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CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

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Euthanasia



CONTEXT: In a first, Supreme Court allows passive euthanasia for man in permanent vegetative state for 13 years.

Euthanasia

- Often referred to as **mercy killing**, it is defined as the **hastening of death** of a patient to prevent further sufferings.
- The word comes from Greek:
 - "Eu" → good
 - "Thanatos" → death
 - Thus, euthanasia literally means "good death" or "death with dignity."
- **Constitutional Basis**
 - **Article 21** – Right to Life and Personal Liberty.
 - The SC has interpreted this right to include not just living, but **living with dignity**.

Types of Euthanasia

- **Voluntary:** With the patient's informed consent (Living Wills).
- **Non-voluntary:** Decision by a surrogate (family/court) for an incapacitated patient.
- **Involuntary:** Patient capable of giving consent but not asked.

Active Euthanasia	Passive Euthanasia
Positive or Aggressive Euthanasia	Negative Euthanasia/Non-Aggressive Euthanasia
Intentional death by direct intervention is performed to end meaningless existence, by lethal doses of a drug or injection.	Intentional death by not providing essential care/food/water & discontinuing, withdrawing or removing artificial life support systems.
Quicker death & all forms are illegal. Not allowed in India.	Slower, uncomfortable & all forms are legal. Allowed in India by SC.



CONTEXT: In a first, Supreme Court allows passive euthanasia for man in permanent vegetative state for 13 years.

Euthanasia

Year	Case / Event	Key Ruling
1994	<i>P. Rathinam v. Uol</i>	SC held "Right to Die" is a part of Art. 21 (Later overruled)
1996	<i>Gian Kaur v. State of Punjab</i>	Reversed Rathinam. Held Art. 21 is for protection of life, not its extinction.
2011	<i>Aruna Shanbaug v. Uol</i>	First recognition of Passive Euthanasia in rare cases under judicial monitoring.
2018	<i>Common Cause v. Uol</i>	Landmark: SC declared "Right to Die with Dignity" is a Fundamental Right under Art. 21. Legalized Advance Medical Directives (Living Wills).
2026	Harish Rana Case	First practical implementation: SC authorized the removal of life support (specifically feeding tubes) for a 32-year-old in a 13-year vegetative state.

Living Will

Legal document specifying an individual's preferences for medical treatment if they become incapacitated.

The "First": For the first time, the SC explicitly ruled that a **feeding tube** is a medical treatment, not just "basic care."



CONTEXT: In a first, Supreme Court allows passive euthanasia for man in permanent vegetative state for 13 years.

Procedure for Passive Euthanasia

1. **Living Will** / Advance Directive stating:
 - a. refusal of life-support treatment in terminal illness
 - b. conditions under which treatment should be withdrawn
2. Two Hospital Medical Board (3 members)
 - a. **Primary** Medical Board at the treating hospital
 - b. **Secondary** Medical Board with external experts.
3. The secondary board now **excludes the Chief District Medical Officer**, allows a nominee by him. (2023 modification)
4. Requires the **consent** of the patient's family or legal guardians.
5. After final Approval by Hospital authorities: The patient can be admitted to a **palliative care facility**, where life support can be withdrawn humanely, ensuring dignity and comfort

Arguments in Favor of Euthanasia

- **Autonomy:** Respects an individual's sovereignty over their own body.
- **Dignity in Death:** By relieving patients from unbearable suffering.
- **Medical Futility:** Withholding treatments that offer no real chance of patient recovery.
- **Organ Donation:** It can potentially save other lives.
- **Financial Relief:** To families by avoiding prolonged and costly treatments.
- **Judicial Recognition:** For the Right to Die with dignity (Article 21)

Arguments Against Euthanasia

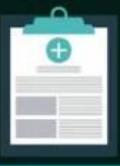
- **Religious Opposition:** In Christianity and Islam, euthanasia is often opposed because life is a gift from God, and only God has the authority to take it away.
- **Potential for Abuse:** Like non-voluntary euthanasia, where consent is not clear and may lead to coerced "consent."
- **Slippery Slope:** Fear that it may lead to the "involuntary" killing of the elderly or disabled for financial gain.
- **Undermines Medical Ethics:** Doctors take the Hippocratic Oath to preserve life.

MOHFW DRAFT GUIDELINES ON EUTHANASIA

Supportive care can be withdrawn if brain death is declared and an informed refusal is documented.



Medical boards decide when treatment is futile for terminal patients.



Hospitals must form **clinical ethics committees** for audit oversight and conflict resolution.



CONTEXT: In a first, Supreme Court allows passive euthanasia for man in permanent vegetative state for 13 years.

Way Forward

- **Legislative Action:** The SC in 2026 explicitly urged the Centre to enact a comprehensive law on End-of-Life care to move beyond "judicial guidelines."
- **Palliative Care:** Need to integrate palliative care (pain relief/comfort) into the national health mission so death isn't the only escape from pain.
- **Digital Integration:** Linking "Living Wills" to Aadhaar/Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Account for instant access by doctors in emergencies.
- **Public Awareness:** Normalizing conversations around death to reduce the stigma and legal fear among doctors.
- **Clear Hospital Protocols:** Uniform national guidelines for hospitals.
- **Safeguards against Misuse:** Strict medical and legal oversight.
- **Ethical Training for Doctors:** Training in end-of-life decision making

FRAMEWORK FOR EUTHANASIA IN OTHER COUNTRIES

LEGAL Netherlands Belgium Luxembourg Spain

Switzerland: Bans euthanasia but allows assisted dying in presence of doctor.

USA: Allowed in some states like Washington, Oregon, and Montana.

United Kingdom: Considers it illegal and equivalent to manslaughter.

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Ques. "Recognition of the right to die with dignity marks an important evolution in India's understanding of the Right to Life." Discuss in the context of euthanasia and recent Supreme Court judgments.

(10 marks, 150 words)



CONTEXT: Recent debates on India's labour market highlight concerns that official statistics may not fully capture unemployment data, while economic policy continues to prioritize GDP growth rather than employment generation.

Unemployment in India

Definition & Core Concepts

- **Unemployment:** A situation where an individual who is able and willing to work at the prevailing wage rate cannot find a job.
- **Labor Force:** Includes both the Employed and the Unemployed (those actively seeking work).
- Key Indicators:
 - **Unemployment Rate (UR):** (Unemployed/Labor Force) times 100.
 - **Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** Percentage of the working-age population (15+ years) that is either employed or actively looking for work.
 - In India, the LFPR for individuals aged 15+ was 55.9% in January 2026, with a higher rural rate of 58.7%.
 - **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** Percentage of the total population that is employed.

Agencies & Methodology

- **National Statistical Office (NSO):** Under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**). It conducts the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).

- **Usual Status (UPSS):** Based on the person's activity over the last 365 days. A person is "employed" if they worked for at least 30 days. Captures long-term unemployment.
- **Current Weekly Status (CWS):** Based on the last 7 days. A person is "employed" if they worked for at least 1 hour on any day. Captures seasonal/short-term fluctuations.

Types of Unemployment

- **Disguised Unemployment:** More people are working than required (Marginal Productivity = 0). Common in Indian Agriculture.
- **Structural Unemployment:** Mismatch between available skills and industry requirements (e.g., 80% of engineers lacking "employable" skills).
- **Cyclical Unemployment:** Occurs during economic recessions or slowdowns.
- **Frictional Unemployment:** Temporary phase when an individual is "between jobs."
- **Vulnerable Employment:** People working without formal contracts or social security (Informal Sector).
- **Technological Unemployment:** Job loss due to automation/AI (a major concern in 2026)



CONTEXT: Recent debates on India's labour market highlight concerns that official statistics may not fully capture unemployment data, while economic policy continues to prioritize GDP growth rather than employment generation.

Present Scenario (2026 Data)

- **National UR:** Stood at 5.0% in January 2026 (a slight increase from 4.8% in Dec 2025).
- **Rural-Urban Divide:** Urban UR (7.0%) remains significantly higher than Rural UR (4.2%).
- **Gender Gap:** Female UR in urban areas is high (~9.8%).
- **Sectoral Shift:** Post-2025 data shows a "re-agriculturalization" trend where workers are moving back to rural areas due to urban cost-of-living increases.

Reasons for High Unemployment

- **Jobless Growth:** GDP growing primarily in capital-intensive sectors (Tech/Finance) rather than labor-intensive ones (Textiles/Manufacturing).
- **Education-Skill Mismatch:** High "Educated Unemployment" because degrees do not align with modern market needs.
- **Slow Industrialization:** The manufacturing sector's share in GDP has remained stagnant (~16-17%).
- **Social Factors:** Low female participation due to "double burden" (home and work).
- **Small & Micro Enterprises:** MSMEs, the largest job creators, face credit and regulatory hurdles.
- Other factors like **Population Growth**, Inadequate **Education** System and **Informal Sector** Dominance

Consequences of Unemployment

- **Financial Difficulties**
- **Reduced Purchasing Power**
- **Social Stigma and Psychological Impact:** Individuals may face criticism, low self-esteem, and psychological stress.
- **Brain Drain**
- **Increased Inequality & Social Unrest:** Can manifest in protests, strikes, and demonstrations.
- **Economic Burden:** The government has to bear the burden of providing social welfare programs, unemployment benefits.

Schemes/Initiatives by Government

- **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin)**, also known as the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025
 - It replaced MGNREGA, increasing guaranteed work from 100 to 125 days and changing the funding ratio to 60:40 (Center:State)
- **PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (2026):** Offers direct incentives of up to ₹15,000 for first-time employees in the formal sector (EPFO-linked).
- **PM-Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (2022-2026):** Focused on "New Age" skills like AI, Robotics, and Green Energy.
- **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY):** Provides collateral free loans upto Rs. 10 lakh.
- **PM SVANidhi Scheme**
- **Start-up India, Stand-up India, Digital India, Smart City Mission, Rozgar Melas, etc.**



Unemployment in India



CONTEXT: Recent debates on India's labour market highlight concerns that official statistics may not fully capture unemployment data, while economic policy continues to prioritize GDP growth rather than employment generation.

Way Forward

- **Labor-Intensive Exports:** Reviving sectors like Leather, Textiles, and Food Processing.
- **Urban MGNREGA:** Introducing a legal guarantee of work in urban centers to tackle the 7% UR.
- **National Employment Policy (NEP):** Finalizing a roadmap to formalize the gig economy and provide social security to 450M+ informal workers.
- **Education Reform:** Shifting from "degree-based" to "competency-based" learning as per NEP 2020.

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Ques. Most of the unemployment in India is structural rather than cyclical. In light of this, evaluate the potential impact of Generative AI on India's 'Jobless Growth' phenomenon, particularly within the white-collar and IT services sectors.

(15 Marks, 250 words)



SYLLABUS : Prelims: Polity – Executive Body

Newspaper: The Indian Express Page Number : 06

CBI arrests own inspector for seeking Rs 2 crore to 'settle' complaint from South Delhi resident

Mahender Singh Manral
New Delhi, March 11

THE CBI on Tuesday arrested one of its inspectors for allegedly trying to extort Rs 2 crore from a South Delhi resident under the guise of "settling" an alleged complaint. The accused, Deepak Phalswal, was subsequently released with directions to join the probe.

"The CBI registered the case on the allegations that the inspector demanded bribe from a private person for not taking action in a complaint allegedly registered with the agency against him," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

The FIR was lodged on March 10, a day after the complaint was filed at the Maidan Garhi police station. "The letter from DCP (South) included a complaint filed by one Shubham Mishra... alleging that a man named Deepak Phalswal had visited his residence in Mahabali Puram, Bhati Kalan on January 22, introducing himself as a CBI inspector," the FIR said.

The complaint said Deepak intimidated Shubham by

claiming a CBI case had been lodged against him and demanded Rs 2 crore to make it "go away". "When Mishra refused, Deepak allegedly took Rs 50,000 and demanded Rs 75,000 per month thereafter, continuing to harass him via FaceTime calls..." the FIR said.

"The complainant informed police that someone was coming to collect money on behalf of Deepak. The police detained a law student named Raja, who admitted he was acting on Deepak's instructions. Later that night, Deepak was brought to the police station," an officer said.

A senior officer said Deepak introduced himself as a CBI officer and initially claimed he was only helping his friend Sunny recover a loan. However, when confronted with audio clips submitted by the complainant, he allegedly changed his version, the officer added.

"Deepak's credentials were verified with the CBI and found to be genuine. Both Deepak and Sunny were questioned and subsequently released," the officer said.

- Status: **Non-statutory** and **Non-constitutional** body. It is governed by Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946.
- Coordinates investigation on behalf of Interpol Member countries.
- Headed by a **Director** who is **appointed by a high-level committee** consisting of:
 - Prime Minister (Chairperson)
 - Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha
 - Chief Justice of India or a nominee

Consent Issue

- Unlike the NIA, which has pan-India jurisdiction, the CBI cannot investigate crimes in a state without consent of that state government (Section 6, DSPE Act, 1946)
 - Because "Police" is a State Subject.
- To make work easier, states traditionally provide **General Consent**: State allows CBI to investigate central government officials without asking permission each time.
- **Specific Consent**: State must give approval for each investigation.
- Several states (including West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Punjab) have withdrawn general consent.
- **The "Central Employee" Exception**: The SC said that CBI does not need state consent to register an FIR against Central Government employees for offences under Central Acts.

Prelims Pointer

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

- Genesis: Established in **1963** on recommendation of **Santhanam Committee** on Prevention of Corruption (1962-64).
- It is India's **premier investigating agency** responsible for investigating serious crimes, corruption, and economic offences
- Ministry: **Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances.**



12th March 2026

SYLLABUS : Prelims: Polity – 6th Schedule & Autonomous District Councils
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number : 04

Meghalaya tribal council polls put off as violence continues in Garo Hills

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Meghalaya Governor Chandrashekhar H. Vijayashankar on Wednesday ordered the postponement of elections to the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) as violence continued in western parts of the State.

The order followed Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma's announcement that the government has decided to defer the April 10 polls after reviewing the prevailing law and order situation in the Garo Hills, specifically the West Garo Hills district.

"Looking at the current situation in Garo Hills and understanding the difficulties people are facing at the moment, the government of Meghalaya has decided to postpone the GHADC elections," the Chief Minister said in a video message.

The State government, however, distanced itself from the violent clashes between the dominant Garo tribe and Bengali-speaking Muslims that broke out on March 9 after former legislator S.G. Esmatur Mo-



Conrad Sangma

minin was assaulted along with two others. He had gone to Tura, the district headquarters, to file his nomination papers.

Two people were reportedly killed in police firing in the Chibinang area of the district, the epicentre of the violence. Several shops and structures were torched in the area.

Mr. Mominin's act was seen as a defiance of the GHADC's February 17 notification that made it mandatory for all candidates contesting the council polls to possess a Scheduled Tribes (ST) certificate. People in the plains belt of the West Garo Hills district, mostly Muslims, opposed this "unconstitutional" notification and

said it was intended to strip them of their rights.

At least five of the 29 GHADC constituencies where elections are scheduled (one seat is for a nominated member) are in Muslim-dominated areas of the Garo Hills. The current council has two non-tribal members.

"The GHADC operates independently and the matter primarily concerns its functioning and decisions. The council has legislative, executive, and judicial powers, more or less like the State government," Deputy Chief Minister in charge of Home Prestone Tynsong said.

Mobile Internet services were suspended in five districts and curfew was imposed in the West Garo Hills and East Garo Hills districts on Wednesday, a day after the Meghalaya High Court struck down the notification regarding ST certificates.

The notification was issued by the Chief Executive Member of the GHADC following a resolution of the Executive Committee last month.

(With inputs from PTI)

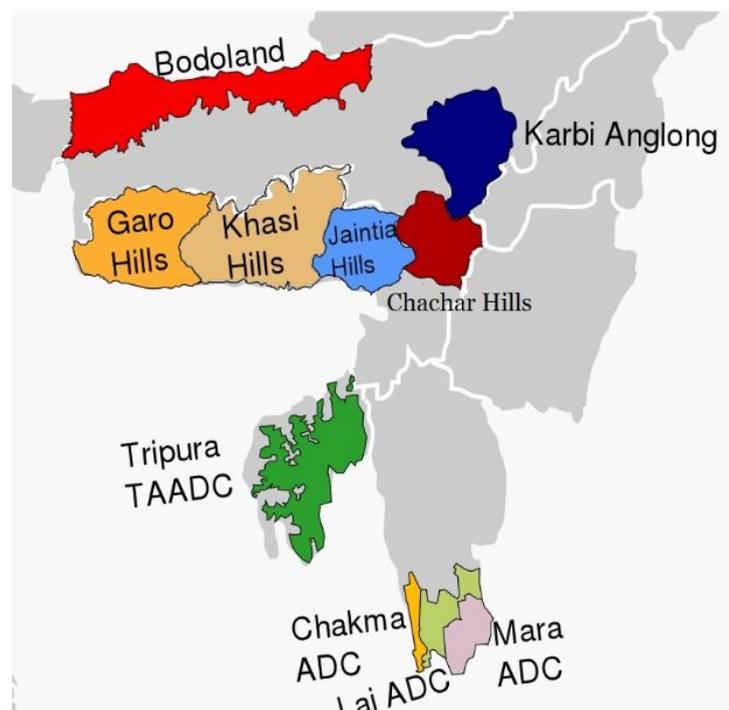
- The 6th Schedule operates through **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)** and **Regional Councils**.
- Composition: Usually 30 members.
 - 26 are elected via adult franchise (5-year term).
 - 4 are nominated by the Governor
 - Exception: The Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) in Assam has 46 members.
- **The Governor's Role:** The Governor is the "head" of these areas. They can:
 - Define or alter the boundaries of ADCs.
 - Examine the administration of these councils.
 - Dissolve a council on the recommendation of such a commission.

Prelims Pointer

The 6th Schedule – Autonomous District Councils

- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, under **Article 244(2)** and **Article 275(1)** of the Constitution, is provided for the administration of tribal areas in **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram**.

AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCILS



12th March 2026

SYLLABUS : Prelims: Polity - 6th Schedule & Autonomous District Councils
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number : 04

6th Schedule councils - Legislative, Judicial, and Executive powers:

- **Legislative:** They can make laws on land, forests (non-reserved), canal water, shifting cultivation (Jhum), inheritance, marriage/divorce, and social customs.
 - Crucial: All laws require the Governor's Assent.
- **Judicial:** They can establish Village Councils/Courts for trials where both parties are Scheduled Tribes.

- Constraint: They cannot hear cases involving offenses punishable by death or 5+ years of imprisonment.
- **Financial:** They can levy taxes on land, professions, trades, animals, and vehicles. They also receive grants-in-aid from the Consolidated Fund of India under Article 275

Feature	5th Schedule	6th Schedule
Applicability	10 States (Mainland India)	4 States (NE India: AMTM)
Body	Tribes Advisory Council (TAC)	Autonomous District Councils (ADC)
Power	Advisory (Governor makes laws)	Legislative (Councils make laws)
Central/State Laws	Apply unless Governor says no.	Do not apply unless Council/Governor says yes.



12th March 2026

SYLLABUS : Prelims: Geography - Mineral Resources

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number : 12

'India has overall coal stock for 88 days, can meet rising demand'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India has an overall coal stock of 210 million tonnes (MT) which would be adequate for about 88 days, the Coal Ministry informed on Wednesday as India prepares to spur coal production to ensure availability to meet peak demand in summer.

According to data from the Coal Ministry, pithead

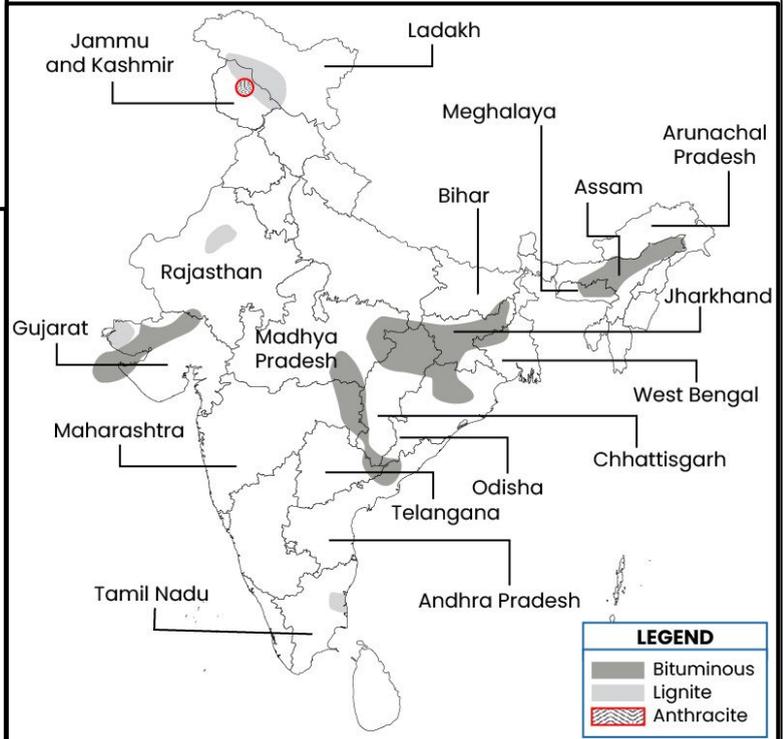
coal stock, or coal that has been mined and stored at the pithead for transporting to relevant sectors, with Coal India, was 121.39 MT as on March 9, with another 6.07 MT with its subsidiary Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). Further, another 15.12 MT was housed with captive/commercial mines and approximately 14 MT in transit, thus bringing the total to 156.85 MT.

- **Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act of 1973** – governs the eligibility for coal mining in India.
 - The auction-based regime in **2014** permitted **private sector participation**, but it was restricted to captive use.
 - In **2020**, the sector was further liberalized with the opening up of **commercial coal mining to private players**.

Prelims Pointer

Coal Sector in India

- Formation: A **sedimentary fossil fuel** formed from vegetable matter compressed over millions of years.
- India has the **5th largest coal reserves (361 bt)**
 - **2nd largest producer and consumer** globally.
- Record Production: In FY 2024-25, India crossed the milestone of **1 Billion Tonnes (BT)**.
 - 2025-26 Target: 1.15 Billion Tonnes.



SYLLABUS : Prelims: Geography - Mineral Resources
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number : 12

Classification & Distribution of Coal

By Quality (Carbon Content):

1. **Anthracite** (80-95%): Best quality, hard, smoky-less. Found only in Jammu & Kashmir (small quantities).
2. **Bituminous** (60-80%): Most common in India. Used for power and metallurgy. Found in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh.
3. **Lignite** (40-55%): "Brown coal," high moisture. Found in Tamil Nadu (Neyveli), Rajasthan, Gujarat.
4. **Peat** (<40%): First stage of coal formation; low heating value.

By Geological Age:

1. **Gondwana Coal** (250 Million Years):
 - a. Over 98% of reserves.
 - b. High carbon, low sulfur.
 - c. Found in river valleys (Damodar, Mahanadi, Son, Godavari).
2. **Tertiary Coal** (15-60 Million Years):
 - a. High moisture and sulfur.
 - b. Found in the Northeast (Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal).



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Environmental Science – Pollution
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number: 14**

• WAR IN WEST ASIA

How airstrikes triggered black rain in Tehran

Abhishek Chakraborty
New Delhi, March 11

WHEN TEHRAN residents stepped outside into the rain on Sunday morning, they were not greeted by the usual grey drizzle, but by oily, soot-laden droplets coating cars, clothes, and skin. On the night of March 7, Israeli strikes hit four oil storage facilities and an oil production transfer centre in Tehran and the province of Alborz, igniting large fires that burned for hours. The targets included the Aghdasieh oil warehouse in northeast Tehran, the Shahrani oil depot, and the Tehran refinery in the south. This "black rain", dozens of miles away from the disaster site, has proven to be one of the war's most alarming consequences.

How did the black rain form?

The explosions reportedly released significant quantities of toxic hydrocarbon compounds, sulfur, and nitrogen oxides into the air. As rain moved through the pollutant-saturated skies over the city, it absorbed these chemicals and fell back down as oily, blackened precipitation.

Scientists explained that the black rain resulted from a weather pattern bringing rain into the area, which combined with particles already suspended in the atmosphere.

TOXIC EFFECT

- The US-Israel strikes on Iran caused a massive release of toxic hydrocarbons, sulfur oxides, and nitrogen compounds into the air.
- Inhaling or touching the smoke or particles could cause headaches, skin irritation and difficulty in breathing.
- The rain could also cause serious lung damage and chemical burns to the skin.

What are the health risks from the black rain?

On Tuesday, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned that black and acidic rain falling over Tehran poses a real danger to the population, primarily to respiratory health. It backed Iran's advisory urging people to remain indoors.

According to WHO spokesperson Christian Lindmeier, the strikes caused a massive release of toxic hydrocarbons, sulfur oxides, and nitrogen compounds into the air. Scientists said inhaling or touching the smoke or particles could cause headaches, skin and eye irritation, and difficulty breathing — and that longer-term exposure to some compounds increases cancer risk.

The Iranian Red Crescent warned that the rain could cause serious lung damage and chemical burns to the skin.

Petroleum mixtures contain thousands of hydrocarbons, including benzene, which are extremely toxic. The potential for severe long-term consequences is very real.

Tehran was already vulnerable before the first strike landed. Given the city's location, surrounded by mountains, as well as its dense urban layout, air does not circulate as it should, and pollutants remain in the air, pushed downward and inward.

Black rain and the curse of 'forever chemicals'

The black rain crisis may outlast the fires. Scientists warned that forever chemicals — likely present in flame retardants built into the facilities — could contaminate groundwater and become airborne, ending up back in the rain. Acid rain, depending on concentration, could also accelerate corrosion of buildings already weakened by Tehran's chronic air quality problems. In its latest report, the Conflict and Environment Observatory tracked over 232 incidents with environmental risk since the conflict began. It warned of contamination of vegetation that could expose humans and animals to toxic compounds through the food chain.

Prelims Pointer

Black Rain in Iran

- Location: Primarily Tehran, Karaj, and the surrounding Alborz region.
- Scientific Process: **Atmospheric Scavenging** (Wet Deposition).
 - This occurs when falling raindrops capture suspended soot, ash, and oily particulates from the air.
- The Catalyst: **Military strikes on oil refineries** and fuel storage depots (notably in Aghdasieh, Shahrani, and Karaj) during Operation Epic Fury/Roaring Lion.
- Chemical Composition: A toxic cocktail of:
 - **Particulate Matter (PM2.5):** Unburnt carbon and soot.
 - **Hydrocarbons & PAHs:** Carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.
 - Acidic Precursors: **Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)** and **Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x)** which react with water to form **Acid Rain** (H₂SO₄ and HNO₃).
- Nodal Monitoring Agencies: WHO and Iran's Red Crescent Society.



Black Rain in Iran



SYLLABUS : Prelims: Environmental Science – Pollution
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number :** 14

Prelims Pointer

Feature	Acid Rain	Black Rain (Iran 2026)
Primary Cause	Industrial emissions and vehicle (SO_2 and NO_x).	Airstrikes on oil refineries and fuel depots.
Scientific Process	Chemical oxidation and dissolution in clouds.	Atmospheric Scavenging (Rain acting as a "sponge" for soot).
Key Components	Sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4) and Nitric acid (HNO_3).	Soot (Black Carbon) , Hydrocarbons, PAHs, and heavy metals.
Appearance	Looks like normal rain (clear).	Dark, oily, and viscous (stains surfaces).
pH Level	Typically 4.2 to 4.5 .	Highly variable; often acidic (<3.0) due to sour crude.
Primary Threat	Long-term ecological decay (soil/aquatic).	Acute health crisis (chemical burns, respiratory distress).
Health Impact	Indirect (respiratory issues from precursors).	Direct (Skin irritation, stinging eyes, lung damage).
Statutory Context	Monitored via CPCB (India) / EPA (Global).	Monitored as an Environmental Disaster (WHO).



12th March 2026

SYLLABUS : Prelims: Security Forces
Newspaper: The Indian Express Page Number : 08

Over 93,000 posts vacant in CAPFs, Govt tells Rajya Sabha

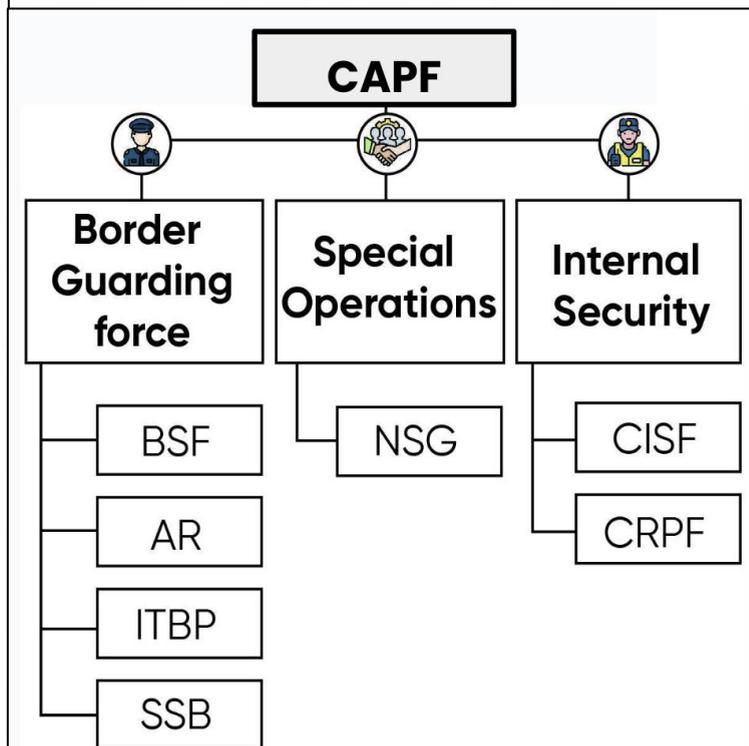
MORE THAN 93,000 posts are lying vacant in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Assam Rifles, Union MoS for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai told Rajya Sabha in a written reply to a question on Wednesday. He presented vacancies data in the paramilitary forces, showing that the CRPF has the highest number of vacancies at 27,400, followed by the CISF with 28,342 vacant posts. BSF has 14,531 vacancies, ITBP has 12,333, and SSB has 6,784. The Assam Rifles has 3,749 vacancies, taking the total to 93,139 posts. According to data presented, resignations have been on the rise since 2021, as in 2025, there were 2,333 resignations compared to 1,255 in 2021. Data shows there were 1,183, 2,037, and 2,724 resignations in 2022, 2023, and 2024, respectively. PTI

Prelims Pointer

Central Armed Police Force (CAPF)

- The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) are **paramilitary forces** under the Union Government responsible for internal security, border guarding, and maintaining law and order.
- They function under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

- Leadership: Each force is headed by a **Director General (DG)**, who is an **IPS Officer**.
- CAPFs are not part of the Indian Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force).
- **Assam Rifles (Dual Control)**: It is the oldest paramilitary force. While it falls under the MHA for administration, its operational control lies with the Indian Army (Ministry of Defence).



SYLLABUS : Prelims: Security Forces
Newspaper: The Indian Express Page Number : 08

Prelims Pointer

Group	Force	Primary Mandate
Border Guarding	BSF (Border Security Force)	Guards borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh .
	ITBP (Indo-Tibetan Border Police)	Guards the China border (High-altitude Himalayan terrain).
	SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal)	Guards the Nepal and Bhutan borders.
	AS (Assam Rifles)	Guards the Myanmar border; North-East counter-insurgency .
Internal Security	CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force)	Handles Anti-Naxal (LWE) ops, riot control (RAF) , and elections.
	CISF (Central Industrial Security Force)	Protects PSUs, Airports, Metros, and nuclear installations.
Special Task Force	NSG (National Security Guard)	Elite counter-terrorism and hostage rescue (The "Black Cats").



Q1. With reference to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), consider the following statements:

1. It derives its investigative powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
2. The Director of the CBI is appointed by a committee comprising the home minister of India and Cabinet secretary

Which of the statements given above is/are Not correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b

Q2. In which of the following states does the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provide for administration of tribal areas?

1. Assam
2. Meghalaya
3. Manipur
4. Nagaland

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: a

Q3. With reference to coal in India, consider the following statements:

1. Gondwana coal accounts for the overwhelming majority of India's coal reserves and is generally found in major river valleys.
2. Tertiary coal deposits in India are mainly located in the northeastern region and typically contain higher moisture content.
3. Anthracite coal deposits are widely distributed across eastern and central India.

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

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

Answer: b

Q4. Which of the following statements best describes the term 'Atmospheric Scavenging'?

- a) The upward transport of dust and aerosols from the Earth's surface to higher layers of the atmosphere by convection currents.
- b) The chemical transformation of atmospheric gases into secondary pollutants under the influence of sunlight.
- c) The process by which falling raindrops capture and remove suspended pollutants and particulate matter from the atmosphere.
- d) The gradual accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere due to anthropogenic emissions.

Answer: c

Q5. With reference to the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), consider the following statements:

1. The CAPFs function under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. The Assam Rifles functions under the administrative control of the Indian Army.
3. The Central Industrial Security Force is primarily responsible for guarding India's international borders.

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

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

Answer: a





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