



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**17th April 2026**



# India's Rural models shaping development diplomacy



**CONTEXT:** The lead editorial highlights that how development achieved under National Rural Livelihood Mission has shaped South - South Cooperation by circulating Institutional practices .

## Mains Heading 1 : Snapshot on India's Rural Economy :

Economic Survey 2026 :

### Context of News :

**W**hen India launched the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in 2011, under the Ministry of Rural Development, it did so with an ambitious objective: to tackle multidimensional poverty by enabling rural households to access gainful employment and sustainable livelihoods through self-employment, financial inclusion, and learning new skills.

<b>65-66%</b> (~90 crore) people live in Rural India	<b>55-60%</b> Rural population engaged in Agriculture	<b>15%</b> workforce in Rural India engaged in Agriculture	<b>World Bank :</b> 5.3% population faces Extreme Poverty
<b>Two - Third of India's poor reside in Rural Areas</b>	<b>60-70%</b> Rural population earns less than ₹1 Lakh per annum	<b>NABARD :</b> Average monthly income : ₹10,218	<b>Rural Unemploye nt Rate :</b> <b>4.2%</b> (PLFS 2026)

## Mains Heading 1 : Snapshot on India's Rural Economy :

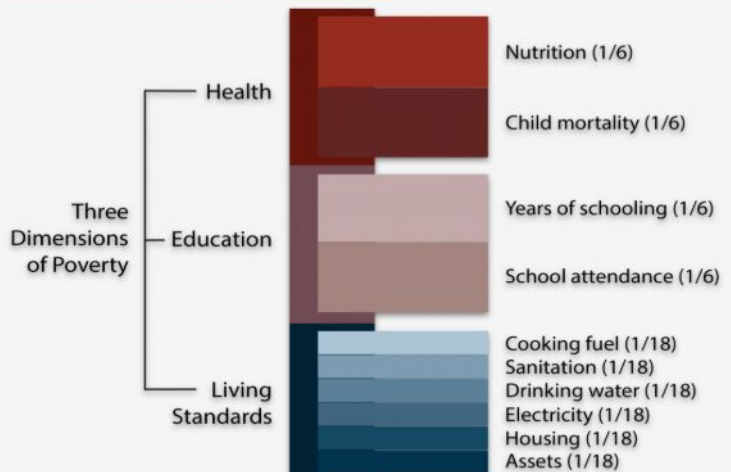
MDPI 2023 released by UNDP

Poverty based on 3 categories

2023 - **18%** population :  
230 million people

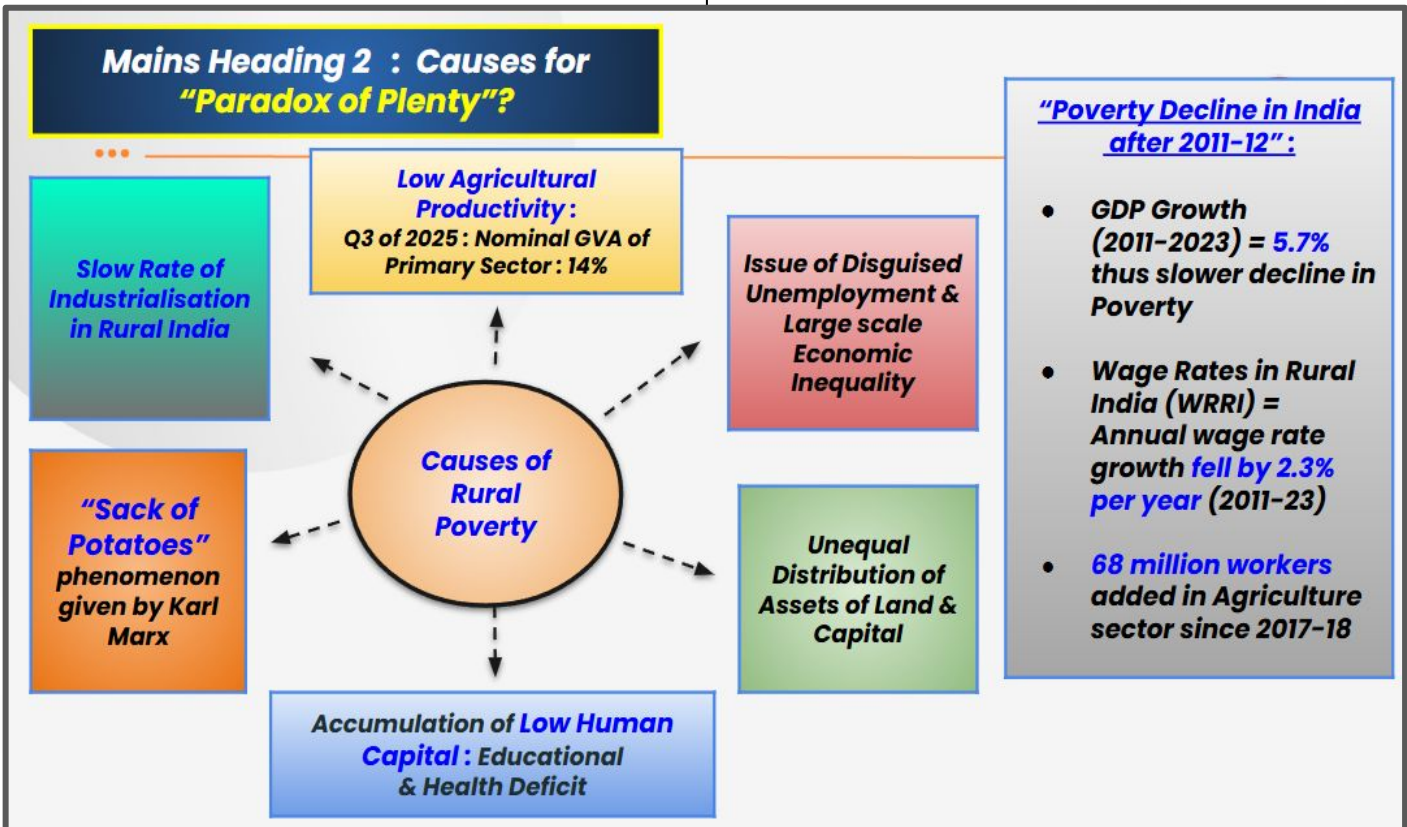
Declined sharply from **55%** in 2005-06

Rural Poverty Rate declined from  
26% (2011) to **15%** in 2023



**CONTEXT:** The lead editorial highlights that how development achieved under National Rural Livelihood Mission has shaped South - South Cooperation by circulating Institutional practices .

## Mains Heading 2 : Causes for "Paradox of Plenty"?



## Mains Heading 2 : Causes for "Paradox of Plenty"?

### India Skills Report 2024

- 21% youth (15-29 years) received Vocational Training
- Formal Vocational Training: 4.4% Youth in 2022-23
- Overall Young employability: Avg 51%
- 60-70% skill gap in ML Engineer, Data Scientist etc
- Lack of AI Integration in learning

### Why Less Industrialisation?

- Poor Infrastructure: Absence of Reliable Electricity, logistics
- High Transaction Costs = High Input Cost
- Lack of Capital & Credit Access
- Unskilled or Semi-Skilled Workforce
- CMIE: Industrial sector employs 12-15% of rural workforce
- Rural Industries share in overall GDP = 25-30% of total Industrial Output

### RAPIDLY SHRINKING AGRICULTURAL LANDHOLDING

% DISTRIBUTION OF OPERATIONAL LANDHOLDINGS

Category	2005-06	2010-11	2015-16
MARGINAL	63	67	69
SMALL	34	18	18
BIGGER FARMERS	33	15	14

Source: Agriculture Census 2010-11 & 2015-16



# India's Rural models shaping development diplomacy

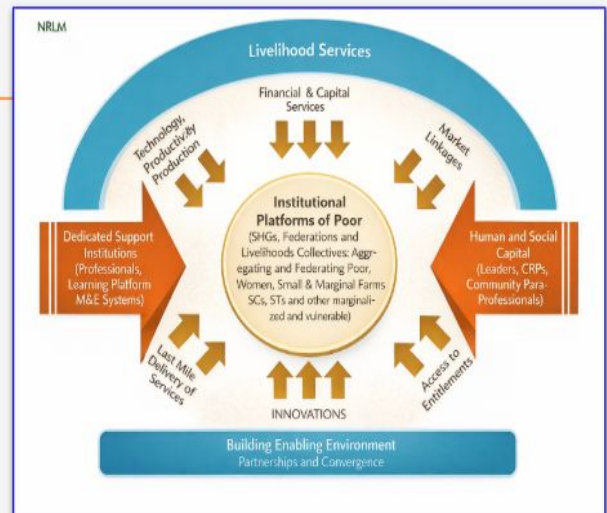


**CONTEXT:** The lead editorial highlights that how development achieved under National Rural Livelihood Mission has shaped South - South Cooperation by circulating Institutional practices .

## Mains Heading 3 : Editorial : National Rural Livelihood Mission :

### Salient Features & Achievements of NRLM :

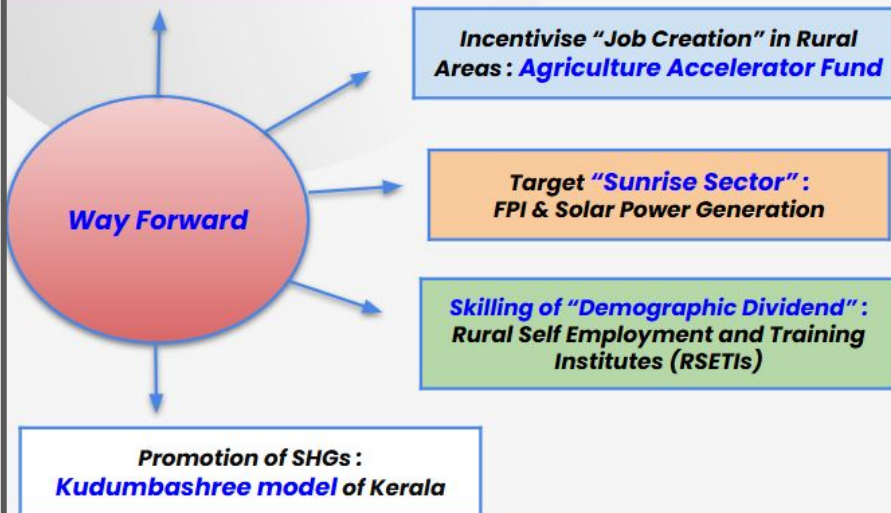
<b>Universal Social Mobilisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organising Rural poor into Self - Help Groups (SHGs)</li> <li>10 crore + women mobilised into 90+ Lakh SHGs</li> </ul>
<b>Financial Inclusion &amp; Credit Linkages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bank linkages for affordable credit</li> <li>&gt;50 million women have accessed Bank credit</li> <li>Banking correspondents present in 60% of local government</li> <li>20 million + women earn &gt;₹1,00,000 income</li> </ul>
<b>Livelihood Diversification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of Micro - Enterprises in Rural areas</li> <li>Value chain creation for &gt;1 crore farmers</li> </ul>
<b>Skill Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grameen Kaushal Yojana</li> <li>&gt; 15 Lakh youth trained</li> </ul>



## Mains Heading 3 : Editorial : National Rural Livelihood Mission :



Substantiate the Income of Farmers : Kisan Samman Nidhi



### Global Best Practises :

- Grameen Bank Model of Bangladesh : Microcredit schemes for rural women
- Township & Village Enterprises of China
- One Village One Product of Japan
- Saemaul Undong Movement of South Korea



# India's Rural models shaping development diplomacy



**CONTEXT:** The lead editorial highlights that how development achieved under National Rural Livelihood Mission has shaped South - South Cooperation by circulating Institutional practices .

## Mains Practise Question

**Practise Question :** Rural poverty in India persists *despite multiple welfare schemes*. Critically examine the structural challenges in addressing rural poverty and *suggest reforms* for effective last-mile delivery.  
(10 Marks, 150 words)



# India - Zambia talks on Critical Minerals



**CONTEXT:** The article highlights the issue of geopolitical dimension of mineral supply chains citing that how global supply networks for critical minerals are highly concentrated & increasingly subject to “export controls”

## Mains Heading 1: What is so “Critical” about these Minerals?

### Context of News :

India’s talks with Zambia over critical minerals mining have stalled amid a lack of assurances from Lusaka on mining rights, two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters. India last year received an allocation of 9,000 square kms to explore cobalt – a key component in batteries for EVs and mobile phones – as well as copper, widely used in power generation, electronics and construction. India dispatched a team of geologists last year, who have since returned with samples of minerals, including cobalt and copper. The exploration in Zambia was set to run for three years, after which New Delhi had planned to invite private sector companies to participate, subject to securing mining rights.

### Use of Critical Minerals in Key Industries :

<b>Neodymium &amp; Dysprosium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High strength magnets for motors in Drones, guidance system in missiles &amp; radars</li> </ul>
<b>Titanium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong &amp; Lightweight metal for Aircraft, Engines &amp; Armour</li> </ul>
<b>Tungsten</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Used in armour piercing projectiles due to its high density</li> </ul>
<b>Cobalt, Lithium &amp; Nickel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crucial for advanced batteries powering electronics, EVs &amp; Military hardware</li> </ul>
<b>Copper</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essential for wiring, electronics &amp; electromagnetic protection in Ships &amp; Aircrafts</li> </ul>
<b>Gallium &amp; Germanium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semiconductors for electronic warfare systems</li> </ul>

## Mains Heading 1: What is so “Critical” about these Minerals?

### Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2024 report

Lithium demand rose by 30% in 2023

Nickel, cobalt, graphite & REE : 8-15% Growth

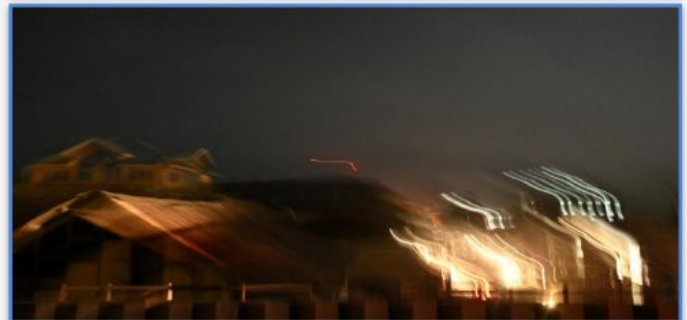
Aggregate value pegged at \$325 billion

Pillar for “Energy security” & Achieving our “National Goals”

To ensure “Security” & Sovereignty of the Country

## The essential minerals for a robust defence ecosystem

India needs to be self-sufficient in the production of critical minerals, metals, and rare earths, to increase indigenous defence production



A red trail is seen in the night sky as India’s air defence system intercepts aerial objects during a suspected drone attack from the Pakistan side. Copper, carbon fibre, aluminium, plastic, lithium-ion, and silicon go into a drone. | Photo Credit: IMRAN NISSAR

# India - Zambia talks on Critical Minerals



**CONTEXT:** The article highlights the issue of geopolitical dimension of mineral supply chains citing that how global supply networks for critical minerals are highly concentrated & increasingly subject to "export controls"

## Mains Heading 2 : Status of "Self - Sufficiency" in Critical Minerals :

### Ministry of Mines Data 2024

Number of Mines : 1319

Metallic : 545

Non - Metallic : 774

India's Mining GDP = ₹82,680 Crore

Employment = 11 Million people

### India's Global standing:

Crude Steel	2nd
Aluminium	2nd
Limestone	3rd
Iron Ore	4th
Coal	2nd

Mineral	Importance	Import Dependency
Bismuth	Pharmaceutical and chemicals	85.6%
Lithium	EV batteries and energy storage	82%
Silicon	Semiconductor & solar panels	76%
Titanium	Aerospace & defence applications	50%
Tellurium	Solar power & thermoelectric devices	42%

## Mains Heading 2 : Status of "Self - Sufficiency" in Critical Minerals :

Ministry of Mines Report 2023 : 30 essential critical minerals of which complete import dependency for 10 minerals

China : World's Largest mining Nation

Exploration investment : \$19.4 Billion

87% of Rare earth elements processing

58% of world's lithium refining

68% of Silicon processing

Inadequate exploration & tapping of Reserves : Case study of Ilmenite

Deep seated minerals : High risk investment in exploration & mining

Lack of incentive for Private sector

Case Study : Discovery of 5.9 million tonnes of Lithium Deposit in J & K

Villagers show lithium stones discovered in Reasi district, Jammu and Kashmir. | Photo Credit: PTI



# India - Zambia talks on Critical Minerals

**CONTEXT:** The article highlights the issue of geopolitical dimension of mineral supply chains citing that how global supply networks for critical minerals are highly concentrated & increasingly subject to "export controls"

## Mains Heading 2 : Status of "Self - Sufficiency" in Critical Minerals :

PRELIMS 2025 :

6. Consider the following statements :
- I. India has joined the Minerals Security Partnership as a member.
  - II. India is a resource-rich country in all the 30 critical minerals that it has identified.
  - III. The Parliament in 2023 has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 empowering the Central Government to exclusively auction mining lease and composite license for certain critical minerals.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) I and II only    (b) II and III only  
(c) I and III only    (d) I, II and III

India's reliance on China for critical minerals | Explained

'India endowed with 95 minerals, but yet to establish a footprint in critical minerals'

UPSC Examiner creating this Question :



### Issue 1 : Trade Deficit :

- July 2025 : India's Imports : \$113 Billion - India's Exports : \$14.25 Billion
- Trade Deficit : \$1.1 Billion in 2004 to \$99 billion in 2024
- China's trade deficit = 35% of India's total trade imbalance
- Why so serious?

### Issue 2 : Creation of "Critical dependence" :

- Antibiotics = 97% supply of Erythromycin
- Electronics = 86% of flat panel displays & 80% of Laptops
- Renewable Energy = 82% of solar cells & 75% of Lithium ion batteries

GTRI : "Overwhelming dominance gives Beijing potential leverage against India turning supply chains into a tool of pressure in times of political tension"

Chart 3a India depends most on Chinese imports for producing its own exports



# India - Zambia talks on Critical Minerals



**CONTEXT:** The article highlights the issue of geopolitical dimension of mineral supply chains citing that how global supply networks for critical minerals are highly concentrated & increasingly subject to “export controls”

## Pillar 3 : What has been India's Response?

## Mines & Minerals Act 2023:

### Steps taken :

**KABIL :** To secure overseas Mineral assets

**GSI + CSIR =** Promotion of Circular Economy

**PLI** for extraction of Critical Minerals

**100% FDI** under Automatic route

### National Critical Mineral Mission 2024

- Fast track regulatory approval process
- Financial incentive to private companies
- Acquire critical mineral assets abroad
- Enhance trade with resource rich countries
- Mineral processing parks
- Centre for Excellence on Critical Minerals

- Private sector = 6 out of 12 atomic minerals
- Prospective stage exploration : Allow drilling & subsurface excavation
- National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) : Funding G4-G1 explorations
- Under Single License : Explore area upto 1000 km<sup>2</sup>
- Mine Owners : Sell 50% of annual mineral including coal in open market

## Mains Practise Question

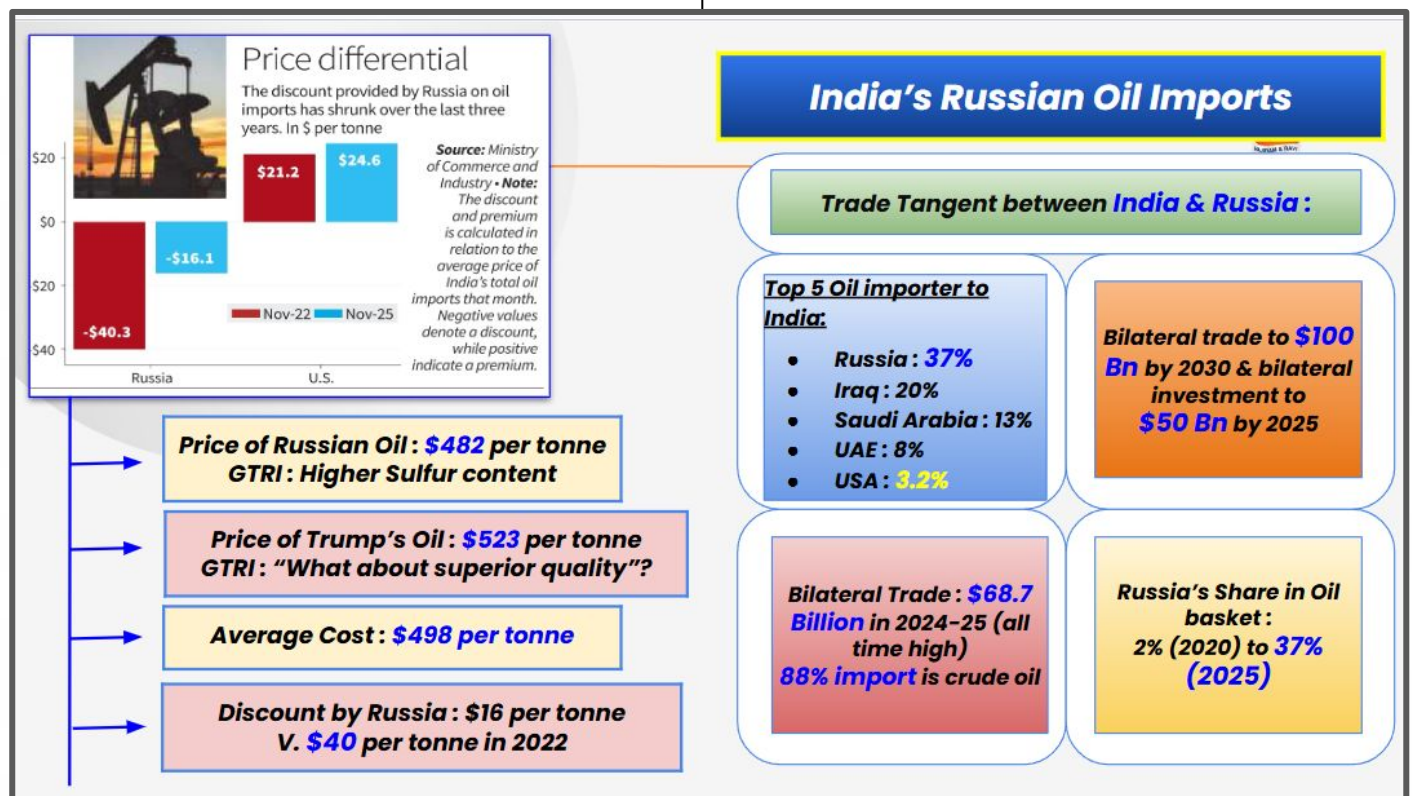
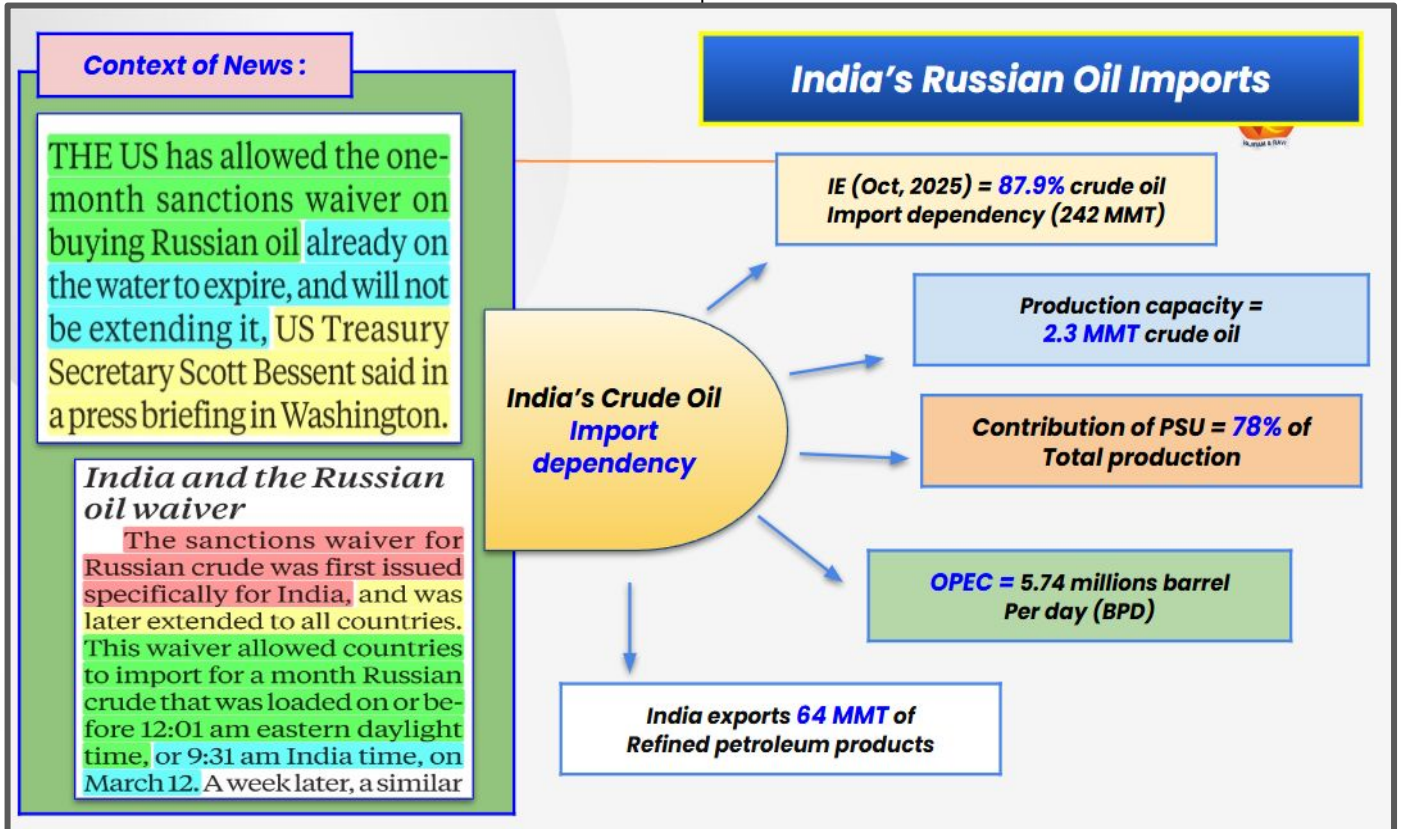
**Practise Question :** Why Critical minerals are essential for India's Energy & National Security? What are the steps taken by Government of India?  
(10 Marks, 150 words)



# India's Russian Oil Imports



**SYLLABUS: Prelims** : Issues related to Indian Economy  
**Newspaper** : The Indian Express **Page Number** : 15



**SYLLABUS: Prelims** : Issues related to indian Economy  
**Newspaper** : The Indian Express **Page Number** : 15

## Issue of "Oil" Diplomacy:

India cuts Russian oil imports by 38% in October 2025, sharpest fall so far

Russia still accounts for about 32% of India's total oil imports by value and volume

Published - December 04, 2025 03:52 pm IST

Huge trade deficit (\$61 Billion)

Overly reliant on Russia for "Energy security"

Inability of Service sector to penetrate Russia's market

USA's sanctions on Russian crude oil supply: BOP Crisis

## India's Russian Oil Imports

### Issues with "Payment Mechanism":

### Nostro Account vs. Vostro Account



#### Nostro

- "Our money on deposit at your bank"
- Account held by our bank in foreign currency at another bank

#### Vostro

- "Your money on deposit at our bank"
- Account held by a foreign bank in domestic currency at our bank

Investopedia

## India's Russian Oil Imports

### India's Energy Requirements:

IEA: Demand will double by 2047

India: 25% incremental global demand,

Current Status: 3rd largest energy consumer & 4th largest liquefied natural gas importer

Creation of "Non-Farm" jobs: CII Estimate: 133 million + people to its working age population (15-64 years)

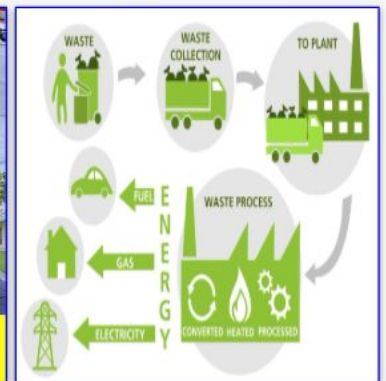
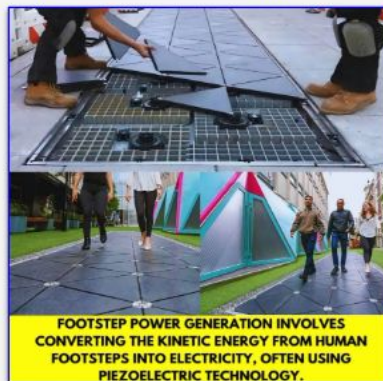
Non-fossil capacity rose from 29.5% in 2015 to 51.4% by June 2025

### Focus on Renewables

International Solar Alliance & PM - SGMBY

Increase Nuclear Power Capacity Tenfold by 2047

Green Hydrogen Mission



# Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam



**SYLLABUS: Prelims** : Government Acts and Policies  
**Newspaper** : The Indian Express **Page Number** : 13

## Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam

### Context of News :

At the heart of this reform lies the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, passed in September 2023. Far from being an afterthought, its design is deliberate. The reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies is to come into force only after a delimitation exercise. This is not a procedural inconvenience. It is a constitutional safeguard built into the law itself.

The logic flows directly from the architecture of the Constitution. Article 81 of the Constitution and Article 82 require that representation in the Lok Sabha be aligned, as far as practicable, with population. The principle of "one person, one vote, one value" is foundational. Without updated population data and a corresponding re-drawing of constituencies, any attempt to implement reservation risks distorting this.

### 1st Women Legislator

Muthulakshmi Reddy



Muthulakshmi Reddy, c. 1912

### 1st woman to run for Legislative Council

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay



## Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam



**Global Gender Gap Index 2025 :**  
**India's Rank : 131st out of 148**

**Labour force participation : 45%**

**Educational Attainment : 97% Gender Gap closed**

**Female Representation in Parliament: 14.7% to 13.8% in 2025**

**Share of Women in Ministerial roles : 6.5% to 5.6% in 2025**

### Country wise data on women representation\*

Women representation in parliament varies across different democracies



**Moving forward:** Trinamool Congress MPs take selfies at the Parliament House complex during the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha, on June 25. PTI

Country	% of elected women	Quota in Parliament	Quota in political parties
Sweden	46%	No	Yes
South Africa	45%	No	Yes
Australia	38%	No	Yes
France	38%	No	Yes
Germany	35%	No	Yes
U.K.	40%	No	Yes
U.S.	29%	No	No
Pakistan	16%	Yes	No
Bangladesh	20%	Yes	No

\*[as of September 2023]

# Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam



**SYLLABUS: Prelims** : Government Acts and Policies  
**Newspaper** : The Indian Express **Page Number** : 13

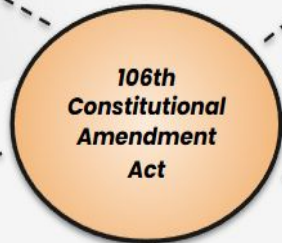
## Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam

Seats reserved will be rotated after each delimitation as determined by Parliament

Reserves 1/3rd of Seats in Lok Sabha, SLAs & UT of Delhi

Also apply to seats reserved for SC & ST Women within SC/ST Quota

Reservation provided for 15 years after Act comes into effect



In "effect" after Census conducted AFTER commencement of Bill

"Based on Census, Delimitation will be undertaken to reserve seats for Women"

81. Consider the following statements regarding 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam':

1. Provisions will come into effect from the 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha.
2. This will be in force for 15 years after becoming an Act.
3. There are provisions for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes Women within the quota reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

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



# Sabarimala Temple entry case



**SYLLABUS:** Prelims Important Judgements & Indian Polity  
**Newspaper :** The Hindu **Page Number :** Text and Context

## Sabarimala Temple entry case

### Context of News :

#### The story so far:

A nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court (SC), led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, is currently hearing petitions relating to discrimination against women at religious places, examining the correctness and broader constitutional implications of its 2018 ruling in *Indian Young Lawyers' Association vs. State of Kerala* on women's entry into the Sabarimala Temple in Kerala.

Sept 28, 2018 : SC struck down the age based restriction declaring Rule 3(b) of Kerala **Hindu Places of Public Worship Rules 1965** which permitted "Religious Denominations" to exclude women from public places of Worship on ground of "Custom"

**Article 25-28 :**  
Right to Freedom of Religion

**Article 25 :**  
Freedom of Conscience

**Article 26 :** Protects the autonomy of Religious denominations to manage their own affairs

Both Rights are subject to "Public Order", "Morality" & "Health"

Article 25 permits State to : Regulate any economic, political or Secular activity

State can provide for "Social Welfare & Reform" & throw open Hindu Religious Institutions to all classes & sections of Hindus

## Sabarimala Temple entry case

### Important "Judgements" of Supreme Court :

<b>Shirur Mutt Case 1954</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Religion includes <b>practises "essential" to faith</b> while distinguishing them from "Secular activities"</li> <li>Courts shall assess with <b>religious texts &amp; tenets</b> whether practise is integral to faith</li> <li>"<b>Three - Part</b>" Test for Denomination : Common Faith + Common Organisation + Designation by Distinct Name</li> </ul>
<b>Acharya Jagdishwarananda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Courts shall maintain Balance between "<b>Religious Autonomy</b>" with "Constitutional Accountability"</li> </ul>
<b>Adi Saiva Sivachariyargal 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Even if there is proof of certain practices being followed since "Pre - Constitutional" times, it can not afford protection under Article 25 if it is <b>NOT essential to core function of religion</b></li> </ul>

### Government's Arguments :

- Constitutional Morality** is "inherently subjective" & NOT independent ground of Judicial Review
- Article 25 (2)** : Power of "Social Reform" lies with the State & NOT courts
- Courts retain authority to intervene where Religious practices offend **public order, health & morality**
- Limited scope of "**Transformative Constitutionalism**" by courts
- Judiciary is ill-equipped to determine ERP as Constitution leaves question of ERP to "faith itself"



# 180 more products under CBAM



**SYLLABUS:** Prelims : Economy  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number:** 15

## 180 more products under CBAM

### Context of News:

The European Union (EU) is planning to include 180 more products under the scope of its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

(CBAM) from January 2028, a move that could increase carbon tax costs on Indian-manufactured exports to Europe.

The European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Climate and

Food Safety has recommended the expansion of the scope of CBAM.

### Sectors covered under CBAM

Steel  
 Aluminium  
 Cement  
 Fertiliser  
 Electricity  
 Hydrogen

### Impact of CBAM on Indian Industries

EU: 22% of India's total merchandise Exports

25% of total export products to EU Fall under CBAM bracket

FY 2025: 24% decline in Steel & Aluminium export

One tonne of steel using Coal based BF - BOF route = 2.4 tonne of CO2

Margin Loss on Profit: 16-22%

### CBAM

### How does CBAM works?

- European Companies = Pay for CO2 emission under ETS
- CBAM = Imposes similar cost on Foreign producers
- Calculation = £80 per tonne of CO2 - Carbon tax paid at home
- India = No nationwide Carbon tax = Pay full CBAM
- EU Buyers = Demand lower price to cover CBAM Cost
- Indian seller = Earn Less + Tougher contracts + lose bargaining power

Move carbon intensive production

Imports CO2 Intense steel back to EU

Tata: Less stringent Climate Policy

India: No Nationwide Carbon Tax

Carbon Certificates: Paid by Importer charged on Non - EU Exporter

Steel: Create Ships

Steel production = Generates CO2

Fit for 55 Pledge

- ❑ Cut down CO2 Emission by 55% by 2030
- ❑ From 1990 CO2 Emission level
- ❑ PARIS Agreement 2015



# First ever assessment of Bat Conservation



**SYLLABUS : Prelims :** Flora & Fauna

**Newspaper :** The Indian Express **Page Number :** 02

## First ever assessment of Bat Conservation

### Context of News :

THE BAT species in India, around 135, are facing neglect due to lack of research and are also under threat from urbanisation, deforestation, land-use changes and climate impacts, the first-ever national assessment (State of India's Bats, 2024-25) has reported.

Pieced together by a team of 36 bat experts from 27 institutions over two years, and based on review of existing scientific literature, the report has painted a sobering status of the flying mammals, calling for urgent research on their habitats, hotspots, ecology, diet, and the disease risk they pose.

### State of India's Bats 2024-25 : Nature Conservation Foundation

India is home to **135** Bat species belonging to **9** families

**16** species are "Endemic" to India

Highest Number of Bat Species : **WB (68)** > Meghalaya (66)

2nd largest Cave Structure in India : **Krem Liat Prah** in Meghalaya

**Indian Flying Fox** : Near Threatened : Listed in Schedule 2 of WPA 1972

## First ever assessment of Bat Conservation

1: Bats are useless animals

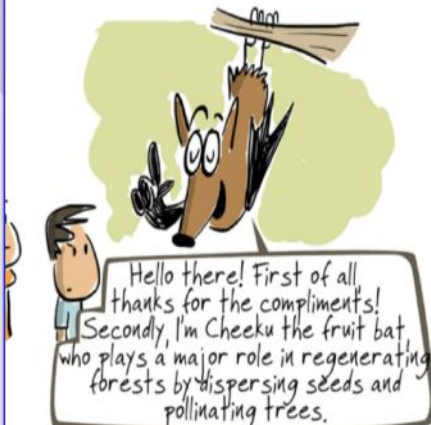


Illustration: Rohan Chakravarty

20. Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

The Indian Flying Fox is placed under the "vermin" category in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Statement-II :

The Indian Flying Fox feeds on the blood of other animals.

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 explains Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does **not** explain Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Flora & Fauna

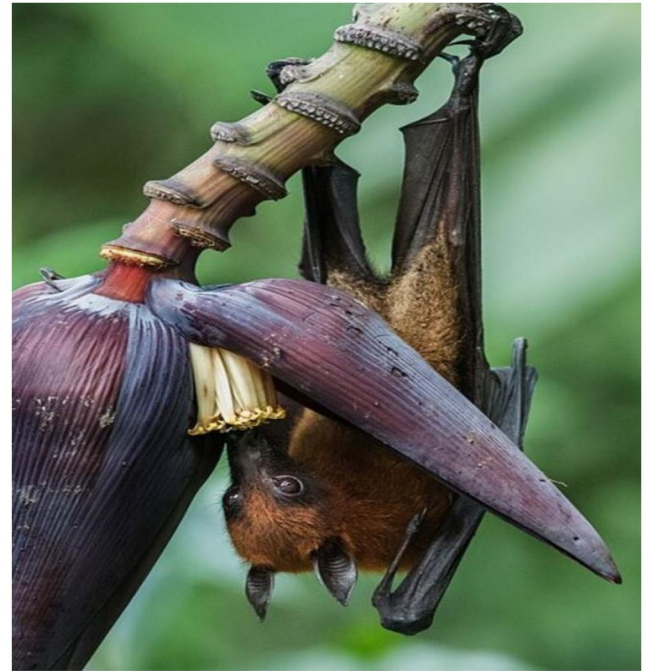
**Newspaper:** The Indian Express **Page Number:** 02

## First ever assessment of Bat Conservation

Indian flying fox



In Keoladeo National Park, India



Drinking nectar

IUCN Red List Assessment	Species	Common Name
Data Deficient	<i>Cnephaeus (formerly Eptesicus) tatei</i> <sup>[5]</sup>	Sombre Bat
	<i>Harpicola grisea</i> <sup>[6]</sup>	Peters's Tube-nosed Bat
	<i>Hipposideros khasiana</i> <sup>[7]</sup>	Khasian Leaf-nosed bat
	<i>Murina pluvialis</i> <sup>[8]</sup>	Rainforest Tube-nosed Bat
	<i>Myotis peytoni</i> <sup>[9]</sup>	Peyton's Whiskered Myotis
	<i>Rhinolophus indorouxii</i> <sup>[10]</sup>	None known
	<i>Rhinolophus mitratus</i> <sup>[11]</sup>	Mitred Horseshoe Bat
Vulnerable	<i>Hipposideros durgadasi</i> <sup>[12]</sup>	Durga Das's Leaf-nosed Bat
Endangered	<i>Hipposideros nicobarulae</i> <sup>[13]</sup>	Nicobar Leaf-nosed Bat
	<i>Hipposideros pomona</i> <sup>[14]</sup>	Pomona Leaf-nosed Bat
	<i>Latidens salimalii</i> <sup>[15]</sup>	Salim Ali's Fruit Bat
	<i>Pteropus faunulus</i> <sup>[16]</sup>	Nicobar Flying Fox
	<i>Rhinolophus cognatus</i> <sup>[17]</sup>	Andaman Horseshoe Bat
Critically Endangered	<i>Hipposideros hypophyllus</i> <sup>[18]</sup>	Kolar Leaf-nosed Bat



**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Nostro and Vostro Accounts:**

1. A Nostro account refers to an account maintained by a bank in a foreign country in that country's currency.
2. A Vostro account is maintained by a foreign bank in domestic currency in an Indian bank.
3. A Nostro account is described as "your money in our bank."

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding India in the Global Gender Gap Index 2025:**

1. India is ranked 131st out of 148 countries.
2. India has achieved complete gender parity in educational attainment.
3. Female labour force participation in India stands at around 45%.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding fundamental rights:**

1. Article 25 guarantees freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion.
2. Article 26 grants religious denominations the right to manage their own affairs in matters of religion.
3. Both rights are absolute and cannot be restricted by the State.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Q4. Which of the following sectors are included in the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)?**

1. Steel
2. Aluminium
3. Textiles
4. Cement
5. Hydrogen

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

- a) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- b) 1, 3 and 5 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Answer: a**

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding bat distribution in India:**

1. India is home to 135 Bat species belonging to 9 families.
2. West Bengal has the highest number of bat species.

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

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

**Answer: c**





# **VAJIRAM & RAVI**

## **Institute for IAS Examination**

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

---

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

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

Visit us at : [www.vajiramandravi.com](http://www.vajiramandravi.com)