



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**10th April 2026**



# West Asia and Strategic space for India



**CONTEXT:** A US led and Israel centric security architecture in the region has diminishing prospect. India's approach in such arrangements need a relook as the previous one has lost its relevance now.

## West Asia – Significance

The Hindu  
https://www.thehindu.com › Business › Economy

Crucial dependence: West Asia's share in Indian oil ...

3 days ago — Latest government data shows India imported nearly 91% of its crude oil requirement in February 2026, a historic high. Of this, more than half ... [Read more](#)

### 1. Strategic & Geoeconomic Significance

- 50 - 55 % of India's crude oil imports
- ~45% of India's LNG imports
- Trade - \$180 billion

### 2. Diaspora & Remittances

- ~9 million Indians
- Over 55% remittances

### 3. Connectivity

- Critical sea lanes: **Hormuz Strait, Bab-el-Mandeb**
- Projects: **IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe Corridor)**, Chabahar Port (Iran),

### 4. Security

- Counter-terrorism cooperation
- Energy security = national security
- Stability of region directly impacts India

## Jaishankar leads India's energy outreach to Gulf countries, Puri in Qatar

Shubhajit Roy & Sukalp Sharma  
New Delhi, April 9

**E.** EXPLAINED

AS PAKISTAN prepares to host peace talks between the US and Iran in Islamabad, Delhi has begun reaching out to key partners in the region — from Oman to the UAE, Saudi Arabia to Qatar — on the question of reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

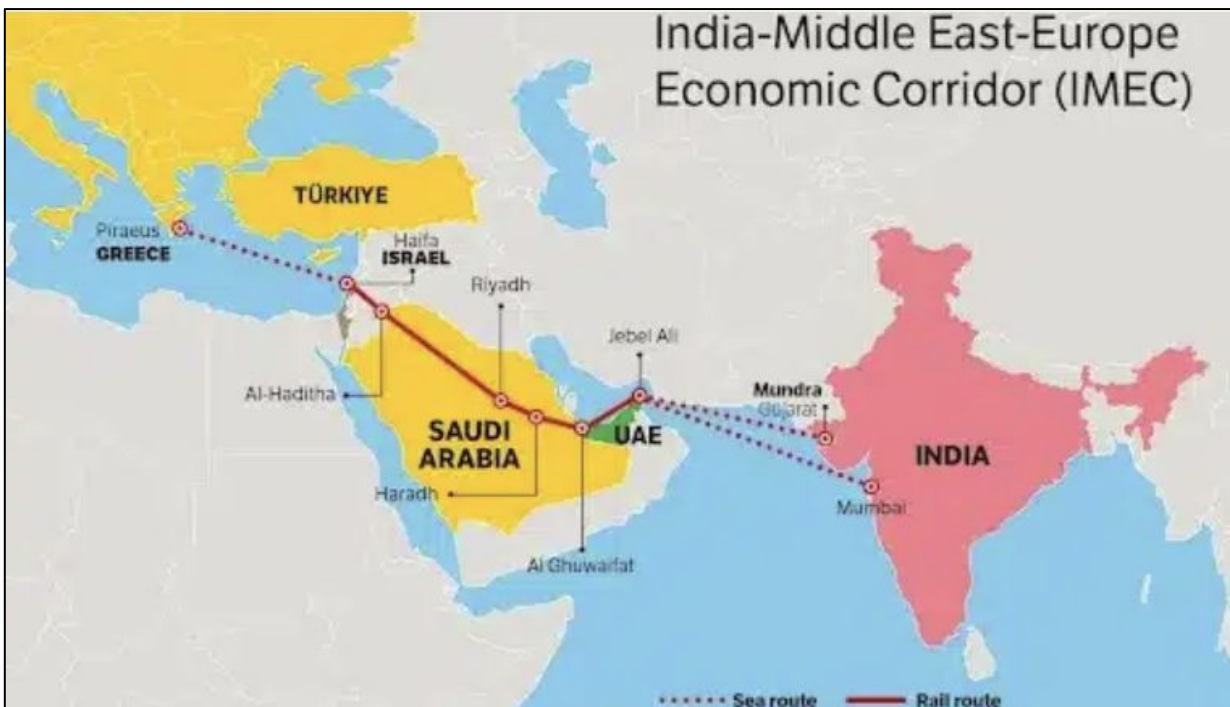
This comes at a time when the truce with Iran, which has been holding since its announcement early Wednesday, appears very fragile given Israel's

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### Reopening the Strait key

India has been working with different partners and Iran on reopening the Strait of Hormuz, the key channel through which 20 per cent of the global energy supply passes in large carriers. Qatar, UAE, Kuwait have all been hit by the closure of the Strait, and this has impacted India's energy imports.

## India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)



# West Asia and Strategic space for India



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## West Asia – Changing landscape

### 1. Decline of US dominance

- Failure to protect Gulf partners
- Loss of credibility (no NATO backing)

### 2. Rise of alternative powers

- **China:** silent stabiliser, diplomatic gains
- **Russia:** secondary but relevant
- **Pakistan:** emerging as intermediary → geopolitical relevance

### 3. Fragmentation of alliances

- Weakening of “collective West”
- Gulf countries reconsidering security dependence on US

### 1. Defence Diplomacy Expansion

- Gulf countries diversifying partners
- India can emerge as **trusted security partner**

### 2. Reconstruction Diplomacy

- Post-war rebuilding → opportunity for Indian companies
- Infrastructure, energy, services sectors

### 3. Strategic Autonomy Space Expands

- Decline of US dominance → room for India's independent policy

### 4. Re-engagement with Iran

- Revive: Chabahar Port

### 1. Energy Security Risks

- Supply disruptions

### 2. Strategic Marginalisation

- Pakistan emerging as mediator
- China's Role and influence

### 3. Balancing Act (Strategic Autonomy under stress)

- Israel vs Iran vs Other gulf countries
- Multi-alignment / De-hyphenation difficult

### 4. Connectivity Projects at Risk

- IMEC viability uncertain
- Chabahar

### 5. Security Architecture Flux

- Uncertainty Risk of regional instability, proxy conflicts

### 6. Two-front Diplomatic Pressure

- Western flank: West Asia crisis
- Eastern flank: China-Taiwan dynamics
- Diplomatic overstretch

### Broader Implications

#### (i) Multipolarity & Minilateralism

- Rise of Issue-based coalitions
- Flexible partnerships

#### (ii) Energy Transition Diplomacy

- Gulf diversification + Renewable push

#### (iii) Decline of Ideological Blocs

- “West vs Others” – Pragmatism dominating IR

#### (iv) Weaponisation of Interdependence

- Oil, trade routes, supply chains becoming strategic tools



**CONTEXT:** A US led and Israel centric security architecture in the region has diminishing prospect. India's approach in such arrangements need a relook as the previous one has lost its relevance now.

## Way ahead

### 1. Strategic Recalibration

- Balance ties with Israel, Iran, Gulf simultaneously
- Avoid over-tilt towards any bloc

### 2. Deepen Engagement with Iran

- Revive Chabahar
- Engage diplomatically despite US pressure

### 3. Defence & Security Cooperation

- Joint exercises, intelligence sharing with Gulf
- Maritime security role expansion

### 4. Economic Diplomacy

- Leverage reconstruction opportunities
- Strengthen trade agreements

### 5. Diaspora Protection Framework

- Evacuation readiness (like Operation Ganga, Kaveri)
- Labour agreements

### 6. Stay "Ahead of the Curve"

- Anticipate shifts in:
- US-China dynamics
- Regional alliances

## Mains Practice Question

*Q. Discuss how the evolving security architecture in West Asia after the Iran conflict can reshape India's engagement with the region. ( 250 word / 15 Mark )*



# Scholarships as a Hinge for Inclusion and Mobility

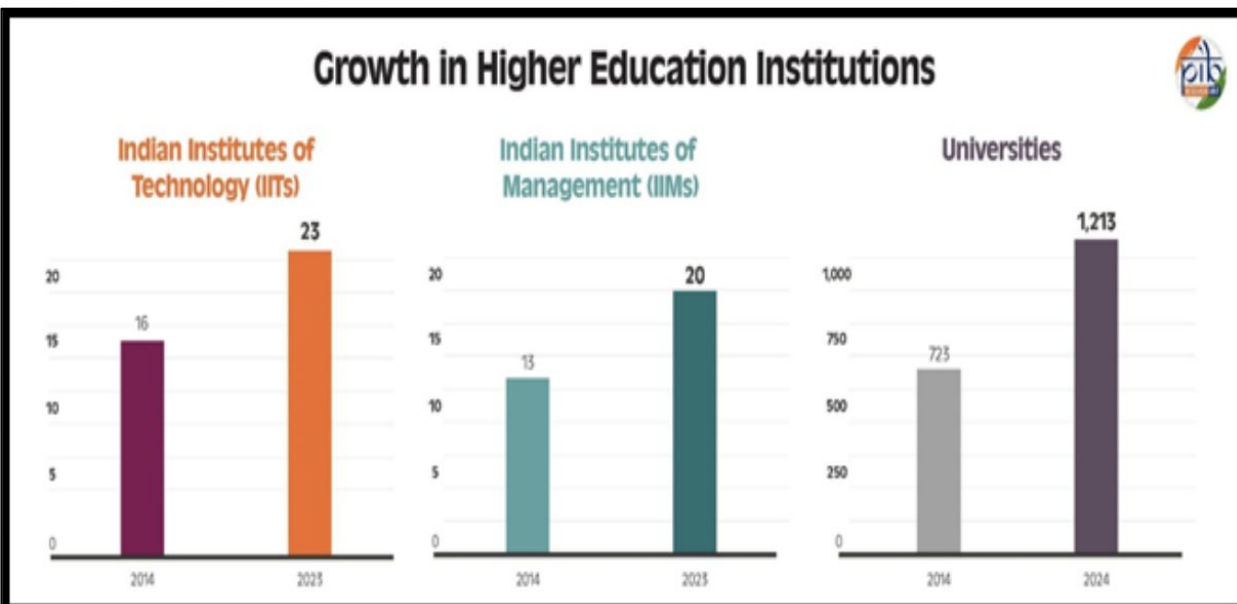
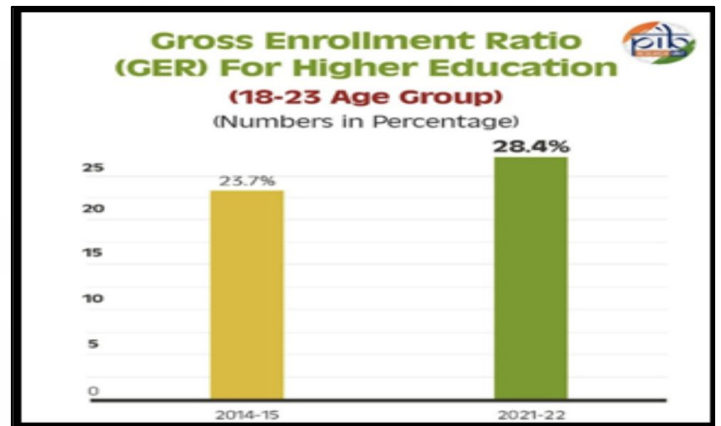


**CONTEXT:** Scholarships sit at the intersection of equity, quality, and growth. They influence who and how many enter higher education, and who persists.

## Gross enrolment ratio (GER) – Status

If India is to take its Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education to 50%, the question is not only how many institutions the country can build, but who is actually able to walk through their gates and graduate.

India has been making gradual progress to expand capacity; the number of higher educational institutions has grown from 51,534 (2014-15) to over 70,000 last year, as per the 2025-26 Economic Survey. Yet the national GER stands at 29.5 (2022-23). Such limited participation highlights that seats alone do not create students. Education transforms lives when access, affordability, and academic quality come together. For many young Indians, especially in second-and third-tier towns, the binding constraint is not aspiration; it is the cost and risk of participation. This is why scholarships cannot remain a peripheral add-on to the system. They need to be designed, and tailored as an integral and embedded pathway into higher education.



# Scholarships as a Hinge for Inclusion and Mobility



**CONTEXT:** Scholarships sit at the intersection of equity, quality, and growth. They influence who and how many enter higher education, and who persists.

## Factors behind Low GER

### 1. Access Constraints

- Regional imbalance
- Rural - urban

### 2. Affordability Issues

- High tuition + living costs
- Limited scholarships / financial aid coverage

### 3. Socio-economic Barriers

- Poverty, need for early employment
- Gender norms, caste-based exclusion
- First-generation learners lack support systems

### 4. Quality Deficit

- Poor faculty-student ratio
- Weak infrastructure, limited research ecosystem
- Low employability → reduces incentive to enrol

### 5. Low Perceived Returns

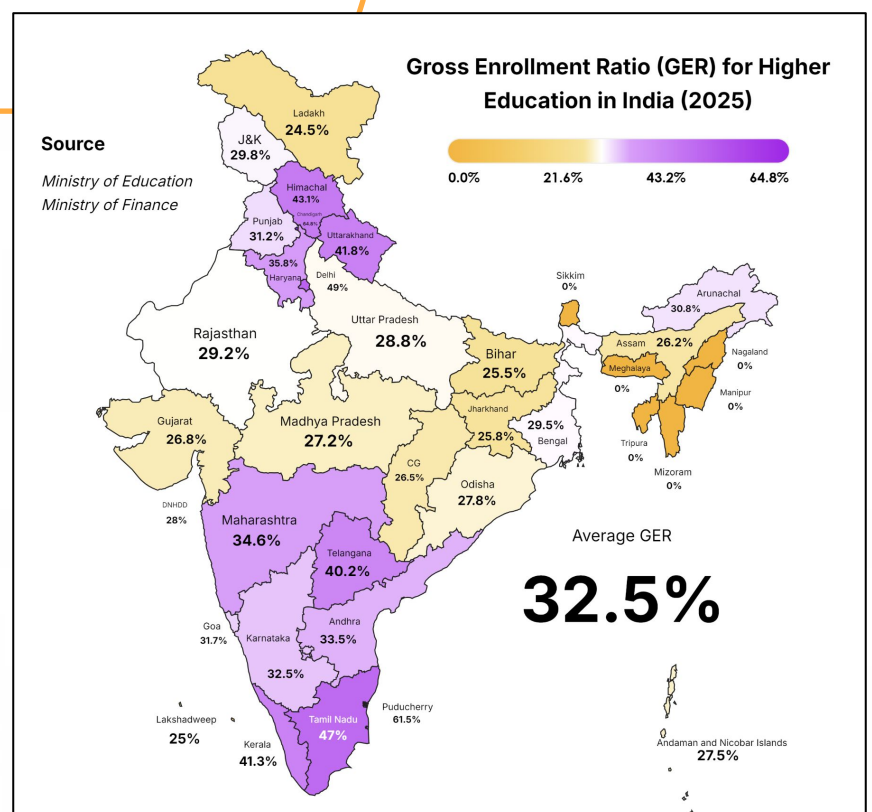
- Educated unemployment / underemployment

### 6. Lack of Awareness & Guidance

- Limited career counselling
- Students unaware of opportunities, scholarships, pathways

### 8. Systemic & Policy Gaps

- Fragmented regulation
- Limited industry-academia linkage



# Scholarships as a Hinge for Inclusion and Mobility



**CONTEXT:** Scholarships sit at the intersection of equity, quality, and growth. They influence who and how many enter higher education, and who persists.

## Scholarship as a hinge

### Well-designed scholarships

**(A) Reduce Cost Barrier** - Direct financial support → increases enrolment

**(B) Reduce Risk & Uncertainty**

- Multi-year support → stability
- Encourages long-term planning

**(C) Enable Academic Fulfilment**

- Mentorship
- Research exposure
- Academic networks

**(D) Individual Enhancement**

- Leadership training
- Exposure
- Career guidance

**(E) Build Academic Ecosystem**

- Peer networks
- Diversity in classrooms
- Stronger institutional culture

ministries, departments and regulatory bodies. One such programme is the Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students that provides up to 82,000 scholarships each year across undergraduate, postgraduate, and professional courses. Alongside this, corporate foundations, trusts, and non-profits have also created well-known programmes, often focused on merit-cum-means in fields such as engineering and management.

While this is meaningful progress, most scholarships are limited in number, and are still treated as financial plug-ins. The deeper question is whether scholarships can become a pathway which students actively opt into not only for financial reasons, but also for academic community and mentorship.

Dimension	Key Measures	Objective / Impact
Scholarships as Pathways	Integrate into institutional design; not post-admission add-ons	Shift from schemes to ecosystem-based support
Multi-year & Predictable Support	Long-term funding commitment	Reduce uncertainty; improve retention
Region-based Targeting	Focus on low GER states & Aspirational districts	Improve inclusion and regional equity
Link with National Priorities	Scholarships in AI, healthcare, manufacturing	Align education with economic needs & employability
Public-Private Partnership	Promote corporate philanthropy & endowment funds	Mobilise sustainable funding
Performance-linked Incentives	Reward institutions for inclusion & outcomes	Improve quality and accountability
Strengthen Platforms	Improve National Scholarship Portal (awareness, access, transparency)	Enhance efficiency and reach



# Scholarships as a Hinge for Inclusion and Mobility



**CONTEXT:** Scholarships sit at the intersection of equity, quality, and growth. They influence who and how many enter higher education, and who persists.

## Way Forward

### 1. Expand Equitable Access

- Establish institutions in **underserved regions (Aspirational districts)**
- Promote **digital & distance learning** (online degrees, SWAYAM)

### 2. Strengthen Affordability Mechanisms

- Improve **education loan access with interest subvention**

### 3. Improve Quality of Institutions

- Faculty development, research funding
- Industry-linked curriculum
- Outcome-based accreditation

### 4. Enhance Employability

- Skill integration (vocational + degree)
- Apprenticeships, internships
- Align courses with **market demand (AI, healthcare, manufacturing)**

### 5. Career Awareness & Guidance

- Institutionalise **career counselling** in schools & colleges
- Awareness of scholarships, courses, career paths

### 6. Targeted Inclusion

- Women
- SC/ST/OBC
- Rural & first-generation learners

### 7. Policy & Governance Reforms

- Promote multidisciplinary universities
- Simplify regulatory framework

## Mains Practice Question

*Q. "India's low Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education reflects deeper structural constraints beyond capacity expansion." Examine. (15 Marks / 250 Words)*



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Polity**

**Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 14**

**Anagha Jayakumar**  
New Delhi, April 9

ELECTIONS TO the Legislative Assemblies of Kerala and Assam, and the Union Territory (UT) of Puducherry, commenced Thursday. UTs are governed under Part VIII of the Constitution, which entrusts their administration to the Indian President, via appointed administrators.

Thus, most UTs, including Chandigarh, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and the island territories of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep, have no elected legislature, and are governed by administrators.

Puducherry, however, is one of three UTs to have its own Legislative Assembly and a chief minister.

### Puducherry

The passage of the Government of Union Territories Act 1963 constituted Puducherry as a UT and provided it with a legislature. The Treaty of Cession, which established the de jure, or formal, legal transfer of the territories of Puducherry (earlier Pondicherry), Yanam, Mahe and Karaikal from France to

India, was signed in May 1956. In practice, India enjoyed de facto or administrative control of Puducherry since November 1954. However, this treaty was not legally ratified until August 1962.

The administrative distinction of providing Puducherry with a legislature reflected India's commitment to the Treaty while continuing the French practice of maintaining Puducherry's representative assembly. This special status is enshrined in Article 239A, which provides for local legislatures and a council of ministers in Puducherry.

The President also has the power to nominate members to the Puducherry Assembly, a provision that has had political implications in the past.

### Delhi

Delhi was elevated to the status of National Capital Territory (NCT) under the Constitution (69th Amendment) Act, 1991, effective from 1992. The Act introduced Article 239AA, which provides for a Legislative Assembly, with the power to make laws on subjects in the State and Concurrent Lists, barring public order, police and land.

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Puducherry's legislature, meanwhile, enjoys a relatively broad scope of powers, with no such subject restrictions. However, it is subject to parliamentary scrutiny: Article 246(4) empowers Parliament to legislate on any subject for any Union Territory, regardless of whether it falls under the State or Concurrent List. Thus, if a conflict arises between a law passed by the Puducherry Legislative Assembly and the Parliament,

<sup>3</sup>\*[239A. Creation of local Legislatures or Council of Ministers or both for certain Union territories.—(1) Parliament may by law create <sup>4</sup>[for the Union territory of <sup>5</sup>[Puducherry]]—

(a) a body, whether elected or partly nominated and partly elected, to function as a Legislature for the Union territory, or

(b) a Council of Ministers,

or both with such constitution, powers and functions, in each case, as may be specified in the law.

(2) Any such law as is referred to in clause (1) shall not be deemed to be an amendment of this Constitution for the purposes of article 368 notwithstanding that it contains any provision which amends or has the effect of amending this Constitution.]

(3) (a) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Legislative Assembly shall have power to make laws for the whole or any part of the National Capital Territory with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State List or in the Concurrent List in so far as any such matter is applicable to Union territories except matters with respect to Entries 1, 2 and 18 of the State List and Entries 64, 65 and 66 of that List in so far as they relate to the said Entries 1, 2 and 18.



## SYLLABUS: Prelims: Polity

Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 14

The distribution of powers between the elected government in Delhi and the LG is explicitly laid out in Article 239AA, while Puducherry operates under Article 239A and the 1963 Union Territories Act, which does not clearly delineate the L-G's discretionary powers. This issue was clarified by the Supreme Court in *K Lakshminarayanan v. Union of India (2019)*, which held that the Puducherry L-G is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, and cannot operate as an independent authority in routine administration. The LG may intervene only under exceptional circumstances when a matter is referred to the President due to a difference of opinion.

the parliamentary law will prevail.

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Article 240 of the Constitution empowers the President to make regulations for certain UTs, including Puducherry. In practice, this provision is exercised when the legislature is not functional, for instance, when the Assembly is dissolved or suspended. However, if the NCT administration cannot be carried out according to constitutional provisions, Article 239AB would be invoked, allowing the President

to suspend Article 239AA and impose President's rule.

### Jammu & Kashmir

In 2019, Article 370 of the Constitution, which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir, was abrogated. In its place came the 2019 Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, which bifurcated J&K into two UTs: Jammu & Kashmir, with a legislature, and Ladakh, without one.

In practice, the J&K UT enjoys significantly less legislative autonomy compared to Puducherry. Section 32 of the Act allows the J&K Assembly to legislate on subjects in the State list, barring public order and police, which remain under the L-G's control.

The L-G also has discretionary authority over subjects beyond the Assembly's legislative purview, including the bureaucracy and the All India Services. Moreover, Section 36 mandates that the L-G recommend in advance any Bill involving financial obligations before it can be introduced in the Assembly. This gives the L-G exceptional control over day-to-day financial business, far beyond what applies in Delhi or Puducherry.

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# Bauxite in India

**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Ores and Minerals**  
**Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 14**



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The residents, however, alleged that the Gram Sabhas were conducted fraudulently and their signatures were forged. They have held protests against the project over concerns that it would endanger their livelihoods.

Vedanta, meanwhile, says it has received Stage-1 forest clearance from the Union government and is targeting commissioning the project next year. Stage-1 clearance is a conditional approval, where the company must comply with compensatory afforestation, deposit funds for diversion of forest land, etc.

### ODISHA IS A TOP BAUXITE PRODUCER

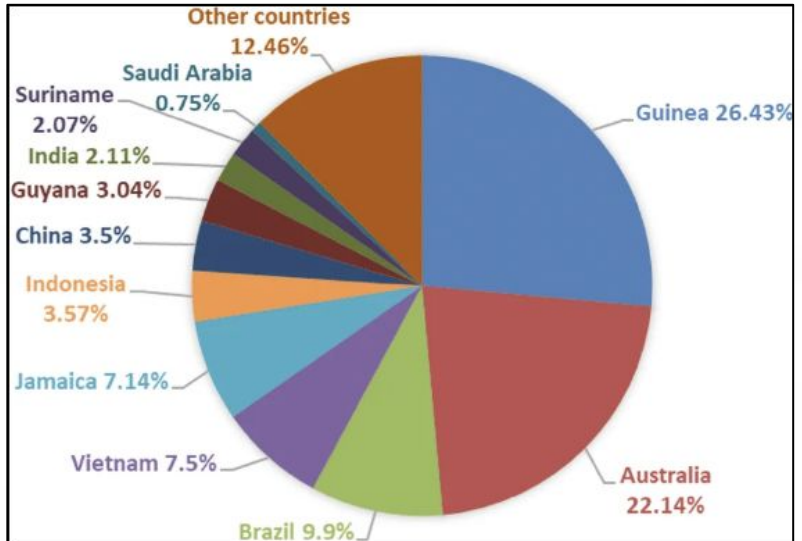
- Odisha accounts for 41% of India's bauxite resources
- Alumina is refined from bauxite ore and used to produce aluminium, which is instrumental in making everything from soda cans to aircraft

### Significance of Odisha's deposits

Sijimali is part of the Eastern Ghats hill ranges and is interspersed with valleys. The bauxite reserve, spread over 1,500 hectares, covers Rayagada and Kalahandi districts. With an estimated reserve of 311 million tonnes of high-grade bauxite, Sijimali is located close to Vedanta's alumina refinery at Lanjigarh in Kalahandi district.

Alumina is refined from bauxite ore and used to produce aluminium, which is instrumental in making everything from soda cans to aircraft. Aluminium's strength, lightness and conductivity allow for a multiplicity of uses. It is also the most abundant metal in the Earth's crust, and the third most common element, after oxygen and silicon.

According to the Indian Bureau of Mines' 2022 Yearbook, Odisha alone accounts for 41% of India's bauxite resources, and was the leading producer in 2021-22, comprising about 73% of the total production. Beyond bauxite, Odisha has some of the richest mineral deposits in the country, including high-grade iron ore, coal, nickel, gemstones and graphite, together accounting for nearly 17% of India's total mineral reserves.



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Ores and Minerals**  
**Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 14**

State	Bauxite Resources	Major Districts / Belts
Odisha	41%	Koraput, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Sundargarh
Chhattisgarh	20%	Surguja, Korba, Kanker, Kawardha
Andhra Pradesh	12%	Visakhapatnam (Araku hills), East Godavari
Gujarat	8%	Kutch, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Bhavnagar
Jharkhand	6%	Lohardaga, Gumla, Latehar
Maharashtra	5%	Kolhapur, Ratnagiri, Satara
Madhya Pradesh	4%	Katni, Balaghat, Mandla



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Polity – Rural Local bodies**  
**Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 10**

AS IMPLEMENTATION of the 16th Finance Commission's recommendations begins for the five-year period — from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2031 — a closer look at past finance commissions reveals a clear and rising trend: rural local bodies (RLBs), including gram, block and district panchayats, are receiving more funds than ever before with release of grant peaking at a historic high of 94.98% during the 15th FC.

Data available with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj shows that the 15th Finance Commission's term (2020-26), which ended on March 31, also saw five states — Assam, Kerala, Mizoram, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh — receiving 100% of RLB grants allocated to them.

As the 16th Finance Commission has recommended a grant of Rs 4.35 lakh crore for rural local bodies for its award period (2026-27 to 2030-31). Of the total Rs 4.35 lakh crore, Rs 3.48 lakh crore will be basic grant, Rs 43,524 crore rural local body performance grant and Rs 43,524 crore will be state performance grant. Most of the grant will be given to gram panchayats, as per the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission. Among the states, the grant will be distributed based on projected rural population for 2026 and the total area of a state.

## ● Allocation and release of grants to RLBs

Finance Commission	Allocation of grant	Amount released	Amount released (%)
FC-10	₹4,381 cr	₹3,576 cr	81.6
FC-11	₹8,000 cr	₹6,602 cr	82.5
FC-12	₹20,000 cr	₹18,927 cr	94.6
FC-13	₹64,408 cr	₹58,257 cr	90.5
FC-14	₹2,00,292 cr	₹1,79,491 cr	91
FC-15	₹2,97,555 cr	₹2,82,632 cr	94.98



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Polity – Rural Local bodies**  
**Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 10**

## The Finance Commission

- Article 280 – Ensures fiscal federalism in India.
- Constitution: The President of India every five years.

### Composition:

- One Chairman
- Four Members with expertise in finance, economics, or public administration

**Core Function:** Recommends the sharing of net tax proceeds between the Union and States.

**Taxes Covered:** Includes Income Tax, GST, and other central taxes as examined by the Finance Commission.

**Inter-State Distribution:** Decides the criteria for distribution among states (horizontal devolution).

**Grants-in-Aid:** Recommends grants to revenue-deficient states under Article 275.

**Local Bodies:** Suggests measures to strengthen the finances of Panchayats and Municipalities.

**Fiscal Discipline:** Advises on expenditure control, debt, and fiscal reforms.

**Advisory Role:** Examines financial matters referred by the President

Criteria	15th FC (2021–26)	16th FC (2026–31)
Income Distance	45%	42.5%
Population (2011)	15%	17.5%
Demographic Performance	12.5%	10%
Area	15%	10%
Forest	10%	10%
Tax and Fiscal Efforts	2.5%	–
Contribution to GDP	–	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Report and Indices**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 1**

## India's FY 27 growth outlook cut to 6.6% from 7.2%: World Bank

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The World Bank has revised downwards India's growth outlook for 2026-27 to 6.6% from 7.2%, citing the impact of the war in West Asia on household and government consumption, as well as on industrial activity.

The India Development Update report by the World Bank said that "in the absence of the conflict", India's GDP growth was projected at 7.2%, a reflection of better-than-expected growth in 2025-26, "strong initial momentum" in the fourth quarter of that year and a "broad pro-growth reform agenda".  
"Growth is now project-

### Revised figures

India's GDP growth would have been 7.2% in absence of the war, says the report

#### OUTLOOK FOR FY27:

- Real GDP growth: **6.6% vs 7.6%** in FY26
- Inflation (Consumer Price Index): **4.9% vs 2.3%** in FY26
- Net FDI, inflow (as % of GDP): **0.6 vs 0.5** in FY26

ed at 6.6% in FY27, reflecting headwinds from the Middle East conflict – assuming an extended disruption in global energy (oil and gas) supply till end-2026," the report said.

The India Development Update report is a compa-

nion to the South Asia Economic Update 2026, which was released on April 8. That report had projected growth in South Asia to slow to 6.3% in 2026 from 7% in 2025 due to disruptions in global energy markets.

The World Bank's Acting Director for India Paul Procee noted that there are things that can be done to boost growth. "Boosting private sector-led growth will be critical to strengthening economic resilience and supporting more young people to enter the workforce," Mr. Procee said during the release of the report.

**CONTINUED ON**  
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Report Name	Focus Area / Theme
World Development Report (WDR)	Thematic development issues (flagship report)
Global Economic Prospects (GEP)	Global & regional economic outlook
Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report	Poverty, inequality trends
Global Financial Development Report	Financial systems & stability
Remittances & Migration Report (Migration & Development Brief)	Migration trends & remittances
Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	Trade logistics efficiency across countries
World Governance Indicators (WGI)	Governance quality (corruption, accountability, rule of law)
Global Findex Database	Financial inclusion (banking access)
Global Investment Competitiveness Report	Investment climate & FDI trends
Women, Business and the Law	Legal barriers to women's economic participation



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Culture - Festivals**  
**Newspaper : The Hindi, Page No : 3**

**Origin** - The Sanskrit word “Kumbh” means pitcher or pot

**Significance of the Rivers**

The festivals occur on the banks of sacred rivers:

- Haridwar: Ganga
- Prayagraj: Confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and mythical Saraswati
- Ujjain: Kshipra (believed to emerge from Vishnu’s heart in his Varah avatar)
- Nashik-Trimbakeshwar: Godavari (known as the Ganga of the south)

Type	Frequency	Locations	Significance
Kumbh Mela	Every 4 years	Rotates among the four sacred sites	Frequent gathering for spiritual purification.
Ardh Kumbh Mela	Every 6 years	Haridwar and Prayagraj	A smaller-scale event between Purna Kumbh Melas.
Purna Kumbh Mela	Every 12 years	All four sacred sites (Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik, Ujjain)	Major event with millions for sacred rituals.
Maha Kumbh Mela	Once every 144 years (after 12 Purna Kumbh Melas)	Exclusively at Prayagraj	The rarest and most spiritually significant gathering.



**Q1. With reference to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, consider the following statements:**

1. The J&K Legislative Assembly can legislate on all subjects in the State List without any exception.
2. The Lieutenant Governor has discretionary authority over subjects beyond the Assembly's legislative purview, including bureaucracy and All India Services.
3. Any Bill involving financial obligations requires prior recommendation of the Lieutenant Governor before introduction in the Assembly.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Q2. Arrange the following states in descending order of their share in India's bauxite resources:**

1. Maharashtra
2. Odisha
3. Andhra Pradesh
4. Chhattisgarh

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below.**

- a) 2 > 4 > 3 > 1
- b) 2 > 3 > 4 > 1
- c) 4 > 2 > 3 > 1
- d) 2 > 4 > 1 > 3

**Answer: a**

**Q3. With reference to the Finance Commission of India, consider the following statements:**

1. It consists of a Chairman and four members with expertise in finance, economics or public administration.
2. It recommends the sharing of net tax proceeds between the Union and States.
3. It recommends grants-in-aid to revenue-deficient states under Article 275.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Q4. Global Financial Development Report, Logistics Performance Index, and Global Investment Competitiveness Report are published by:**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) World Bank
- d) None of the above

**Answer: c**

**Q5. With reference to Kumbh Mela, consider the following statements:**

1. Ardh Kumbh Mela is held every 6 years at Haridwar and Prayagraj.
2. Purna Kumbh Mela is held every 12 years at four locations—Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain.
3. Maha Kumbh Mela is held every 144 years exclusively at Haridwar.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: a**





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