rank	Cannot by any officer below rank of DSP	
Time Limit	Within 60 days .	
Reporting	Director of the State Police.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Punishments: 6 m - 5y + fine. • Aggravated Punishments: In severe cases (1 - life / death sentence) • Accountability of Public Servants (Section 4): If public servant (who from SC/ST) deliberately neglects duties : liable for punishment with imprisonment up to 6 m. 		



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding India's energy imports and the Strait of Hormuz:

1. Around 60% of India's LPG is imported, a large share of which comes from Persian Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar.
2. The Strait of Hormuz handles over one-fourth of the world's seaborne crude oil trade.
3. Nearly 30% of India's total natural gas requirements are transported through the Strait of Hormuz.
4. A \$10 per barrel increase in global crude oil prices can reduce India's GDP by about 0.5%.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding sources of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India:

1. Mauritius has been the largest source of FDI into India in the last two decades.
2. Singapore is among the top two sources of FDI inflows into India.
3. China is the third largest source of FDI into India.
4. Countries such as the United States and the Netherlands are among the major sources of FDI into India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Jal Jeevan Mission:

1. It aims to provide a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household.

2. The service level norm under the mission is 55 litres per capita per day (LPCD).
3. West Bengal, Rajasthan and Jharkhand have achieved 100% saturation under the mission.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q4. With reference to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, consider the following statements:

1. Offences under the Act are cognizable, allowing arrest without a warrant.
2. Investigation of offences under the Act cannot be conducted by a police officer below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP).
3. The investigation must be completed within 60 days.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. Proteins are made up of amino acids.
2. Designer proteins can be created for uses such as targeted drug delivery and developing new antibiotics.

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

Institute for IAS Examination

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar,
New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,
Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121

Visit us at : www.vajiramandravi.com