



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

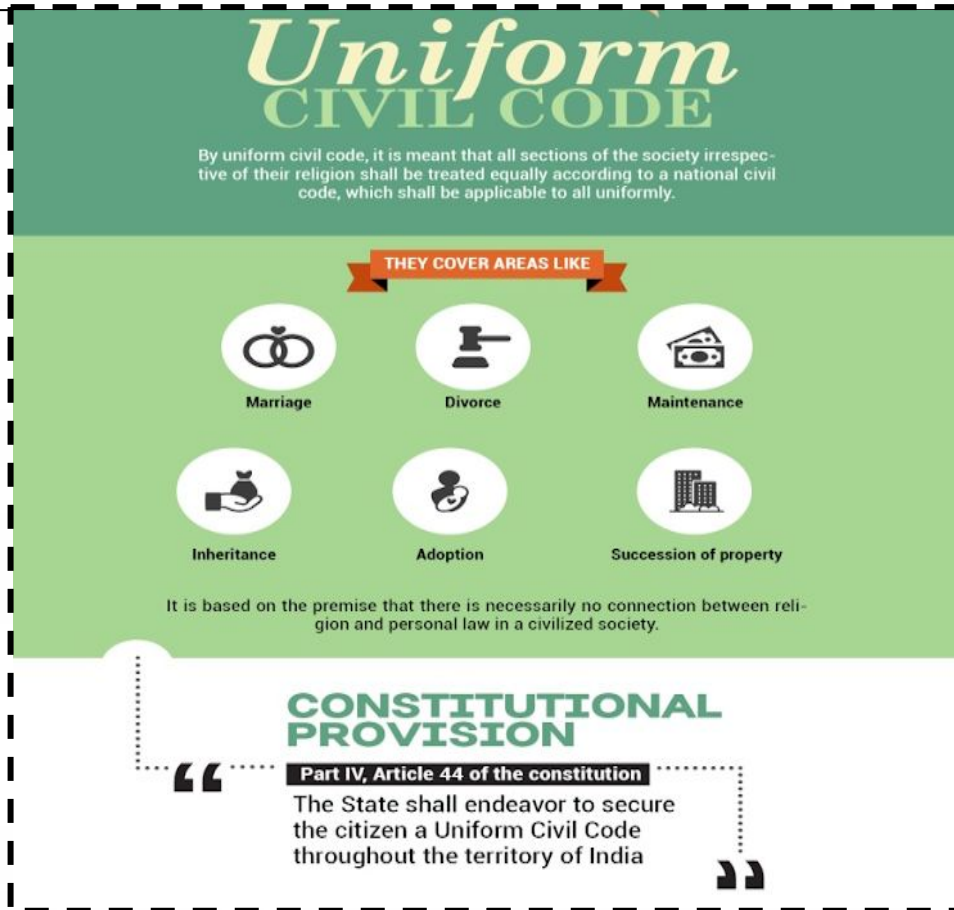
**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**29th April 2026**



# Uniform Civil Code

**CONTEXT:** After Uttarakhand, several states looking forward to implement the Uniform Civil Code.



**Uniform CIVIL CODE**

By uniform civil code, it is meant that all sections of the society irrespective of their religion shall be treated equally according to a national civil code, which shall be applicable to all uniformly.

**THEY COVER AREAS LIKE**

- Marriage
- Divorce
- Maintenance
- Inheritance
- Adoption
- Succession of property

It is based on the premise that there is necessarily no connection between religion and personal law in a civilized society.

**CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION**

**Part IV, Article 44 of the constitution**

The State shall endeavor to secure the citizen a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India

## Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

- UCC = One common set of civil laws for all citizens covering:
  - Marriage
  - Divorce
  - Adoption
  - Inheritance
- Replaces religion-based personal laws
- **Objective:**
  - Promote equality, secularism, national integration
  - Ensure gender justice

## Historical Background

- During Constituent Assembly debates:
  - **K.M. Munshi:** Advocated UCC for national unity and secularism, noting even Hindu communities' concerns.
  - **Muslim leaders** argued that UCC violated religious freedom and would cause disharmony.
  - **B. R. Ambedkar supported UCC**
  - Made it a Directive Principle (not enforceable)
- Reason:
  - Social sensitivity
  - Need for gradual reform



**CONTEXT:** After Uttarakhand, several states looking forward to implement the Uniform Civil Code.

## Constitutional Basis

- **Article 44 (DPSP)** → State shall endeavour to secure UCC
- Linked with:
  - **Article 14** → Equality
  - **Article 15** → Non-discrimination
  - **Article 25** → Freedom of religion
- Key Debate: Equality vs Religious Freedom

## Concurrent List

- Personal laws on marriage, divorce, and succession are under Entry 5 of the **Concurrent List**.
- It empowered both the Centre and States to legislate upon them.

## Current Situation in India:

- **Hindu Personal Laws:**
  - The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955
  - Hindu Succession Act, 1956
  - The term 'Hindu' also includes Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists for these laws.
- **Muslim Personal Law:**
  - It is not codified per se but is based on religious texts
  - Certain aspects of these are expressly recognised in the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937
- **Christian Personal Laws:**
  - The Indian Christian Marriages Act of 1872.
- **Special Marriage Law:**
  - More 'secular' laws which disregard religion altogether, such as the Special Marriage Act of 1954.

## Exceptions to Personal Laws:

- Under **Article 371**, the Constitution makes certain exceptions to family law for the states of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, etc., to protect distinct regional identities.
- **UCC applicable:**
  - Only **Goa** has a form of UCC (Goa Civil Code)
  - **Uttarakhand** passed UCC law (first state post-independence)
  - However, other states like Assam, Gujarat and MP are exploring the feasibility

## Important Judgments:

- **Shah Bano Case (1985)**
  - Right of a Muslim woman to claim maintenance
- **Sarla Mudgal v. Union of India (1995)**
  - A Hindu husband cannot convert to Islam and marry another woman
- **Shayara Bano v. Union of India (2017)**
  - The practice of triple talaq is unconstitutional
  - Violative of Article 14 (equality) & dignity of women
  - Led to enactment of Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019



# Uniform Civil Code



**CONTEXT:** After Uttarakhand, several states looking forward to implement the Uniform Civil Code.

## Arguments in Favour of UCC

1) Equality & Justice	Removes discrimination (especially gender-based)
2) National Integration	Promotes unity → "One Nation, One Law"
3) Secularism	True secularism = state neutrality in personal laws
4) Simplification of Laws	Reduces complexity of multiple legal systems
5) Women Empowerment	Ends discriminatory practices: Polygamy Unequal inheritance
6) Many countries have UCC	Like France & USA

## Arguments Against UCC

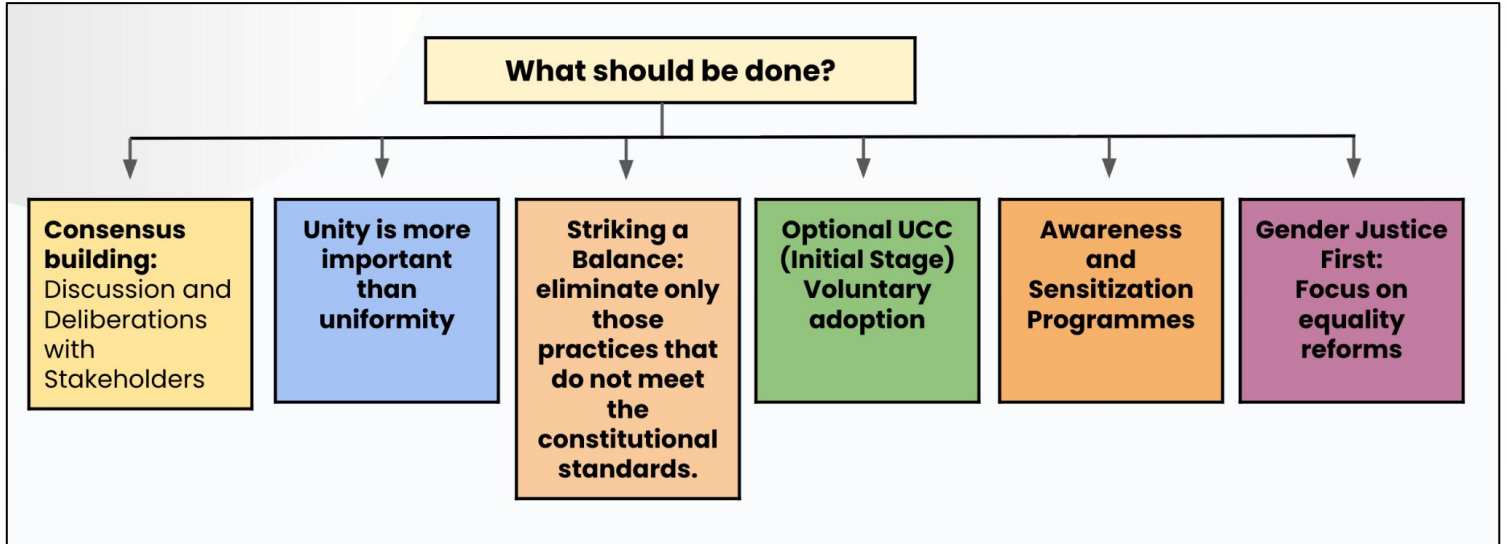
1) Threat to Diversity	India = multicultural society
2) Religious Freedom Concerns	Article 25 protections
3) Minority Insecurity	Fear of majoritarian imposition
4) Practical Challenges	Drafting acceptable code difficult
5) Complexity of Implementation	Drafting, Coding, harmonising and rationalising
6) Politicisation	Used as political tool rather than reform May lead to Communal violence



# Uniform Civil Code



**CONTEXT:** After Uttarakhand, several states looking forward to implement the Uniform Civil Code.



## MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

**Ques.** Discuss whether Uniform Civil Code is necessary for achieving gender justice in India.

(10 marks, 150 words)



**CONTEXT:** Recently, the Prime Minister highlighted Sikkim's chemical-free farming as a model for natural/organic farming for the entire country.

## What is Natural Farming?

- Farming method that:
  - **Avoids synthetic fertilisers & pesticides**
- Relies on:
  - **Natural inputs** (cow dung, urine, biomass)
  - On-farm resources
- Concept popularised by **Subhash Palekar**
- (Zero Budget Natural Farming – ZBNF)

## Core Principles of Natural Farming

- **Chemical-Free Farming**
  - No synthetic fertilisers or pesticides
- **Soil as Living System**
  - Focus on microbial activity
- **Minimal External Inputs**
  - Self-reliant farming system
- **Biodiversity & Mixed Cropping**
  - Crop diversification
- **Mulching & Moisture Conservation**
  - Soil cover to retain moisture
- **Livestock Integration**
  - Native cow breeds maintaining the nutrient cycle.
- **Water efficiency**
  - Uses minimal irrigation

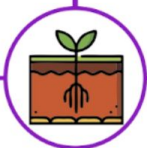
## Components of Natural Farming



**Beejamrit:**  
Treatment of seeds using **cow dung, urine and lime** based formulations



**Jivamrit:** Acts as a **bio-stimulant** promoting activity of microorganisms in soil



**Mulching:**  
Covering of soil surface using **live crops** and **straw (dead plant biomass)** to conserve moisture



**Whapasa:**  
Activating **earthworms** in soil for water vapour condensation



**Plant Protection:**  
Spraying **biological concoctions** to prevent pests, disease and weed problems



**CONTEXT:** Recently, the Prime Minister highlighted Sikkim's chemical-free farming as a model for natural/organic farming for the entire country.

## Difference: Natural vs Organic Farming

Aspect	Natural Farming	Organic Farming
Inputs	On-farm	External organic inputs allowed
Cost	Very low	Moderate
Certification	Not required	Required
Philosophy	Self-reliant	Market-driven

### Benefits of Natural Farming

- **Low Cost of Cultivation:**
  - Eliminates the need for expensive chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and hybrid seeds.
- **Improved Soil Health:**
  - Enhances soil organic carbon, microbial activity, and natural nutrient cycling.
- **Chemical-Free Food:**
  - Produces safe, residue-free, and nutritious food, improving public health.
- **Water Conservation:**
  - Improves soil moisture retention and reduces irrigation needs.
- **Climate Resilience:**
  - Reduces greenhouse gas emissions
  - Crops withstand droughts, floods, and temperature stress.
- **Biodiversity Conservation:**
  - Encourages beneficial insects, earthworms, and soil microorganisms.
- **Sustainable Yields:**
  - Ensures stable crop productivity over time without degrading natural resources.
- **Farmer Empowerment:**
  - Reduces dependence on credit and external inputs, lowering the risk of debt and crop failure.



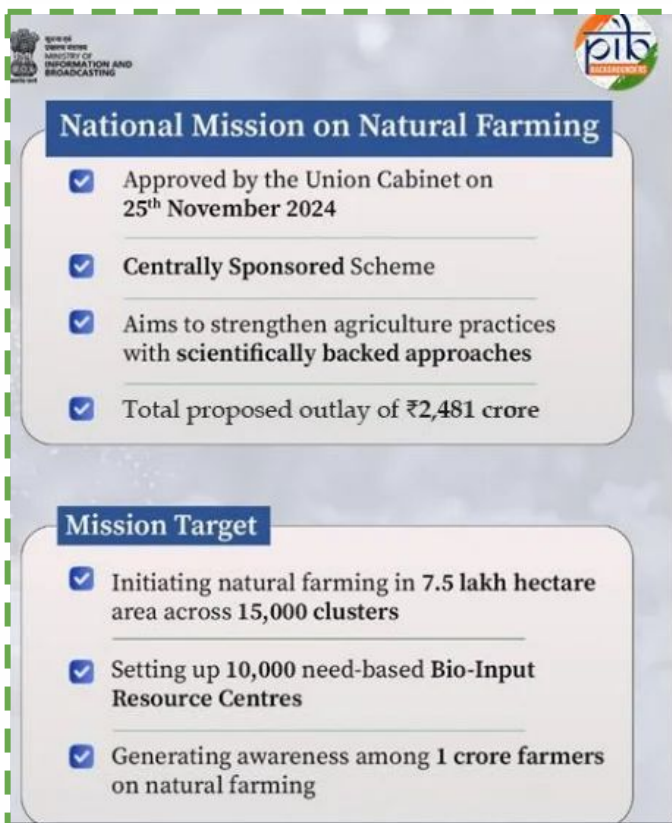
**CONTEXT:** Recently, the Prime Minister highlighted Sikkim's chemical-free farming as a model for natural/organic farming for the entire country.

## Government Initiatives for Natural Farming

- **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)**
  - Includes 2,000 model demonstration farms and deployment of trained Krishi Sakhis for farmer training and awareness.
- **Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP)**
  - Provides financial assistance of ₹12,200 per hectare for three years for cluster formation, training, and certification.
- **State-Level Natural Farming Initiatives**
  - **Andhra Pradesh Community-Managed Natural Farming (APCNF)**
- Other states like Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Kerala provide subsidies, training, and input support to promote natural farming.

## Challenges with Natural Farming

- **Initial Yield Reduction:**
  - During the transition from chemical farming to natural farming, crop yields may fall in the first few seasons.
- **Knowledge and Skill Intensive:**
  - Requires proper understanding of soil health, crop cycles, and preparation of natural inputs.
- **Limited Awareness:**
  - A large number of farmers are still unaware of natural farming methods.
  - Lack of Scientific Validation
- **Market Limitations:**
  - No well-developed markets or premium pricing systems.
- **Labour Requirement:**
  - Practices like mulching and preparation of bio-inputs require more manual labour.
- **Availability of Desi Cows:**
  - ZBNF depends on indigenous cows, which are not easily available to all farmers.
- **Policy and Implementation Gaps:**
  - Different states follow different models, leading to uneven adoption and outcomes.



The infographic, titled 'National Mission on Natural Farming', is presented in a light blue box with a green dashed border. It features the logos of the Government of India, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and PIB. The content is organized into two main sections: 'National Mission on Natural Farming' and 'Mission Target'. The first section lists four key points: approval by the Union Cabinet on 25th November 2024, its status as a centrally sponsored scheme, its aim to strengthen agriculture with scientifically backed approaches, and a total proposed outlay of ₹2,481 crore. The second section, 'Mission Target', lists three goals: initiating natural farming in 7.5 lakh hectares across 15,000 clusters, setting up 10,000 need-based Bio-Input Resource Centres, and generating awareness among 1 crore farmers on natural farming.

**National Mission on Natural Farming**

- ✓ Approved by the Union Cabinet on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024
- ✓ Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- ✓ Aims to strengthen agriculture practices with scientifically backed approaches
- ✓ Total proposed outlay of ₹2,481 crore

**Mission Target**

- ✓ Initiating natural farming in 7.5 lakh hectare area across 15,000 clusters
- ✓ Setting up 10,000 need-based Bio-Input Resource Centres
- ✓ Generating awareness among 1 crore farmers on natural farming



**CONTEXT:** Recently, the Prime Minister highlighted Sikkim's chemical-free farming as a model for natural/organic farming for the entire country.

## Natural Farming

### Way Forward

#### Gradual Transition:

Hybrid model  
(chemical → natural)

#### Research & Evidence:

Scientific trials

#### Farmer Training:

Capacity building  
& Field demonstrations

#### Market Support:

Certification +  
Branding

#### Policy Push:

Incentives for  
natural farming

#### Encourage community-based models:

Farmer groups  
and FPOs

## MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

**Ques.** Discuss the potential of natural farming as a sustainable alternative to chemical-based agriculture in India.

(10 Marks, 150 words)



**SYLLABUS : Prelims: Polity – Statutory body**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number : 12**

## Drug trafficking suspect arrested in India after deportation from Turkiye

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

An alleged drug trafficking kingpin having links with the Dawood Ibrahim syndicate was detained by Turkish agencies in Beylikdüzü and deported to India on Tuesday.

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) took him into custody on his arrival at the airport here.

“Zero tolerance against the narco syndicate. The @narcoticsbureau today made a major breakthrough in securing the return of notorious drug trafficker Mohammad Salim Dola from Türkiye. Under the Modi government’s mission to ruthlessly smash drug cartels, our anti-narcotics agencies have extended their reach across borders. Now, no matter where they hide, no place is safe for drug king-



An NCB team takes Mohammed Salim Dola into custody after his arrival at the IGI airport in Delhi on Tuesday. ANI VIDEO GRAB

pins,” Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on X.

‘Operation Global Hunt’ The accused has been brought back from Türkiye under “Operation Global-Hunt”.

The NCB produced him before a Delhi court that granted a two-day transit remand to the agency for

taking him to Mumbai.

It is learnt that Dola had been living in Beylikdüzü under a pseudonym, using a passport purportedly issued by the UAE. He was picked up by Turkish enforcement organisations following inputs from Indian agencies. Earlier, an Interpol Red Notice had been issued against him in

2024 at India’s request.

“Over the years, Dola had established a major transnational drug trafficking syndicate spanning a number of countries in the Middle East (West Asia), Africa, and Europe. His two-decade-long criminal antecedents include direct involvement in cases pertaining to multiple high-value seizures of heroin, charas, mephedrone, mandrax and methamphetamine in Maharashtra and Gujarat,” the NCB said, adding that he is also wanted by the Anti-Terrorism Squad of Gujarat.

Born in 1966 in the Byculla area of Mumbai, Dola was first arrested at the Mumbai airport on the charge of trying to smuggle mandrax tablets. In 2017, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence linked him to gutkha smuggling via Gujarat’s Pipavav port.

- **International Linkage:**
  - Works with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- **Important Feature:**
  - Focus on both supply reduction and demand reduction

## ARTICLE 47

**Duty of the State to raise the level of Nutrition and the Standard of Living and to Improve Public Health**



Raise the Level of Nutrition



Raise the Standard of Living



Improve Public Health



Ban the Consumption of Intoxicating Drinks & Drugs

### Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)

- Type: **Statutory body**
- Established in **1986** under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (**NDPS Act**)
- Works under **Ministry of Home Affairs**
- HQ: New Delhi
- Objective: Combat drug trafficking and abuse
- **Key Functions:**
  - Enforce NDPS Act provisions
  - Coordinate with state police, customs, other agencies through its zonal offices
  - Intelligence gathering on narcotics
  - International cooperation (Interpol, UN agencies)
- **Powers:**
  - Search, seizure, arrest under NDPS Act
  - Investigation of drug-related offences

### Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)

- The broad legislative policy of NCB is contained in the **three Central Acts:**
  - Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940
  - The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985
  - The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988.
- **India is a signatory to these international conventions:**
  - Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961
  - United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

### Exam Traps

- Constitutional body → **WRONG**
- Works under Ministry of Finance → **WRONG**
- Deals only with domestic drug issues → **WRONG**
- Has no power of arrest → **WRONG**
- Only advisory body → **WRONG**



**SYLLABUS : Prelims: International Organisation**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number : 04**

## CITU knocks on ILO's door over 'suppression' of workers' rights

Trade union asks UN agency to recommend that Union and Uttar Pradesh govts. release detained workers, withdraw criminal proceedings, guarantee non-repetition of such violations, and for independent judicial inquiry into police excesses

A.M. Jigeech  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi State Committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) has complained against the Union and Uttar Pradesh governments to the International Labour Organization (ILO) on the violations of workers' fundamental rights and assault on trade union rights in the industrial regions of Noida and Greater Noida. The CPI(M)-affiliated trade union, in its complaint to the ILO's Committee on Freedom of Association (CFA) on Monday, has raised concerns of "grave, widespread, and systematic violations" of freedom of association, right to organise, right to collective bargaining and right to peaceful assembly. It urged the ILO to admit its complaint under the "Freedom of Association" procedure and hold that the Government of India and the Uttar Pradesh government are in violation of fundamental ILO principles.

Workers in the industrial area staged a series of protests earlier this month

over issues like wage hike, working hours and better overtime pay, with violence reported during one such stir on April 13.

The complaint, seen by *The Hindu*, says the violations arise from coercive state action, including mass arrests, use of force, and criminalisation of labour protest, during the workers' mobilisations. CITU leader Aniyam P.V. said in the complaint that stagnant real wages, increasing costs of living amid the LPG crisis, and large-scale false propaganda by the government on Labour Codes created conditions in which the workers' anger exploded in mass demonstrations.

The trade union leaders said the minimum wages at the dawn of the strike for unskilled workers in Uttar Pradesh was ₹11,314. "The workers were expected to live below-par subsistence wages across Delhi-NCR where the cost of living has increased manifold in the last decade," the complaint read. It added that around 350 juveniles and 800 adults have been detained at Kasna, Ghaziabad. "Ma-



Raising pitch: Security personnel standing guard as factory workers stage a protest in Noida. FILE PHOTO

ny people were also arrested at their workplaces between 15-17th April, while workers were entering or punching in at their workplace, at the behest of the HR officials of the companies. Police have sealed the CITU offices in Sector 8 Noida as well as Bhangel," the complaint added.

The CITU has urged the ILO to recommend that both the Union and State governments must immediately release detained workers and union leaders, withdraw criminal proceedings arising from peaceful protests and guarantee non-repetition of such violations. Mr. Aniyam

said in the complaint that the ILO must direct the governments to institute an independent judicial inquiry into police excesses, restore collective bargaining mechanisms and strictly adhere to the existing labour laws.

"Textbook coercion case" "The events in Noida represent a textbook case of suppression of labour rights through state coercion, where workers asserting minimum economic demands have been met with criminalisation, violence, and institutional hostility," Mr. Aniyam said in the complaint.

### Noida not a law and order issue: activists

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

In a statement, about 500 cultural activists, academics and artists, including actor Naseeruddin Shah, musician T.M. Krishna, and poet K. Satchidanandan have demanded that the government engage with protesting workers in the Delhi-NCR region sympathetically and not treat the protests as a 'law and order' issue. "Immediately release all workers and their leaders," a release issued by them stated.

Separately, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha and a platform of 10 central trade unions rejected the narrative about the involvement of "anti-national forces and Pakistan" in the workers' uprising and demanded that the governments own up to their "criminal neglect" of the workers' genuine demands and fulfil them immediately.

## Key Reports

World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO)



Global Wage Report



World Social Protection Report



World Employment and Social Outlook for Youth



World of Work Report



### Core Areas:

- Child labour abolition
- Forced labour elimination
- Right to organize
- Equal remuneration

### India & ILO:

- Founding member
- Has ratified several conventions (not all core conventions)

### Awarded Nobel Peace Prize (1969)

- The Committee recognized that lasting peace can only be attained through **social justice**, recognizing the ILO's efforts to improve the welfare of workers globally.

### International Labour Organization (ILO)

- **Specialized agency** of the UN
- Established: **1919** (under **Treaty of Versailles**)
- Became **UN agency in 1946**
- Headquarters: Geneva
- Unique Feature: **Tripartite structure**
  - Governments + Employers + Workers
- **Objective:**
  - Promote labour rights, decent work, social justice
- **Key Functions:**
  - Sets International Labour Standards (Conventions & Recommendations)
  - Monitors implementation
  - Technical assistance to countries



**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** International Organisation  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number :** 04

## Fundamental Conventions of ILO

- An integral part of the United Nations Human Rights Framework

**01** Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)

**02** Abolition of Forced Labour (No. 105)

**03** Equal Remuneration (No. 100)

**04** Discrimination (No. 111)

**05** Minimum Age (No. 138)

**06** Right to Organise & Collective Bargaining (No. 98)

**07** Freedom of Association (No. 87)

**08** Worst Forms of Child Labour (No. 182)



## Exam Traps

- Established after World War II → WRONG
- Headquarters in New York → WRONG
- Only governments are members → WRONG
- India is not a founding member → WRONG
- Part of World Bank Group → WRONG



**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** International Organisation  
**Newspaper:** The Indian Express **Page Number :** 01

## OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries)

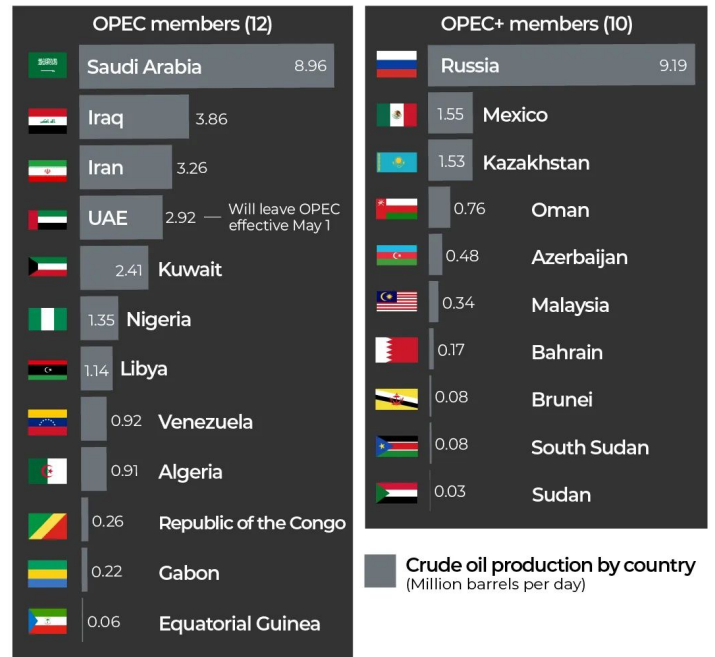
- Intergovernmental organization of oil-exporting countries
- Established: **1960**, HQ: **Vienna**
- **Founding Members:**
  - Iran,
  - Iraq,
  - Kuwait,
  - Saudi Arabia,
  - Venezuela
- **Objective:**
  - Coordinate petroleum policies
  - Stabilize oil prices
  - Ensure steady supply
- **Key Function:**
  - Production quotas to influence global oil prices

## OPEC+

- Group of OPEC + non-OPEC oil-producing countries
- Major Non-OPEC Member: **Russia**
- Formed: Around **2016** (informal alliance)
- **Purpose:**
  - Broader coordination on oil production cuts/increase
- **Nature:**
  - Not a formal organization
  - No permanent secretariat
- **Key Difference:**
  - OPEC → Formal organization
  - OPEC+ → Informal expanded grouping

## OPEC member countries

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries comprises 12 nations that control 40 percent of global crude oil production and 80 percent of the world's proven reserves. In 2016, OPEC formed an alliance with other oil-producing nations to create OPEC+.



## Exam Traps

- OPEC headquartered in Geneva → **WRONG**
- India is a member of OPEC → **WRONG**
- OPEC controls all global oil production → **WRONG**
- Russia is a member of OPEC → **WRONG**
- OPEC deals with natural gas → **WRONG**



**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** International Organisation  
**Newspaper:** The Indian Express **Page Number :** 01

## WHY IS UAE LEAVING?

### INSIDE OPEC



PRODUCTION QUOTAS



COORDINATED OUTPUT CUTS



CARTEL DISCIPLINE



LIMITED OUTPUT FLEXIBILITY

### OUTSIDE OPEC



OUTPUT FREEDOM



REVENUE MAXIMIZATION



STRATEGIC INDEPENDENCE



GREATER MARKET LEVERAGE

## MARKET IMPACT: WHAT'S AT STAKE?



OIL VOLATILITY RISK

**HIGH**

1

**MANAGED EXIT**



UAE leaves, but coordination continues informally. Limited market impact.

2

**CARTEL STRESS**



Others question quotas. Discipline weakens. Price volatility rises.

3

**PRICE WAR RISK**



More supply competition. Lower prices. Revenue pressure.



**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Polity

**Newspaper:** The Indian Express **Page Number :** 01

## Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA), 1978

- Preventive detention law of **J&K**
- **Purpose:** Originally passed to curb timber smuggling, it now allows detention to maintain "public order" & "security of the State".
- Detention Period:
  - Up to **2 years** (security of state)
  - Up to 1 year (public order)
- Authority:
  - District Magistrate / Divisional Commissioner
- Special Feature:
  - **Detention without trial**
  - Limited judicial review

## National Security Act (NSA), 1980

- Preventive detention law (national level)
- **Objective:**
  - Maintain national security,
  - Public order, and
  - Essential supplies
- Applies to whole of India
- Detention Period:
  - Up to **12 months**
- Authority:
  - Central & State Governments, District Magistrate
- Safeguards:
  - **Advisory Board review**
  - This mandatory review requires an independent body of three High Court-qualified judges to evaluate the legality of detention within seven weeks of detention.



### Exam Traps

- PSA applies across India → **WRONG**
- NSA allows indefinite detention → **WRONG**
- Both require trial before detention → **WRONG**
- PSA provides more safeguards than NSA → **WRONG**
- Only central govt can detain under NSA → **WRONG**



# ATF Pricing Formula

**SYLLABUS : Prelims: Economy - Energy**  
**Newspaper: The Indian Express Page Number : 21**

SOS TO GOVT COMES AS JET FUEL PRICES IN INDIA ARE DUE FOR MONTHLY REVISION EARLY MAY

## Airlines cite 'extreme stress', seek changes in ATF pricing formula

Industry body FIA also appealed to temporarily suspend the 11% excise duty on ATF sales for domestic flights

Sukalp Sharma  
New Delhi, April 28

AN AIRLINE body representing Indian carriers IndiGo, Air India, and SpiceJet has sent an SOS to the government, urging changes in the pricing formula for aviation turbine fuel (ATF), or jet fuel, whose prices have shot up in the global market amid the West Asia crisis.

ATF prices in India, which are linked to global prices, are due for their monthly revision early May.

In a letter to the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) wrote that the current 'ad hoc' pricing mechanism for ATF is "creating severe imbalance in domestic and international operations and rendering airline networks unviable and unsustainable".

"The airline industry in India is under extreme stress and are on the verge of closing down or of stopping its operations. The dire condition of the aviation sector has been exacerbated by the West Asia War and the exorbitant increase in the price of ATF," the FIA wrote in the letter dated April 26, as it

sought the jet fuel pricing formula to be reversed to one with margin bands — with a floor and ceiling — for what refiners can charge, and have the same pricing for domestic as well as international flights of Indian airlines.

Usually, ATF prices account for about 40% of Indian airlines' operational costs; the price surge has led to a further increase to 55-60%, according to the FIA.

Indian airlines are also suffering due to airspace restrictions in West Asia and the ban on Indian aircraft from entering the Pakistani airspace, as well as the rupee depreciation.

The industry body also urged the Centre to temporarily suspend the 11% excise duty on ATF sales for domestic flights, and work towards reduction in value added tax (VAT), which is quite high in a few states that house the biggest Indian airports.

"While the government of India stepped in last month to prevent the collapse of the aviation sector by limiting the increase of ATF to Rs 15 per litre for domestic operations. However, the ATF pricing for international operations was in-



The government has imposed an export duty on aviation turbine fuel, or jet fuel to discourage its export.

creased by Rs 73 per litre, making... international operations along with domestic operations completely unviable and resulting in significant losses for the aviation sector in April 2026," the FIA wrote.

In the last price revision on April 1, the price of the fuel for domestic scheduled flights was hiked only partially by the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs).

For international flights, however, the full price increase was passed on.

The core issues in how jet fuel prices are calculated.

ATF prices in India are linked to the Mean of Platts

### • COST PRESSURE

USUALLY, ATF prices account for about 40% of Indian airlines' operational costs. But, the price surge has led to a further increase to 55-60%, according to Federation of Indian Airlines

FIA WROTE that the current 'ad hoc' pricing mechanism for ATF is 'creating severe imbalance in domestic and international operations and rendering airline networks unviable'

AIRLINES ARE also suffering due to airspace curbs in West Asia and the ban on Indian aircraft from entering Pakistani airspace

jet fuel prices on the airlines.

The crack differential which was in the range of \$11 to \$18 per barrel has surged to \$132.59 even though the refining cost for converting crude into jet fuel has not really changed, as per the airlines' association.

"The current conflict has pushed the (benchmark) Brent crude from \$72/bbl (barrel) to \$118/bbl and resultant ATF price (MOPAG + Premium) has moved from \$87.24 and touched a high of \$260.24/bbl (295% increase) and is currently trading at \$235.63/bbl," the FIA said.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

### ATF (Aviation Turbine Fuel) Pricing Formula

- Nature:
  - **Market-linked pricing** (not fully administered by government)
- **Determined by:**
  - Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) like IOC, BP, and HP
- **Revision Frequency:**
  - 1st of every month
- **Key Components of Price:**
  - Linked to international crude/oil prices. Based on Mean of Platts Arab Gulf (MOPAG) prices
  - Exchange rate (₹/\$)
  - Refining & marketing costs
  - Dealer commission
  - State VAT (major component)
  - Central Excise Tax
- **Important Feature:**
  - **Prices vary across states** due to different VAT rates
- **Regulatory Aspect:**
  - Not under full price control (unlike LPG/kerosene earlier)

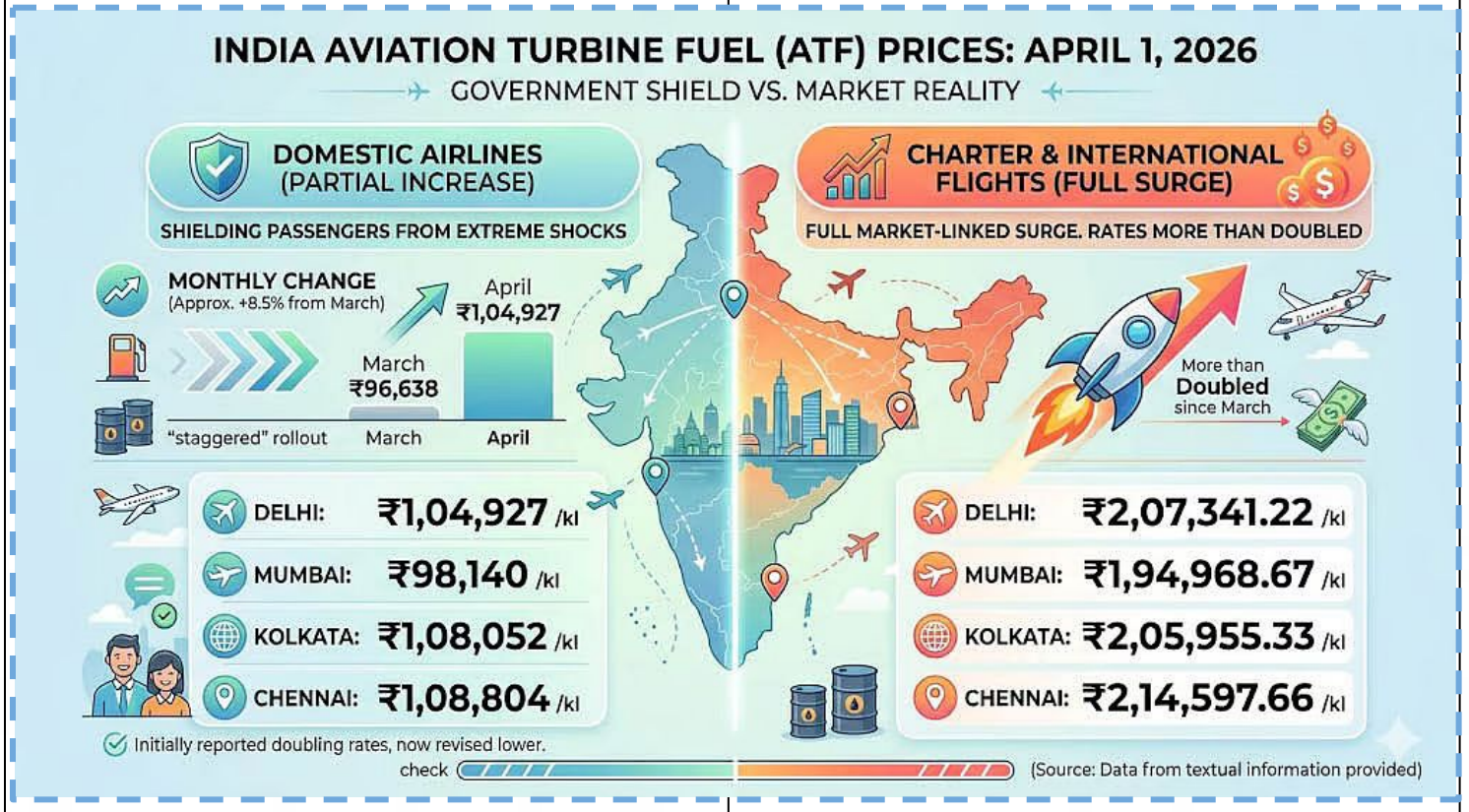


# ATF Pricing Formula

**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Economy - Energy  
**Newspaper:** The Indian Express **Page Number :** 21

## Exam Traps

- ATF price fixed by central government → WRONG
- Same price across all states → WRONG
- Revised daily like petrol/diesel → WRONG
- VAT has negligible impact → WRONG
- Only one company decides price → WRONG



**Q1. With reference to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a statutory body established under the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Finance and is primarily responsible for regulating pharmaceutical drugs.
3. It has the power to conduct search and seizure but lacks power to arrest under the NDPS Act.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Q2. With reference to the International Labour Organization (ILO), consider the following statements:**

1. It was established under the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 and later became a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. India is a founding member and has ratified all the conventions.
3. It publishes Global social protection and World of work report

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Q3. Which of the following countries are not members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?**

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Iran
3. Nigeria
4. Russia
5. Mexico

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Q4. With reference to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA), consider the following statements:**

1. It allows preventive detention without trial for up to five years in matters concerning the security of the State.
2. Detention orders under this Act can only be issued by the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir.

**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: d**

**Q5. With reference to the pricing of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) in India, consider the following statements:**

1. ATF prices in India are determined by the central government based on the international crude oil prices.
2. ATF prices are revised on a daily basis and remain uniform across all states due to centralised taxation.
3. State taxes, particularly VAT, significantly influence the final retail price of ATF across different states.

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

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

**Answer: b**





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