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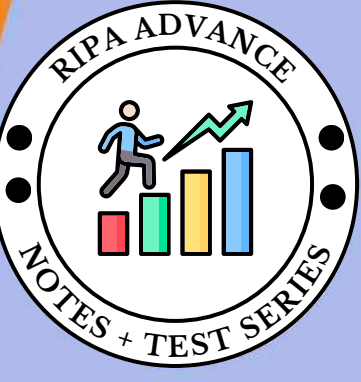
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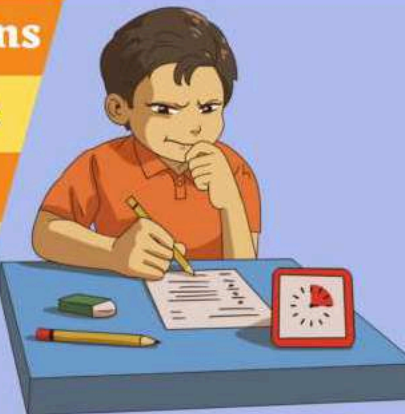
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Polity

Topic 1 - Supreme Court Directive on Social Media Conduct Guidelines

Syllabus	Polity and Constitution Fundamental Rights Social Media
Context	The Supreme Court has directed the Union Government to draft comprehensive social media conduct guidelines , balancing freedom of speech with the dignity of individuals & communities .
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ India: 800+ million internet users, rising social media penetration. ❖ Monetisation: Influencers, comedians, and podcasters earn via content. ❖ Concerns: Hate speech, misinformation, derogatory humour. ❖ Current Frameworks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ IT Act, 2000 and IT Rules 2021 (intermediary due diligence). ➢ News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) broadcasting standards. ➢ IPC, Disability Rights laws (limited scope). ❖ Gap: No comprehensive future-ready rules for online humour, commercial speech, and community sensitivities. Need for sensitisation, not just punishment.
Supreme Court's Key Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Balanced Regulation: Free speech is vital but not absolute; dignity cannot be compromised. ❖ Humour vs Hate: Humour and satire must not violate constitutional values of dignity, equality, and inclusion. ❖ Guideline Framework: To be drafted with NBSA + stakeholders, forward-looking, not reactionary. ❖ Penalties: Clear accountability, proportionate punishment for violations. ❖ Vulnerable Groups: Protect women, children, minorities, the disabled, and senior citizens.

Larger Issue: Free Speech vs Social Responsibility

Aspect	Concern
Art. 19(1)(a)	Free speech is essential for democracy, creativity, and dissent.
Art. 19(2)	Reasonable restrictions for decency, morality, and public order.
Article 21	Right to life with dignity → Protects vulnerable groups from harm.
Commercialisation	Monetised content → carries greater responsibility.
Digital Ecosystem	Speed, virality, anonymity → more harm potential.

Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Legal: New precedent for codified rules on humour, influencer speech, and sensitivities. ❖ Social: Inclusive digital space, safeguards for marginalised groups. ❖ Technological: Push for AI-based content moderation and grievance redressal. ❖ Administrative: Balancing regulation with avoiding censorship.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Stakeholder Consultations – Tech firms, comedians, influencers, civil society. ❖ Sensitisation > Penalisation – Digital ethics, awareness campaigns. ❖ Clear Categorisation – Free vs commercial vs prohibited speech. ❖ Tech Solutions – AI and Independent Oversight. ❖ Proportional Penalties – Accountability without chilling effect. ❖ Digital Ombudsman – One-stop redressal mechanism.
Conclusion	The SC's directive is a timely intervention to safeguard both free expression & dignity . Future-ready rules must promote inclusivity while ensuring constitutional balance.

Topic 2 - Should India Raise Reservation Beyond 50%?	
Syllabus	Polity and Constitution Fundamental Rights Reservation
Context	The debate resurfaces after political quota demands & SC notice on applying creamy layer to SCs/STs .
Constitutional & Judicial Framework (The 50% Ceiling)	<p>SC on Education Reservation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State of Madras v. Champakam Dorairajan (1951)- Declared castebased reservations in educational institutions unconstitutional under Art 29(2). leading to the First Constitutional Amendment (1951), which inserted Art 15(4). 2. Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992)- Upheld 27% OBC reservation in employment and introduced the concept of the "creamy layer" for OBCs but ruled that reservations do not apply to promotions. This principle was later extended to educational institutions. 3. T.M.A. Pai Foundation v. State of Karnataka (2002)- Held that private unaided institutions have the right to admit students but cannot be forced to implement state reservations. 4. P.A. Inamdar v. State of Maharashtra (2005) - Ruled that reservations cannot be imposed on private unaided institutions, leading to the 93rd Constitutional Amendment, inserting Art 15(5). 5. Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India (2022)- Upheld the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, validating the 10% EWS reservation.



	<p>❖ SC on Employment Reservation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992): - Upheld OBC reservations under Art 16(4) but excluded reservations in promotions. Capped total reservations at 50%, barring exceptional circumstances. Introduced the concept of the "creamy layer" to exclude economically advanced sections within OBCs from reservation benefits. 2. M. Nagaraj v. Union of India (2006): Upheld constitutional amendments allowing reservation in promotions (Arts 16(4A) and 16(4B)). Mandated states to provide quantifiable data on backwardness, inadequate representation, and administrative efficiency before implementing such reservations. 3. Rajeev Kumar Gupta v. Union of India (2016):- Allowed reservation in promotions for persons with disabilities under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, stating it does not violate Art 16. 4. Jarnail Singh v. Lachhmi Narain Gupta (2018):- Removed the requirement to prove "backwardness" for SCs/STs while implementing promotion reservations. Reaffirmed that states must collect quantifiable data on inadequate representation and ensure administrative efficiency. 5. Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India (2022):- Upheld the constitutionality of the 103rd Amendment, which introduced EWS reservations. 6. State of Punjab v Davinder Singh (2024):- Upheld the constitutional validity of subclassification in the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories.
Equality Debate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Formal Equality: Treats all the same; 50% cap seen as a safeguard. ❖ Substantive Equality: Recognises historical injustice; reservation = a tool for real equality.
Arguments for Raising Cap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Demographic reality: SC, ST, and OBC populations > 60% population (Mandal data). A 50% limit fails to ensure proportional representation. ❖ Political Demands: Bihar & others propose 80–85% quotas. ❖ Unequal Benefits: Rohini Commission → 97% OBC benefits go to 25% castes. ❖ Substantive Justice: Reservations are not an exception to equality (Art. 16(1)) but a means to achieve substantive equality (N.M. Thomas Case, 1975), meaning the limit should not nullify the goal of adequate representation. ❖ Judicial flexibility: Indra Sawhney allows exceptions. 10% EWS quota → 50% cap is flexible and not a part of the Basic Structure. ❖ State Practice: Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Haryana have already crossed 50%.
Arguments Against Raising the Cap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Merit dilution: May affect efficiency in services. ❖ Judicial Precedent: Indra Sawhney fixed 50% for balance → SC may strike down excess quotas. ❖ Vacant Seats: 40–50% reserved jobs unfilled → implementation gap.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Creamy Layer Issue: Without exclusion in SC/ST, intra-caste inequality grows. ❖ Alternatives Exist: Sub-categorisation, caste census, backlog filling, and more impactful. ❖ Policy inflation: Quota demands may become populist tools. ❖ Exclusion of poor among unreserved: Risk of reverse discrimination.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Caste Census (2027) → Empirical basis for quotas. ❖ Sub-Categorisation → Implement Rohini report; two-tier system for SCs/STs. ❖ Dynamic Cap → Flexibility for states with exceptional backward share. ❖ Beyond Quotas → Focus on education, skills, entrepreneurship, and private sector inclusion. ❖ Balance → Blend equity with efficiency for true empowerment.

Topic 3 - Right to Education (RTE)	
Syllabus	Constitution Fundamental Rights Minority Institutions
Context	SC has questioned the 2014 Pramati judgment , which exempted minority schools (aided + unaided) from the Right to Education Act, 2009 .
SC judgements that gave Right to Education	<p>1. Mohini Jain v. State of Karnataka (1992)-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Supreme Court held that the Right to Education is a Fundamental Right implicit in Article 21 of the Constitution. ❖ The Court observed that <i>"the right to life under Article 21 includes the right to live with human dignity, and that cannot be assured unless it is accompanied by the right to education."</i> <p>2. Unni Krishnan, J.P. v. State of Andhra Pradesh (1993)-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Court partly modified the Mohini Jain ruling. It held that: The Right to Education up to the age of 14 years is a Fundamental Right, derived from Article 21, read with Article 45 (Directive Principle). ❖ Beyond 14 years, the right to education is not fundamental but subject to the State's economic capacity and development.
Right to Education Act (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Enforces Article 21A → Inserted via 86th Amendment (2002) → Right to free & compulsory education for 6–14 years. ❖ Enacted: April 1, 2010. ❖ Monitoring: National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). ❖ Provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Govt schools → free education. ➤ Aided schools → free seats as per the government aid.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pvt unaided schools → Must reserve 25% seats for EWS & disadvantaged groups (Sec 12(1)(c)). ❖ Prohibits: Capitation fees, screening procedures, corporal punishment. ❖ Mandates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minimum infrastructure (toilets, drinking water, playgrounds) ➤ Pupil-teacher ratio (30:1 at primary level) ➤ Teacher qualifications and training. ❖ Focus: Inclusivity, equality & child-centric education.
Pramati Educational & Cultural Trust v. UoI Judgment (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Held RTE violates Article 30(1) (minority rights). ❖ Exempted all minority schools from RTE, including. 25% quota. ❖ Fallout → misuse of minority status by schools, weakened inclusivity.
2025 SC Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Articles 21A & 30 must co-exist. ❖ 25% quota: case-by-case approach, not blanket exemption. ❖ Warned: exemption erodes inclusivity & child-centric mandate. ❖ Matter referred to a larger bench for review.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Legal: Only a larger bench can overturn Pramati. ❖ Constitutional: Balancing autonomy (Article 30(1) - minority autonomy) vs inclusivity (Article 21A - child's right to education). ❖ Compliance: RTE norms are weakly enforced even now. ❖ Social: Resistance to socio-economic mixing in classrooms.
Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Education: Denies disadvantaged groups access to elite minority schools. ❖ Constitutional Values: Privileges group rights over children's rights → dilutes equality & justice. ❖ Governance: Loopholes in minority status → deepens inequality & weakens human capital.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Judicial Rebalancing: A Larger bench to harmonise Articles 21A & 30. ❖ Policy: At minimum, apply teacher & infra norms to all schools; adapt quota for inclusivity. ❖ Public Schools: Invest in quality government schools as per NEP 2020. ❖ Social Campaigns: Promote diversity & democratic classrooms.
Conclusion	The RTE-minority exemption is a test of constitutional morality . SC now has a chance to restore balance - ensuring that the child's right to inclusive education outweighs institutional privileges.

**Topic 4 - India's Federal Design****Syllabus**

Polity & Constitution

Context

- ❖ **SC directive (Dec 2023):** Restore J&K's statehood after upholding Article 370 abrogation.
- ❖ **Elections (Oct 2024):** Held, but **no roadmap for statehood** announced.
- ❖ Raises debate on **Union authority vs. State autonomy** in India's federal design.

Constitutional Framework for State Formation❖ **Three Processes** of State Formation: Power of Parliament

Process	Description	Example(s)
Admission	Inclusion of new territory into the Union of India	Sikkim (1975, post-accession via referendum) as an "associate state"
Establishment	Creation of a new state from acquired or acceded territory	Goa (1961, post-liberation), Sikkim as a full state.
Formation (Article 3)	Reorganisation of existing states by altering boundaries, names, or merging/dividing.	Telangana (2014), Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand (2000), J&K Reorganisation (2019)

- ❖ **Key Principle:** Parliament can reorganise a State but **cannot permanently downgrade a State into a UT** → ensures federal foundation. Upheld by the Supreme **Court in J&K Verdict (2023)**.
 - Ensures **federal integrity** and **democratic representation**.

**India's Federal Design**

- ❖ **India = Union of States** (Article 1) → Not a traditional federation like USA; **indivisibility** is stressed.
 - States have **no right to secession** (unlike voluntary federations) → ensures territorial integrity.

❖ **Key Features of Indian Federalism**

Feature	Description / Relevance
Strong Centre	Union List dominance; emergency powers; All-India Services
Bicameralism	Rajya Sabha represents states at the Union level.
Asymmetric Federalism	Special provisions for J&K, NE states, UTs (Articles 370, 371, etc.)
Unitary Elements	Central emergency powers, single citizenship, all-India services.
Flexible Constitution	Parliament can reorganise states (Article 3) without state consent.
Judicial Safeguards	The Supreme Court protects federal balance (e.g., J&K statehood verdict 2023). Federalism = Basic Structure → Cannot be diluted even by constitutional amendment (Kesavananda Bharati case).
Cooperative Mechanisms	GST Council, Inter-State Council, NITI Aayog.

J&K & Federal Debate

- ❖ **2019:** 2019 Reorganisation Act → Split J&K into two UTs: J&K (with legislature) and Ladakh (without legislature).
 - **Abrogation of Article 370:** Removed asymmetric federalism; full integration into Indian Union.

- ❖ **2023:** SC Upheld reorganisation but directed **restoration of J&K statehood**.

❖ **Key Federal Questions**

Debate Point	Constitutional Position
Can Parliament convert a State into a UT permanently?	No – violates federal foundation (SC observation)
Does UT status dilute democratic representation?	Yes – LG dominates; limited legislative autonomy and restricts the powers of elected representatives.
Is federalism compatible with national security?	Yes – but must balance autonomy with strategic concerns.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Supporters' View: Security situation justifies prolonged Union control.
Importance of Restoring Statehood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Federal Integrity: Reaffirms shared governance. ❖ Democratic Rights: Ensures representation & accountability. ❖ Balance of Power: Limits LG's dominance, strengthens Assembly. ❖ Judicial Mandate: Upholding SC's order sustains constitutional trust. ❖ Political Stability: Reduces alienation, builds faith in the Union.
Conclusion	<p>The Supreme Court stated that "States under the Indian Constitution have their own independent constitutional existence." India's federal design demands that J&K's statehood be restored, not just for constitutional fidelity but to uphold the spirit of democratic federalism.</p>

Topic 5 - Gender Imbalance in the Supreme Court of India

Syllabus	Polity & Judiciary Gender Equality
Context	After Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia's retirement (Aug 2025), only 1 woman judge (Justice B.V. Nagarathna) remains in the 34-member SC , exposing a severe gender imbalance.
What is Gender Imbalance in Judiciary?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Gender Imbalance → Under-representation of women judges in SC despite equality under Art. 14 (Equality Before Law), Art. 15 (prohibiting discrimination on specific grounds), Art. 16 (equality of opportunity in public employment). ❖ Stats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Since 1950 → only 11 women (3.8%) out of 287 judges. ➤ Present → 1/34 judges. (Justice B.V. Nagarathna) ➤ First Woman Judge in SC: Justice Fathima Beevi (1989). ❖ Issue: Women appointed late, leading to short tenures → no chance to become CJI.
Causes of Gender Imbalance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Structural: Collegium doesn't prioritise gender diversity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Opaque process: Collegium lacks transparency → discretionary exclusion. ➤ Late elevation of women → short tenure. ❖ Societal: Gender stereotypes restrict leadership roles. ❖ Barriers from Bar: Only one woman (Justice Indu Malhotra) was elevated directly. ❖ Institutional inertia: Despite recommendations (Law Commission 230th Report, Justice Verma Committee), no concrete, binding mandate for gender diversity has been adopted.



Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Opaque Collegium: No written diversity policy. ❖ Seniority issue: Women are elevated late and denied leadership roles. ❖ Male-Dominated Legal Culture: Few women Senior Advocates; limited pipeline from High Courts/Bar. ❖ Lack of political will: Gender is ignored, unlike caste/region. ❖ No accountability: No mechanism to ensure representation.
Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ On Judiciary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Narrow perspectives → weak inclusivity in judgments. ➤ Legitimacy crisis → SC fails to represent society. ➤ Missed jurisprudential growth on gender justice. ➤ Gender-sensitive issues (e.g., sexual violence, family law) may lack empathetic adjudication. ➤ Short tenures deny women CJI/Collegium roles. ❖ On Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trust deficit in the judiciary's equality claims. ➤ Few role models for aspiring women lawyers. ➤ Violates Articles 14 & 15 → equality spirit. ➤ Democratic deficit → SC not reflecting gender diversity.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Institutional: Collegium to mandate gender diversity; publish reasons for selection. (transparency) ❖ Pipeline: More women judges in HCs, mentorship for women in the Bar, and reservations in judiciary services. ❖ Policy: Adopt a written policy/Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) explicitly mandating gender (and social) diversity (2nd ARC suggestion). ❖ Global lessons: Canada, UK ensure diversity in top courts → India can adapt.
Conclusion	<p>Gender balance in SC is not tokenism but a constitutional necessity. A judiciary that mirrors India's diversity will strengthen public trust, inclusivity, and constitutional morality.</p>

**Topic 6 - Vice President Election**

Syllabus	Indian Polity Parliament
Context	NDA Candidate CP Radhakrishnan elected as 15th Vice President of India .
About CP Radhakrishnan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Born: 20 Oct 1957, Tiruppur (Tamil Nadu). ❖ Former Governor of Maharashtra, Jharkhand; also held charge of Telangana & Puducherry. ❖ Political career: Two-time MP (Coimbatore), Ex-BJP TN President, and chaired the Coir Board.
Constitutional Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Art. 63 → Office of Vice President = 2nd-highest constitutional post. ❖ Art. 64 → Ex officio Chairperson of Rajya Sabha. ❖ Art. 65 → Acts as President in case of vacancy/absence, until a new election (within 6 months).
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Must be a citizen of India. ❖ Minimum 35 years of age. ❖ Eligible to be elected to Rajya Sabha. ❖ Cannot hold any office of profit under Union/State government (except VP, Governor, Union/State Minister).
Election & Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Elected by an electoral college: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Members of both Houses of Parliament (Lok Sabha + Rajya Sabha). ➢ State Legislatures are not included (unlike the Presidential election). ➢ Each MP's vote = 1 (equal value). ❖ Proportional representation by single transferable vote. ❖ Voting Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Ballot: Ballot Papers are Pink, bilingual (Hindi & English). ➢ Preference marking: Write 1, 2, 3... against candidates. Words or blanks → invalid. ➢ Quota: (Total valid votes ÷ 2) + 1 to win. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Example: 780 votes → quota = 391. ❖ Counting & Transfer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Count first-preference votes (1). ➢ If quota reached → candidate wins. ➢ If not: lowest candidate eliminated, votes transferred to next preference (2, 3...). ➢ Continue until a candidate crosses the quota.

❖ **Secret Ballot & Anti-Defection**

- MPs vote confidentially (secret ballot).
- **No party whip**; anti-defection law does **not apply** → allows cross-voting.

❖ Tenure: **5 years** (continues till successor takes charge); eligible for re-election.

❖ **Vacancy/Removal**: Resignation to the President; removal by Rajya Sabha resolution + Lok Sabha approval (14-day notice).

Powers & Functions

Role	Description
Rajya Sabha Chairperson	Presides over proceedings (votes only in case of a tie); ensures discipline and decorum.
Acting President	Discharges duties of President in absence or vacancy. Enjoys full powers & emoluments of the President when required.
Legislative Role	Decides on admissibility of motions, bills, and debates in Rajya Sabha.
Neutral Arbiter	Expected to be politically impartial in House proceedings.

Current Vice President Election (2025)

- ❖ Defeated **Justice B. Sudarshan Reddy** (INDIA bloc).
- ❖ Secured **452 votes** vs. 336; sworn in on **12 September 2025**.

Quote for Ethics/Essay

"The Vice President is not just a constitutional figurehead, but a guardian of parliamentary civility."

**Topic 7 - India vs France: Parliamentary System & Vote of Confidence****Syllabus**

Indian Polity | Comparison of Constitutional Systems

Context

France faces political instability as PM François Bayrou may lose a confidence vote; India's parliamentary process provides a contrast.

System of Government

Feature	India	France (Fifth Republic)
Type of System	Parliamentary democracy	Semi-presidential democracy (dual executive: President + PM)
Head of State	President (nominal, ceremonial) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indirectly elected, 5-year term. 	President (executive, powerful) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directly elected, 5-year term. Controls foreign policy, defence, Parliament dissolution, and emergency powers.
Head of Government	Prime Minister (real executive) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed by the President, must have Lok Sabha's confidence. 	Prime Minister (appointed by President) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed by the President; must have the National Assembly's confidence. Manages domestic policy & administration.
Dual Executive	No - PM is central	Yes - President + PM share powers
Legislature	Bicameral: Lok Sabha + Rajya Sabha	Bicameral: National Assembly + Senate

**Vote of Confidence**

Aspect	India	France
Trigger Mechanism	Introduced by PM or demanded by opposition (No-confidence)	Introduced by PM or Assembly MPs (Motion of Censure)
Legal Basis	Article 75(3): Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to Lok Sabha	Article 49 & 50 of French Constitution. Article 49-3: PM can link bill passage to confidence, rejection → resignation.
Majority Needed	Simple majority of present & voting	Absolute majority of total members (Article 49(2): Motion of Censure)
Who Faces Confidence	Entire Council of Ministers (PM + Cabinet)	PM + Cabinet (President unaffected)
Outcome	If lost → PM must resign, Lok Sabha may be dissolved	If lost → PM resigns or President may dissolve Assembly
Recent Example	India: 2023 Lok Sabha trust vote (Manipur issue)	France: 2023 pension reform backlash - no-confidence motion failed.

Conclusion

- ❖ India: Government's survival depends entirely on parliamentary confidence → strong accountability.
- ❖ France: Only PM & Cabinet accountable; President insulated → balance in dual executive.
- ❖ Highlights contrast: **India = parliamentary supremacy, France = dual executive balance.**

**Topic 8 - Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025****Syllabus**

Polity & Governance

Context

- ❖ Parliament passed the **Online Gaming Act 2025**.
- ❖ **Ban on Real Money Games (RMGs)**, while **promoting e-sports & social gaming**.

Key Features of the Act**❖ Classification of Games:**

Category	Description	Examples	Key Features	Legal Status
E-sports	Competitive digital games involving teams or individuals; governed under National Sports Governance Act 2025 .	Call of Duty, GTA, Pokémon GO	Organized tournaments; require strategy, coordination, decision-making skills.	Recognized and promoted
Social Gaming	Casual, recreational, and educational games aimed at entertainment, learning, and social interaction.	Wordle, Kahoot!	Primarily skill-based; part of everyday recreation. Safe → no negative social consequences.	Supported and encouraged
Real Money Games (RMGs)	Games with financial stakes involved, whether based on chance, skill, or a combination of both.	Poker, Rummy, Fantasy Cricket, Ludo with stakes	Involve money wagers; linked to addiction, financial losses, money laundering, suicides.	Completely banned

❖ Ban Coverage:


- No **ads, celebrity endorsements, or platforms** for RMGs.

Penalties & Enforcement

- ❖ Offering/facilitating RMGs → **3 yrs jail / ₹1 crore fine / both**.
- ❖ Illegal ads → **2 yrs jail / ₹50 lakh fine / both**.
- ❖ Offences: **Cognisable & Non-bailable** (BNSS, 2023).
- ❖ **CERT-IN empowered** to block apps; may work with **Interpol** against offshore operators.
- ❖ Players **not criminalised**; focus on operators/promoters.

**Rationale Behind the Act**

- ❖ **Addiction & suicides** – WHO flagged compulsive behaviour; Karnataka: 32 suicides in 31 months.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fraud – Chinese app FIEWIN defrauded Indians of ₹400 crore. ❖ Tax evasion – Firms evaded ₹30,000+ crore GST & ₹2,000 crore income tax. ❖ Money laundering & terror funding – flagged by 2023 Parliamentary Panel. 
Legal & Constitutional Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Skill vs. chance: No distinction → may violate Article 19(1)(g) (trade rights). ❖ State vs. Centre: Gambling is a State List subject → jurisdictional clash. ❖ SC precedents: Earlier recognised Rummy & Fantasy Sports as games of skill; pending cases may reshape law.
Promotion of Safe Gaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Govt. funding from Consolidated Fund of India for e-sports & social gaming. ❖ Encouragement to educational/recreational games → boost innovation. ❖ No major restrictions for minors → critics demand stronger safeguards.
Conclusion	<p>The Online Gaming Act 2025 is a balanced but contentious step - curbing harmful RMGs while promoting e-sports & social gaming. Its success will depend on legal scrutiny, state cooperation, and enforcement effectiveness.</p>



IR

Topic 1 - India-China Relations

Syllabus	International Relations Neighbouring Countries
Context	India and China face a “ reform deficit ” in their economies - India struggles with low investment & stagnant manufacturing, while China faces over-investment, weak consumption & rising debt.
India-China Relations: Areas of Cooperation and Divergence	<p>Historical Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ancient ties: Silk Route, Buddhism. ❖ Panchsheel Agreement (1954) → “Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai”. ❖ Breakdown post 1962 war. <p>Political & Security Dimension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Border disputes: Aksai Chin, Arunachal Pradesh. ❖ Flashpoints: Doklam (2017), Galwan (2020). ❖ Border CBMs (1993, 1996), but fragile. <p>Economic & Trade Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ China → India’s largest trade partner (~USD 135 bn, 2023). ❖ Deficit: Favours China (electronics, machinery, chemicals). ❖ India’s curbs: Chinese apps, FDI checks post-2020. <p>Multilateral Engagements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Together in BRICS, SCO, and G20. ❖ Divergences: UNSC reforms, climate talks, global governance. <p>Strategic Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ China: Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) & China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) (through PoK). ❖ India: Quad, Indo-Pacific strategy as counterbalance. ❖ Competition in South Asia, Indian Ocean Region (IOR), and Africa. <p>People-to-People Ties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Shared culture: Yoga, Buddhism, and education. ❖ Tourism & student exchanges hit by pandemic + tensions.



India's Reform Deficit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Investment Stagnation: Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, tax cuts, infra push → still weak private investment. ❖ Manufacturing Plateau: GDP share stuck at 15–17%; jobs & productivity low. ❖ Consumption Focus: Tax cuts, GST relief, cash transfers (~1% GDP) → boosts demand but squeezes fiscal space for health, infra, education. 															
China's Reform Deficit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Over-investment: 40% investment-to-GDP ratio; steel/cement overcapacity. ❖ Weak Consumption: Low household spending, ageing population, high savings. ❖ Debt-led Growth: Corporate & local govt debt; exports (\$3.58 tn in 2024) mask vulnerabilities. 															
Comparative Snapshot																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #fff9c4;">Factor</th> <th style="background-color: #fff9c4;">India</th> <th style="background-color: #fff9c4;">China</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e1eef6;">Growth Driver</td> <td>Consumption & services</td> <td>Investment & exports</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e1eef6;">Structural Issue</td> <td>Weak investment & manufacturing</td> <td>Excess investment, low consumption</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e1eef6;">Political Economy</td> <td>Election populism</td> <td>Centralised, avoids welfarism</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e1eef6;">Currency</td> <td>Stabilised rupee</td> <td>Undervalued yuan</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Factor	India	China	Growth Driver	Consumption & services	Investment & exports	Structural Issue	Weak investment & manufacturing	Excess investment, low consumption	Political Economy	Election populism	Centralised, avoids welfarism	Currency	Stabilised rupee	Undervalued yuan	
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Political Economy	Election populism	Centralised, avoids welfarism														
Currency	Stabilised rupee	Undervalued yuan														
Broader Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. India: Consumption-led growth → risk of jobless growth & fiscal strain. 2. China: Debt-heavy model → risk of middle-income trap & overcapacity. 															
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ For India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Reform land, labour, and capital markets. ➢ Spread manufacturing beyond 4 states. ➢ Encourage household savings + deepen financial markets. ➢ Shift fiscal space from populism → infra & human capital. ❖ For China <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Boost domestic consumption via social security & redistribution. ➢ Rein in debt, cut overcapacity. ➢ Strengthen household purchasing power (move away from undervalued yuan). 															
Conclusion	<p>India and China face different challenges but the same truth: temporary fixes won't sustain growth. Without bold structural reforms, both risk long-term stagnation and rising adjustment costs.</p>															

**Topic 2 - India-China Relations in the Context of Global Shifts**

Syllabus	International Relations - South East Asia
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ India-China ties oscillate between cooperation & confrontation. ❖ The recent Tianjin meeting (Modi-Xi) showed recalibration amidst global churn (US-China tariff war). ❖ Relations remain complex due to border disputes, mistrust, and geopolitics, yet cooperation continues in climate, trade, and global governance.
Historical Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Civilizational ties: Buddhism, Silk Route, Xuanzang, Bodhidharma. ❖ Post-1947: India was one of the first to recognise the People's Republic of China (PRC); Panchsheel Agreement (1954). ❖ 1962 War: Created long-term bitterness. ❖ Recent decades: Relations saw ups and downs; Cooperation in BRICS, SCO, climate talks and tensions in LAC, CPEC, Indo-Pacific.
Sources of Strain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Border Disputes: Unresolved Line of Actual Control (LAC) dispute, Aksai Chin, and Arunachal; Galwan clash (2020). ❖ China-Pakistan Axis: CPEC in PoK; strategic, security threat. ❖ Global Diplomacy: China blocks India's UNSC/NSG bid, shields Pakistan in UN. ❖ Trade Imbalance: Deficit persists despite \$136B+ trade.
Areas of Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Climate & Global Governance: Common stance in UNFCCC, WTO, and IMF reforms. ❖ BRICS & SCO: Counterterrorism, multipolar stability. ❖ Economic Opportunities: Trade continues; scope in pharma, IT, renewables.
External Drivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ US-China Trade War: Pushes India-China to manage ties. ❖ Multipolarity: BRICS expansion; shaping alt. institutions. ❖ Global South Leadership: Joint bargaining in WTO, climate, tech governance.
Strategic Dimensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Geopolitical Competition: Quad vs China's Indo-Pacific assertiveness. ❖ Border Management: Agreements like the 1993, 1996, 2005, and 2013 protocols aimed at maintaining peace on the LAC. Yet, incidents like Doklam (2017) and Galwan (2020) show their fragility. ❖ Economic Balancing: India restricts Chinese FDI, bans apps; still dependent on imports (APIs, electronics, solar).

Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Strategic Autonomy: Balance US & China, avoid binaries. ❖ CBMs: Strengthen LAC communication, revive summits (Wuhan 2018, Chennai 2019). ❖ Economic Rebalancing: Atmanirbhar push + selective cooperation. ❖ Multilateralism: Use BRICS, SCO, G20 for reforms. ❖ People-to-People: Cultural, student, tourism exchanges.
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ India–China ties mix competition & cooperation, shaped by history & geopolitics. ❖ Confrontation is unsustainable → pragmatic engagement is vital. ❖ In a multipolar world, balancing rivalry with cooperation ensures national interest & global stability.

Topic 3 - India's Bilateral and Multilateral Diplomacy	
Syllabus	International Relations World Order
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ PM Modi's 4-day visit combined bilateral talks (Russia, China, Japan) with the SCO Summit (Tianjin). ❖ The visit came amidst global uncertainty: great power rivalry, conflicts, and weakening multilateralism. ❖ India's strategy = balance bilateral depth + multilateral breadth to safeguard interests.
Key Bilateral Engagements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ India–Russia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Symbolism: Modi–Putin optics highlight resilient ties. ➤ Strategic: Defence, energy, geopolitical balance despite Western pressure. ➤ Message: India won't let others dictate its Moscow ties. ❖ India–China <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Post-Galwan ties are tense, but dialogue continues. ➤ Talks with Xi show the need for communication in competition. ➤ China's role in the SCO, BRICS, and WTO makes engagement unavoidable. ❖ India–Japan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The pre-China stop reinforced the Quad commitment. ➤ Japan = key investor in infra & tech. ➤ Balancing: ties with US ally Japan + engagement with China.



<p>Multilateral Dimension: SCO Summit (Tianjin)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ India & SCO: Full member since 2017; platform to engage Russia, China, Central Asia & counter Pak. ❖ Tianjin Declaration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Terrorism explicitly mentioned → India's big gain. ➤ Narrative: no selective approaches to terror. ➤ Even the Balochistan reference highlighted regional impact. ❖ Solidarity Signal: Despite differences, leaders showed collective responsibility; India voiced concerns on Gaza & Iran.
<p>Geopolitical Context</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ US Factor: Pressure to cut Russia ties; India sticks to strategic autonomy while deepening Quad links. ❖ Changing Order: Multipolarity rising; India as a bridge between the Global South & the West. ❖ Eurasian Importance: Central Asia = key for connectivity, energy, counterterrorism → SCO keeps India relevant despite Pakistan's edge.
<p>Domestic & Strategic Implications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Terrorism Narrative: Counters Pak's Kashmir propaganda, reinforces India's credibility. ❖ Strategic Balancing: Multi-track diplomacy (Russia, China, Japan, Quad) reduces overdependence. ❖ Multilateral Leverage: SCO as a forum to project an independent foreign policy.
<p>Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Divergent Interests: China-Pakistan bloc limits India. ❖ Overstretch Risk: Managing Quad + SCO together. ❖ Terrorism References Weak: Broad, not action-oriented. ❖ Perception Challenge: Risk of being seen as opportunistic.
<p>Way Forward</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Strengthen Autonomy: Multi-alignment, not bloc alignment. ❖ Anti-Terror Mechanism: Push for the SCO task force on terrorism. ❖ Diversify Defence/Energy: Reduce dependence on Russia; expand renewables & indigenous defence. ❖ People-to-People Ties: Academic, cultural, tourism, and digital trade with SCO states. ❖ Champion Global South: Push food security, debt relief, tech access in SCO & BRICS.
<p>Conclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Modi's visit shows India's role as a balancer in global geopolitics. ❖ Dual approach: bilateral resilience + multilateral activism. ❖ In a flux world order, India's success lies in strategic autonomy & multipolar diplomacy.

**Topic 4 - India's Strategic Autonomy in a Multipolar World****Syllabus**

International Relations | World Order

Context

India seeks freedom in foreign policy amid U.S.–China rivalry, Russia's assertiveness, and emerging multipolarity.

Definitions

- ❖ **Strategic Autonomy:** The ability of a nation to **make independent foreign policy choices**, define its national interests, and pursue them without being aligned with or dictated by any single power or bloc. Emphasises flexibility, sovereignty, and national interest.
- ❖ **Multipolar World:** A global order where **power is distributed among multiple major poles** (e.g., USA, China, EU, Russia, India) rather than a single superpower (unipolar) or two blocs (bipolar).
- ❖ **India's Stance:** A foundational principle of Indian foreign policy since non-alignment, now evolving to proactive engagement in a multipolar context. (Issue-based alignment, not ideology-based camps).

Concept & Evolution

Phase	Description
Historical Roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Colonial Experience: Avoid external domination post-independence. ❖ Constitutional Ethos: Foreign policy guided by self-reliance & dignity.
Nehruvian NAM	Non-alignment during Cold War → avoid bloc politics
Post-1991 Shift	Post-1991 globalisation & Economic liberalization → pragmatic multi-engagement
Current Doctrine	"Multi-alignment" → cooperate across blocs while preserving independence → deepen ties with US, EU, Japan; keep Russia defence ties; engage China diplomatically while addressing border assertiveness.

Drivers

- ❖ **Geopolitical Compulsions:** Navigating complex neighborhoods (China, Pakistan - nuclear rivals) and regional power dynamics (Indian Ocean Region) → need for independent security choices.
- ❖ **Economic Imperatives:** Diversifying trade, investment, and supply chains to secure economic growth and avoid overdependence (e.g., semiconductors, oil).



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Global Aspirations: Asserting India's role as a responsible global power (Global south leadership) and a 'Vishwaguru' (world teacher). ❖ Avoiding Bloc Politics: To prevent becoming a junior partner in any alliance, thereby limiting its options. ❖ Global Order Shift: Decline of U.S. unipolarity; rise of China; fragmented alliances. ❖ New Threats: Cyber Warfare, AI warfare, pandemics, and climate crises.
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bridge-Builder: Mediate between the Global South & developed nations. ❖ Technology Diplomacy: AI, quantum, clean energy partnerships. ❖ Defence Indigenisation: Atmanirbhar Bharat → modernise military. ❖ Soft Power: Democracy, diaspora, culture → global credibility. ❖ Global South Voice: Lead in G20, BRICS, climate & development forums.
Instruments of India's Strategic Autonomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Coalitions & multilateralism: Active participation in Quad (India, USA, Japan, Australia) for Indo-Pacific security, while maintaining robust ties with China (BRICS, SCO) despite border tensions. ❖ Defence Diversification: Procuring defense equipment from multiple sources (Russia, France, USA, Israel) and boosting indigenous defense manufacturing ('Make in India'). E.g., Rafale jets from France, S-400 from Russia. ❖ Multilateral Leadership: Active role in BRICS, SCO, G20, I2U2, Global South advocacy, reflecting independent agenda-setting. Successful G20 Presidency in 2023. ❖ Energy Security: Diversifying energy sources and suppliers globally (Middle East, USA, Russia - despite USA pressure) to ensure stable energy supply. ❖ Technology Diplomacy: Balancing partnerships for critical technologies (e.g., with USA, EU) while safeguarding national data and digital sovereignty. ❖ Russia-Ukraine Conflict: Maintained nuanced stance → refrained from condemning Russia, continued oil imports (at discounted rates).
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Economic vulnerability: India depends on services exports and global value chains - sustained shocks (tariffs or decoupling) could harm growth and constrain choices. ❖ China Factor: Border clashes + \$100B+ trade deficit. ❖ Alliance Pressures: US-China rivalry, balancing QUAD vs. BRICS-SCO commitments. ❖ Institutional Gaps: Bureaucracy and political polarisation affect policy execution. ❖ New Domains: India still lags in cyber resilience, critical minerals, semiconductors and space tech (Resource bottlenecks).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Domestic Constraints: Internal political stability, economic growth, and social cohesion are prerequisites for robust foreign policy.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Economic Strengthening: Resilient supply chains, energy security, domestic manufacturing. ❖ Balanced Engagement: Maintain US & Indo-Pacific ties, keep Russia & Global South links. ❖ Defence Indigenisation: Invest in AI, drones, space, cyber systems. ❖ Global South Voice: Push UN/WTO/IMF reforms; lead climate & development agenda. ❖ Adaptive Diplomacy: Principle + pragmatism → agile response without losing sovereignty.

Topic 5 - Erosion of the Rules-Based World Order

Syllabus	International Relations World Order
Context	The post-World War II rules-based international order, envisioned to ensure peace, stability, and cooperation, is witnessing severe stress today. Multilateral institutions like the UN, WTO, and WHO face declining credibility, weakening global governance at a time when cooperation is most needed.
Rules-Based World Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A global system based on international laws, norms, and institutions (e.g., UN, WTO, WHO). ❖ Purpose: Promote peace, human rights, free trade, and multilateral cooperation. ❖ Origin of the Rules-Based Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Established after World War II, built on institutions like UN, Bretton Woods, Geneva Conventions. ➤ Institutions created: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ UN for diplomacy & security. ■ Bretton Woods: International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World bank (WB). ■ WTO/GATT for trade cooperation. ■ WHO for global health governance. ➤ Foundation: Collective responsibility & multilateralism.
Current Crisis and Erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Decline of Global Institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ United Nations: Reduced to an advisory role. UNSC paralyzed by veto politics (Russia's veto during Ukraine war, China's blocking of sanctions on North Korea). ➤ WHO: Loss of credibility during COVID-19 due to delayed response & reliance on state data.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WTO: Dysfunctional since the U.S. blocked judicial appointments (2019) → Dispute mechanism collapsed → Rise in tariff wars (e.g., U.S.-China conflict). ➤ ICC: Rulings openly disregarded; war crimes unpunished. ❖ Rise of Unilateralism & Protectionism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Protectionist trade practices threaten global supply chains (semiconductors, rare-earth minerals). ➤ Arms control treaties (INF, START) weakened → rising nuclear unpredictability. ➤ Nationalist priorities overshadow climate commitments. ❖ Disinformation & Trust Deficit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Health campaigns attacked: Polio vaccination drives in Pakistan/Afghanistan portrayed as “imperialist tools.” ➤ COVID-19 vaccine misinformation → undermined WHO’s credibility. ➤ Disinformation fuels distrust in multilateral mechanisms.
Geopolitical & Security Dimensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Regional conflicts (U.S.-Iran tensions, Korean Peninsula nuclear debate) risk global spillovers. ❖ Weak global trade rules → risk of economic fragmentation. ❖ Setback in collective problem-solving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Polio eradication faces resistance. ➤ Climate change negotiations are stuck in a deadlock. ➤ Connectivity Pillar – Advocated for connectivity projects respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity, opposing connectivity that bypasses these principles. ➤ Opportunity Pillar – Emphasized economic cooperation, trade, and shared prosperity using SCO as a platform.
Consequences of the Erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Declining faith in international law & treaties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gaza Crisis: Alleged genocide and humanitarian law violations; global institutions failed to act. ❖ Risk of collapse of free trade, nuclear peace, and global health cooperation. ❖ Shift from multilateralism to transactional politics → unstable global order.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Institutional Reforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ UN: Expand UNSC membership (India, Brazil, South Africa) to reflect global realities. ➤ WTO: Revive appellate mechanism, update trade norms (digital economy, climate-linked trade). ➤ WHO: Greater independence & accountability in global health governance. ❖ Strengthening Regional Platforms- Regional blocs like ASEAN, AU, and EU can innovate problem-solving and complement global institutions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Restoring Trust & Transparency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Combat disinformation with coordinated global efforts. ➤ Promote inclusive decision-making to reduce perception of “great power dominance.”
Conclusion	The erosion of the rules-based order reflects a crisis of multilateralism and collective action . Without reforms and renewed trust, the world risks drifting into fragmentation, unpredictability, and conflict. Only cooperative, inclusive, and transparent governance can address common challenges like pandemics, climate change, nuclear proliferation, and terrorism.

Topic 6 - Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

Syllabus	International Relations Organizations
Context	PM Narendra Modi attended the 25th SCO Heads of State Council Summit in Tianjin, China (Aug 31–Sep 1, 2025).
About SCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nature: Permanent intergovernmental regional organization for political, economic & security cooperation. ❖ Origin: Formed in 2001 (Shanghai), evolved from Shanghai Five (1996). ❖ HQ: Beijing, China. ❖ Official Languages: Russian and Chinese. ❖ Members (10): China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan (Shanghai Five), Uzbekistan (2001), India & Pakistan (2017), Iran (2023), Belarus (2024). ❖ Observers (2): Afghanistan, Mongolia. ❖ Dialogue Partners: Turkey, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar etc. ❖ Key Principles: “Shanghai Spirit” – mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity, pursuit of common development. ❖ Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Heads of State Council (HSC): Apex decision-making body (Annual meeting). ➤ Heads of Government Council (HGC): Focuses on multilateral cooperation strategy. ➤ Council of National Coordinators (CNC): Coordinates day-to-day interactions.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Promote regional peace & stability. ❖ Combat terrorism, separatism, and extremism (3 evils). ❖ Enhance trade, connectivity & energy security. ❖ Encourage cultural exchange & people-to-people ties. ❖ Uphold multipolarity & non-interference in internal affairs.



**2025 SCO
Summit
(Tianjin, China)**

- ❖ **Host:** China (5th time).
- ❖ **Theme:** “Upholding the Shanghai Spirit: SCO on the Move”.
- ❖ **Outlines:**
 - Adoption of **10-year Development Strategy (2025–2035)**.
 - Adoption of the **Tianjin Declaration** condemning terrorism, especially the **Pahalgam attack in India**.
 - Decision to launch the **SCO Development Bank** (by China) to fund infrastructure and social projects.
 - SCO granted **observer status in CIS** (Commonwealth of Independent States).
- ❖ **India’s Proposal:** India reiterated a **three-pillar approach** (SCO → Security, Connectivity, Opportunity) →
 - **Security Pillar** – Zero tolerance for terrorism and extremism; firm stand against cross-border terrorism and terror financing.
 - **Connectivity Pillar** – Advocated for connectivity projects respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity, opposing connectivity that bypasses these principles.
 - **Opportunity Pillar** – Emphasized economic cooperation, trade, and shared prosperity using SCO as a platform.

**Topic 7 - India-Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA)**

Syllabus	International Relations Agreements
Context	India and Israel signed a Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) in New Delhi, witnessed by the Finance Ministers of both countries.
What Is It?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Landmark investment protection and promotion treaty between India and Israel. ❖ Provides a minimum standard of treatment, a transparent, secure, and fair investment framework. ❖ Establishes neutral dispute resolution via arbitration for investor protection. ❖ Israel becomes the first OECD country to sign a BIA under India's new model investment treaty framework.
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ensure certainty, transparency, and security for investors in both countries. ❖ Protect investments against expropriation, arbitrary restrictions, and policy shocks. ❖ Boost mutual trade and capital flows, making investment environments resilient. ❖ Balance investor protection with sovereign regulatory rights of governments.
Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Protection from Expropriation: Fair compensation if assets are seized or nationalised. ❖ Transparency Measures: Clear rules and open procedures for investor confidence. ❖ Independent Arbitration: Neutral mechanism outside domestic courts. ❖ Free Transfer & Compensation: Smooth repatriation of capital, profits, and loss coverage. ❖ Sectoral Cooperation: Fintech, infrastructure, digital payments, cybersecurity, defence, high-tech innovation.
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Strengthens India-Israel economic ties. ❖ Promotes foreign investment inflow with risk mitigation. ❖ Enhances collaboration in technology and strategic sectors.
Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Indian investment in Israel: ₹3,900 crore (US\$ 443 million). ❖ Israeli FDI in India: ₹2,942 crore (US\$ 334.2 million). ❖ Israel to launch \$200 billion infra tenders → Indian firms invited to bid.

Economy

Topic 1 - Digital Yen – DCJPY

Syllabus	Monetary Policy Central bank Currency
Context	Japan Post Bank to launch Digital Yen (DCJPY) by FY 2026 , developed with DeCurret DCP – a major blockchain-based currency push.
What is Digital Currency Japanese Yen (DCJPY)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A blockchain-based deposit currency, backed 1:1 by fiat yen. (not a central bank digital currency) ❖ Different from private stablecoins → issued via regulated banking system (secure & credible). ❖ Launched by- Japan Post Bank (govt-linked) + DeCurret DCP (subsidiary of Internet Initiative Japan).
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Enable instant, transparent, secure digital transactions. ❖ Expand blockchain use in mainstream finance, securities & asset tokenization.
How it Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Customers convert yen deposits → DCJPY tokens. ❖ Tokens used for real-time blockchain transactions (digital securities, assets). ❖ Entirely recorded on blockchain for traceability.

Topic 2 - Inflation Targeting

Syllabus	Indian Economy Inflation
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Section 45ZA of the RBI Act, 1934 → inflation target must be reviewed every 5 years by RBI, in consultation with the Central Government. ❖ The current CPI-based inflation target is due for review by March 2026. ❖ In line with this mandate, the RBI released a Discussion Paper in August 2025.
Key Issues Under Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Headline vs Core CPI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Debate: Target headline (includes food & fuel) or core (excludes them)? ➤ RBI stance: Must retain headline → food shocks spill into core; food ~50% of CPI → excluding it weakens policy relevance. ➤ Global norm: Almost all nations target headline; Uganda is exception. ➤ Economic Survey (2023–24): Preference for core (excl. food & energy).



❖ **Inflation Target Level**

- **Options:** <4% (hurts growth), >4% (reduces credibility).
- **RBI stance:** Retain **4% point target**.

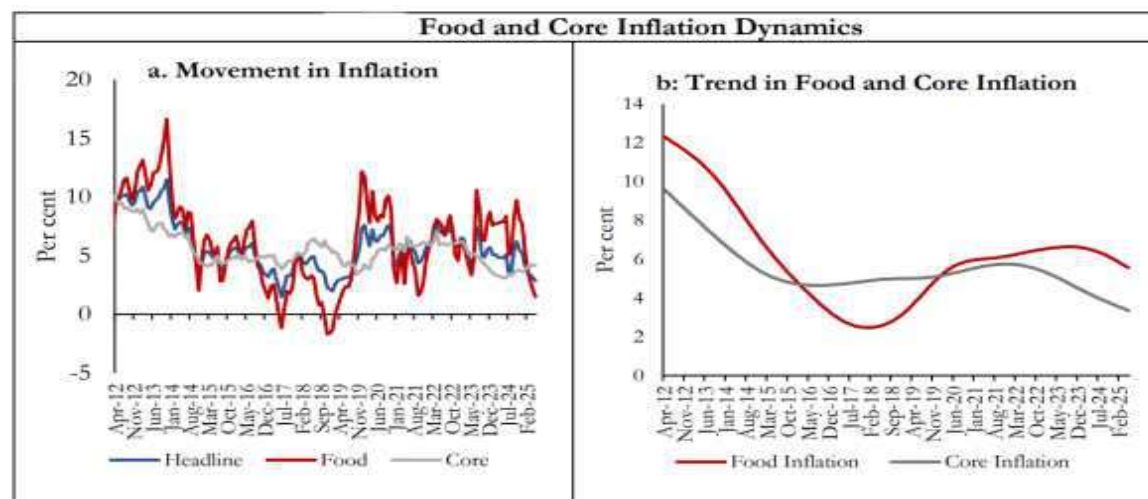
❖ **Tolerance Band (±2%)**

- **Debate:** Narrow vs wider vs remove.
- **RBI stance:** Retain band for **flexibility + accountability**.

❖ **Point Target vs Range**

- Point (credibility) vs Range (flexibility).
- RBI inclines towards **point target with band**.

❖ **Volatility:** CPI (2014–25) = **1.5%–8.6%** swings, food-driven; core more stable.



Rationale for Retaining 4% Target

❖ **Credibility at stake:**

- Higher target → weak anti-inflation stance (may hurt vulnerable groups); S&P upgrade to **BBB** cites RBI's inflation success.
- Lower target → global food price pressures.

❖ **Institutional Stability:** Strengthened MPC + fiscal discipline.

❖ **Domestic Outcomes:** CPI mostly within band since 2016; July 2025 = **1.55%** (2nd-lowest).

❖ **External Balance:** Low inflation stabilises **rupee, competitiveness, capital inflows**.

❖ **Policy Certainty:** Helped India withstand **pandemic + oil shocks** (Balanced growth vs price stability) → Avoided runaway inflation.

Inflation Targeting

❖ **Monetary policy framework** in which the **central bank sets an explicit target for inflation** and uses policy instruments (mainly repo rate) to achieve it.

❖ **Objective:** Price stability with growth.

Adoption in India - Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT)


❖ Recommended by **Urjit Patel Committee (2014)**.

❖ **Amendment to RBI Act, 1934 (2016)** → formally adopted IT.

❖ **Monetary Policy Framework Agreement (2016)** signed between **RBI & Govt. of India**.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Inflation target: 4% (with tolerance band of 2% - 6%) for 2016-21, extended till March 2026. ❖ Managed by Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) – 6 members (3 RBI + 3 Govt. appointed). ❖ RBI accountable to govt if inflation breaches band for 3 quarters.
Conclusion	Since 2016, inflation targeting has ensured price stability + policy credibility . The 4% anchor, headline CPI focus & tolerance band should continue, with only minor fine-tuning to balance growth and stability .

Topic 3 - Growing Challenges on India's Export Front

Syllabus	Economy External Sector Export
Context	<p>India's merchandise exports hit by a US 50% tariff (on ~20% of exports), worsening stagnation in global share despite earlier gains.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
Structural Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Tariff Shock: US 50% tariff = the biggest risk to the largest market. ❖ Competitiveness Erosion: High costs, weak logistics, complex rules. ❖ Over-reliance on Services: Narrow base; IT ≈ 40%. ❖ Shallow Manufacturing Depth: Few strong sub-sectors; weak in high-value (electronics, machinery, advanced materials). ❖ Global Headwinds: Protectionism, reshoring, WTO paralysis.
Initiatives Taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Export Promotion Mission (2025) – sectoral programs (Niryat Protsahan, Niryat Disha). ❖ Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Expanded – covers steel, pharma, and chemicals.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Simplified – easier duty-free imports for exporters. ❖ Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement, and Incubation for Export Enablement (BHARATI) Initiative (Agri-food exports) – 100 startups, AI/blockchain-enabled traceability. ❖ E-Commerce Export Hubs – logistics + higher courier thresholds for MSMEs.
Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Growth Drag: Exports stagnation slows GDP. ❖ Jobs: Weak manufacturing hits labour-intensive sectors. ❖ BoP Pressure: Rising imports vs weak exports. ❖ Geopolitics: Shrinking trade share lowers bargaining power.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Boost Manufacturing: Cut logistics cost to 8% of GDP, join GVCs, push electronics, EVs, and semiconductors. ❖ Diversify Markets: Beyond US/EU → Africa, ASEAN, Latin America; leverage FTAs(UAE, Australia). ❖ Expand Services: Beyond IT – health, education, finance, tourism. ❖ Policy Push: WTO reforms, R&D incentives, MSME quality support. ❖ Agri & Fuels: Value-added agro exports, petrochemicals, branded processed foods.
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ India's exports face tariff shocks + weak competitiveness. To regain momentum, India must deepen manufacturing, diversify markets, and expand services, aligning trade policy with growth, jobs, and global influence.

Topic 4 - Export Promotion Mission	
Syllabus	Economy External Sector
Context	Govt. considering ₹25,000 crore support package for exporters under the Export Promotion Mission (2025–31) , announced in Union Budget 2025-26.
About the Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Duration: 6 years (FY 2025–31). ❖ Aim: Boost inclusive, resilient, and sustainable export growth amid global trade shocks (e.g., US tariff hikes). ❖ Focus: Address bottlenecks for exporters, especially MSMEs. ❖ Nodal Department: Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) → Ministry of Commerce & Industry. ❖ Collaboration: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Ministry of Finance.



Key Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Improve access to export credit. ❖ Enable cross-border factoring & trade finance instruments. ❖ Help MSMEs tackle non-tariff barriers in global markets. ❖ Enhance export competitiveness.
Implementation Framework	<p>Two Sub-Schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Niryat Protsahan (₹10,000+ crore) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Interest equalisation support (~₹5,000 crore). ➤ Alternative trade finance tools. ➤ Credit card facility for e-commerce exporters. ➤ Financing to bridge liquidity gaps. ❖ Niryat Disha (₹14,500+ crore) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Export quality compliance. ➤ Overseas market development (market access). ➤ Branding, warehousing, logistics. ➤ Capacity building for global value chains (GVCs).
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Boosts MSME participation in exports. ❖ Shields Indian exporters from protectionist measures (e.g., US tariff hikes) and global volatility. ❖ Enhances competitiveness and market diversification. ❖ Strengthens India's integration into global value chains. ❖ Supports \$2 trillion export target ambition by 2030.

Topic 5 - Assets Under Management (AUM)

Syllabus	Economy Capital market
Context	India's Mutual Fund AUM reached ₹74.40 lakh crore , over 7x growth in 10 years .
About Assets Under Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Definition: Total market value of assets managed by financial institutions (e.g. mutual funds, banks, insurance firms) on behalf of clients. ❖ Components → Includes equity, debt, cash, and other financial instruments. ❖ Higher AUM → better resources, diversification & investor confidence.
Factors Affecting AUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Market fluctuations. ❖ Net investor Inflows/outflows. ❖ Redemptions/withdrawals. ❖ Dividend reinvestments.

Current Trends (2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mutual Fund AUM in India → ₹74.4 lakh crore (7× growth in 10 years). ❖ InvITs (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) → ₹4.9 lakh crore AUM1. ❖ LIC's AUM → Over ₹45 lakh crore.
Significance of AUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Financialisation of savings → shift from gold/real estate to market instruments. ❖ Deepening capital markets → supports government & corporate fund-raising. ❖ Boosts domestic resource mobilisation → reduces dependency on FPI inflows. ❖ Indicator of retail participation & financial inclusion.

Topic 6 - Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS)

Syllabus	Economy Share Market
Context	SEBI has proposed greater flexibility in Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) and Minimum Public Offer (MPO) norms to simplify fund-raising for listed companies.
About Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Definition: Regulatory requirement that mandates at least 25% of a listed company's equity be held by public shareholders (non-promoters). ❖ Legal Basis: SEBI → Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957 + (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. ❖ Applicability: Mandatory for all listed companies in India. ❖ Aim: Avoid oversupply of shares post-IPO, which can depress prices.
Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase liquidity in markets. ➤ Promote fair price discovery. ➤ Ensure corporate governance and broader investor participation. ❖ Methods to Achieve MPS → If promoter holding > 75%, they must reduce stake via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Offer for sale (OFS) ➤ Institutional placement ➤ Rights issue ➤ Bonus shares to public ❖ Timeline for compliance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Newly listed companies → within 3 years of listing. ➤ Large issuers (> ₹1 trillion market cap) → within 5 years.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If shareholding dips <25% → company must restore within 12 months. ❖ PSUs Exemption: Govt can exempt listed PSUs from MPS norms to facilitate strategic disinvestment (e.g., LIC IPO).
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Topic 7 - Bond Market in India

Syllabus	Economy Capital market
Context	India's 10-year benchmark G-sec yield rose ~26 bps in a month, despite the RBI cutting repo rate by 100 bps over 7 months .
About the Bond Market in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bond Market: Financial market where debt securities are issued (Primary Market) or traded (Secondary Market). ❖ Bond: A debt instrument/security issued by a government or corporation to raise capital. The issuer promises to pay a fixed rate of return (Coupon Rate) over a set period and repay the principal at maturity. ❖ Importance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fiscal Management: Funds govt. deficit & infra projects (e.g., NIP, schools, green projects). ➤ Business growth: Corporate bonds for expansion and debt management. ➤ Monetary Policy Transmission: RBI conducts Open Market Operations (OMOs) and Operation Twist through the G-Sec market to manage liquidity, control inflation, and influence long-term interest rates. ➤ Alternative to Banks → Reduces pressure on the banking sector NPA load. Diversifies funding sources.
Types of Bond Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Primary Market: Fresh issuance; investors provide immediate capital. ❖ Secondary Market: Trading of existing bonds; prices fluctuate with rates, creditworthiness, and economic trends. ❖ Key Regulators: RBI (for G-Secs, SDLs), SEBI (corporate, municipal, green/ESG bonds).



Structure of Indian Bond Market

Market Segment	Instruments	Issuer	Key Features
Government Securities (G-Sec) Market Dominates Indian bond market (~90%)	Treasury Bills (T-Bills): Short-term (91, 182, 364 days).	Central Government	Issued at a discount, redeemed at face value. Sovereign Risk-Free: Considered the safest investment, backed by the GoI.
	Dated G-Secs/ Bonds: Long-term (up to 40 years).	Central Government	Pay fixed or floating coupons. Benchmark: The 10-year G-Sec yield → for interest rates in the economy.
	State Development Loans (SDLs)	State Governments	Fund state-level projects. Offer slightly higher yields than G-Secs.
Corporate Bond Market	Corporate Bonds/Debentures	Companies (PSUs, Private)	Higher Risk, Higher Yield: Risk depends on the issuer's credit rating (e.g., AAA, AA). Predominantly settled through Private Placement (over 99%).
Other Bonds	Municipal Bonds	Municipal Corporations	For public infrastructure. Revived under AMRUT & Smart Cities Mission .
	Masala Bonds	Indian Entities (offshore)	Rupee-denominated bonds issued outside India (managed by RBI). → reduce currency risk for issuers.
	Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs): 8 years (exit option after 5 years).	RBI on behalf of GoI. (since 2015, under Gold Monetisation Scheme)	Government securities denominated in grams of gold. Returns: 2.5% annual interest + market value of gold at maturity . Reduce physical gold imports → ease Current Account Deficit (CAD) .
	Green Bonds	Govt, PSU, Corporates, ULBs	Issued to fund environmentally friendly projects.

Current Developments

- ❖ **10-year G-sec yield:** Rose 6.34% → 6.60% despite repo rate cuts.
- ❖ **RBI stance:** Hawkish on inflation; MPC keeps key rates unchanged (Repo 5.50%, SDF 5.25%, MSF 5.75%).
- ❖ **Growth forecast:** 6.5% for 2025–26; inflation 3.1% → projected 4.9% in Q1 2026–27.
- ❖ **Yield curve:** Steepening indicates **expectation of higher future borrowing costs**.



<p>Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Dominance of G-Secs → corporate bonds crowded out. ❖ Shallow Corporate Bond Market → ~18% of GDP (vs. 80%+ East Asia). ❖ Liquidity Issues → low secondary trading, concentrated in AAA/AA issuers. ❖ Credit Risk & Rating Issues (IL&FS crisis 2018, DHFL default). ❖ Private Placement Bias → >99%, excludes retail. ❖ Regulatory Limits → Pension/insurance funds restricted to high-rated bonds. ❖ No Deep Yield Curve → hampers pricing, credit spread analysis. ❖ Fiscal Concerns: GST reform (4 → 2 slabs + sin goods) may reduce revenue ₹50k–60k cr → higher government borrowing → rising bond yields.
<p>Recent Reforms & Initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Global Indices Inclusion → Indian G-Secs in J.P. Morgan, FTSE Russell (Sep 2025) & Bloomberg indices → stable FPI inflows (\$20–25 billion). ❖ FAR (Fully Accessible Route) → Introduced by RBI → NRIs can invest in specified G-Secs without limits. ❖ RBI Retail Direct Scheme (Nov 2021) → RBI allows retail investors to directly open an account with the RBI (Gilt Account) to invest in G-Secs, democratising the market. ❖ SEBI Measures → More transparency (Electronic bidding platforms), push for public issuance, Partial Credit Enhancement. ❖ GIFT City IFSC: International bond listings. ❖ Corporate Bond Market Development Fund (2023): To provide liquidity in stressed times. ❖ Green & Infra Bonds → Emphasis on sustainable + long-term infra financing. ❖ Introduction of 'Blue Bonds' and New Thematic Bonds: For marine conservation, sustainable cities, as part of India's climate finance push from 2023 onwards.
<p>Possible Corrective Measures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Govt borrowing strategy: Shift to short/medium-term bonds. ❖ Developing market infrastructure (e.g., Credit Default Swaps - CDS) for risk management. ❖ Strengthening debt recovery mechanisms to enhance investor confidence. ❖ RBI interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ OMOs – buying long-term bonds to reduce yields. ➤ Operation Twist – buy long-term, sell short-term bonds.

**Topic 8 - India's Demographic Dividend as a Time Bomb**

Syllabus	Economy Population Growth and Employment
Context	India's demographic dividend, once a strength, is now seen as a potential time bomb due to rising automation, poor curricula, and low employability.
What is Demographic Dividend?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Economic growth potential from a rising share of working-age population (15–64 years) relative to dependents (children and the elderly). ❖ The window is time-bound; it requires productive jobs.
India's Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 800+ million people below 35 (largest youth population) → Median Age - ~28 years. ❖ Working-age (15–64): ~65% of the population. ❖ Fertility Decline: TFR: 2.0 (NFHS-5) < replacement level (2.1) → Dividend window till 2045 (about 20 years left).
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Boost GDP – Closing the gender gap may raise GDP by 27% (IMF). ❖ Workforce supplier for ageing economies. ❖ Young innovators → startups, digital adoption. ❖ Labour for export industries (textiles, gems, leather). ❖ Social upliftment → poverty reduction, mobility, inclusivity.
Key Concerns (Why It's Being Called a "Time Bomb")	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Jobless Growth → Economic growth does not lead to sufficient job creation → Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR): 50.2% (PLFS 2023–24). ❖ Skill Gap: Only 43% of graduates are job-ready (Graduate Skills Index 2025). ❖ Education-Industry mismatch: 40–50% of engineering graduates remain unemployed due to a disconnect between degrees and the job market. ❖ Automation risks: AI may disrupt 70% of current jobs by 2030 (McKinsey). ❖ Low Female Workforce Participation: Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) remains low (~37–41.7%), below the global average (47%). ❖ Career Awareness deficit: 93% of students are aware of only 7 career options, whereas over 20,000 options exist. ❖ Outdated Education System → Slow curriculum updates and rote learning dominate, failing to ensure career readiness.
Consequences of Inaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Jobless growth: economic fragility. ❖ Brain drain: Skilled youth migrate abroad for better opportunities → loss of talent, weaker domestic innovation. ❖ Increased Inequality: Economic growth benefits the skilled urban elite → Vast unskilled population left behind → rising income and social disparities.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Social unrest: youth protests, instability → e.g., Mandal protests 1990, Nepal Gen'Z' protest.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Human Capital Investment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Implement NEP 2020 with a strong focus on vocational skills. ■ Curriculum Overhaul: Embed AI, digital skills, and critical thinking from the school level. ■ Adopt the National Skilling Framework to better align education with industry needs. ➤ Health: Increase health spending (1% of GDP) & improve nutrition. ❖ Employment Generation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Industrial & Enterprise Promotion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promote Make in India and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes. ■ Support Startups and SMEs to drive innovation and job creation. ➤ Skill Development & Career Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide career counselling at scale in schools to improve awareness. ■ Leverage AI platforms for effective re-skilling and upskilling of the workforce. ■ Implement PPP models to promote apprenticeships, gig economy formalisation, and industry-led skill development. ➤ Replicating Best Practices: Scale successful models such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Karnataka's Shakti Yojana (women's empowerment through skilling). ■ Rajasthan's Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (urban job support). ❖ Women-centric policies – Enhance childcare facilities, workplace safety, and flexible work policies to increase Female LFPR. ❖ Tailored Regional Policies: Design region-specific interventions addressing diverse demographic profiles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Youth Bulge Areas → Focus on large-scale skill development, employment generation. ➤ Aging Population Regions → Promote social security, health support, and reskilling for older workers.
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ India has two decades to convert its youth into an economic powerhouse. ❖ Without urgent reforms, the dividend may explode into a demographic disaster.
Quote for Ethics/Essay	<p>"Where Has All the Education Gone?" – Lant Pritchett (World Bank) → Highlights paradox of education without employability.</p>

**Topic 9 - The Rise and Risks of Health Insurance in India**

Syllabus	Economy Insurance
Context	Rising budgets for PMJAY & State Health Insurance Programmes (SHIPs) have intensified debate on India's path to Universal Health Care (UHC) .
Growth of Health Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ PMJAY (2018): ₹5 lakh cover/household/year → covers 58.8 cr people (2023-24). ❖ State Schemes (SHIPs): Parallel programmes → cover similar population, ~₹16,000 cr budget. ❖ Utilisation gap: Only 35% of insured patients could use schemes (HCES 2022-23). ❖ Health insurance = ₹90,000+ crore industry (IRDAI, 2025) (CAGR: ~18% over last 5 years).
Fault Lines in Expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Affordability Crisis: Premiums rising 12-15% annually → Middle class underinsured; poor rely on public schemes. ❖ For-Profit Bias: 2/3 funds to private hospitals → overcharging, unnecessary procedures. ❖ Neglect of Primary Care: Focus on hospitalisation; rural PHCs and OPD are ignored. ❖ Utilisation Challenges: Awareness gaps, low reimbursement → many excluded. ❖ Discrimination in Care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Public hospitals → prefer insured. ➢ Private hospitals → prefer uninsured (higher billing). ❖ Financial Stress: Pending dues = ₹12,161 cr; 600+ hospitals exited PMJAY. ❖ Fraud & Corruption: 3,200 hospitals flagged (ghost patients, inflated bills, fake surgeries).
Structural Risks for UHC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Low Public Health Spend: 1.3% of GDP vs world avg 6.1%. ❖ Profit-Driven System: Insurance empowers private sector dominance. ❖ Exclusion persists: Out-of-pocket expenditure is still among the world's highest.
International Contrast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Thailand, Canada: UHC + social insurance = nonprofit, universal, regulated. ❖ India: Targeted, profit-oriented, weak regulation.
Government Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY): → ₹5 lakh cover per family; 26,000+ empanelled hospitals → 2025: Added OPD and cancer care modules.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ABHA Health ID: → Digital health records linked to insurance portability. ❖ IRDAI Reforms (2025): → Draft norms for claim settlement timelines → Push for bundled OPD + hospitalization products. ❖ Rajasthan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Yojana (Now Mukhyamantri Ayushman Arogya): Provides cashless treatment and financial assistance of up to ₹25 lakh per family per year. ➤ Rajasthan Government Health Scheme (RGHS): Health insurance plan for beneficiary category including Ministers, MLAs, ex-MLAs, All India Services, Serving and Retired employees of State Government and of State Autonomous Bodies.
Policy Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Strengthen Public Health Infra: PHCs, diagnostics, rural workforce. ❖ Regulate Private Sector: Standard protocols, price caps, audits → reduce fraud & overcharging. ❖ Boost Awareness & Utilisation: Outreach, digital literacy (campaigns in vernacular languages) and easier claims. ❖ Ensure Financial Sustainability: Timely reimbursements; consider a direct budgetary model. ❖ Promote community-based health insurance in tribal zones. ❖ Increase Health Spend: Raise to 2.5% GDP (as per NHP 2017). ❖ Link insurance to preventive care, not just hospitalization.
Conclusion	<p>PMJAY & SHIPs give coverage but risk institutionalising profit-driven care. Real UHC needs public investment in primary care, regulation, and equity-focused reforms. Insurance can only be a temporary relief, not a cure for India's health crisis.</p>

Topic 10 - India's Green Energy Paradox	
Syllabus	Economy Renewable Energy
Context	India has 44 GW of renewable energy (RE) capacity stranded without Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), exposing gaps between supply readiness and demand-side absorption.
What is the Green Energy Paradox?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Despite aggressive expansion in renewable energy (RE), India struggles to absorb and utilize its clean energy capacity. This paradox highlights the gap between installed capacity and actual deployment, driven by systemic, financial, and policy barriers.




Current Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Coal dependence: ~79% of domestic energy (FY23). ❖ Low RE share: Only 3.8% (excl. large hydro). ❖ Import reliance: 85% oil & 50% gas imported. ❖ Idle capacity: 44 GW RE stuck without PPAs.
Dimensions of the Paradox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Supply-Side <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 44 GW RE projects ready, but no buyers (PPAs pending). ➤ Global RE is cheap; India's tariffs are high (duties, GST, borrowing costs). ➤ PLI & VGF schemes support, but storage-backed RE costs ₹6.6-₹9/unit. ❖ Demand-Side <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discoms prefer coal PPAs (cheaper, predictable). ➤ Grid costs: Balancing variable RE adds expenses. ➤ Inflexible grids: No smart meters/demand response. ➤ Slow electrification (EVs, cooking, industry) → weak RE demand.
Barriers to RE Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Structural: Debt-ridden discoms, no smart grids. ❖ Environmental: Coal lock-in; idle RE delays emission cuts. ❖ Economic: High tariffs, costly storage, and financing barriers.
Initiatives So Far	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ National Solar Mission & Hybrid Policy – expand solar, blend wind-solar. ❖ PLI for batteries & India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) – boost domestic storage ecosystem. ❖ Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs) – mandate RE procurement by states. ❖ Green Open Access Rules 2022 – industries can buy RE directly. ❖ National Green Hydrogen Mission – long-term clean fuel & storage option.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Storage push: Scale Viability Gap Funding (VGF), boost pumped hydro & local batteries. ❖ Demand electrification: EV infra, electric cooking, and industry heating. ❖ Smart grids: Smart meters, flexible market-based RE dispatch. ❖ Discom reforms: Financial restructuring, cost-reflective tariffs, accountability. ❖ Differentiated RPOs: Tailored to states' grid strength & resources.
Conclusion	<p>India's energy transition challenge is not capacity creation but capacity utilisation. Strengthening grids, storage, discoms, and demand electrification is vital to unlock stranded RE and align climate goals with affordable, reliable power.</p>



Govt Schemes

Topic 1 - Yashoda AI


Syllabus	Women Development Technology
Context	Minister of State for Women & Child Development informed Rajya Sabha about Yashoda AI initiative .
Yashoda AI (Your AI SAKHI for Shaping Horizons with Digital Awareness) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nationwide AI Literacy Campaign for Women launched in May 2025. ❖ Initiative of National Commission for Women (NCW) in collaboration with Future Shift Labs (FSL) - focuses on ethical AI & digital inclusion). ❖ Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enhance AI literacy, digital inclusion, cyber security, privacy & safe online practices. ➤ Promote women-led digital development under Viksit Bharat vision. ❖ Target Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rural & semi-urban women (~2500 women) ➤ SHG members, ASHA workers, teachers, policewomen, elected panchayat representatives. ❖ Key Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Multilingual mobile app → lessons on AI, cybercrime, digital privacy. ➤ Community-driven model → trained women become "AI Sakhis". ➤ Workshops in schools, colleges, community centers.
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Promotes digital empowerment of women → bridges digital divide. ❖ Strengthens resilience against cyber threats & AI-driven crimes. ❖ Supports inclusive governance & safe digital participation. ❖ Enhances women's participation in tech & governance.
About National Commission for Women (NCW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Statutory body (1992) under NCW Act, 1990. ❖ Composition: Chairperson + 5 Members + Member-Secretary (appointed by Central Govt). ❖ Term: 3 years for Chairperson & Members. ❖ Powers: Equivalent to a civil court – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Summoning & examining witnesses. ➤ Requiring documents/evidence. ➤ Receiving affidavits. ➤ Accessing public records.




Topic 2 - NARI 2025

Syllabus	Governance Social Justice
Context	The National Annual Report and Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025 Report was released by the National Commission for Women (NCW) .
Key Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ National Safety Score: 65% (cities grouped as above/below benchmark). ❖ Safest Cities: Kohima, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Aizawl, Gangtok, Itanagar, Mumbai. ❖ Least Safe Cities: Patna, Jaipur, Faridabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Srinagar, Ranchi. ❖ Positive Factors: Gender equity, civic participation, policing, and women-friendly infrastructure. ❖ Negative Factors: Weak institutional response, patriarchal norms, and poor urban infrastructure.
Women's Safety Perceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 60% women feel safe; 40% feel unsafe. ❖ Harassment prevalence: 7% reported incidents in 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Age group most at risk: Women under 24 yrs (14%). ➤ Forms: Verbal (58%) > Physical, psychological, economic, sexual. ➤ Hotspots: Neighborhoods (38%), Transport (29%). ❖ Night Safety: Sharp decline in perceptions, esp. in transport & recreational spaces.
Institutional Response & Gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Complaint Filing: Only 1 in 3 victims lodged a formal complaint. ❖ Action on Cases: Just 16% of reported cases saw effective action. ❖ Confidence in Authorities: Only 25% women trust safety response mechanisms. ❖ Workplace Safety: 53% women are unaware of the POSH policy in their workplace.
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Reflects gaps in urban governance, policing, and institutional support. ❖ Calls for robust redressal systems, awareness on POSH, safer urban infrastructure, and stronger gender-responsive governance.

**Topic 3 - e-Sushrut@Clinic**

Syllabus	Health Governance Digital Public Infrastructure
Context	National Health Authority (NHA) & Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) signed an MoU to roll out e-Sushrut@Clinic .
About e-Sushrut@Clinic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cloud-based Hospital Management Information System (HMIS). ➤ Target → Small & medium outpatient clinics (public + private). ➤ Developed by C-DAC → lighter version of e-Sushrut HMIS. ➤ Expands the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) ecosystem.
Key Features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Modules: Outpatient management, pharmacy, nursing. ➤ Accessible via laptop/mobile webpage through Health Facility Registry (HFR) & Health Professionals Registry (HPR) (with option to register if not enrolled). ➤ Enables digital patient records, prescriptions, billing, telemedicine for small clinics & hospitals. ➤ Low per-user cost, minimal tech requirements. ➤ Integrates Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission utilities → e.g., AIIMS Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS) (hypertension, diabetes) free for all ABDM-linked software. ➤ Supports better diagnosis & treatment through digital tools.

Topic 4 - SWAYAM Portal

Syllabus	Economy Education Digital Learning
Context	Ministry of Education launched free AI courses on SWAYAM Portal to meet rising demand for AI skills.
About SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Launched: 2017 by Ministry of Education as part of the Digital India initiative. ❖ India's own MOOCs (Massive Open Online Course) platform. ❖ Aim: Bridge digital divide & provide quality education to all (Class 9 to PG level) → democratize education. ❖ Free courses accessible anytime, anywhere; certification available with nominal fee. ❖ Beneficiaries: ~2.9 crore members from 13,288 cooperative societies in sectors like Dairy, Fisheries, Sugar, Textile, Food Processing, Storage, Labour, and Women-led cooperatives.



Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 4 Quadrants: Video lectures, Downloadable reading material, Self-assessment tests, Online discussion forums. ❖ Credit Transfer: As per UGC 2016 Regulations, marks from proctored exams can be added to a student's academic record.
SWAYAM Plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Launched under NEP 2020. ❖ Operated by IIT Madras. ❖ Industry-collaborated courses for employability & skills. ❖ Sectors: Manufacturing, Energy, IT/ITES, Healthcare, Tourism, Indian Knowledge Systems, etc. ❖ Features: Multilingual content (12 languages), AI-enabled guidance, credit recognition, employment pathways.

Topic 5 - SMILE Scheme

Syllabus	Government Schemes
Context	Govt. launched a 15-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme under SMILE Scheme to empower transgender persons through self-reliance & economic support.
About SMILE Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Full Form: Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise. ❖ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. ❖ Type: Central Sector Scheme. ❖ Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide rehabilitation, livelihood support, and social inclusion. ➤ Shift from punitive to rights-based approach. ➤ Ensure a life of dignity for the most vulnerable. ❖ Sub-schemes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SMILE-T → Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Transgender Persons. ➤ SMILE-B → Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons engaged in Begging.
Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Education: Scholarships from class IX to post-graduation. ❖ Skill & Livelihood: Training via PM-DAKSH. ❖ Healthcare: Composite medical support under PM-JAY, incl. gender-reaffirmation surgeries. ❖ Housing: Garima Greh → shelter with food, clothing, skill training, recreation & medical support.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Protection: State-level Transgender Protection Cells to handle offences. ❖ Support Systems: National Portal & Helpline for guidance and assistance.
Beggar-Free City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Indore declared beggar-free city; showcased its model under SMILE-B. ❖ Participants trained under TULIP (Traditional Artisans' Upliftment Livelihood Programme) → producing & marketing goods online.

Topic 6 - Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

Syllabus	Government Schemes Financial Inclusion
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ PMJDY completes 11 years (Aug 28, 2025) → world's largest financial inclusion drive. ❖ Nearly 100% households & 90% adults now have a bank account.
What is PMJDY?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Launched in 2014 → financial inclusion by providing universal banking access for the unbanked. ❖ Features: Zero-balance accounts, overdraft facility, RuPay cards, insurance, pensions, DBTs. ❖ Reduced reliance on moneylenders → improved access to formal credit.
Progress in 11 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Accounts: 56.2 cr (vs ~15 cr in 2015). ❖ Women: 56% account holders → female empowerment. ❖ Rural Reach: 37.5 cr in rural/semi-urban; 16.2 lakh Bank Mitras for doorstep service. ❖ Deposits: ₹2.68 lakh cr (17× growth since 2015). ❖ Digital: 38.7 cr RuPay cards; UPI surge → boosts digital economy.
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ DBT Efficiency: Subsidies (LPG, pensions, Covid aid) → direct, transparent transfers → reduces leakages. ❖ Crisis Support: Key during demonetisation (2016) & Covid-19. ❖ Social Security: Linked to Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) for the poor/unorganised sector. ❖ Banking Access: 99.9% villages within 5 km of a banking outlet/post bank.
Issues & Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Dormant Accounts: Limited transactions after opening. ❖ Credit Gap: Weak access to small loans, reliance on informal credit. ❖ Digital Divide: Low smartphone penetration, weak digital literacy. ❖ Awareness Deficit: Many are unaware of insurance/pension linkages.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ DBT Dependency: Accounts used mainly for subsidy inflows, not savings/credit.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Revive Inactive Accounts: Awareness + incentives for transactions. ❖ Credit Access: Link PMJDY with microcredit & entrepreneurship. ❖ Financial Literacy: Local language campaigns on savings, insurance, and pensions. ❖ Tech Solutions: Voice-based/AI-driven banking for low-literacy users. ❖ Stronger Safety Net: Expand Jan Suraksha schemes. ❖ Encourage Savings-Investment: Channel balances into small savings, mutual funds, etc.
Conclusion	<p>PMJDY = world's largest financial inclusion model, transforming subsidy delivery & empowering poor households. Next phase must focus on financial literacy, credit, and savings-investment linkages → turning Jan Dhan into a driver of inclusive growth & social security.</p>

Topic 7 - PM SVANidhi Scheme (Restructured)	
Syllabus	Governance Welfare Schemes
Context	Union Cabinet approved restructuring & extension of PM SVANidhi Scheme beyond 31.12.2024 . The lending period has now been extended until March 31, 2030.
About the Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Launched: 1st June 2020, for street vendors hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. ❖ Full Name: PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi). (Central Sector Scheme) ❖ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) + Department of Financial Services (credit facilitation via banks/financial institutions). ❖ Implementing Agency: Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). ❖ Aim: Provide affordable, collateral-free working capital loans, promote entrepreneurship, digital adoption & holistic welfare of street vendors.
Key Features of the Revised Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Expanded Coverage: From statutory towns → census towns, peri-urban areas. ❖ Enhanced Loan Structure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1st tranche: ₹15,000 (earlier ₹10,000). ➤ 2nd tranche: ₹25,000 (earlier ₹20,000). ➤ 3rd tranche: ₹50,000 (unchanged). ❖ Interest Subsidy: 7% per annum on timely repayment. ❖ UPI-linked RuPay Credit Card: Instant access to credit for business/personal needs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Digital Incentives: Cashback up to ₹1,600 for retail/wholesale transactions. ❖ Capacity Building: Training in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, digital skills, and marketing. ❖ Street Food Safety: Hygiene & food safety training in partnership with FSSAI. ❖ SVANidhi se Samridhi: Monthly Lok Kalyan Melas → Ensure access to GoI schemes (holistic welfare).
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ensures holistic development & social security for vendors. ❖ Supports business expansion & sustainable growth. ❖ Promotes inclusive economic development & digital empowerment of the urban poor (informal sector).

Topic 8 - Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)	
Syllabus	Government Schemes Food Security
Context	Centre reviewing PMGKAY to remove ineligible beneficiaries & cut subsidy costs.
What is PMGKAY?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Food security welfare scheme aimed at ensuring adequate food supply to the poor and vulnerable sections of society. ❖ Launched: March 2020 (COVID-19 relief) under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package. ❖ Ministry: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. ❖ Legal Basis: Supplements National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. ❖ Coverage: 81.35 crore beneficiaries (75% rural, 50% urban). ❖ Target Beneficiaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households: 35 kg/family/month. ➤ Priority Households (PHH): 5 kg/person/month. ❖ Cost: Free of Cost. Entire cost, including food subsidy, intrastate transportation, and dealer's margin, is borne by the Central Government. ❖ Implementation Mechanism: Distribution through the existing network of Fair Price Shops (FPS) under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ensure food & nutritional security for the poor. ❖ Reduce financial burden on vulnerable households. ❖ Promote equity & inclusion under NFSA.

**Other Features**

- ❖ **Portability:** Same entitlements across states via **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)**.
- ❖ Annual grain allocation: **56–58 MT**.
- ❖ Since Jan 2023 → PMGKAY merged with NFSA → **completely free** (earlier nominal price), now extended for **five years** (2024–2029).
- ❖ **e-KYC & Aadhaar seeding** (83% verified) for transparency.
- ❖ FY26 food subsidy: **₹2.03 lakh crore**.
- ❖ Govt re-verification to **remove ineligible users** (e.g., taxpayers, vehicle owners, inactive cards).

PMGKAY: Significance & Challenges

Area	Significance / Impact (↑)	Associated Challenges (↓)
Food & Nutrition Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vital Social Safety Net: Prevented large-scale hunger/malnutrition (esp. during pandemic). ● Ensures food/nutritional requirements for ≈ 81 Cr. beneficiaries. ● Aligns with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nutritional Deficiency: Primarily cereals (rice/wheat). Need to diversify to pulses/millet/fortified grains for Nutritional Security. ● Ongoing need for ↑ fortification.
Socio-Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mitigates Financial Hardship: Zero Central Issue Price (CIP) = Significant savings for poor families. ● ↑ Poverty Reduction: Credited by studies (e.g., NITI Aayog) for curbing poverty/food insecurity during crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dependency Concerns: Long-term free provisions might reduce drive for self-sufficiency. ● Market Distortion: Highly subsidised supply can impact open market prices/agricultural sector. ● Fiscal Burden: Huge outlay (≈ ₹11.80 L. Cr. for 5 years) strains government budget/fiscal deficit.
Governance & PDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PDS Strengthening: ↑ Efficiency and Transparency. ● ONORC (Portability): Enables migrants to access foodgrains from any FPS nationwide. ● Technology Integration: ↑ Transparency via Digitisation & Aadhaar Seeding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exclusion/Inclusion Errors: Continuous need for beneficiary list updation/re-verification to weed out ineligible and include the new deserving.

**Topic 9 - BHARATI Initiative**

Syllabus	Government Schemes Agriculture Export
Context	APEDA launched the BHARATI initiative to support 100 agri-food startups and target \$50B agri-food exports by 2030 .
What is it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ BHARATI = Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement & Incubation for Export Enablement. ❖ A startup-support & export-acceleration platform for the agri-food & agri-tech ecosystem. ❖ Launched by: Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) (under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supported by MoFPI, aligned with Startup India & Atmanirbhar Bharat.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Empower 100 agri-food & agri-tech startups. ❖ Achieve \$50 billion agri-food exports by 2030. ❖ Drive innovation in production, processing, packaging & logistics.
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Startup Cohort: 100 startups (from Sept 2025 via APEDA website). ❖ Acceleration Programme: 3-month training on product dev., compliance & exports. ❖ Innovation Areas: GI products, organic, superfoods, livestock, AYUSH products. ❖ Tech Adoption: AI-based quality, blockchain traceability, IoT cold chains, agri-fintech. ❖ Problem Solving: Perishability, wastage, logistics, packaging, quality assurance. ❖ Awareness Campaign: Nationwide outreach for startups & stakeholders.
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Economic: Builds India as a global agri-food export hub (unlock \$50B). ❖ Innovation: Promotes tech-driven agriculture & resilience. ❖ Employment: Jobs in food processing, logistics, packaging & value chains.



History

Topic 1 - Mela Patt Festival

Syllabus	History Art & Culture
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The annual 3-day Mela Patt Festival began in Doda district, Jammu & Kashmir. ❖ Calls for UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage status gaining momentum.
About the Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Deity: Dedicated to Lord Vasuki Nag, presiding deity of Bhaderwah Valley. ❖ Historical Origin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dates back to the 16th century. ➤ Linked to a meeting between Mughal Emperor Akbar & King Nag Pal of Bhaderwah (Bhadarkashi). ❖ Timing: Celebrated every year on Nag Panchami, 7 days after Kailash Yatra. ❖ Nature: Known for its inclusive, communal, harmony-based celebration. <p>Cultural Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Dikko Dance: Performed by men & women of all religions, symbolising peace & unity. ❖ Dhakku Dance: Traditional dance of the Dogras, significant in Indian folk traditions.

Topic 2 - The Apatanis Tribe

Syllabus	History Art & Culture Tribes
Context	Ziro Valley women in Arunachal Pradesh are the last generation to bear traditional facial tattoos and wooden nose plugs.
Who Are They?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ An indigenous tribal group of Arunachal Pradesh; also called Tanw, Apa Tani, or Apa. ❖ Known for its distinct cultural identity, ecological knowledge, and traditional practices. ❖ Primarily inhabit the Ziro Valley in the Lower Subansiri district, Eastern Himalayas.
Apatani Facial Tattoos & Nose Plugs	<p>History & Purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Introduced during tribal raids/abductions to make women less attractive to outsiders. ❖ Evolved into cultural identity, honour, and dignity within the tribe.



- ❖ It became a **tribal beauty standard**, unique to Apatanis.

Custom & Process:

- ❖ Tattooing at **around 10 years of age**, done by elderly women.
- ❖ **Tippei design**: Vertical line forehead → nose; five lines on chin.
- ❖ **Nose Plugs (Yaping Hullo)**: Large wooden plugs inserted after sterilisation.
- ❖ Symbolised **family protection, tradition, and tribal pride**.

Decline:

- ❖ The government banned the practice in the early 1970s to reduce social stigma and aid women's employment.
- ❖ Today, **only elderly women** carry tattoos and nose plugs, preserving the legacy.

Topic 3 - Vrindavani Vastra**Syllabus**

History | Art & Culture

ContextBritish Museum to loan **Vrindavani Vastra** (16th-century silk tapestry) to Assam in **2027** for an 18-month exhibition.**About Vrindavani Vastra**

Attribute	Details
Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woven in Assam (16th century) under Srimanta Sankardeva's guidance.
Commissioned by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Koch King Nara Narayan
Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silk textile, woven using lampas technique → complex interlacing of warps and wefts (2 weavers required).
Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depicts Krishna's childhood & divine pastimes (Krishna's leelas, Vishnu's avatars in Vrindavan with intricate mythological motifs).
Textual Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes verses from Sankardeva's play Kaliyadamana.
Religious Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central to Assamese Vaishnavism and Bhakti movement. A unique medium of sacred storytelling, as idol worship was discouraged in Sankardeva's Vaishnavism. Fusion of art + spirituality + ritual use.
Historical Journey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travelled from Assam → Tibet → Europe → acquired by British Museum (1905).

**Topic 4 - Decoding the Harappan Script**

Syllabus	History Art & Culture
Context	The Union Ministry of Culture hosted a conference on the Harappan script (11–13 Sept, New Delhi), organised by IGNCA (Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts) .
The Harappan Script – The Enigma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Discovered: 1920s, Sir John Marshall's team. ❖ Timeline: 2600–1900 BCE, Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC).
Nature of Inscriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Found on: Seal stones, pottery terracotta tablets, metals. ❖ Signs: Pictograms + animal/human motifs. ❖ Written right-to-left (confirmed by sign repetition patterns). ❖ Short inscriptions (average 5 symbols) → no long texts (longest inscription = 26 characters).
Linguistic Debates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Brahmi Link: Earlier scholars (e.g., Alexander Cunningham) suggested Brahmi evolved from Harappan script. ❖ Parpola's View: Brahmi derived from Aramaic, not Harappan. ❖ Current Status: No scholarly consensus → remains undeciphered.
Competing Theories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Sanskrit/Vedic Link: Some argue script encoded Rig Vedic mantras (religious texts). ❖ Dravidian roots → Gondi language (Proto-Dravidian, 90% claimed decipherment). ❖ Santali connection → Inspired by Parpola's research; links to Munda languages. ❖ Scholars caution: Lack of bilingual texts + vast geography → unlikely single language.
Scholarly Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ No bilingual texts (like Rosetta Stone for Egyptian hieroglyphs). ❖ Geographical spread (from Gujarat to Punjab, Afghanistan to Haryana) → language diversity likely. ❖ Short inscriptions limit linguistic analysis. ❖ Experts: No credible breakthrough yet; needs systematic, interdisciplinary study.
Politics of Decipherment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Tamil Nadu CM Stalin: \$1 million reward for credible decipherment → promotes Dravidian roots of Harappans. ❖ Counter-argument: Some link Harappans with Vedic continuity, Saraswati River (Ghaggar-Hakra). ❖ The debate is shaped by Dravidian identity vs the Aryan migration theory.

Quote for Ethics/Essay	"To decode the Harappan script is to unlock the voice of India's first cities." – The Hindu, Aug 2025.
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Topic 5 - Adi Vaani Initiative	
Syllabus	History Art & Culture Government Initiative
Context	A Hindi e-booklet of Bhil folk tales will soon be released on the Adi Vaani app/website , highlighting oral traditions of caste, love, theatre & social justice.
Adi Vaani – Tribal Language Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ India's first AI-powered tribal language translator, launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in 2024–25. ❖ Institutions Involved: IIT Delhi (lead), BITS Pilani, IIIT Hyderabad, IIIT Naya Raipur. ❖ Developed under Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh to preserve, digitize, and promote India's endangered tribal languages. ❖ Function: Bi-directional translation (tribal ↔ Hindi/English). ❖ Languages Supported: Gondi, Bhili, Mundari, Santali (soon Kui & Garo). ❖ Features: Free, frugal innovation; Android & iOS access; user feedback system.
Bhil Tribe – Who Are They	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Among the oldest tribal groups of India, the Australoid group (linked to Dravidian stock). ❖ Name from Dravidian word billu/villu = bow → famous as skilled archers. ❖ Habitat: Concentrated in Rajasthan, Gujarat, MP, Maharashtra; also in Bihar, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand. ❖ History & Resistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Epics: Linked to Shabari (Ramayana) & Eklavya (Mahabharata). ➤ Medieval: Fought guerrilla wars against the Rajputs, Mughals, and Marathas. ➤ Colonial: Declared "criminal tribe" (1871), faced bonded labour & displacement. ➤ Movements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bhagat Movement (1883) → Govind Guru → Mangarh massacre (1913). ■ Eki Andolan (1920) → Motilal Tejawat.

**Topic 6 - Self-Respect Movement**

Syllabus	Modern History of India Social Reform Movements
Context	2025 marks 100 years of the Self-Respect Movement , launched in Tamil Nadu by Periyar E.V. Ramasamy in 1925.
What is it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Radical social reform movement against caste, patriarchy & religious orthodoxy. ❖ Advocated rationalism, equality & dignity over ritualism & hierarchy. ❖ Launched in 1925 via the Tamil weekly Kudi Arasu.
Leaders & Influences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Founder: Periyar E.V. Ramasamy. ❖ Inspired by Iyothee Thass, Phule & Ambedkar. ❖ Supported initially by the Justice Party, later evolved into the Dravidar Kazhagam.
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ End caste hierarchy & Brahmanical dominance. ❖ Promote social equality, self-respect & gender justice. ❖ Take reform to the common non-Brahmin masses, not just elites.
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Self-respect marriages (no priests, no caste rituals). ❖ Women's rights: widow remarriage, divorce, property, abortion. ❖ Encouraged: inter-caste marriages, gender equality. ❖ Critiqued religion, superstition, and patriarchy. ❖ Opposed Congress's religion-based nationalism & Gandhian orthodoxy. ❖ Asserted Dravidian identity + rationalist thought.

**Topic 4 - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**

Syllabus	Modern History of India Personalities
Context	Govt of India has set up a high-level committee chaired by PM to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India.
Who was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Freedom fighter, statesman, India's 1st Deputy PM & Home Minister. ❖ Called the "Iron Man of India" for uniting princely states. ❖ Background <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi during the Kheda Satyagraha (1918). ➤ Rose as a mass leader in the Bardoli Satyagraha (1928) → earned the title Sardar.
Role in Freedom Struggle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Organised Kheda & Bardoli Satyagrahas → peasant mobilisation. ❖ Active in Non-Cooperation (1920), Civil Disobedience (1930) & Quit India (1942) Movements → faced multiple imprisonments. ❖ Worked on Gandhian constructive programs. ❖ 1931 Karachi Congress Session President → endorsed the Gandhi-Irwin Pact. Advocated complete independence (Purna Swaraj).
Contributions in Post-Independence India (Nation-Building)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Constituent Assembly Role: Chaired committees on Fundamental Rights, Minorities, and Provincial Constitution. ❖ Integration of 562 princely states → reduced to 26 administrative units → Used diplomacy and strategic firmness (Stick-Carrot Principle) to ensure peaceful unification. ❖ Managed Partition violence & refugee rehabilitation. ❖ Strengthened governance → established the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). ❖ Ensured law & order and laid the foundation of a unified India.

Topic 5 - Vithalbhai Patel

Syllabus	Modern History of India Personalities
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 100th Anniversary Commemoration: All India Speakers' Conference held in Delhi (Aug 2025). ❖ Delhi Legislative Assembly held a two-day conference on "Vithalbhai Patel: His Role in Shaping India's Constitution and Legislative Institutions".
About Vithalbhai Patel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Profession: Lawyer, Legislator, Freedom Fighter. ❖ Political Entry: Before Vallabhbhai, became active in politics; elected to Bombay Legislative Council.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Vallabhbhai advocated self-rule and legislative activism against British colonial rule.❖ Congress Role: Initially joined Congress, despite differences with Gandhi's methods.❖ Swaraj Party (1923): Co-founded with C.R. Das & Motilal Nehru after Non-Cooperation withdrawal (1922).<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Aim → enter councils & challenge British rule.➤ Opposed Gandhi's suspension of Non-Cooperation Movement.
<p style="text-align: center;">Key Contributions</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Legislative Career:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Elected to the Central Legislative Assembly (1923).➤ Became 1st Indian President/Speaker of the Assembly (1925).➤ Presided during Bhagat Singh–Batukeshwar Dutt bombing (1929).❖ Parliamentary Reforms:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Asserted Speaker's primacy over Viceroy in Assembly functioning.➤ Secured control over assembly security (Ward & Watch system) → autonomy continued till 2024.➤ Established independent Parliament Secretariat & Legislative Assembly Dept. (1928–29) → foundation of India's legislative independence.

Topic 6 - Dr. Bhupen Hazarika

Syllabus	Modern History of India Personalities
Context	Assam govt launched year-long centenary celebrations (1926–2026) of Bhupen Hazarika with tributes and cultural events statewide.
Life & Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nicknames: Sudhakantha (nectar-voiced), Bard of Brahmaputra. ❖ Early Talent: Recorded first song at age 10 (AIR Kolkata). ❖ Influences: Inspired by Paul Robeson & global civil rights movements.
Key Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Music & Lyrics: Songs like Manuhe Manuhar Babe, Moi Eti Jajabor, Bistirno Parore – blending folk with universal themes of justice, humanity & harmony. ❖ Cinema: Directed Assamese films (Shakuntala, Pratidhwani, Loti Ghoti, Era Bator Sur, Chameli Memsaab), composed for Hindi/Bengali films (Rudaali, Daman, Saaz). ❖ Social Voice: Used art to highlight poverty, inequality, caste & marginalisation. ❖ Public Life: Chairman, Sangeet Natak Akademi; elected MLA Assam (1967).
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Advocated for tribal rights, linguistic diversity, and secular values. ❖ Cultural Icon: Redefined Assamese identity, integrated the Northeast with the Indian mainstream. ❖ Global Voice: Promoted brotherhood & equality through art, resonating beyond India. ❖ Awards: Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, and Bharat Ratna (2019, posthumous).
Quote for Ethics/Essay	“Manush manusher jonno” - Humans are for humanity. → A timeless call for empathy and ethical citizenship.

**Topic 7 - Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**

Syllabus	Modern History of India Personalities
Context	Floral tributes were paid on 5 Sept 2025, his birth anniversary , also celebrated as Teacher's Day .
Who Was He?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Eminent philosopher, scholar, educationist, and statesman. ❖ First Vice-President (1952-1962) & Second President of India (1962-1967). ❖ Taught at Universities of Mysore & Calcutta; later Oxford University (Spalding Professor of Eastern Religions & Ethics). ❖ Recognized as a global interpreter of Indian philosophy.
Philosophical & Intellectual Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Synthesis of East and West: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Integrated Advaita Vedanta with Western rational thought. ➤ Presented Hindu philosophy as a rational and ethical system. ❖ Universality of Religion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All religions are different paths to the same truth. (respect for all faiths) ➤ Advocated interfaith harmony and global spiritual unity. ❖ Spiritual Humanism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Emphasized moral and spiritual dimensions of human life. ➤ True education must develop values, ethics, and character. ❖ Integral Humanism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advocated a harmonious blend of spiritual and material life. ➤ Human dignity arises from the divine essence within each person.
Education Philosophy & Institutional Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Aim of Education: "Man-making" - Developing intellect, character, moral courage, critical thinking, empathy. Education must go beyond technical skills to values and wisdom. ❖ Role of Teacher: Moral guides, nation-builders; deserve respect & proper status. ❖ Curriculum: Holistic - balance spiritual, moral, aesthetic, scientific learning. ❖ Institutions: First Chairman of UGC (University Grants Commission) - helped formulate higher education policy/standards. His work shaped universities' autonomy, quality.
Contributions as Statesman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ambassador to USSR (1949-52): Skillful Cold War diplomacy, built relations with Stalin. ❖ VP & President: Upheld constitutional propriety; guided India through critical periods (1962 Sino-India, 1965 Indo-Pak wars). Stressed unity, secularism, ethical governance.

**Science and Technology****Topic 1 - 2D Materials**

Syllabus	Science & Technology Nanotechnology
Context	NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub & IISc Bengaluru highlight the importance of 2D materials in India's tech roadmap via Future Front Quarterly Insights 2025 .
What are 2D Materials?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Definition: Atomically thin, layered crystals consisting of one or a few atomic layers, where atoms are strongly bonded within the plane but weakly held together by van der Waals forces between planes; examples – Graphene, Molybdenum Disulfide (MoS₂), Tungsten Diselenide (WS₂). ❖ Structure: Flat sheets at the atomic level; electrons move freely → fast, low-energy devices. ❖ Discovery: Graphene isolated in 2004; Nobel Prize 2010. ❖ Types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Graphene (carbon) ➤ TMDCs (transition metal dichalcogenides) ➤ Hexagonal boron nitride (h-BN) ➤ "Xenes" like silicene.
Key Properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ High Conductivity: Electricity & heat conduction better than copper. ❖ Mechanical Strength: ~200× stronger than steel; flexible & stretchable. ❖ Quantum Effects: Spin-valley coupling, tunable band gaps, qubit hosting. ❖ Versatile: Transparent, foldable, flexible for next-gen electronics. ❖ Layer Control: Strong intra-layer bonding, weak inter-layer → easy exfoliation.
Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Semiconductors: 2D transistors breaking silicon limits; extend Moore's Law. ❖ Quantum & Neuromorphic Computing: Atom-thin memristors for AI hardware & qubits. ❖ Optoelectronics: Ultra-thin photodetectors, LEDs, solar cells. ❖ Industrial & Bulk Uses: Graphene composites → aerospace, batteries, water filtration, EV supercapacitors.

**Topic 2 - Vikram 32-bit Processor**

Syllabus	Science & Technology ICT
Context	PM unveiled India's first indigenously developed microprocessor — 'Vikram 32-bit Processor (VIKRAM3201)' at Semicon India 2025 , a milestone in semiconductor self-reliance.
What is it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A 32-bit indigenously designed processor, India's first made-in-India semiconductor chip. ❖ Built for space, defence, aerospace, automotive, and industrial electronics. ❖ Can withstand harsh environments (e.g., space missions). ❖ Mission Link: Validated in PSLV-C60's POEM-4 module. ❖ Companion Chip: KALPANA3201 (also 32-bit), developed for satellite applications and open-source toolchain compatibility. ❖ Developed by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre + Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali, using 180 nm CMOS process technology. ➤ Under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), 2021.
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Reduce dependence on imported chips. ❖ Achieve strategic self-reliance in critical technologies. ❖ Support applications in aerospace, defence, and high-reliability energy systems.
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Strategic: Strengthens India's tech sovereignty amid global chip supply chain crises. ❖ Economic: Boosts India's vision of becoming a semiconductor hub (₹1.6 lakh crore projects approved). ❖ Symbolic: Marks India's entry into indigenous processor development.

**Topic 3 - Blood Moon**

Syllabus	Science & Technology Astronomy
Context	Blood Moon was observed in India on 7 September 2025 due to a total lunar eclipse.
What is a Blood Moon?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Total lunar eclipse, where the moon appears reddish-copper instead of white. ❖ It is an entirely natural and predictable astronomical event.
How it Occurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Occurs during a total lunar eclipse when Earth comes between the Sun and Moon, blocking direct sunlight. ❖ Earth's atmosphere bends and scatters sunlight onto the Moon. ❖ Blue light filtered out; red light refracted → moon appears red. ❖ Mechanism: Rayleigh scattering (the same process that makes the sky blue).
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Visible across regions where the eclipse is above the horizon. ❖ Duration: Several hours, depending on eclipse timing. ❖ Offers clues about Earth's atmospheric composition.

Topic 4 - National Biofoundry Network

Syllabus	Science & Technology Bio Technology
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ India launched its first National Biofoundry Network (2025) under the BioE3 Policy (Economy, Environment, Employment). ❖ Goal: Strengthen indigenous biomanufacturing & achieve \$300 bn bioeconomy target by 2030.
About the National Biofoundry Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ What it is: Collaborative platform of 6 premier institutions. ❖ Nodal Ministry: Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of S&T. ❖ Aims & Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Boost indigenous biomanufacturing capacity. ➤ Achieve BioE3 goals: Economy, Environment, Employment. ➤ Translate lab research → market-ready products. ➤ Promote startups, youth innovation, and entrepreneurship. ➤ Position India as a global hub in sustainable biotech.
What Is a Biofoundry?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A high-tech facility for designing, prototyping, testing, and scaling biotech products. ❖ Uses synthetic biology, gene editing, AI-driven biomanufacturing. ❖ Enables research-to-market translation in biotech.

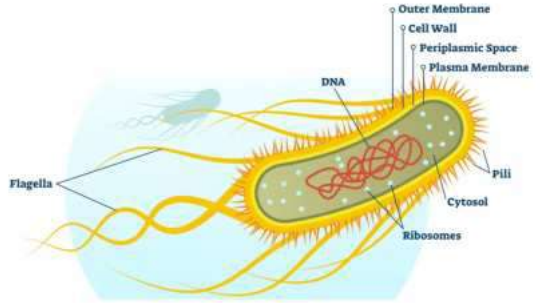
Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Integrated Network: 6 premier biotech institutions form a national collaborative platform. ❖ End-to-End Facility: Design → Prototype → Test → Scale-up. ❖ Global Linkages: Partnerships with international biofoundry networks. ❖ Employment & Startups: Job creation + incubation support. ❖ Sustainability: Climate resilience, waste reduction, circular bioeconomy. ❖ Open Access: Shared infrastructure for academia, industry, and startups.
BioE3 Challenge for Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Theme: "Design Microbes, Molecules & More". ❖ Eligibility: School (6–12), university students, researchers, and startups. ❖ Awards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ₹1 lakh each to 10 monthly winners. ➤ Funding up to ₹25 lakh for 100 innovators via BIRAC.
Quote for Ethics/Essay	"Biotechnology must serve both the lab and the land." – Inspired by BioE3 vision .

Topic 5 - High-Performance Biomanufacturing Platforms	
Syllabus	Science & Technology Bio Technology
Context	Department of Biotechnology (DBT) & BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council) launched High-Performance Biomanufacturing Platforms in New Delhi under BioE3 Policy .
What it is?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A National network of advanced bio-foundries and biomanufacturing hubs. ❖ Provides tools, technologies & infra to scale bio-based innovations from lab → production. ❖ Launched by MoS Science & Tech, Jitendra Singh. ❖ Policy Framework: Part of BioE3 Policy – Biotechnology for Environment, Economy & Employment.
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Accelerate biomanufacturing & reduce import reliance. ❖ Foster green growth & multi-trillion \$ bioeconomy by 2047. ❖ Support start-ups, SMEs, academia & industry in biotech innovation.
Key Features	<p>21 bio-enablers - Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Microbial strains & smart proteins ❖ Probiotics & bio-chemicals ❖ Cell therapies & mRNA-based medicines



	❖ Marine bio-innovations & biofuels.
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Economic: India → global bioeconomy leader (1/5th of global capacity). ❖ Strategic: Cuts imports, enhances biotech self-reliance. ❖ Social: Promotes youth-led innovation, job creation, and inclusive growth, push for Viksit Bharat @2047. ❖ Linked with Atmanirbhar Bharat & climate commitments. ❖ Boosts capacity, employment & innovation.

Topic 6 - Escherichia coli (E. coli)

Syllabus	Science Health
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Biotech Innovation: Researchers have genetically engineered E. coli into self-powered chemical sensors that can directly interface with electronics. ❖ Outbreak Alert: E. coli infection linked to fast food chains in the US (e.g., McDonald's) led to removal of certain items.
About E. coli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A rod-shaped bacterium of the Enterobacteriaceae family. ❖ Found in intestines of humans & animals. ❖ Most strains are harmless/beneficial, but some cause diseases. ❖ E. coli serves as a key indicator of water contamination. 
Diseases & Transmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Harmful strains cause diarrhea, urinary tract infections (UTIs), pneumonia, respiratory illness. ❖ Transmission via contaminated food, water, or fecal contact.
How It Makes You Sick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Harmful strains produce Shiga toxin → damages intestinal lining → diarrhea. ❖ These are called STEC (Shiga toxin-producing E. coli). ❖ Can lead to Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS) → kidney failure in severe cases.
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Most infections are self-limiting (resolve without treatment). ❖ Simple prevention: cook food thoroughly, wash hands, sanitize water, avoid raw/contaminated produce. ❖ Hydration is crucial during illness.

**Topic 7 - CEREBO – Indigenous Brain Tool**

Syllabus	Science Health
Context	CEREBO , a hand-held diagnostic device, was launched by ICMR + AIIMS Bhopal + NIMHANS + Bioscan Research to detect Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) within 1 minute .
What is CEREBO?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Portable, non-invasive, radiation-free brain injury detector. ❖ Uses near-infrared spectroscopy + machine learning. ❖ Low-cost, easy-to-use, colour-coded results.
Features & Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Detects intracranial bleeding + brain edema in <1 min. ❖ Safe for infants & pregnant women. ❖ Usable by paramedics/unskilled staff in ambulances, rural clinics, trauma centres, and disaster zones. ❖ Validated via multi-centre trials, approved for emergency + military use.
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bridges the diagnostic gap in rural & underserved areas. ❖ Enables early detection & triage → reduces fatalities & long-term complications. ❖ Cuts reliance on costly CT/MRI setups. ❖ Potential for global adoption in trauma medicine.
Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Definition: Disruption of brain function due to head trauma. ❖ Causes: Road accidents (~60%), falls (20–25%), violence (~10%). ❖ Consequences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Immediate → unconsciousness, seizures, confusion. ➢ Complications → bleeding, edema, coma. ➢ Long-term → memory loss, depression, cognitive decline, ↑ risk of neurodegenerative disease. ❖ Hidden risk: Mild TBIs often undiagnosed → worsen over time.

**Topic 8 - Multi-Stage Malaria Vaccine – AdFalcivax**

Syllabus	Science Health
Context	The government granted licences to five Indian firms to manufacture & commercialise AdFalcivax – India’s first indigenous multi-stage malaria vaccine.
What is AdFalcivax?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ India’s first recombinant chimeric multi-stage malaria vaccine. ❖ Targets Plasmodium falciparum (deadliest malaria parasite). ❖ Antigen Design: Uses full-length PfCSP + fusion of Pfs230 & Pfs48/45 for broad immunity. ❖ Host System: Produced using Lactococcus lactis – a safe bacterial host. ❖ Developed by: ICMR–RMRC (Bhubaneswar) with support from ICMR–NIMR & National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi.
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Block infection & transmission of malaria. ❖ Reduce community spread → support Malaria Elimination Goal 2030.
Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Acts before the parasite enters the bloodstream. ❖ Affordable, scalable, stable → effective 9+ months at room temp. ❖ Multi-stage action → protection at both infection & transmission stages. ❖ Validated in pre-clinical trials.
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ India = 1.4% global malaria cases; 66% of SE Asia’s burden. ❖ Support Atmanirbhar Bharat: Reduces dependence on imported vaccines; boosts indigenous R&D. ❖ Major step toward health security & elimination targets.

Topic 9 - Lunar Module Launch Vehicle (LMLV)

Syllabus	Science & Technology Space
Context	ISRO announced development of Lunar Module Launch Vehicle (LMLV) , India’s heaviest rocket ever , expected to be ready by 2035 .
What is LMLV?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Next-gen heavy-lift launch vehicle of ISRO. (Improved version of the NGLV - Next Generation Launch Vehicle). ❖ India’s most powerful rocket, built for lunar & interplanetary missions.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Enable crewed lunar missions by 2040 and Bharatiya Antariksh Station. ❖ Carry larger payloads to Moon + support deep space exploration. ❖ Boost self-reliance in human spaceflight tech.


**Specifications**

- ❖ **Payload Capacity:**
 - **Moon:** ~27 tonnes.
 - **LEO (200–2000 km):** ~80 tonnes.
- ❖ **Propulsion:** Advanced **cryogenic & semi-cryogenic engines.**
- ❖ **Stages:** 3-stage rocket
 - First two stages: **Liquid propellants.**
 - Third stage: **Cryogenic propellant.**

Evolution of ISRO Launch Vehicles

Launch Vehicle	Period	Key Features & Payload Capacity	Notable Missions
Sounding Rockets	1963	Nike Apache rockets at Thumba	Early atmospheric research
SLV-3 (Satellite Launch Vehicle)	1980	First indigenous rocket led by A.P.J. Abdul Kalam ; small payload (~40 kg to LEO)	Placed Rohini satellite in orbit
ASLV (Augmented SLV)	1987–1994	Used strap-on boosters; payload ~150 kg	Limited success; developmental platform
PSLV (Polar SLV)	1994–present	Four-stage (solid & liquid), payload 1,000–1,750 kg to LEO	Chandrayaan-1 (2008), Mangalyaan (2013)
GSLV (Geosynchronous SLV)	1990s–present	Introduced cryogenic upper stage ; payload 2,000–2,500 kg to GTO	Communication satellites
LVM-3 / GSLV Mk-III	2017–present	ISRO's heaviest operational rocket ; payload ~4,000 kg to GTO	Chandrayaan-2 (2019), Chandrayaan-3 (2023)
LMLV (Large Modular LV)	Planned 2035	Planned heavy-lift launcher; ~27t to Moon, ~80t to LEO	Designed for human spaceflight to Moon & beyond.

**Topic 10 - Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS)**

Syllabus	Science & Technology Defence
Context	Aug 2025: DRDO conducted first successful flight-tests of the IADWS under Mission Sudarshan Chakra.
About IADWS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ India's first indigenously developed, multi-layered air defence system integrating: (Layered defence) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM) → for medium range. ➤ Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) → for very short range. ➤ Laser-based Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) → for close-in drone/UAV neutralisation. ❖ Developed by: DRDO under Mission Sudarshan Chakra (2025). ❖ Centralised Command & Control Centre (developed by DRDL, Hyderabad) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Integrates all components (radar, sensors, communication data etc.) for real-time detection, decision-making, and engagement.
Key Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ QRSAM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Designed by DRDO for Army armoured columns. ➤ Range: 3-30 km. ➤ Features: Search & track on move, 360° radar coverage. ❖ VSHORADS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 4th-generation MANPADS, portable, advanced miniaturised system. ➤ Last line of defence against low-flying threats. ➤ Can be deployed by Army, Navy & IAF. ❖ Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Developed by DRDO's CHES lab, Hyderabad. ➤ High-energy laser system (range < 3 km). ➤ Tested on UAVs & swarm drones → caused structural damage & sensor disablement. ➤ Places India among few global powers with such tech.



Topic 11 - Oreshnik Hypersonic Missile

Syllabus	Science & Technology Defence
Context	Russian President Vladimir Putin announced production of Oreshnik missile and plans to deploy it in Belarus by the end of 2025 .
About the Missile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Country: Russia. ("Oreshnik" → hazel tree) ❖ Type: Hypersonic IRBM (Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile). ❖ Speed: Mach 10 (10x speed of sound). ❖ Range: ~5,000 km (3,100 miles). ❖ Warheads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Equipped with MIRVs (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles). ➢ Can carry conventional or nuclear warheads. ❖ Combines hypersonic speed + mid-flight manoeuvrability + multiple warheads → difficult to intercept.




Topic 11 - RS-28 Sarmat ICBM (Satan-2)


Syllabus	Science & Technology Defence
Context	Amid rising US-Russia tensions , focus has returned to Russia's RS-28 Sarmat ICBM , NATO codename " Satan-2 ".
About RS-28 Sarmat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ New-generation intercontinental ballistic missile of Russia. ❖ Named after the Sarmatian people (4th-5th century BC).
Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Heaviest ICBM in the world → 208 tonnes. ❖ Range: 18,000 km. ❖ Speed: 25,500 kph (~Mach 20). ❖ Payload: 10 tonnes (nuclear/conventional options). ❖ Warheads: Up to 16 MIRVs + Avangard hypersonic glide vehicles. ❖ Capable of Fractional Orbital Bombardment (FOBS) → launches via low orbit, even from opposite directions. ❖ Reportedly capable of delivering warheads 2,000x Hiroshima bomb.



**Topic 12 - Dark Eagle Hypersonic Missile System (LRHW)**

Syllabus	Science & Technology Defence
Context	The US Army deployed 'Dark Eagle' LRHW during Talisman Sabre military drills in Australia .
About Dark Eagle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ US Army's Long-Range Hypersonic Weapon (LRHW). ❖ Developed by Lockheed Martin & Northrop Grumman. ❖ Built for strategic attack missions → penetrate A2/AD defences, suppress enemy long-range fires & deliver rapid precision strikes. ❖ Key Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Range: ~1,700 miles (2,735 km). ➤ Speed: Mach 17, highly maneuverable → difficult to intercept. ➤ Flight path: Climbs to edge of space → upper atmosphere → maneuvers toward target. ➤ Propulsion: Solid-fuelled two-stage rocket booster.

Topic 13 - Khorramshahr-5

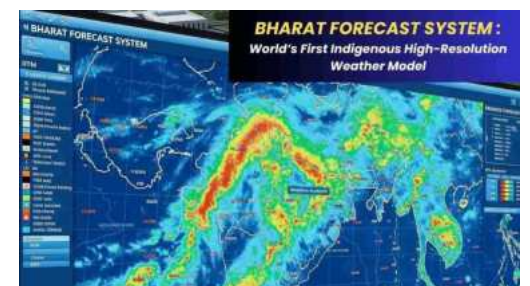
Syllabus	Science & Technology Defence
Context	Reports suggest Iran may have developed/prepared to test its first ICBM - Khorramshahr-5 .
About Khorramshahr-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Country → Iran. ❖ Type: Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM). ❖ Range → ~12,000 km → capable of striking targets across continents. ❖ Speed → Mach 16 (~20,000 km/h) → extremely hard to intercept. ❖ Payload → ~2-ton warhead → likely nuclear; MIRV-capable. 
Countries with Operational ICBMs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Russia, USA, China, France, India, UK, Israel, North Korea. ❖ India's Agni-V → Solid-fueled ICBM (officially Intermediate Range).

**Topic 14 - Golden Dome**

Syllabus	Science & Technology Defence
Context	US President announced a \$175 billion Golden Dome missile defence shield for the United States inspired by Israel's Iron Dome.
About Golden Dome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A ground & space-based multi-layered missile defence system. ❖ Designed to safeguard the US from long-range & space-launched missiles. ❖ Will integrate with existing systems (Patriot, THAAD, Aegis BMD, GMD). ❖ Key Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Satellite Network → hundreds of satellites for missile detection & tracking. ➤ Space-Based Interceptors → neutralize missiles at different trajectory stages. ➤ Advanced Tracking Tech → space-based radars & sensors for real-time monitoring. ➤ Laser Weapons → mid-flight missile destruction.

Topic 15 - Bharat Forecast System (BharatFS)

Syllabus	Science & Technology
Context	Union Minister of Earth Sciences informed Rajya Sabha about the launch of Bharat Forecast System (BharatFS) .
About BharatFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ India's first indigenously developed high-resolution weather forecasting model. ❖ Launched by → India Meteorological Department (IMD) (Ministry of Earth Sciences). ❖ Developed by → Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune with collaboration from IMD and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Powered by supercomputers Arka (IITM) & Arunika (NCMRWF-Noida). ❖ Objective: Panchayat-level forecasts + improved prediction of extreme weather events.
Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Based on Triangular Cubic Octahedral (TCO) grid → 6 km × 6 km horizontal grid resolution (better than Global Forecast System ~12 km & global avg 9-14 km).





	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Accuracy: 30% better for extreme rainfall; up to 64% improvement across climatic zones.❖ Forecasts delivered within 4-6 hours (vs 12-14 hours earlier).❖ Uses real-time data from 40+ Doppler Weather Radars.❖ Coverage: Tropical belt (30°S-30°N), includes the full Indian subcontinent.
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Agriculture: Localized forecasts → crop planning, irrigation, harvesting.❖ Water & Disaster Management: manage reservoirs, reduce flood risks, improve climate resilience.❖ Self-Reliance: Boosts Atmanirbhar Bharat in meteorology.❖ Global Leadership: Ahead of US, UK, EU in forecast resolution.❖ Gender Empowerment: Led by 4 women scientists → aligns with Nari Shakti vision.

**Environment & Geography****Topic 1 - India's Fossil Heritage**

Topic	Geography Indian History Geo Heritage
Context	India's fossil heritage, including rare finds like the 47-million-year-old snake Vasuki indicus , is under threat due to theft, vandalism, and illegal auctions , as there is no national fossil protection law or central repository.
What is Fossil Heritage?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fossils are preserved remains or traces of ancient life (in rock over millions of years) (plants, animals, microorganisms). ❖ Fossil heritage includes sites, specimens, and geological formations of Earth's geological and biological significance. ❖ Managed by Geological Survey of India (GSI) under Ministry of Mines. ❖ Fossil parks being promoted under Dekho Apna Desh and National Geo-Tourism Policy.
India's Fossil Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Diverse Record: From Precambrian to Cenozoic → plants, dinosaur nests/eggs, Vasuki indicus (giant snake), Indohyus (whale ancestor). ❖ Unique Insights: Post-Gondwanaland isolation → evidence of dinosaur evolution, mammal emergence, marine transitions.
Significance of Fossils for India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Scientific: Evidence of evolution (Indohyus → whales, Gondwanaland flora/fauna). ❖ Cultural: Shaligram ammonites in Hindu worship. ❖ Educational: Natural history archives for students. ❖ Economic: Geo-tourism (e.g., Dinosaur Park, Balasinor, Gujarat). ❖ Study of Plate Tectonics and Continental Drift. ❖ Natural Resource Exploration: Petroleum and mineral exploration guided by fossil studies.

Major Fossil Sites in India

Site	Location	Significance
Kutch and Cambay Basin	Gujarat	Dinosaur and marine fossils.
Narmada Valley	Madhya Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Rich vertebrate and human ancestor fossils. ❖ Bhedaghat-Lameta Ghat -

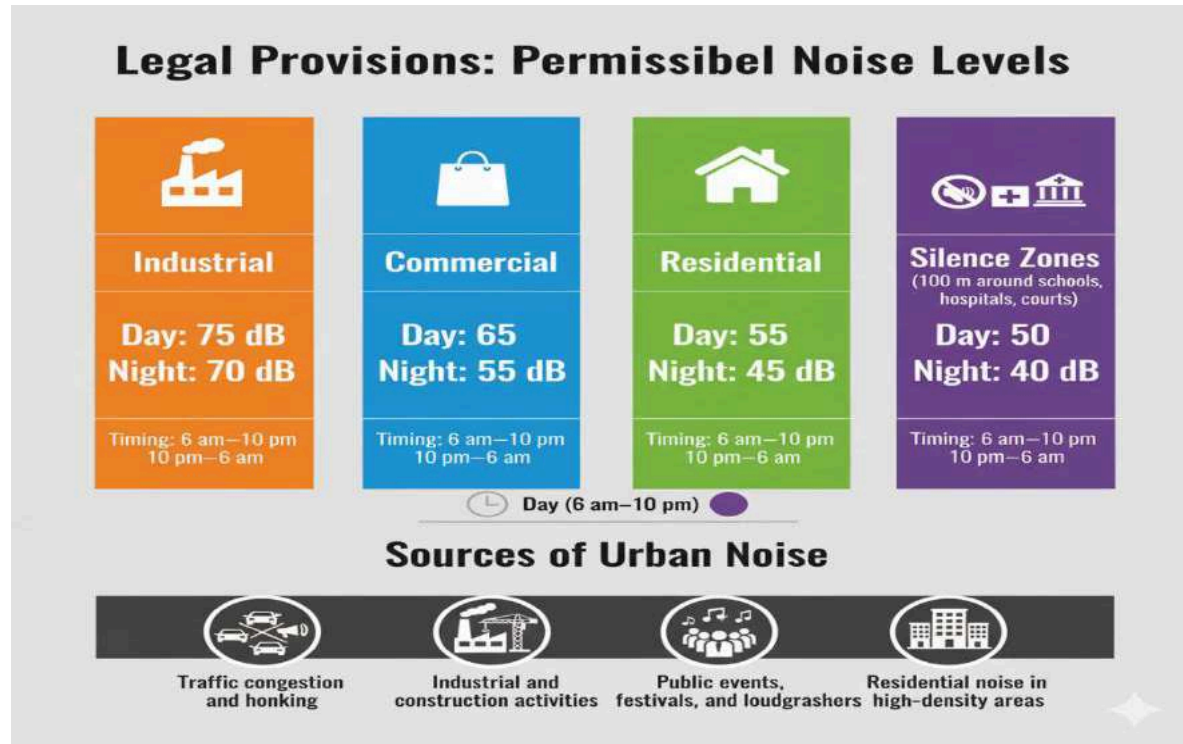
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In tentative list of World Heritage Sites. ➤ India's first Geological Park.
Himalayan foothills - Shivalik Fossil Park	Himachal, Uttarakhand	Vertebrate fossils (elephants, horses, etc.)
Lonar Crater	Maharashtra	Impact crater with microbial fossils.
Ramgarh Crater	Baran, Rajasthan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mesoproterozoic age; now a geo-heritage site. ❖ Houses 10th-century Shiva temple and prehistoric cave temples.
Jaisalmer	Rajasthan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Jurassic-era phytosaur fossil (200 million years old) → Megha Village → Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur. ❖ Akal Wood Fossil Park (Desert National Park)
Salkhan Fossil Park	Sonbhadra, UP	

New Geo-Heritage Recognitions

- ❖ **Pandavula Gutta (Telangana)** and **Ramgarh Crater (Rajasthan)** declared **Geo-Heritage Sites** by GSI.

Topic 2 - Noise Pollution

Syllabus	Environment Pollution
Context	Noise pollution has silently emerged as a serious public health threat in Indian cities. Despite being legally recognised under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and linked to hypertension, sleep disorders, stress, and cognitive decline, systematic monitoring and enforcement remain limited.
Understanding Noise Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Definition: According to CPCB, noise is any unwanted or harmful sound causing discomfort, irritation, or health damage. Pleasing sounds are considered music. ❖ Legal Classification: Recognized as an air pollutant under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. ❖ Regulation: Governed by the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, framed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. ❖ WHO Safe Limits: Daytime: 50 dB, Nighttime: 40 dB. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Breached in 44 Indian cities as of 2025.



Health Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Hypertension, cardiovascular stress, and sleep disorders. ❖ Cognitive decline, reduced productivity, and mental stress. ❖ Vulnerable groups disproportionately affected: street vendors, traffic police, delivery workers, and informal settlements. ❖ Life expectancy can be reduced due to chronic exposure.
Causes of Persistent Noise Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Inadequate Monitoring: Sporadic and incomplete noise data compared to air quality monitoring. ❖ Weak Enforcement: Cultural acceptance of noisy practices limits compliance. ❖ Fragmented Governance: Responsibility is split among pollution boards, municipalities, and police; there is a lack of coordination. ❖ Symbolic Measures: Honking bans or firecracker restrictions fail to address systemic sources.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Evidence-Based Monitoring: Expand real-time sensors and machine learning for source identification (traffic, industry, construction). ❖ Health Surveillance: Track noise exposure near schools, hospitals, and low-income communities. ❖ Urban Planning: Integrate noise mitigation with green buffers, zoning, and sustainable transport (electric buses, cycling). ❖ Governance Reforms: Strengthen enforcement, inter-agency coordination, and accountability. ❖ Community Engagement: Awareness campaigns, partnerships with local leaders to shift cultural norms.
Noise as a Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Vulnerable populations are most exposed and least able to protect themselves. ❖ Quiet living conditions should be treated as a universal right, not a privilege.

and Equity Issue	❖ Integrating noise control into clean-air agendas, urban planning, and public health strategies can safeguard lives and promote social equity.
Conclusion	India's urban noise crisis is a hidden but growing threat to public health and equity. Effective mitigation requires robust monitoring, strict enforcement, sustainable urban design, and active community engagement.

Topic 3 - Independent Environment Auditors	
Syllabus	Environment & Governance
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ MoEFCC introduced Environment Audit Rules, 2025. ❖ Creates a class of independent, accredited environment auditors to verify project compliance.
What Are IEAs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Third-party entities appointed to monitor, verify, and report environmental compliance of projects. ❖ Aim to ensure transparency, scientific rigor, and accountability in environmental governance.
Need for IEAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Existing monitoring by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and SPCBs is limited by manpower, infrastructure, and resources. ❖ Compliance Gap: CAG reports & MoEFCC reviews show poor post-clearance monitoring (less than 5% of projects inspected annually). ❖ Conflict of Interest: Project proponents often submit self-compliance reports → biased. ❖ Rapid infrastructure growth → ecological stress. ❖ Public Trust: Increases transparency, accountability, and citizen confidence. ❖ Aligns with Ease of Doing Business and international best practices.
Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Certification & Registration: Through the Environment Audit Designated Agency (EADA). ❖ Random Assignment: To prevent bias/conflict of interest. ❖ Responsibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Verify compliance with environmental laws. ➤ Conduct sampling, analysis, and calculate compensations. ➤ Monitor adherence to Green Credit Rules, waste management, forest/environment laws. ➤ Audit self-reported compliance by project proponents.



Oversight Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Steering Committee: Led by MoEFCC Additional Secretary + representatives from regulatory bodies. ❖ Monitors progress, resolves challenges, and proposes reforms.
Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Stronger Compliance: Independent audits enhance credibility and enforceability. ❖ Integration: Supports Green Credit Programme, Ecomark, and Extended Producer Responsibility. ❖ Capacity Building: Expands trained professionals; regulators focus on high-risk cases. ❖ Transparency & Accountability: Random auditor assignment reduces conflict of interest. ❖ Data-Driven Governance: Digitised records enable better decisions & interventions. ❖ Early detection of non-compliance: prevents disasters (e.g., Vizag Gas Leak 2020). ❖ Boosts ESG compliance for industries (aligns with global climate & green finance standards).
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Local-level enforcement (district, block, panchayat) may still lag. ❖ Success depends on empowering local staff and ensuring core monitoring is maintained. ❖ Credibility of auditors – risk of capture by corporates. ❖ Conflict of interest if paid by project proponents. ❖ Lack of accreditation & oversight mechanisms for auditors.
Quote for Ethics/Essay	<p>“Independent audits are the conscience keepers of environmental governance.” – The Hindu, Aug 2025.</p>



Topic 4 - National Designated Authority

Syllabus	Environment Climate Change
Context	MoEFCC has set up a National Designated Authority (NDA) under the Paris Agreement (2015) to enable the carbon emissions trading regime .
About National Designated Authority (NDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mandate: Required under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (finalised at COP29, Baku, 2024). ❖ Structure: Inter-ministerial committee (21 members), headed by the Secretary, MoEF&CC. ❖ Members: Officials from Ministries of External Affairs (MEA), Steel, Renewable Energy, NITI Aayog, etc. ❖ Purpose: To oversee and authorize carbon credit projects under international carbon markets.
Key Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Recommend a list of activities/projects eligible for emission reduction trading. ❖ Evaluate, approve, and authorise projects under Article 6. ❖ Align projects with national sustainability goals & priorities. ❖ Approve the use of Emission Reduction Units (ERUs) towards India's NDC targets. ❖ Promote green hydrogen, carbon capture, afforestation, etc.
Carbon Market Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Article 6.2: Bilateral trading of mitigation outcomes. ❖ Article 6.4: UN-supervised global carbon credit market. <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Whats is Article 6?</p> <p>Article 6.2 (market): Host country transfers Article 6.2 units (ITMOs) to buyer country through bilateral agreement. Includes financial support from buyer to host.</p> <p>Article 6.4 (market and non-market): Host country generates units through a UNFCCC centralised mechanism and transfers them to buyer country. Includes financial support from buyer to host.</p> <p>Article 6.8 (non-market): UNFCCC web platform could be voluntarily used to facilitate matching projects with financial and technical support available in several focus areas. Includes financial support or capacity building from buyer to host.</p> </div>
India's Nationally Determined Contribution Commitments (by 2030)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 45% reduction in emissions intensity of GDP by 2030 (from 2005 levels). ❖ 50% electric power capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030. ❖ Additional carbon sink of 2.5–3 billion tonnes CO₂ equivalent via afforestation.

Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Strengthens India's role in global carbon markets. ❖ Promotes clean energy, afforestation & sustainable growth. ❖ Encourages private sector investment in clean technologies. ❖ Helps India balance development needs & climate obligations. ❖ Strengthens India's climate diplomacy and SDG alignment.
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Topic 5 - Green Credit Programme (GCP)

Syllabus	Environment Climate Change
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Union Environment Ministry notified a revised methodology for awarding green credits under GCP. ❖ Replaces the earlier system with changes in eligibility, credit calculation, time frame, and use of credits.
About Green Credit Programme (GCP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A market-based incentive mechanism launched by MoEFCC to incentivize voluntary pro-environmental actions (beyond just carbon reduction) by issuing "Green Credits" to individuals, communities, industries, etc. ❖ Launched: Launched as part of India's LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) movement. Publicly highlighted at COP-28 as a "Global Green Credit Initiative" co-hosted with UAE. ❖ Legal Basis / Rules: Green Credit Rules, 2023, notified on 12 October 2023 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. ❖ Objective: Promote voluntary environmental actions – tree plantation, water conservation, waste management, etc.
Key Changes in Rules	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awarding of Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Earlier: 1,100 trees/ha within 2 years; criticized for ignoring survival & canopy quality. ❖ New: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Credits earned after a minimum of 5 years of restoration on degraded forest land. ➤ Based on the survival rate of trees and canopy density (≥40%). 2. Tradability of Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Earlier: Market-based trading allowed. ❖ New: Non-tradable, except transfer between holding company & subsidiary. 3. Permissible Uses of Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ One-time exchange for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Compensatory afforestation obligations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) compliance. ➤ Other legal tree planting obligations. ❖ Credits can also be used for ESG reporting. ❖ Credit ceases after use for legal compliance.
Rationale Behind Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Quality over quantity: Focus on long-term survival and canopy growth. ❖ Credibility & sustainability: 57,986 ha of degraded land registered; revised rules expected to enhance trust and effectiveness. ❖ Moves away from tokenistic tree-plantation drives.
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Strengthens India's climate resilience. ❖ Improves biodiversity and ecological restoration. ❖ Encourages corporate accountability in environmental stewardship.

Topic 6 - Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)	
Syllabus	Environment Climate Change
Context	India and Japan signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to implement the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), promoting low-carbon technology projects.
What is Joint Crediting Mechanism?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ JCM is a Bilateral carbon market mechanism between Japan and partner countries (like India) aimed at promoting low-carbon technologies in developing countries and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement (UNFCCC). ❖ Initiated By: Government of Japan ❖ Emission reductions from projects are credited to both Japan and the host country. ❖ Difference from Clean Development Mechanism (CDM): Unlike Kyoto Protocol's CDM, host countries under JCM are joint implementers, not passive recipients.
India-Japan JCM (2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Framework Name: Green Energy Focus for a Better Future. ❖ Admin Body in India: National Designated Authority (NDA) under MoEFCC. ❖ Covers equipment, machinery, systems & localisation of infrastructure.

**Topic 7 - Rio Earth Summit, 1992**

Topic	Environment Climate Governance
Context	2025 marks 33 years since the Rio Earth Summit (1992), a landmark event that shaped global sustainable development and climate governance.
About Rio Earth Summit (1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ What? United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (June 1992). ❖ Participation: 172 countries, 108 heads of state, 2,400+ NGOs. ❖ Significance: First major global effort linking environment + development.
Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Introduced Sustainable Development as a global agenda. ❖ Adopted the CBDR (Common but Differentiated Responsibilities) principle. ❖ Affirmed sovereign rights over natural resources. ❖ Linked environment with trade, equity, and development. ❖ Focus on biodiversity, desertification & climate action.
Major Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Rio Declaration (1992): 27 guiding principles. ❖ Agenda 21: Voluntary action plan for sustainable development at global, national, and local levels. ❖ UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): Framework for global climate governance; led to Kyoto Protocol (1997) and Paris Agreement (2015). ❖ UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD): Legally binding treaty for biodiversity conservation and equitable benefit sharing. ❖ UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD): Global framework to tackle land degradation and desertification.
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Laid the foundation of multilateral climate cooperation. ❖ Mainstreamed equity & justice in climate discourse. ❖ Strengthened the Global South's role (India & G77 influential). ❖ Basis for Kyoto Protocol (1997) & Paris Agreement (2015). ❖ Symbol of global environmental solidarity despite challenges.

**Topic 8 - Regulating Coal Operations**

Syllabus	Environment Energy Climate Change
Context	Report “ Regulating Coal Operations: Environmental & Social Impacts through the Lens of NGT ” released on 26 Aug 2025, New Delhi .
India’s Reliance on Coal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Energy Security → 70% of power from coal; ~350 bn tonnes domestic reserves. ❖ Industrial Backbone → Fuels critical industries: steel, cement, fertiliser, railways. ❖ Affordability & Lock-in → Existing infrastructure and cheaper coal plants create long-term dependence. ❖ Employment Dependence → Millions employed in coal mining states. ❖ Renewables’ Intermittency → Coal provides continuous baseload power amid solar/wind fluctuations. ❖ Transition Barriers → Lack of finance, tech transfer, and worker adaptation.
Environmental & Health Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Air Pollution → PM10 levels in coal-heavy regions (Jharia, Ennore) exceed safe limits by 5×. ❖ Water Contamination → Fly ash leaks pollute rivers and agricultural soils. ❖ Biodiversity Loss → Forest destruction, wildlife habitat disruption. ❖ Public Health → Rise in respiratory diseases, silicosis, neurological disorders. ❖ Livelihood Loss → Disruption of agriculture, fisheries, and grazing → forced migration.
Governance & Regulatory Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Weak Enforcement → Cases of emission manipulation (e.g., Ennore plant scandal). ❖ Poor Compensation → Farmers underpaid or facing delays in relief payments. ❖ FRA Violations → Tribal consent frequently bypassed, violating Forest Rights Act (FRA). ❖ Tokenistic Participation → Communities excluded from decision-making.
Key Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Conduct Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) along with Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). ❖ Ensure Community Participation by forming local monitoring committees. ❖ Mandate Continuous Monitoring via independent audits (air, water, soil, health). ❖ Implement Mission-Mode Ecological Restoration by MoEFCC and state governments.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Adopt a Just Transition Strategy focusing on livelihood diversification and skill training.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Diversify Energy Mix → Promote solar, offshore wind, and green hydrogen alongside coal. ❖ Just Transition Fund → Support rehabilitation and provide alternative jobs to displaced workers. ❖ Health-Centric Planning → Make HIAs mandatory for coal project approvals. ❖ Stronger Accountability → Empower NGT & State Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) with greater oversight powers. ❖ Circular Economy of Coal Waste → Use fly ash in cement, bricks, roads to reduce environmental impact. ❖ Climate Finance → Tap G-20, Green Climate Fund (GCF), and Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) for transition funding.
Conclusion	Coal will stay vital for India's energy security , but without community involvement, strict regulation, and a just transition , its social & environmental costs may outweigh benefits . A balanced path must ensure energy, equity, and climate responsibility together.
Quote for Ethics/Essay	"Energy justice must balance growth with dignity." – Adapted from UN World Social Report 2025 .

Topic 9 - Maldives & Lakshadweep Sea-Level Rise	
Syllabus	Environment Climate Change
Context	A new study on coral microatolls in the Maldives shows sea levels in the central Indian Ocean have been rising since the late 1950s .
Why this is important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Small island systems (Maldives; Lakshadweep) are frontline indicators of climate change impacts (sea-level rise, marine heatwaves, coral loss) with implications for security, livelihoods, biodiversity and regional diplomacy.
Key Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Sea level rose ~0.3 m (1930–2019). ❖ Rise rates: 5 times in comparison to the 1930s. ❖ Since 1959: 3.2 mm/yr average rise, touching ~4 mm/yr in the last 20–30 years. ❖ Overall: 30–40 cm rise in 50 years. ❖ The Central Indian Ocean is rising faster than coastal areas due to unique regional factors.



Causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Thermal expansion – heated oceans expand. ❖ Glacial & ice-sheet melt – Himalayas, Arctic, Antarctica adding water. ❖ Indian Ocean warming – boosts currents, intensifies rise. ❖ Climate variability – El Niño, IOD, wind shifts add fluctuations.
Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ecological: Coral bleaching, reef collapse, sea erosion, Mangrove loss → reduced natural buffers. ❖ Social: Risk of displacement & forced migration. ❖ Economic: Fisheries, coconut farming, tourism hit by salinity & erosion. Coral reef loss → decline in fish stocks. Destruction of infrastructure. ❖ Geopolitical: Climate refugees may strain security & governance. ❖ Governance Challenges: → Land acquisition for defence/tourism vs local rights. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of functioning panchayats in Lakshadweep → democratic deficit.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Monitoring: Coral microatolls + tide gauges + satellites. ❖ Coastal resilience: Mangroves, seawalls, climate-proof infra (Nature-based defences). EIA mandatory for tourism projects (e.g., Taj Lagoon Villas). ❖ Regional cooperation: Data sharing & joint adaptation. Shared disaster response protocols, climate tech exchange. ❖ Global action: Meet Paris Agreement emission goals. Climate diplomacy for adaptation funding ❖ For India: Prioritise Lakshadweep – ecosystem conservation, disaster prep, adaptation investments.
Conclusion	Sea-level rise in the Indian Ocean is earlier & sharper than assumed. Coral microatolls provide vital historical evidence. Urgent adaptation, cooperation, and emission cuts are critical to protect islands & coastal communities .
Quote for Ethics/Essay	“Rising seas are not just a threat to land, but to identity, sovereignty, and survival.” – Indian Express, August 2025.

**Topic 10 - Natural Calamities in North & North-Western India**

Syllabus	Environment Climate Change Disaster Management
Context	Recent floods, landslides, and cloudbursts in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal, Uttarakhand, Delhi, and J&K highlight the growing climate vulnerability of Himalayan & sub-Himalayan regions, worsened by unplanned development and poor disaster governance.
Why this is important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Small island systems (Maldives; Lakshadweep) are frontline indicators of climate change impacts (sea-level rise, marine heatwaves, coral loss) with implications for security, livelihoods, biodiversity and regional diplomacy.
Causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Geographical: Himalayan tectonics, fragile ecosystems, and arid Thar desert. ❖ Climatic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Global warming → intensified monsoons. ➤ More cloudbursts & extreme rainfall events. ➤ Himalaya & Indian Ocean warming is altering precipitation. ❖ Environmental degradation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deforestation, sand mining, and floodplain encroachment. ❖ Unplanned development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Roads, tunnels, hydropower in fragile Himalayas. ➤ Tourism expansion ignores carrying capacity. ❖ Unplanned urbanization → fragile slopes, poor drainage. ❖ Policy gaps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Relief-focused, not prevention-focused. ➤ Weak land-use laws, poor climate adaptation. ➤ Weak disaster preparedness at the local level.
Climate Change Linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ IPCC & WMO: South Asia is highly flood-vulnerable. ❖ Rising surface temperatures → cloudbursts. ❖ Glacial melt → higher GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood) risks.
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Human & Economic Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lives & displacement: Deaths, mental trauma, forced migration. ➤ Agriculture: Paddy destroyed (Punjab/Haryana), orchards & cash crops lost (HP). ➤ Infrastructure: Roads, bridges, power, and communication collapse. ➤ Tourism: Himachal & Uttarakhand tourism economy is the worst hit. ❖ Ecological Aspects



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Himalayas = fragile & landslide-prone. ➤ Floodplain encroachments reduce absorption → drainage blockage amplifies floods. ➤ Forests & wildlife corridors disrupted → biodiversity loss → soil erosion, desertification in Rajasthan.
<p>Governance Response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ National: NDMA, NDRF deployment, IMD forecasts, CDRI (Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure). ❖ States: Relief, SDRF deployment (rescue), and financial aid requests, state disaster management plans. ❖ NDMA & SDMAs → updated SOPs for landslides, floods. ❖ Recent Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The government launched Early Warning Systems for floods & landslides (2024, in Himachal & Uttarakhand). ➤ The Glacial Lake Atlas, published by ISRO (2023), maps >2,400 lakes. ➤ National Heat Action Plans (NHAP) are being implemented in Rajasthan and Delhi. ➤ India's National Mission on Himalayan Studies for sustainable development. ➤ Mobile health units are deployed in flood-hit zones. ➤ 2025: Draft National Landslide Risk Reduction Policy under review.
<p>Disaster Management Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Central-State coordination gaps in relief and rehabilitation. ❖ Underfunded disaster preparedness; less than 1% of budget allocation despite rising challenges. ❖ Lack of integration of climate risk data into planning; insufficient local governance and training. ❖ Weak community-level preparedness and limited participation in disaster risk reduction.
<p>Way Forward</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Preparedness: Real-time weather & early warning systems (IMD/ISRO) → Use of AI, drones, and satellite data. ❖ Eco-sensitive planning: Strict zoning, carrying capacity studies, slope stabilization. ❖ River mgmt.: Wetlands restoration, basin-level planning, traditional water systems. ❖ Agriculture: Climate-resilient crops, insurance under PMFBY. ❖ Institutional reform: Strengthen NDMA, mainstreaming climate resilience → decentralize disaster governance to district and village levels. ❖ Community-based disaster preparedness (e.g., women SHGs in Uttarakhand for relief).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Integrate traditional knowledge (Kullu wooden architecture, desert water-harvesting in Rajasthan). ❖ Global learnings: Japan (forecasting), Netherlands (flood mgmt.), Bhutan (community GLOF prep).
Conclusion	Disasters in North India reflect the mix of climate change, natural fragility & human mismanagement . A preventive, eco-sensitive, and climate-resilient disaster policy is essential to safeguard people, livelihoods, and ecosystems.

Topic 11 - Building Climate-Resilient Cities in India	
Syllabus	Environment Climate Change Disaster Management
Context	Indian cities face rising risks from floods, heatwaves, cyclones, and earthquakes; urgent climate-resilient planning is needed.
Current Urban Vulnerabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Flooding: 2/3 of urban residents at risk; economic losses may exceed \$30B by 2070. ❖ Extreme Heat: Cities are 3–5°C hotter due to concrete; this raises mortality, health issues, and productivity loss. ❖ Transport: 25% of roads are flood-prone; partial submergence can paralyse major city transport. ❖ Housing: Poor design → heat traps, flood-prone slums; 144M new homes needed by 2070. ❖ Municipal Services: Weak waste, drainage, and energy systems exacerbate climate shocks.
Need for Climate-Resilient Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Protect lives from floods, heatwaves, and disasters. ❖ Safeguard economy: cities generate >70% of GDP & jobs. ❖ Promote inclusion: protect the urban poor during disasters. ❖ Reduce losses: resilience lowers long-term costs and attracts investment. Without resilience, India risks \$30 billion in annual damages by 2070.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Weak ULBs: lack staff, funds, expertise. ❖ Fragmented governance: overlapping state, city, parastatal roles. ❖ Financial constraints: limited revenue, slow climate finance access. ❖ Poor planning: encroachment on wetlands/floodplains increases risk. ❖ Inequality: slum/migrant populations in hazard zones.
Initiatives Taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ NAPCC (National Action Plan on Climate Change) & SAPCCs: National/state frameworks for climate adaptation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Sustainable Habitat Mission: Green buildings, resilient transport & waste. ❖ Smart Cities & AMRUT: Embed resilience in urban infrastructure. ❖ Heat Action Plans: Early warning, cooling centres, awareness (Ahmedabad model). ❖ PMAY-Urban: Integrate climate-smart housing.
Strategies for Resilient Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Urban Planning: Compact designs, disaster-resistant codes, and restrict high-risk construction. ❖ Flood Management: Modern drainage, wetland restoration, predictive warning systems. ❖ Heat Resilience: Tree canopy, cool roofs, shaded corridors, and adjust outdoor work. ❖ Transport: Elevated & redundant roads/metros are functional during floods. ❖ Municipal Services: Climate-proof water, waste, sanitation; circular economy integration. ❖ Finance & Partnerships: PPPs, green bonds, climate funds, citizen participation. ❖ Capacity Building: Train ULB staff, GIS/AI risk mapping, and institutional strengthening.
Conclusion	Urban climate resilience ensures sustainable growth, social equity, and ecological balance . India's cities must act now to adapt to climate uncertainties and safeguard their future.

Topic 12 - Lipulekh Pass	
Topic	Indian Geography Topography
Context	India has rejected Nepal's claims over Lipulekh after India-China restarted trade through border points.
About Lipulekh Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Location: Kumaon region, Uttarakhand → near India-Nepal-China trijunction. ❖ Connectivity: Links Uttarakhand (India) with Tibet (China). ❖ Border Trade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1st Indian border post for trade with China (1992). ➤ Later → Shipki La (HP, 1994) & Nathu La (Sikkim, 2006).



Significance

- ❖ **Ancient Trade Route:** Traditional Indo-Tibetan trade link.
- ❖ **Religious Value:** Part of **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** route.
- ❖ **Strategic Location:** High-altitude pass → gateway to Himalayan frontier & India's northern defense.

Topic 13 - Sundarbans Tiger Reserve

Topic

Environment & Biodiversity | Wildlife

Context

- ❖ Sundarbans Tiger Reserve (STR) **expanded by 1,044.68 sq km**, now India's **second-largest tiger reserve** after Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem TR.
- ❖ Total area: **3,629.57 sq km** (earlier ranked 7th).
- ❖ Expansion approved by **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** – statutory body under **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.

About STR

- **Location:** West Bengal; part of the **world's largest mangrove ecosystem**.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Site (1987)** + part of **Project Tiger network**.
- Globally unique for its **mangrove-tiger ecosystem**.



Establishment

- ❖ Declared **Tiger Reserve – 1973** (1st phase of Project Tiger).
- ❖ **National Park (1984)**
- ❖ **Biosphere Reserve – 1989**; UNESCO recognition – **2001**.
- ❖ Declared **Ramsar Site – 2019**.

Biodiversity

Flora

- ❖ Dominated by **mangroves**:
 - Sundari (*Heritiera fomes*)
 - Gewa (*Excoecaria agallocha*)
 - Golpata (*Nypa fruticans*)
- ❖ Adapted to **saline, tidal conditions** with **pneumatophores (breathing roots)**.



	<p>Fauna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Royal Bengal Tiger – only mangrove tiger habitat in the world; tigers can swim estuaries. ❖ Other species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Estuarine crocodile, fishing cat, water monitor lizard ➤ Olive ridley turtles, spotted deer ➤ Rich avifauna – kingfishers, herons ➤ Aquatic biodiversity incl. Hilsa (vital for local livelihoods).
Unique Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Part of the world's largest delta, formed by Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers. ❖ Transboundary ecosystem with Bangladesh's Sundarbans Reserve Forest. ❖ Acts as natural cyclone barrier for coastal West Bengal. ❖ Strong cultural-human interface: fisherfolk, honey collectors depend on it.

Topic 14 - Red Sea

Topic	World Geography
Context	Damage to undersea internet cables in the Red Sea disrupted connectivity across Asia and the Middle East.
About Red Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Narrow inland sea between northeastern Africa and the Arabian Peninsula; part of the rift valley system. ❖ Connects the Mediterranean (via Suez Canal) to the Arabian Sea (via Bab el-Mandeb Strait). ❖ Neighbouring countries: Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, Yemen; Jordan & Israel on the Gulf of Aqaba. ❖ Length: ~1,930 km from Suez to Bab el-Mandeb.
Undersea (Submarine) Cables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fiber-optic cables on the seabed carry ~95% of international data traffic. ❖ Composition: Glass fibers + protective layers; transmit data as light pulses. ❖ Function: Enable global internet, cloud services, and international communications. ❖ Vulnerability: Susceptible to natural disasters, anchor drags, earthquakes, and sabotage.

**Topic 15 - Bharat Forecast System (BharatFS)**

Syllabus	Economy & Agriculture
Context	Fresh Kargil apricots were introduced in Saudi Arabia during India's 79th Independence Day celebrations in Riyadh under ODOP initiative .
About Apricot (Prunus armeniaca)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Temperate fruit tree of Rosaceae family (related to peach, plum, almond, cherry).❖ Produces yellow-orange drupes with edible kernel inside.❖ Rich in: Vitamin A, iron, natural sugars, antioxidants.
Regions of Cultivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Global: Mediterranean, Central Asia, North America.❖ India: Ladakh (premium quality), Himachal, J&K, Uttarakhand, dry temperate regions.❖ Ladakh's apricots = famous for flavor & quality.
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Small spreading trees, self-pollinated white flowers.❖ Drought-resistant & long-lived (up to 100 years).❖ Varieties: Wild Zardalu, cultivated Khubani.



SMA, SBL and Ethics

Topic 1 - Hockey Asia Cup 2025

Syllabus	Sports
Context	India defeated Korea 4-1 in the final at Rajgir, Bihar, clinching their 4th Men's Asia Cup title and direct qualification for the 2026 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup .
About the Tournament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A quadrennial men's hockey event organised by the Asian Hockey Federation. ❖ The most prestigious continental championship in Asia. ❖ The winner earns World Cup qualification.
Host & Mascot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Host: Rajgir, Bihar (29 Aug – 7 Sept 2025). It was the first time Bihar hosted the tournament. ❖ Mascot: Chaand – tiger with red cape & magician's hat, symbolising skill, courage, agility, inspired by Valmiki Tiger Reserve.
Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Winner: India defeated Korea 4-1 in the final. ❖ India's 4th title: Joining Pakistan (3) and Korea (5) among the top winners. ❖ Unbeaten run: Big wins over China (7-0) and Malaysia. ❖ Significance: Secured a direct 2026 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup berth.

Topic 2 - Political Interference in Governance

Syllabus	Indian Polity Ethics
Context	Maharashtra Deputy CM rebuked IPS officer Anjana Krishna during an anti-illegal excavation drive in Solapur, highlighting political interference.
What Is It	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Undue influence by politicians or party workers on civil servants. ❖ Undermines impartiality, legality, merit-based governance, and the rule of law.
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Undue Pressure: Politicians influence raids, permissions, or administrative decisions. ❖ Patronage Networks: Favouritism in postings, contracts, and welfare tied to party loyalty. ❖ Erosion of Neutrality: Bureaucracy becomes a tool of ruling parties. ❖ Short-Termism: Populist measures prioritise electoral gains over long-term governance.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Weak Accountability: Blame diffused, making responsibility unclear.
Ethical Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Violation of Constitutional Morality: Disregards Article 14, undermines rule-based governance. ❖ Conflict of Interest: Leaders prioritize party/private interests over public duty. ❖ Erosion of Public Trust: Citizens perceive bias, which weakens democracy. ❖ Demoralisation of Officers: Threats, transfers, humiliation reduce integrity. ❖ Gender & Respect Concerns: Disrespect to women officers violates workplace ethics. ❖ 2nd ARC Observation: Politicisation of the civil service is the greatest threat to probity.
Philosophical Insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Plato: Governance should be guided by justice, not passion/self-interest. ❖ Aristotle: "Law should govern, not men"; interference replaces rules with whims. ❖ Kant: Duty to the public good is violated when politics pressures bureaucracy. ❖ Max Weber: Political influence erodes bureaucratic neutrality and rational-legal authority.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Lack of legal safeguards; oral orders remain enforceable. ❖ Frequent transfers (<16 months) weaken continuity and reward pliability. ❖ Weak Civil Services Boards fail to protect officers. ❖ Low accountability of politicians; no binding ethics code. ❖ Culture of silence; fear of reprisals stalls reporting and reform.
Way Ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fixed Tenure & Boards: ARC recommendations for secure postings. ❖ Legal Backing: Strengthen Civil Services Conduct Rules with statutory protection. ❖ Code of Ethics for Politicians: Binding rules to uphold constitutional values. ❖ Grievance Redressal: Independent authority for interference reporting. ❖ Training & Ethical Leadership: Build officers' skills in ethics and conflict resolution. ❖ Public Awareness: Media and citizen vigilance to ensure accountability.
Conclusion	<p>Political interference undermines neutrality, fairness, and constitutional morality. Rule of law, ARC reforms, ethical leadership, and institutional safeguards are essential to protect bureaucracy and uphold democratic governance.</p>

**Topic 3 - Domestic Sphere in India**

Syllabus	Sociology Vulnerable Sections
Context	Rising debates on gender roles, dowry deaths, domestic violence & undervaluation of women's unpaid work highlight a crisis in the domestic sphere.
Domestic Sphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The domestic sphere refers to the private realm of family, household, caregiving, gender roles and interpersonal relationships within homes. ❖ Traditionally associated with women's roles, emotional labor, and unpaid work. ❖ Intersects with issues of gender, caste, class, law, and social norms.
Current Realities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Violence & Inequality: 30% women face Intimate Partner Violence (NFHS-5), only 14% complain; ~7,000 dowry deaths annually. ❖ Time Use Survey (2024): NSSO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Women → 7 hrs/day unpaid domestic work + 2.5 hrs caregiving. Women spend 5x more time on household chores than men. ➤ Men → 26 mins domestic + 16 mins caregiving. ❖ Invisible Contribution: Unpaid work = ~7% GDP (₹22.5 lakh cr, SBI 2023). ❖ Lack of Recognition: Anganwadi, ASHA, mid-day meal workers treated as "volunteers."
Sociological Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Parsons' Functionalism: Domestic sphere as stabilizing unit of society. ❖ Feminist Critique: Domestic labor as invisible, undervalued, and gendered. ❖ Intersectionality: Caste and class shape domestic hierarchies (e.g., domestic workers).
Ethical & Constitutional Dimensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Equality Violation → Art 14 (Equality before Law) and Art 15 (prohibition of discrimination). ❖ Dignity Denial → Art. 21 (domestic violence, marital rape debates). ❖ Directive Principles ignored → Art. 39(d) - Equal pay for equal work for both men and women, Art. 42 - Just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief. ❖ 2nd ARC → Patriarchy = biggest barrier to good governance, justice, and probity. ❖ Recent SC rulings (2024-25): Recognized marital rape as unconstitutional, expanded rights of homemakers.



Socio-Economic Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Economic Subsidy: Women’s unpaid labour reduces wage costs and supports the economy. ❖ Intergenerational Impact: Care: Fundamental for the health, education, and holistic development of children and the well-being of elders, ensuring future human capital. ❖ Social Cohesion: Violence at home erodes trust, democracy & productivity.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Patriarchal norms glorifying “sacrifice.” ❖ Policy blindness (marital rape not criminalised, domestic violence protections diluted). ❖ Economic undervaluation of care workers. ❖ Gendered labour divides across caste/class. ❖ Institutional silence & weak discourse.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Legal Reforms: Criminalise marital rape; strengthen the domestic violence Act; formal recognition & wages for care workers. ❖ Economic Recognition: Include unpaid domestic work in national accounting (Time Use Surveys); pensions & social security for caregivers. ❖ Cultural Shifts: Campaigns for shared household roles; gender sensitivity in education. ❖ Policy Support: Universal childcare, eldercare; maternity + paternity benefits. ❖ Data & Monitoring: Regular Time Use Surveys for gender-responsive policies.
Conclusion	The domestic sphere is a public concern , not private. Valuing women’s labour, ensuring dignity, and redistributing responsibilities are essential for justice, equality & a true nari-shakti-led democracy .
Quote for Ethics/Essay	“The domestic sphere is not apolitical - it is the first site of justice or injustice.” – The Hindu, July 2025.

**Topic 4 - Loneliness & India's Working Young**

Syllabus	Sociology
Context	Loneliness is emerging as the biggest "corporate disease" among India's working young (25–35 yrs), driven by urban migration & modern work culture.
What is it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A condition of emotional detachment and social isolation, despite being surrounded by people. ❖ Rising in cities: Bengaluru, Gurugram, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai.
Data & Stats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 56% admit loneliness; 23% feel it but deny; 21% not lonely. ❖ Gender divide: 64% women vs. 36% men report loneliness. ❖ Dating app use: 19% men vs. 4% women. ❖ Migrants are more affected due to uprooting from hometowns and social networks. ❖ WHO (2021): Loneliness now a public health challenge, linked to depression, anxiety, and poor immunity.
Causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Urbanization & Migration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Moving for work → Displacement from family/community support networks. ➤ Anonymity of large cities → Harder to form deep connections. ➤ Transient/rental living → Hinders building community roots. ❖ Changing Family Structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Shift from joint to nuclear families → Reduced built-in social support. ➤ Delayed marriage/children → Emotional vacuum. ❖ Work-Sleep-Party Cycle (Work Culture) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Long hours & high pressure → Less time/energy for socializing. Poor work-life balance. ➤ Competitive environments → Can reduce camaraderie and foster isolation. ❖ Superficial Socialisation: Friendships limited to colleagues and party circles; lack emotional depth ❖ Paradox of Digital Connectivity: Social media → Broad but superficial connections, can cause FOMO & social comparison. ❖ Tech substitutes – Reliance on dating apps and social media over real companionship. ❖ Individualism – career & income > relationships. ❖ Mental Health Stigma

	➤ Stigma around loneliness → Prevents individuals from acknowledging feelings or seeking help.
Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mental Health Issues: Increased risk of anxiety, depression, burnout, and stress. ❖ Weak Social Capital: Reduced trust, cooperation, and community ties. ❖ Physical Health Deterioration: Chronic loneliness is linked to poor sleep, weakened immune system, and increased risk of chronic diseases. ❖ Social Isolation: A vicious cycle where loneliness makes it harder to initiate social contact. ❖ Delay in Family Formation: Marriage & parenthood postponed. ❖ Cultural Shifts: Arranged marriages resurfacing. ❖ Workplace Loss: Lower productivity, attrition, weak collaboration.
Way Ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Workplace Initiatives: Promoting employee well-being, fostering team activities, and encouraging work-life balance. ❖ Community Building: Creating shared spaces (co-living, community centers, urban collectives), interest-based groups, and local events. ❖ Digital Detox & Intentional Connections: Encouraging mindful use of social media and prioritizing genuine in-person interactions. ❖ Cultural Anchoring: Festivals, rituals, ethnic associations. ❖ Family & Peer Support: Maintaining active communication with family and close friends. ❖ Policy Support: Urban youth clubs, recreational spaces, and migrant support.
Conclusion	Loneliness of working youth is a sociological challenge of urbanisation & modern work culture. Solutions lie in strengthening social bonds, workplace reforms, and community support for holistic youth well-being.

Topic 5 - Ageing and Health Burden in India	
Syllabus	Indian Society/Sociology Vulnerable Section Aged Person
Context	India's elderly population is rising rapidly, facing health, financial, and insurance challenges; out-of-pocket expenses remain high.
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Elderly (60+) population: ~149M (2022) → projected 347M (20.8%) by 2050. ❖ Face double burden: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Health: chronic NCDs (diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, arthritis). ➤ Finance: reduced income, high dependency, poor social security.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Out of Pocket Expenditure ~48% of health spending → debt, distress financing.
Major Health Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Out-Patient Care: chronic pain, fever, hypertension, diabetes, respiratory/cardiac issues. ❖ In-Patient Care: hospitalisation for heart disease, stroke, diabetes complications, and infections. ❖ Recovery Issues: long stays, repeated infections, ICU needs, poor compliance due to costs.
Insurance Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Schemes: PM-JAY, CMCHIS, CGHS, ESIC, and private insurance. ❖ Only 20% elderly are insured; men & urban > women & rural. ❖ Barriers: low awareness (52.9%), high premiums, and complex enrolment. ❖ Exclusions: palliative care, physiotherapy, rehab, home oxygen.
Initiatives Taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ PM-JAY Expansion (2024): universal coverage above 70 years. ❖ State Integration: e.g., TN & Kerala combine local schemes with PM-JAY. ❖ NPHCE: geriatric clinics & regional centres. ❖ Health insurance reforms: simplified enrolment, broader coverage. ❖ Public hospital strengthening: improved geriatric infrastructure in Kerala & TN.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ High OOPE, rural-urban divide. ❖ Low insurance coverage, high premiums, and exclusions. ❖ Only ~6,000 trained geriatricians. ❖ Neglect of preventive & palliative care. ❖ Gender inequality: elderly women are more vulnerable.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Financial Protection: expand PM-JAY, cap premiums, incentivise middle-aged savings. ❖ Accessibility: strengthen public hospitals, rural outreach via Health & Wellness Centres. ❖ Preventive Health: elderly vaccination, early screening at PHCs. ❖ Awareness & Literacy: nationwide insurance campaigns, simplified enrolment. ❖ Human Resources: geriatric departments in medical colleges; train ASHA & PHC staff.
Conclusion	<p>India's ageing society demands urgent reforms in healthcare affordability, access, and insurance. Ensuring dignity, financial security, and proper medical support for the elderly is critical for inclusive growth.</p>

Topic 6 - Corruption in India	
Syllabus	Indian Society Corruption
Context	Rajasthan High Court scrapped the SI Recruitment 2021 due to a paper leak scam.
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Corruption → Abuse of entrusted public power for private gain. ❖ Violates probity, transparency, and accountability. ❖ Breach of deontological duty, virtue ethics (honesty), and social contract obligations.
Key Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Global Ranking: → India ranked 96th out of 180 in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (2024) → Score: 39/100 → stagnant over past 5 years. ❖ Sectors Most Affected: → Land records, police, municipal services, public procurement. ❖ Digital Governance Impact: → DBT, e-Governance, JAM trinity reduced leakages → But corruption shifted to contractual, regulatory, and lobbying levels. ❖ Annual losses due to corruption are estimated at ₹921 billion (~\$11 billion), or about 1.26% of GDP → affects infrastructure and public services.
Types of Corruption (2nd ARC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Petty: Small bribes for basic public services (land records, ration, municipal services). ❖ Grand/white-collar corruption: Large embezzlement, bank fraud, mis-accounting in public projects and corporate governance failures. ❖ Political Corruption: Vote-buying, illicit electoral funding, lobbying, cronyism. ❖ Administrative/bureaucratic corruption: Procurement fraud, tender manipulation, ghost beneficiaries. ❖ Collusive: Nexus of politicians, bureaucrats, and business.
Causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Administrative: Complex regulation + discretionary powers + weak oversight. Lack of transparency in decision-making. ❖ Economic: Low pay, rent-seeking incentives. Poor public service delivery → Bribes for basic services (ration, pensions, police, health). ❖ Political: Criminalisation, Unregulated electoral financing, nexus between business and politics. ❖ Social and Cultural: Normalisation of "chai-paani." "Chalta hai" attitude → Normalization of petty corruption.


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Weak Institutional Framework: Delays in justice, weak whistleblower laws, poor enforcement of anti-corruption laws. Overlapping jurisdictions (CBI, ED, Lokpal, Vigilance). ❖ Psychological: Moral indifference, rationalisation. ❖ Lack of Ethical Education: Weak value-based training in schools and bureaucracy.
Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ On Individuals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Loss of meritocracy & fairness. ➤ Ethical dilemmas for honest officers. ➤ Poor/vulnerable denied entitlements. ❖ Economic: Distorts public investment, increases cost of business (bribe/permit costs), raises transaction costs and reduces FDI quality; audit lapses can hide fiscal slippage. ❖ Social: Erodes trust, increases inequality (poorest pay highest bribe share), degrades delivery of public goods (health, education). ❖ Political: Weakens accountability, fuels populist backlash and instability; leads to selective enforcement and impunity, weakens democracy & governance.
Anti-Corruption Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Institutions: Lokpal & Lokayuktas, CVC, CBI, ED, State Vigilance Commissions, Whistleblower Protection Authority (underutilized). ❖ Laws: Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (amended 2018), Benami Transactions Act, 2016, RTI Act, 2005, Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act, 2013. ❖ Audit & legislative oversight: CAG, Parliamentary Committees, CAG reports (media flagged examples). ❖ Tech Tools: → e-Tendering, e-Procurement, PFMS, Aadhaar-linked DBT. 2025: Launch of "Satark Bharat Portal" for citizen-led vigilance.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ethical re-orientation: Gandhian trusteeship, value-based training (2nd ARC). ❖ Institutional strengthening: Empower Lokpal, CVC; transparent RPSC/UPSC. ❖ Administrative reforms: Reduce discretion, promote digitalisation and blockchain in contracts. ❖ Social change: Promote citizenship ethics, RTI, media, and civil society. Expand citizen-led audits and social accountability tools. ❖ Legal measures: Fast-track courts, strong whistleblower protection.
Conclusion	Corruption is not only an economic crime but an ethical failure . India must shift from rule-based compliance to value-based governance to restore public trust and realize constitutional justice .
Quote for Ethics/Essay	<p>"Corruption is paid by the poor." – Pope Francis.</p> <p>"Transparency is not just a virtue, it's a necessity in democracy." – The Hindu, Aug 2025.</p>

Topic 7 - Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)	
Syllabus	Indian Society/Sociology Vulnerable Section Tribes
Context	Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) directs the Census Commissioner to separately enumerate PVTGs in the upcoming Census for better policy targeting.
Who Are PVTGs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A sub-category within Scheduled Tribes (STs) identified by the GoI as needing special attention due to their extremely low development indicators. ❖ Origin: Dhebar Commission (1960-61) identified a category of 'Primitive Tribal Groups' (PTGs). Renamed PVTGs in 2006. ❖ Numbers: Initially 52 (5th Five-Year Plan, 1974-79), now 75 groups (after 2006 addition) across 18 States and 1 UT (Andaman & Nicobar Islands). ❖ Highest concentration: Odisha (13), followed by Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra. ❖ Examples: Baigas, Abujh Marias, Jarawas, Onges, Sentinelese, Shompens, Sahariya (Rajasthan - only 1).
Criteria for Identification (Dhebar Commission & subsequent adaptations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Pre-agricultural level of technology: Engaging in hunting, gathering, shifting cultivation. ❖ Stagnant or declining population: A critical indicator of severe vulnerability. ❖ Extremely low literacy rate: Significantly below the ST average. ❖ Subsistence level of economy: Limited economic diversification, high dependence on natural resources. ❖ Geographic Isolation: Often residing in remote, inaccessible areas.
Challenges Faced by PVTGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Deep-rooted poverty: Lack of land tenure, limited access to markets. ❖ Education: Lack of culturally sensitive education, poor infrastructure, low literacy rate (10-20% vs 77.7% national average). ❖ Poor Health Indicators: High IMR, MMR, prevalence of diseases like TB, malaria, sickle cell anemia due to lack of access to healthcare, sanitation, and clean drinking water. ❖ Food insecurity & Malnutrition: High rates of stunting (ST - 37.9%), wasting (19.6%), anemia. ❖ Habitat Loss & Displacement: Threat from development projects, forest policies. ❖ Loss of Traditional Knowledge: Erosion of unique cultural practices, languages, and sustainable livelihood methods. ❖ Exploitation: Vulnerability to moneylenders, middlemen, and land alienation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Small Population Size: Some groups have extremely small and dwindling populations, risking extinction (e.g., Great Andamanese - 50 individuals, Jarawas - 500 individuals).
Need for Separate Enumeration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ No prior separate Census: Currently included under general STs. ❖ Accurate data → better targeting for health, education, livelihoods. ❖ Helps identify infrastructure gaps for schemes like PM JANMAN (₹24,104 crore, 2023). ❖ Ensures habitat rights protection and cultural preservation. ❖ Evaluates the relevance of existing PVTG criteria; tracks groups improving or worsening.
Constitutional & Legal Safeguards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Art. 15(4), 16(4), 46: Special provisions for STs in education, employment, and welfare. ❖ Art. 275: Grants for tribal development in Scheduled Areas. ❖ Fifth Schedule: Applicable to 10 states, provides for Tribal Advisory Councils (TACs) and restricts transfer of tribal land. ❖ Sixth Schedule: Applicable to 4 North-Eastern states, provides for Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) for greater autonomy in governance. ❖ Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996: Empowers Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas over natural resources, local development. ❖ Forest Rights Act (2006): Recognizes forest rights, including Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights, crucial for PVTG livelihoods.

Miscellaneous

Topic 1 - Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal (SYSM)

Syllabus	Awards & Honours
Context	On the eve of 79th Independence Day , the President awarded 7 Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medals to leaders of Operation Sindoor .
About the Medal	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Instituted: 26 June 1980. ❖ Purpose: Recognises distinguished service of the most exceptional order during war/hostilities. ❖ Eligibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All ranks of Army, Navy, Air Force. ➤ Territorial Army, Auxiliary & Reserve Forces, Nursing officers & services. ➤ May also be awarded posthumously. </div>

Topic 2 - Project Aarohan

Syllabus	Education & Welfare
Context	NHAI launched Project Aarohan to support the educational aspirations of toll plaza employees' children across India.
About the Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Launched by: National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). ❖ Implementing Partner: SMEC Trust's Bharat Cares. ❖ Target Group: Children of toll plaza employees, especially from EWS, SC/ST/OBC, minorities, and first-generation learners.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Address financial barriers to education. ❖ Ensure equal access to quality education. ❖ Bridge socio-economic divides. ❖ Provide holistic support → scholarships + mentorship + skill-building + career guidance.
Funding & Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Phase-1 Allocation: ₹1 crore (July 2025 – March 2026). ❖ Coverage: 500 students (Class 11 to graduation). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scholarship: ₹12,000 annually (FY 2025–26). ❖ 50 bright students (PG/higher studies).

➤ Scholarship: ₹50,000 each.

Topic 3 - Exercise Zapad 2025

Syllabus	Defence & Security
Context	An Indian Armed Forces contingent left for Russia to join the multilateral military exercise Zapad 2025 at Mulino Training Ground, Nizhniy, Russia .
About Exercise Zapad 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ZAPAD (Russian for “West”) is a quadrennial multilateral military exercise hosted by Russia. ❖ ZAPAD 2025 is being held at the Mulino Training Ground, Nizhniy, Russia. ❖ India is participating with a tri-service contingent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 57 Army, 7 Air Force, 1 Navy personnel. ❖ Focus on high-intensity warfare & counter-terrorism in multinational settings. ❖ History: Soviet-era roots; modern series since 2009, held every 4 years. India joined in 2021.

Topic 4 - Exercise MAITREE

Syllabus	IR Defence Diplomacy
Context	14th edition of Exercise Maitree (India–Thailand joint military exercise) will be held in Umroi, Meghalaya (Sept 1–14, 2025) .
About Exercise Maitree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bilateral exercise between Indian Army & Royal Thai Army. ❖ Focus: Sharing best practices in tactics, techniques & procedures for joint operations.
Key Features (2025 Edition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Scope: Joint company-level counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain. ❖ Significance: Returning to India after 5 years. ❖ Previous Edition (Thailand, 2019): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Location: Tak Province.



Topic 5 - Yudh Abhyas Army Exercise

Syllabus	Defence & Security
Context	India & US began their largest-ever edition (18th) of Yudh Abhyas at Fort Wainwright, Alaska (2025) despite tariff tensions.
About the Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Type: Bilateral Army exercise between India & United States. ❖ Started: 2004, under the US-India Defence Cooperation Initiative. ❖ Frequency: Annual, alternating between India and the US. ❖ Focus: Counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, high-altitude/subarctic warfare. ❖ Latest Edition (18th): Yudh Abhyas Exercise 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dates: September 1-14, 2025 ➤ Location: Fort Wainwright, Yukon & Donnelly Training Areas, Alaska, USA.

India-USA Military Exercises

Exercise	Forces Involved	Focus Area	Latest Edition
Yudh Abhyas	Army	Joint warfare, peacekeeping, HADR, high-altitude ops	18th edition → Alaska, USA (Sep 2025)
Vajra Prahar	Army (Special Forces)	Counter-terrorism, special ops, interoperability	16th edition → Umroi , Meghalaya, India (August 8-21, 2025)
Malabar	Navy (Quad: India, US, Japan, Australia)	Maritime security, anti-submarine warfare, freedom of navigation	29th edition → Guam, Pacific (June 2025)
Cope India	Air Force	Air combat, mobility, surveillance, joint planning	2024 edition → Kalaikunda, West Bengal
Tiger Triumph	Tri-services (Army, Navy, Air Force)	HADR, amphibious ops, joint coordination	2023 edition → Visakhapatnam & Kakinada
Red Flag	Air Force	Advanced aerial combat training (US-led)	India participated in 2024 at Nellis AFB

Topic 6 - Exercise Bright Star 2025

Syllabus	Defence & Security
Context	Indian Armed Forces & HQ Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) to participate in Multilateral Exercise Bright Star 2025 , hosted by Egypt & US .
About the Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Type: Biennial Multilateral Tri-Service Military Exercise in Middle East–North Africa (MENA) Region. ❖ Started: 1980 (originally bilateral: Egypt–USA). ❖ Host Nation: Egypt (in partnership with USA) ❖ India's Participation: Regular since the 2023 edition.

Topic 7 - India's Growing Cancer Burden

Syllabus	Health Education
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Cancer is emerging as a major public health challenge in India. ❖ 1 in 9 Indians face a lifetime risk. ❖ Parliamentary Committee (2024): Cancer deaths may rise 20% to 8.8 lakh annually by 2025. ❖ With TB, diabetes, and CVDs rising, India risks becoming "cancer capital of the world."
Current Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Incidence: ICMR projects 15.7 lakh new cases annually by 2025 (likely underreported). ❖ Mortality: Rising 0.1–1% annually, worsened due to late-stage detection. ❖ Major cancers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Women → Breast cancer (leading). ➤ Oral cancer (tobacco, betel nut). ➤ Lung cancer (smoking + pollution). ➤ Cervical cancer (preventable via the HPV vaccine). ❖ Regional disparity: NE states → high stomach, oesophagus, lung cancers. ❖ Oral cancer rising despite tobacco use decline (28.6% in 2016–17 from 34.6% in 2009–10).
Causes of Rising Burden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Lifestyle: Sedentary habits, junk food, and obesity. ❖ Addictions: Tobacco & alcohol (India = 2nd largest tobacco consumer, WHO).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Pollution: PM2.5, industrial hazards, unsafe work conditions. ❖ Demographics/Genetics: Longer life expectancy, lack of screening.
Key Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Late detection: <5% covered under national screening. 75% cases diagnosed at advanced stages. ❖ Infrastructure gap: Only 2000 oncologists for ~1 crore patients; shortage of radiotherapy machines. ❖ High cost: 80% cannot afford treatment (₹2–6 lakh); Out of Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) pushes millions into poverty. ❖ Awareness gap: Stigma + reliance on traditional care delays diagnosis. ❖ Data gaps: Weak cancer registries → underreporting; committee suggests making cancer a notifiable disease.
Govt. Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) – Screening & referral for cancer + non-communicable diseases (NCDs). ❖ PM-JAY (PM- Jan Arogya Yojana) – ₹5 lakh cover for cancer treatment. ❖ National Cancer Grid (NCG) – 300+ centres linked for uniform protocols. ❖ Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) – Expanding AIIMS & tertiary health infra. ❖ HPV vaccine rollout – For girls (9–14 yrs) under UIP (Universal Immunisation Programme). ❖ Mission Cancer-Free Bharat (2025): Focus on early detection, rural outreach, AI-based diagnostics.
Global Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ WHO (2024): Cancer → 2nd leading global killer (20M new cases in 2022). ❖ Best practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ UK → Free population-based screening. ➤ Australia → Near elimination of cervical cancer via HPV vaccine. ➤ Rwanda → Successful HPV vaccine rollout in a low-resource setting.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Declare cancer a notifiable disease + strengthen digital registries. ❖ Universal screening for breast, cervical, and oral cancers (AI-based diagnostics). ❖ Affordable care: Expand the government. cancer hospitals, generic drugs, and wider PM-JAY cover. ❖ Prevention focus: Tobacco/alcohol control, healthy diet, FIT India Movement. ❖ HPV vaccination: School-based + awareness to tackle hesitancy. ❖ Research & Innovation: Indigenous drugs, biotech solutions. ❖ Decentralisation: District-level cancer care centres.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ PPP model: Leverage private sector, NGOs for diagnostics + palliative care. ❖ Mental health: Stronger counselling, pain management, hospice care. ❖ International cooperation: Collaborate with the WHO, the IAEA, and global networks.
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Topic 8 - State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2024

Syllabus	Report & Indices Environment Energy
Context	The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) released the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2024 on 29 August 2025 to assess state-wise progress on energy efficiency.
What is SEEI?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Composite index tracking the energy efficiency progress of States/UTs. ❖ Developed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (Ministry of Power) + Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE). ❖ First launched: 2018 2024 = 6th edition. ❖ Coverage: 36 States/UTs. ❖ Indicators: 66 quantitative and qualitative indicators (e.g. Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) adoption, EV (Electrical Vehicle) policies, Demand Side Management (DSM) programs). ❖ Sectors: Buildings, Industry, Transport, Agriculture, DISCOMs, Municipal Services, Cross-sectoral. ❖ Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Data-driven monitoring of energy use. ➤ Promote healthy competition & innovation among states. ➤ Align states with India's Net-Zero 2070 vision.
Key Findings (SEEI 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Performance Categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Front Runners (>60%): Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu ➤ Achievers (50–60%): Assam, Kerala ➤ Contenders (30–50%): Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh ➤ Aspirants (<30%): Remaining states. ❖ Group-wise Leaders (by Energy Consumption): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Group 1 (>15 MTOE): Maharashtra ➤ Group 2 (5–15 MTOE): Andhra Pradesh ➤ Group 3 (1–5 MTOE): Assam ➤ Group 4 (<1 MTOE): Tripura.

About Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Established: March 2002 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. ❖ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Power. ❖ Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement the Star Rating Programme for appliances. ➤ Frame policies, codes & building regulations. ➤ Guide states via SEEI & Action Plans. ➤ Support India's climate & energy transition goals.
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Topic 9 - India Rankings 2025

Syllabus	Report & Indices Education
Context	The Ministry of Education released India Rankings 2025 under NIRF , benchmarking higher education institutions across India.
About India Rankings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ What: Annual ranking of universities, colleges, and specialized institutions via NIRF (launched 2015). ❖ Publisher: Ministry of Education, with data from Scopus, Web of Science, and Derwent Innovation. ❖ Aim: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote accountability, transparency, and quality in higher education. ➤ Guide students, parents, and policymakers. ➤ Align HEIs with NEP 2020 and India's knowledge superpower vision by 2047.
Criteria (Weightage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Teaching, Learning & Resources: 30% – faculty, student strength, finances. ❖ Research & Professional Practice: 30% – publications, citations, patents. ❖ Graduation Outcomes: 20% – placements, higher studies, salaries. ❖ Outreach & Inclusivity: 10% – gender, regional diversity, and inclusivity. ❖ Perception: 10% – academic & public reputation.
Key Trends (2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ IIT Madras: 1st in Overall (7th year) & Engineering (10th year). ❖ IISc Bengaluru: 1st in Universities (10th year) & Research Institutions (5th year).

Topic 10 - Global Peace Index (GPI) 2025

Syllabus	Report & Indices
Context	The Global Peace Index 2025 ranked Iceland (1st) as the most peaceful, while India stood at 115th/163 , showing a modest improvement in peace score.
What is GPI?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Annual index measuring the peacefulness of 163 countries (covers 99.7% of the world's population). ❖ Published by The Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), Sydney. ❖ Criteria (23 Indicators 3 Domains) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Societal Safety & Security → crime, political stability, refugee impact. ➤ Ongoing Conflict → war, terrorism, civil unrest. ➤ Militarisation → defence spending, weapons trade, armed forces.
Rankings 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Top: Iceland (Most peaceful - 18th consecutive year), Ireland, New Zealand, Finland, Austria, Switzerland. ❖ Bottom: Russia, Ukraine, Sudan, DR Congo, Yemen.
India & GPI 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Rank: 115th Score: 2.229. ❖ Improvement: +0.58% (better than 2024 - Rank 116). ❖ Positives: Decline in domestic violence, improved societal stability. ❖ Challenges: High militarisation, cross-border tensions, sporadic internal unrest. ❖ Regional Standing: Better than Bangladesh (123), Pakistan (144), Afghanistan (158).

Topic 11 - UMEED Portal

Syllabus	Governance Minority Welfare
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Ministry of Minority Affairs launched a new module on the UMEED Portal. ❖ It will allow widows, divorced women & orphans to apply for maintenance from Waqf-alal-aulad properties.
About UMEED Portal	❖ Full form: Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency & Development.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ What it is: Centralized digital platform launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs. ❖ Primary goal: To bring transparency and efficiency to the administration of Waqf properties across India. ❖ Involved Institutions: Ministry of Minority Affairs (Nodal) + State Waqf Boards + judiciary. ❖ Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transparent, time-bound registration of Waqf properties. ➤ Digital empowerment → access to rights & dispute resolution. ➤ Real-time data & geotagging for accountability.
Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Time-bound registration: All properties within 6 months. ❖ Geotagging + digitization: Exact area + location mapping. ❖ Dispute trigger: Unregistered → sent to Waqf Tribunal. ❖ Legal support: Awareness tools + rights clarification. ❖ Women's safeguard: Women's property can't be declared Waqf; but women, children & EWS stay eligible.
Legal Basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Rule 8(2) of UMEED Rules, 2025, allows widows, divorced women, and orphans to apply for maintenance support from Waqf-alal-aulad properties. ❖ Section 3(r)(iv) of the UMEED Act, 1995, seeks to expand the definition of the purpose for which a waqf can be created to include the maintenance of widows, divorced women, and orphans.
Waqf-alal-aulad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Waqf-alal-aulad → Waqf for family (A type of private Waqf). ❖ Property dedicated by a Muslim for the benefit of their family/descendants, with ultimate benefit to charity. ❖ Its objective is to ensure the financial security and responsibility of the family. ❖ Recognized under Muslim personal law and validated by Ijma (consensus) ❖ Now income can be used for widows, divorced women & orphans.
Quote for Ethics/Essay	<p>"Transparency is the first step toward trust in public institutions." – Editorial, The Hindu, June 2025.</p>

Your Notes

One Stop Solution

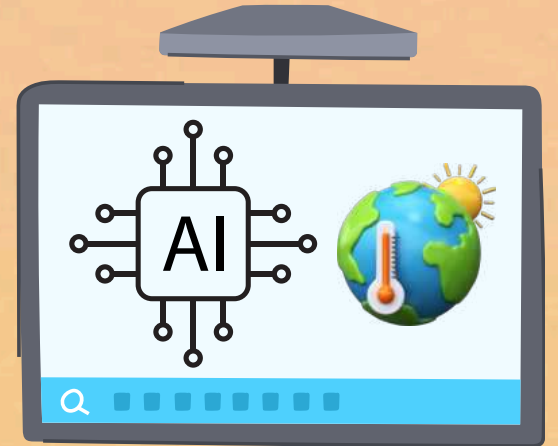
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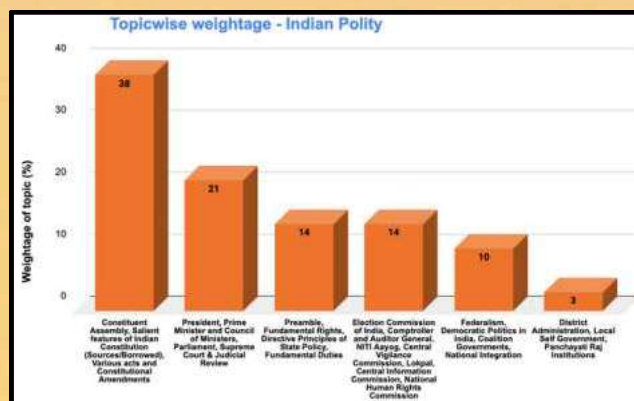
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