



## 7 PM COMPILATION

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> week December, 2025**

### Features of 7 PM compilation

- ❖ Comprehensive coverage of a given current topic
- ❖ Provide you all the information you need to frame a good answer
- ❖ Critical analysis, comparative analysis, legal/constitutional provisions, current issues and challenges and best practices around the world
- ❖ Written in lucid language and point format
- ❖ Wide use of charts, diagrams and info graphics
- ❖ Best-in class coverage, critically acclaimed by aspirants
- ❖ Out of the box thinking for value edition
- ❖ Best cost-benefit ratio according to successful aspirants

**INDEX**

Draft Seed Bill – Important Provisions & Significance – Explained Pointwise .....	2
Jammu and Kashmir Militancy – Phases, Factors & Way Forward – Explained Pointwise .....	5
Regionalism as an Internal Security Challenge in India- Explained Pointwise .....	12
Role of Social Media in Internal Security – Importance, Risks & Threats – Explained Pointwise .....	17
Linkage Of Organized Crime With Terrorism.....	22
UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) .....	27
Permanent Commission for Women in the Armed Forces – Explained Pointwise .....	31
Police Reforms in India – Explained Pointwise .....	35
G2 – Need, Challenges & Implications – Explained Pointwise .....	39
Status of Inequality In India- Explained Pointwise .....	43
Aviation Sector in India.....	46
Blue Economy- Significance and Challenges- Explained Pointwise .....	49
VB-G RAM G Bill – Provisions & Significance – Explained Pointwise .....	53

### **Draft Seed Bill – Important Provisions & Significance – Explained Pointwise**

The Centre has come out with a new Seeds Bill, proposing mandatory registration of seed varieties & stricter punishment for violations. The draft Bill is aligned with current agricultural & regulatory requirements & will replace the Seeds Act, 1966 & the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983. The draft Bill, 2025 seeks to regulate the quality of seeds & planting materials, ensuring farmers' access to high-quality seeds at affordable rates, curbs the sale of spurious seeds & protect the farmers from losses, liberalize the seed imports & safeguard the rights of the farmers.

#### **What is the need for a new seed law?**

1. **Outdated laws:** The 1966 Act was designed for a largely public-sector, low-input agriculture; it did not match today's reality of hybrid seeds, global trade, private multinationals and advanced breeding technologies.
2. **Poor farmer protection:** Farmers frequently suffered crop loss due to substandard or fake seeds, with limited legal recourse and weak enforcement against defaulting seed companies.
3. **Lack of uniform quality control:** There was no comprehensive, compulsory registration and VCU testing framework for all seeds, leading to variable quality and misleading claims in the market.
4. **Weak penalties and enforcement:** Low fines and limited criminal liability under old laws failed to deter sale of spurious or unregistered seeds, allowing repeat violations.
5. **Need for traceability and transparency:** Modern supply chains require QR codes, online traceability and national databases so farmers can verify the source and performance history of seeds, which the earlier regime lacked.
6. **Balancing innovation and farmers' rights:** A new law was needed to both encourage private R&D and clearly protect farmers' rights to save, reuse and exchange unbranded seeds, aligning with contemporary debates on seed sovereignty and IPR.

#### **What are the important provisions of the Seed Bill?**

1. The Bill establishes a comprehensive regulatory mechanism to oversee the import, production and supply of quality seeds in the country.
2. The Bill does not restrict farmers from sowing, re-sowing, exchanging or selling their own seeds, unless the seeds are sold under a brand name.
3. The Bill clearly defines farmers, dealers, distributors and producers as separate regulated entities, each with specific roles and responsibilities.
4. **Institutional Structure:** The Bill proposes the creation of a 27-member Central Seed Committee and a 15-member State Seed Committee to guide seed regulation.
  - The Central Seed Committee can recommend minimum standards for germination, purity, traits, seed health and genetic purity for seeds sold in the market.
  - The State Seed Committees may advise their respective governments on the registration of seed producers, seed dealers, processing units and nurseries.
5. **Mandatory registration of seeds and actors:**
  - All varieties of seeds for sale have to be registered and are required to meet certain prescribed minimum standards. For instance, for transgenic varieties of seeds, registration is to be obtained under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. This can bring greater accountability to seed companies.
  - Dealers, distributors, producers, nurseries, processing units and certification agencies must obtain registration or licenses.

6. **Seed Testing and Regulation:** The Bill mandates the establishment of Central and State seed testing laboratories for analysing the quality and characteristics of seeds.
  - The Bill proposes that a Registrar be appointed to maintain a National Register of all seed varieties available in the country.
  - The Bill makes field trials mandatory to evaluate the Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) of any seed variety before approval.
7. **Penalties and Enforcement:**
  - Offences are classified as trivial, minor and major, with graded penalties.
  - The Bill stipulates that violations can attract monetary penalties ranging from ₹50,000 to ₹30 lakh and can also lead to imprisonment for up to three years.
  - The roles of enforcement agencies, including those under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, are clearly defined for inspecting seed premises and seizing spurious seeds.
  - Minor violations are partly decriminalised, shifting to monetary penalties rather than jail terms in less serious cases.
8. **Farmers' rights and compensation:**
  - Farmers retain the right to grow, save, use, exchange, share and sell farm-saved seeds and planting material, as long as they do not sell them under a brand name.
  - Farmers are eligible for compensation if registered seeds fail to perform as claimed, with liability on the producer as per prescribed procedures.
9. **Market facilitation and corporate access:** A Central Accreditation System allows nationally accredited seed companies to operate across multiple states without separate licenses, aiming to ease business but raising concerns about favouring large firms.

#### **What is the significance of the Seed Bill?**

1. **Quality Assurance & Regulation:**
  - a. **Compulsory Registration:** The Bill makes the registration of all varieties of seeds (whether genetically modified or otherwise) compulsory. This ensures that seeds sold to farmers meet prescribed quality standards for germination, physical purity, and genetic purity before they enter the market.
  - b. **Preventing Adulteration:** By establishing a robust system for inspection, testing, and certification, the Bill aims to curb the sale of spurious or low-quality seeds, which are a major cause of crop failure and financial distress for farmers.
  - c. **Establishment of a Central Seed Committee:** It provides a legal framework for a national committee that will advise the government on seed policy, oversee registration, and standardize testing procedures across the country.
2. **Protecting Farmers' Rights & Compensation:**
  - a. **Compensation Mechanism:** The most significant clause allows farmers to claim compensation from the seed producer or seller if the registered seed variety fails to perform as promised under expected crop conditions. This provides a formal legal recourse that was often complex or non-existent under the older 1966 Act.
  - b. **Protection of Seed Exchange:** It explicitly protects the traditional rights of farmers to save, use, exchange, share, or sell their farm-saved seeds. This is crucial for maintaining traditional farming practices and biodiversity, ensuring that corporate seed registration does not restrict basic farming activities.

- c. **Dispute Resolution:** It proposes a structured mechanism for dispute resolution, usually involving a committee or an authority, to handle farmer complaints quickly without resorting immediately to lengthy court litigation.
- 3. **Modernisation & Accountability of the Seed Industry:**
  - a. **Data Collection and Traceability:** Compulsory registration facilitates better data collection on seed performance, distribution, and usage. This aids in tracking seed varieties and ensuring traceability in case of defects or failure.
  - b. **Attracting Investment:** A clear and consistent regulatory environment encourages both domestic and international seed companies to invest in R&D and bring advanced, high-yielding varieties (including those resistant to pests and diseases) to the Indian market, boosting agricultural productivity.
  - c. **Regulation of GMOs:** While the Bill itself does not govern the safety and testing of genetically modified organisms (GMOs)—that is handled by the Environmental Clearance Committee (GEAC)—it mandates that once cleared, the commercial seed varieties derived from GMOs must also register and comply with quality standards.

**What are some of the concerns & challenges related to the Seed Bill?**

- 1. **Challenges Related to Farmers' Rights & Compensation:**
  - a. **Ambiguity in Compensation:** The Bill allows farmers to claim compensation if the seed fails to perform under expected conditions. However, critics argue the process for determining “expected conditions” and quantifying the extent of failure is vague, making it difficult for farmers to successfully prove their case. The compensation may not cover the total loss, including labor, fertilizer, and potential income.
  - b. **Burdensome Process:** The proposed mechanism involves filing a complaint with a local committee and then potentially appealing to a state-level appellate tribunal. This process is seen as too complex and time-consuming for small and marginal farmers, effectively restricting access to justice.
  - c. **Erosion of Traditional Rights:** While the Bill exempts farmers from registration for selling “farm-saved seeds,” there is a concern that regulatory oversight might still indirectly harass or limit traditional, local seed exchange networks that are vital for maintaining agrobiodiversity.
  - d. **Lack of Price Control:** A major omission is the failure to include a strong mechanism for capping the price of proprietary seeds, particularly expensive hybrid and GM varieties. This leaves farmers vulnerable to price gouging by large corporations for high-performing, patented seeds.
- 2. **Challenges Related to Regulatory and Enforcement Capacity:**
  - a. **Infrastructure Deficit:** Implementing compulsory registration and quality control for *all* seeds requires a massive upgrade in seed testing laboratories and trained personnel across all states. India currently lacks the necessary infrastructure and human resources for this scale of testing.
  - b. **Enforcement Capacity:** The Bill relies heavily on Seed Inspectors to prevent the sale of spurious seeds. Given the high volume of sales and limited staff, effective checking and prosecution are major challenges.
  - c. **Defining “New Variety”:** Clearly defining what constitutes a “new” variety for mandatory registration can be technically complicated, leading to bureaucratic delays and potential disputes with researchers and breeders.



- d. Impact on Public Sector: The regulatory burden imposed by the Bill could disproportionately affect public sector seed companies and research institutions, which often operate with thinner budgets and less bureaucratic flexibility than private entities.
3. Challenges Posed by the Seed Industry:
- a. Lax Penalties: Critics argue that the penalties for seed companies selling substandard or spurious seeds are often too mild compared to the massive profits generated. For large corporations, a fine may simply be considered a minor cost of doing business, rather than a strong deterrent.
  - b. Lobbying and Influence: The highly commercial nature of the seed industry means there is constant pressure and lobbying to weaken provisions related to compensation and price regulation, ensuring the Bill remains industry-friendly.
  - c. Protecting Intellectual Property (IP): The Bill must navigate a complex relationship with the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001. Ensuring that the registration process under the Seed Bill doesn't conflict with or weaken the IP rights (or the exemptions provided to farmers) under the PPV&FR Act is a delicate legal and regulatory challenge.

#### Conclusion:

The new Seeds Bill tightens quality control and accountability across the seed value chain while formally safeguarding traditional farmers' rights to save and exchange seeds, but it also raises debates about implementation capacity and the balance between farmer protection and corporate facilitation.

Read More: [The Indian Express](#)  
UPSC GS-3: Agriculture

### **Jammu and Kashmir Militancy – Phases, Factors & Way Forward – Explained Pointwise**

The November 2025 Delhi Red Fort car bomb blast has been linked by Indian authorities to militancy networks operating out of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). The bomber, Umar Un Nabi, was a Pulwama-based doctor with alleged ties to militant groups Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, highlighting active terror module linkages between J&K and urban centers like Delhi.

#### **Introduction:**

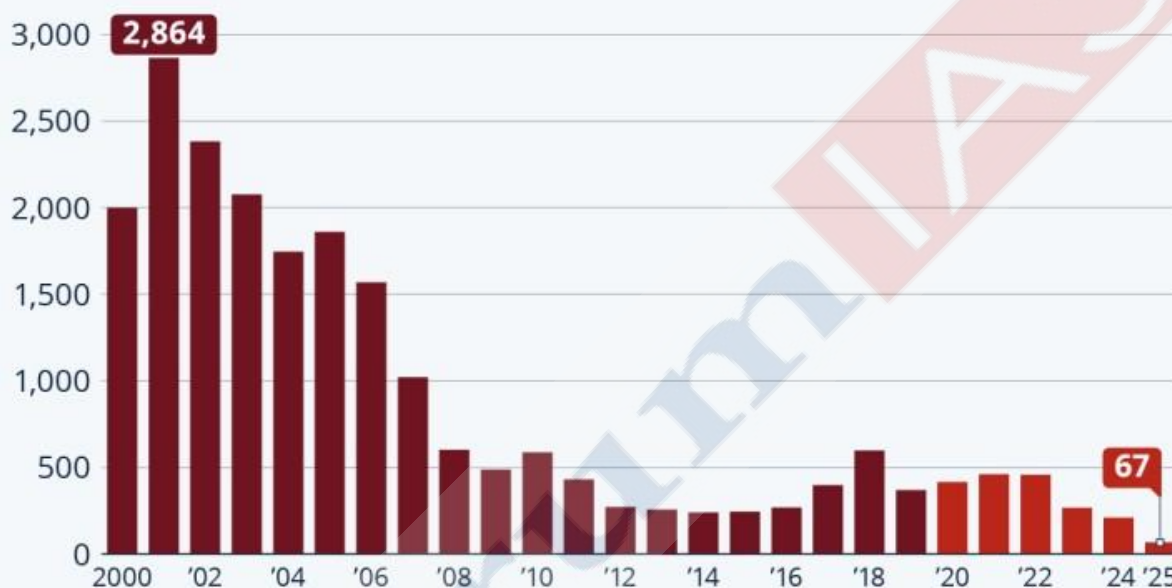
- Jammu & Kashmir militancy refers to the ongoing armed insurgency and terrorist violence in Jammu & Kashmir aimed at challenging Indian sovereignty over the region, either by seeking secession/independence or accession to Pakistan.
- It combines local separatist militancy with Pakistan-supported cross-border jihadist groups and has both political and religious dimensions.

#### **Key phases of J&K Militancy:**

<p>Phase 1: The Rise (Late 1980s – Mid-1990s)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indigenous Start: Initially, the movement was dominated by groups advocating for independence (Azaadi) or merger with Pakistan. The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), which fought for independence, was prominent.</li> <li>Escalation: The period saw massive infiltration, targeted killings of government officials and security personnel, and the migration of the Kashmiri Pandit minority community from the Valley.</li> <li>Shift in Ideology: Over time, the more nationalist JKLF was overshadowed by groups that were religiously conservative and heavily supported by Pakistan, such as the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM).</li> </ul>
<p>Phase 2: The Foreign Jihadi Wave (Late 1990s – Early 2000s)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>De-Indigenization: As the native Kashmiri militant leadership was decimated by counter-insurgency operations, foreign fighters (mainly from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other countries) began dominating the ranks. Groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) became the primary actors.</li> <li>Major Incidents: This phase was marked by high-profile attacks, including the Kargil War (1999) and the attack on the Indian Parliament in 2001, which brought India and Pakistan to the brink of war.</li> <li>Decline in Local Support: The increasing brutality and hardline religious ideology of foreign groups led to a dip in local support for the armed struggle.</li> </ul>
<p>Phase 3: Post-2010 Resurgence and the 'New Militancy'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shift to Homegrown Militancy: A new wave of militancy emerged, primarily fueled by young, highly educated, and radicalized local Kashmiris, often through social media and online propaganda.</li> <li>Mass Public Support: The killing of popular militant commander Burhan Wani in 2016 triggered widespread public uprisings and a culture of youth rushing to encounter sites to disrupt operations by security forces.</li> <li>Hybrid Terrorism: The focus shifted from conventional attacks to "hybrid terrorism," where local, often non-listed militants carry out targeted, small-scale attacks before disappearing back into the civilian population.</li> </ul>

# Jammu & Kashmir: A Region Long Caught Up in Conflict

Total number of terrorism-related incidents in Jammu and Kashmir, by year\*



\* Provisional data from Mar. 6, 2020 - May 10, 2025. Includes incidents where people were killed or injured, arms recovery, suicide attacks, explosions and arrests

Source: South Asia Terrorism Portal



statista

## Factors behind the militancy in J&K:

1. **Political and Constitutional Grievances (The Internal Catalyst):** The primary driver of alienation and subsequent militancy stems from a breakdown of trust between the people of the Kashmir Valley and the Central Government of India:
  - a. **The Disputed Accession and Autonomy:** While J&K acceded to India in 1947, the subsequent agreement (Article 370) promised a high degree of internal autonomy. Over the decades, this autonomy was progressively eroded by the central government, leading to a strong feeling that the constitutional relationship was being diluted unilaterally.
  - b. **Political Disenfranchisement and Rigged Elections:** The most crucial trigger was the widespread perception of political manipulation, particularly the widely believed rigging of the 1987 State Assembly Elections. Many young political activists who had faith in the



democratic process (like those in the Muslim United Front) saw this event as definitive proof that legitimate political avenues were closed to them, pushing them toward armed insurgency.

- c. **Lack of Responsive Governance:** Poor governance, corruption, and a lack of accountability in the local political system compounded the sense of betrayal. The absence of credible local leadership exacerbated the disconnect with the mainstream Indian political system.
  - d. **Human Rights Concerns:** The deployment of large numbers of security forces and the implementation of laws like the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) led to allegations of human rights abuses, arbitrary detentions, and extrajudicial killings. These incidents became powerful rallying points for militant recruitment.
2. **Socio-Economic Pressures:**
- a. **High Unemployment:** Despite high literacy rates, the region consistently suffered from high rates of educated unemployment, particularly among the youth in the Valley. The lack of viable economic opportunities made extremist narratives appealing.
  - b. **Stagnant Tourism and Industry:** Political instability and recurring violence severely damaged the vital tourism industry and prevented large-scale industrial investment, thus limiting employment prospects.
  - c. **Development Deficit:** Many areas felt neglected in terms of infrastructural development, contrasting sharply with perceived central spending on security and administrative apparatus.
3. **External and Geopolitical Intervention (The Primary Enabler):**
- a. **Pakistan's Active Role:** Pakistan views J&K as "unfinished business" from the 1947 Partition. Its intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), began actively supporting, arming, funding, and training militant groups in the late 1980s. This policy is often termed "proxy warfare."
  - b. **The Afghan Factor (1980s):** The Soviet-Afghan War created a pool of battle-hardened, religiously motivated foreign fighters and an abundance of weapons. Following the Soviet withdrawal, these resources and fighters were diverted toward the Kashmir conflict, escalating the violence dramatically.
  - c. **Ideological Shift (Global Jihad):** The initial, more nationalist and pro-Independence groups (like the JKLF) were systematically marginalized and replaced by Pakistan-backed, religiously focused organizations like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). This shift globalized the ideology, moving the conflict beyond local political grievances to a broader jihadist narrative.
  - d. **Propaganda and Radicalization:** Pakistan uses vast propaganda networks (both media and online) to fuel anti-India sentiment and radicalize Kashmiri youth, often exploiting historical and religious narratives to encourage armed recruitment.

### **Challenges in tackling the J&K militancy:**

1. **Porous Borders and Terrain:** Difficult LoC/IB (740 km LoC, 192 km IB in Jammu) with forests/mountains enables infiltration and arms smuggling despite fencing.
2. **Hybrid Militancy & Support Networks:** Educated "hybrid militants," Over Ground Workers (OGWs), and locals aiding logistics/funding via encrypted apps (Telegram) sustain operations without direct combat.

3. Intelligence & Coordination Gaps: Fragmented intel-sharing between Army, CRPF, J&K Police; militants use locals' phones and online radicalisation, evading detection.
4. Geographical Shift: Militancy moved to Jammu's Pir Panjal forests (Poonch, Rajouri, Kathua); less dense security grid and redeployment to LAC/China border weaken coverage.
5. Radicalisation & Local Sympathy: Online propaganda, unemployment, grievances fuel youth vulnerability; community distrust hampers HUMINT despite de-radicalisation efforts.
6. Pakistan's Proxy Role: Cross-border arms (drones), training, info warfare by LeT/JeM proxies; hard to deter non-state actors.
7. Manpower & Community Issues: Extensive ops require heavy troops; reviving Village Defence Guards (VDGs) faces past abuse allegations and communal tensions.

**Measures taken to tackle the issue of J&K militancy:**

<p>Security and Counter-Insurgency Operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Border Management and Infiltration Control:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Anti-Infiltration Grid:</b> A multi-tiered system consisting of fencing, surveillance systems, and forward-deployed troops along the Line of Control (LoC) to detect and neutralize infiltrators from Pakistan-administered Kashmir (PaK).</li> <li>2. <b>Technological Surveillance:</b> Extensive use of advanced thermal imagers, ground sensors, drones, and electronic surveillance to monitor the porous terrain.</li> <li>3. <b>Strategic Fortification:</b> Building fortified bunkers and posts along key infiltration routes to prevent militants from crossing into the Valley.</li> </ol> </li> <li>● <b>Counter-Terror Operations (CT Ops):</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Operation All-Out:</b> A systematic, intelligence-driven approach to targeting and neutralizing top leadership and local militant commanders across various terror outfits (Hizbul Mujahideen, LeT, JeM).</li> <li>2. <b>Intelligence Sharing and Synergy:</b> The Unified Command Structure, involving the Army, CRPF, BSF, and J&amp;K Police, ensures seamless coordination and real-time intelligence sharing to execute surgical operations.</li> <li>3. <b>Addressing Hybrid Terrorism:</b> Recent measures focus on identifying and neutralizing “hybrid terrorists” and over-ground workers (OGWs) who provide logistics, shelter, and intelligence to active militants, thereby breaking the support structure.</li> <li>4. <b>Deradicalization Efforts:</b> Local police have engaged in counseling and surrender policies to bring local youth who joined militancy back into the mainstream.</li> </ol> </li> <li>● <b>Legal and Administrative Tools:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA):</b> Provides legal immunity to security forces for actions taken during counter-insurgency operations, although its scope has been debated and reduced in some areas.</li> <li>2. <b>Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA):</b> Used to designate individuals and organizations as terrorist entities, freeze assets, and prosecute individuals involved in terror financing and recruitment.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
---	--

Political and Constitutional Measures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Revocation of Article 370:</b> This measure revoked the special constitutional status of J&amp;K and converted the state into two Union Territories (J&amp;K and Ladakh). The stated aims included: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fully integrating J&amp;K into the Indian Union.</li> <li>2. Allowing all central laws to apply, including anti-corruption and anti-terror laws.</li> <li>3. Addressing the separatist ideology which often leveraged the special status for political ends.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <b>Delimitation and Electoral Process:</b> The ongoing process of reorganizing assembly constituencies (delimitation) is aimed at preparing for future state elections, attempting to re-establish democratic processes at the grassroots level.</li> <li>3. <b>Empowering Local Governance:</b> Efforts have been made to strengthen the Panchayat Raj institutions (village councils) to decentralize power and fund development at the local level, bypassing traditional political elites.</li> </ol>
Socio-Economic and Developmental Initiatives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Infrastructure Investment:</b> Accelerated development of road networks, power projects, and healthcare facilities under various central schemes (e.g., Prime Minister's Development Package – PMDP).</li> <li>2. <b>Employment Generation:</b> Launching specific skill development programs and initiatives to boost employment for educated youth, including job fairs and incentives for investment in industrial and service sectors.</li> <li>3. <b>Boosting Tourism and Handicrafts:</b> Focused efforts to restore peace and create a safe environment to revitalize the tourism sector, a major employer in the Valley. Financial assistance and marketing support are provided for the traditional handicraft sector.</li> <li>4. <b>Educational Outreach:</b> Initiatives aimed at keeping educational institutions operational and engaging students through competitive exams and scholarships to encourage future-oriented career paths over radicalization.</li> </ol>

#### Way forward to resolve the issue of J&K Militancy:

1. **Enhanced Security Measures with Human Rights Focus:**
  - a. Continue robust counter-terror operations and intelligence sharing to disrupt militant networks, while strictly adhering to human rights to rebuild trust with locals.
  - b. Reform laws and ensure accountability to prevent excesses that fuel alienation.
2. **Political Dialogue and Reconciliation:**
  - a. Resume meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders, including separatists willing to renounce violence and mainstream political actors, with guarantees for autonomy and participation.
  - b. Consider calibrated political reforms to address local aspirations without compromising national integrity.

3. Community Engagement and Empowerment:
  - a. Empower grassroots governance, develop local leadership, and implement de-radicalisation programs targeting vulnerable youth and communities.
  - b. Revive Village Defence Guards and community policing with training and safeguards.
4. Socio-Economic Development and Opportunities:
  - a. Accelerate employment generation, skill development, education, infrastructure, and healthcare, especially for youth to address root causes like poverty and alienation.
  - b. Promote cross-community economic integration and cultural dialogue.
5. Diplomatic and Regional Stability Initiatives:
  - a. India should utilize international platforms like UNSC (e.g., highlighting role of Pakistan in cross-border terrorism), FATF and take support of like-minded countries (e.g., Saudi Arabia and UAE) to put pressure on Pakistan to curb non-state actors operating from its soil.
  - b. Strengthen regional cooperation for security and development.

#### Conclusion:

Achieving peace in J&K and tackling the militancy depends on synergizing the above mentioned dimensions through sustained political will, inclusive governance, and people-centered development.

Read More: [The Indian Express](#)

UPSC GS-3: Internal Security (Terrorism)

### Regionalism as an Internal Security Challenge in India- Explained Pointwise

Regional movements in India have often transcended into separatist movements like the Bodoland movement. This has often posed grave threats to the Internal security of India. In this article, we will further delve into the issue in detail.

#### What is Regionalism?

Regionalism refers to the collective identity, loyalty, and shared purpose of people in a specific geographical region, often rooted in common language, culture, and historical experiences. In its positive form, regionalism fosters unity, brotherhood, and the protection of regional interests, promoting the welfare and development of the state and its people. However, in its negative form, it may lead to excessive regional loyalty, creating divisive tendencies that threaten the unity and integrity of the nation posing as an internal security challenge in India.

#### History of Regional Movements in India

- Origin in Colonial Era: Regional consciousness emerged from colonial policies, differential treatment of princely states vs. presidencies, and economic neglect, which created regional disparities.
- Movements in Southern India: Regionalism gained momentum with the Dravida Movement (Non-Brahmin movement) in the 1940s demanding an independent Tamil state, later inspiring the call for a separate Andhra.
- Potti Sri Ramulu's Role: The death of Potti Sri Ramulu during the 1954 fast for Andhra statehood triggered mass political regionalism across India.



- States Reorganisation Committee: Widespread revolts led to the States Reorganisation Committee (headed by Fazal Ali), recommending linguistic reorganisation; the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 made linguistic states a reality.
- Insurgencies in Northeast India: Tribal insurgencies in the 1970s–80s resulted in the North-Eastern States Reorganisation Act, 1971, granting statehood to Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya and later elevating Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh to states (1986).
- 21st Century Changes: Strong regional deprivation movements in the 2000s led to the creation of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Uttarakhand; in 2014, Telangana was carved out of Andhra Pradesh.

### Forms of Regionalism in India

- Cultural Regionalism: Arises from the urge to preserve a region's cultural, linguistic, and historical identity. In India's diverse socio-cultural landscape, regions seek recognition of their uniqueness.
  - The demand for Telangana reflected its distinct cultural identity within Andhra Pradesh.
- Economic Regionalism: Driven by perceptions of economic disadvantage, inadequate resource allocation, and lack of development. Regions demand a larger share of resources and greater economic autonomy.
  - Calls for separate states in regions of Bihar or Uttar Pradesh often stem from such economic concerns.
- Political Regionalism: Refers to the assertion of regional political power, with leaders mobilizing regional sentiments for autonomy or influence. Parties like Shiv Sena, Akali Dal, and DMK advance regional agendas and challenge national parties such as the INC and BJP.
- Secessionist Regionalism: The most extreme form, where regions seek complete independence due to historical cultural, religious, or political marginalization. Key examples include the Kashmir conflict and insurgencies in the Northeastern states.

### Factors Behind Regionalism in India

- Linguistic and Cultural Identity: Regionalism often stems from strong linguistic or cultural consciousness. For instance, the Dravidian movement in Tamil Nadu was driven primarily by linguistic identity.
- Ethnocentrism: Native populations may claim exclusive ownership over regional issues, creating an insider– outsider divide. The idea of Marathi Manoos in Maharashtra exemplifies this exclusionary sentiment toward migrants from other states.
- Tribal Identity: Distinct socio-economic conditions and tribal cultural practices can reinforce regional aspirations. The demand for Jharkhand's creation was rooted partly in its unique tribal heritage.
- Unequal Distribution of Resources: Perceived regional neglect or underdevelopment can intensify regionalist demands. The rise of the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) in Darjeeling reflected grievances over disparities with South Bengal.
- Development and Administrative Issues: Feelings of marginalization in policy decisions, whether in resource allocation, employment, or infrastructure, also fuel regional assertions. Such concerns played a major role in the formation of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh.

Read more- [Regionalism in India](#)

### Impact of Regionalism on Internal Security of India

- Rise of Separatist Movements: Extreme forms of regionalism can escalate into secessionist demands, threatening territorial integrity.
  - Examples include movements in Kashmir, Khalistan Movement in Punjab (1980s), and parts of the Northeast (Greater Nagalim), which have led to insurgency and prolonged security operations.
- Intensification of Insurgencies: Regional grievances like economic neglect, cultural alienation, or administrative discrimination often fuel insurgencies.
  - The Northeast insurgencies and tribal uprisings in central India reflect how regional identity can transform into armed resistance.
- Ethnic and Communal Conflicts: Regionalism strengthens ethnic identities, sometimes leading to clashes between communities competing for land, jobs, and political space.
  - Conflicts like Bodo vs. non-Bodo, Meitei vs. Kuki, and Naga territorial claims pose serious internal security challenges.
- Migration-Related Tensions: The “sons of the soil” sentiment results in hostility toward migrants, leading to targeted violence, riots, and mass displacement.
  - Such tensions have surfaced in Maharashtra, Assam, and Manipur, disrupting law and order.
- Challenges to Law and Order: Regional parties or pressure groups may orchestrate bandhs, blockades, and violent protests to assert regional demands, disrupting governance and straining police and administrative machinery.
  - Example: prolonged blockades in Manipur.
- Political Radicalization: Regional political mobilization sometimes adopts radical narratives to gain local support, contributing to polarization and undermining national cohesion. This increases the vulnerability of youth to extremist recruitment.
- Strain on Federal Relations: Contestation over resources like water sharing, boundary disputes, development funds often escalates into inter-state tensions, requiring central intervention and complicating national security management.
  - For example Cauvery River Dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- Economic Disruptions Affecting Security: Persistent regional unrest discourages investment, affects infrastructure projects, and creates zones of economic stagnation, which insurgent groups exploit to expand influence.

Positive Impact	Negative Impact
Strengthens federalism by enabling states to assert their rights and autonomy.	Threatens national unity by fostering divisive sentiments and secessionist tendencies.
Enhances political representation by bringing local issues and marginalized groups into mainstream politics.	Encourages bias and discrimination through identity-based politics and hostility toward migrants.

Promotes cultural diversity by preserving regional languages, traditions, and customs.	Leads to political fragmentation, making it harder to form stable governments.
Provides democratic mechanisms for addressing regional grievances, reducing chances of violent conflict.	Prioritizes regional interests over national interests, causing resource allocation imbalances and policy distortions.

## The Dual Nature of Regionalism in India



Created by ForumIAS

### Measures Taken by the Government to Reduce Negative Impact of Regionalism in India

- Constitutional Measures
  - Federal Structure: The Constitution establishes cooperative federalism, accommodating regional aspirations through division of powers between the Union and States.

- Special Provisions (Article 371 Series): Article 371A for Nagaland, 371B for Assam, 371C for Manipur, 371F for Sikkim, 371G for Mizoram, etc., ensuring protection of tribal customs, administrative autonomy, and cultural identity.
- Fifth and Sixth Schedules: Provide self-governance for Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas, particularly in Northeast India, reducing alienation.
- Inter-State Council: Facilitates coordination, dialogue, and conflict resolution between states and the Centre.
- Legal and Institutional Measures
  - Linguistic Reorganisation of States (1956): The States Reorganisation Act reorganized boundaries on linguistic lines, reducing linguistic tensions.
  - Zonal Councils: Established to promote regional cooperation, reduce inter-state conflicts, and strengthen national integration.
  - National Human Rights Commission & Minorities Commission: Address grievances and protect vulnerable groups affected by regional discrimination.
- Policy Measures
  - National Integration Council (1961): Formed to counter communalism, casteism, linguism, and regionalism, and promote national harmony.
  - Industrial Policy Resolutions & Economic Policies: Aimed at reducing regional economic disparities by promoting balanced industrial growth.
  - Finance Commission Grants: State-specific grants, revenue-sharing, and fiscal devolution to support equitable development across states.
- Developmental and Administrative Measures
  - Targeted Development Programs: For example, Aspirational Districts Programme, Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF), North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme, aimed at bridging the development gap and reducing regional inequality.
  - Infrastructure Investments: Expansion of railways, highways, ports, and digital infrastructure to connect underdeveloped regions.
  - Special Packages: Bihar, Bundelkhand, Vidarbha, and Northeast states receive special assistance to address chronic backwardness.
- Security and Governance Measures
  - Peace Accords & Autonomy Arrangements: For example Mizo Accord (1986), Bodo Accords, Naga Peace Framework, providing autonomy and power-sharing to reduce secessionist tendencies.
  - Strengthening Local Governance: Empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions and Autonomous Councils to address local needs effectively.
- Social & Cultural Measures
  - Promotion of National Integration: Cultural exchange programs, national service schemes, and celebration of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat to promote inter-regional understanding.
  - Language Policy: Recognition of 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule to respect India's linguistic diversity and prevent linguistic alienation.

### Way Forward

- Fostering National Unity: Promote an inclusive national identity through education and strengthen cultural exchange programmes to build a shared national outlook.

- Cultural Integration: Encourage frequent intercultural interactions to break regional barriers and deepen nationalist spirit. Initiatives like Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat enhance inter-state understanding and cooperation.
- Strengthening Federalism: Empower states and local bodies and advance Cooperative Federalism to accommodate regional aspirations within the national framework.
- Inclusive Development: Implement targeted development programmes and infrastructure projects to reduce regional inequalities, boost economic growth, and create employment in backward areas.
- **Functional Autonomy: Ensure state autonomy by limiting Union interference to situations of genuine national interest, thereby respecting the spirit of federalism.**

### Conclusion

Regionalism in India functions as a double-edged phenomenon. When channelled constructively, it strengthens inclusive governance, deepens democratic participation, and safeguards cultural identities. But when allowed to escalate or be politicized, it can undermine national cohesion and fuel divisive tendencies.

India must adopt a balanced strategy by addressing legitimate regional aspirations through constitutional provisions, economic development, and autonomy frameworks, while firmly resisting extremist or secessionist impulses. This balanced approach can turn regionalism from a challenge into a driver of national unity and progress.

Source- [PIB](#)

### Role of Social Media in Internal Security – Importance, Risks & Threats – Explained Pointwise

Algorithms on social media now fuel radicalization and disinformation—posing a growing national security threat that regulators are racing to contain. In this regard, let us understand the role of social media in



internal security in a more comprehensive manner.



### What is Social Media?

- Social media refers to internet-based platforms and applications that allow people and organizations to create, share, and interact with content and with each other in virtual communities and networks.
- Social media essentially empowers individuals to be both consumers and creators of content, leading to dynamic, interconnected online communities.
- Examples include social networking sites (Facebook, LinkedIn), media-sharing platforms (Instagram, YouTube, TikTok), microblogging (X/Twitter), forums (Reddit), and review sites (TripAdvisor, Yelp).
- Social media platforms have fundamentally altered the landscape of internal security, transforming how threats materialize, spread, and are countered. Their impact is characterized by unprecedented speed, reach, and virality, posing complex challenges for law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

### Features of Social Media:

1. **User-Generated Content:** Users produce and upload text, photos, videos, stories, live streams, and other media, forming the core of platforms.
2. **Profiles and Networking:** Customizable personal/organizational profiles with unique web addresses; connect via friends, followers, groups, or lists to build social networks.
3. **Interactivity and Engagement:** Two-way communication through likes, comments, shares, reactions, direct messaging, group chats, and forums for conversations and feedback.
4. **Real-Time Sharing and Notifications:** Instant posting with timestamps; push notifications and activity feeds keep users updated on interactions and new content.
5. **Virality and Sharing:** Content spreads rapidly via shares, reposts, and algorithms promoting popular material for exponential reach.

6. Privacy and Security Controls: Customizable settings for visibility (public/private), secure login (e.g., MFA), and data protection options.
7. Analytics and Insights: Built-in tools for tracking performance, audience demographics, engagement metrics, and trends.
8. Multimedia and Versatility: Support for diverse formats (text, images, audio, video); responsive design across devices (mobile/desktop).

#### **Importance of Social Media as a Tool for Internal Security Agencies:**

1. Real-Time Intelligence Gathering and Surveillance:
  - a. Open Source Intelligence (OSINT): Agencies constantly monitor public posts, trends, hashtags, and geographic check-ins to gain real-time insights into potential threats, public sentiment, and developing unrest.
  - b. Predictive Policing and Threat Mapping: Analyzing patterns of communication, association, and location data helps security forces map out criminal networks and predict potential hotspots for violence or protest.
  - c. Digital Footprint Analysis: Profiles provide crucial forensic evidence and intelligence on suspects, their location, contacts, movements, and future plans.
2. Crisis Management and Communication:
  - a. Rapid Dissemination of Facts: During natural disasters, security breaches, or law-and-order situations, government and police departments use social media to swiftly broadcast verified information, counter rumors, and issue public safety warnings.
  - b. De-escalation: Security forces can use dedicated social media channels to interact with concerned citizens, address grievances publicly, and proactively work to de-escalate tensions before they turn violent.
  - c. Emergency Response Coordination: Platforms serve as vital communication links for coordinating disaster relief and emergency services when traditional networks might be overloaded or compromised.
3. Public Engagement and Image Building:
  - a. Citizen Feedback: Agencies use social media for direct interaction with citizens, allowing for anonymous tips, faster complaint resolution, and gathering feedback on policing efforts.
  - b. Transparency and Trust: Regular updates on police action, successful arrests, and community outreach programs help build public trust and enhance the overall image of law enforcement agencies.
4. Counter-Narrative Strategy:
  - a. Fighting Extremism: Security agencies and governments develop sophisticated counter-narrative campaigns designed to expose the hypocrisy of extremist groups, highlight the positive value of democratic institutions, and discourage youth radicalization.
  - b. Truth Verification: Establishing official handles for fact-checking and debunking misinformation immediately limits the viral spread of malicious content.

#### **Risks & Threats to Internal Security:**

1. Radicalization and Extremism:
  - a. Rapid Indoctrination: Terrorist and extremist organizations (e.g., state-sponsored actors, insurgents) use platforms to rapidly expose susceptible individuals to extremist ideologies, bypassing traditional gatekeepers.

- b. Lone Wolf Recruitment: Social media facilitates direct, private communication between recruiters and isolated individuals, leading to the self-radicalization and planning of “lone wolf” attacks, which are difficult to detect.
  - c. Propaganda Dissemination: High-quality, emotive propaganda (videos, manifestos) is shared instantly, generating sympathy, and glorifying violence among potential recruits.
- 2. Coordination of Unlawful Activities:
  - a. Logistical Planning: Platforms are used for encrypted communication (Direct Messages, private groups) to coordinate the logistics of illegal activities, including protests, riots, arms/drug trafficking, and human smuggling.
  - b. Mobilization and Velocity: They enable the immediate mobilization of large crowds, giving little reaction time for law enforcement to deploy counter-measures during flash mobs, violent protests, or communal riots.
- 3. Misinformation, Disinformation, and Psychological Warfare (IW):
  - a. Fomenting Communal Tensions: Malicious actors deliberately spread fabricated stories or manipulated videos (deepfakes) to incite hatred, distrust, and violence between different communities.
  - b. Erosion of Public Trust: Disinformation campaigns targeting government institutions (police, military, judiciary) are launched to undermine public faith, legitimacy, and stability.
  - c. Hybrid Warfare: State and non-state actors use coordinated campaigns to interfere in domestic political processes, influence elections, and create internal chaos.
- 4. Cyber and Infrastructure Vulnerabilities:
  - a. Phishing and Espionage: Social engineering tactics are widely employed via social media to target critical government personnel, extracting credentials or sensitive information that compromises national networks.
  - b. Data Leakage: Inadvertent sharing of sensitive location data or routine work details by government employees can be exploited by foreign intelligence agencies for physical or cyber espionage.

#### **Various government initiatives to regulate social media:**

- 1. Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021: The IT Rules, 2021 are the most comprehensive and controversial set of regulations targeting social media platforms (defined as “Intermediaries”) and digital news publishers. They create a layered framework of obligations based on the size and nature of the platform:
  - a. Mandatory Due Diligence for all Intermediaries: All social media companies must observe certain due diligence requirements, including:
    - i. Clear User Agreements: Informing users not to host, display, or share prohibited content (e.g., content that is obscene, defamatory, harmful to minors, or threatens national unity).
    - ii. Grievance Redressal: Publishing the name and contact details of a Grievance Officer, who must acknowledge a complaint within 24 hours and resolve it within 15 days.
  - b. Enhanced Obligations for Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs): SSMIs (platforms with over 50 lakh, or 5 million, registered users) face stricter compliance requirements:
    - i. Appointment of Key Personnel: SSMIs must appoint the following India-based officers:

- Chief Compliance Officer (CCO): Responsible for ensuring compliance with the IT Act and Rules.
    - Nodal Contact Person: For 24×7 coordination with law enforcement agencies.
    - Resident Grievance Officer (RGO): For handling user complaints.
  - ii. Proactive Monitoring of Content: Platforms must deploy technology-based tools to proactively identify and remove content related to child sexual abuse material and content depicting rape.
  - iii. Voluntary User Verification: Platforms must offer users a mechanism to voluntarily verify their accounts.
  - iv. Tracing the Originator (First-Message Identification): For messaging platforms (like WhatsApp or Telegram), the rules mandate tracing the originator of a message deemed unlawful by a court or competent government authority. This requirement is subject to ongoing legal challenges due to privacy concerns.
- C. Regulation of Digital News and OTT Platforms (Digital Media Ethics Code): This section extends regulation to over-the-top (OTT) streaming services (like Netflix and Amazon Prime) and digital news media, mandating a three-tier regulatory structure:
- i. Self-Regulation by Publishers: Adherence to a specified “Code of Ethics.”
  - ii. Self-Regulatory Bodies: Formation of industry bodies to oversee the first tier.
  - iii. Oversight Mechanism: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) acts as the final oversight body.
2. Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP Act, 2023): Although the DPDP Act applies broadly across all sectors, it fundamentally redefines how social media platforms (as “Data Fiduciaries”) handle the data of Indian citizens (“Data Principals”):
- a. Consent Mandate: Requires platforms to obtain clear, explicit, and informed consent from users before processing their personal data.
  - b. Data Minimisation: Platforms can only collect data that is necessary for a specific, lawful purpose.
  - c. Right to Erasure: Grants users the right to request the deletion or correction of their personal data.
  - d. Data Breach Notification: Mandates timely reporting of data breaches to the Data Protection Board of India and affected users.
  - e. Global Transfer Restriction: While allowing cross-border data transfer, it retains the power for the government to restrict transfers to specific countries deemed unsafe.
3. The Proposed Digital India Act (DIA): The DIA is the proposed successor to the decades-old IT Act, 2000, and is intended to create a future-ready regulatory framework specifically tailored for the Web 3.0 era:
- a. New Regulatory Categories: It proposes to classify online intermediaries into new categories (e.g., social media intermediaries, e-commerce, and search engines) with tailored obligations.
  - b. Harmful Content Focus: Expected to explicitly define and mandate quick action against deepfakes, algorithmic bias, and cyber-security threats.
  - c. Open Internet Principles: Aims to promote innovation while ensuring user rights and safety, potentially addressing issues like net neutrality and competition.



4. **Blocking Orders:** Under Section 69A of the IT Act, the government retains the power to issue content-blocking orders to platforms for reasons of national security, sovereignty, or public order. This power has been frequently used to block specific accounts or content during periods of unrest or border tension.
5. **Financial Scrutiny:** The Ministry of Finance often issues advisories to social media platforms to crack down on financial scams, crypto-related fraud, and illegal lending apps that proliferate on their sites.

#### What should be the way forward?

1. **Regulatory and Legal Enhancements:**
  - a. Institutionalize a National Social Media Policy with clear guidelines on content moderation, traceability, and accountability for platforms (e.g., expand IT Rules 2021 to mandate AI-driven proactive detection of extremist content).
  - b. Update cybersecurity policies (e.g., National Cyber Security Policy) for real-time monitoring of radicalization, fake news, and disinformation; make group admins liable for viral harmful content.
2. **Technological and Intelligence Measures:**
  - a. Deploy advanced OSINT tools, AI analytics, and surveillance (e.g., CERT-In enhancements) for 24/7 monitoring of terror propaganda, honey-traps, and foreign influence operations.
  - b. Collaborate with platforms for algorithm transparency and swift takedowns under Section 69A IT Act.
3. **Public Awareness and Capacity Building:**
  - a. Launch nationwide digital literacy campaigns in schools/colleges on fact-checking, cyber ethics, and recognizing misinformation/radicalization.
  - b. Train security agencies and build specialized cyber units; promote responsible user behavior via incentives.
4. **International and Ecosystem Cooperation:**
  - a. Negotiate global standards for cross-border regulation; work with tech firms on “open and agile” anti-terror strategies.
  - b. Balance privacy with security through judicial oversight to avoid overreach.

**Conclusion:** Thus, social media can strengthen internal security & turn into a security asset while mitigating risks like propaganda & terror recruitment when regulated effectively through surveillance, fact-checking, and collaboration with platforms.

UPSC GS-3: Internal Security  
Read More: [ORF](#)

### Linkage Of Organized Crime With Terrorism

India is confronting a deepening security threat as the boundaries between organised crime and terrorism increasingly blur. In the latest major crackdown, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has carried out extensive raids across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana to bust a large inter-state ammunition-trafficking syndicate. These developments suggest that the threat landscape is evolving: organised-crime networks are not operating in isolation, but increasingly intersecting with terrorist and extremist elements

#### What is Organized Crime?

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.  
Visit [academy.forumias.com](https://academy.forumias.com) for our mentor based courses.



According to the UNODC, an organised criminal group is defined as a structured association of at least three individuals that operates over a period of time and works together to carry out serious offences for financial or material benefit.

### Types of Organised Crime



Created by Forumias

### Similarities between Organized Crime and Terrorism

- **Recruitment & Psychology:** Members often emerge from marginalised groups, attracted to risk, thrill, and defiance of social norms, creating similar recruitment pools.
- **Legality & Punishment:** Both operate outside the law, engage in serious criminal offences, and face strict national and international penalties.
- **Technology & Methods:** Each relies increasingly on modern technology, digital tools, high-tech communication, financing, and concealment systems.
- **Organisation & Discipline:** Both maintain hierarchical structures, enforce strict codes of conduct with internal punishment, and carry out well-planned operations.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.  
Visit [academy.forumias.com](https://academy.forumias.com) for our mentor based courses.

- **Secrecy & Violence:** Activities are shrouded in secrecy, and violence or intimidation is used to achieve objectives or influence the surroundings.
- **Operational Nexus:** Terror groups often finance operations through organised crime, while criminal syndicates may pursue political goals using terror tactics, creating a blurred and overlapping boundary.

[Read more about Linkage Of Organized Crime With Terrorism](#)

### Differences between Organized Crime and Terrorism

- **Motives & Objectives:** Terrorism is driven by ideological or political goals aimed at transforming society, whereas organized crime seeks financial gain and profit.
- **Nature of Goals:** Terrorist acts pursue specific political or social change using violence, while organized crime focuses on economic benefits and legalizing illicit wealth, with minimal political intent.
- **Visibility & Messaging:** Organized crime maintains secrecy and avoids publicity, whereas terrorist groups openly declare their objectives to gain support and demonstrate determination.
- **Responsibility for Acts:** Terrorist organizations often claim responsibility for attacks to maximize impact, while organized crime groups avoid any admission of involvement.
- **Relationship with the State:** Terrorism confronts and challenges the state to alter political order, while organized crime infiltrates state institutions through corruption and selective cooperation.

### Linkage Of Organized Crime With Terrorism

Understanding how organized crime and terrorism connect is crucial for strong security policies. Even though they often use similar methods and structures, they pursue different goals. Their relationship can involve cooperation or convergence, and most commonly, criminal activities are used to fund terrorist operations.

- **Financing Terrorism**
  - The UNODC has highlighted that profits from criminal activities increasingly finance terrorism, especially through arms trafficking and money laundering.
  - Examples include Taliban funding from opium production in Afghanistan, and FARC financing through cocaine trafficking, kidnapping, and extortion.
  - Technology, communication, transport, and finance networks now enable easier international cooperation between terrorists and criminal groups.
- **Narco Terrorism**
  - The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) defines narco-terrorism as a form of terrorism involving direct or indirect participation in the cultivation, production, transport, or distribution of drugs, and using the profits to support terrorism.
  - The concept has a dual nature, depending on whether the focus is on drug trafficking or terrorism.
- **Financing Terrorism through Money Laundering**
  - Money laundering is used to generate and move funds for terrorism, by collecting money or property and using it fully or partially to support terrorist acts.
  - Terrorist financing involves multiple channels, including banking systems, cross-border cash smuggling, alternative transfer networks, and front organizations such as humanitarian or non-profit groups.

- The major consequences include destabilizing financial systems, economic instability, declined investment, loss of state credibility, and threats to national security.
- Human Trafficking and Terrorism
  - Human trafficking is increasingly used by terrorist groups, not only for raising funds but also to increase manpower, enable sexual exploitation, and intimidate or harass populations.
  - It supports the formation of military units, with child soldiers and girls recruited and later exploited for sex, logistics, or intelligence, as highlighted in UN reports.
- Intellectual Property Crime and Terrorism
  - Intellectual Property Crime (IPC) involves the production, transport, storage, and sale of counterfeit or pirated goods without the rights holder's consent, often through trademark, patent, trade dress, or copyright infringement.
  - In 2016, terrorist organizations in North Africa were linked to a \$1 billion contraband tobacco trade.

### Linkages in the Indian Context

Crime and terrorism are closely connected in many regions of India, even though the relationship may not be universal. Case studies from India show clear patterns where terrorist activities depend on organized crime.

- North-East India
  - Extortion is the primary source of funding for terrorism in the region.
  - Kidnapping is widely used to spread fear and raise money.
  - Other criminal activities include Human trafficking, Drug trafficking, Gun running, etc.
  - Government officials in conflict areas are often threatened or bribed to give contracts to groups supported by militants.
  - Essential commodities like rice and fuel are diverted to militant groups, who resell them at higher prices, demonstrating a direct link between organized crime and terrorism.
- Jammu & Kashmir
  - Unlike the Northeast, extortion and kidnapping are less common.
  - External funding plays a major role, especially from Pakistan and Gulf countries.
  - These funds are transferred through Money Laundering and Hawala networks, eventually reaching militant groups.
  - Counterfeit currency is a major source of financing- terrorists act as couriers of fake Indian currency in Kashmir. This currency later spreads across India.
- Maoist-Affected Regions
  - Extortion is common among Maoist groups.
  - They have also been involved in bank robberies, forcing cuts on drug-producing crops to generate income.

### Steps Taken by Government to Counter Organized Crime

- Anti-Trafficking Nodal Cell (MHA) acts as the central coordination point for decisions and follow-up with states.
- MWCD funds rehabilitation through Ujjawala (sex-trafficking victims) and Swadhar (women in distress), along with bilateral agreements with countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and Bahrain to curb trafficking.

- NDPS Act, 1985 and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking Act, 1988 provide the legal backbone to combat drug production, transport and abuse.
- Operation Dhvast (2023) by NIA with state police targeted a terrorist–gangster–drug–arms nexus.
- India is a signatory to major UN conventions on narcotics, supporting global action through UNODC.
- Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection & Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021 proposes investigation units, rehabilitation committees, protection homes, and special courts to ensure faster trials.
- Special courts in each district aim to complete trafficking trials within a year.
- MCOCA, 1999 (used in Maharashtra and Delhi) has helped reduce gang and syndicate operations, despite the absence of a national organized crime law.

### Global Initiatives to Tackle Organised Crime

- The UNTOC, adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution 55/25, is the primary international legal instrument to combat transnational organized crime. It marks a major global commitment to address the growing threat of criminal networks and promotes strong international cooperation. By ratifying the Convention, States agree to:
  - Create domestic criminal laws targeting organized criminal groups, money laundering, corruption, and obstruction of justice.
  - Establish mechanisms for extradition, mutual legal assistance, intelligence sharing, and joint investigations.
  - Strengthen law enforcement capacities through training and technical support.
    - Countries must become parties to the Convention before they can adopt its three supplementary Protocols, which focus on specific forms of organized crime:
      - Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
      - Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air
      - Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking of Firearms, Parts, Components, and Ammunition
  - These Protocols promote victim protection, border controls, arms tracing, and criminalization of trafficking and smuggling networks.
  - The Convention plays a key role in disrupting illicit financial flows, asset laundering, and transnational criminal networks, and supports the seizure and confiscation of criminal proceeds. It also helps safeguard the global economy from criminal infiltration and corruption.

### Challenges in Tackling Organized Crime in India

- Weak Legal Framework: Laws focus on individual offenders, not the criminal networks, making it hard to dismantle entire syndicates.
- Evidence Barriers: Hierarchical and insulated structures protect masterminds, making it difficult to gather direct proof against top leaders.
- Slow Trials & Low Convictions: Delays in investigation, court procedures and poor conviction rates reduce deterrence and discourage public cooperation.
- Resource Constraints: Limited funds, manpower, training and technology weaken policing capacity, especially in states with poor fiscal health.
- Power Nexus: Collusion between criminals, politicians and officials enables syndicates to operate with impunity, influencing decisions and evading action.

### Way Forward

- Institutional & Legal Reforms
  - Create specialised units at all levels for intelligence, documentation and investigation, along with a national body for data collection, analysis and information exchange on domestic and international gangs.
  - Strengthen legal mechanisms through speedy extradition, Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) treaties, and strict implementation of laws such as MCOCA and the Gangster Act, with regular reviews and updates.
- Operational & Intelligence Strengthening
  - Build military, policing and intelligence capabilities to disrupt criminal and terror networks.
  - Share intelligence, exchange personnel, conduct joint operations with other states and countries.
  - Enhance Interpol cooperation to break cross-border crime-terror links and track fugitives.
- International Cooperation
  - Promote global coordination, similar to anti-human trafficking, anti-drug efforts and the Kimberley Process.
  - Joint actions with UN bodies, regional blocs and neighbouring countries to counter funding, trafficking and smuggling networks.
- Community & Media Engagement
  - Public awareness campaigns, media outreach, workshops, and community initiatives to build societal resistance.
  - Encourage citizen participation in reporting, prevention and social boycott of crime syndicate figures.
- Technology & Capacity Building
  - Invest in modern surveillance, analytics, cyber tools, forensics and training of police forces.
  - Improve documentation, databases and early-warning systems on gang activities and terror financing.
- Unified Global Strategy
  - Adopt a common framework, with data sharing and unified approach to break the crime-terror nexus.
  - Follow UN guidance, ensuring countries criminalize participation in organized crime and enforce the convention effectively.

## Conclusion

Organized crime and terrorism are increasingly interconnected, sharing resources, networks, and funding channels. Criminal activities such as drug trafficking, extortion, smuggling, and human trafficking provide vital financial support to terror groups. Weak law enforcement, porous borders, and corruption allow these networks to thrive. Breaking this nexus requires robust intelligence, strong legal frameworks, and global cooperation. A coordinated and multi-dimensional approach is essential to safeguard national and international security.

## UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)

2025 marked the 25-year anniversary of UNTOC's adoption, and the international community- including national governments and civil society reaffirmed the continuing importance of multilateral cooperation against organised crime.

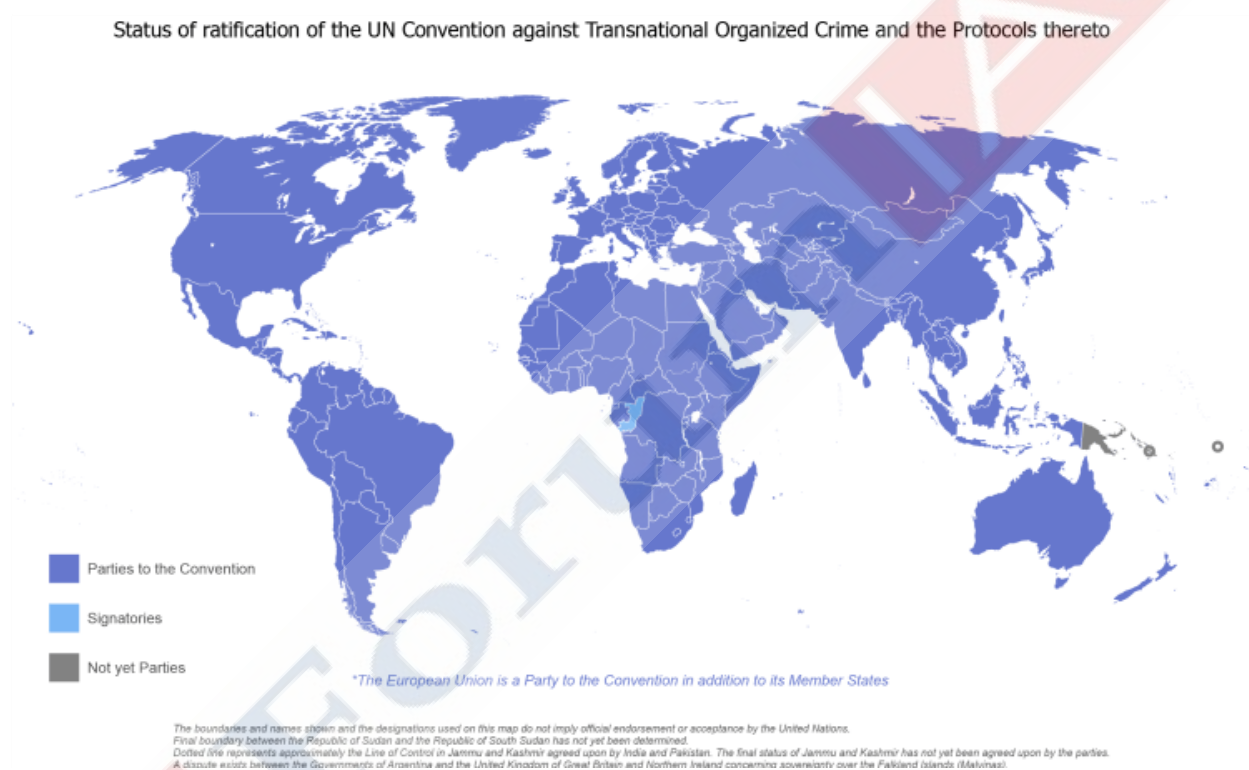
## UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)



- The UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), popularly known as the Palermo Convention, is the most comprehensive international agreement to counter global criminal networks. It was adopted in 2000 with the aim of strengthening international cooperation and legal frameworks against organized crime.
- In March 2024, the UN General Assembly declared 15 November as the International Day for Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime (TOC).

### Members of UNTOC

As of August 2025, the Convention has 194 Parties, including 187 UN Member. There are four UN Member States that are not party to the Convention- Republic of the Congo, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.



From UNTOC

### Objectives of UNTOC

UNTOC aims to:

- Strengthen global cooperation against organized criminal groups
- Combat trafficking, smuggling, corruption, and money laundering
- Enable extradition, information-sharing, and mutual legal assistance
- Harmonize national laws to criminalize participation in organized crime

### Supplementary Protocols of UNTOC

UNTOC is supported by three legally binding Protocols:

- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

- Focuses on victim protection, especially vulnerable groups
  - Encourages prevention, rehabilitation and prosecution
- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air
  - Addresses the organized movement of migrants for profit
  - Emphasizes criminalization of networks, not victims
- Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition
  - Establishes standards for marking, tracing and record-keeping
  - Supports law enforcement cooperation against arms trafficking

[Read more about UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime \(UNTOC\)](#)

### Commitments by States under UNTOC

- States are required to establish criminal offences in their national laws, covering activities such as participation in organized criminal groups, money laundering, corruption, and acts that hinder justice.
- They must develop comprehensive systems for extradition, mutual legal assistance, and cross-border law enforcement cooperation to ensure effective action against transnational crime.
- The Convention also obligates countries to strengthen institutional capacities by providing training, technical support and other resources to improve the effectiveness of national authorities.

### India's Role and Commitment under UNTOC

- India signed UNTOC and all three Protocols on 12 December 2002.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) acts as the nodal agency for coordination, data-sharing and implementation.
- India's participation aligns with national priorities such as:
  - Internal security
  - Counter-terrorism
  - Border management
  - Anti-money laundering efforts

### Relevance of UNTOC in Contemporary Context

- Human Trafficking
  - South Asian trafficking routes, particularly involving women and children, demonstrate the scale of the problem.
  - Example: Nepal-India trafficking corridor for forced labour and prostitution has been highlighted by NGOs and law enforcement agencies.
  - UNTOC provides frameworks for cross-border cooperation and victim rehabilitation.
- Migrant Smuggling
  - High-profile cases across Mediterranean Sea crossings to Europe expose coordinated smuggling networks.
  - Example: The 2015 Libya-Italy migrant boats tragedy revealed the role of organized groups operating with sophisticated logistics and profit motives.
- Drug Trafficking & Arms Networks

- Organized networks use global trade routes, leveraging technology and corruption.
- Example: The Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent regions continue to be hotspots for narcotics smuggling affecting India's Northeast and Western borders.
- Cybercrime & Transnational Fraud
  - Organized cybercrime, including cryptocurrency laundering and online scams, increasingly crosses borders.
  - Example: The Southeast Asian "scam factories" revealed international recruitment, forced labour, and money laundering rings.
  - UNTOC enables international legal cooperation and sharing of digital evidence.

### Significance of UNTOC

UNTOC is crucial because:

- Globalization has enhanced mobility, communication and finance flows.
- Criminal groups are agile, networked and often overlap with terrorism, insurgency and corruption.
- It supports a rules-based international system where States act collectively.
- UNTOC protocols help States to track- Firearms, Ammunition, Illicit financing channels
- For India, the Convention strengthens:
  - Border security
  - Regional cooperation (SAARC, ASEAN, BIMSTEC)
  - Anti-trafficking & cybercrime enforcement

### Challenges Related to UNTOC Implementation

- Inadequate Domestic Legislation: Many countries still lack comprehensive laws criminalising organised crime, especially in areas like cyber-enabled offences and financial fraud.
- Weak Institutional Capacity: Limited training, skilled manpower and technological infrastructure hinder effective enforcement and investigation.
- Poor Cross-Border Coordination: Information-sharing and joint operations between States remain slow due to legal, political and bureaucratic barriers.
- Corruption and Political Influence: Criminal networks often exploit corruption within law enforcement and border agencies, weakening enforcement.
- Evolving Nature of Crime: New forms such as darknet markets, crypto laundering and online scams move faster than legal reforms.
- Resource Constraints: Many developing countries struggle with funding, equipment, and forensic capabilities.
- Human Rights Concerns: Ensuring victim protection, non-criminalisation of migrants and due process during extradition remains a challenge.
- Lack of Data and Research: Limited evidence-based assessments restrict policy planning and monitoring.

### Way Forward

- Strengthen National Legislation to align domestic laws with UNTOC offences, including cybercrime, trafficking and financial crimes.

- Enhance Institutional Capacity through specialised training, technology upgradation, forensic tools and dedicated anti-trafficking/anti-smuggling units.
- Promote International Cooperation with real-time intelligence sharing, joint task forces, coordinated investigations and common databases.
- Prioritise Anti-Corruption Measures to build integrity in law enforcement, border management and judicial systems.
- Leverage Technology such as digital surveillance, biometrics, blockchain tracing and AI-driven analytics to track networks and illicit flows.
- Victim-Centric Approach by providing protection, rehabilitation and legal support for trafficked persons and smuggled migrants.
- Strengthen Financial and Cyber Regulations for crypto transactions, cross-border payments and online marketplaces.
- Capacity Building through Multilateral Platforms such as UNODC, Interpol, ASEAN, SAARC and regional mechanisms.
- Periodic Monitoring and Evaluation to assess implementation, identify gaps and improve compliance with UNTOC obligations.

## Conclusion

The Palermo Convention marks a milestone in the global fight against organized crime. Its near-universal participation and robust protocol architecture provide States with the tools to address trafficking, smuggling, arms control and emerging threats like cybercrime. For India, UNTOC strengthens national security, promotes cooperation with partner countries, and enhances the ability to tackle sophisticated criminal networks that transcend borders.

## Permanent Commission for Women in the Armed Forces – Explained Pointwise

There has been a long history of struggle for ensuring the Permanent Commission for Women in the Armed Forces. There has been much progress in recent times, with women progressively getting more responsibilities in the armed forces. Yet, women officers continue to face multiple challenges and equality in true sense has still not been achieved. Further reforms in the implementation are necessary for overcoming these challenges.





### What is the meaning of Permanent Commission?

- A Permanent Commission (PC) means continuing a career in the armed forces until retirement.
- Personnel selected in the Armed Forces through Permanent Commission have the option of serving in the Force till the age of retirement.
- For a long time, the option of Permanent Commission was offered only to the male officers. The Permanent Commission for Women was not allowed. Female Officers were offered only the Short Service Commission (SSC) having a tenure of 10 + 4 years.
- Under the SSC system, the officers are enrolled for 10 years then they can continue their service for 4 years. After this completion of 10+4 years, the women officers were compulsorily made to opt out, while male officers could continue and take up permanent commission or they can also opt-out. Permanent Commission is granted to SSC officers subject to service requirement and availability of vacancies.
- This pattern has now changed and has become liberal towards female officers. Now, Women officers also have the option of permanent commission, on par with the male officers. The Supreme Court has played a major role in this colossal change that leads society one step closer to equality.

### How has the Permanent Commission for Women in the Armed Forces evolved over time?

- The Indian Military Nursing Services originated in 1888 and women were given an opportunity to serve in the Armed Forces. The nurses of the Indian Army first served with distinction in World War I. Formation of Women's Auxiliary Corps allowed them to serve in primarily non-combatant roles like communications, accounting, administration etc. The opportunities for women officers were little.
- After Independence, the participation of women in the Armed Forces remained limited. The Acts governing the Armed Forces restricted the role of women e.g., Section 12 of the Army Act, 1950; Section 12 of the Air Force Act, 1950; and Section 9(2) of the Navy Act, 1957 explicitly make women ineligible



to participate in the respective services except in such bodies/departments/corps as notified by the Union Government.

- In 1991-92, the Government issued notifications regarding the role of women in the Armed Forces. The roles were limited e.g., women were allowed to serve only in Logistics, Law and Education roles within the Indian Navy. Similarly the roles notified in the Indian Army were support roles (rather than core) like the Army Postal Service, Army Education Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Army Service Corps (Food Scientists and Catering Officers) etc.
- Even in these limited roles, Women were limited only to the Short Service Commission (initially for 5 years only, later extended to 10+4 system). After completion of 14 years, women were asked to leave while eligible male officers were granted Permanent Commission.
- The discriminatory provision led to numerous litigations.
- In 2008, while litigations were sub judice, the Union Government granted a chance of obtaining a PC in the Armed Forces on a restricted basis. There were two major restrictions:
  - a. The policy was prospective (not retrospective) i.e., women will be offered Permanent Commission only after September 2008.
  - b. Permanent Commission will be offered only to specific cadres and branches (and not universal PC).
- The Judiciary played a proactive role in ensuring permanent commission. The Indian Air Force was first among the three services to grant PC to SSC women officers post the Delhi High Court Judgment in *Jasmine Kaur vs. Union of India WP (C) 8492/2009* in favour of granting PC to women officers.
- Similarly in the *Secretary, Ministry of Defence vs Babita Puniya (2020)* case, the Supreme Court granted equal rights to women with respect to the Permanent Commission. The SC held that all the women officers presently on SSC service are eligible to PCs. All the choices of specialization shall be available to the women officers at the time of opting for the grant in PCs, on the same terms as their male counterparts. All the women officers who are eligible and granted PCs through SSC should be entitled to all consequential perks including pension, promotion, and financial incentives.
- The SC also noted that although Article 33 of the Indian Constitution did allow for restrictions on Fundamental Rights in the Armed Forces, it is also clearly mentioned that it could be restricted only to the extent that it was necessary to ensure the proper discharge of duty and maintenance of discipline. Hence, denial of PC to women is violative of their fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 14.

### What are the benefits of the Permanent Commission for Women?

1. The Permanent Commission is central to removing structural gender discrimination in the armed forces.
2. It will provide increased job security and extended tenure for women officers. It will help improve the economic opportunities and improve social conditions and dignity of women. It will also ensure that women officers are not left unemployed after serving many years in the armed forces.
3. The Supreme Court Judgment ensures that women officers also get equal entitlements as men and boost their morale to serve in the services. Traditionally, women officers received no pension as they were contractually mandated to retire within 14 years of service, while defence personnel are entitled to benefits after 20 years in service.
4. Equality in opportunity and entitlements will ensure that more women are attracted to serve in the Armed Forces. It will enlarge the talent pool of officers available for the Armed Forces. As of 2020, women officers in the Indian army (excluding the medical corps) numbered just about 3% compared to 16% in the US, 15% in France and 10% in both Russia and the UK.

5. In response to a question in Rajya Sabha in December 2021, the Minister of State for Defence said the Army has a shortage of 7,476 officers. Permanent Commission to women can help bridge the gap.

**What are the challenges faced by Women in the Armed Forces?**

1. **Skewed Gender Ratio:** Low number of women in the Armed Forces (3%) acts as a deterrent for many aspiring women to join the forces.
2. **Work-Life Balance:** A career in the armed forces is very challenging and demanding with odd work-locations and work hours. Women have dual responsibility of professional duties as well as domestic care work. The responsibility of childcare disproportionately falls on women. It is difficult to balance professional obligations with domestic responsibilities.
3. **Limited Roles:** The roles offered to women officers are still limited. Women are still not allowed for combat roles in the Infantry/Mechanised Infantry/Armoured Corps/Artillery or in the Ships/Submarines. (*The Indian Navy has, in-principle, accepted the proposal, subject to gender-specific facilities being created*).
4. **Gender Stereotypes:** The Supreme Court in its Judgement in the *Babita Puniya* case had criticized the observation made by the Government in the affidavit submitted before the Court. The SC order castigated the Government for portraying women as physiologically unfit for answering the “call beyond duty” of the Army. The note had observed that “*isolation and hardships would eat into their resolve and that they would have to heed to the call of pregnancy, childbirth and family*”. The SC had criticized this patriarchal notion that domestic obligations rested only with women.
5. **Discrimination:** After the 2020 SC Judgment, the Army established additional conditions for female officers to be eligible for permanent commission. Most of them related to physical fitness, which many officers contended that the new criteria would inevitably keep women from gaining permanent tenures.
6. **Biological limitations:** According to studies carried out by the Centre for Military Readiness in the United States, female soldiers, on an average, are shorter and smaller than men, with 45-50% less upper body strength and 25-30% less aerobic capacity, which is essential for endurance. There is an argument that the physical standards for women must be equivalent to the minimum/satisfactory standards for men in supporting arms/services. For fighting arms and Special Forces, these should be at par with males to withstand the rigours of combat. Thus, on physical standards alone, the employment of women in armed forces gets restricted to specific roles.

**What should be the way forward?**

1. **Equality:** Equal rights and opportunities imply equal physical fitness standards, which must be based on the role and not gender. There are no separate battlefields for women.
2. **Accept Gender-specific Rights:** The Forces will have to accept physiological and gender-specific rights like maternity and child care leave.
3. **No Preference/Discrimination:** The armed forces are merit-driven organisations and the women should compete on equal grounds to rise in ranks in a pyramidal set-up. There is no scope for reservations for promotion.
4. **Frame a Pragmatic Policy:** The forces need to shed their patriarchal attitude and frame a pragmatic policy for gradual induction of women in all ranks and disciplines. Necessary infrastructure must be created for women soldiers.
5. **Codify Rules and Regulations:** The terms and conditions of service for women must be codified, keeping in view the organisational interests. Military law, rules and regulations to address gender crimes and related problems must be laid down. Only volunteer women officers/soldiers should be

allowed to join fighting arms, subject to meeting the psychological and physical fitness standards. This is necessary as in the US military, gender-related offences are by far the most common type of discipline problem.

Conclusion: Permanent Commission is not just a matter of welfare or right to equal entitlements like pension. It is the idea to “give women an equal chance at nation-building”. The Supreme Court’s Judgment in 2020 was only the first step in a long journey towards ensuring equal opportunity to women in the armed forces. The debate and legal battles, so far, have been based on gender parity and not on ethical evaluation of the performance of women. The Supreme Court judgments were more driven by Articles 14, 15 and 16 of the Constitution than by merit per se. Women aspirants and serving officers should also step up their resolve to meet the exacting physical, psychological and performance standards, and the conditions of service. The Armed Forces should also reform their policies to select the best talent for the role irrespective of gender.

UPSC GS-3: Internal Security

Read More: [The Hindu](#)

### Police Reforms in India – Explained Pointwise

Recently, the Telangana Police has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Police Foundation (IPF) to launch a year-long internal reforms project aimed at modernizing policing & making it more people-centric.

#### Introduction:

- Police reforms refer to systemic changes intended to professionalize the police force, enhance its accountability, ensure political neutrality, and improve its overall efficiency in maintaining law and order while protecting human rights.
- They aim to transform the values, culture, policies and practices of police organizations. It envisages police to perform their duties with respect for democratic values, human rights and the rule of law.
- The necessity for reform stems from the outdated framework of the Police Act of 1861 (a colonial-era law) and deeply entrenched structural weaknesses.

#### Constitutional & Legal Basis of Police System in India:

- Police is an exclusive subject under the State List (List II, Schedule 7 of the Constitution). However, the centre is also allowed to maintain its own police forces to assist the states with ensuring law and order. For ex- CRPF, CISF.
- The present Indian police system is largely based on the Police Act of 1861. State legislation on policing is based on this Act. For Ex- Bombay Police Act, 1951, Kerala police Act 1960, Delhi Police Act 1978.

Created by – ForumIAS

#### Need for Police Reforms:

1. Overburdened Police Force: Police-public ratio in India stands at 152.80 per lakh person, against the sanctioned public-police ratio of 196.23 per lakh person (as on 1st January 2022). This is way too low when compared with the UN’s recommended standard of 222 police per lakh persons. This has led to a state of an overburdened police force and a huge backlog of cases.

2. **Constabulary Issues:** The constabulary constitutes ~86% of the state police forces. However, the constabulary suffers from issues such as limited promotion opportunities (only once in his lifetime) and harsh working conditions (Lack of housing facilities). This has weakened their incentive to perform well.
3. **Issues with IPS System:** The 'New Delhi- conceived and managed' IPS has emerged as 'a permanent irritant' between the centre and states. States look upon the IPS as unreliable intruders and prefer to have their own recruits. For ex- Tussle over the promotions of Police officers at important positions.
4. **Centre-State Tussle:** Even though police is a state subject, the public prefers CBI investigations over state police interventions as they lack faith in their own police forces, leading to centre-state tussles. For ex- Tussle between WB Police and CBI, Withdrawal of general consent to CBI by WB, TN.
5. **Lack of Diversity in Police forces:** As per Status of Policing in India Report, 2022, the Indian police lacks diversity on the basis of caste, class, religion and gender. Representation of women in the police force is just 11.7% (Jan 2022).
6. **Accountability to the Political Executives vs Operational Freedom:** The Second ARC (2007) has noted that political interference has interfered with professional decision-making by the police and resulted in a biased performance of duties. For Ex- Politicisation of DGP appointment.
7. **Police Infrastructure Issues:** The Police suffers from issues like:
  - a. **Weaponry shortage:** Rajasthan-75% shortage and West Bengal- 71% shortage, according to CAG audit report 2015-16.
  - b. **Surveillance vehicle shortage:** 30.5% deficiency according to BPRD.
  - c. **Under-utilisation of Funds for modernisation of state police forces:** Just 6 % of the Rs 620 cr fund for modernisation of state police forces was used in FY23.
  - d. **Non-functioning of POLNET (Police Communication Network):** A satellite-based network to facilitate faster communication between police and paramilitary forces (CAG report highlights the failure of states like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh in setting up POLNET).
8. **Colonial Legacy:** The Indian Police is still governed by the Police Act of 1861, which is a colonial law aimed at creating a 'suppressor police force' rather than an 'enabler police force'.
9. **Police misconduct and Corruption:** In 2016, the vigilance department had conducted 55% more inquiries against its own men. India lacks institutional mechanism to complain against the erring police officials.
10. **Deteriorating Police-Public Relations:** The Second ARC (2007) has noted that police-public relations is rapidly deteriorating as people view the police as corrupt, inefficient, politically partisan and unresponsive. According to a 2018 survey by CSDS, less than 25% of Indians expressed trust in the police.
11. **Changing nature of Crimes:** The nature of crimes is becoming more complex like the emergence of various kinds of organized crimes, economic fraud, deepfakes. Police lack modern technological capabilities necessary to perform quality investigations.
12. **Botched up Crime Investigation:** The 22nd Law Commission has pointed out that conviction rate for crimes recorded under the Indian Penal Code, 1860 is less than 50%. It has pointed out that the police lack training in essential skills like forensic laws, cybercrimes and legal knowledge of admissibility of evidence.
13. **Custodial Deaths:** As per Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR) report, 144 custodial deaths took place from 2017 to 2018. The large number of custodial deaths point towards wide use of torture in police investigations.

#### **Benefits of Police Reforms:**



1. **Shedding the Colonial Legacy:** The reform of Indian Police Act will help in shedding the colonial legacy like it was done in the case of IPC, CrPC and Evidence Act being replaced by Bhartiya Nyaya, Surkasha and sakshya Samhitas.
2. **Help in tackling Modern day crimes:** The reform will help in tackling the modern day crimes like cyberespionage, deepfakes and online financial frauds.
3. **Increase in social sensitivity:** Diversified workforce like greater representation of women in police force will increase gender sensitivity towards women in the society. For ex- Help in decreasing cases of crimes against women.
4. **Reduction in custodial Deaths and Violence:** It will help in reducing inhumane tortures in police custody especially of the downtrodden and the disadvantaged. For ex- Reduction in cases like Thoothukudi district custodial death.
5. **Bolster Internal security:** Modernised Police force will help in bolstering national security and containing crimes like naxalism and separatism.

#### Recommendations of Various Committees Regarding Police Reforms in India:

Gore Committee 1971-1973	Enlarge the content of police training from law and order and crime prevention to a greater sensitivity and understanding of human behaviour.
National Police Commission 1977	Insulate the police from illegitimate political and bureaucratic interference.
Padmanabhaiah Committee 2000	Standardisation of recruitment procedures for the police force & training. Bring changes in police officers' behaviour, police investigations and prosecution.  Change the criterion for constabulary recruitment and improve pay & perk.
Soli Sorabjee Committee 2005	A new model police bill to replace the colonial 1861 Police Act.
Second ARC 2007	Separation of crime investigation from other police functions like maintenance of law and order. Establishment of State police boards for welfare and grievances redressal mechanisms for police personnel.
Malimath Committee 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A complete revamp of the entire criminal procedure system.</li> <li>• Creation of fund to compensate victims turning hostile under pressure of culprits.</li> <li>• Separate national level authority to deal with crimes threatening the country's security.</li> </ul>

#### Seven Directives of The Supreme Court in Prakash Singh vs Union of India:



In the Landmark *Prakash Singh vs Union of India*, for police reforms in India, SC has given the following observations:

1. State Security Commission (SSC): Constitute a State Security Commission (SSC) so that the state government does not exercise unwarranted influence or pressure on the police.
2. Merit based appointment of DGP: Ensure that the DGP is appointed through the merit-based transparent process and secure a minimum tenure of two years of service.
3. Security of tenure: Police officers on operational duties (including SP and SHO) are also provided a minimum tenure of two years.
4. Criminal Investigation and law and order separation: Separate the investigation and law and order functions of the police.
5. Police Establishment Board (PEB): Set up a Police Establishment Board (PEB) to decide transfers, postings, promotions and other service related matters of police.
6. Police Complaints Authority (PCA): Set up a Police Complaints Authority (PCA) at state level to inquire into public complaints against police officers of above the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police.
7. National Security Commission (NSC): Set up a National Security Commission (NSC) at the union level to prepare a panel for selection and placement of Chiefs of the Central Police Organizations (CPO) with a minimum tenure of two years.

**NITI Aayog Suggestions on Police Modernisation:**

1. State level legislative reforms: States should be encouraged, with fiscal incentives, to introduce 'The Model Police Act of 2015' as it modernises the mandate of the police.
2. Taskforce under MHA: To identify non-core functions that can be outsourced to save on manpower and help in reducing the workload of the police. For Ex- Address verification for passport applications can be outsourced to private agents or government departments.
3. Greater representation of women: The states should be encouraged to ensure that the representation of women in the police force is increased. For ex- Bihar's 33% women in police force rule.
4. Place police and public order in concurrent List- Police as well as public order must be moved to the Concurrent List to tackle increasing inter-state crime and terrorism under a unified framework.

**Way Forward:**

1. Reform the 'Thana': The thana system is the most basic unit of police functioning. Through the thana, the police force remains in contact with the common man. Thus, improving the working conditions of thana-level constables should be a priority.
2. Enhance Police Budget and upgrade Police Infrastructure- More than 90% of the police budget in the states are used for salary and establishment costs. Allocation for training, procurement and technology deployment should increase. States must fully use the funds for police modernisation.
3. Reform the criminal justice system: Focus must be on the effective implementation of the Malimath Committee recommendations to reform the criminal justice system.
4. Training and Capacity Building of Policemen: Training the police forces should be a continuous process along with the evolving nature of the crime space. For ex- The cyber cell of the Delhi Police to deal with cyber criminals.
5. Upgrade technology and Research in Policing: Reform the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) by making it a more inclusive institution. For ex- Expertise of social science experts for better research on criminology, NCRB's Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS) to identify criminals.

6. Improving public perception through community policing: Community policing initiatives like 'Janamaithri Suraksha Project-Kerala', 'Meira Paibi-Assam' must be undertaken to improve ground level policing.
7. Learning from international best practices: Japan's separate police commission for recruitment, New York Police's specialisation of police model, must be used to reform our police and make it a global Police.
8. Increase women representation: 33% women reservation in police should be implemented in all the states. States like Bihar have taken a step in this direction.

Conclusion:

Police reforms are not merely administrative changes; they are essential for strengthening the rule of law and safeguarding democracy. While the 2006 Supreme Court judgment provided a clear legal framework, true transformation requires sustained political commitment from state governments. However, all reforms must be enunciated in the direction of development of SMART Police– Sensitive, Mobile, Alert, Reliable and Techno-savvy.

Created by ForumIAS

Read More: [The Hindu](#)  
UPSC GS-3: Internal Security

## G2 – Need, Challenges & Implications – Explained Pointwise

Recently, the U.S. President Donald Trump's reference to a "G-2" with China has revived debates about a potential U.S.-China duopoly, raising concerns among allies. At a time when geopolitical fault lines are already deep, this framing challenges the balance built through multilateral institutions and strategic groupings like the Quad.



### What is G2?

- G2 (Group of Two) is a geopolitical term used for the United States and China together, suggesting they are the two leading powers whose cooperation or rivalry shapes the global order.
- It is a conceptual label, not a formal organisation like the G7 or G20, though leaders and analysts sometimes use it when discussing US–China relations.
- The term imagines Washington and Beijing as a kind of informal “directorate” for world affairs, analogous to how the G7 or G20 group major economies, but here limited to just these two states.
- Proponents argue that because of their economic weight, emissions, and military power, coordinated US–China leadership is essential on issues like global finance, climate change, and security; critics worry it would sideline other powers and multilateral institutions.

### Origin & Evolution of the Concept of G2:

- The label “G2” was first clearly articulated around 2005 by economist C. Fred Bergsten, who argued that the US and China, as the two largest economies, should form a core steering group for macroeconomic coordination, exchange-rate issues and global financial governance.
- The idea gained further intellectual grounding in studies of global governance that saw existing groupings like the G7 as too Western-centric and the broader G20 as too large and unwieldy, making a US–China “directorate” appealing to some as a pragmatic alternative.
- The 2008-09 Global Financial Crisis gave the G2 idea momentum because the US and China together contributed a very large share of world growth and coordinated stimulus, leading some analysts to speak of a “G2 within the G20” architecture.

- Around 2009, on the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations, US and Chinese leaders (Obama-Hu) highlighted the importance of structured strategic and economic dialogue, which many commentators interpreted as an informal step toward a G2-style partnership, even though neither side officially embraced the label.
- Recently, in November 2025, President Donald Trump revived the term after a meeting with Xi Jinping, publicly describing their interaction as “G2” and symbolically acknowledging China as a near-peer, which Chinese and international media saw as conferring long-sought status even though Beijing’s response remained cautious.

### What is the significance or need for G2?

1. Core Significance: Global Economic Stability:
  - a. Trade and Supply Chains: As the world’s primary consumer market (U.S.) and manufacturing hub (China), any disruption in their trade relationship (e.g., tariff wars, supply chain decoupling) sends shockwaves through global markets, leading to inflation and recessionary pressures worldwide.
  - b. Financial Crisis Management: During the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, U.S. and Chinese coordination (especially China’s stimulus spending) was instrumental in stabilizing global demand. A lack of coordination today would destabilize international monetary and trade systems.
  - c. Debt and Currency: The U.S. remains the issuer of the world’s primary reserve currency, while China is a major holder of U.S. debt. The stability of this financial interdependency is foundational to global capital markets.
2. Global Needs Driving the G2 Concept: The need for U.S.-China cooperation stems from pressing transnational challenges that neither country, nor any single international body, can solve alone such as:
  - a. Climate Change: As the world’s two largest emitters of greenhouse gases, no meaningful global climate agreement (like the Paris Agreement) can succeed without strong commitments and implementation from both nations.
  - b. Global Health: Coordinating responses to future pandemics (like joint research, vaccine distribution, and supply chain transparency) requires active, transparent collaboration between U.S. and Chinese scientific and regulatory bodies.
  - c. Nuclear Security: Cooperation is vital in addressing proliferation challenges (e.g., North Korea, Iran). Both countries hold permanent seats on the UN Security Council and must align on sanctions and diplomatic pressure.
  - d. Artificial Intelligence (AI): Setting ethical standards and preventing the weaponization or misuse of advanced AI requires dialogue between the world leaders in AI development (U.S. tech firms and Chinese tech firms).

### What are the limitations of the G2 Concept?

1. Ideological Conflict: The U.S. operates on democratic principles, while China operates under a one-party system. This fundamental ideological difference prevents deep, trusting cooperation and fuels strategic distrust.
2. Geopolitical Competition: The intense rivalry over technology (especially semiconductors and 5G), maritime dominance (South China Sea), and regional influence (Taiwan) means that strategic competition often overrides the impulse for global cooperation.



3. “G0” Fear: The failure of the U.S. and China to cooperate can lead to a state known as “G0,” where there is no effective global leadership structure, resulting in international fragmentation and the breakdown of multilateral institutions like the WTO.
4. Chinese and American reservations:
  - a. Chinese commentary frequently rejects the G2 framing as a US-driven, hegemonic idea that could either trap China as a junior partner or make it shoulder disproportionate responsibility, conflicting with Beijing’s stated preference for broader multilateral formats like BRICS or the UN.
  - b. US critics argue that any G2 would either legitimise authoritarian practices or force the US to compromise on allies’ interests and liberal norms, while still not resolving core disputes such as economic imbalances and security dilemmas.
5. Multilateral & Legitimacy Deficit: A US–China condominium would marginalise other major powers and groupings (EU, India, Japan, ASEAN, G20, Global South), clashing with today’s multipolar reality and norms of inclusive multilateralism.

#### **What could be the implication of G2 on India?**

1. Strategic & Geopolitical Implications:
  - a. A functioning G2 could weaken the logic of the Indo-Pacific “balancing” architecture (Quad, minilaterals, strategic partnerships), making India less central to US China-strategy and shrinking New Delhi’s leverage in dealing with Beijing on the LAC and regional issues.
  - b. Bilateral US-China bargains over trade, technology or security could be struck without India at the table, creating fait accompli on issues like supply chains, digital norms or regional crises that India would then have to adapt to rather than shape.
2. Economical & Technological Consequences:
  - a. India’s heavy dependence on Chinese imports in sectors such as electronics, APIs and critical minerals means a G2-shaped geo-economic order could entrench Chinese dominance in value chains and make it harder for India to emerge as an alternative manufacturing hub.
  - b. If Washington softens pressure on Beijing in favour of big transactional deals, India may lose some “China-plus-one” relocation opportunities and face less favourable terms on tariffs, market access and technology transfer compared with China.
3. Impact on India’s Strategic Autonomy & Multipolar Vision:
  - a. India’s preferred model of “multi-alignment” and a genuinely multipolar world, where Delhi balances relations with the US, China, Russia, EU, Japan and the Global South rather than being forced into a subordinate role under a two-power condominium.
  - b. The G2 moment is a warning that India cannot assume enduring US support as a counterweight to China and must instead build intrinsic economic and technological strength (Atmanirbharta) to preserve real strategic autonomy.
4. Opportunity for India: If US-China cooperation falters, India can position itself as a pivotal swing player and resilient hub in alternative supply chains, digital governance, and Indo-Pacific security networks.

#### **What can be the way forward?**

1. From reliance to multi-alignment: India must move faster towards a multi-aligned posture. It should deepen ties with Europe, the UK, Gulf states, Africa, ASEAN, Russia and Central Asia. No single relationship should be able to limit or define India’s choices in foreign or economic policy.



2. Reassessing the Quad and other coalitions: Uncertainty over Trump's participation in the next Quad summit in India shows how fluid coalitions are. India should treat the Quad as useful but not central, and weigh it alongside other regional and bilateral forums, including engagement with China when it serves Indian interests.
3. Managed competition with China: The current US-China thaw creates some space for engagement between India and China. India needs a model of managed competition: firm military preparedness on the border, but open diplomatic and trade channels. This can prevent escalation and keep room for negotiation on difficult issues.
4. Cutting dependence and building capability: India's reliance on Chinese imports, especially in pharmaceuticals and electronics, is a core weakness. India must diversify supply chains, attract firms that want to reduce exposure to China, and build domestic capacity in AI, quantum technologies, semiconductors and advanced manufacturing.
5. Balancing openness and state-led instruments: Economic policy must be coherent and rooted in political and social realities. India should keep trade and investment open and business-friendly, but also use targeted industrial policy, public investment and digital tools where markets alone cannot protect workers, key sectors or critical technologies.

Conclusion: For India, the "G2" moment is a clear warning. The US will not automatically treat India as a counterweight to China. In a transactional multipolar world, only a proactive, multi-aligned strategy built on economic and technological resilience can reliably safeguard India's interests.

UPSC GS-2: International Relations

Read More: [The Indian Express](#)

### Status of Inequality In India- Explained Pointwise

Recently, the World Inequality Lab has released the World Inequality Report 2026, according to which the income & wealth inequality in India is one of the highest in the world. The report combines data from **national income accounts, wealth aggregates, tax tabulations, rich lists, and surveys on income, consumption, and wealth** to arrive at the results.

#### What are the main takeaways of the report?

1. Extreme concentration of income and wealth:
  - a. The top 10% of adults worldwide receive about half of all income (around 53%) while the bottom 50% receive only about 8%, showing a very skewed income distribution.
  - b. Wealth is even more concentrated: the top 10% own roughly three-quarters of global wealth, the bottom half hold only about 2%, and the top 0.001% (fewer than 60,000 ultra-rich) now own three times more wealth than the entire bottom 50% of adults.
2. Gender inequality and unpaid work:
  - a. Globally, women capture just over one-quarter of total labour income, a share that has barely improved since 1990, reflecting persistent structural and cultural barriers.
  - b. Excluding unpaid work, women earn about 61% of men's hourly income; when unpaid domestic and care work is counted, they effectively earn only about 32% per working hour, despite working more hours on average than men.
3. Global financial asymmetries and climate inequality:

- a. The report argues the global financial system systematically favours rich countries: roughly 1% of world GDP flows net from poorer to richer countries each year via excess returns and interest-rate differentials, an amount several times larger than total aid flows.
  - b. Climate responsibility is also highly unequal: the poorest half of the global population accounts for only 3% of carbon emission associated with private capital ownership, while the top 10% account for 77% of emissions. The wealthiest 1% account 41% of private capital ownership emissions, almost double the amount of the entire bottom 90% combined.
4. India-specific highlights:
- a. India is flagged as one of the countries with the highest levels of income and wealth inequality, with the top 10% capturing about 58% of national income, while the bottom 50% receive only 15%. Wealth inequality is even greater in India, with the richest 10% holding 65% of total wealth & the top 1% holding about 40%.
  - b. The female labour force participation remains very low at 15.7%, showing no improvement over the past decade.
  - c. The report notes India's relative decline in the global income distribution, low female labour-force participation, and rising ultra-wealth concentration as key structural concerns needing corrective policy action.

Source: The Indian Express

#### What are the implications of rising inequality in India?

1. Economic: Reduced social mobility, slower economic growth, and an increase in poverty are all effects of inequality. When a small number of individuals control a sizable percentage of the money and resources, it may be challenging for others to access the tools and opportunities necessary to raise their economic standing.
2. Social: Transgender, SC/ST, OBC, Specially-Abled, Tribals and Religious minority groups frequently experience a sense of marginalisation as a result of social inequality.
3. Public Health: Public healthcare suffers when there is significant economic disparity. Living in poverty or having limited access to healthcare increases the likelihood of having poor health outcomes.
4. Higher Vulnerabilities to Extreme Events: Poor people have little to no savings or wealth which makes it very difficult for them to survive in extreme situations like Pandemic, Disasters etc.
5. Hampers progress of Future Generations: Lack of access to income and wealth hampers the ability of the poor to access the levers, like education, that enable upward mobility. Children born in poor families remain perpetually trapped in poverty.
6. Undermines Dignity: People with less resources have to work day and night without any day off, unlike the affluent section. They starve for food, clothing and other basic things, which undermines their right to a dignified life under Article 21.
7. High Crime Rates- Inequitable distribution of wealth leads to lower social trust and higher crime rates.

#### What are the challenges in addressing inequality?

1. High level of informalization of economy: A significant portion of India's workforce is engaged in the informal sector, which typically lacks job security, social protections, and access to formal financial services. Workers in the informal sector often face exploitative working conditions and lower wages compared to their counterparts in the formal sector.
2. Low Female Labour Force Participation Rate: Lack of Education, Early Marriage, household responsibilities etc. force women to opt out of jobs which reduces their income and increases income inequalities.

3. **Poor Coverage of Schemes:** There is poor coverage of health and education schemes, which increases the out-of-Pocket expenditure of poor people and exacerbates income and wealth inequalities.
4. **Global Uncertainties:** COVID-19, Russia-Ukraine conflict, Tariffs imposed by USA etc have pushed the inflation levels in the country, thereby increasing income and wealth inequality in India.
5. **Skewed Economic Growth Patterns:** High growth rates have primarily benefited certain sectors and regions, leading to a concentration of wealth and opportunities among a relatively small portion of the population.

#### What steps have been taken by the government to reduce inequality in India?

JAM Trinity	It focuses on mobile numbers, Aadhaar Card and post office accounts as <b>alternative financial delivery mechanisms</b> to ensure that benefits reach the poor households seamlessly.
Ayushman Bharat	It focuses on providing care through <b>Health Wellness Centres (AB-HWC)</b> covering child and maternal health services, non-communicable diseases, and free drugs and diagnostic services.
Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan	It is an Integrated Scheme for School Education. This programme subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of <b>Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)</b> , <b>Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)</b> and <b>Teacher Education (TE)</b> .
MGNREGA	It <b>guarantees 100 days of work a year</b> to every rural household with an aim to enhance the livelihood security of people.

#### What Should be the Way Forward?

1. **Employment generation:** Promote employment generation in labor-intensive sectors (like manufacturing, construction, and services) and support micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to absorb a large workforce, especially from rural and marginalized backgrounds.
2. **Social security:** Ensure fair minimum wages and robust social security so all workers – formal and informal – enjoy basic living standards and protection from economic shocks.
3. **Super Tax or Wealth Tax:** Implementing a super tax on Indian billionaires and multimillionaires, restructuring the tax schedule to include both income and wealth, and finance major investments in education, health and other public infrastructure, could be effective measures to reduce inequality in India.
4. **Raising minimum wage rate:** The government should raise the minimum wage rate especially in the unorganized sector wherein people get very less social security benefits like gig workers and gig economy.
5. **Higher investment in Education and Health:** The government of India must invest 6% of GDP in Education and 2.5% of GDP in Health to ensure equitable development and reduce inequalities in the country.

6. Access to public services & infrastructure: Ensure quality universal access to public services and infrastructure—clean water, sanitation, affordable housing (e.g., PMAY)—to reduce urban-rural, regional, and social divides.
7. Reduce exclusion error in schemes: There should be greater focus on digitization and JAM usage in order to reduce inclusion and exclusion errors in schemes.
8. Need for Institutional & Structural Reforms:
  - a. Enforce constitutional provisions for equality and anti-discrimination, and support independent bodies protecting the rights of minorities, women, and other vulnerable groups.
  - b. Strengthen local democracy and decentralization to empower communities and tailor development policies to local needs.
  - c. Land reforms and asset-building (like easier access to home ownership) help in wealth creation for working families, particularly the poor and marginalized.

Conclusion: Tackling inequality requires rural revitalization, better education and skills, gender parity in labour, and more formal jobs. Equity in income and opportunity is vital for resilient, inclusive growth.

Read More- [The Indian Express](#)

UPSC Syllabus- GS 3- Inclusive Growth In India

### Aviation Sector in India

The Indian aviation sector has grown rapidly, emerging as one of the world's busiest domestic markets. But the IndiGo crisis of December 2025, with over 2,000 flight cancellations, exposed major gaps in operational planning and regulatory readiness. Triggered by an acute crew shortage following the rollout of new Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms.

#### Aviation Sector in India

Aviation in India encompasses both military and civil segments, with the civilian aviation sector emerging as one of the world's most dynamic markets. India has already become the third-largest domestic aviation market globally. According to International Air Transport Association (IATA), the country is poised for even greater growth, set to surpass the US and China to become the world's third-largest air passenger market by 2030. This rising demand is driving rapid fleet expansion, with India's aircraft count expected to reach around 1,100 by 2027.

#### Status of India's Aviation Sector

- India recorded 376.43 million air passengers in FY24, growing at 15% YoY, with daily passengers crossing 5 lakh in 2024.
- The sector contributes 5% to GDP, supports 4 million jobs, and adds \$72 billion in gross value to the economy.
- Fleet strength stands at 941 aircraft (2025), while 162 airports (up from 74 in 2014) are operational, with metro capacity targeted to reach 468 MPPA.
- India handled 3,365.65 MMT air cargo in FY24, strengthening logistics and e-commerce supply chains.
- India leads globally in gender diversity with 15% women pilots (3× global average).
- Sustainability advances include 73 airports using 100% green energy.

[Read more about Aviation Sector in India](#)

### Potential of India's Aviation Sector

- High-growth market: Aviation market set to expand from \$14.78 bn (2025) to \$26.08 bn (2030) at 12% CAGR (IATA).
- Balanced regional development: Enhanced connectivity in the North-East and aspirational districts.
- Tourism multiplier: Aviation drives hospitality, transport, and local economies.
- Aerospace & MRO expansion: Rising fleet enables growth of indigenous MRO and aerospace manufacturing.
- FDI & infrastructure expansion: Nearly \$3 bn FDI, large Greenfield projects (Navi Mumbai, Jewar).
- High skill demand: Need for 10,900 pilots by FY30 along with engineers and crew.
- Created by ForumIAS

### Challenges in India's Aviation Sector

- Grounded Fleet: Over 160 aircraft (~25%) grounded due to financial stress, OEM delays, and safety issues.
- Market Duopoly & Financial Stress: IndiGo (60%) and Tata Group (20%) dominate; airlines may face \$1.6–1.8 bn losses (FY24).
- High ATF Taxes: 40–50% tax burden among the highest globally raises operating costs.
- Regulatory Bottlenecks: Outdated frameworks (now replaced) like the Aircraft Act 1934; airport monopolies limit competition.
- Low Per-Capita Air Travel: 0.13 seats per capita, far below China (0.49) and Brazil (0.57).
- Crew & Technical Shortages: Pilot, engineer, and cabin crew deficits cause flight delays and operational disruptions.
- Connectivity Gaps: Tier-2/3 cities remain underserved despite UDAN.
- Environmental Pressure: Compliance with CORSIA, need for greener fuels and technologies.
- Operational Risks: Accidents (e.g., Air India crash in Ahmedabad) highlight safety concerns.
- Unrealistic Airline Expansions: Failures of Jet Airways, Kingfisher, Go First due to inflated growth plans.

[Read more about Growth & Innovation in Aviation Sector in India](#)

### Government Initiatives for Aviation Sector in India

National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP)	Expands international operations; boosts MRO; promotes market liberalisation and regional connectivity.
UDAN Scheme	Enhances regional air connectivity; 619 routes, 88 airports operational; expanding to 120 new destinations.



DigiYatra	Paperless, biometric-enabled seamless passenger processing.
Open Sky Policy	Liberalises airport sector; major airports under PPP mode; boosts private participation.
Open Sky Air Service Agreements	Allows unlimited flights between partner countries; enhances bilateral air traffic.
FDI Policy	100% FDI for greenfield airports; 74% automatic route for brownfield; boosts private investment.
Tax & Duty Exemptions	10-year tax exemption for airport projects; full customs exemption for MRO services.
GAGAN Navigation System	Satellite-based augmentation enhancing precision navigation and flight safety.
Bhartiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam (2024)	Modernised aviation regulation; replaced Aircraft Act 1934; aligned with global standards.
Protection of Interest in Aircraft Objects Bill	Aligns leasing laws with global norms; reduces aircraft leasing costs.
NABH Nirman	Expands airport capacity; modernises infrastructure across major airports.
Krishi Udan	Enhances air transport of perishable agricultural goods for farmers.

### Budget 2025–26: Provisions for the Aviation Sector

- **Strengthening Regional Connectivity:** The Budget expands the UDAN scheme, targeting 120 new destinations and aiming to attract 4 crore additional passengers over the next decade.
- **Airport Infrastructure Development:** Major upgrades include the expansion of Patna Airport and development of a brownfield airport at Bihta (Bihar), alongside continued support for Greenfield airport projects nationwide.
- **Support for Smaller Airports:** Increased focus on helipads and small airports in hilly, Northeastern, and aspirational districts to improve last-mile air connectivity.
- **Budgetary Allocations:** The Ministry of Civil Aviation receives ₹2,400.31 crore, slightly reduced from the previous year's allocation of ₹2,658.68 crore.
  - UDAN funding lowered to ₹540 crore (from ₹800 crore), indicating a shift towards efficiency-driven implementation.
- **Policy Continuity:** Infrastructure push aligns with broader reforms such as leasing at GIFT City, DigiYatra expansion, and airport modernization efforts under NABH Nirman.

### Way Forward

- **Infrastructure Expansion:** Build new airports, expand metro hubs, modernize regional airports.
- **Strengthen Regional Connectivity:** Deepen UDAN, boost last-mile air links in hilly and NE regions.
- **ATF Tax Reform:** Bring ATF under GST to reduce operational costs.
- **Fleet & Manufacturing Push:** Boost leasing at GIFT City; scale up MRO and aerospace manufacturing.
- **Improve Global Competitiveness:** Strengthen bilateral agreements; develop India as a global transit hub.
- **Sustainable Aviation:** Promote SAF, carbon-neutral airports, and energy-efficient technologies.
- **Skill Development & Safety:** Expand aviation training institutes; strengthen DGCA oversight.
- **Digital Air Travel Ecosystem:** Enhance DigiYatra, AI-based traffic management, and paperless systems.

### Conclusion

India's aviation sector is at a pivotal moment shifting from a capacity-constrained market to a potential global aviation hub. Ensuring affordability, expanding connectivity, modernising infrastructure, rationalising fuel taxes, and promoting sustainability will be central to harnessing India's enormous demand. With continued reforms and resilient operational planning, India can transform its aviation ecosystem from merely "moving vehicles" to "moving people", driving inclusive economic growth and global competitiveness.

### Blue Economy- Significance and Challenges- Explained Pointwise

'Blue Economy' has been identified as one of the **major pillars of economic growth** for **making a Viksit Bharat by 2047**. Despite its significant potential for the growth of the nation, it also faces **several constraints and challenges**. Overcoming these challenges will be crucial for the realization of true potential of this sector.

### What is 'Blue Economy'? What is the extent of 'Blue economy' in India?

Blue Economy: World Bank defines blue economy as the **sustainable development of ocean resources** for **economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem**. The

concept was first given by **Gunter Pauli** in **2010** in his book '*The blue economy, 10 years, 100 innovations, 100 million jobs*'.

#### Components of Blue Economy:

Source: World Bank

The blue economy encompasses a diverse range of activities that are critical for sustainable development, such as:

Renewable Energy	Renewable and Sustainable marine energy resources like <b>offshore wind</b> and <b>tidal energy</b> constitutes an important component of Blue Economy.
Fisheries	Sustainable management of fisheries ensures a <b>continuous supply of fish for greater revenue</b> while <b>simultaneously contributing to the restoration of fish stocks</b> . This supports both economic and environmental goals.
Maritime Transport	Sustainable, safe and secured maritime transport is an <b>important component of the global economy</b> , as it connects nations and facilitates trade.
Tourism	<b>Ocean and coastal tourism</b> offer recreational opportunities, contribute to job creation and economic growth, making it a key component of the blue economy.
Climate Change	Oceans act as crucial carbon sinks for the absorption and storage of carbon dioxide.

Potential for the World Economy: Oceans contribute to around **3-5% of Global GDP** and over **80% of international goods transportation**. The UN has declared the period 2021-2030 as the '**UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development**'.

Extent of Blue Economy in India: India has a coastline of more than ~11,000 km spread across 9 states. India also has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of more than 2.2 million sq km. India's blue economy accounts for ~4% of the GDP and is estimated to increase over the period of time.

#### **What is the significance of Blue Economy for India?**

Blue economy can contribute to India's economic growth in the following ways:

##### **1. Oceanic Resources:**

- a. Fisheries: Indian marine fisheries constitute a major portion of India's agri-allied exports. India produced **~3.7 MMT of marine fisheries** in **2019-20**.
- b. Rare Earth Minerals: The continental margins of India have an extensive variety of heavy and rare earth minerals like **ilmenite, magnetite, monazite, zircon, and rutile**.
- c. Hydrocarbons: The oceanic sea beds are a major source of hydrocarbons. India has 26 sedimentary basins, spread across a total area of 3.4 million square km.

- d. Renewable Energy: Renewable energy in offshore regions has tremendous potential in the form of offshore wind, waves, ocean currents, tidal currents, and thermal energy.
2. Ports, Shipping, and Marine Tourism:
  - a. Port-led Development: India is focusing on port-led development with the vast network of port connectivity. India comprises 200 ports, of which 12 are major ports that handled 541.76 million tonnes in FY21.
  - b. Shipping and Maritime Transport: India has the largest merchant shipping fleets among the developing countries. Around **95% of the country's trade by volume and 68% by value is moved through maritime transport**. Hence, shipping sector has the potential to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities.
  - c. Coastal tourism: Coastal Tourism has contributed largely to the development of India's tourism sector and livelihood creation.
3. Ocean Science and Services:
  - a. Observations, data, and information services: The data set and information services help in providing information regarding **Marine Fishery Advisories, Ocean State Forecasts, Tsunami and Storm Surge Early Warnings, Sea Level Rise, Oil Spill Trajectories**. These are key to enhancing the safety of lives and livelihoods of coastal communities.
  - b. Conservation of Marine Biodiversity: Sustainable use of ocean helps in the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity.
4. Employment Opportunities: Blue economy provides an avenue for employment generation to the burgeoning youth population. For ex- Enhanced employment opportunities in **Fishing and Aquaculture, Marine Tourism, Shipbuilding** etc.

#### What are the challenges associated with Blue Economy in India?

1. Overfishing: Overfishing has **emerged as a major challenge in India's coastal waters**. It has led to the **depletion of fish stocks** and **harming of the marine ecosystem**. For ex- **Depletion of fishery resources in the Palk Bay Area** due to bottom trawling.
2. Marine Pollution: Pollution from sources such as oil spills, plastic waste, and industrial effluent harm the marine ecosystems and have negative impacts on the blue economy. For ex- **Oil spill in Chennai** originating from the **Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL's) refinery**.
3. Lack of Infrastructure: The lack of ports, airports, and road connectivity has hampered the development and expansion of economic activities in these regions.
4. Piracy and International Conflicts: The piracy in the Indian Ocean region near the Red Sea and **unsecured sea lanes of transport** are a major threat to the development of Indian Shipping Industry. Further, the strings of pearls of China and conflicts over maritime boundaries are also a major challenge. For ex- **India-Sri Lanka Fishing Conflict**.
5. Climate Change: Rising sea levels, negative Indian Ocean dipole and amplification of cyclones also **pose risks to coastal communities** and also have negative impacts on the blue economy.

#### What are the Government initiatives for the Development of Blue Economy?

Sagarmala Project	It aims for <b>holistic port infrastructure development</b> along the <b>7,516-km long coastline</b> through modernisation, mechanisation and computerisation. The projects under this project aim for <b>Coastal Infrastructure Development, Coastal Industrial Development, Coastal Community Development</b> and <b>Development of Coastal Tourism</b> .
-------------------	---

Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan	ICZM is a process for the <b>management of the coast using an integrated approach</b> , to achieve the goal of sustainable management of coastal regions.
Deep Ocean Mission	It is India's ambitious program to <b>explore and harness the depths of the ocean</b> . The mission <b>aims to address scientific and economic challenges</b> associated with <b>ocean exploration</b> and <b>resource utilization</b> .
O-SMART	The scheme encompasses a total of 16 sub-projects addressing ocean development activities such as Services, Technology, Resources, Observations and Science.

### What Should be the Way Forward?

1. Blue Ocean Strategy: India's Blue Ocean Strategy should rest on 3 pillars – Stewardship of the commons, Resilience, and Inclusive growth:
  - a. Stewardship: India must continue to assert that the Indian Ocean is a shared space, not a contested one. By prioritizing ecosystem restoration, biodiversity protection, and sustainable fisheries, India can set the tone for cooperative management, rather than competitive exploitation.
  - b. Resilience: As the climate crisis intensifies, ocean nations must focus on adaptation & preparedness. India can lead by establishing a Regional Resilience & Ocean Innovation Hub – one that strengthens ocean observation networks, improves early warning systems, and transfer technology to Small Island Developing States and African coastline nations.
  - c. Inclusive Growth: The Indian Ocean must become a driver of prosperity for all littoral states. Green shipping, offshore renewable energy, sustainable aquaculture, and marine biotechnology offer pathways to development that are compatible with climate goals.
2. Skill Development Initiatives: Skill development initiatives along with **preservation of traditional knowledge** are integral to harnessing the full potential of the blue economy and ensuring prosperity for all.
3. Blue Diplomacy Cadre: We must aim to develop a 'blue diplomacy cadre' through the use of policies and platforms such as **SAGAR, IORA, BIMSTEC, SAARC** in the Indo-Pacific region. This will be helpful in peaceful resolution of all international disputes and securing global maritime transport routes.
4. Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning: This scientific approach should be used to **analyse and allocate coastal and marine resources** over space and time. It will help in sustainable fisheries development and optimum use of oceanic mineral resources.
5. Proper Waste Disposal Policies: Proper waste disposal policies like **robust Plastic Elimination** and **National Marine Litter policy**, that prevent pollution, accumulation of marine debris, must be enacted and implemented.
6. Research and Funding: Funds must be provided for R&D in the emerging fields of blue economy such as marine biology, marine technology, marine chemistry, geology, shipping, oceanography.

Conclusion: As the climate change is rapidly heating & acidifying the oceans, the sea levels are rising, and the illegal & unregulated fishing is stripping marine life from the water column, India now has both the opportunity



& the responsibility to play a historical leadership role – ensuring that the Indian ocean becomes not a theatre of rivalry, but a laboratory of sustainability, innovation, and resilience.

Read More- [The Hindu](#)

UPSC Syllabus- GS 3- Indian Economy

### **VB-G RAM G Bill – Provisions & Significance – Explained Pointwise**

The Union government has moved a “new MGNREGA Bill” in Parliament to repeal and replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, refers to as the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, 2025 (VB-G RAM G).

#### **What are the important provisions of the new Bill?**

1. The Bill repeals the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 and replaces it with a new law carrying the VB-G RAM G title, effectively retiring “MGNREGA” as the statutory name.
2. This includes formally removing “Mahatma Gandhi” from the scheme’s name, which is one of the main political flashpoints around the legislation.
3. The Bill raises the guaranteed wage employment from 100 to 125 days per rural household per year, expanding the basic entitlement beyond what MGNREGA provided.
4. It embeds this guarantee within a broader “Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)” (VB-G RAM G) framework, linking wage employment with livelihood and asset-creation objectives.
5. Draft provisions provide for suspending or limiting works during peak agricultural seasons, so that wage employment under the scheme does not clash with local farm labour demand.
6. The Bill envisages greater flexibility for states in selecting works and synchronising them with local development plans, while still operating under a central guidelines framework.
7. Explanatory notes indicate changes in Centre-State funding norms, with the Union government continuing to bear a substantial share of wage costs but with revised cost-sharing for materials and administration; exact ratios will depend on rules and notifications under the Act.
8. The Bill also updates institutional and monitoring provisions (for example, use of digital tools, social audits, and grievance mechanisms), though detailed operational rules are to follow through subordinate legislation once Parliament enacts the law.

#### **What are some of the important features of MGNREGA?**

1. Legal Guarantee: MGNREGA is a law that gives a legal guarantee of at least 100 days of wage employment per financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual work.
2. Rights-Based Framework: It is a demand-driven, rights-based programme: if employment is not provided within 15 days of a written application, the worker is entitled to an unemployment allowance.
3. Social inclusion: At least one-third of the jobs are reserved for women, and wages must be paid equally to men and women.
4. Work is, as a rule, to be provided within 5 km of the worker’s residence, with a statutory minimum wage and basic worksite facilities like drinking water and crèche where needed.

5. **Type of Works:** The Act prioritises labour-intensive public works that create durable assets, especially in: water conservation and harvesting, drought proofing and afforestation, irrigation, land development, flood control, and rural connectivity (village roads, ponds, canals, etc.).
6. **Wage-Material Ratio:** A mandated wage-material ratio of 60:40 ensures emphasis on labour rather than machines or contractors, reinforcing the employment objective.
7. **Implementing Agency:** The Gram Panchayat is the primary implementing agency, responsible for registration, job cards, and planning/execution of works, with significant community participation.
8. **Funding:** Funding is shared mainly by the Centre and states, with the Union government bearing the bulk of wage costs; the scheme now covers almost all rural districts in India.
9. **Transparency, Accountability & Social Audits:** MGNREGA has strong transparency provisions: public disclosure of records, social audits by Gram Sabhas, financial and performance audits, and grievance-redress mechanisms to curb corruption and delays.

#### **What has been the significance of MGNREGA?**

1. **Rural Livelihood Security & Poverty Reduction:** By guaranteeing up to 100 days of wage employment per rural household, MGNREGA has helped smooth consumption and reduce extreme poverty and seasonal distress, especially during droughts, crop failures, and economic shocks. For ex- Livelihood support post-2008 slowdown and the Covid-19 period.
2. **Empowerment of Women:** With a legal requirement that at least one-third of workers be women, and actual participation often exceeding this share in several states, MGNREGA has increased women's labour-force participation, incomes, and visibility in local public life.
3. **Empowerment of Marginalised Groups:** The programme has also given Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other marginalised groups a formal right to work near home, reducing dependence on landlords and contractors and modestly improving their bargaining power in local labour markets.
4. **Effects on Rural Wages:** Studies indicate that MGNREGA has contributed to raising the floor for rural wages, particularly for unskilled casual labour, by offering an alternative source of employment at notified wage rates.
5. **Effects on Migration:** In many regions, this has reduced distress-driven seasonal migration, especially for the poorest households, even if it has not eliminated migration driven by higher-wage opportunities.
6. **Creation of Rural Assets:** The scheme has financed millions of works related to water harvesting, soil conservation, irrigation, land development and rural connectivity, which can enhance agricultural productivity and resilience when well implemented.
7. **Natural Resource Management:** In drought-prone and ecologically fragile areas, repeated investments in check dams, ponds and afforestation under MGNREGA have supported groundwater recharge and reduced vulnerability to climate variability.
8. **Rights-based Approach:** MGNREGA marked a shift from discretionary "schemes" to a justiciable right to work, with enforceable entitlements like unemployment allowance and time-bound wage payments, influencing the design of later rights-based laws.

#### **What are the challenges/limitations of MGNREGA?**

1. **Delays in fund release:** Chronic delays in fund release from the Centre and states often lead to late wage payments and stalled works, undermining workers' legal entitlement and reducing their trust in the programme.
2. **Wage issue:** In several states, statutory wages under MGNREGA are close to or below prevailing agricultural wages, making the scheme less attractive and weakening its role as a wage floor.

3. Inadequate awareness: Many potential beneficiaries are unaware of their rights (job cards, 100-day guarantee, unemployment allowance), so local officials sometimes treat it as a supply-driven scheme and under-register demand.
4. Demand suppression: Instances of demand suppression – discouraging applications, limiting works, or using online systems that poor households struggle to access – reduce effective coverage, especially for women and the most marginalised.
5. Leakages, Corruption & Weak Accountability:
  - a. Despite provisions for social audits, cases of ghost beneficiaries, fake muster rolls, inflated measurements, and collusion with contractors have been reported in several regions.
  - b. Social audits are uneven: a few states implement them rigorously, while others conduct them irregularly or with limited follow-up, weakening MGNREGA's transparency and grievance-redress architecture.
6. Quality & Durability of Assets: The quality of assets created is highly variable; poor planning, technical support gaps and frequent small works can lead to non-durable or poorly maintained assets, limiting long-term productivity gains.
7. Administrative Constraints: Heavy reliance on local bureaucracy, frequent staff shortages, and burdensome online processes (e-muster, Aadhaar-based payments) can cause implementation bottlenecks, especially in remote areas with weak connectivity.

Read More: [The Hindu](#)

UPSC GS-3: Indian Economy