



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**9th April 2026**



# IRAN-US CEASEFIRE?

**CONTEXT:** Will the ceasefire fashion a 'new Middle East'? Where do Washington, Tehran, or Tel Aviv stand?

## WHAT EACH SIDE WAS (is) FIGHTING FOR

### UNITED STATES

- Primary Goals
  - Stop Iran's nuclear weapons capability
  - Limit Iran's missile power
  - Reduce Iran's regional influence

- Hidden/Strategic Goals
  - Reassert US dominance in West Asia
  - Protect Israel
  - Control oil routes (Hormuz)
  - Counter China-Russia influence

### U.S. and Israel Strike Iran

The United States and Israel launched extensive air strikes on Iran on February 28, targeting military sites and Iranian leadership.



Note: Map shows approximate locations of strikes as of February 28.

Source: New York Times

cfr

### IRAN

- Primary Goals
  - Protect sovereignty
  - Retain nuclear programme
  - Remove sanctions

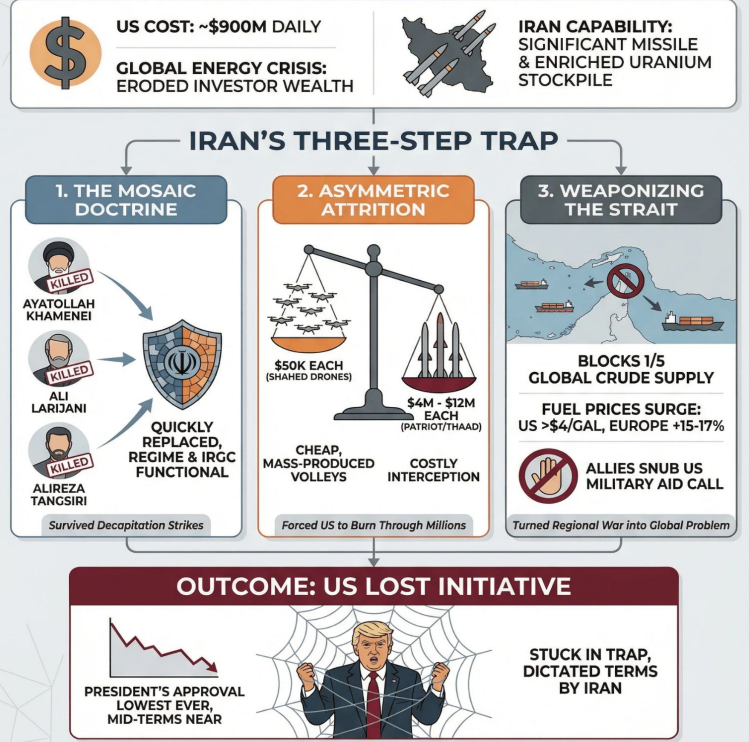
- Strategic/Long-term Goals
  - Establish itself as regional power
  - Show resistance to US pressure
  - Control Strait of Hormuz
  - Build deterrence capability

## Live: Trump calls Hormuz toll 'beautiful thing', pitches 'joint venture' with Iran | \$1 a barrel of oil

A two-week ceasefire was agreed upon by Iran and the US earlier today and the talks are expected to take place in Islamabad.

## THE ESCALATION TRAP: HOW IRAN STALLED THE US WAR

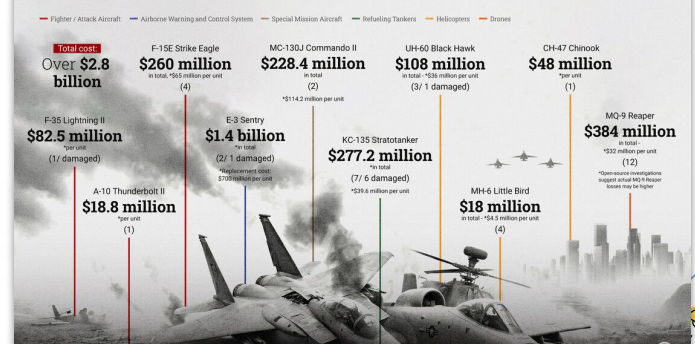
FEB 28: WAR BEGINS



## HOW THE WAR WAS (is) FOUGHT US STRATEGY

👉 "Coercive Diplomacy"  
 Use force → force Iran to negotiate  
 Avoid Iraq-style full-scale war

### Iran war: US military aircraft damage and losses



# IRAN-US CEASEFIRE?

**CONTEXT:** Will the ceasefire fashion a 'new Middle East'? Where do Washington, Tehran, or Tel Aviv stand?

## IRAN STRATEGY

Missile & drone waves (99 waves)

Attacks on:

Gulf energy infrastructure

Strategic locations

CRITICAL: STRAIT OF HORMUZ

This was a major leverage tool for Iran

Oil prices - > \$100

Global economy - Disruption

US allies - Pressured US to stop war

## The Negotiation Table

The entire war was essentially a violent preamble to force a diplomatic agreement. The negotiations will now be based on two competing sets of demands.

## ● US "Demands" (But Trump denies)

- Nuclear - Dismantle Fordow, Natanz, Isfahan
- Weapons - No nuclear weapons ever
- Monitoring - Full access to IAEA
- Uranium - Hand over enriched uranium
- Missiles - Limit ballistic missile program
- Strait of Hormuz - Reopen navigation
- In return - Lift sanctions + support nuclear energy

## ● Iran "10-Point Demands"

- Sovereignty - Recognise nuclear enrichment rights
- Security - US non-aggression guarantee
- Sanctions - Remove all sanctions
- Military - Withdraw US forces
- Compensation - Pay for war damages
- Hormuz - Recognise Iran's control
- Regional - End Israel's war on Lebanon

## OUTCOME: Confusion

### WHO WON, WHO LOST?

#### USA

- + Iran back at table, willing to negotiate
- + Trump can claim "victory" narrative
- No Iranian capitulation or regime change
- War aims shifted inconsistently throughout
- Commitment trap — escalated without clear endgame

#### Israel

- + Struck Iranian leadership (historic aim achieved)
- Excluded from US-Iran ceasefire terms
- Iran's retaliatory capability proven and intact

09:28 (IST) Apr 09 ● Iran US News: All US military assets to remain in place, says Trump

All U.S. Ships, Aircraft, and Military Personnel, with additional Ammunition, Weaponry, and anything else that is appropriate and necessary for the lethal prosecution and destruction of an already substantially degraded Enemy, will remain in place in, and around, Iran, until such time as the REAL AGREEMENT reached is fully complied with. If for any reason it is not, which is highly unlikely, then the "Shootin' Starts," bigger, and better, and stronger than anyone has ever seen before. It was agreed, a long time ago, and despite all of the fake rhetoric to the contrary - NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS and, the Strait of Hormuz WILL BE OPEN & SAFE. In the meantime our great Military is Loading Up and Resting, looking forward, actually, to its next Conquest: Donald Trump on Truth Social

#### Iran

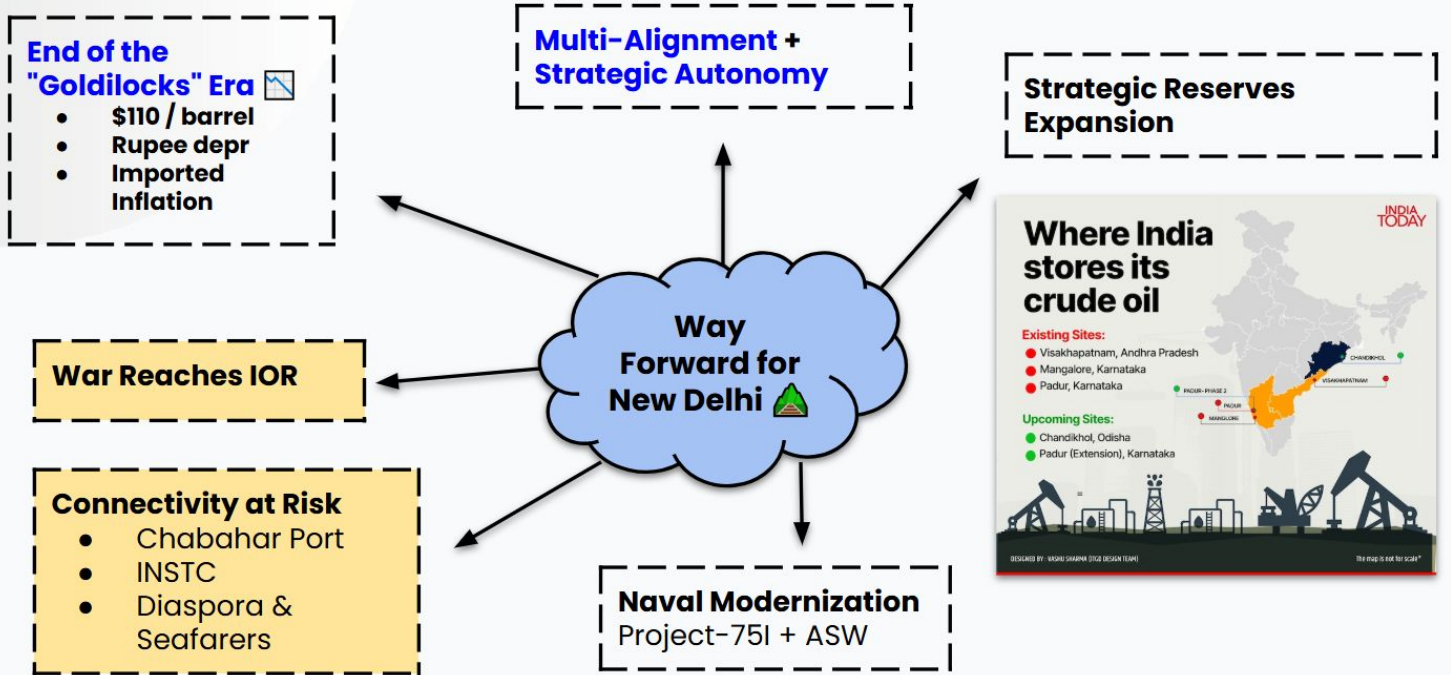
- + Proved ability to absorb AND impose costs
- + Choke on Strait of Hormuz — strategic leverage
- + Recognised as a civilisational power, not Venezuela
- + 10-point demands on the table for negotiations
- Massive infrastructure, energy damage sustained



# IRAN-US CEASEFIRE?

**CONTEXT:** Will the ceasefire fashion a 'new Middle East'? Where do Washington, Tehran, or Tel Aviv stand?

## 🌐 BIGGER PICTURE: "NEW MIDDLE EAST"?



## THE IRAN WAR: KEY DATES AND DEVELOPMENTS

<b>FEB 18</b> INDIRECT US-IRAN NUCLEAR TALKS; AGREEMENT ON "GUIDING PRINCIPLES" BUT NO FINAL DEAL	<b>MAR 1</b> IRANIAN DRONE ATTACK IN KUWAIT KILLS SIX US SOLDIERS; HEZBOLLAH FIRES ROCKETS AT ISRAEL	<b>MAR 11-13</b> SHIPS HIT IN STRAIT OF HORMUZ; US BOMBS KHARG ISLAND	<b>MID-MARCH</b> ALI LARIJANI AND GHOLMUREZ SOLEIMANI	<b>MAR 23</b> TRUMP ANNOUNCES TALKS WITH IRAN AND A FIVE-DAY PAUSE ON ENERGY STRIKES	<b>EARLY APRIL</b> IRAN DOWNS US F-15E; MULTIPLE US AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS HIT
<b>FEB 28</b> US-ISRAEL STRIKES KILL AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI AND OTHER LEADERS; SCHOOL STRIKE KILLS 150	<b>MAR 8</b> MOJTABA KHAMENEI NAMED SUPREME LEADER; TRUMP CALLS APPOINTMENT "UNACCEPTABLE"	<b>MID-MARCH</b> ISRAELI STRIKES KILL ALI LARIJANI AND GHOLMUREZ SOLEIMANI; GAS AND OIL FACILITIES TARGETED	<b>LATE MARCH</b> HOUSHIERS FIRE MISSILE AT ISRAEL; IRANIAN NAVAL VESSEL SINKS NEAR SRI LANKA	<b>APR 7-8</b> TRUMP ISSUES THREAT OVER STRAIT OF HORMUZ; PAKISTAN-REPRESENTED DONALD TRUMP PAKISTAN-CEASE-FIRE REPRESENTATIVE PAKISTAN-BROKERED TWO-WEEK CEASEFIRE AGREED	

### Mains Practise Question

**Question :** The IRAN-US ceasefire is not an end – it's the real beginning of negotiations. Analyse.

**(15 Marks, 250 words)**



**CONTEXT:** Recent joint report by NITI Aayog + FED exposes critical structural bottlenecks preventing this sector from scaling globally.

## The Hidden Crisis Behind the Glory



Global markets for sports  
**USD 460 billion**  
in 2024

### Global sports industry sports market

Year	Market size (INR lakh crore)
2022	INR 38.1 lakh Crore (USD 459.8 billion)
2023	INR 39.8 lakh Crore (USD 480.2 billion)
2024	INR 42.0 lakh Crore (USD 506.7 billion)
2025(F)	INR 44.3 lakh Crore (USD 534.5 billion)

Source: "Global Sports Market Briefing 2024", KPMG's access to EMIS database, March 2025

**Economic reality:** India contributes only 0.5% to \$50 billion global sports equipment trade

## India's Sports Manufacturing Landscape

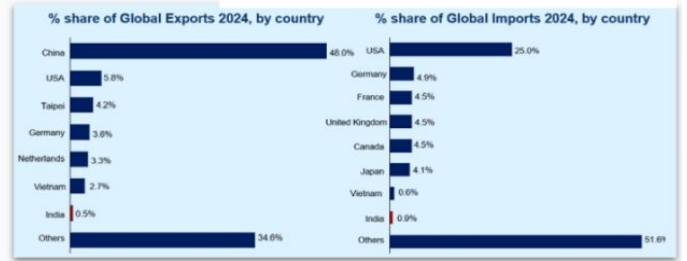
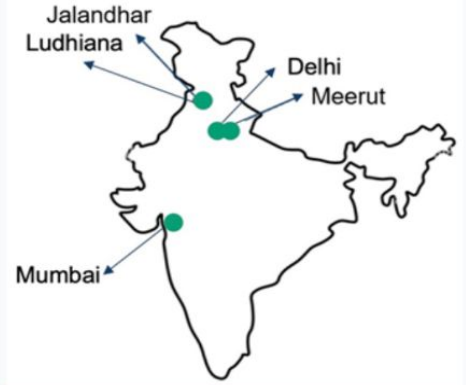
HS Code	Category	Global Export Value (in \$Mn)	India Export Value (in \$Mn)	India's share in global exports	Top global exporters (% share)
9506 (91)	Exercise, Gymnastics & Athletics Gear <sup>1</sup>	14,081	29.7	0.21%	China (65%), USA (5%), Taiwan (4.5%)
8712 (00)	Bicycles (sports)	8,833	67.3	0.76%	China (30.5%), Taiwan (11.7%), Germany (10.4%)
9506 (99)	Misc. equipment including cricket bats, sports nets	7,356	110	1.5%	China (41.9%), USA (6.5%)
9506 (39)	Golf equipment (excl. balls and complete clubs)	2,667	0.1	0%	China (31.4%), Hong Kong (18%)
9506 (29)	Water-sport gear (water-skis, surf-boards, sailboards)	1,998	3	0.16%	China (46.8%), Italy (6.2%), Netherlands (5.5%)
9506 (31)	Golf clubs	1,994	0	0%	Mexico (21.9%), China (15.9%), Japan (12%)
9506 (62)	Inflatable balls	1,797	21.3	1.2%	China (48.8%), Pakistan (13.8%), Vietnam (7%)
9304 (00)	Spring-, air- or gas-powered guns & pistols, etc.	1,575	1	0.06%	China (54%), USA (5%)
9507 (90)	Fishing tackle, landing/butterfly nets, decoys	1,478	9.9	0.67%	China (54.7%), USA (5.2%)
9507 (10)	Fishing Rods	1,054	0	0%	China (62.9%), Vietnam (6.4%)
	Others	9,411	32.3	0.3%	China, USA, Taiwan, Germany
	<b>Total</b>	<b>52,243</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	

Figure 4: Top 10 categories of Global Exports (in \$ bn) for Sports Equipment (in 2024)

# Status of Sports Manufacturing

**CONTEXT:** Recent joint report by NITI Aayog + FED exposes critical structural bottlenecks preventing this sector from scaling globally.

Aspect	India's Status	Global Benchmark
<b>Global Trade Share</b>	0.5% of \$50 billion market	<b>China</b> ~40%, <b>Pakistan</b> ~10%
<b>Production Concentration</b>	<b>80%+ output</b> from Jalandhar (Punjab) + Meerut (UP)	Diversified hubs globally
<b>Industry Structure</b>	Dominated by <b>MSMEs</b>	Mix of MSMEs + large corporations with R&D
<b>Product Focus</b>	Stitched balls, cricket gear, basic fitness equipment	<b>High-performance equipment</b> (carbon fiber rackets, precision golf clubs, advanced sportswear)
<b>Cost Disadvantage</b>	15% higher production costs	<b>China/Pakistan:</b> ₹100 Ind vs ₹85-87 football



## 🎯 The Core Structural Problems (ss side)

<b>Product Diversity Makes Policy Difficult</b>	Each sport = different requirements Machinery, Raw materials differ	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Certification body</th> <th>Certification</th> <th>Est. cost (in INR)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="3"><b>FIFA</b></td> <td>Quality/Quality Pro (4-year certification)</td> <td>Admin/Testing fee: 5 lakhs per ball Licensing Fee: 22 lakhs per year Royalties: 80-160 per ball <b>Total: 27 lakhs per ball*</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2"><b>FIBA</b></td> <td>Level 1/Level 2 Size 5,6,7 (4-year agreement)</td> <td>Handling Fee: 1 lakh Testing: 2-3 lakhs Licensing Fee: 35-70 lakhs <b>Total: 40-70 lakhs*</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>FIVB</b></td> <td>Homologation Certificate</td> <td>Total Homologation Cost: 1 Cr*</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Certification body	Certification	Est. cost (in INR)	<b>FIFA</b>	Quality/Quality Pro (4-year certification)	Admin/Testing fee: 5 lakhs per ball Licensing Fee: 22 lakhs per year Royalties: 80-160 per ball <b>Total: 27 lakhs per ball*</b>	<b>FIBA</b>	Level 1/Level 2 Size 5,6,7 (4-year agreement)	Handling Fee: 1 lakh Testing: 2-3 lakhs Licensing Fee: 35-70 lakhs <b>Total: 40-70 lakhs*</b>	<b>FIVB</b>	Homologation Certificate	Total Homologation Cost: 1 Cr*
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		<b>FIVB</b>	Homologation Certificate	Total Homologation Cost: 1 Cr*										
<b>Why Indian manufacturers cost more</b>	Tariff & import duties, Inefficient logistics, <b>Small MSMEs</b> ≠ bulk discounts													
<b>Certification Nightmare</b>	<b>FIFA</b> (footballs) <b>BWF</b> (badminton), <b>₹5 lakh to ₹50 lakh</b> per Stock Keeping Unit For MSMEs: 1 prod's testing = entire annual profit													
<b>No Indian Global Brands</b>	<b>Contract manufacturing</b> trap, No <b>premium pricing</b> power, <b>Marketing</b> investment, <b>Athlete</b> partnerships													

## Why Global Buyers Don't Demand Indian Sports Equipment

- No "Made in India" premium
- Not "international competition grade"
- Low Marketing: low visibility
- Network effects
- Limited R&D

## Domestic Demand Also Limited

- Sports infrastructure deficit
- Affordability
- Import preference
- Nike shoes, Yonex rackets, Adidas balls
- Society

**Kheloge Kudoge  
Toh Banoge  
~~Kharaab~~  
Nawaab**



# Status of Sports Manufacturing



**CONTEXT:** Recent joint report by NITI Aayog + FED exposes critical structural bottlenecks preventing this sector from scaling globally.

## Steps taken by Government

### Budget 2026-27:

- ₹500 crore "Promotion of Sports Goods Manufacturing"
- ₹10,000 cr SME growth fund

### Khelo Bharat Niti 2025

- New National Sports Policy
- "Sports for Economic Development"



## What NITI Aayog Recommends

### Short-Term (1-2 yrs)

- Rationalize import duties
- RoDTEP, subsidies
- Global trade show funding

### Medium-Term (3-5 years)

- PPP model
- Tie-up with international federations
- Cluster development
- Host events with "Made in India" procurement clause

## Long-Term (5-10 years)

- R&D grants
- PLI-type scheme
- Port-proximate SEZs
- Performance fabrics manufacturing
- Hubs beyond Punjab/UP

### Govt. of Odisha has sponsored Indian hockey's global success...

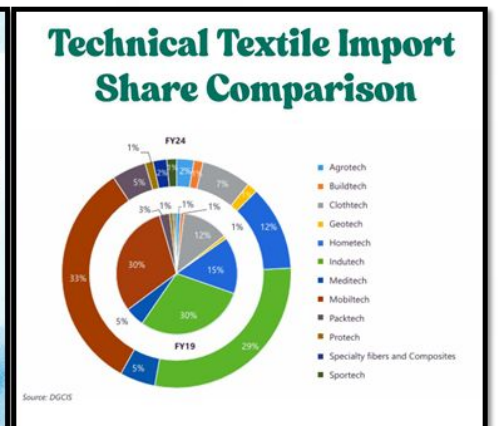
How Odisha government played huge role in Indian hockey's success at Paris Olympics 2024



Odisha Naval Tata Hockey HPC

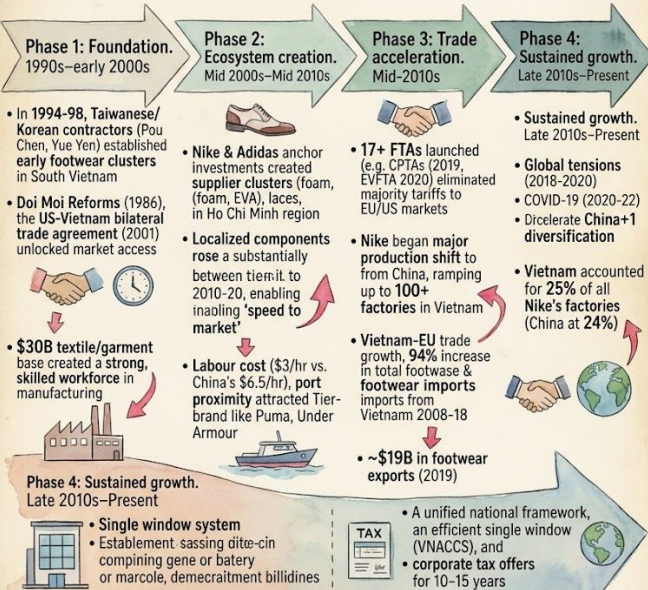


Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium, Rourkela



**CONTEXT:** Recent joint report by NITI Aayog + FED exposes critical structural bottlenecks preventing this sector from scaling globally.

## Deep-dive: Vietnam's >3x growth indicates how crucial it is to bring anchor brands, develop manufacturing clusters



Vietnam's 20-year compounding advantage 1) Anchor investors partnerships with Adidas that catalysed ecosystem developens enhancing competitive free trad access 2) Unified a singlar framework, and 4) Infrastructure with Southern Vietnam cluster hubs offering faster port access.

1. Structural reforms – remove duties on imported raw material, capital goods; improve overall ease of doing business
2. Provide fiscal incentives to make the manufacturers globally competitive
3. Encourage new manufacturers by setting up clusters for sports (in existing clusters)
4. Develop a testing infrastructure ecosystem in the country
5. Encourage setting up of specialised raw material manufacturers
6. Develop brand India in sports manufacturing, roping in NSFs, Corporates, Athletes and Manufacturers
7. Bring in administrative changes such as dedicated sports goods promotion cell, and expanding definition of sports goods



## Khelo India Mission

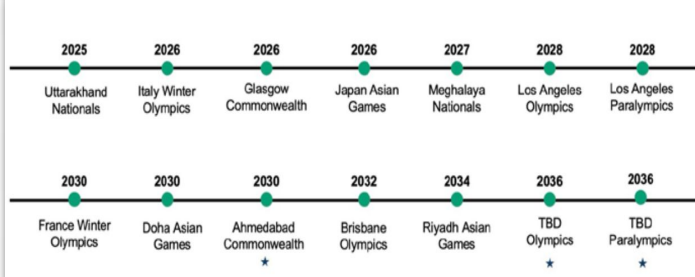
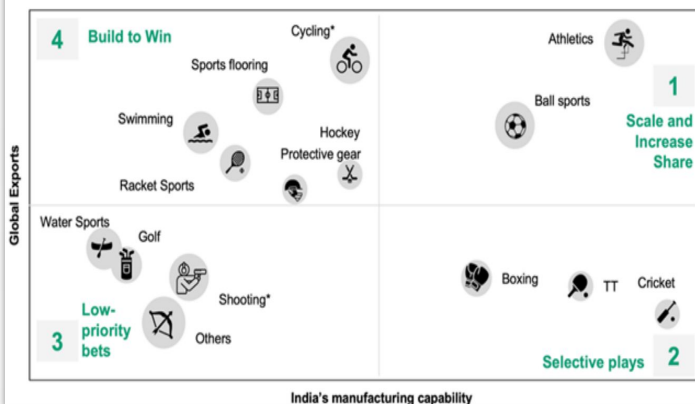
### Mission to facilitate:

- > Integrated talent development pathway, supported by training centres
- > Systematic development of coaches and support staff
- > Integration of sports science and technology
- > Competitions and leagues to promote sports culture
- > Development of sports infrastructure for training and competition



## Why Now Matters

### Opportunity vs India's manufacturing capability

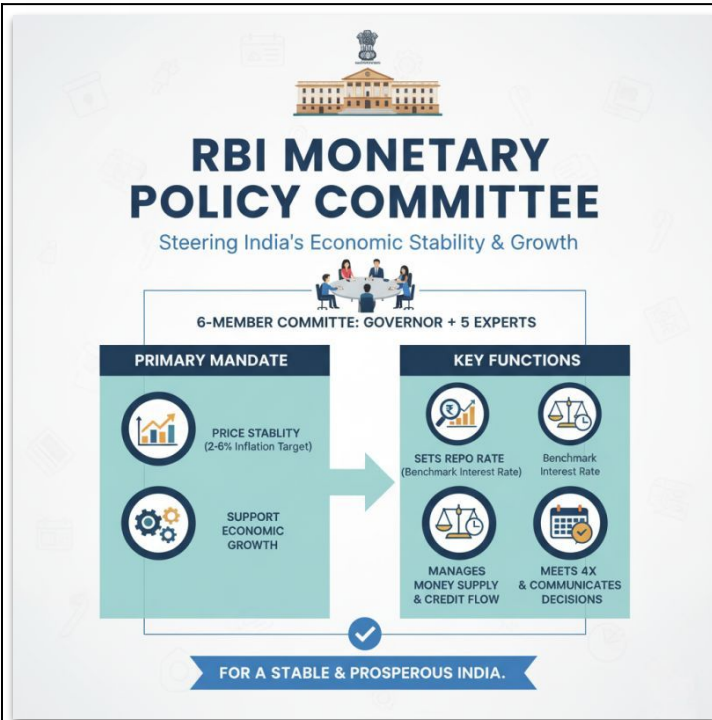


## Mains Practise Question

**Question :** Discuss challenges faced by MSMEs in India and suggest reforms. Use sports equipment sector as case study. (15 Marks, 250 words)



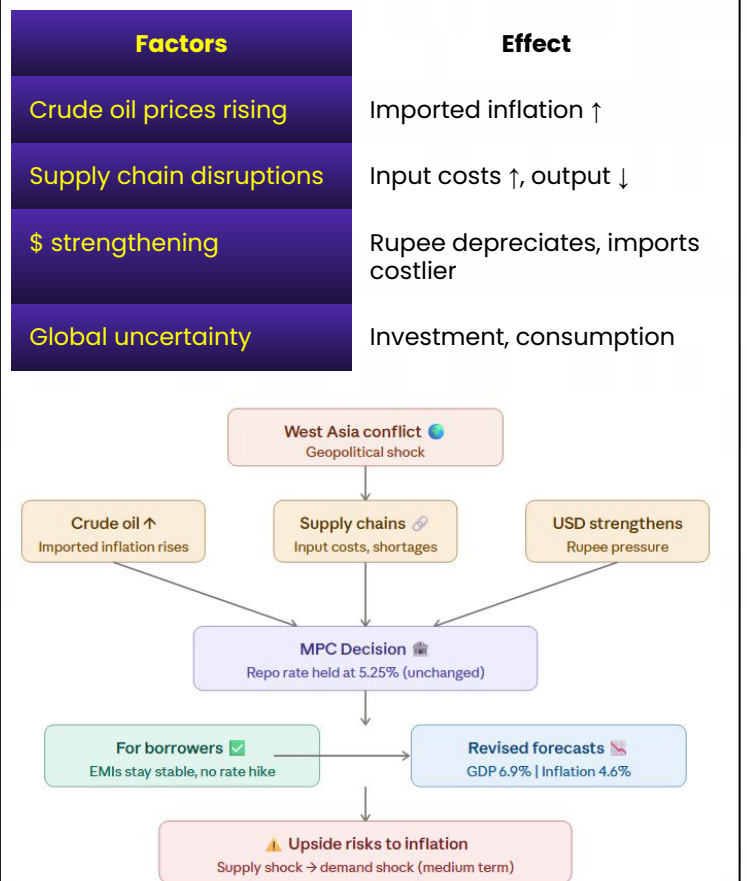
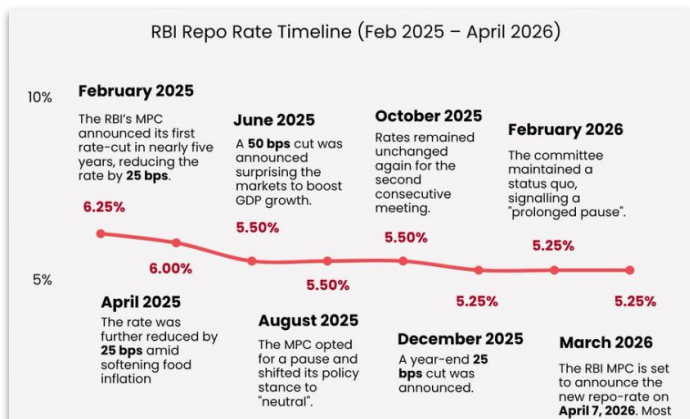
**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Monetary Policy**  
**Newspaper: The Indian Express; Page Number : 15**



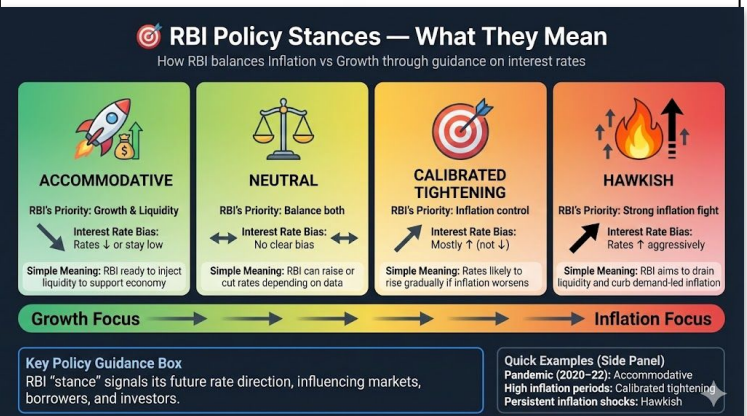
## RBI Act, 1934

- LAF
- Flexible inflation targeting framework
- Transmission Mechanism:
- Repo Rate → Bank lending rates → Home/ Auto/ Business loan EMIs → Consumer spending → Aggregate Demand → Inflation & Growth

## MPC is facing a classic Growth-Inflation dilemma



## Stances of the RBI



# RBI MPC meeting



**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Monetary Policy  
**Newspaper:** The Indian Express; **Page Number : 15**

## UPSC PYQ (P) 2017

Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?

1. It decides the RBI's benchmark interest rates.
2. It is a 12-member body including the Governor of RBI and is reconstituted every year.
3. It functions under the chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

## UPSC PYQ (P) 2020

If the RBI decides to adopt an expansionist monetary policy, which of the following would it **not** do?

1. Cut and optimize the Statutory Liquidity Ratio
2. Increase the Marginal Standing Facility Rate
3. Cut the Bank Rate and Repo Rate

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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



# PM Surya Ghar & Utility Led Aggregation



**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Welfare schemes  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu; **Page Number : 12**

## What is the scheme?

### PM SURYA GHAR: MUFT BIJLI YOJANA

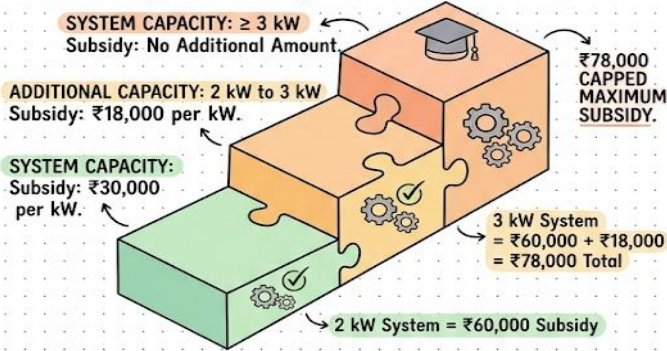
Central Govt. Scheme: Free Electricity & Income | Launch: Feb 2024 | Goal: 1 Crore Households

#### 1. The Core Offer: 300 Units Free

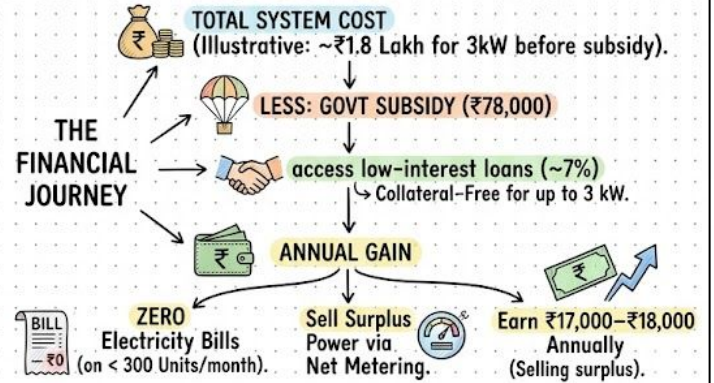
How it works: Install Rooftop Solar ⇒ Generate Power ⇒ Consume FREE up to 300 Units Monthly.

Note: Typical residential solar generation is ~4 Units/day/kW, so a 3 kW system generates ~360 Units/month.

#### 2. The Stepped Subsidy Math



#### 3. Financial Lifecycle & Income Generation



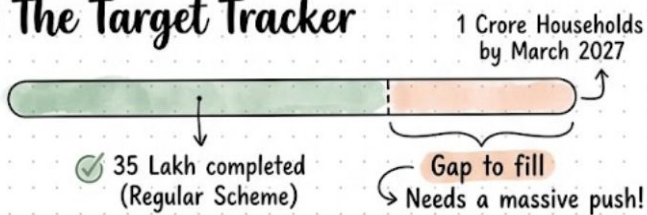
## Utility-Led Aggregation

Instead of individual households installing solar

DISCOMs install solar systems for them

## How ULA model works

#### 1. The Target Tracker



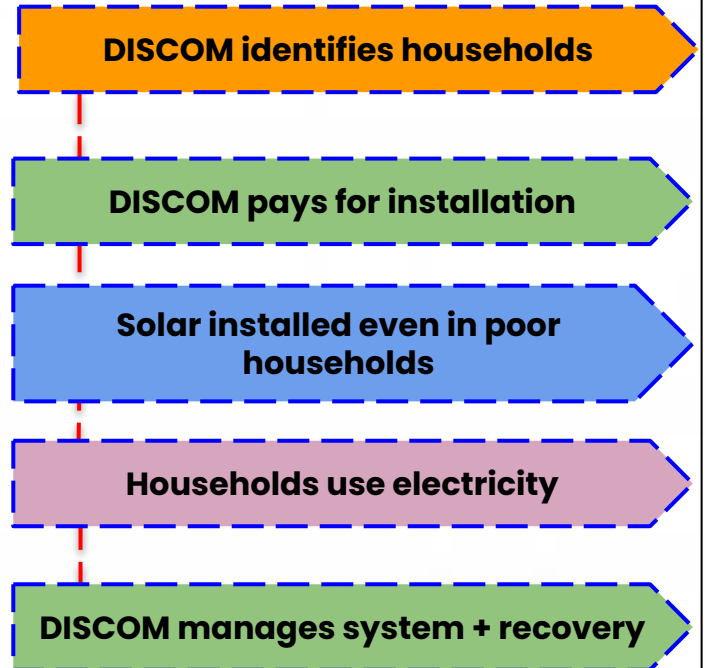
#### 2. The Solution: ULA Model

##### Utility Led Aggregation (ULA)

⇒ The Problem: Scheme isn't reaching households that can't afford upfront costs or lack roof infrastructure.

⇒ The Fix: State electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs) will step in and pay for the rooftop solar installation for these households.

↳ MNRE aims to cover 30 Lakh households via ULA to close the gap!



# PM Surya Ghar & Utility Led Aggregation



**SYLLABUS:** Prelims: Welfare schemes  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu; **Page Number:** 12

## Why is "Utility-Led Aggregation" needed?

Why ULA is needed?

Problems in current model:

High upfront cost 💰

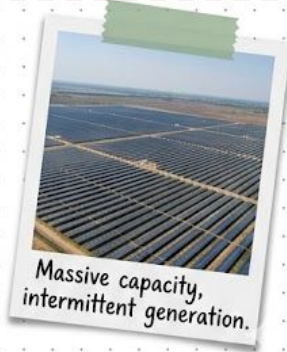
Lack of roof/infrastructure

Lack of awareness

Coordination issues with vendors

### The 'Why' Box

Because solar and wind are intermittent (the sun sets, the wind stops), coal still does the heavy lifting for baseload power.



## India's RE Growth: FY 2025-26



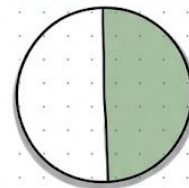
Remarkable Growth! India added 55.3 GW of non-fossil capacity this year.



↳ Solar dominated with 44.6 GW added

### The Capacity vs. Generation Paradox

Installed Capacity



Nearly 50% of our total power plants are non-fossil.

Actual Electricity Generation



But only ~25% of the actual electricity we use comes from them!

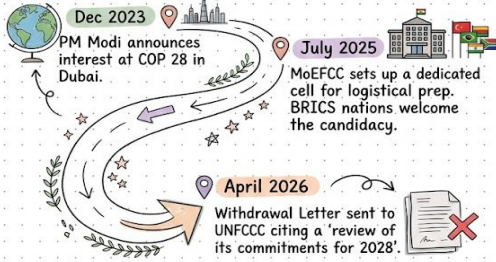


# India Withdraws Bid to Host COP 33



**SYLLABUS:** Prelims: UNFCCC, COP  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu; **Page Number:** 12

## India Withdraws COP 33 Bid



### Upcoming COP Destinations

UN COP hosting rotation schedule = regional group rotation

COP 30:	Brazil (Latin America)
COP 31:	Turkey & Australia (Western Europe & Others)
COP 32 (2027):	Ethiopia (African States)
COP 33 (2028):	With India out, South Korea is currently the only country expressing interest for the Asia-Pacific slot.



India previously hosted only COP 8 in 2002.

## How is a COP Host Chosen? 🌐

**The Rotation Rule:** The hosting of the Conference of Parties rotates among the UN's **five recognized regional groups**: African States, Asia-Pacific States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States, and Western European and other States.

- **India's Group:** India falls under the **Asia-Pacific group**.
- **Timeline:** Venues for future COPs are typically decided and finalized **two years in advance**.

## India's Updated NDCs (2035 Targets)

Despite withdrawing from hosting COP 33, India announced aggressive new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) on March 25, 2026.

## Why Did India Pull Out? 🎯

### The Three Pillars of the 2035 Goal

#### Energy Transition

Target: Source 60% of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources by 2035.



#### Emissions Reduction

Target: Reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 47%.



#### Carbon Sinks

Target: Increase carbon sink by 3.5 to 4 Billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.



**Mains Fact:** NDCs represent a country's self-defined pledges under the Paris Agreement to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts.



Building 4 Billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> sink

## Critical Analysis

- Shift from **Optics to Action**
- Massive **Logistical & Financial Burden**
- The **"Host Country"** Pressure
- Ceding Space to **Allies**

## Vocabulary & Concepts for Prelims 2026

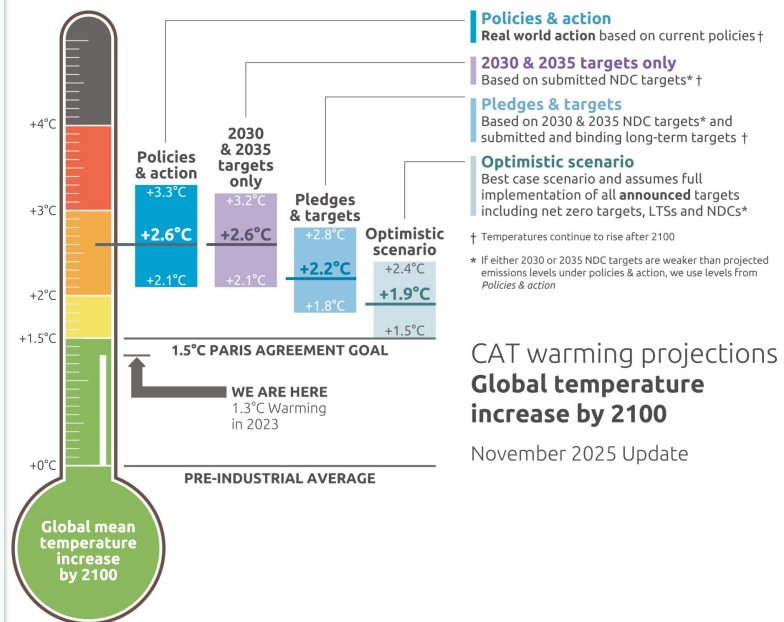
- NDCs
- Emissions Intensity of GDP



**SYLLABUS:** Prelims: UNFCCC, COP  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu; **Page Number :** 12

## 2 Important Climate Conventions

Kyoto Protocol	Paris Agreement
Was created in 1997 and ratified in 2005. Had two periods from 1997-2020.	Signed in November of 2016. New commitments are due every 5 years
Legally binding agreement to decrease GHG	Not legally binding commitment to reduce emissions, increase accountability
Original commitment to decrease overall emissions by 5% from 1990 levels	Overall goal to limit global temperatures to 1.5 degrees celcius above pre-industrial levels
Only required developed nations to reduce emissions	Asked all nations to reduce emissions
Targets are set but no determined time frame	New set of targets declared after 5 years (these are now due in 2020)



CAT warming projections  
**Global temperature increase by 2100**  
 November 2025 Update

### UPSC PYQ (P) 2016

With reference to the Agreement at the UNFCCC Meeting in Paris in 2015, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- The Agreement was signed by all the member countries of the UN and it will go into effect in 2017.
- The Agreement aims to limit the greenhouse gas emissions so that the rise in average global temperature by the end of this century does not exceed 2°C or even 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- Developed countries acknowledged their historical responsibility in global warming and committed to donate \$1000 billion a year from 2020 to help developing countries to cope with climate change.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- 1 and 3 only
- 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

### UPSC PYQ (P) 2016

The term 'Intended Nationally Determined Contributions' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of

- pledges made by the European countries to rehabilitate refugees from the war-affected Middle East
- plan of action outlined by the countries of the world to combat climate change
- capital contributed by the member countries in the establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- plan of action outlined by the countries of the world regarding Sustainable Development Goals



# Top 10% rural households own 44% land



**SYLLABUS:** Prelims: Inequality  
**Newspaper:** The Indian Express; **Page Number:** 15

## Geography of Land Inequality in India

*Working paper*

- **Paris-based World Inequality Lab**
- **Data:** 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census

Figure 1: Gini Distribution by State

Distribution of Gini Coefficient at Household Level for All Population

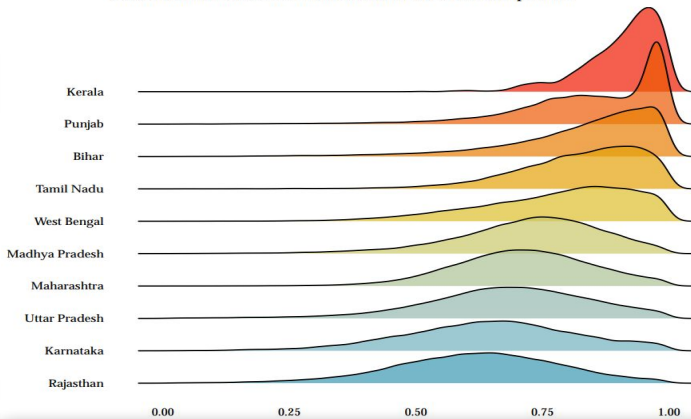
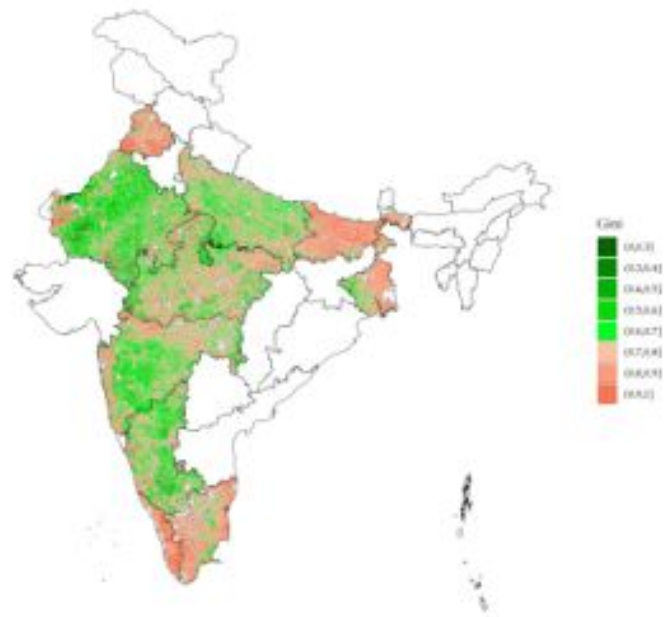


Figure A2: Land inequality distribution map

(a) Gini, all households



## State-by-State Breakdown 🇮🇳

State	Landlessness Rate	Gini Coefficient
<b>Kerala</b>	NA	<b>Highest</b> (~90)
<b>Punjab</b>	<b>73%</b>	Very High (~80)
<b>Bihar</b>	59%	Very High (~80)
<b>MP</b>	51%	High
<b>UP</b>	39%	Moderate
<b>Raj &amp; Karn</b>	34% (Raj)	<b>Lowest</b> (<65)

**Top 10%: Owns 44% of total rural land area**

**Top 5%: Owns 32% of total land area**

**Top 1%: Owns 18% of total land area**

**Landless: A staggering 46% of all rural households own absolutely no land**



# Top 10% rural households own 44% land



**SYLLABUS:** Prelims: Inequality  
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## 4 Drivers of Inequality

01

**Paradox of Good Land**

02

**Market Access & Infrastructure**

03

**Historical Institutions**

- Zamindari = 3-4% higher
- Princely = 2-3% lower

04

**Caste Factor**

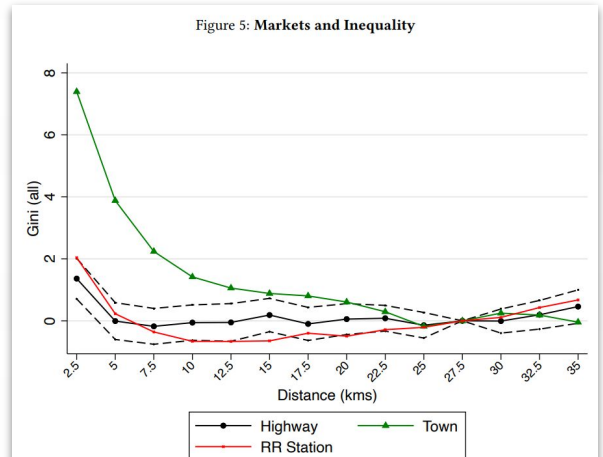
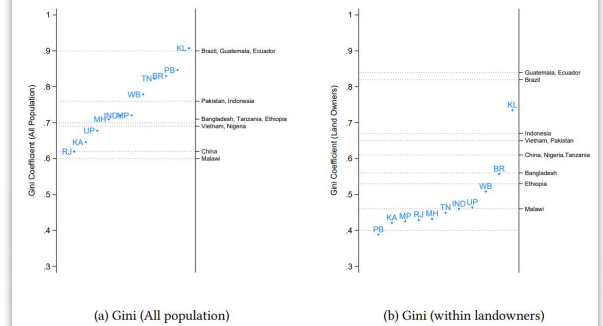


Figure A1: Land Area Inequality in Comparison with Other Countries



**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Species in news  
**Newspaper:** The Indian Express; **Page Number :** 7

## Himalayan Griffon Vulture

White head  
 Yellowish bill  
 Ruff of long, spiky feathers



2.6 - 3.1 m

< 12 kg

Habitat: high altitudes;  
 1,200 and 5,500 m

Conservation: Near Threatened

Serious risks: Diclofenac poisoning  
 2012 (PYQ)



## Species Breakdown

### India's Resident Vultures

Note: ALL 9 Indian species are CITES Appx II & WPA Schedule I.

#### Section 1: The 'CR' Club (Critically Endangered)

Native to South/SE Asia (Gangetic plains).

[IUCN: CR]  
 White-Rumped Vulture

Native to India, Pakistan, Nepal.

[IUCN: CR]  
 Indian Vulture

Native to Sub-Himalayas & SE Asia.

[IUCN: CR]  
 Slender-Billed Vulture

Indian Subcontinent.

[IUCN: CR]  
 Red-Headed Vulture

#### Section 2: Other Residents

Egyptian Vulture (Pharaoh's Chicken)  
 Iberian Peninsula to India.

[IUCN: EN]

Bearded Vulture  
 High mountains (Europe, Tibet, Himalayas).

[IUCN: NT]



### India's Migratory Vultures

Cinereous / Monk / Black Vulture

↳ Distributed throughout temperate Eurasia.

[IUCN: NT]



Eurasian Griffon Vulture

↳ Winter visitor to India.

[IUCN: Least Concern (LC)]



Himalayan Griffon Vulture

↳ Native to the Himalayas and Tibetan Plateau.

[IUCN: NT]



UPSC Cheat Sheet: IUCN Status	
Critically Endangered (CR)	White-Rumped, Indian (Long-billed), Slender-billed, Red-Headed.
Endangered (EN)	Egyptian Vulture.
Near Threatened (NT)	Bearded, Cinereous, Himalayan Griffon.
Least Concern (LC)	Eurasian Griffon.

ALL 9 SPECIES ARE PROTECTED UNDER WPA SCHEDULE I. CONSERVATION IS CRITICAL.

### Geography: Last Strongholds

Because of **extreme human disturbance elsewhere**, vultures have been forced to retreat to specific geographic pockets.

- **Central-Northwest Hub:** Nesting @ MP, Maha, Raj.
- **Dominance:** Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan alone account for 63%
- **Safety Net:** Over 60% of the nests in these two states are located strictly inside Protected Areas.



9th April 2026

**Q1. With reference to the monetary policy stance of the RBI, consider the following statements:**

1. An accommodative stance implies that the central bank is willing to cut interest rates to support growth.
2. A hawkish stance indicates a preference for tightening monetary policy to control inflation.

**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**

**Q2. With reference to PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to provide rooftop solar panels to households to generate electricity.
2. It targets the installation of solar panels in commercial and industrial units only.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Q3. Match the following Conference of the Parties (CoP) & their locations:**

CoPs	Locations
A. CoP 29	1. Belém (Brazil)
B. CoP 30	2. Baku (Azerbaijan)
C. CoP 31	3. Antalya, (Türkiye)

**Select the correct answer using the code below.**

- a) A-1, B-2, C-3
- b) A-2, B-1, C-3
- c) A-1, B-3, C-2
- d) A-3, B-2, C-1

**Answer: b**

**Q4. With reference to the Gini Coefficient, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a measure of income or wealth inequality within a population.
2. A Gini coefficient of 1 represents perfect equality.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Q5. With reference to the Himalayan Griffon Vulture, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a high-altitude vulture species found in the Himalayan region.
2. It is listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red List.
3. It is primarily a predator that hunts live prey in mountainous regions.

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

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

**Answer: c**





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