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CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

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Extreme Rainfall Events

CONTEXT: Over the last decade, India has seen a major rainfall-related disaster every single year, regardless of the overall seasonal rainfall total.

Extreme Rainfall — Data, Trends & Definitions

2025 IMD Forecast (Key Article Fact): India as a whole expected to receive only 92% of normal rainfall in 2025 monsoon season — placing it in the "Below Normal" category. However, IMD also cautioned this overall figure masks dangerous *intra-seasonal* and *regional* variations.

IMD's Rainfall Classification System

Category	Rainfall as % of Long Period Average (LPA)
Normal	96% - 104%
Above Normal	105% - 110%
Excess	>110%
Below Normal	90% - 95%
Deficient	<90%

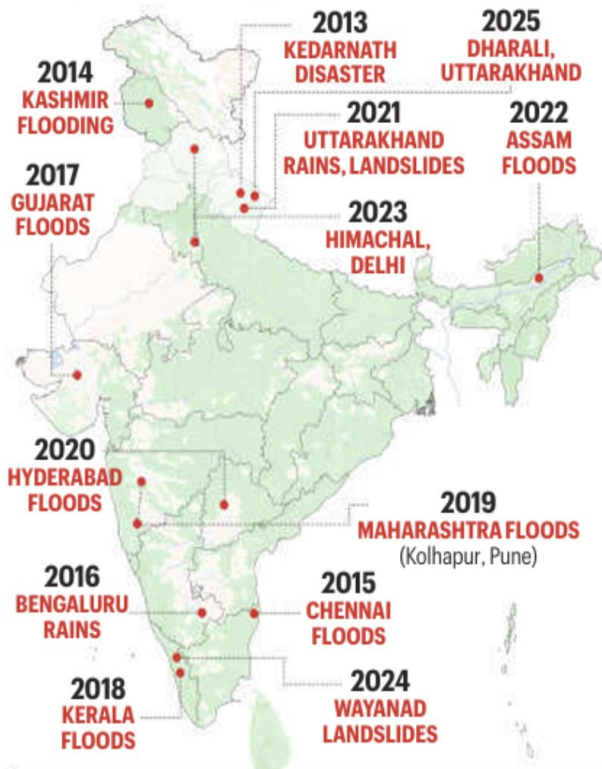
★ LPA (Long Period Average) = Average rainfall of 50 years (1971-2020), set at 87 cm for the country as a whole.

Variations

- **Intra-seasonal** variation
- **Regional** variation

This is why a below-normal overall forecast is NOT an indicator of reduced extreme rainfall events.

Major rainfall-triggered disasters



Extreme heavy rainfall events

Year	Extremely Heavy Rainfall Incidents (>21 cm in 24-hour period)	Number of stations reporting record-breaking rainfall events (over 24 hours)
2016	89	12
2017	113	16
2018	128	12
2019	NA	21
2020	144	14
2021	111	36
2022	132	43
2023	159	28
2024	181	28
2025	160	26

SOURCE: IMD ANNUAL MONSOON REPORTS

181
Extreme rainfall events in 2024

92%
of LPA forecast for 2025 season

17,500
Flood deaths, 2012-2021

Extreme Rainfall Events

CONTEXT: Over the last decade, India has seen a major rainfall-related disaster every single year, regardless of the overall seasonal rainfall total.

Climate Change – The Driving Force

How Does Climate Change Intensify Monsoon Extremes?

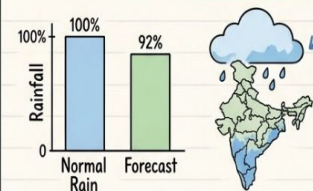
- **Clausius-Clapeyron relation:** ~7% more water vapour per 1°C warming.
 - Extra moisture is released in shorter, more intense bursts rather than prolonged moderate rains.
- Warmer Arabian Sea & Bay of Bengal
- Land use change
- Western Disturbances amplified

Global Trend – Not Just India

- **IPCC AR6 (2021):** EREs have intensified globally since 1950s.
- **Global surface temperature has risen ~1.1°C** above pre-industrial levels (as of 2024). **(India: ~0.7°C)**

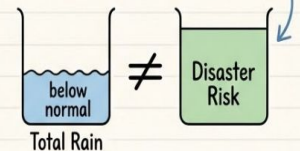
Below-Normal Monsoon, Yet Flood Threat Stands

★ **IMD forecast:** India expected to receive 92% of normal rainfall



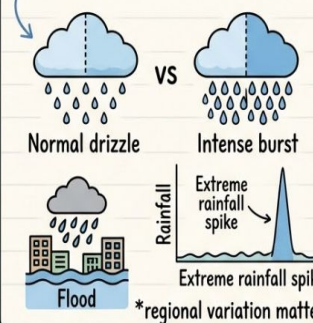
*Seasonal average ≠ local rainfall reality

★ total rainfall does not detet determinant determination determining disaster risk

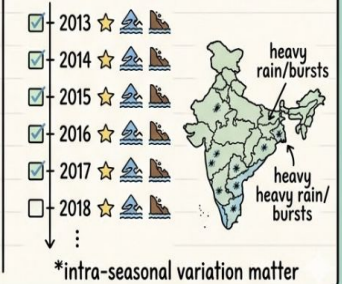


*Even low-rainfall years can have disasters

★ extreme rainfall events can still rise



Trend: major rainfall disasters have happened every year since 2013



Urban Flooding – India's New Monsoon Crisis

Cities Affected (Last 10 Years)

- Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Srinagar, Chandigarh, Gurgaon, Lucknow, Guwahati, Kolkata

★ Chennai, Bengaluru & Mumbai have each experienced *multiple* such events in this period.



CONTEXT: Over the last decade, India has seen a major rainfall-related disaster every single year, regardless of the overall seasonal rainfall total.

Human/Planning Failures

- **Wetlands**
- **Natural drainage** channels
- **Storm-water** drainage infrastructure
- **Impervious surfaces**
- **Municipal** apathy & unregulated development
- Obsolete **master plans** not accounting for climate projections

Climate/Natural Triggers

- **Unprecedented rainfall events** (climate change-amplified)
- **Shorter, more intense** rainfall spells
- **Urban Heat Island effect** intensifying local convective rainfall
- **Sea-level rise** threatening coastal cities (Mumbai, Chennai, Kochi)

Prediction Challenges – Limits of Science

Why is Extreme Rainfall So Hard to Predict?

- Butterfly Effect
- IMD can forecast *very heavy rainfall* but cannot differentiate with certainty between 250 mm and 500 mm rainfall outcomes.
- The more **granular** the forecast (narrower time/location), the **greater the uncertainty**.
- Climate change is *further exacerbating* this uncertainty

What Can Improve Forecasting?

- Denser observational networks
- Better numerical weather prediction models.
- Increased computational capabilities
- Better satellite data integration (INSAT-3D, 3DR series).

⚠ However: *complete elimination of uncertainty is not possible.*

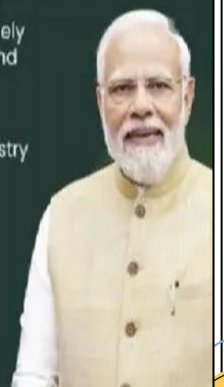
MISSION MAUSAM

Cabinet approves 'Mission Mausam' to create a more weather-ready and climate-smart Bharat with an outlay of Rs.2,000 crore over 2 years

BENEFITS

- ◆ A multi-faceted and transformative initiative to tremendously boost India's weather and climate-related science, research and services
- ◆ Will help better equip stakeholders, including citizens and last-mile users, in tackling extreme weather events and the impacts of climate change
- ◆ Mission focus to include improving observations and understanding for providing highly accurate and timely weather and climate information across temporal and spatial scales
- ◆ Mission to be implemented by 3 institutes of the Ministry of Earth Sciences:

- India Meteorological Department
- Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology
- National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting



Extreme Rainfall Events

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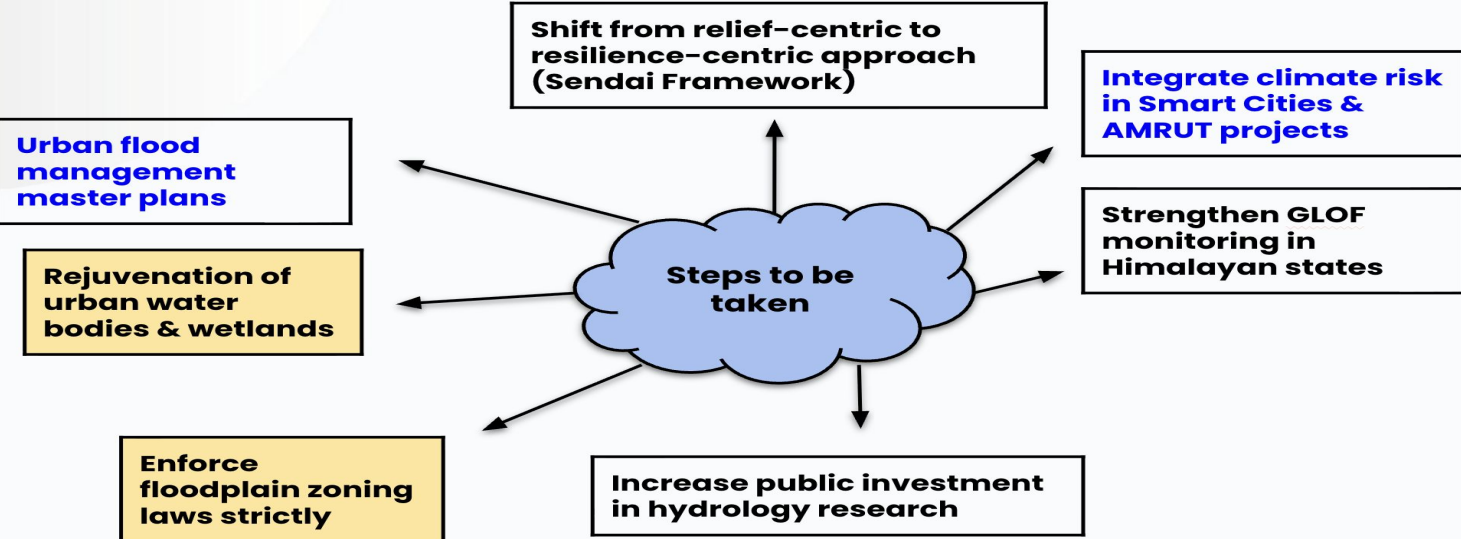
Key Government

<p>Mission Mausam (2024) ₹2,000 crore scheme to modernise IMD's weather observation and forecasting infrastructure. AI/ML integration for early warnings.</p>	<p>National Disaster Management Plan (2019) Aligned with Sendai Framework (2015–30). Focuses on risk reduction, preparedness, response & recovery.</p>
<p>Flood Management Programme (FMP) Central scheme providing funds to states for flood control works — embankments, drainage, flood forecasting.</p>	<p>AMRUT 2.0 (2021–2026) Includes stormwater drainage and urban flood management components for 500 cities. Budget: ₹77,640 crore.</p>
<p>National Flood Risk Mitigation Project World Bank assisted. Covers 8 high-risk states. Flood plain mapping, real-time monitoring.</p>	<p>Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Multi-agency standardised early warning message system integrating IMD, NDMA & state disaster agencies.</p>
<p>GLOF Early Warning System Post-Chamoli 2021 & Sikkim 2023, India has installed sensor-based GLOF alert systems in key Himalayan catchments.</p>	<p>State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) Primary fund for disaster response at state level. Centre contributes 75% (90% for special-category states). Key fiscal mechanism.</p>

International Frameworks India is Aligned With:

- **Sendai Framework (2015–2030):** 7 targets including substantial reduction in disaster mortality, economic losses & improved early warning.
- **Paris Agreement**
- **COP28 (2023) & COP29 (2024):** **Loss & Damage fund** operationalised
- **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure:** India-led global initiative launched 2019.

Solutions



CONTEXT: Over the last decade, India has seen a major rainfall-related disaster every single year, regardless of the overall seasonal rainfall total.

⚡ The Key Paradox — Drought Resilience vs Flood Vulnerability

Dimension	🇮🇳 Drought	🌊 Excess / Urban Floods
Historical concern	Primary worry pre-2010s	Emerging crisis, post-2013
India's resilience	✅ Substantially improved (buffer stocks, PMFBY, irrigation)	❌ Remains weak; rising losses
Key sectors impacted	Agriculture, rural economy, food security	Urban economy, infrastructure, lives
Policy response maturity	Evolved (MNREGA, Crop insurance)	Early stage; fragmented
Finance Commission attention	SDRF covers drought	Floods = 55%+ of state disaster spend
Climate change trajectory	More frequent droughts in some regions	More intense & frequent extreme rainfall

💡 **Analytical Angle for Mains:** India has successfully "graduated" from being drought-vulnerable to drought-resilient over decades. The *next challenge* is to build similar resilience against the new threat of intense, localised, urban flooding — which requires a fundamentally different policy toolkit focused on *urban hydrology, planning law reform, and real-time early warning*.

Mains Practise Question

Examine how climate change is altering the nature and predictability of extreme rainfall events in India.

(15 Marks, 250 words)



Mythos & Cybersecurity

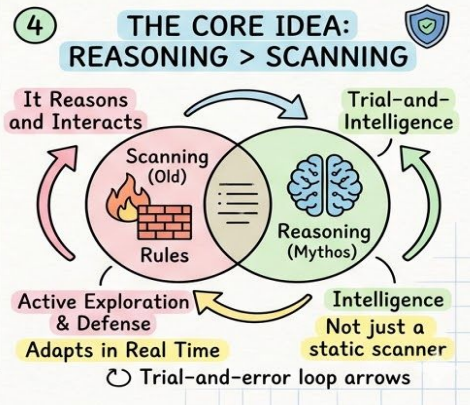
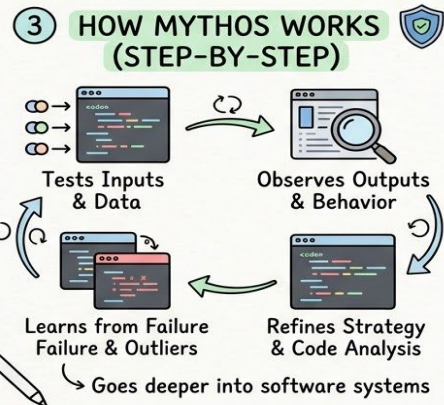
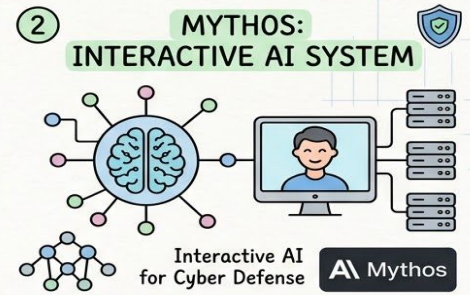
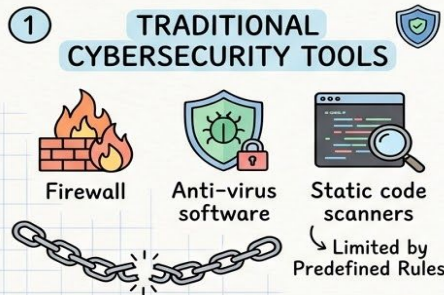
CONTEXT: The goal is to use Mythos defensively to find and fix critical software flaws before malicious AI tools can exploit them.

Understanding Cybersecurity Basics

What Are Software Vulnerabilities?

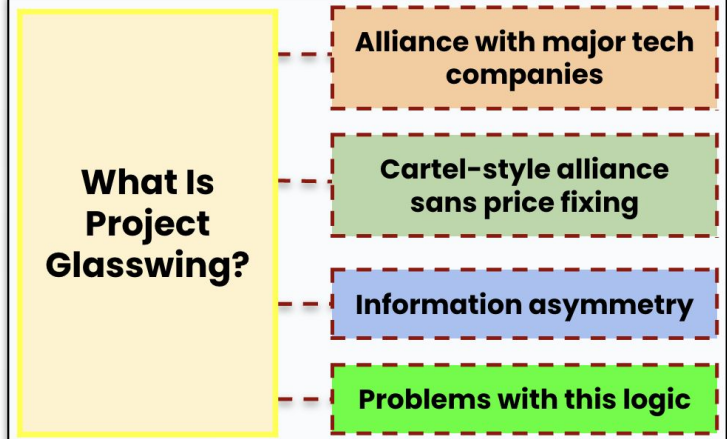
- Types:
 - Known
 - 0-Day
 - Legacy
- Traditional Cybersecurity Model
 - Testing, audits
 - Deploy patches
 - Costs

Anthropic's Mythos: AI for Cybersecurity



The Problem: Project Glasswing's Exclusivity Model

Anthropic @AnthropicAI
Introducing Project Glasswing: an urgent initiative to help secure the world's most critical software.
It's powered by our newest frontier model, Claude Mythos Preview, which can find software vulnerabilities better than all but the most skilled humans.
Project Glasswing
Securing critical software for the AI era
Project Glasswing: Securing critical software for the AI era
From anthropic.com
7:06 PM · Apr 7, 2026 · 8.6M Views
949 replies, 4.9K retweets, 20K likes, 7K bookmarks



YouTube - Bloomberg Technology
AI Scare: Unauthorized Users Gain Access to Anthropic's Mythos
VIDEO | 4 days ago



Mythos & Cybersecurity

CONTEXT: The goal is to use Mythos defensively to find and fix critical software flaws before malicious AI tools can exploit them.

! The Asymmetry Problem: Why Attackers Always Win

	Defenders	Attackers
Process	Must follow: Discovery → Testing → Patch Development → Internal Review → Deployment Planning → Coordination Across Teams → Scheduled Downtime → Patch Deployment	Just need: Discovery → Exploit
Timeline	Weeks to months (patch cycles)	Minutes to hours
Cost	High	Low
Success requirement	Must fix ALL vulnerabilities (100% defense)	Need just ONE vulnerability to succeed
Accountability	If breach happens, defenders blamed (lawsuits, reputation damage, regulatory fines)	No accountability
Tools	Limited to approved, tested, compliant tools	Any tool, including illegal ones

Mythos Exacerbates This Asymmetry

Timeline gap widens because attackers' exploitation is instantaneous but defenders' patching takes weeks

Other Challenges

- ### Emerging risks
- **Cheaper alternatives emerging**
 - **Arms race + Rogue nations**
 - **Critical infrastructure vulnerability**
 - **Who controls AI security tools?**
 - **Dual-use dilemma**

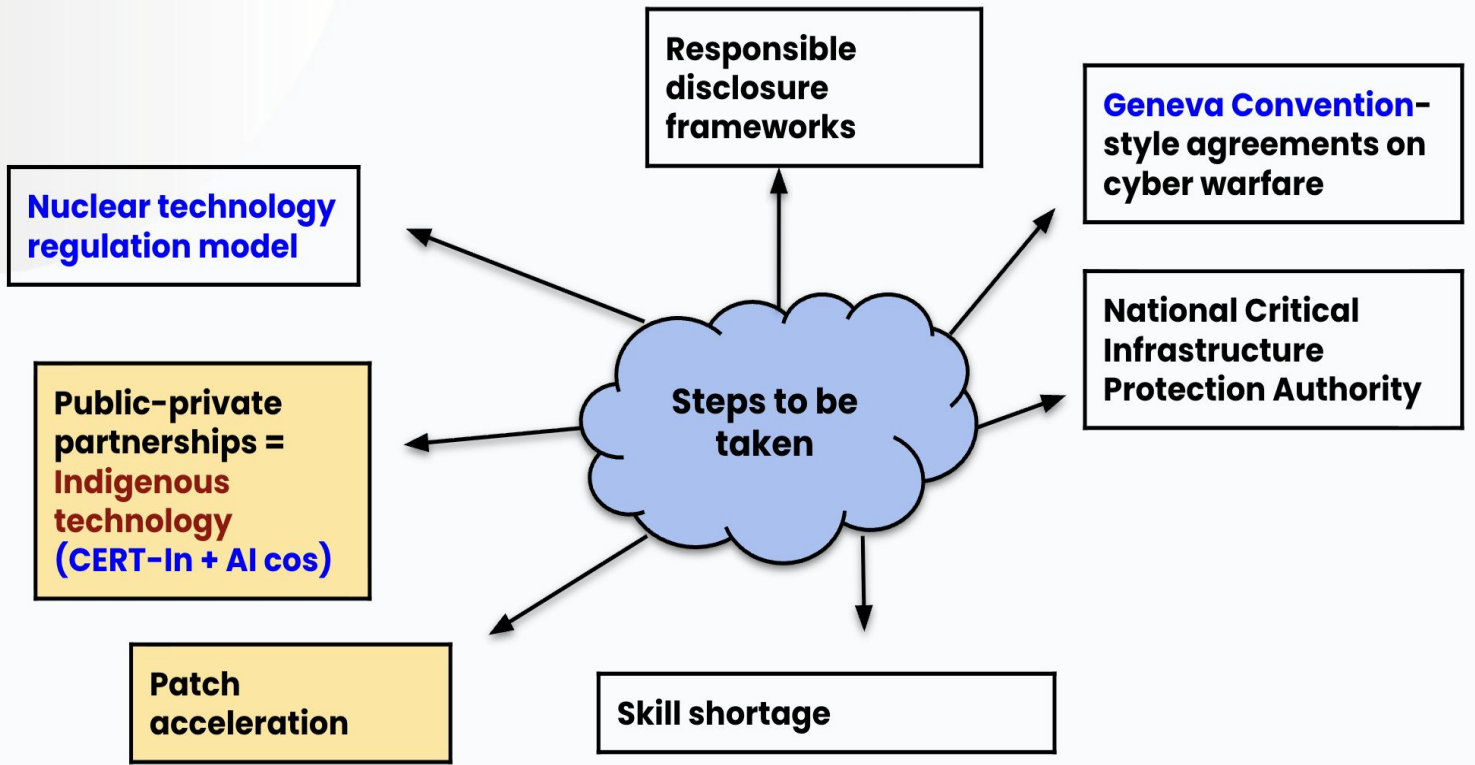
The New Stack
 "Mythos-like hacking, open to all": Industry reacts to OpenAI's GPT 5.5
 Community reaction to OpenAI's latest frontier model, as developers weigh real-world performance, cost, access and security.
 2 days ago

The Times of India
 Testing by JP Morgan, Apple, Google and 8 other companies that made Anthropic decide it cannot release it
 Tech News News: Anthropic, the artificial intelligence (AI) startup behind Claude chatbot, has created an AI model, called Claude Mythos...
 2 weeks ago



CONTEXT: The goal is to use Mythos defensively to find and fix critical software flaws before malicious AI tools can exploit them.

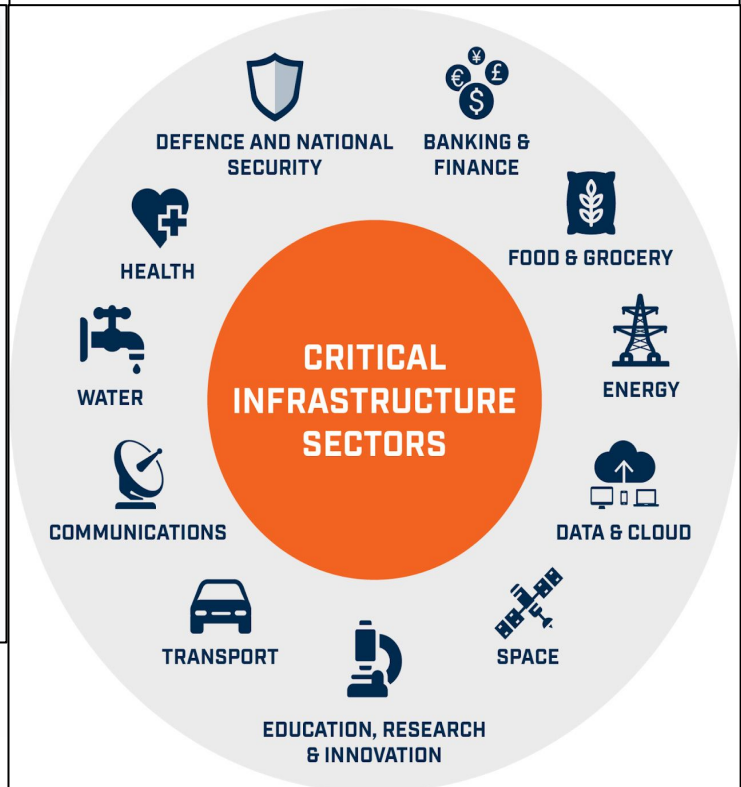
Way Forward



Mains Practise Question

The advent of autonomous, 'agentic' AI models in cybersecurity has fundamentally inverted the power dynamics between cyber defenders and malicious actors. Discuss.

(15 Marks, 250 words)



SYLLABUS : GS 2: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests **GS 3:** Indian Economy & Trade **Prelims:** Trade agreements
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 01

Trade Agreements — Types and Levels of Integration

Part A. Classification by Number of Participants

Unilateral

One country gives trade preference/restrictions

Bilateral

Two countries negotiate together

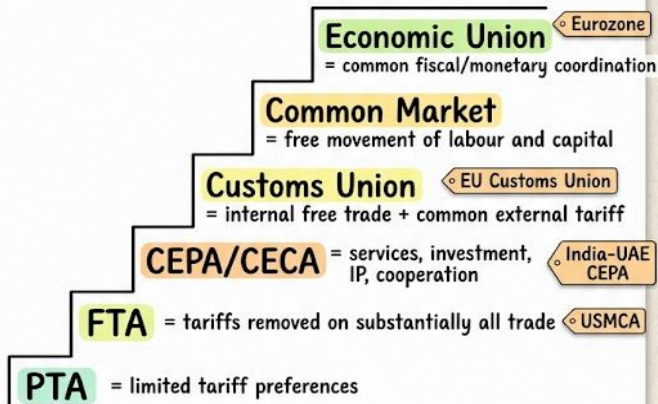
Multilateral

Three or more countries, broader global rules

Plurilateral

A smaller group within a multilateral framework

Part B. Classification by Economic Integration



Levels of economic integration

A **Free Trade Agreement** is a treaty between two or more countries to reduce or **completely eliminate barriers to trade**.

FTAs are exempted wrt MFN (under GATT Article XXIV)

Bilateral Trade Target:
2x from ~\$2.4 billion to \$5 billion within 5 years

Current Balance:
India exports ~\$711 m
Imports ~\$587 m

National Treatment

Key criticism of India's past FTAs:
Inverted Duty Structure

Negative List vs. Positive List

India's Strategic Shift

- "Look East" to "Look West"
- "Deep FTAs"



SYLLABUS : GS 2: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests **GS 3:** Indian Economy & Trade **Prelims:** Trade agreements
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 01

FTA with Safeguards: Agriculture and Farmers Protected

Balancing opportunity and safeguards in agriculture between India and New Zealand

Part 1: What New Zealand supports

- Kiwi fruit
- Apple crate
- Honey jar
- Research support
- Planting material
- Capacity building
- Food safety
- Centres of excellence

Part 2: What India protects

FARM SHIELD SAFEGUARDS ZONE
NO TARIFF CUT

PROTECTED LIST

- Milk
- Cream
- Container
- Yoghurt
- Whey
- Onion
- Chana
- Cheese
- Pea pod
- Almonds
- Certain oils & fats

Side Note: India protects farmers and fishermen by excluding sensitive products from tariff concessions.

India in a simple ramon, it's easy to memorize like youd at a glance.

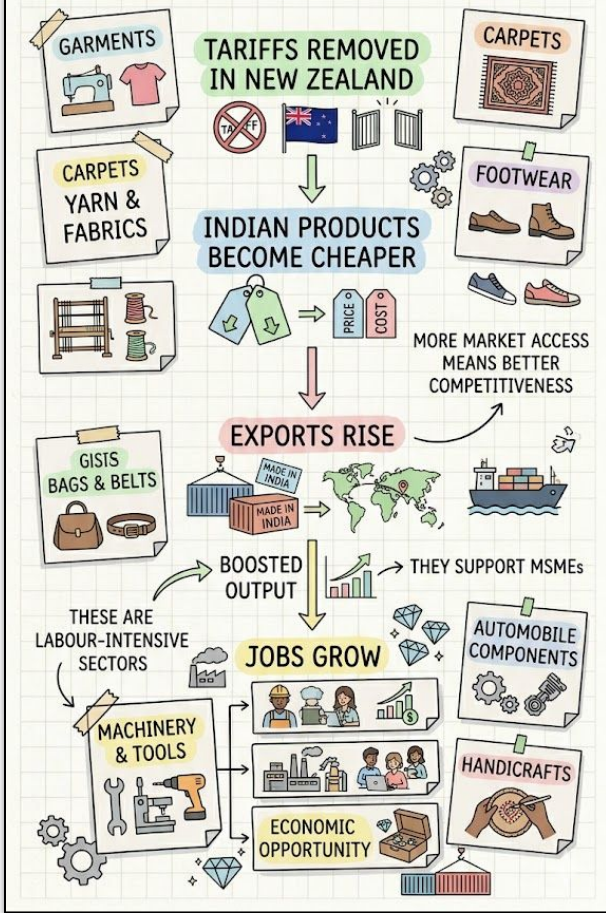
The India-New Zealand FTA

What India Gains	Protection
<p>100% Duty-Free Market Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> textiles, apparel, leather, ceramics, carpets, and automobiles/auto components <p>Binding FDI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$20 billion in India over 15 yrs <p>Mobility for Professionals and Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students: 20 hours per week while studying Skilled Professionals: 5,000 visas Cultural Professions: Specific visas for Yoga instructors, Indian chefs, and Traditional Medicine 	<p>Dairy Agriculture & Others</p> <p>70.03% of tariff lines</p>



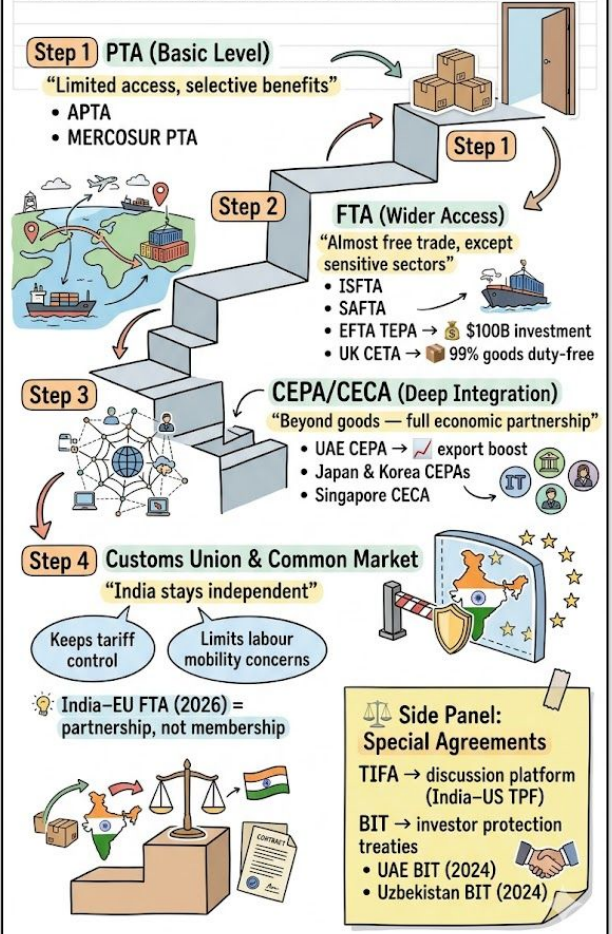
SYLLABUS : GS 2: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests **GS 3:** Indian Economy & Trade **Prelims:** Trade agreements **Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number :** 01

How the FTA Helps Indian Exports



India's Trade Agreements Ladder (2026)

The entire infographic is a literal 'ladder or staircase of integration' shows India climbing from shallow to deep agreements.



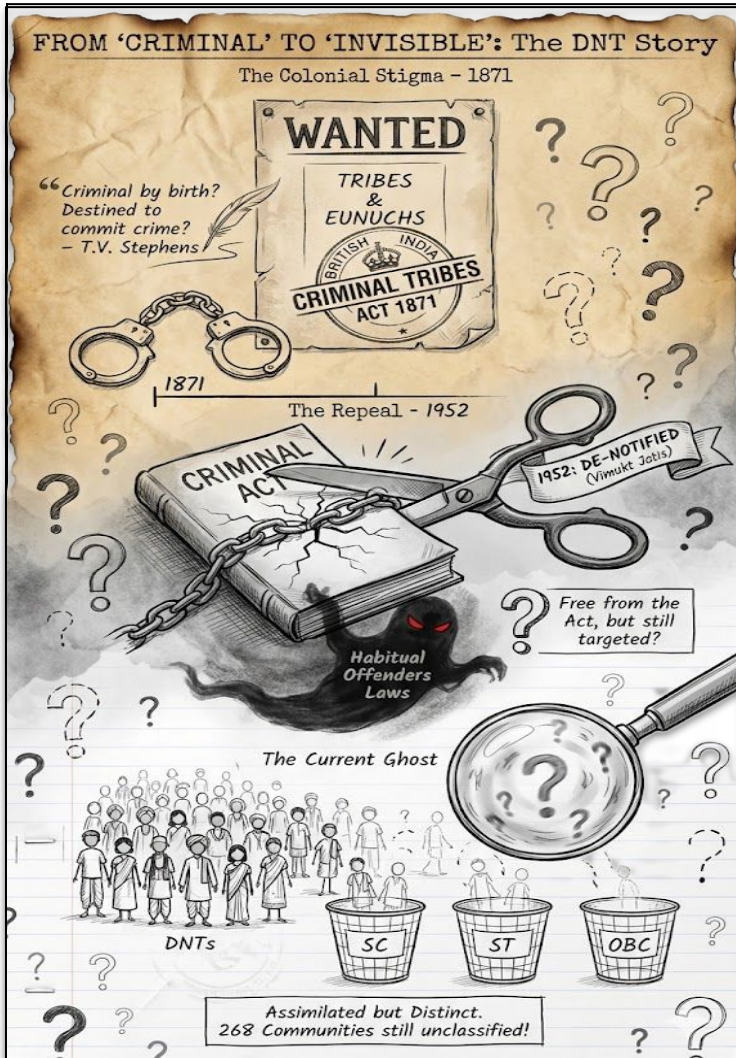
Evolution of India's Trade Policy



DNT enumeration in the Census



SYLLABUS : GS 2: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections **Prelims:** Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes **Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number : 12**



What Does "Denotified" Mean?

Colonial "Criminal Tribes" Act, 1871

1911 Census: Institutionalizing Stigma

Last explicit count: 1931 Census

"born criminals"
"addicted to committing crimes"
"potential criminals"

Control "nomadic" populations

Repeal of CTA (1952)

"Denotified Tribes"

Habitual Offenders Act

SC, ST, or OBC lists: "Vimukt Jatis"

PRESENT

Examples of Communities

Current Status

Denotified Tribes

Pardhis, Bawarias, Sansis, Kanjars

No official backward class status

Nomadic Tribes

Banjaras Gaddi shepherds Gujjar Bakarwals

Some have OBC status

Semi-Nomadic Tribes

Lambadas, Kallars Nat

Mixed status



SYLLABUS : GS 2: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections **Prelims:** Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes **Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number : 12**

The Current Census Debate

The Hindu

Denotified tribes seek constitutional recognition, separate Census entry

Denotified tribes, nomadic tribes, and semi-nomadic tribes across the country are coming together to push for a "separate column" for...

2 weeks ago

Denotified tribes seek 'separate column' and formal identity after decades of misclassification

Classification & numbers

- They were labelled 'criminal tribes' under the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871

- The Act was repealed in 1952, after which these communities were denotified

- The previous National Commission identified nearly 1,200 communities
- Nearly 267 communities remain outside the SC, ST, and OBC lists

Estimates suggest up to 7 crore people in Uttar Pradesh alone

Key demands

- Separate Census column for denotified tribes
- Dedicated Constitutional Schedule
- Sub-classification to reflect graded backwardness within communities



Commissions & Findings

Ayyangar Commission (1949)

Started efforts to account for these communities even before official denotification.

Renke Commission (2008)

1st National Commission Recommended measures.

Idate Commission (2017)

Identified **~1,200** DNT communities (most in SC/ST/OBC lists). Identified **268 communities** that were completely **unclassified**.

Anthropological Survey of India

NITI Aayog-commissioned study on the 268 unclassified tribes; **Currently:** "cold storage".

Current Failures

Scheme Underutilization

Census 2027

Uneven Backwardness

Only 7 States and Union Territories currently issue DNT community certificates

Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)

An approximate cost of Rs. 200 crore to be spent over a period of 5 years starting Financial Year 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The four pillars of the Scheme for Economic Empowerment are:

1. Educational Empowerment
2. Health Insurance
3. Facilitating Livelihoods
4. Housing under PMAY

Core Demands

Constitutional Status

Census Column

Government Stance

Welfare Board under Social Justice Ministry

SYLLABUS : GS 3: Indian Economy trends, Investment models **Prelims:** External sector **Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number :** 15

What is Rupee Depreciation and Why Does It Happen?

WHAT IT MEANS

- Depreciation is a fall in value of INR against foreign currency (USD) due to market forces

WHY A GROWING ECONOMY OFTEN SEES PRESSURE

- High growth demands high imports (energy, tech, machinery), which strengthens the foreign currency

Why it weakens?

- ~ India imports a lot.
- ~ Higher imports than exports can pressure the currency.
- ~ Currency depreciation is often part of macroeconomic adjustment.

Structural Cause

- **Growing, developing economy**
- **Trade Deficit** and **Current Account Deficit**
- **Recent Shock** (2025-26)

INR depreciates on average 2.5% to 3% per year against the U.S. dollar over past decades.

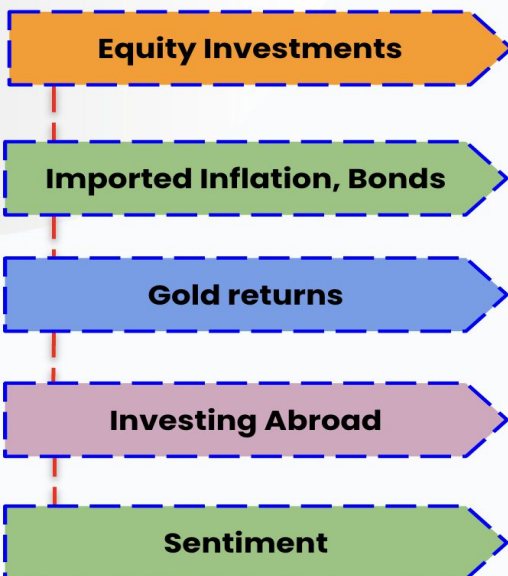
In 2025-26, INR moved from 85.53 on March 31, 2025 to 92.76 on March 30, 2026. That equals a depreciation of 8.45%.

At the low point of 94.71 on March 23, 2026, the depreciation was 10.73%.

NOT IN YOUR CONTROL

- Why this is a market factor, but not something investors can control.

How Depreciation Impacts Investments



SYLLABUS : GS 3: Indian Economy trends, Investment models **Prelims:** External sector
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 15

How Rupee Depreciation Impacts Investments

1. Equity investments

- Exchange rate does not directly affect Indian equity markets much
 - It can affect sentiment
- Market movement is the result of many factors together
 - Current correction is due to multiple reasons, such as:
 - FPI selling, crude oil price rise, rupee depreciation
 - Rupee weakness is only one factor
 - Investors should not panic because it is not under their control

2. Debt investments

- weak currency leads to imported inflation
 - imported crude oil becomes costlier in rupee terms
 - inflation is a negative for both equity and bonds
 - bonds are affected more because inflation influences interest rates
 - weak INR can keep contributing to inflation ahead
- $\text{Dollar price} \times \text{exchange rate} = \text{landed price in rupees}$

Beneficiaries of rupee weakness

gold

- gold price is international and dollar-denominated
- weaker rupee increases gold price in INR
- gold returns come partly from global gold movement and partly from rupee weakness
- suggested portfolio allocation: 10%, maximum 15%

global investments

- foreign stocks/bonds/funds get converted from INR to foreign currency
- when rupee depreciates, you benefit on conversion back
- investments abroad can be done through:
 - mutual funds
 - direct overseas investing
 - LRS route
 - GIFT City outbound products within LRS

UPSC PYQ (P)

Consider the following statements

- The effect of devaluation of a currency is that it necessarily improves the competitiveness of the domestic exports in the foreign markets
- increases the foreign value of domestic currency
- improves the trade balance

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



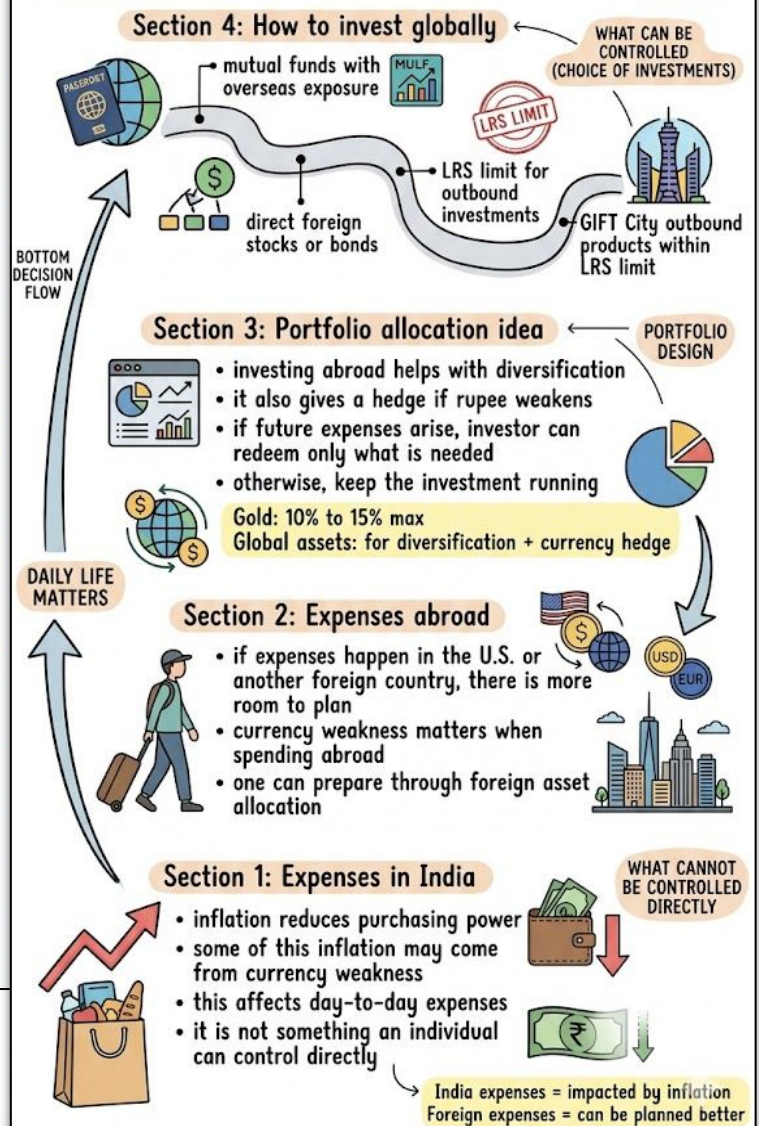
SYLLABUS : GS 3: Indian Economy trends, Investment models **Prelims:** External sector
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 15

UPSC PYQ (P) 2019

Which one of the following is not the most likely measure the Government/RBI takes to stop the slide of the Indian rupee?

- (a) Curbing imports of non-essential goods and promoting exports
- (b) Encouraging Indian borrowers to issue rupee-denominated Masala Bonds
- (c) Easing conditions relating to external commercial borrowing
- (d) Following an expansionary monetary policy

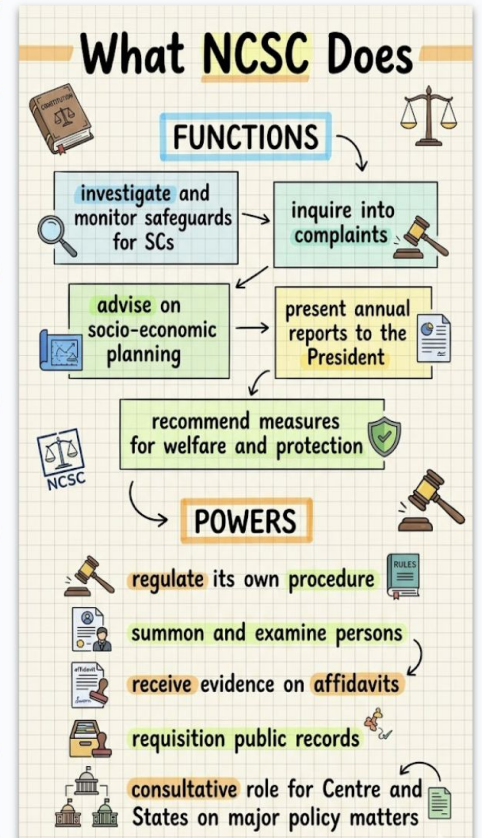
Rupee Depreciation: What Should Investors Do?



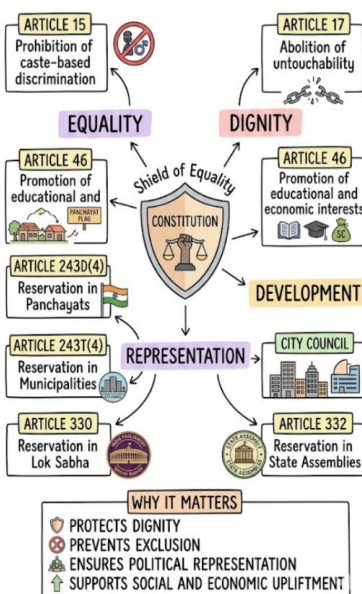
SYLLABUS : GS 2: Powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
Prelims: Mandate of NCSC **Newspaper:**The Hindu **Page Number : 13**

National Commission for Scheduled Castes

Structure	Exactly 5 members
Members	1 Chairperson (Current Chairman: Shri Kishor Makwana) 1 Vice-Chairperson 3 Additional Members
Appointment	President of India by a warrant under his hand and seal
Tenure & Service	Determined by the President Typically: 3 years
The "Civil Court" Powers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summon and enforce attendance • Discovery, production of document • Evidence on affidavits • Requisition any public record
Consultation	Centre + State = All major policy matters



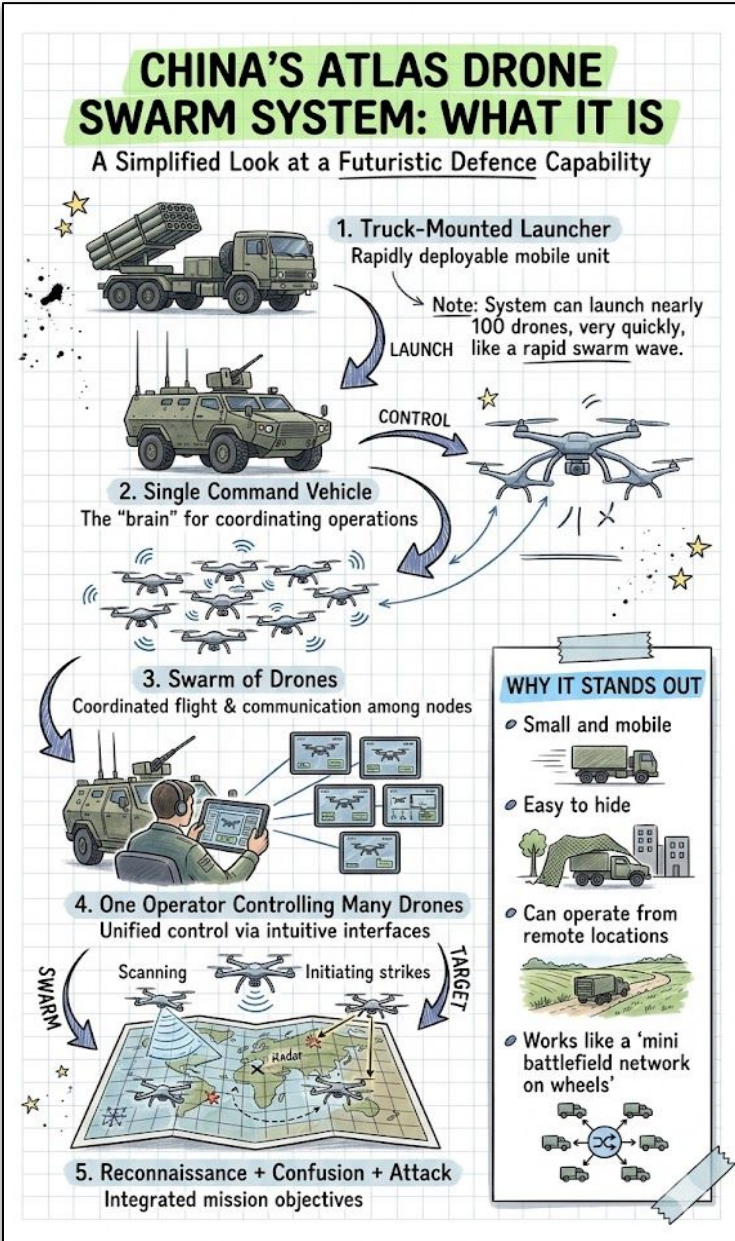
CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS FOR SCHEDULED CASTES



Timeline of Constitutional Amendments

Event	Constitutional Provision	What Changed?
Initially (1950)	Article 338	Provided for a Single Special Officer designated as the "Commissioner for SCs and STs."
1990 (65th Amendment Act)	Amended Article 338	Replaced the single officer with a Multi-member National Commission for both SCs and STs combined.
2003 (89th Amendment Act)	Created Article 338A	The Great Split: Recognized that SCs and STs face different issues. (effective 2004): 1. NCSC (Article 338) 2. NCST (Article 338A).
2018 (102nd Amendment Act)	Created Article 338B	Prior to 2018, the NCSC also looked after OBCs. This amendment relieved the NCSC of this duty and created a separate National Commission for Backward Classes .

SYLLABUS : GS 3: Robotics/Drones **Prelims:** China's military modernization
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number :** 09



Understanding China's Atlas Drone Swarm System

Key Facts for UPSC Prelims

China Electronic Technology Group Corporation

Real threat : cognitive ability

Launch Metrics:
96 drones in under 300 seconds!

Competitors:
US: Perdix, DARPA's Offset
China: Jiu Tian
Israel: "Legatus"



SYLLABUS : GS 3: Robotics/Drones Prelims: China's military modernization Newspaper: The Indian Express Page Number : 09

'WHY ATLAS WORRIES INDIA AND THE WORLD'

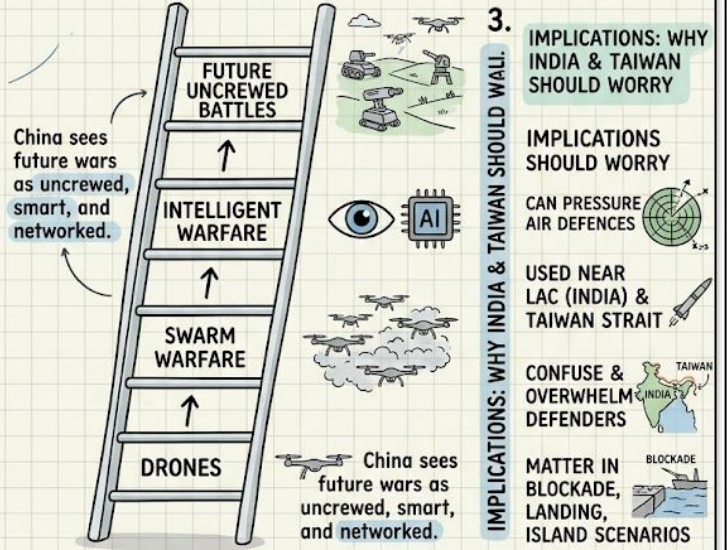
1. WHAT MAKES IT DANGEROUS

1. can launch many drones at once (swarm)
 2. can confuse enemy air defences (saturating them)
 3. can scout, attack, and distract simultaneously. (Multimission concept)
 4. can work as a swarm, not just as individual drones
 5. one human can control the system (pne operator controlling many)
- The real strength is not just numbers — it is coordination and autonomy.

2. COMPARISON WITH OTHER DRONE SYSTEMS

Atlas	Perdix	Offset	Jiu Tian
brain + swarm			
Highly coordinated swarm, single control point	large scale but less notable for single point control	focus on tactical urban swarm, less central control focus	large scale swarm mothership concept, less direct control integration?

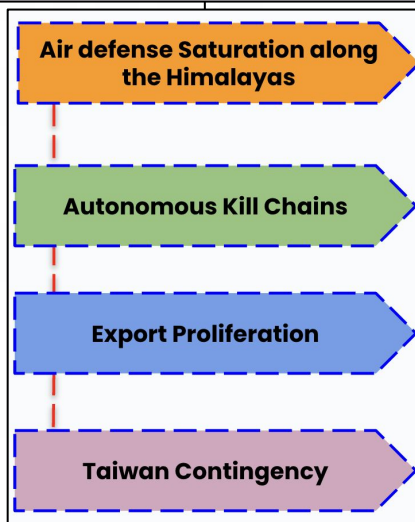
2. Where does Atlas fit in China's strategy?



BIG PICTURE

- DRONES ARE NO LONGER JUST TOOLS
- SWARMS CAN BECOME BATTLEFIELD SYSTEMS
- AUTONOMY IS THE NEW MILITARY EDGE

Geopolitical & Security Implications



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India's Indigenous Countermeasures

DRDO D4 System (Drone Detect, Deter and Destroy)

Project Zorawar

IDEX "Mehar Baba" Swarm Challenge

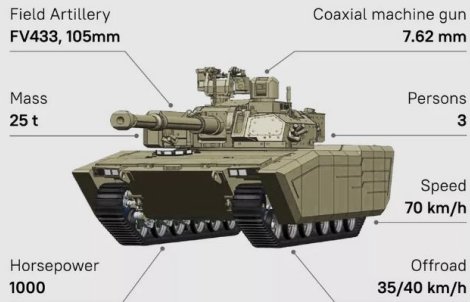
Soft Kill: Jamming + GPS Spoofing

Hard Kill: DEW



Indigenous Zorawar Light Tank: Why is It Called 'Brave and Strong'?

Developed by L&T in collaboration with DRDO



Source: DRDO

SPUTNIK



Q1. With reference to Free trade agreements, consider the following statements:

1. They allow member countries to offer preferential trade treatment to each other.
2. Such agreements are permitted as exceptions to the MFN principle under GATT provisions.
3. Under National Treatment, imported goods can be treated less favourably than domestic goods after entry.

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

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

Answer: b

Q2. With reference to Denotified and Nomadic Tribes in India, consider the following statements

1. The term "Denotified Tribes" originated after the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871 in 1952.
2. Denotified Tribes currently enjoy uniform classification under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category.
3. Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes exhibit varied classification status, with some groups included in OBC lists.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q3. With reference to impact of rupee depreciation on economy, consider the following statements:

1. It can lead to imported inflation by increasing the cost of crude oil in domestic currency terms.
2. Rupee depreciation directly and significantly determines the movement of equity markets in India.

3. Debt instruments are more adversely affected than equities because inflation influences interest rates.

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

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

Answer: a

Q4. With reference to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), consider the following statements:

1. It consists of five members, including a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson.
2. The members are appointed by the President of India by a warrant under his hand and seal.

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

Q5. With reference to the 'Atlas drone swarm system', consider the following statements:

1. A single command vehicle can coordinate and control multiple drones simultaneously.
2. It is capable of performing reconnaissance and attack roles.
3. It can function as a networked battlefield unit with integrated communication among drones.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d





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