



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

16th March 2026



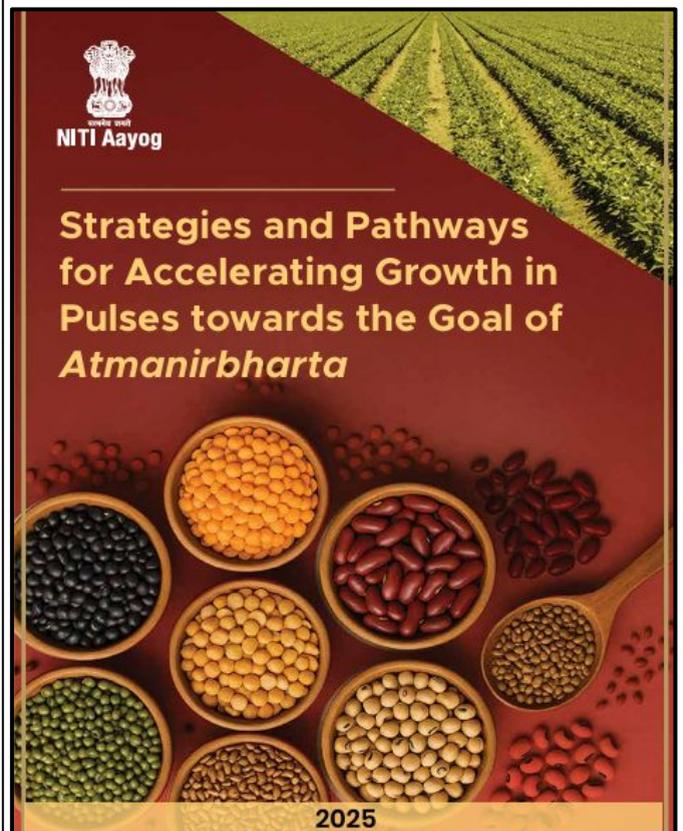
Pulse in the nerves of Food Security



CONTEXT: Petition in SC for MSP for Pulses highlighting need for diversification, allows for a lowdown on Pulses Production status and way forward.

Significance of Pulses for India:

- Nutritional Security due to wide benefits
- Protein and Micronutrients
- Dryland farmers Livelihood
- Import Dependence impacts Forex and Food Security - 5.5 bn\$.
- Necessary for soil health - legumes -
- Climate resilient crops - help Sustainable agriculture
- Rising Incomes - greater demand - PCA-18Kg - 30 by 2039
- Significant Part of Culinary Culture GI TAG



India in the Global Pulses Economy

Global Position

- 25% of World Production
- 27% of Global Consumption
- 14% of Global Imports

Role in Indian Agriculture

- 23% of Area under Foodgrains
- 9-10% of Total Foodgrain Production

Production Profile

- Area: ~30 Million Hectares
- Production: ~25 Million Tonnes

Productivity Challenge

- Avg Yield: 851 kg/ha (2018-19 to 2022-23)
- Need for focused interventions

Key theme: India dominates pulses globally but productivity remains relatively low.



Trend of Pulses Production - Insights:

- Rabi >>> Kharif
- Chickpea largest contributor
- = 47% production, Rabi
- Black gram and Green gram also
- grown in rabi and kharif



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Table 3.1: Crop-wise Pulses Area, Production and Yield & Season-wise Share (Average of 2018-19 to 2022-23)

Crop	Season	Area (Mha)	Production (MT)	Yield (t/ha)	Contribution %	
					Area	Production
Pigeonpea	Kharif	4.56	3.81	0.837	16	15
Chickpea	Rabi	10.09	11.75	1.164	35	47
Green gram	Kharif	3.7	1.76	0.476	13	7
	Rabi	1.41	1.22	0.862	5	5
	Total	5.11	2.98	0.583	18	12
Black gram	Kharif	3.67	1.77	0.481	13	7
	Rabi	0.91	0.79	0.867	3	3
	Total	4.58	2.56	0.558	16	10
Lentil	Rabi	1.44	1.33	0.926	5	5
Other Pulses*	Kharif	1.67	0.76	0.454	6	3
	Rabi	1.66	1.6	0.965	6	6
	Total	3.34	2.36	0.708	11	10
Total Pulses	Kharif	13.6	8.1	0.595	47	33
	Rabi	15.51	16.69	1.076	53	67
Total Pulses	Total	29.11	24.79	0.851	NA	NA

Note: *Other pulses include pea, mothbean, cowpea, horse gram, lathyrus, kidney bean, and clusterbean.

Table 3.2: Indian Scenario by Major Pulse (Kharif + Rabi) Producing States (2018-19 to 2022-23)

Major Producing States	Area (Mha)	Production (MT)	Yield (t/ha)	Contribution %		Ranking (Yield)
				Area	Production	
Madhya Pradesh	5.44	5.48	1.008	18.69	22.11	4
Maharashtra	4.56	4.08	0.894	15.66	16.46	6
Rajasthan	6.07	4.04	0.665	20.85	16.3	8
Uttar Pradesh	2.44	2.56	1.046	8.38	10.33	2
Karnataka	3.12	1.94	0.623	10.72	7.83	10
Gujarat	1.21	1.61	1.333	4.16	6.5	1
Andhra Pradesh	1.22	1.03	0.844	4.19	4.16	7
Jharkhand	0.79	0.82	1.038	2.71	3.31	3
Telangana	0.53	0.53	0.998	1.82	2.14	5
Tamil Nadu	0.81	0.53	0.646	2.78	2.14	9
All India	29.11	24.78	0.851	NA	NA	NA



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- Top 3 States - MP>MH>RJ- contribute
- 55% of production
- Area under cultivation - RJ
- Production - MP
- Productivity - GJ
- Between 2013 - 23 Area under pulses
- Production expanded by 1/3rd,
- Production rose - 19.2 - 27mt in 2022
- Recent Decline to 24mt in 2024.

Issues of Pulses Production

- Decline in pulses : Factors
- Low profitability and Procurement Risks - MSP
- Environmental Constraints - 87% grown in Rainfed Areas.
- Low Yield and Tech Adoption
- Shift to Cash crops
- Pest attacks - Pod Borer
- Import dependence - 20%



The Union Agriculture Minister also presented crop-wise details as follows:

Total foodgrains – 3,577.32 lakh tonnes (Record)

- Rice – 1,501.84 lakh tonnes (Record)
- Wheat – 1,179.45 lakh tonnes (Record)
- Nutri/Coarse Cereals – 639.21 lakh tonnes
- Maize – 434.09 lakh tonnes
- Total Pulses – 256.83 lakh tonnes
- Shri Anna (millet) – 185.92 lakh tonnes
- Chickpea – 111.14 lakh tonnes
- Moong – 42.44 lakh tonnes
- Tur – 36.24 lakh tonnes

Total Oilseeds – 429.89 lakh tonnes



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IMPEX Scenario of Pulses : Import fluctuation - 2.5 to 6.6 to 4.5 mt. (20% import dependence)

Global Pulse Trade (2022)

Global Pulse Exports

Total Export Value: USD 12.5 billion (2022)

Top Pulse Exporters:

Rank	Country	Share	%
1	Canada	26.6%	
2	Myanmar	11.2%	
3	Australia	10.3%	
4	Russia	9.4%	
5	United States	4.6%	
6	Mozambique	3.3%	

Despite being the largest producer, India ranks 9th in global pulse exports, with about 2.5% of the market share.



Global Pulse Imports

India leads in import value globally

Top Importers by quantity (MT)

Rank	Country	(MT)	Share
1	China	2.55 MT	16.6%
2	India	2.38 MT	15.5%
3	Turkey	1.22 MT	7.9%
4	Pakistan	1.09 MT	7.1%
5	UAE	0.82 MT	5.4%
6	USA	0.72 MT	4.7%

India tops the world in pulse import value, followed by China.



Steps taken for Pulses production:

1 Farmer Support & Risk Reduction

- ✓ PMKSY, PMFBY, PKVY
- ✓ PMSSY, PMFBY, PKVY

2 Soil & Nutrient Management

- ✓ SHM, Soil Health Card Scheme
- ✓ e-NAM, PM-AASHA Scheme
- ✓ Price Stabilization Fund

3 Market Access & Price Support

- ✓ e-NAM, PM-AASHA Scheme
- ✓ Price Stabilization Fund

4 Institutional Procurement

- ✓ NAFED, NCCF
- ✓ e-Samridhi portal



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Way forward:

Backward Linkages -

- Intercropping - utilise rice fallow areas, unlock new lands.
- Biotic and Abiotic stress management - drought, heat, pests and diseases.
- Enhancing Genetic diversity in Pulses seeds - Cluster based Seed villages
- Enhanced Productivity 0 by assured irrigation and Capital availability

Forward Linkages

- Price support and Market interventions
- Balancing Farmers and Consumers interest
- Integration of Pulses into PDS- Nutritional and livelihood security
- Utilise potential for summer pulses
- Data Driven Transformation through SATHI PORTAL, Krishi Mapper

UPSC PRELIMS QUESTIONS IN PYQs

69. Consider the following statements :

1. In the case of all cereals, pulses and oilseeds, the procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP) is unlimited in any State/UT of India.
2. In the case of cereals and pulses, the MSP is fixed in any State/UT at a level to which the market price will never rise.

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

86. With reference to pulse production in India, consider the following statements :

1. Black gram can be cultivated as both kharif and rabi crop.
2. Green-gram alone accounts for nearly half of pulse production.
3. In the last three decades, while the production of kharif pulses has increased, the production of rabi pulses has decreased.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

84. Among the agricultural commodities imported by India, which one of the following accounts for the highest imports in terms of value in the last five years?

- (a) Spices
- (b) Fresh fruits
- (c) Pulses
- (d) Vegetable oils

What are the present challenges before crop diversification? How do emerging technologies provide opportunities for crop diversification? (15 M)

What are the major reasons for declining rice and wheat yield in the cropping system? How is crop diversification helpful to stabilize the yield of the crop in the system? (15 M)



Pulse in the nerves of Food Security



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Mains Practise Question

Question : Despite being the world's largest producer of pulses, India continues to face several challenges in achieving self-sufficiency. Examine the major issues affecting pulse production in India and Suggest Remedial measures.

(15 Marks, 250 words)



Restoring the majesty of the Parliament



CONTEXT: Rising Acrimony, declining productivity underscores the need to uphold the majesty of Parliament

The context of Concern:

- In principle, Parliament is the foundation of representative democracy
- Routine functions act as an instrument that holds the cabinet accountable.
- As a forum for government-Opposition interaction, it is meant to operate in a structured, methodical way.
- Single-party dominance has eroded the functioning and the Lok Sabha, sadly, has become a platform for political partisanship.

Concerning issues:

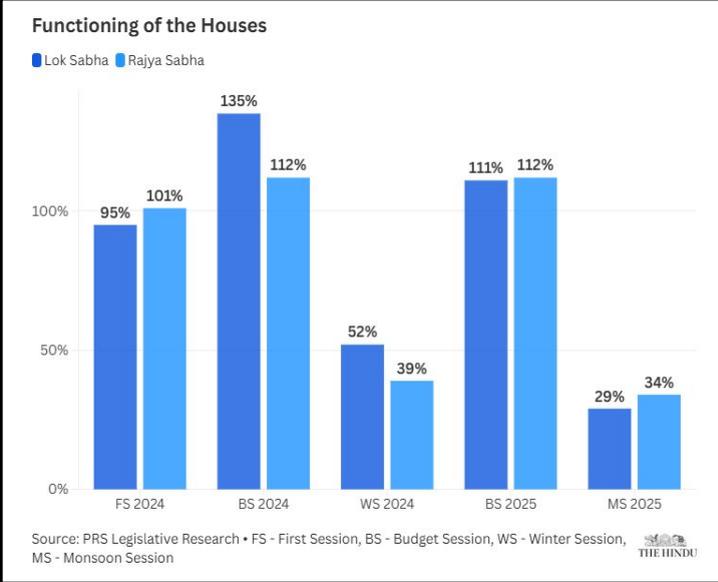
- Poor sittings and Productivity
- Reduction of Role of Parliamentary committees
- Frequent Suspension of Members
- Disruption politics as the new normal
- Decline in Private member's bill - Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Bill, 1968, which received presidential assent in 1970. Only 14 till now



✓ 35% bills passed with <1 hour debate
 ✓ 16% sent to Standing Committees
 ✓ Shrinking sittings → faster laws, less scrutiny

Decline in Lok Sabha Sittings: 1st vs 17th Lok Sabha

Lok Sabha	Years	Average Sittings/Year
1st Lok Sabha	1952–1957	121 days/year
17th Lok Sabha	2019–2024	~55 days/year



Restoring the majesty of the Parliament



CONTEXT: Rising Acrimony, declining productivity underscores the need to uphold the majesty of Parliament

Causes:

- Political Maneuvering
- Lack of Political Consensus
- Media Focus
- Regional Politics
- Quality of Representative
- Ineffective Rules and Abuse: LS vs RS ; ADL

Impact of Disruption :

- Pressing issues of the day ignored -
- Lost Social Capital
- Judicial Activism and Overreach
- Decline of Responsive and Responsible Democracy
- Economic impact on exchequer

Green shoots of progress:

- The Opposition was given 56% of Zero Hour time, and that NDA MPs, despite their majority, received 321 supplementary questions against the Opposition's 364.
- Home Minister Amit Shah said that the House's productivity during Mr. Birla's tenure had been high. -
 - The 17th Lok Sabha functioned for roughly 88% of its scheduled time. Speaker Om Birla reported a 97% overall productivity rate, noting it as the highest among the previous five Houses
- It had debated in 14 regional languages.



Dramatic protests in Lok Sabha prevent PM's reply to the motion of thanks

Congress says PM should give his reply only after LoP gets to speak; Congress MPs protest BJP MP's "disruptive" reading from books making allegations against Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi

Updated - February 04, 2026 11:26 pm IST - NEW DELHI



SANDEEP PHUKAN

1 READ LATER

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Parliament Costs 2.5 Lakh Per Minute To Run. 3 Days Already Lost This Session

Each house of Parliament is supposed to be productive for six hours a day - excluding one hour for lunch.

Reported by: Ashwini Kumar Singh Edited by: Rohit Paul India News Jul 23, 2025 18:48 pm IST

Read Time: 3 mins

Trusted Source on Google Share

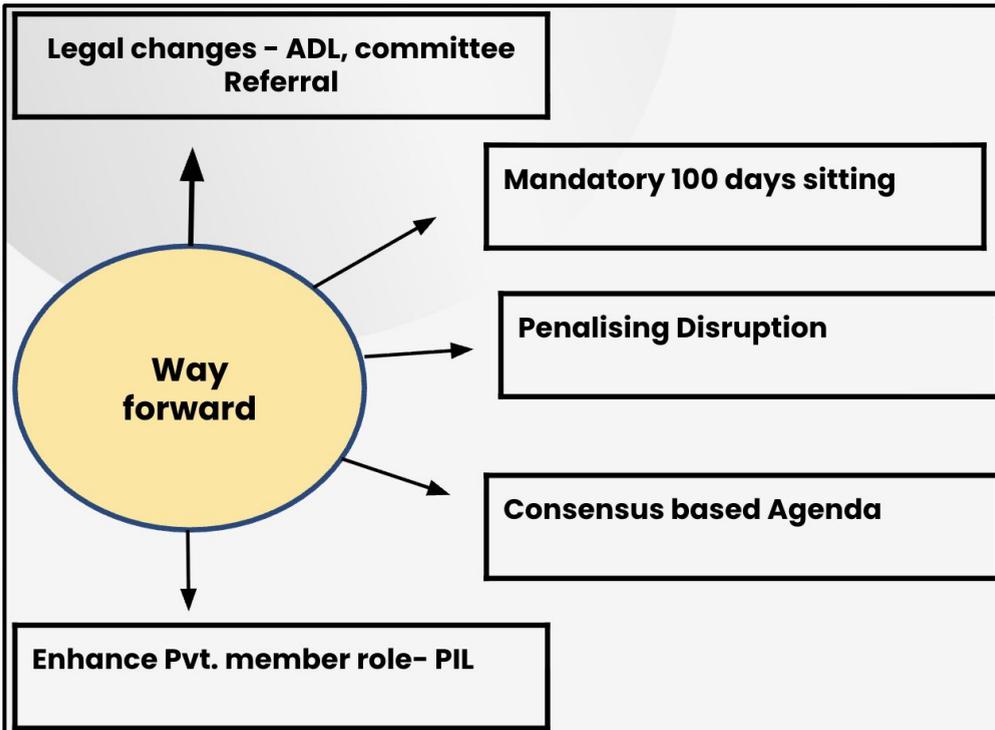


Restoring the majesty of the Parliament



CONTEXT: Rising Acrimony, declining productivity underscores the need to uphold the majesty of Parliament

Towards a more Functional House



Mains Practise Question

Question : "The quality of parliamentary democracy depends not merely on elections but on the effective functioning of Parliament." Discuss this statement in the context of recent challenges to parliamentary functioning in India.

(15 Marks, 250 words)

4. आपकी दृष्टि में, भारत में कार्यपालिका की जवाबदेही को निश्चित करने में संसद कहाँ तक समर्थ है?

(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India?



Model code of conduct

SYLLABUS : Prelims: Polity

Newspaper : Indian Express Page No : 02

- **Article 172** - talks about tenure of Legislative assembly - it shall be 5 years unless dissolved earlier by Governor.
- **RPA 1951** - Section 15

the State of Andhra to elect the Representative in accordance with such of the provisions of this Act, and the rules and orders made thereunder, as are applicable to the election of the members of the Council of States.]

15. Notification for general election to a State Legislative Assembly.-(1) A general election shall be held for the purpose of constituting a new Legislative Assembly on the expiration of the duration of the existing Assembly or on its dissolution.

(2) For the said purpose, ²[the Governor or Administrator, as the case may be], ³* * * shall by one or more notifications published in the Official Gazette of the State on such date or dates as may be recommended by the Election Commission, call upon all Assembly constituencies in the State to elect members in accordance with the provisions of this Act and of the rules and orders made thereunder:

Provided that where a general election is held otherwise than on the dissolution of the existing Legislative Assembly, no such notification shall be issued at any time earlier than six months prior to the date on which the duration of that Assembly would expire under the provisions of clause (1), of article 172 ³* * * ⁴[or under the provisions of section 5 of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 (20 of 1963), as the case may be.]

WHAT IS MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT?

Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India for the conduct of political parties and candidates during elections. The Model Code of Conduct comes into force immediately with the announcement of the election schedule by the Commission for ensuring free and fair elections.

Is the Model Code of Conduct legally binding?

No as there is no statutory backing. Some provisions of **Indian Penal Code, 1860**, **Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973**, and **Representation of the People Act, 1951**, can be invoked to enforce the provisions of MCC. Election Commission also uses moral sanction for its enforcement.

MODEL CODE KEY TO SMOOTH POLLS

The model code of conduct has come into force in Telangana. Sushil Rao explains some of the provisions of code of conduct

• All posters and wall writings related to campaign should be removed from public places within 48 hours

• People carrying cash should present valid documents

• No party or candidate should indulge in any activity that may cause tension and hatred between castes and communities

• No loud speaker permitted between 10 pm to 6 am

• Criticism of other political parties should be confined to their policies

• Political ads requires pre-certification by Media Certification and Monitoring Committee



• Parties should not criticise aspects not connected with public activities of other leaders

• Places of worship should not be used for poll propaganda

• Ministers should not combine their official visit with electioneering work

• Ministers should not make use of official machinery or personnel for election work

• Parties should not make promises that may vitiate purity of the election process

• Parties should not exert undue influence on voters in exercising their franchise

• Manifestos should reflect rationale behind the parties' promises and indicate the means to meet financial requirements for it



SYLLABUS : Prelims: Polity

Newspaper : Indian Express Page No : 02

History of MCC in India:

- The MCC was initially introduced by the Election Commission under the title of '**Minimum Code of Conduct**' during the **Midterm Elections in 1968-69**.
- **Subsequent revisions were made in 1979, 1982, 1991, and 2013**, reflecting the changing dynamics of electoral politics in the country.
- During the midterm general elections of 1968 and 1969, the Election Commission prepared a document titled "Role and Responsibilities of Political Parties during Elections," outlining the expected standards of political behaviour
- **In 1979** - Sections for Party in Power was introduced.

Model Code of Conduct

The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is a set of conventions agreed upon by all stakeholders during the elections. Its objective is to keep campaign, polling and counting orderly, clean and peaceful; and check any abuse of state machinery and finances by the party in power. It does not enjoy any statutory backing. The Election Commission is fully authorised to investigate any violation of the Code, and pronounce punishment.

The Code has evolved over the last 60 years to assume its present form. It had its origin during assembly elections in Kerala, **1960** - when the administration tried to evolve a 'code of conduct' for the political parties. The Model Code of Conduct was first issued by Election Commission of India under the title of 'Minimum Code of Conduct' on September 26, 1968 during the Mid-Term Elections 1968-69. The Code was further revised in 1979, 1982, 1991 and 2013.

VI. Observers

The Election Commission is appointing Observers. If the candidates or their agents have any specific complaint or problem regarding the conduct of elections they may bring the same to the notice of the Observer.

VII. Party in Power

The party in power whether at the Centre or in the State or States concerned, shall ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that it has used its official position for the purposes of its election campaign and in particular -

(i) (a) The Ministers shall not combine their official visit with electioneering work and shall not also make use of official machinery or personnel during the electioneering work.

(b) Government transport including official air-crafts, vehicles, machinery and personnel shall not be used for furtherance of the interest of the party in power;

(a) announce any financial grants in any form or promises thereof; or

(b) (except civil servants) lay foundation stones etc. of projects or **schemes** of kind; or

(c) make any promise of construction of roads, provision of drinking water facilities etc.; or

(d) make any ad-hoc appointments in Government, Public Undertakings etc. which may have the effect of influencing the voters in favor of the party in power.



SYLLABUS : Prelims : IR

Newspaper : The Hindu Page No : Text & Context

What is 301 Investigation ?

- The U.S. T.R. has launched two investigations under **Section 301 b** of the **Trade Act of 1974** against India and other economies.
- To examine practices that may be ‘unreasonable or discriminatory and burden or restrict U.S. commerce’.
- One probe examines whether countries, including India, are using excess manufacturing capacity to export to the U.S. in a manner that hurts American businesses,
- While another looks at whether countries have taken ‘sufficient steps’ to prohibit imports of goods produced with forced labour.

India - US Trade details:

- **Total Trade**= U.S. goods and services trade with India totaled an estimated \$212.3 billion in 2024, up 8.3 percent (\$16.3 billion) from 2023.
- **Surplus** = The U.S. said the country had a bilateral trade surplus with it of \$58 billion in 2025. Indian government data,
- However, shows that India had a merchandise trade surplus of \$42.2 billion with the U.S. over this period.

- **Allegations** - “India’s global goods trade surplus sectors include textiles, health, construction goods, and automotive goods,” “For example, evidence suggests the solar module sector is plagued by excess capacity, including that India’s current module manufacturing is nearly triple annual domestic demand.”
- India has created “**significant excess capacity**” in petrochemicals, steel, and other industries.

U.S. remains India’s largest trading partner for fourth consecutive year in 2024 -25: Government data

In the last fiscal, India’s exports to China contracted 14.5% to \$14.25 billion as against \$16.66 billion in 2023-24

Updated - April 16, 2025 12:18 pm IST

PTI

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SYLLABUS : Prelims : Art & culture

Newspaper : The Hindu Page No : 14

Veena exponent Jayanthi Kumaresh to receive Sangita Kalanidhi award at Music Academy's 100th Conference

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The 100th Conference and Concerts of the The Music Academy, Chennai, beginning in December this year, will be marked by the conferment of the Sangita Kalanidhi award on renowned veena player Jayanthi Kumaresh. Bharatanatyam dancer Narendra G. will receive the Nritya Kalanidhi award.

"The executive committee, at its meeting on March 15, decided to confer the award on her and other awards on various musicians," said N. Murali, President of the academy, on Sunday.

Ms. Kumaresh, a member of the musically rich Lalgudi G. Jayaraman family, learnt from her mother,



Jayanthi Kumaresh, an exponent of the Saraswati veena, performs in Chennai; and Bharatanatyam dancer Narendra G., who will receive the Nritya Kalanidhi award. B. VELANKANNI RAJ, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rajalakshmi. She later trained under her aunt Padmavathi Ananthagopalan and then maestro S. Balachander. She also received guidance from her uncle Lalgudi G. Jayaraman, Sangita Kalanidhi T.K. Brinda, composer Thanjavur Sankara Iyer, and T.R. Subramanian.

A postgraduate in English, Ms. Kumaresh is one of the foremost exponents of the Saraswati veena and has collaborated with the late tabla maestro Zakir Hussain. She has contributed in large measure to the present increase in the popularity of the instrument.



"It is a great honour that I have been selected for the award in the 100th Conference and Concerts of the Academy, whose logo features Saraswati with a veena. It is an honour not just for me, but for the veena, the national instrument," Ms. Jayanthi told *The Hindu*.

She said a veena artiste had been selected for the award after a gap of 34 years, and it was a matter of pride that it had happened in the centenary year of her guru, the late S. Balachander.

The Sangita Kala Acharya awards will go to vocalist Sugandha Kalamegam and mridangam player Thrissur C. Narendran. The recipients of the TTK Awards are nagaswaram player Injikkudi Subramaniam and violinist T.K.V.B. Ramanujacharyulu.

The Musicologist Award will go to D. Balasubrahmanian, Adjunct Professor of Music and Co-chair of Global South Asian Studies at Wesleyan University. Bharatanatyam dancer A. Jarnadhan will receive the

Nritya Kala Acharya award, a newly instituted award this year. S. Rajeswari will receive the Dance Musician Award (vocal), and T.K. Padmanabhan the Dance Musician Award (instrumental), the other two new dance awards.

Mr. Murali said the Sangita Kalanidhi-designate would preside over the academic sessions of the Annual Conference and Concerts of the Academy to be held between December 15, 2026 and January 1, 2027. She will receive the award along with the other awardees on January 1, the day of Sadas.

Mr. Narendra will receive the Nritya Kalanidhi award at the inauguration of the 20th Annual Dance Festival of the Academy on January 3, 2027.

Sangita Kalanidhi Award :

- Considered the **highest accolade in the field of Carnatic music**, it came into existence in 1942.
- Prior to that, a senior musician/expert was invited to preside over the **Madras Music Academy's** annual conference.
- In 1942, it was decided that the musician so invited would be conferred the title of Sangita Kalanidhi.
- The award comprising a gold medal and a birudu patra (citation).
- Since 2005, the Sangita Kalanidhi also receives the **MS Subbulakshmi Award** instituted by **The Hindu**.

- The **Music Academy, Madras** emerged as **an offshoot of the All India Congress Session held in Madras in December 1927**.
- A music conference was held along with it and during the deliberations, the idea of a Music Academy emerged.
- Inaugurated on August 18, 1928 at the YMCA Auditorium, Esplanade by Sir CP Ramaswami Aiyar, it was conceived to be the institution that would set the standard for Carnatic music.



SYLLABUS : Prelims : Art & culture

Newspaper : The Hindu Page No : 14

- In the process, it began in 1929 the practice of hosting annual conferences on music, which in turn spawned the **December music festival of Madras, one of the largest cultural events of the world.**

Early Classification of Carnatic Music (14th–16th Century)

- **Vidyaranya – Sangita Sara (14th c.)**
 - Classified ragas into **15 melas** with **janya ragas**
 - One of the **earliest systematic frameworks** of South Indian music

Purandara Dasa (1484–1564) - Bhakti "Father of Carnatic Music." -

Work of Trinity

- **Muthuswami Dikshitar** → **Asampurna system** (Venkatamakhi)
- **Tyagaraja & Shyama Shastri** → **Sampurna system** (Govindacharya)
- **Sampurna Mela Paddhati** became dominant

44. With reference to cultural history of India, consider the following statements :

1. Most of the Tyagaraja Kritis are devotional songs in praise of Lord Krishna.
2. Tyagaraja created several new ragas.
3. Annamacharya and Tyagaraja are contemporaries.
4. Annamacharya kirtanas are devotional songs in praise of Lord Venkateshwara.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

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



SYLLABUS : Prelims : Important Passes in news

Newspaper : The Indian Express **Page No : 09**

Snow clearance work underway at Zoji La Pass on Sunday. ANI

Schoolkids among 100 stranded at mountain passes in J&K

THE J&K Police and security forces on Sunday rescued over 100 people, including school children, who were stranded following heavy snowfall at Sinthan Top and Margan Top, at an altitude of 12,000 feet and 14,000 feet, respectively, along National Highway 244, which connects Jammu province's Kishtwar district with

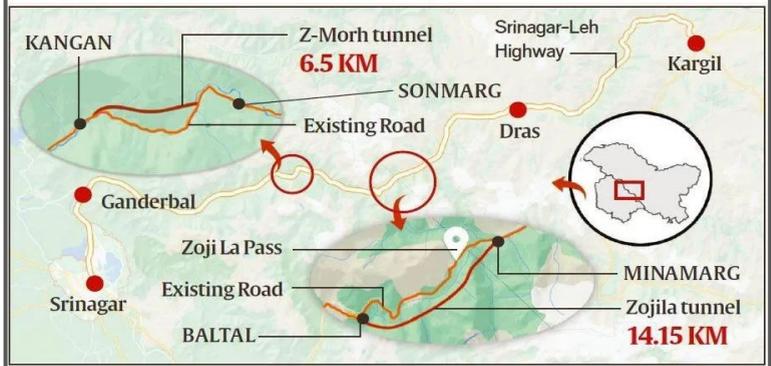
Anantnag in the Kashmir Valley. Snow clearance machines were pressed into service from both the Anantnag and Srinagar sides to enable rescue teams to reach the stranded people. A vehicle carrying schoolchildren from the Kashmir side, too, was trapped near Sinthan Top, sources said. ENS

- Zojila Pass, also known as 'The Mountain Pass of Blizzards', is a strategic pass that connects Kashmir Valley to Ladakh.
- It is located on the **Srinagar-Kargil-Leh highway (NH-1)** at a height of 11,650 feet.
- The pass remains closed for almost half of the year due to heavy snowfall.
- History:
- It was the site of the Indo-Pakistan War of 1947-48.
- It was captured by militias aided by the Pakistan Army in 1848, with the ultimate aim of capturing Ladakh.
- However, the pass itself was captured by the Indian Army on 1st November 1948 in an assault codenamed **Operation Bison**.

What is Zojila Tunnel?

- **Location:** It is an under-construction tunnel situated at an altitude of 11,578 ft (around 3,500 metres) on the Srinagar-Leh Highway in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The tunnel would provide **all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Leh on NH-1**.

Zoji-la Tunnel Project



KEY FEATURES

- The longest bi-directional single tube road tunnel in Asia
- **Length:** 14.15 km
- Open all days
- All-weather accessibility
- To be built at Zojila pass on Srinagar-Kargil-Leh NH-1 situated at an altitude of 11,578 feet
- **Cost:** ₹6,809 crore
- Will reduce time taken to cross Zojila pass from three hours and 30 minutes to 15 minutes
- **Expected time of completion:** 5 years

According to some sources, Zoji La means the "mountain pass of blizzards".^[2] The word for blizzards, however, is འཇམ་ལུ་ཡུག་ (wylie bu-yug). Based on oral tradition that survived among the local people, Zoji refers to Du-Zhi-la, the goddess of Tibet's four seasons. The *Du-Zhi-lha-mo legend* (དུག་འཇམ་ལུ་ཡུག་) describes her as the wife of Naropa.^[3]

The pass is also referred to as "Zojila Pass", which is a **misnomer**. The word "pass" is redundant because the suffix "La/Lah" itself means a mountain pass in Tibetan,

- **14.150 km long Bi-directional tunnel without Egress/escape passage between Baltal and Minamarg.**
- 18.63 Km approach road between **Z-Morh tunnel and Zojila** tunnels including two tunnels of length 433m and 1958m in approach road.
- **It will be India's longest road tunnel, and Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel.**
- **It would be 9.5-meter wide and 7.57-meter high in the shape of a horseshoe.**
- Other mountain Passes of Kashmir - Banihal, Peer ki Gali. Burzil.



SYLLABUS : GS 2: Constitutional Bodies

Newspaper : The Hindu Page No : 14

UPSC's new rule: SC nod must for delay in choosing State DGPs

Attorney-General says that there is no provision for UPSC to condone such inordinate delay and proceed as if no irregularity had occurred

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has revised the rules for the empanelment of State Director-General of Police and Head of Police Force.

The State governments will now have to get the consent of the Supreme Court for any delay in submitting the list of DGP-rank officers to the UPSC for empanelment.

While disposing of an interlocutory application moved by the Union Home Ministry, the Supreme Court had ruled that States should send their proposals in anticipation of the vacancies to the UPSC well in time – at least three months prior to the date of retirement of the incumbent on the post of DGP.

It also ordered that “none of the States shall ever conceive of the idea of appointing any person on the post of Director-General of Police on acting basis for there is no concept of acting Director-General of Police as per the decision in Prakash Singh’s case”.

With many States delaying the process of sending



The UPSC has revised the rules for the empanelment of State Director-General of Police and Head of Police Force. GETTY IMAGES

proposals for shortlisting the names of three DGPs to the top post for various reasons and some appointing Acting DGPs, the UPSC sought legal opinion in the matter.

The UPSC said “it is observed that many States have been submitting the proposals for convening the Empanelment Committee Meeting in violation of the Supreme Court directions”.

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani opined that the delay by the State government in forwarding names for empanelment was “excessive”.

“On examining the applicable rules and precedents, I find no provision empowering the UPSC to

condone such inordinate delay and then proceed as if no irregularity had occurred, ultimately recommending a panel of DGP,” he said.

The State government should have first come to Supreme Court in case of any difficulty. The more appropriate course, therefore, would be to require the State to seek leave or clarification from the Supreme Court, he noted.

Amending its earlier orders, the UPSC said the States shall seek leave or clarification from the Supreme Court for delayed submission except death, resignation or premature relieving of DGP in accordance with the top court judgment.

Background

- Based on Supreme Court judgment in **Prakash Singh v. Union of India** on police reforms.

Key Provisions

- States must send proposals to **Union Public Service Commission** for empanelment of DGPs.
- Proposal must be sent **at least 3 months before the retirement** of the incumbent DGP.
- UPSC prepares a **panel of three senior-most eligible officers**.
- State government appoints **one officer from this UPSC panel** as DGP.
- No concept of “Acting DGP”** as per Supreme Court ruling.

POLICE RANKS

- Director General of Police (DGP)
- Addl. Director General of Police (Addl.DGP)
- Inspector General of Police (IGP)
- Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG)
- Superintendent of Police (SP)
- Addl. Superintendent of Police (Addl.SP)
- Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP)
- Inspector of Police (Insp)
- Sub Inspector of Police (SI)
- Assistant Sub Inspector of Police (ASI)
- Head Constable (HC)
- Police Constable (PC)

Regular DGP: No reply, UPSC again writes to Punjab government for panel

Chandigarh: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has again written to the Punjab government seeking a panel of eligible officers for...

5 days ago

Bar and Bench

Supreme Court slams 'acting DGP' culture, asks UPSC to approach Court if States delay DGP appointments

A DGP or a head of the police force in a State is appointed by the State government from a panel of three officers shortlisted by UPSC.

1 month ago

The Sunday Guardian

UPSC asks Punjab to send DGP panel within 10 days after Supreme Court directive, SAD calls move vindication

UPSC seeks Punjab's DGP panel within 10 days after Supreme Court directive, SAD terms move vindication of demand.

2 weeks ago

The Federal

TN govt skips full-time DGP appointment, names acting chief in defiance of SC ruling

With DGP Shankar Jiwaf's retirement, the DMK government names an interim police chief, bypassing Prakash Singh norms and sparking debate...

1 Sept 2025



SYLLABUS : GS 2: Constitutional Bodies

Newspaper : The Hindu Page No : 14

Problems Observed

- Many states **delay sending proposals** to UPSC.
- Some states **appoint Acting DGPs**, violating Supreme Court guidelines.

Supreme Court Clarification

- States must **seek permission from the Supreme Court** if there is delay in sending proposals.

Exceptions for Delay

Allowed only in extraordinary situations:

- Death of the incumbent DGP
- Resignation
- Premature relieving from office

Attorney General's View

- **R. Venkataramani** noted that delays by states were **excessive** and UPSC **cannot condone such delays without Supreme Court approval.**



Other recommendations for Police Reforms

- **State Security Commission (SSC)**
 - Independent oversight body for police functioning
 - Includes government and civil society representatives
- **Separation of Investigation & Law and Order**
 - Distinct wings for investigation and law-and-order duties
 - Improves quality and professionalism of criminal investigations
- **State Police Complaints Authority (SPCA)**
 - Independent forum for complaints against police misconduct
 - Strengthens accountability and public trust
- **Police Establishment Board (PEB)**
 - Handles postings, transfers and promotions of police officers
 - Reduces direct political interference in personnel decisions
- **Fixed Tenure for Senior Police Officers**
 - Assured minimum tenure for key positions
 - Prevents arbitrary or mid-term transfers
- **Director General of Police (DGP)**
 - Merit-based selection from empanelled officers
 - Fixed tenure to avoid short-term appointments before retirement



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Model Code of Conduct in India:

1. It is a legally enforceable code backed by statutory provisions under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
2. It comes into force immediately after the announcement of the election schedule by the Election Commission.
3. It prohibits the government from announcing new schemes or policies that may influence voters during elections.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q2. Consider the following statements Section 301(b) of the USA Trade Act of 1974:

1. It allows the United States Trade Representative to investigate foreign trade practices that may be unreasonable or discriminatory.
2. Such investigations can be initiated only with the approval of the World Trade Organization.

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. Consider the following statements regarding the Sangita Kalanidhi Award:

1. It is considered the highest accolade in the field of *Hindustani classical* music.
2. The award came into existence in 1942.
3. The award is conferred by the Madras Music Academy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Zojila Tunnel:

1. It aims to provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Leh.
2. It will be a unidirectional tunnel with a separate escape passage for emergencies.
3. It is set to become India's longest road tunnel.

How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

Answer: a

Q5. With reference to the Supreme Court judgment in *Prakash Singh v. Union of India*, consider the following statements:

1. The State Governments are required to send proposals to the Union Public Service Commission for empanelment of candidates for the post of Director General of Police.
2. The proposal must be sent at least two months before the retirement of the incumbent DGP.
3. The Supreme Court has disallowed the appointment of an "Acting DGP".

Which of the statements given above is/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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