

9 PM Current Affairs Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE mains examination



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Features :

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Most complete coverage of major
News Papers editorials

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India needs citizen-centric healthcare data governance model

Source: The post India needs citizen-centric healthcare data governance model has been created, based on the article “Giving people incentive to digitise medical data can help fill critical gaps in health information” published in “Indian Express” on 9th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Governance-citizens charters, transparency & accountability

Context: India's vast population and rapid technological growth suggest that the value of data generated by Indians may soon rival that of OECD countries. However, poor data governance—especially in healthcare—is a major barrier. The article critiques current digital governance models and proposes a **citizen-centric approach** to unlock the full value of data.

Current State of Healthcare Data Governance in India

1. India generates huge volumes of data every day due to its 1.4 billion population. Despite active digital policy efforts, there is a **fundamental confusion** in governance: policymakers do not clearly differentiate between **data as identity** and **data as property**.
2. This misunderstanding **restricts innovation and economic potential**, especially in the healthcare sector. While large hospitals and government facilities are digitizing health records, **most medical consultations happen in small private clinics**, which lack the incentive or capacity to digitize. This results in **fragmented or missing patient records**, limiting long-term access and continuity of care.

Barriers to Effective Data Sharing in Healthcare

1. A major barrier is the **dominance of privacy-first policies** influenced by Western countries. The U.S.'s **HIPAA** allows patients to access their own data but not to share it freely. Hospitals and insurers can trade anonymized data for profit, but **patients get no share**.
2. In the UK, health data is owned and controlled by the **NHS**, not patients. While both systems are rooted in protecting privacy, they **deny individuals the right to control or monetize their own data**.
3. These models are not suitable for **India's decentralized and privatized healthcare system**, where empowering individuals is more practical than a top-down model.

Challenges Addressed by the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

1. The **ABDM**, by the National Health Authority, is a framework to make citizens **owners of their health data**. It enables access across facilities through registries, processing systems, and a **consent management platform**.
2. However, implementation faces a key problem: **clinical data is not naturally recorded during doctor-patient interactions**, as neither party sees future value in it. Without this value recognition, data remains underutilized.

Proposed Changes to Enhancing Data Governance in India

1. A **citizen-centric model** is proposed, where **data is treated as a tradable asset**. People should have the right to **hold, share, or monetize** their data. With the help of **privacy-preserving tools** like anonymization and digital forensics, individuals can safely participate in a **free and secure data market**.
2. This approach can boost **healthcare efficiency**, support **AI-based solutions**, and enable **economic benefits** for citizens. It aligns with India's unique system and unlocks data's true value.

Conclusion:

India needs to rethink its data governance approach. Empowering citizens to control and benefit from their data will unlock economic value, especially in health, and position India as a global leader in digital innovation.

Question for practice:

Examine how a citizen-centric approach to data governance can address the challenges in India's healthcare data ecosystem.

MHA is shifting towards reform oriented governance

Source: The post MHA is shifting towards reform oriented governance has been created, based on the article “**The gradual transformation of the Home Ministry**” published in “**The Hindu**” on 9th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Governance-Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability

Context: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), once mainly seen as a crisis-response body in India, has gradually shifted towards a reform-driven approach. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's motto of “Reform, Perform, and Transform” reflects this change. Governance today is not just about managing crises but building lasting systems.

From Reactive to Reform-Oriented Governance

1. Historically, the MHA responded to terrorism, insurgency, and industrial unrest. Its approach was reactive.
2. Agencies like the CISF were created to handle strikes in the 1970s–80s. The Rapid Action Force (RAF) was used for riot control. Due to weak state policing, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) were heavily relied on.
3. However, these steps only addressed short-term issues without ensuring structural reforms.

Strategic Shift and Institutional Overhaul

1. In recent years, the MHA has changed its role. It is now focused on long-term internal security planning.
2. It has strengthened counter-terror laws, modernised forces, adopted technology, and improved coordination among intelligence agencies.
3. Over **27 legislative reforms since 2019** show this shift from reactive laws to a structured legal framework.

Legislative and Institutional Reforms

1. Earlier laws such as **TADA**, **POTA**, and the creation of **NIA** came after specific terror attacks. Now, the approach is more proactive. Amendments to the **NIA Act** and **UAPA** define terrorism in Indian law and target terror funding. The **Multi-Agency Centre (MAC)** has been revamped, and intelligence-sharing has improved.
2. Reforms also cover criminal justice. Three new laws — **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita**, **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita**, and **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam** — have been enacted. The **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS)** now links over 17,000 police stations, courts, jails, and forensic labs. The **National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)** has also been set up. States are now encouraged to separate forensic work from investigations.

Budgetary and Operational Strengthening

1. The shift is visible in rising financial support. The **MHA budget crossed ₹1 lakh crore in 2019** and reached **₹2.33 lakh crore in 2025**.
2. Spending on Central Paramilitary Forces rose from **₹38,000 crore in 2013–14** to **₹97,000 crore in 2024–25**. This shows the government's focus on security and modernisation.

Impact on Ground Security

1. The reformist approach has delivered results. Violence in **Kashmir**, the **North-East**, and **Naxal-affected areas** has declined by **70%**.
2. Measures like the **dilution of Article 370**, peace deals in the North-East, and combined security-development efforts in Naxal areas have improved political stability and social integration.
3. Stone pelting in Kashmir has reduced, insurgency has weakened, and development is visible in former conflict zones.

Conclusion

The MHA has moved from a reaction-based institution to a proactive and reform-oriented body. Its long-term vision and institutional reforms have strengthened India's internal security and built a future-ready governance framework.

Question for practice:

Discuss how the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in India has transformed from a reactive body to a reform-oriented institution.

Judicial orders often fail due to enforcement gaps

Source: The post Judicial orders often fail due to enforcement gaps has been created, based on the article “**Strengthening enforcement of judicial orders**” published in “**The Hindu**” on 9th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2-Structure, Organization and Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary

Context: Judicial directives in India often fail to produce real-world impact due to weak enforcement. A recent example from Jaipur, where the National Green Tribunal’s (NGT) order on limiting air horn usage remains unimplemented, highlights broader systemic challenges in translating court orders into action.

Legal Provisions and Execution Gaps

1. Under **Section 38** and **Order 21** of the **Code of Civil Procedure (CPC)**, courts have the power to execute their own decrees or delegate execution to another court.
2. However, many judicial orders remain unenforced due to **questions over decree validity, lack of follow-through, and concerns about judicial misconduct**.
3. These gaps reflect a wider issue of **weak institutional enforcement capacity**.

Enforcement Challenges and Judicial Foresight

1. Despite the NGT’s directive, enforcement agencies like the **traffic police, transport department, and pollution control board** have failed to act.
2. The NGT also did not assess whether its order was **practically enforceable** or explore more impactful alternatives, such as a **complete air horn ban**.
3. Often, agencies dismiss violations as “minor,” which causes a **disconnect between judicial intent and real-world outcomes**.
4. This shows the need for **judicial foresight** in designing rulings that account for **on-ground realities and implementation challenges**.

Case Studies Highlighting Enforcement Issues

1. In *State of Tamil Nadu v. K. Balu (2017)*, the Supreme Court banned **liquor sales within 500 metres of highways** to reduce **drunk driving**.
2. However, poor enforcement followed. Authorities **reclassified highways** or **relocated outlets** just beyond the 500-metre mark, effectively bypassing the order.
3. This demonstrates how **loopholes and lack of anticipation** can undermine judicial decisions.

Examples of Successful Enforcement

1. Some rulings have succeeded due to **clarity, specificity, and oversight**. In *Common Cause v. Union of India (2018)*, the legalisation of passive euthanasia was upheld. It was accompanied by **detailed guidelines, monitoring mechanisms, and institutional oversight, ensuring effective compliance**.
2. Similarly, in the **Taj Trapezium Zone case**, a green belt was established near the Mathura refinery. This followed the **Varadarajan Committee’s recommendations**. Air quality monitoring was also mandated, showing that inter-agency collaboration and well-defined mandates lead to successful enforcement.

Strategies for Strengthening Enforcement

1. Each department should appoint a **dedicated officer** accountable for **executing court orders**, conducting **regular audits**, and facing **penalties for failure**.
2. **Technology** can help by linking court directives to the **relevant agencies**, with systems for **timely reporting and tracking compliance**.
3. **Transparency and public awareness** further support enforcement. The **Kathmandu model**, where strict noise regulation was paired with **citizen education**, shows how public cooperation can drive meaningful change.

Conclusion

Judicial decisions often fail to translate into tangible results due to **weak enforcement systems**. Strengthening **accountability**, integrating **technology**, encouraging **public participation**, and ensuring **inter-agency coordination** are crucial. **Enforcement should be treated as central to justice**, not just an afterthought.

Question for practice:

Examine the key reasons why judicial directives in India often fail to achieve their intended real-world impact, drawing insights from recent enforcement challenges and successful case examples.

RBI responds to global trade war challenges

Source: The post RBI responds to global trade war challenges has been created, based on the article “RBI MPC’s rate cut is a signal to support growth amidst global economic turmoil” published in “Indian Express” on 10th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2-International Relations-Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests.

Context: Global trade tensions are rising, creating uncertainty for many economies, including India. In response, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cut interest rates and adopted a **growth-supportive stance**. This shows concern about slowing growth, both in India and globally, and the need for timely action to support the economy. For detailed information on **India must respond wisely to Trump’s trade** [read this article here](#)

RBI’s Actions Against the Global Trade War

- 1. Rate Cuts:** The RBI’s **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** reduced the **policy rate by 25 basis points**. It also changed its stance from **neutral to accommodative**, indicating the possibility of **further rate cuts**.
- 2. GDP Forecast:** The RBI lowered India’s **GDP growth projection for FY26** from **6.7% to 6.5%**, due to the possible adverse effects of the trade war.
- 3. Inflation Management:** It also reduced the **CPI inflation forecast** for FY26 to **4%**, from its earlier estimate of **4.2%**, due to easing food inflation.
- 4. Forex Interventions:** The RBI plans to **intervene in the forex market** to manage volatility. It has a strong buffer of **\$676 billion in forex reserves**, covering **11 months of imports**.

Impacts of the Global Trade War on India’s Economy

- 1. GDP Growth Forecast Reduction:** The trade war has already led the RBI to lower its **growth forecast**.
- 2. Exports-to-GDP Ratio:** India’s economy is **less export-dependent**, with **goods and services exports at 21% of GDP**, and **goods exports alone at 12%**. This is lower than **Thailand (65%)** and **Vietnam (87%)**, making India **less vulnerable** to U.S. tariffs, though risks still remain.
- 3. Direct and Indirect Impact:** The trade war could directly reduce India’s GDP by **0.2–0.3%**. Indirectly, it could affect **global growth, capital flows, and private sector investment**, which had just begun to recover post-COVID.

Factors Supporting India’s Economy

- 1. Normal Monsoon and Agricultural Output:** A **normal monsoon** is expected to boost **agriculture**, supporting **rural demand** and economic stability.
- 2. Tax and Inflation Reductions:** A **lower income tax burden** and **reduction in food inflation** (from **8.5% in late 2024 to 3.8% in February 2025**) are likely to encourage **consumer spending**.
- 3. Comparatively Lower U.S. Tariffs:** The **U.S. imposed a 26% tariff on Indian goods**, which is **lower** than those on **China (104%)**, **Vietnam (46%)**, and **Thailand (36%)**. This opens a **window of opportunity** for India to **increase its export market share** in the U.S.

India’s Inflation Outlook

- 1. Current CPI Inflation:** CPI inflation fell to **3.6% in February 2025**, from an average of **8.5% between October and December 2024**.
- 2. Food Inflation:** Food inflation dropped sharply to **3.8% in February**.

3. **Core Inflation:** Core inflation has stayed **low**, averaging **3.5% over the past year**.
4. **RBI's Projection:** The RBI revised the **FY26 CPI inflation forecast to 4%**, down from **4.2%**.
5. **External Factors:** A **normal monsoon** and **stable global commodity prices** may help keep inflation in check.

Impact of Currency and Global Factors on India's Economy

1. **US Dollar Dynamics:** From **October 2024 to mid-January**, the **US dollar strengthened 9%**, then **weakened 6%**, creating uncertainty.
2. **Yuan and Rupee Fluctuations:** The **Chinese yuan** weakened **4.6%** in the last six months. The **rupee** also weakened by **4.4%** between **October 2024 and February 2025**.
3. **Forex Reserves and RBI Action:** With **\$676 billion in reserves**, the RBI can stabilize the rupee, expected to trade around **88-89 per USD** by the fiscal year-end.
4. **Global Uncertainty:** Ongoing trade tensions and financial volatility may limit **capital inflows**, affecting the **rupee's stability** and **growth outlook**.

Question for practice

Examine how the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has responded to global trade tensions and assess the potential impact of these tensions on India's economic growth, inflation, and currency stability.

Governors must act fairly to protect federal democracy

Source: The post **Governors must act fairly to protect federal democracy** has been created, based on the article **"Supreme Court's judgment on Tamil Nadu governor: Why governors are so partial to the Centre"** published in **"Indian Express"** on 10th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Polity-Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

Context: The article discusses the declining role and rising controversy surrounding governors in India. It highlights the Supreme Court's recent judgment (April 8) that curbs arbitrary actions by governors and strengthens federal democracy. It also reviews historical perspectives and suggests reforms to ensure governors function as impartial constitutional heads, not political agents.

For detailed information on **Office of Governor- Issues and Suggested Reforms** [read this article here](#)

Original idea behind the role of Governor

1. **Governors were intended to be sagacious counselors** who consult, warn, and encourage, while staying above party politics.
2. Historical leaders like **Jawaharlal Nehru and B.R. Ambedkar supported appointing eminent, non-political, and academically inclined individuals** to ensure neutrality in office.
3. **B.N. Rau, Sardar Patel, and Jayaprakash Narayan proposed that governors be elected by the legislature** or chosen from a panel by MPs and MLAs of the state to ensure independence.
4. However, **these proposals were not adopted**.
5. **Dr. Ambedkar concluded that governors should act as figureheads**, representing the people of the state and not the central government. He also expected that the central government would **consult state chief ministers while appointing governors**, ensuring political neutrality.

Change in governor's role in recent times

1. There is a **rise in political interference** by governors, especially those appointed by the current central government.
2. They have become **more assertive and interventionist**, often stepping beyond their constitutional role.

3. **Legislative disruptions** have become common, with governors delaying or denying assent to state bills, interfering in appointments, and altering customary speeches.
4. This contrasts sharply with the **limited, advisory role** originally envisioned.
5. A major intervention came through the **Supreme Court's judgment on April 8, 2024**, which strongly criticized the misuse of gubernatorial powers and sought to **establish accountability through strict timelines**.
6. **Example:** The Tamil Nadu governor withheld assent to **10 bills for several months**, and later referred them to the President. The Court ruled this **arbitrary and unconstitutional**.

Supreme Court's April 8, 2024, ruling

Context: The ruling addressed the misuse of power by governors in not assenting to bills passed by state legislatures.

Main Points:

1. **Article 142 Application:** The Court used its special powers to set strict timelines for governors to act on bills.
2. **Limits on Discretion:** It clarified that governors under Article 200 do not have absolute discretion in assenting to bills.
3. **Mandatory Timelines:** Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan mandated deadlines for bill assent, reconsideration, or presidential referral.
4. **Constitutional Protection:** This move aimed to strengthen federal democracy by curbing undue central interference through governor actions.

Problems with the current system of appointing governors

1. **Political appointees dominate**, often chosen from among retired politicians or central ruling party loyalists.
2. **Governors act on central directives**, reducing their independence and undermining state autonomy.
3. **They lack job security**, unlike other constitutional authorities like judges, making them vulnerable to political pressure.
4. The **Sarkaria Commission (1983)** recommended that the **Chief Minister, Vice-President, and Speaker of Lok Sabha be consulted** in governor appointments.
5. **None of these suggestions were ever followed** by any ruling party.

Example: The Tamil Nadu case shows how **centralized appointments can disrupt state governance** and lead to legal challenges.

Nature of a governor's discretion should be

1. **Used with reason and caution**, based on facts.
2. Must be **independent and free from dictation**, especially from the Centre.
3. Should follow **proper application of mind**, after reviewing all facts.
4. Must serve a **legitimate purpose**, not driven by bias or bad faith.
5. **Decisions should not be arbitrary or whimsical.**

Question for practice:

Discuss the changing role of Governors in India and the challenges it poses to federal democracy.

The world is still learning from COVID

Source: The post The world is still learning from COVID has been created, based on the article “**The pandemic — looking back, looking forward**” published in “**The Hindu**” on 10th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Governance-Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health.

Context: In March 2025, we marked five years of the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries across the world organised events and reflected on the crisis. Many global discussions took place. But a central question remains: **Have we truly learnt from the pandemic?** Have we built a world that is **healthier, more inclusive, and innovative**, especially in the **Global South and North**?

For detailed information on **Covid taught us five lessons for future** [read this article here](#)

Fragile Public Trust

1. The pandemic revealed the **fragility of public trust** in healthcare systems.
2. **Low confidence** among people reduced the adoption of essential measures like **testing and vaccines**.
3. In India, **underreporting of deaths** in the early stages reflected this lack of trust.
4. In many countries, especially vulnerable economies, **poor communication** worsened the health crisis. **Strong trust in institutions is essential** for effective public health response.

Technology and the Digital Divide

1. There was a rapid **increase in digital health technologies**, such as **telemedicine** and **AI in drug research**.
2. A study using patent data from the **University of Sussex** showed a surge in **AI-related pharmaceutical patents** after the pandemic began. But many in the Global South **lacked access** to these tools.
3. The **digital divide excluded vulnerable populations**, showing that innovation alone is not enough without equal access.

Health System Weaknesses

1. COVID-19 exposed serious **flaws in health systems**, especially in developing countries.
2. In India, **weak infrastructure and institutional gaps** were evident.
3. The need for **universal health insurance** became clear. **Oxygen supply systems** were found lacking, raising concerns for future respiratory outbreaks.
4. Solutions like **hybrid healthcare models**—combining digital tools with physical systems—and **public-private partnerships** gained attention but were not sustained.
5. In decentralised systems, the role of a **central public health coordinator** became important to reduce coordination gaps.

Deepened Vulnerabilities

1. The pandemic **intensified existing inequalities**, especially for **women**, who faced more pressure in childcare, job losses, and mental health issues.
2. **Marginalised groups** struggled to access healthcare. Progress toward the **Sustainable Development Goals** was affected.
3. A **global mental health crisis** emerged. New **remote work models** brought challenges in productivity and well-being, with no long-term solutions found yet.

Equity and Global Access

1. COVID-19 highlighted global issues of **equity and access**.
2. Debates over **intellectual property rights** and **vaccine distribution** became intense.
3. **Africa suffered delays** due to **vaccine nationalism**, as rich nations prioritised their own needs.
4. The situation showed the need for stronger **South-South cooperation** to ensure fair access in future health emergencies.

Conclusion

Some progress has been made in **healthcare, innovation, and recovery**, but major challenges remain. The goal of “**One World, One Health**” is still out of reach. The key question now is whether the world is truly **learning and acting** to build a **resilient, inclusive global health system** for the future.

Question for practice:

Examine how the COVID-19 pandemic exposed and deepened global health inequalities between the Global North and South.

India Expands Social Security for Gig Workers

Source: The post India Expands Social Security for Gig Workers has been created, based on the article “**Drop the piecemeal ways to social security for workers**” published in “**The Hindu**” on 11th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2-Social Justice – Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector.

Context: India is moving towards establishing social security for gig and app-based workers, with a central scheme awaiting Cabinet approval. It includes Ayushman Bharat coverage, pension policies, and registration on the eShram portal. This effort marks a shift in acknowledging gig workers outside traditional employment structures and highlights the need for a universal social protection framework.

For detailed information on **Gig Workers in India – Challenges and Way Forward** [read this article here](#)

Problems with India's Current Social Security System

1. **Lack of international commitment:** India has not ratified the ILO's Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952, despite being a founding member.
2. **Weak legal framework:** The Code on Social Security has vague definitions, reduced protections, and has faced many implementation issues.
3. **Underperforming welfare boards:**
 - ₹70,744.16 crore collected for construction workers' welfare remains unused.
 - A **CAG 2024 report** revealed ₹221.8 crore in delayed remittances by 99 local bodies in Tamil Nadu.
 - In **Kerala**, only 5 of 16 welfare boards functioned properly; some boards had no recorded beneficiaries.

Why is India Focusing on Social Security for Gig Workers?

1. **Gig workers lack formal benefits** because they operate outside traditional employer-employee structures.
2. The government's new scheme aims to fill this gap. It includes:
 - **Health coverage under Ayushman Bharat.**
 - **Registration on the eShram portal.**
 - **Transaction-based pension** using a **universal account number** to track earnings across platforms.
3. This model ensures **multiple companies contribute** to a single worker's welfare, reflecting the reality that gig workers often have several employers.

4. The move comes after the **failure of existing welfare systems**, where large funds remain unused.
5. It reflects a shift toward a **future-ready workforce**, aiming to ensure **no worker is left behind**.

Way Forward for India's Social Protection System

1. **Treat the Social Security Code as a foundation:** Use the Code as a starting point. States should go beyond its basic mandates to create stronger protections.
2. **Implement universal protection:** Design a system that covers **all categories of workers**, without exclusions based on job type.
3. **Reform welfare boards:** Ensure better use of funds and timely delivery of benefits, addressing past failures like the ₹70,744.16 crore unutilized fund.
4. **Avoid piecemeal approaches:** Stop relying on fragmented welfare schemes for specific worker groups. Build an **inclusive and unified system**.
5. **Adapt to workforce changes:** Create flexible systems that can respond to **technological and economic shifts**, protecting future worker categories.

Question for practice:

Examine the challenges in India's current social security system and how the proposed scheme for gig and app-based workers aims to address them.

Judicial accountability system needs urgent effective reform

Source: The post Judicial accountability system needs urgent effective reform has been created, based on the article "**Are existing mechanisms effective in combating judicial corruption?**" published in "**The Hindu**" on 11th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2-Governance-Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

Context: The recovery of unaccounted cash from the residence of former Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma has sparked serious discussions about the **effectiveness of mechanisms to combat judicial corruption**. The Chief Justice of India initiated an **in-house inquiry**, leading to wider debates on **judicial accountability and transparency**.

For detailed information on **Judicial misconduct needs transparent and accountable investigation** [read this article here](#)

Transparency in Judicial Inquiries

1. **Public Trust Requires Openness:** The judiciary must function transparently to retain public trust. In the Varma case, the Supreme Court proactively released the video footage of the cash recovery. This helped curb public speculation and demonstrated a commitment to openness.
2. **Beyond Crisis-Based Transparency:** While the release was effective, transparency should not be an ad hoc response. It needs to become institutionalised. At the same time, the judiciary must protect the accused's right to a fair trial by making disclosures on a case-by-case basis.
3. **Better Public Communication:** Dedicated communication personnel should be appointed to manage media narratives, reduce misinformation, and strengthen the public's confidence in judicial processes.

Need for Reform in In-House Mechanisms

1. **Origin and Purpose:** The in-house mechanism was introduced to protect judges from unfair targeting, especially by the executive. It was shaped by the Supreme Court's 1991 judgment in the *Delhi Judicial Service Association* case, which set standards for handling judicial officers.

2. **Systemic Weaknesses:** Despite its protective goals, the mechanism lacks effectiveness in serious cases. The acquittal of judges in corruption cases—even with substantial evidence—shows delays and inefficiencies in the process. Legislative reform can help close these gaps and improve internal accountability.

Limitations of the Impeachment Process

1. **High Threshold, Low Impact:** Impeachment requires a **two-thirds majority in both Houses of Parliament** and an **absolute majority of all members**. This high threshold makes it nearly impossible to use and fails to serve as an effective deterrent.
2. **Shielding Misconduct:** Instead of promoting accountability, this process often shields judges. It is rarely successful, and serious misconduct can go unpunished due to procedural barriers.
3. **Protecting Independence, but at a Cost:** Though designed to protect judges from political targeting, delays like the 15-year-long case involving a former High Court judge show how the process can also undermine justice.

Judicial Appointments and Executive Influence

1. **Informal Role of Government:** Though the collegium system handles appointments, the government often holds a de facto veto. It delays or ignores recommendations, effectively blocking the elevation of several deserving judges.
2. **Eroding Transparency:** The collegium has become a search-and-selection body influenced by executive preferences. A short-lived practice of publishing reasons for appointments brought hope for transparency, but it has been discontinued.

Critique of the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010

1. **Lack of Enforceable Standards** The Bill fails to define clear judicial standards. It does not require judges to disclose if their relatives are practicing in the same court—an obvious conflict of interest.
2. **Oversight Bodies Not the Solution:** Proposing new oversight bodies, often staffed by retired judges, would repeat existing systemic flaws. Instead, peer reviews—already informally practiced—should be institutionalised to catch early signs of misconduct.

Question for practice:

Examine the current mechanisms for judicial accountability in India in light of Justice Yashwant Varma's case, highlighting their strengths and limitations.

India needs urgent push for deep-tech growth

Source: The post India needs urgent push for deep-tech growth has been created, based on the article “**India’s startup ecosystem is catching up with China**” published in “**Indian Express**” on 11th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2-Economy-Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilisation, of resources, growth, development and employment.

Context: The launch of Sputnik in 1957 pushed the US into a new era of scientific exploration. A similar urgency is now needed for India as deep-tech innovations like generative AI, robotics, and fusion tech reshape the world. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal’s remarks on India’s deep-tech startup shortage signal a crucial call to action.

For detailed information on **India’s Startup Growth Opportunities and Key Challenges** [read this article here](#)

Importance of Deep Tech in Today's World

1. **Historical Context:** The importance of deep tech today mirrors the urgency seen during the 1957 space race, which propelled the U.S. into rapid scientific progress after the Soviet launch of Sputnik.
2. **Current Relevance:** Deep tech is driving key innovations — reusable rockets, generative AI, humanoid robots, and advanced medical drugs — which are transforming industries and societies.

3. **Global Leadership:** China has filed **over 38,000 generative AI patents between 2014 and 2023**, clearly outpacing other nations and taking a lead in frontier technologies.
4. **Economic Impact:** Generative AI alone could **add \$1 trillion to India's GDP by 2030**, proving deep tech's power to shape national economies.
5. **National Security:** Deep-tech strengthens **self-reliance** and acts as a buffer against **geopolitical risks and supply chain shocks**.

India Stands Globally at a Developing Stage in Deep-Tech Innovation

1. **Patent Filings:** India lags behind while **China leads with 38,000 GenAI patents** during 2014–2023 — far ahead of the US.
2. **Global Rankings:** China dominates **57 out of 64 critical technologies**, according to the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.
3. **R&D Investment:** India spends **less than 1% of its GDP** on R&D. In contrast, the US, UK, Germany, and Japan spend **over 3%**, while China allocates **2.68%**.
4. **Notable Startups and Sectors:** Despite the gap, India is showing promise with innovative startups like **Skyroot, Agnikul, Ola, and Ather**.

India's Major Deep-Tech Achievements and Startups

1. **Space Launch Vehicles:** Skyroot's **Vikram-S** launch in 2022 was India's **first private space mission**, marking a major milestone.
2. **Flying Taxis & Electric Mobility:** Startups like **Sarla, ePlane, Blu-J, Ultraviolette**, and others are driving innovation in **urban air mobility and electric vehicles**.
3. **Robotics & AI:** Addverb, CynLR, and Perceptyne are advancing **automation and AI applications**.
4. **Satellite Technology:** Firms like **Pixxel, Dhruva Space, and Digantara** are building **next-gen satellites** for space communication and observation.
5. **Biotech & Semiconductors:** **CrisprBits** is working on **gene editing**, while **Mindgrove** is progressing in **semiconductor design**.

Government Support to Deep-Tech Growth

1. **India Semiconductor Mission (2021):** Allocated **Rs 76,000 crore** to develop fabrication and design capabilities.
2. **IndiaAI Mission (2024):** Set aside **Rs 10,371 crore** to build a robust AI ecosystem.
3. **Deep Tech Fund of Funds:** Introduced with **Rs 10,000 crore** to bridge funding gaps in deep-tech startups.
4. **Space-tech Venture Capital Fund:** Allocated **Rs 1,000 crore** to boost space innovation.

Challenges for India's Deep-Tech Growth

1. **Low R&D Spending:** India's investment is **under 1% of GDP**, far below global leaders.
2. **Funding Gaps:** Deep tech needs long-term funding, but venture capital focuses on quick returns — a **"long gestation conundrum."**
3. **Talent Shortage:** Too few engineers are trained in **frontier technologies** like AI, robotics, and chips.

4. Slow Patent Approvals: Delays **discourage innovation and product development.**

Solutions for India's Deep-Tech Growth

1. The **IndiaAI Mission** and **Deep Tech Fund of Funds** aim to provide **patient capital** to startups.
2. The **National Deep Tech Startup Policy (NDTSP)** encourages **STEM education** and advanced training.
3. India must **accelerate patent approvals** and strengthen **university-startup collaboration.**
4. Startups like **Skyroot, Qnu Labs, and CrisprBits** prove India can lead with bold innovation when backed well.

Question for practice:

Discuss how deep-tech innovation can transform India's economic and strategic future, and what challenges need to be addressed to achieve global leadership.

Gender and Climate Crisis – 30 Years after the Beijing Declaration

Source: The post Gender and Climate Crisis – 30 Years after the Beijing Declaration has been created, based on the article “**The Beijing India Report as milestone and opportunity**” published in “**The Hindu**” on 12th April 2025
UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2-Governance-mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

Context: The article reflects on the 30-year journey since the adoption of the **Beijing Declaration for gender equality**. While it helped India improve laws like the **Domestic Violence Act** and **POSH Act**, gaps remain in their implementation. A major concern today is the **intersection of gender and climate change**, which is largely overlooked in policymaking and reporting.

For detailed information on **India's Progress in Advancing Gender Equality** [read this article here](#)

Impact of Climate Change on Women's Health, Work, and Safety

1. **Health:** Over **50% of pregnant women in India** are anaemic. Food insecurity, worsened by climate change, makes women **1.6 times more likely** to suffer from anaemia.
2. **Safety:** Rising temperatures have been linked to increased violence. A **1°C rise** leads to an **8% increase in physical violence** and **7.3% in sexual violence** against women.
3. **Livelihoods:** Extreme weather affects **agriculture and infrastructure**, reducing women's income opportunities and access to services.
4. **Workload:** Climate change increases women's **unpaid care responsibilities**, impacting their **productivity and wellbeing.**

Gender Integration Is Crucial in Climate Policies

1. **Vulnerability:** Women in **rural India** are more affected by climate change. **Girls drop out of school** due to climate-induced migration. Health risks from **malnutrition** and **heat exposure** are higher among women.
2. **Economic Impact:** Climate change causes **about 33% loss in income** from **non-farm activities**, weakening women's economic stability.
3. **Policy Gaps:** Only **6% of climate policies** mention women, showing the need for **inclusive frameworks** that reflect women's experiences.
4. **Unpaid Labor:** Due to climate-related scarcity of water and fuel, **women's unpaid work** may rise to **8.3 hours daily by 2050**, increasing physical and emotional stress.

Role of Women in Climate Adaptation

1. **Traditional Knowledge:** Women apply their understanding of **sustainable agriculture** and **natural resource management** to protect local ecosystems.
2. **Seed Preservation:** They preserve **climate-resilient seeds**, vital for adapting to changing weather patterns.
3. **Food Production:** Women produce **half of the world's food** and have adapted their farming techniques to climate variations.
4. **Community Leadership:** They lead **collectives** that share work, raise productivity, and respond first in disasters.
5. **Urban Engagement:** In cities, women focus on **waste management** and **pollution control**, leading community-level initiatives.

What Must Be Done to Make Climate Policies Gender-Responsive?

1. **Incorporate a Gender Lens:** The **Beijing+30 India Report** should address gendered climate vulnerabilities and women's roles in climate resilience.
2. **Develop Gender-Audited Budgets:** Design **climate budgets** that directly address women's needs and prevent **greenwashing** or misuse of funds.
3. **Enhance Women's Leadership:** Encourage women's participation in **climate decisions**, both in **local governance** and **green energy projects**.
4. **Establish Support Hubs:** Create **community centers** focused on **health**, **disaster support**, and **migration-related risks** for women.
5. **Invest in Research:** Increase **gender-specific climate research** to guide inclusive policy actions and monitor outcomes effectively.

How Can Partnerships and the Private Sector Support Women in Climate Action?

1. **Fund Women-Led Innovations:** Prioritize **green funds** for women-led and supportive climate resilience projects.
2. **Ensure Technological Access:** Provide women with access to **climate-resilient technologies and services**.
3. **Promote Green Entrepreneurship:** Support women in starting **green businesses** and sustainable services.
4. **Build Skills:** Offer **training and skilling programs** that prepare women for **non-farm livelihoods** affected by climate change.
5. **Encourage Cooperation:** Promote partnerships among **government**, **civil society**, **private sector**, and **international groups** to build women's leadership in climate resilience.

Question for practice:

Examine how climate change disproportionately affects women in India and the measures needed to make climate policies gender-responsive.

NEP promotes interdisciplinary higher education

Source: The post NEP promotes interdisciplinary higher education has been created, based on the article "**Giving shape to the university of the future**" published in "**The Hindu**" on 12th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2-Governance-Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Education, Human Resources.

Context: The National Education Policy (NEP) aims to transform India's fragmented higher education system by **promoting large multidisciplinary institutions**. This shift focuses on **encouraging cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary** education and research to address real-world challenges more effectively.

For detailed information **National Education Policy, 2020 – Provisions and Significance** [read this article here](#)

Vision of NEP for higher education transformation

1. **Integrate Disciplines:** Replace isolated disciplines with a unified framework allowing interaction and integration of multiple fields within academic programs.
2. **Encourage Interdisciplinary Learning:** Support cross-disciplinary collaboration to solve complex problems. For example, **IITs are expanding humanities and social sciences departments** alongside technical fields.
3. **Create Multidisciplinary Universities:** Target of establishing **at least one such university in or near every district by 2030** to enhance access and promote diverse educational environments.
4. **Foster Research and Dialogue:** Promote a pedagogical shift towards **discussion, debate, and research across disciplines**.

Differences between multidisciplinary, cross-disciplinary, and interdisciplinary approaches

1. **Multidisciplinary:** Multiple disciplines coexist within the same project or program without actively interacting. Each discipline maintains its methods and perspectives independently, such as in an educational institution hosting separate departments under one roof.
2. **Cross-disciplinary:** Involves collaboration between different disciplines without integrating their knowledge bases. An example from the article is an educationist and economist co-authoring a research paper. This approach fosters dialogue but stops short of blending disciplinary insights.
3. **Interdisciplinary:** Integrates ideas, methods, and tools from various disciplines to solve complex problems. The article cites an integrated approach in fields like biotechnology and medicine, where knowledge from chemistry and biology is combined, leading to innovative solutions and knowledge synthesis.

Multidisciplinary campuses creation or expansion

1. **Adding Departments:** Institutions like **IITs** are broadening academic offerings by incorporating humanities and social sciences, and offering **integrated master's programs in economics and allied fields**.
2. **Clustering Institutes:** Merge existing single-discipline institutions into cluster universities. For example, a **commerce college may join with arts and science colleges**. This is cost-effective and resource-efficient but requires administrative restructuring.
3. **District-Wide Expansion:** The NEP plans **one multidisciplinary university in or near each district by 2030**. Establishing a **single-campus university** per district is more efficient than spreading campuses across locations.

Cross-disciplinary learning promotions in universities

1. **Course Diversification:** Encourage students to explore subjects outside their core disciplines to gain broader perspectives.
2. **Collaborative Projects:** Promote projects involving multiple departments. For example, a course titled **"Economic changes and class structures in Indian cinema"** developed jointly by economics, sociology, and film studies faculties.
3. **Funding and Support:** Ensure long-term financial backing for such initiatives. The **NSF's IGERT program in the U.S.** is a model, offering structured interdisciplinary training with both depth and breadth.
4. **Administrative Reforms:** Institutions must adopt **governance structures** that support and institutionalize cross-disciplinary teaching and research.

Challenges in achieving interdisciplinary research

1. **Publication and Career Paths:** Fields such as engineering and architecture face difficulties finding suitable publication venues for interdisciplinary research, which affects academic careers.
2. **Institutional Bias:** Academic and research institutions often favor discipline-specific studies, limiting interdisciplinary integration.
3. **Funding and Support:** Interdisciplinary projects require sustainable funding models, similar to the NSF's IGERT program in the US, which are not yet widely implemented in India.

4. **Cultural Resistance:** There is often resistance within academic communities towards integrating methods and concepts across disciplines.

5. **Regulatory and Administrative Hurdles:** Necessary changes in faculty hiring, promoting practices, and governance structures are needed to support interdisciplinary efforts.

Question for practice:

Examine how the National Education Policy promotes interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary approaches in higher education.

Trump Tariffs offer India opportunity for crucial economic reforms

Source: The post NEP promotes interdisciplinary higher education has been created, based on the article “**India’s second 1991 moment**” published in “**Indian Express**” on 12th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2-International Relations-Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests.

Context: The article discusses the **Trump Tariffs (TT) announced on April 2, 2025, which have reshaped global trade dynamics**. Although framed as reciprocal, the tariffs are primarily aimed at China and mark a broader U.S. strategy of economic containment. This shift presents a timely opportunity for India to pursue long-delayed trade and investment reforms.

For detailed information on **India should lower tariffs and boost global trade ties** [read this article here](#)

Introduction of Trump Tariffs (TT)

1. TT were introduced on April 2, 2025, imposing a base 10% tariff on all countries and a 125% tariff on China.
2. These tariffs are not focused on correcting trade deficits but serve as a strategic tool to counter China’s ambition of replacing the U.S. as the global economic leader.
3. **China’s Mercantilist Model:** In 2010, China’s consumption-to-GDP ratio stood at just 35%, reflecting a strong export-led model. Its share of global manufactured goods exports rose from 4% in 1996 to 30% today.
4. **US Response:** The tariffs signal continuity in the U.S. policy of containing China, defying earlier expectations of a reversal under President Biden.

China’s Long-Term Strategy and Success

1. **Strategic Goal:** China’s objective is to displace the U.S. as the economic hegemon using mercantilist tactics—high exports, low imports, and foreign reserve accumulation.
2. **Strengths:** Its large, skilled population and strategic policymaking have helped achieve this goal.
3. **Historical Trajectory:** In 1960, the U.S. held 25% of global manufactured goods exports. China had only 4% in 1996 but has now surged to 30%.
4. **Sustained Policies:** China has consistently applied mercantilist policies since its reforms began in 1978, enabling long-term growth.

Why India Has Failed to Reform Trade and Investment Policies

1. **Policy Complacency:** India’s steady 6.2% annual growth over the past 33 years led to a “don’t rock the boat” attitude among politicians and the policy establishment.
2. **Restrictive FDI Norms:** The 2015 Bilateral Investment Treaty required foreign firms to resolve disputes in Indian courts. This discouraged investment, leading FDI to fall below 1% of GDP—levels last seen in the 1990s.
3. **Missed Manufacturing Shift:** After 2010, as China exited low-end manufacturing, countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam adapted. India did not.

4. **Domestic Resistance:** Political leaders avoided reform due to past backlash (e.g., the farm laws protest), and big industrialists resisted competition that reforms would bring.

Opportunity for India to Pursue Reforms

1. **External Pressure:** The April 2 tariffs, especially those targeting China, present a geopolitical opening for India to reposition itself.
2. **Investment Magnet:** With China facing 125% tariffs, India could attract global manufacturers seeking alternative destinations.
3. **Workforce Edge:** India now has a large, educated, and AI-capable workforce. Its prime working-age population may soon exceed China's.
4. **Export Potential:** India can step into the global manufacturing space China is vacating.
5. **Bilateral Trade Agreements:** The upcoming India-U.S. Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), and those under negotiation with the UK and EU, could trigger much-needed liberalization.

Choices Before India

1. **Growth Path:** India must choose between continuing at 6.2% or pushing to 7.5–8.5% growth through trade openness and deregulation.
2. **Declining FDI:** India's share of FDI has dropped, signaling the urgent need to revisit its policies.
3. **Global Integration:** BTAs can serve as a model for broader reforms and deeper economic integration with the world.
4. **Strategic Timing:** The second "1991 moment" is near—India must act before the opportunity passes.

Question for practice:

Examine how the Trump Tariffs of 2025 create an opportunity for India to reform its trade and investment policies.

Supreme Court defines limits of Governor's powers

Source: The post Supreme Court defines limits of Governor's powers has been created, based on the article "A Governor's conduct and a judgment of significance" published in "The Hindu" on 14th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Polity-Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

Context: In *The State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor of Tamil Nadu*, the Supreme Court ruled on the constitutional limits of gubernatorial authority. The case arose when the Tamil Nadu Governor delayed action on Bills passed by the State Assembly, prompting the Court to reaffirm democratic norms and constitutional constraints.

For detailed information on SC verdict on Governor's assent to Bills [read this article here](#)

Tamil Nadu government approach the Supreme Court

1. **Governor's Inaction:** The Tamil Nadu government approached the Supreme Court due to the Governor's prolonged inaction on 12 Bills that were duly passed by the State Legislature.
2. **Political Dispute:** Among these Bills were key proposals to limit the Governor's power to appoint Vice-Chancellors, stemming from a historical dispute over control between the Governor and the State government.
3. **Legal Impasse:** The Governor did not grant assent or reject the Bills but instead referred them to the President, delaying their implementation.
4. **Democratic Principles:** The state argued that such indefinite withholding of assent subverts the constitutional order and disrespects the democratic mandate of the State Legislature.

The Constitutional Role of the Governor

1. Not an Independent Authority: The Governor is **not a Union representative** or an independent authority but is the **constitutional head** of the State. As per **Article 163**, he must act on the **aid and advice of the State Council of Ministers**.

2. Limits under Article 200: Article 200 gives the Governor **only three options**:

- Assent to the Bill
- Withhold and return it for reconsideration
- Reserve it for the President's consideration
- The Supreme Court **rejected a fourth option — withholding assent indefinitely (pocket veto)** — as unconstitutional.

3. Judicial Review Permitted: Though **Article 361** grants **personal immunity** to the Governor, the Court held that **his actions can be challenged** through judicial review.

4. Limited Discretion: The Governor may act **without ministerial advice only in three cases**:

- Under **Second Proviso to Article 200**, if the Bill affects **High Court powers**
- Under **Article 31C**, if the Bill seeks **immunity from judicial review**
- If the Bill **violates constitutional values**

Judicial Interpretation and Historical Context

1. Interpretation of Article 200: The Court ruled that the Governor **must act on a Bill** and **cannot delay indefinitely**. His options are limited to **assenting, returning, or reserving the Bill**.

2. Constitutional History: The **original draft** of Article 200 allowed the Governor to act “**in his discretion**.” But this phrase was **deliberately removed** during the Constituent Assembly debates, showing that the Governor must follow the advice of the elected government.

3. Example from Punjab Case: In *State of Punjab vs Principal Secretary to the Governor of Punjab (2023)*, the Court held that **pocket veto is not allowed** under Article 200.

4. Example from Tamil Nadu: The Governor delayed 12 Bills, including ones on **university appointments**, and later **referred 10 re-enacted Bills to the President** without ministerial advice.

5. Final Step by Supreme Court: Using **Article 142**, the Court declared that the **10 re-presented Bills would be deemed assented** on the date they were re-sent to the Governor. This was done to ensure **complete justice**.

What broader message does this verdict send?

1. Governors Must Follow Law: The Governor must act **based on the advice** of the State government. He is **not a political authority** but a **constitutional figure**.

2. Legislative Supremacy Upheld: The Court's decision upheld the **legislative will** of the elected State Assembly, which had passed all 12 Bills.

3. Judicial Oversight Ensured: The verdict shows that **Governor's actions are not beyond judicial scrutiny**, ensuring they remain within **constitutional boundaries**.

Question for practice:

Examine how the Supreme Court's verdict in *The State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor of Tamil Nadu* reinforces constitutional limits on gubernatorial powers and upholds democratic principles.

India must protect its disappearing traditional seeds

Source: The post India must protect its disappearing traditional seeds has been created, based on the article “Saving traditional varieties of seeds” published in “The Hindu” on 14th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3- Agriculture

Context: India is witnessing the steady disappearance of its traditional seed varieties. These are being replaced by hybrid crops like wheat and rice. This shift is caused by farming practices, policies, and market preferences. It is happening at a time when biodiversity and climate resilience are more important than ever. The article explores the causes and solutions to this urgent problem.

For detailed information on **Pillars for development of Indian Agriculture** [read this article here](#)

Reasons for Disappearing Traditional Seeds

- 1. Market Demand and Consumer Preferences:** Most consumers prefer high-yield crops such as wheat and rice. These dominate supermarket shelves and government food schemes. Traditional grains like millets, pulses, and indigenous rice are ignored. As demand falls, farmers stop growing them.
- 2. Weak Seed Conservation System:** Hybrid seeds are mass-produced and sold. Traditional seeds depend on community sharing and local conservation. India lacks well-funded and accessible seed banks to protect them.
- 3. Policy Focus on High-Yield Varieties:** For decades, government policies have promoted high-yield crops to boost food security. This led to reduced biodiversity and lower nutritional value. Though initiatives like the Odisha Millet Mission are trying to help, most subsidies and procurement systems still favour a narrow range of crops.
- 4. R&D Neglect of Biodiversity:** Research and development mostly focus on increasing yields of a few crops. There is little effort to improve or conserve climate-resilient traditional varieties. This limits the ability to respond to climate risks.

Conservation and Revival Efforts

- 1. Role of Civil Society Organisations:** Groups like MSSRF's Tribal Agrobiodiversity Centre have been preserving indigenous crops for over 30 years. A recent national consultation in Odisha created a roadmap for sustainable and inclusive seed systems.
- 2. Participatory Plant Breeding:** Farmers should be partners in breeding programmes. Working with scientists, they can enhance traditional seeds while keeping their resilience and cultural value.
- 3. Strengthening Community Seed Banks:** India must build a wide network of local seed banks. These should be well-funded and easily accessible to help farmers conserve valuable varieties.

Policy and Market Interventions Needed

- 1. Financial and Institutional Support:** The government must support processing, marketing, and cultivation of traditional crops. Expanding Minimum Support Prices and including these crops in schools, hospitals, and ration shops will encourage their growth.
- 2. Consumer Awareness Campaigns:** Changing food habits is key. Campaigns must promote the health and environmental benefits of traditional foods. Rising demand will drive production.

Conclusion

India can build a food system that is productive, sustainable, and resilient. This requires joint national efforts, farmer support, seed conservation, and public awareness. Traditional seeds are vital for India's future.

Question for practice:

Discuss why traditional seed varieties are disappearing in India and what steps can be taken to conserve them.

Transforming India into a Global Talent Hub

Source: The post Transforming India into a Global Talent Hub has been created, based on the article “India can use the legal migration route to leverage its demographic dividend” published in “Indian Express” on 14th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3-Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment

Context: The world is facing a serious labour shortage, with high-income nations expected to lack 40–50 million workers by 2030 and 120–160 million by 2040. India, with its young and large workforce, is uniquely positioned to benefit. It can emerge as a **global talent hub**, generating employment and boosting its global influence.

For detailed information on **The war for digital talent: India can emerge as a global hub for it** [read this article here](#)

Global Labour Crisis: A Major Opportunity for India

1. **Projected Labour Shortages:** Advanced economies face growing shortages in sectors like healthcare, engineering, teaching, and industrial work.
2. **India's Demographic Advantage:** India has a large young population ready for global employment. However, only **1.3% of Indians migrate abroad**, compared to **Mexico (8.6%), Philippines (5.1%), and Bangladesh (4.3%)**.
3. **Economic Benefits:** Indian migrants already send **\$125 billion annually** in remittances, accounting for **3% of GDP**—higher than any single export sector.
4. **Poverty Reduction Impact:** A study of 71 low-income countries shows that a **10% rise in remittances** can **reduce poverty by 3.5%**.
5. **Untapped Potential:** India can significantly expand its global workforce with proper training, global alignment, and structured migration policies.

Seven Steps to Build India's Global Workforce Footprint

1. **Build an Institutional Framework:** India should strengthen the **migration department under the Ministry of External Affairs**. It must identify destination markets, negotiate agreements, and ensure skill-demand matching. States should support recruitment and protect workers. Indian embassies should set up **migration support desks** abroad. The **Philippines model**, with central, regional, and overseas offices, can guide India.
2. **Align Skills with Global Standards:** Integrate **foreign languages and international skill standards** into Indian education. Promote **joint certifications** and **mutual recognition agreements** with destination countries to make Indian workers globally job-ready.
3. **Ease Financial Burden on Migrants:** The cost of migration ranges from **₹1–2 lakh for GCC countries** to **₹5–10 lakh for Europe**. India should adopt the **Philippines' ESA-pay model**, where employers or licensed agencies bear the major pre-departure costs such as visas, travel, and training.
4. **Negotiate Stronger Bilateral Agreements:** India should pursue **government-to-government agreements** to remove bureaucratic visa barriers, ensure recognition of Indian qualifications, and facilitate **socio-cultural integration**.
5. **Create a Mobility Industry Body:** A national mobility body can represent the overseas recruitment sector, promote **ethical recruitment standards**, align training with international benchmarks, and coordinate **government-private sector collaboration**.
6. **Ensure Social Welfare in Host Countries:** India must ensure that migrants get **fair wages, timely salaries, decent housing, healthcare access, legal aid**, and protection against exploitation. These align with **ILO migrant welfare guidelines**.
7. **Support Returning Migrants:** Returned workers carry **global skills and experience**. India should help reintegrate them into the domestic economy to **enhance local development**.

Migration Strategy Enhances India's Global Role

1. **Boost in Remittances** will support India's economy.

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2. **Legal Migration Pathways** will reduce dependence on unsafe and illegal routes.
3. **India's Reputation** as a responsible, skilled workforce provider will grow.
4. **Cultural and Economic Ties** with partner nations will deepen.
5. **Returning Migrants** can contribute significantly to economic progress.

Conclusion

With a robust migration strategy, India can convert its demographic dividend into global leadership. A focus on **responsible, structured migration** will not only **increase remittances** but also **create jobs, strengthen diplomacy**, and **raise India's global standing**.

Question for practice:

Examine how India can leverage the global labour shortage to position itself as a global talent hub.

History must guide nations not divide them

Source: The post History must guide nations not divide them has been created, based on the article "**History as battlefield — the perils of reversing the past**" published in "**The Hindu**" on 15th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper1- Society-Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

Context; In March 2025, **textbook revisions** that praised certain native rulers and **vilified Mughal figures** like Babur and Aurangzeb sparked public anger. These changes triggered **campaigns against Mughal monuments**, with calls for renaming or even destruction. The article highlights the risks of turning history into a political weapon, and contrasts **academic reinterpretation** with **ideological revisionism**.

Weaponising History for Ideological Ends

History should be studied with attention to **causes, consequences, and context**. When used for **ideological agendas**, it becomes a source of division. Recent textbook changes and efforts to erase Mughal legacies show attempts to reshape the past for political goals. Such efforts create **polarisation** instead of understanding.

Difference Between Reinterpretation and Revisionism

1. **Reinterpretation** is a legitimate academic process that uses new evidence to reshape historical understanding.
2. In contrast, **revisionist history**, especially with political intent, selects facts to justify **current agendas** related to **nationalism, identity, or territory**. It often deepens conflict instead of promoting clarity.

Global Lessons from History

1. **The Crusades:** The First Crusade (1096–1099) was launched to reclaim Jerusalem, ignoring its diverse religious heritage. It sparked **centuries of warfare**, worsening religious divides without achieving lasting peace.
2. **European Wars of Religion:** In the 16th–17th centuries, religious wars like the Thirty Years 'War were driven by efforts to **restore religious dominance**. The result was **massive destruction**, as old grievances turned into violent movements.
3. **Nazi Germany:** Hitler's drive to **reverse the Treaty of Versailles** and reclaim German glory led to **World War II and the Holocaust**. His ideology was built on distorted history, racial myths, and revenge.
4. **Partition of India (1947):** Competing historical narratives between Hindus and Muslims led to **one of the deadliest communal conflicts**, killing over **a million** and displacing more than **10 million**. The violence was rooted in **selective memories**, not shared futures.
5. **Israel-Palestine Conflict:** Both communities claim the land based on **conflicting histories**. Attempts to **reverse past outcomes** through settlements and denial of rights have prolonged the conflict.

6. **Russia's Invasion of Ukraine (2022):** Russia justified the invasion by citing **historical unity** with Ukraine and rejected post-Soviet borders. This **revisionist move** caused **widespread suffering** and destabilised the region.

Learning from History, Not Repeating It

1. History must be a **guide**, not a **template** for revenge. Remembering past wrongs is important, but **trying to reverse them** leads to new conflicts.
2. Nations should reject the urge to restore a **glorious past** and instead focus on **reconciliation and building the future**.
3. As philosopher **George Santayana** warned, *"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."* Equally dangerous are those who **remember the past only to relive it**.
4. The best way to honour history is to **learn from it with humility**, not manipulate it with pride.

Question for practice:

Examine how the misuse of history for ideological purposes can lead to societal division and conflict, with examples from both India and the world.

Feminism must be inclusive compassionate and context-sensitive

Source: The post Feminism must be inclusive compassionate and context-sensitive has been created, based on the article "**Feminism for polarised times**" published in "**The Hindu**" on 15th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper1- society-Social empowerment

Context: **The Women's Reservation Bill, 2023** has brought **gender equity** to the center of political debates in India. While the mainstreaming of feminist discourse is a **historic milestone**, it has also created new **challenges**. The article reflects on the **limitations of current feminist narratives** and calls for a more **compassionate, inclusive, and context-sensitive feminism**.

Two Terrains of Women's Issues

Women's concerns exist in **two overlapping spaces: structural and interpersonal**.

- **Structural issues** include **societal norms and institutional designs** that keep women at the margins.
- **Interpersonal issues** involve **family dynamics and personal relationships**.
- Applying a structural lens too rigidly to personal spaces can **oversimplify relationships** that are shaped by **care, duty, and mutual negotiation**.

Why Current Feminist Narratives Need Rethinking

1. Risk of Oversimplifying Personal Dynamics

Applying structural feminism too rigidly can distort personal relationships. Feminist discourse often views small personal conflicts as power struggles. But many Indian men quietly work in tough environments out of love and responsibility for their families. For example, a husband may expect dinner at home but gives his full salary to his wife. Labeling such actions as oppression can misrepresent reality and alienate supportive men from the conversation.

2. Problems in Merging Diverse Gender Inequities

Treating all women's experiences as one hides important differences. The struggles of an urban woman balancing home and work are not the same as a village woman fearing rape while accessing a toilet. Feminist narratives often merge such realities into a single story, masking deeper inequities. This makes policy solutions less effective. Also, men facing emotional or economic stress — like humiliation at work — may feel ignored. While they are not against feminism, excluding their realities creates defensiveness. A more inclusive feminism should recognise all forms of suffering.

What Kind of Feminism is Needed Today?

1. **Inclusive Feminism:** Acknowledges **different challenges** faced by **urban and rural women**.
2. **Compassionate Feminism:** Recognizes **emotional and financial pressures on men**, encouraging **solidarity**.
Example: Men who support families silently, driven by care.
3. **Complexity-Embracing Feminism:** Understands that **not all relationships reflect oppression**; many involve **negotiation and care**.
4. **Non-Antagonistic Approach:** Aims to **build support, not resistance**, by promoting **shared responsibility** and **context-sensitive solutions**.

Question for practice:

Examine how current feminist narratives in India may risk oversimplifying personal dynamics and masking diverse gender inequities.

Uyghur Militants in Syria Challenge China's Diplomacy

Source: The post Uyghur Militants in Syria Challenge China's Diplomacy has been created, based on the article "**Feminism for polarised times**" published in "**The Hindu**" on 15th April 2025

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- International Relations

Context: The fall of **Bashar al-Assad's regime** and the rise of **Ahmed al-Sharaa** in Syria have created a serious strategic concern for China. **Uyghur militants**, once linked to jihadist groups, have been integrated into Syria's formal military. This change challenges **China's counter-terror goals** and weakens its **diplomatic influence in West Asia**.

China's Recent Diplomatic Gains in the Arab World

1. China has shown **consistent support for Arab positions on Gaza**, including by **hosting Hamas** and other Palestinian groups in Beijing.
2. These moves have improved China's **standing in Arab public opinion**, with surveys indicating **greater popularity than the U.S.** in the region.
3. China's support has boosted its **geopolitical influence** and allowed it to project itself as a **key diplomatic player** in the Middle East.
4. Direct engagement with Palestinian causes has helped China **counterbalance Western influence**, especially that of the U.S.

Rise of Uyghur Militants in 'New' Syria

1. **Uyghur fighters** from the **East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM)**, also called the **Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP)**, now hold **formal ranks in Syria's military**.
2. This happened after **Ahmed al-Sharaa** (formerly **Abu Mohammed al-Jolani**) and his group **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)** took over **Damascus without resistance**.
3. These militants had strong ties with **IS and al-Qaeda**, and were featured in propaganda targeting **Assad's regime and China**.
4. In 2025, **about 2,000 Uyghur fighters** are reported to be active in Syria.
5. Notably, **Abdulaziz Dawood Khodaberdi (Zahid)**, a former ETIM commander, is now a **senior military officer** in Syria.

Beijing's Strategic Concerns and Historical Context

1. China has long used the **global war on terror narrative** to **target Uyghur militancy**, especially in **Xinjiang**.

2. In **2002**, the U.S. labeled **ETIM a terrorist group**, aligning with China's position.
3. But in **2020**, the U.S. **delisted ETIM**, claiming no credible evidence of its activity existed.
4. China worked with the **Taliban in Afghanistan** to **relocate Uyghur fighters** away from its border in **Badakhshan**.
5. In contrast, Syria's new regime has **promoted Uyghurs**, creating a **diplomatic rupture** for China.

Western and Regional Powers Reshape Syria's Future

1. **Western countries and regional allies** are engaging with Al Sharaa to **stabilize Syria** and **prevent refugee flows**.
2. These moves aim to **limit the influence of China, Russia, and Iran** in Syria.
3. Many **former terrorists** are now taking on **official political roles**, complicating the global security framework.
4. China's **relations with Israel** have worsened due to its **stance on Gaza**.
5. Meanwhile, **Saudi Arabia and the UAE** have accepted Al Sharaa's regime and **reduced criticism of China's Xinjiang policy**, leaving Beijing **diplomatically isolated**.

Conclusion

The **elevation of Uyghur militants** into Syria's formal military is a **major security and diplomatic setback** for China. This shift reflects how **changing regional power structures** and **great-power rivalries** are **reshaping global fault lines**, forcing China to **rethink its strategy in West Asia**.

Question for practice:

Discuss how the integration of Uyghur militants into Syria's military impacts China's security and diplomatic interests in West Asia.