



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

24th March 2026



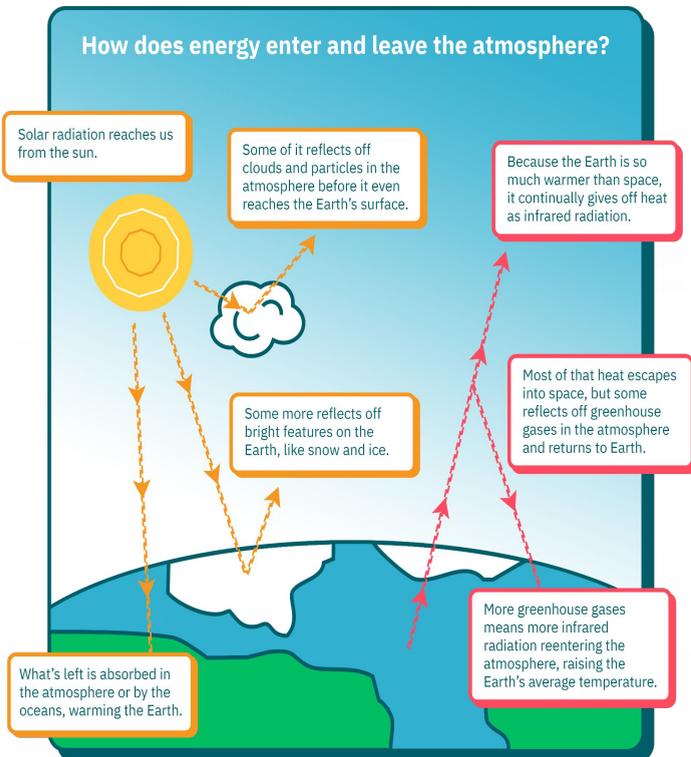
WMO's State of Climate Report



CONTEXT: Due to 6 decades of accumulated GHGs, Earth has a massive "Heat Surplus." Even if we magically stopped GHGs today, planet will continue to warm for decades.

Normal Energy Balance (How it SHOULD work):

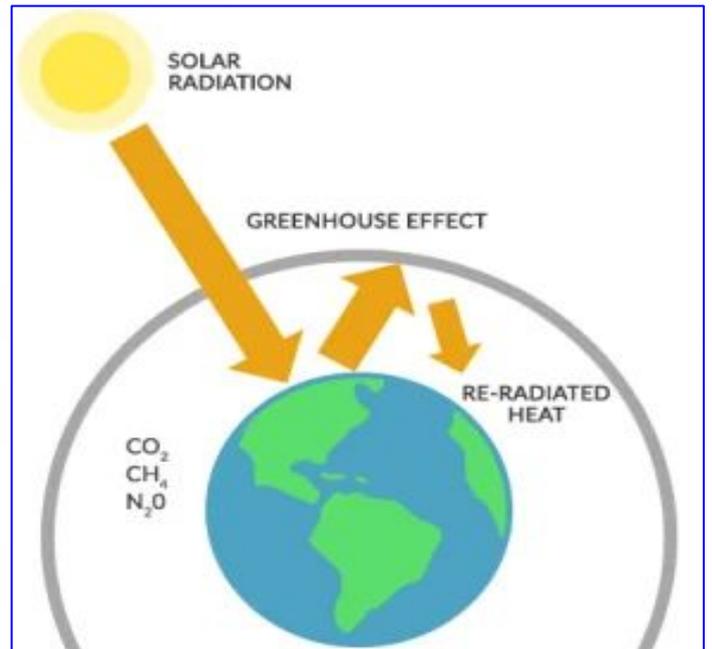
Solar radiation enters Earth's atmosphere
↓
Earth absorbs some → warms the planet (essential for life)
↓
Earth **reflects/radiates some back into space**
↓
IN = OUT → Temperature stays stable ✓
→ This is called **RADIATIVE EQUILIBRIUM**



Current Balance (How it PRESENTLY works):

☀️ **Solar radiation** enters atmosphere
↓
Earth absorbs → **warms up**
↓
Earth tries to radiate heat back to space
✗
↓
GHGs (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O) TRAP outgoing heat
↓
Heat cannot fully escape
↓
IN > OUT → Planet warms → **ENERGY IMBALANCE** ⚠️

💡 **Key term: Energy Imbalance** The difference between incoming solar radiation and outgoing heat radiation – currently **POSITIVE**



WMO's State of Climate Report



CONTEXT: Due to 6 decades of accumulated GHGs, Earth has a massive "Heat Surplus." Even if we magically stopped GHGs today, planet will continue to warm for decades.

The WMO Report: Key Facts (for Prelims + Mains)

Parameter

Current Status

Comparison

Last decade (2015-2024)

Hottest on record

Unprecedented in human history

CO₂ in atmosphere

~50% higher than pre-industrial levels

Highest in 2 million years

Methane (CH₄)

Record high

Highest in 800,000 years

Nitrous Oxide (N₂O)

Record high

Highest in 800,000 years

Global emissions (2025)

Record high

Despite renewable boom

Renewable energy

Edged out coal as top electricity source

BUT not fast enough

Heat surplus accumulation

Past 6 decades

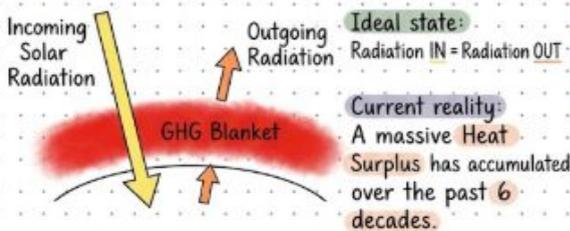
Ongoing and accelerating

Paradox for Mains total energy demand is growing faster than clean energy can supply – This is Jevons Paradox (efficiency gains → more consumption)

"Surplus Heat" Crisis: Even If We Stop, Warming Continues

Earth's Energy Imbalance

The Core Concept



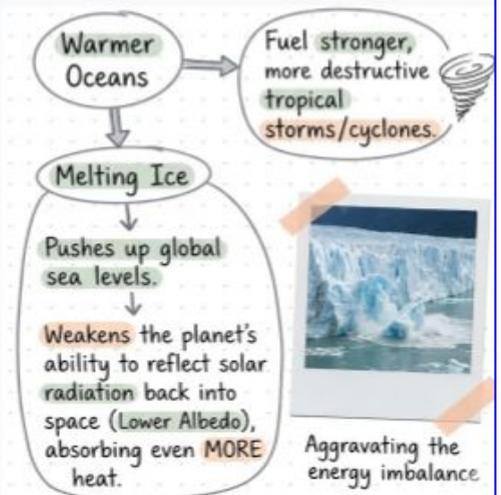
Water stores massive amounts of heat. Oceans have absorbed the vast majority of the extra energy trapped by GHGs.

"COMMITTED WARMING" or "WARMING IN PIPELINE"

CO ₂	(GWP = 1)
CH ₄	~80x CO ₂ over 20 years
N ₂ O	~273x CO ₂ over 100 years

Because **existing CO₂ stays in atmosphere for 300-1000 years**

And **accumulated heat in oceans slowly releases + OCEAN ACIDIFICATION**



CONTEXT: Due to 6 decades of accumulated GHGs, Earth has a massive "Heat Surplus." Even if we magically stopped GHGs today, planet will continue to warm for decades.

UPSC PYQ (P) 2023:

Consider the following statements

Statement-I: The temperature contrast between continents and oceans is greater during summer than in winter.

Statement-II: The specific heat of water is more than that of land surface.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

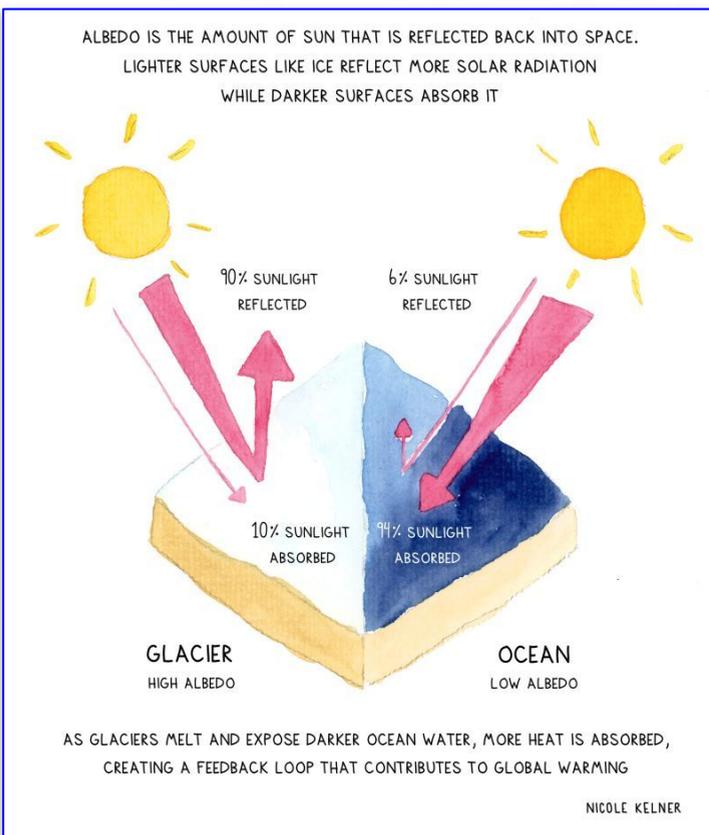
- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

UPSC PYQ (P) 2022:

Among the following crops, which one is the most important anthropogenic source of both methane and nitrous oxide?

- a) Cotton
- b) Rice
- c) Sugarcane
- d) Wheat

The Albedo Effect (Key for Prelims)



Surface	Albedo	Effect
Fresh snow/ice	80-90%	Reflects most sunlight – cooling effect
Ocean water	6-10%	Absorbs most sunlight – warming effect
Forests	10-25%	Moderate absorption
Deserts	30-40%	Reflects more – but hot = low moisture

Dark ocean exposed (low albedo)

↓
More solar heat absorbed

↓
More warming

↓
More ice melts



WMO's State of Climate Report



CONTEXT: Due to 6 decades of accumulated GHGs, Earth has a massive "Heat Surplus." Even if we magically stopped GHGs today, planet will continue to warm for decades.

The Policy Prescriptions

	Climate Impact	India's Exposure
Green Production (Green hydrogen, CCS, FF subsidies)	Heat stress	480+ million Indians exposed to extreme heat by 2050
Resilient Infrastructure	Sea level rise	Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai – coastal mega-cities at risk
Early Warning Systems	Agricultural disruption	~45%+ Indians depend on agriculture; monsoon becoming erratic
Shield the Vulnerable	Glacier retreat	Himalayas = "Third Pole"; feeds 7 major Asian rivers
Insulate Climate Policy from Politics	Intensifying cyclones	Both coasts facing more frequent Category 4-5 storms
Why All of This Matters Deeply for India	Water scarcity	40% of India may face water stress by 2030
	GDP impact	World Bank: India could lose 2.8% of GDP annually by 2050

Mains Practise Question

"The Earth's energy imbalance represents a new phase of the climate crisis – one where mitigation alone is insufficient." Critically examine.

(15 Marks, 250 words)

The Reality Check

Incremental changes will NOT change the trajectory of extreme weather events. We must adapt.

Actionable Steps

- Make infrastructure deeply resilient to extreme weather.
- Invest heavily in Early Warning Systems.
- Create safety nets to shield vulnerable populations.

The Political Imperative

The Ultimate Challenge: Energy imbalance unfolds over decades, but politics is short-term. Governments must find the resolve to insulate climate policies from short-term politics, ensuring stability to guide long-term investments and research.

Decade of India's TB Champion Movement

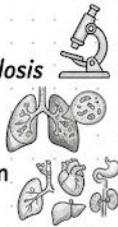


CONTEXT: The TB Champion movement represents a paradigm shift from patient-as-recipient to survivor-as-leader.

What is Tuberculosis (TB)?

TB Fundamentals

- TB = Tuberculosis
- Caused by bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
- Primarily attacks lungs (Pulmonary TB)
- but can affect any organ (Extrapulmonary TB)



Spreads through air:



Spreads through air: Coughing, sneezing, speaking

Treatment & Targets

Treatment Duration:	Drug-sensitive TB	Drug-Resistant TB (DR-TB)
	6 months	18-24 months MUCH HARDER.

→ **India Elimination Target: 2025**
(Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan)

Updated Fact: 2025 was the ambitious goal, currently extended to elimination by 2030.

→ **Global Target: WHO END TB Strategy by 2030.**

Key UPSC/Policy Fact
PM Modi's Personal Commitment (Announced 2018): India aims to ser eliminate TB by 2025 ahead* of the global 2030 SDG target via PMTBMA.

The Paradox: Preventable & Curable

Preventable and curable, yet India has the world's highest TB burden!

Statistic	Figure
New TB cases diagnosed & treated ANNUALLY:	25 Lakh+ (2.5 million)
India's share of global TB burden:	~26% — highest in the world



Diagnosing & Treating 2.5M+ cases annually.

- ❑ **Incidence Rate (2024): 187/100,000**
- ❑ **Mortality Rate (2024): 21/100,000**
- ❑ **Treatment Coverage: 92%**

TB-HIV Co-infection in India:

2024-2025 Insights



Progress achieved, challenges ahead



54,000 new TB cases each year among people living with HIV (PLHIV)



11,000 TB-related deaths annually in HIV-positive individuals



TB incidence declined **16-18%**, from 237 (2015) to **195-199/lakh** (2023-24)



People living with HIV have **20x higher risk** of developing active TB

Data source: India TB Report 2024 & World TB Day 2025

Main causes of TB in India :

Drug Resistance

Undernutrition, Diabetes, Pollution & Smoking, HIV Co-infection

Crowding & Poor Ventilation

Diagnostic Delays

40% of the Indian population has "Latent TB"



Decade of India's TB Champion Movement



CONTEXT: The TB Champion movement represents a paradigm shift from patient-as-recipient to survivor-as-leader.

What is the National TB Elimination Programme?

TB Drug Resistance: Classification

What is DR-TB?

Drug-Resistant TB (DR-TB) occurs when *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* bacteria mismatch standard antibiotics.



1. MDR-TB

Calligraphy Header

"R-I-P" in red caps to Isoniazid & Rifampicin

Multidrug-Resistant: Resistant to at least Isoniazid (INH) and Rifampicin (RIF), the two most powerful first-line drugs.



2. XDR-TB

Calligraphy Header

Use revised 2021 WHO definition

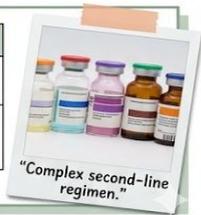


Extensively Drug-Resistant: MDR-TB that is also resistant to:

- "A" Any Fluoroquinolone AND
- "B" At least one 'Group A' drug (Bedaquiline or Linezolid).

Category	Regimen	Duration
Drug-Sensitive	First-line drugs	6 months
MDR/XDR-TB	Stronger, toxic second-line drugs	18-24 months

Much harder to cure!

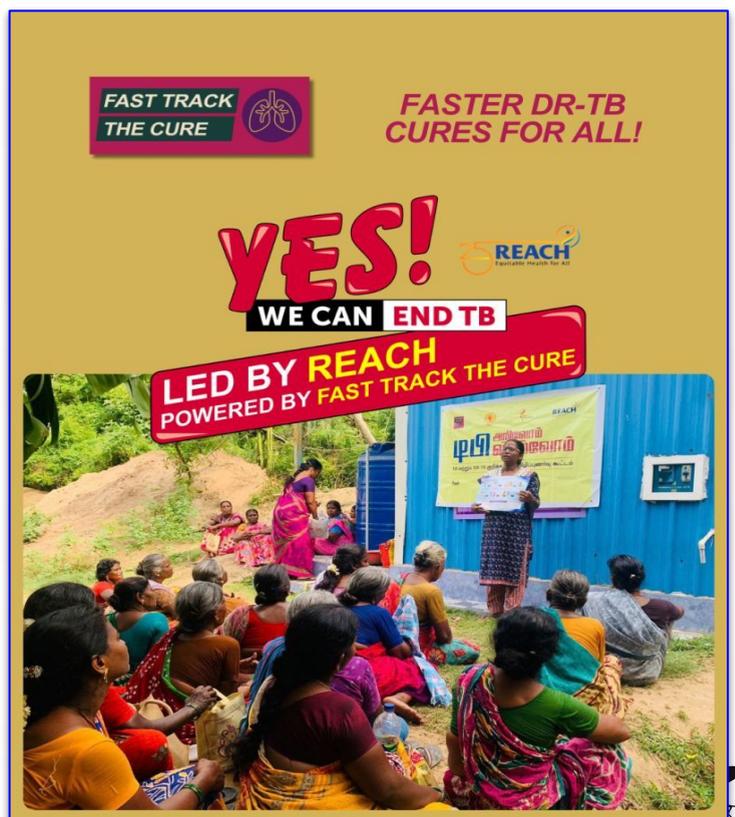


Free services	Diagnostics + medicines + nutritional
Nikshay Poshan Yojana	₹500/month nutrition support
Nikshay Portal	Track TB patients
Ni-kshay Mitra	Community volunteers/donors supporting TB patients
AI-enabled screening	Chest X-ray for mass case detection
Active Case Finding	Door-to-door search



NTEP GAPS

1. STIGMA
2. EMOTIONAL support
3. MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS
4. Overburdened health workers



Decade of India's TB Champion Movement



CONTEXT: The TB Champion movement represents a paradigm shift from patient-as-recipient to survivor-as-leader.

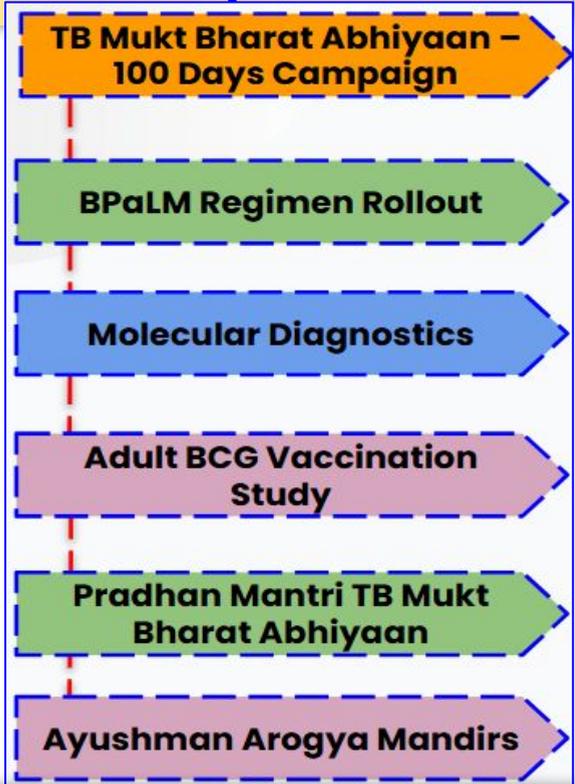
REACH Model: TB Survivor to Champion

Roles of TB Champions

- 👤 Peer Counsellor
- 👥 Support Group Leader
- 📢 Community Educator
- 🗣️ Advocate
- 📊 Community Monitor
- 🔍 Case Finder
- 🇮🇳 Anti-Stigma Agent
- 🌉 COVID Bridge

Why is TB so heavily stigmatised in India?

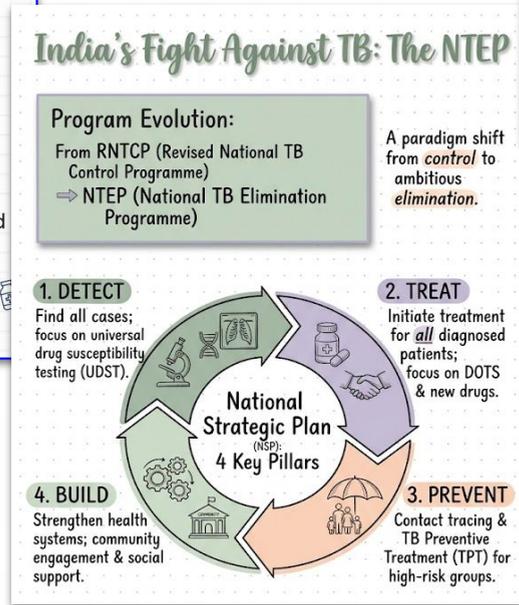
- 🏠 Poverty association
- 👤 Transmission fear
- 💍 Matrimonial impact
- 👧 Gender dimension
- 👦 Children
- 🏳️ Transgender communities



Other Government of India's "End TB" targets

Key Achievements of the 100-Day TB-Mukt Campaign

- 👤 **5.1 lakh** TB patients identified
- 👥 **10 crore+** high-risk individuals screened
- 🏠 **10 lakh+** Ni-kshay Shivirs conducted
- 📄 **38 lakh+** people tested via chest X-ray
- 👤 **26 lakh** TB cases notified in 2024



Target & Commitment

India's TB Elimination Target: 2025. (Aiming 5 years ahead of the Global 2030 SDG target!)

PM Modi's Personal Commitment (Announced 2018): Elimination is a national priority under his leadership.

Community awareness drive.

- B** Bedaquiline
- Pa** Pretomanid
- L** Linezolid
- M** Moxifloxacin.



Decade of India's TB Champion Movement



CONTEXT: The TB Champion movement represents a paradigm shift from patient-as-recipient to survivor-as-leader.

From "clinical treatment" to "social protection."

<p>Ni-kshay must be integrated with the PDS</p>	<p>AI-enabled handheld X-ray machines for door-to-door screening</p>	<p>Jan Andolan 2.0: "Peer Support Groups" where TB Champions mentor new patients</p>	<p>Fast-track the Phase 3 trials of the MTBVAC, VPM1002 vaccines</p>
<p>Aggressive implementation of PM Ujjwala Yojana in high-burden TB districts</p>	<p>Provide free high-end drugs (like Bedaquiline) to private patients</p>	<p>Treat the Latent TB</p>	<p>Expand the 6-month BPaLM regimen across all districts</p>

Mains Practise Question

Critically examine the role of community participation in India's TB elimination programme.

(15 Marks, 250 words)

MISSING CASES DOWN TO 1L FROM 15L IN 10 YRS

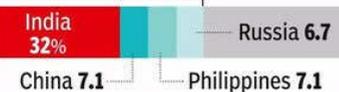
Global TB Burden (As per WHO Global TB Report 2025)

30 high-burden countries = **87%** of all TB cases in 2024

India tops the list with **25%** of global TB cases



Four countries = 53% of MDR-TB



India among 24 countries with >80% treatment coverage

Treatment & Detection (Union Health Ministry)

- > Treatment coverage: Up from **53%** (2015) → **92%** (2024)
- > **26.2 lakh** TB patients diagnosed out of 27 lakh estimated cases
- > Missing cases reduced: **15 lakh** → **<1 lakh** (2015–2024)
- > Treatment success rate: **90%** (global average: **88%**)
- > No significant rise in MDR-TB cases



Why Gold is Falling During a War?



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Economy – Gold, Dollar Index, Bond Yields, Safe Haven Assets
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 15

Basics First

1: What is a "Safe Haven Asset"?

• One that retains or increases in value during market turmoil

🏆 **Gold** has historically been the #1 because:

- It is **nobody's liability** (unlike currency)
- It is **universally accepted**
- It is **scarce** and cannot be printed
- It acts as a **hedae against inflation**



What NORMALLY happens during a war?

WAR breaks out

↓
 Uncertainty rises → investors **SELL** stocks

↓
 They **BUY Gold** → Gold price **RISES**

↓
Crude oil prices also rises

↓
Inflation rises → Gold rises further (as inflation hedge)

3: But 2026 is different! 📉

Parameter	Normal Expectation	What Actually Happened
Gold price	📈 Rise during war	📉 Fell ~18%
Crude Oil	📈 Rise	📈 Rose past \$110 ✅
US Dollar	Could go either way	📈 Surged (DXY 97 → 100.15)
US Bond Yields	Fall (flight to safety)	📈 Rose
Investor Behaviour	Buy gold	Sold gold for cash

The Anomaly.
 Despite the 24-day West Asia conflict, Gold has plunged 18% (losing ~₹29,000 per 10g)! It just logged its worst week in 43 years.

The Culprit: The Dollar
 Investors are fleeing to the Greenback for deeper liquidity. DXY surged from 97 to 100.15!

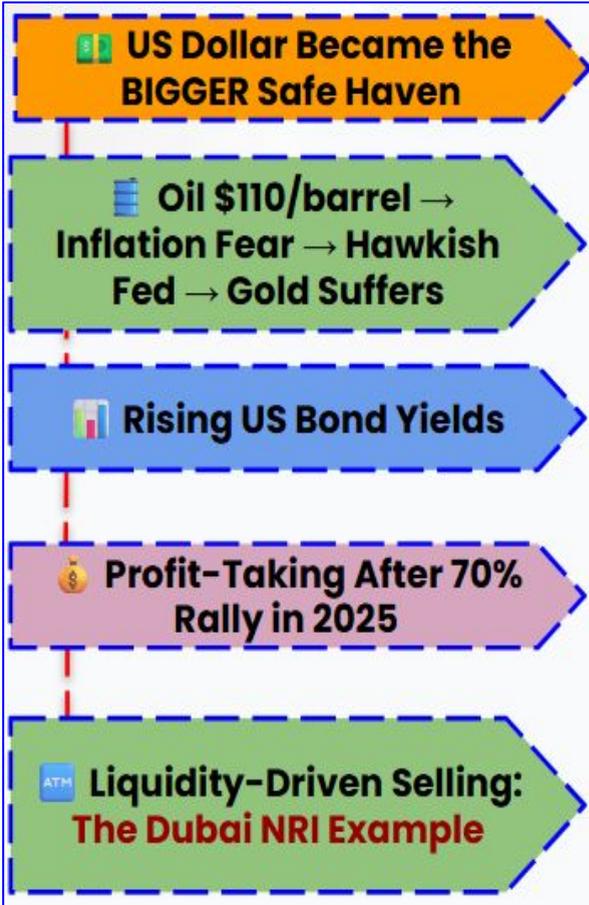
Currency Trap Note:
 Because gold is priced in dollars, a surging dollar makes gold excessively expensive for holders of other currencies, crushing demand.

Why Gold is Falling During a War?



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: *Economy – Gold, Dollar Index, Bond Yields, Safe Haven Assets*
Newspaper: *The Hindu* **Page Number:** 15

4 – The 5 Reasons Gold Fell



Dollar strengthens

↓

Indian buyer needs MORE RUPEES to buy same gold (gold is priced in \$)

↓

They **buy LESS gold**

↓

Global gold demand falls → Gold price drops

Asset	Yield	Appeal when rates rise
US Treasury Bond	✓ Pays interest	✓ More
Gold	✗ No interest	Bond Yields ↑ → Gold ↓ ✗ Less ("Opportunity Cost of Holding Gold")
Stocks	Dividends (variable)	Mixed



No Proposal for Complete Farm Loan Waiver



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Rural credit, Subsidies

Newspaper:

Indian Express

Page Number: 7

✓ Why Farm Loan waivers are demanded

SUICIDE BY PERSONS ENGAGED IN FARMING OPERATIONS

In 2023

Suicide by farmers/
cultivators

4,690



Suicide by
agricultural labourers
6,096

India: Year-wise

2015	12,602
2016	11,379
2017	10,655
2018	10,349
2019	10,281
2020	10,677
2021	10,881
2022	11,290
2023	10,786

*Farmers/cultivators + agricultural labourers (Source: NCRB)

STATES/UTS WITH ZERO SUICIDES OF FARMERS/CULTIVATORS AS WELL AS AGRI LABOURERS

Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Chandigarh, Delhi(UT) and Lakshadweep

Crop failure

Low MSP realisation

Rising input costs

Climate shocks

Rural indebtedness
₹74,121 Average Debt per Household (2019, NSSO)

Farmer suicide crisis deepens in Maharashtra, 767 deaths reported in 3 months

Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Makarand Jadhav Patil, in a written response to the Legislative Council, informed that 767 farmers took their lives in Maharashtra between January to March.



Farmer suicide crisis deepens in Maharashtra, 767 deaths reported in 3 months. (Representative image)



Ritvick Arun Bhalekar

Mumbai, UPDATED: Jul 3, 2025 23:38 IST

Edited By: Harshit. Das

🏠 Key Government Measures

1. Kisan Credit Card

₹3 lakh
Timely repayment

3. Collateral-Free Agri Loans Increased

₹1.6 lakh → ₹2 lakh

5. Crop Insurance (PMFBY)

2. Modified Interest Subvention Scheme

4. Priority Sector Lending

6. PM-KISAN

No Proposal for Complete Farm Loan Waiver



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Rural credit, Subsidies

Newspaper:

Indian Express

Page Number: 7

FLAGSHIP RYTHU BANDHU'S FINEPRINT

₹7,600cr to be disbursed in phased manner before Sankranti

• Crop investment at rate of ₹10,000/acre for both seasons & ₹5,000/acre for each season

• Major welfare scheme for farmers in Telangana

• KCR instructs Harish Rao to release Rythu Bandhu funds on time sans deductions



Eligibility



All farmers, including tenant farmers and share-croppers growing notified crops in notified areas.



Farmers must have an insurable interest in the insured crops.



Farmers must possess a valid and authenticated land ownership certificate or a valid land tenure agreement.



The farmer must be a cultivator or sharecropper on the insured land.



The farmer must apply for insurance coverage within the prescribed time frame, usually within 2 weeks of the start of the sowing season.



Farmers must not have received compensation for the same crop loss from any other medium or source.



Why Government Avoids Complete Loan Waiver?

Loan waiver



Banks suffer losses



Credit discipline weakens



Future lending declines



Long-term farm investment falls

"Bad economics for good politics."

- **Moral Hazard**
- **Banks** become **risk-averse**
- Reduced **Capital Expenditure**
- **Inflation & Fiscal Deficit**
- **NITI Aayog**: only ~15% of marginal farmers access institutional credit
- **Fall back into debt** within 2-3 years

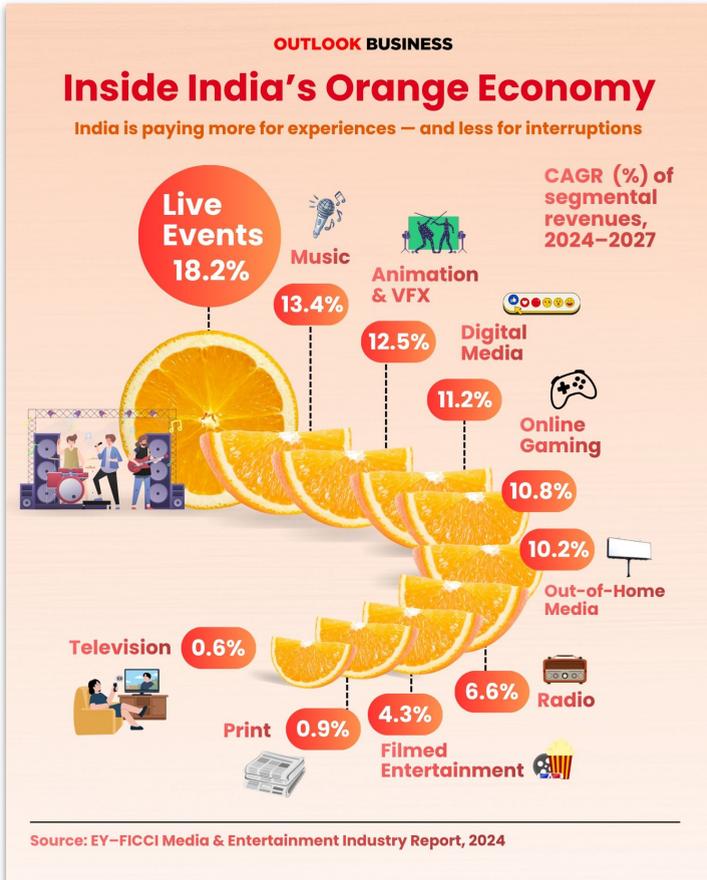


SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Orange Economy, Government Schemes

Newspaper: The Hindu

Page Number: 14

What is the "Orange Economy"?



Why "Orange"?

• **Felipe Buitrago and Iván Duque (2013)**
Orange Economy = Set of activities where economic value is generated primarily through Creativity + Culture + Technology + Intellectual Property

What Does It Include?

Audiovisual	Cultural Heritage
Music	Digital Content
Publishing	Design & Craft
Gaming	Broadcasting
Visual Arts	

The 3 NEW Initiatives

Initiative 1:

National AI Skilling Initiative

The Massive AI Push

Target: 15,000 youth trained.	Cost: 100% FREE.	Partners: Google, YouTube India & IICT.
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“Goal: Equip creators to master tools of the future, leverage AI for compelling stories, and expand global reach.”

PHASE 1 (March 23 – June 30, 2026)

- Foundational AI learning
- Google Career Certificates
- **Courses:** AI Essentials, Prompting Essentials
- Introduction to Generative AI
- Mandatory to complete before Phase 2 ⚠️

PHASE 2 (July – December 2026)

- Advanced + hands-on + project-based
- Art of Storytelling module
- YouTube best practices
- **AI Tools:** Gemini 3, Nano Banana, Veo, Vertex AI

SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Orange Economy, Government Schemes

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Page Number: 14

The 3 NEW Initiatives

WAVES

World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit

Connecting Creators,
Connecting Countries



Initiative 2

MyWAVES – Citizen Creator Platform

MyWAVES & Creators' Corner

The 'Creators' Corner' scheme urges content creators to use MyWAVES and Doordarshan to showcase India's rich regional diversity and traditions.



Showcasing India's heritage.

- **Government's OTT initiative** under **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**
- Aims to **promote Indian content globally**
- **MyWAVES** is the citizen-facing layer

After MyWAVES:

- **National/Global audience**
- **AI tools to improve content**
- **Monetisation**

Initiative 3

In-built Satellite Tuners + Advanced EPG in TVs

Before	After
TV + Set-top box needed	TV alone sufficient
Extra cost (₹800-1500 for STB)	No extra cost
Rural/poor households excluded	Included ✓
Limited content discovery	Advanced Electronic Programme Guide → better navigation

1. National AI Skilling Initiative:



Partnership with Google & YouTube via IICT to train youth in AI.

2. MyWAVES OTT Platform:



A dedicated citizen creator platform to create, upload, and share cultural content.

3. DD Free Dish Upgrades:



Rollout of in-built satellite tuners in TVs & advanced Electronic Programme Guides (EPG) for easy access without extra equipment.





SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: *Fifth & Sixth Schedules, Part X*

Newspaper: *The Hindu*

Page Number: 4

Why Do These Schedules Exist?

- **"Aboriginals"** – original inhabitants
- Normal laws made for mainstream India may not suit their customs, land systems, or traditions

Special administrative framework under Article 244, Part X:

- **SCHEDULED AREAS** → 5th Schedule
- **TRIBAL AREAS** → 6th Schedule

States with Scheduled Areas (5th Schedule)

East/ Central	Jhar, Chhgh, Od
South	AP, Telg
West/North	Guj, Raj, MP, Maha, HP

Who Controls Scheduled Areas?

PRESIDENT

- ↓ Declares Scheduled Areas
- ↓ Can increase/decrease/alter boundaries
- ↓ (in consultation with Governor)

CENTRE

- ↓ Can give DIRECTIONS to States
- ↓ regarding administration of Scheduled Areas

GOVERNOR

- ↓ Annual report to President on administration
- ↓ Can **MODIFY** or **EXCLUDE** Parliament/State laws
- ↓ Makes regulations for peace & good governance
- ↓ (after consulting Tribes Advisory Council)

STATE

- ↓ Executive power EXTENDS to Scheduled Areas
- ↓ But subject to Centre's directions

Why a Separate Schedule for NE?

- They had traditional customary laws on land, marriage, inheritance – **entirely different from Indian legal norms**
- British had kept these areas as **"excluded areas"** – 6th Schedule continued this special status

Autonomous Districts & Regions

State (Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram)

Autonomous District

- └ If **ONE** tribe → District Council
- └ If **MULTIPLE** tribes → Governor.

Autonomous Regions (each with Regional Council)

District Council: Composition

Total members	30
Elected members	26
Nominated members	4 (by Governor)
Elected term	5 years
Nominated term	During pleasure of Governor



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Fifth & Sixth Schedules, Part X

Newspaper: The Hindu

Page Number: 4

Understand the Context:

Amidst protests over non-tribal participation in a tribal council election in Meghalaya, the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) on Monday approved a key amendment mandating that only Scheduled Tribe members can contest the polls, effectively ending the participation of non-tribals after over seven decades, officials said.

★ 1. Tribal Autonomy vs Democratic Inclusiveness

Raises debate on:

- Representation
- Equality
- Minority rights within tribal areas

★ 2. Identity Politics & Ethnic Tensions

★ 3. Political Stability & Governance Issues

Ethnic polarisation can affect:

- Local development
- Investment climate
- Law & order



Revision Brain:
LLCVSMIS
(Land, Laws, Courts,
Village admin, Shifting
cultivation, Marriage,
Infrastructure, Schools)

6th Schedule 4D: Powers of Councils

1. LEGISLATIVE POWERS (Can make laws on):

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Land mgmt. |  Village admin. |
|  Forests. |  Inheritance of property. |
|  Canal water. |  Marriage & Divorce. |
|  Shifting cultivation (Jhum). |  Social customs. |

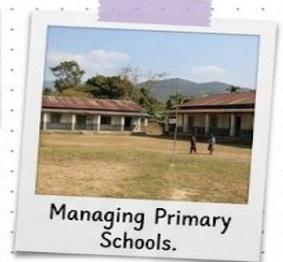
⚠ ALL such laws require assent of the Governor!
(No effect without it).

2. JUDICIAL POWERS:

- Constitute Village Councils/Courts (tribal trials).
- Hear Appeals from lower tribal courts.
- High Court jurisdiction specified by Govt.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS:

- Establish & manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads.



4. FINANCIAL POWERS:

- Assess & collect land revenue.
- Impose specified taxes.



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Fifth & Sixth Schedules, Part X

Newspaper: The Hindu

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Comparison Table (5th vs 6th Schedule)

5th Schedule

6th Schedule

Applies to	All states EXCEPT ATMM	Only ATMM (Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram)
Declared by	President (consults Governor)	Governor (organises/reorganises)
Key body	Tribes Advisory Council	Autonomous District Council
TAC/ADC members	20 (3/4th STs)	30 (26 elected + 4 nominated)
Executive power	State + Centre gives directions	State (districts under State)
Law modification	Governor directs exclusion/modification	Laws don't apply OR apply with modifications
Autonomy level	Lower — TAC is advisory only	Higher — ADC has legislative, judicial, financial powers
Self-governance tool	PESA + Gram Sabha	Autonomous District Councils
Judicial power	✗ No separate tribal courts under 5th Sch.	✓ ADC can constitute village courts
Tax power	✗	✓ ADC can levy specified taxes

6th Schedule 4E: Governor's Special Powers

Power	Detail
Reorganise districts:	Organise & reorganise autonomous districts.
Divide district:	If multiple tribes → divide into autonomous regions.
Appoint commission:	Examine & report on administration of any district/region.

Laws Applicability & Power



Overall:
The Governor has decisive control over 6th Schedule boundary lines & law modification!



UPSC PYQ (P) 2008

Which Schedule of the Constitution of India contains special provisions for the administration and control of Scheduled Areas in several States?

- (a) Third
- (b) Fifth
- (c) Seventh
- (d) Ninth

UPSC PYQ (P) 2019

Under which Schedule of the Constitution of India can the transfer of tribal land to private parties for mining be declared null and void?

- (a) Third Schedule
- (b) Fifth Schedule
- (c) Ninth Schedule
- (d) Twelfth Schedule

SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Desalination, Reverse Osmosis

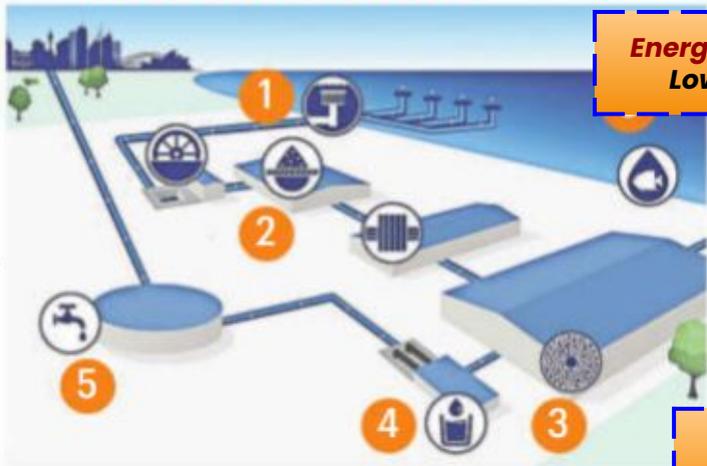
Newspaper: The Hindu

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What is Desalination?

Converting saltwater → freshwater

- Preferred in coastal regions with no natural rivers or rainfall

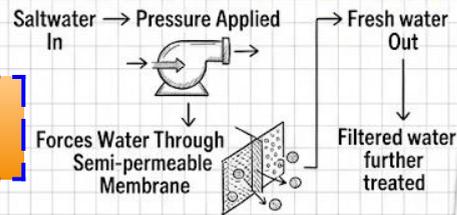


Energy use: Lower

1. Seawater intake 2. Pre-treatment filtration to remove particulate matter 3. Reverse osmosis to remove salt, minerals 4. Post-treatment for consumption readiness 5. Drinking water delivery 6. Seawater concentrate outlet
(SYDNEY DESALINATION PLANT AS REFERENCE)

Method 1: Reverse Osmosis (RO)

1. Membrane-Based: Reverse Osmosis (RO)

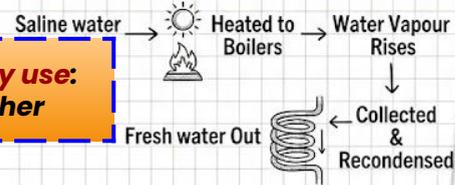


- Mechanism: Uses high pressure and specialized filters.
- Result: Traps dissolved salts & other impurities.

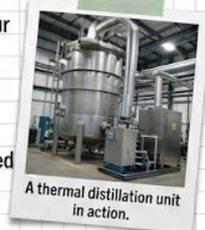


Method 2: Thermal Method

2. Heat-Based: Thermal Method



- Mechanism: Uses evaporation and distillation.
- Result: Produces fresh water via condensation.



Energy use: Higher

Why Does the Gulf NEED Desalination So Badly?

Parameter	GCC Countries	Iran
Primary water source	Desalination plants	Groundwater/aquifers
Desalination dependency	Very high	Comparatively low
Drought situation	Permanent	5-year drought ongoing



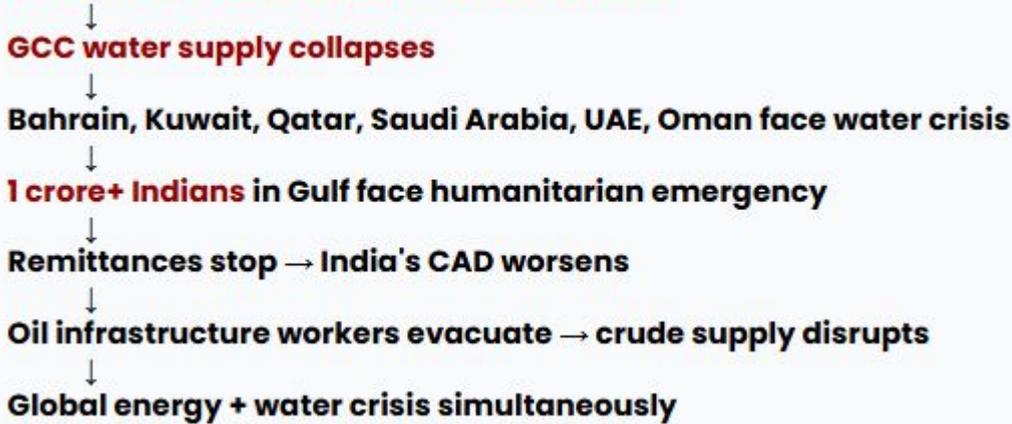
SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: *Desalination, Reverse Osmosis*

Newspaper:

The Hindu

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Iran strikes Gulf desalination plants



Environmental Concerns of Desalination

Problem 1: Carbon Emissions 🏭

- Desalination plants are **highly energy-intensive**
- Run on **liquid fuels or natural gas**
- Emit **500–850 million tonnes of CO₂ annually**
- Contradicts Paris Agreement commitments of Gulf nations

Problem 2: Saltwater Brine Discharge 🌊

- RO produces **saltwater brine** as byproduct
- Discharged back into the ocean
- **Increases ocean salinity** locally
- Harms **marine habitats**:
 - 🐠 Plankton (base of marine food chain)
 - 🐟 Fish larvae (disrupts reproduction)
 - 🪸 Coral reefs and seagrass beds affected

Problem 3: Growing Demand Spiral 🔄

Population growth + Urbanisation
+ Economic growth

↓
Water demand rises

↓
More desalination needed

↓
More energy used → More emissions

↓
Climate change worsens → Less rainfall → More desalination

↓
Vicious cycle 🔄



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Tuberculosis (TB) disease:

1. It is a viral & communicable disease caused by Mycobacterium TB.
2. As per the Global Tuberculosis Report 2023, India has the highest burden of TB cases.
3. NIKSHAY & DOTS are initiatives launched by the Health Ministry to tackle TB in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Answer: b

Q2. Consider the following:

1. Live events & Music Shows
2. Animation & VFX
3. Digital Media
4. Online Gaming

How many of the above form part of the "Orange Economy"?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All Four

Answer: d

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the 5th & 6th Schedule Areas:

1. The provisions of the 5th schedule strictly apply to Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya & Mizoram.
2. The 5th schedule areas are declared by the President of India, while the 6th schedule areas are declared by the Governor of the respective States.
3. In 5th schedule areas, separate tribal courts are created for a faster adjudication process.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Answer: b

Q4. Which of the following statements regarding the Desalination plants is NOT correct?

- a) They run on liquid fuels or natural gas.
- b) They emit 500–850 million tonnes of CO₂ annually.
- c) They fundamentally contradict the Paris Agreement commitments of Gulf nations
- d) Reverse osmosis-based desalination plants use higher energy than thermal based plants.

Answer: d

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding "Safe Haven Asset" :

1. It is a kind of asset that retains its value or increases in value during the conditions of market turmoil.
2. Gold & Cryptocurrencies are ideal examples of such safe-haven assets.

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





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