

1 भारत-इंडोनेशिया रणनीतिक साझेदारी और प्रधानमंत्री की यात्रा

- भारत-इंडोनेशिया संयुक्त सत्र जारी।
- इंडोनेशियाई संसद को संबोधन।
- द्विपक्षीय वार्ता और सहयोग के कई क्षेत्रों पर चर्चा।
- प्रधानमंत्री को 'विन्नांग आदिपुत्र' सर्वोच्च नागरिक सम्मान प्रदान।
- इंडोनेशिया में आईआईएम बैंगलुरु परिसर की घोषणा।
- हिंद-प्रशांत में भारत की एंक्ट ईस्ट नीति को नई मजबूती।



मुख्य तथ्य
राजधानी: जकार्ता (नुसांतरा में स्थानांतरण प्रस्तावित)
ASEAN, G20, IORA सदस्य
विश्व का सबसे बड़ा मुस्लिम बहुल देश

UPSC कीवर्ड
एंक्ट ईस्ट नीति, ASEAN केंद्रीयता, हिंद-प्रशांत सुरक्षा, समुद्री सहयोग, रक्षा सहयोग, ब्लू इकॉनमी

2 राष्ट्रीय अकादमिक डिपॉजिटरी (NAD) - PIB पृष्ठभूमि

- डिग्री, डिप्लोमा, प्रमाणपत्र आदि का राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल भंडार।
- अकादमिक बैंक ऑफ क्रेडिट (ABC) के अंतर्गत, NEP 2020 के तहत लागू।
- सुरक्षित, लाइफटाइम और पेपरलेस अकादमिक रिकॉर्ड।
- फर्जीवाड़ा रोकथाम और सत्यापन सरल।
- रोजगारदाताओं व संस्थानों के लिए आसान सत्यापन।
- छात्र गतिशीलता और बहु-प्रवेश/निकास प्रणाली को समर्थन।



मुख्य तथ्य
NEP 2020 | ABC | डिजिलॉकर एकीकरण | APAAR ID | डिजिटल इंडिया पहल

UPSC कीवर्ड
NEP 2020, ABC, डिजिटल इंडिया, छात्र गतिशीलता, पेपरलेस सत्यापन

3 प्रदर्शन ग्रेडिंग इंडेक्स (PGI) 2.0 राज्यों के लिए

- राज्यों/केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के स्कूल शिक्षा प्रदर्शन का आकलन।
- अधिगम परिणाम, अवसरचना, शासन, समावेशन, शिक्षक गुणवत्ता आदि का मूल्यांकन।
- रैंकिंग नहीं, बल्कि ग्रेडिंग बैंड का उपयोग।
- NEP 2020 एवं समग्र शिक्षा के अनुरूप।
- नीति फोकस और संसाधन आवंटन में सुधार को बढ़ावा।



मुख्य तथ्य
समग्र आकलन | स्कूल शिक्षा गुणवत्ता ढांचा | सतत सुधार और प्रतिस्पर्धी संघवाद को बढ़ावा

UPSC कीवर्ड
NEP 2020, समग्र शिक्षा, अधिगम परिणाम, शासन, प्रतिस्पर्धी संघवाद, ग्रेडिंग बैंड, स्कूल गुणवत्ता

4 UDISE+ रिपोर्ट 2025-26

- यूनिफाइड डिस्ट्रिक्ट इंफॉर्मेशन सिस्टम फॉर एजुकेशन प्लस।
- भारत का सबसे बड़ा स्कूल शिक्षा डेटाबेस।
- स्कूल, शिक्षक, नामांकन, अवसरचना, ड्रॉपआउट, समावेशन आदि का डेटा।
- नीति निर्माण, बजट आवंटन और SDG निगरानी में उपयोगी।
- डेटा आधारित और साक्ष्य-आधारित शिक्षा शासन को समर्थन।
- शिक्षा मंत्रालय द्वारा संचालित।



मुख्य तथ्य
सबसे बड़ा स्कूल शिक्षा डेटाबेस | वार्षिक डेटा स्रोत | SDGs और NEP लक्ष्यों की निगरानी

UPSC कीवर्ड
UDISE+, स्कूल शिक्षा, डेटा प्रशासन, SDG मॉनिटरिंग, साक्ष्य-आधारित नीति

5 जैविक विविधता अधिनियम, 2002 के तहत 21वां नामित रिपॉजिटरी

- मिजोरम का नेचुरल हिस्ट्री स्पुजियम भारत का 21वां नामित रिपॉजिटरी बना।
- जैविक नमूनों, संदर्भ सामग्री और टेक्सोनॉमिक संग्रह का संरक्षण।
- वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान, प्रजाति पहचान और जैव विविधता संरक्षण में सहायक।
- एक्सेस एंड बेनिफिट शेयरिंग (ABS) तंत्र को समर्थन।
- जैविक विविधता अधिनियम, 2002 के तहत अधिसूचित।
- NBA, SBBs और BMCs के साथ समन्वय में कार्य।

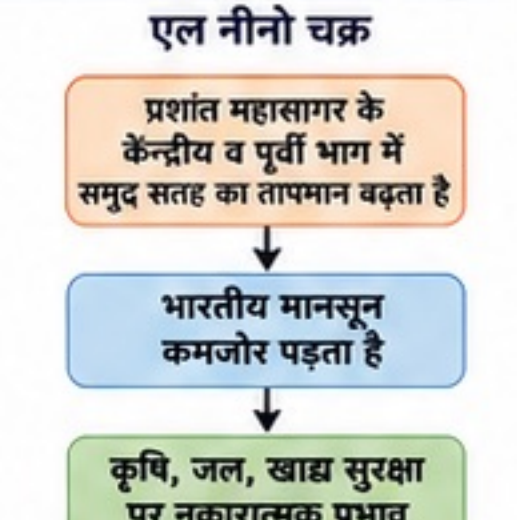


मुख्य तथ्य
संरक्षण | अनुसंधान | ABS | NBA, SBBs, BMCs को समर्थन

UPSC कीवर्ड
जैविक विविधता अधिनियम, ABS, नामित रिपॉजिटरी, जैव विविधता संरक्षण, NBA

6 एल नीनो तैयारी समीक्षा

- प्रधानमंत्री ने संभाषित एल नीनो प्रभाव पर उच्च स्तरीय समीक्षा की।
- एल नीनो से कमजोर हो सकता है दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून।
- कृषि, जल संसाधन, विजली मांग, खाद्य मुद्रास्फीति पर प्रभाव।
- पूर्व तैयारी, शमन योजना और आपदा प्रबंधन पर बल।
- ENSO, IOD, MJO पैटर्न से जुड़ा।
- जलवायु जोखिम प्रबंधन का हिस्सा।



मुख्य तथ्य
एल नीनो -> कमजोर मानसून | प्रभाव: फसल, जल, महंगाई, ऊर्जा मांग, खाद्य सुरक्षा

UPSC कीवर्ड
ENSO, एल नीनो, मानसून परिवर्तशीलता, IOD, MJO, जलवायु जोखिम प्रबंधन

7 इंडेक्स ऑफ सर्विसेज प्रोडक्शन (ISP)

- तकनीकी सलाहकार समिति की रिपोर्ट जारी।
- सेवाक्षेत्र के उत्पादन/वृद्धि को मापने वाला प्रस्तावित सूचकांक।
- औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (IIP) की तुलना पर।
- सेवाएं भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था की प्रमुख चालक शक्ति।
- नीति निर्माण, व्यापार चक्र और पूर्वानुमान के लिए उपयोगी।
- राष्ट्रीय लेखा और उच्च आवृत्ति संकेतक को मजबूत करेगा।



मुख्य तथ्य
उच्च आवृत्ति सूचकांक | GDP मापन को सुदृढ़ करेगा | त्रैमासिक विश्लेषण में सहायक

UPSC कीवर्ड
सेवाक्षेत्र, राष्ट्रीय लेखा प्रणाली, उच्च आवृत्ति डेटा, GDP मापन

8 कामराजार पोर्ट ने 18 मीटर ड्राफ्ट क्षमता हासिल की

- कामराजार पोर्ट भारत का दूसरा प्रमुख बंदरगाह, 18 मीटर ड्राफ्ट क्षमता के साथ।
- केपसाइज जहाज और बड़े कार्गो पोत संभालने में सक्षम।
- समुद्री प्रतिस्पर्धी और व्यापार क्षमता को बढ़ावा।
- सागरमाला और पोर्ट-आधारित विकास को समर्थन।
- निर्यात, लॉजिस्टिक्स दक्षता और रोजगार मूल्य में वृद्धि।
- पूर्वी तट पर स्थित प्रमुख कॉर्पोरेट पोर्ट (तमिलनाडु)।



मुख्य तथ्य
पूर्वी तट | कॉर्पोरेट पोर्ट | केपसाइज पोत क्षमता | सागरमाला परियोजना

UPSC कीवर्ड
समुद्री अवसरचना, पोर्ट-आधारित विकास, लॉजिस्टिक्स, व्यापार प्रतिस्पर्धी

9 भारत के खिलौना उद्योग पारितंत्र को सुदृढ़ करना - PIB पृष्ठभूमि

- टॉय विज 2026 में भारत की खिलौना उद्योग क्षमता पर प्रकाश।
- MSMEs, कारीगर, GI उत्पादों और विनिर्माण को बढ़ावा।
- राष्ट्रीय खिलौना कार्ययोजना लागू।
- गुणवत्ता निबंधन आदेश (QCOs) और वैश्विक मानकों पर जोर।
- निर्यात, रोजगार, नवाचार और रचनात्मक अर्थव्यवस्था को बल।
- आत्मनिर्भर भारत और मेक इन इंडिया के अनुरूप पहल।



मुख्य तथ्य
MSME समर्थन | गुणवत्ता मानक | निर्यात वृद्धि | स्थानीय विनिर्माण और नवाचार

UPSC कीवर्ड
खिलौना उद्योग, MSMEs, QCOs, आत्मनिर्भर भारत, मेक इन इंडिया, रचनात्मक अर्थव्यवस्था

अन्य महत्वपूर्ण वन-लाइनर्स

इंड कप 2025 की ट्रॉफी का अनावरण।

कपास उत्पादन के लिए 'कपास क्रांति' मिशन पर उपराष्ट्रपति को जानकारी।

भारत और रवांडा ने रक्षा साझेदारी के विस्तार पर सहमति जताई।

मिशन 70 लाख प्लांटेशन अभियान का राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर शुभारंभ।

यूथ पार्लियामेंट प्रतियोगिता 2024-25 के विजेताओं की घोषणा।

1 India-Indonesia Strategic Partnership & PM Visit

- Joint Statement & bilateral talks strengthen comprehensive strategic partnership.
- Focus on maritime security, blue economy & defence cooperation.
- PM addressed Indonesian Parliament.
- IIM Bangalore campus announced in Indonesia.
- India conferred Bintang Adipurna – Indonesia's highest civilian award.
- Indonesia is key partner in Indo-Pacific & Act East Policy.

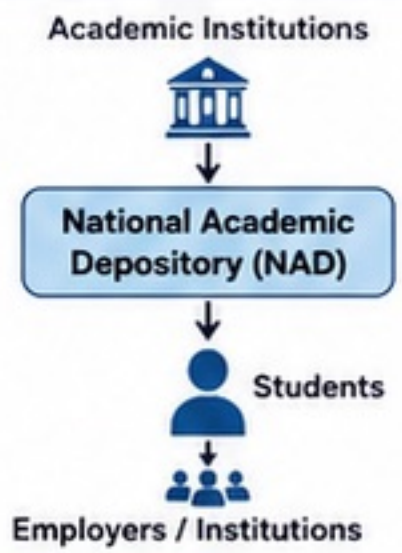


Key Facts
Capital: Jakarta (to be Nusantara) | ASEAN, G20, IORA Member | Largest Muslim-majority country

UPSC Keywords
Indo-Pacific, Act East Policy, ASEAN Centrality, Maritime Security, Blue Economy, Defence Ties

2 National Academic Depository (NAD) – PIB Backgrounder

- National digital repository for degrees, diplomas & certificates.
- Implemented by Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) under NEP 2020.
- Ensures secure, lifelong & paperless academic records.
- Prevents fraud & enables easy verification by employers.
- Integrated with DigiLocker & APAAR ecosystem.
- Supports student mobility & multiple entry-exit system.




Key Facts
NEP 2020 | ABC | DigiLocker Integration | APAAR ID | Digital India Initiative

UPSC Keywords
Academic Bank of Credits, NEP 2020, Digital India, Student Mobility, Paperless Verification

3 Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 for States

- Measures school education performance of States/UTs.
- Assessing learning outcomes, infrastructure, governance, equity & teacher quality.
- Encourages competitive federalism in education.
- Uses grading bands instead of simple rankings.
- Aligned with NEP 2020 & Samagra Shiksha.
- Helps improve policy focus & resource allocation.

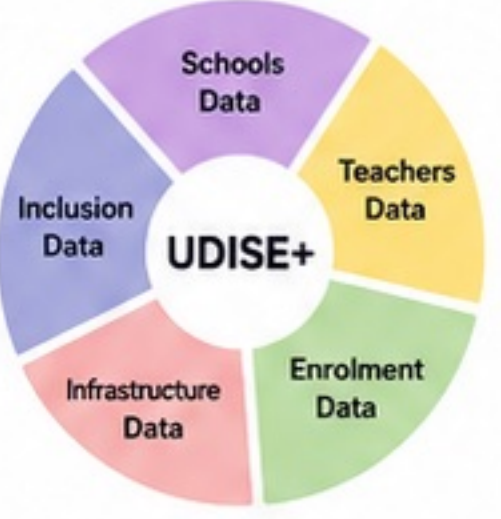


Key Facts
Holistic assessment framework | School Education Quality Improvement

UPSC Keywords
NEP 2020, Samagra Shiksha, Learning Outcomes, Governance, Competitive Federalism

4 UDISE+ Report 2025-26

- Unified District Information System for Education Plus.
- India's largest school education database.
- Covers schools, teachers, enrolment, infrastructure, dropouts & inclusion.
- Used for policy making, budgeting & SDG monitoring.
- Supports data-driven & evidence-based governance.
- Maintained by Ministry of Education.



Key Facts
Largest school education database | Annual data source | Enables monitoring of SDGs & NEP goals

UPSC Keywords
UDISE+, School Education, Data Governance, SDG Monitoring, Evidence-based Policy

5 21st Designated Repository under Biological Diversity Act, 2002

- Mizoram's Natural History Museum notified as India's 21st Designated Repository.
- Authorised to preserve biological specimens & reference material.
- Supports scientific research, species identification & biodiversity conservation.
- Strengthens Access & Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism.
- Governed under Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- Works with NBA, SBBs & BMCs.

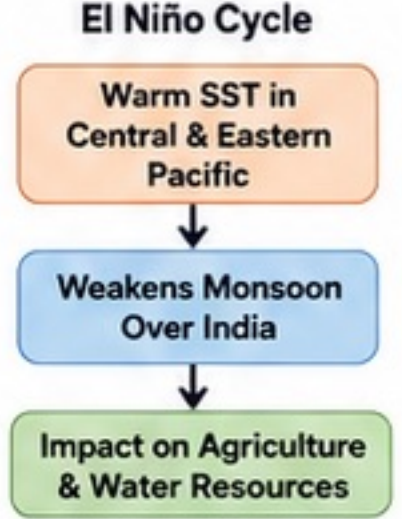


Key Facts
Preservation | Research | Conservation | ABS | Supports NBA, SBBs, BMCs

UPSC Keywords
Biological Diversity Act, ABS, Designated Repository, Biodiversity Conservation, NBA

6 El Niño Preparedness Review

- PM chaired high-level review on possible El Niño impact.
- El Niño weakens southwest monsoon in India.
- Affects agriculture, reservoirs, food inflation & power demand.
- Helps in early preparedness & mitigation planning.
- Part of climate risk management & disaster preparedness.
- Linked with ENSO, IOD, MJO patterns.




Key Facts
El Niño → Weak Monsoon | Impacts: Crops, Water, Inflation, Power, Food Security

UPSC Keywords
ENSO, El Niño, Monsoon Variability, Climate Risk Management, IOD, MJO

7 Index of Services Production (ISP)

- Technical Advisory Committee report on ISP released.
- ISP will measure growth in India's services sector.
- Similar role to Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- Needed as services dominate India's GDP.
- Helps in policy making, business cycle tracking & forecasting.
- Improves national accounts & high-frequency indicators.




Key Facts
High-frequency indicator | Supports quarterly estimates | Better policy & economic tracking

UPSC Keywords
Services Sector, National Accounts, ISP, GDP Measurement, High-Frequency Data

8 Kamarajar Port Achieves 18-metre Draft Capability

- Kamarajar Port becomes India's second major port with 18 m draft capability.
- Can handle Capesize vessels & large coal carriers.
- Boosts maritime competitiveness & trade efficiency.
- Supports Sagarmala & port-led development.
- Enhances export capacity from east coast.
- Located in Tamil Nadu on east coast.



Key Facts
East Coast | Corporate Major Port | Capesize Vessels | Sagarmala Project

UPSC Keywords
Sagarmala, Maritime Infrastructure, Port-led Development, Trade Competitiveness

9 Strengthening India's Toy Ecosystem – PIB Backgrounder






- Toy Biz 2026 highlights India's toy industry potential.
- Supports MSMEs, artisans, GI products & manufacturing.
- National Action Plan for Toys promotes local manufacturing.
- Quality Control Orders ensure safety & global standards.
- Boosts exports, employment & creative economy.
- Aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat & Make in India.



Key Facts
MSME-driven | Quality Standards | Exports | Local Manufacturing Promotion

UPSC Keywords
MSMEs, Quality Control Orders, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India, Creative Economy

Other Important One-Liners

-  Durand Cup 2025 trophy unveiled.
-  Kapas Kranti mission for cotton productivity briefed to V-P.
-  India & Rwanda to expand bilateral defence partnership.
-  Mission 70 Lakh Plantation Campaign launched nationwide.
-  Youth Parliament Competition 2024-25 winners announced.

MODERN INDIA HISTORY

1. INTRODUCTION: WHEN, WHERE AND HOW



5. WOMEN, CASTE AND REFORMS

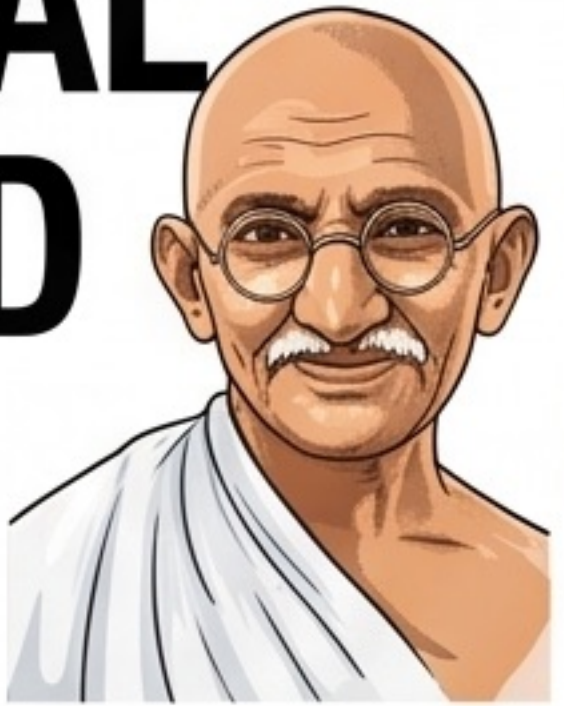


SAVITRIBAI PHULE

2. FROM TRADE TO TERRITORY



6. INDIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND MAHATMA GANDHI'S CONTRIBUTION



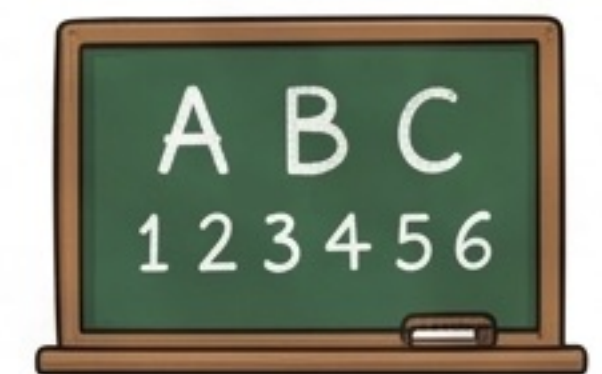
DANDI
MARCH



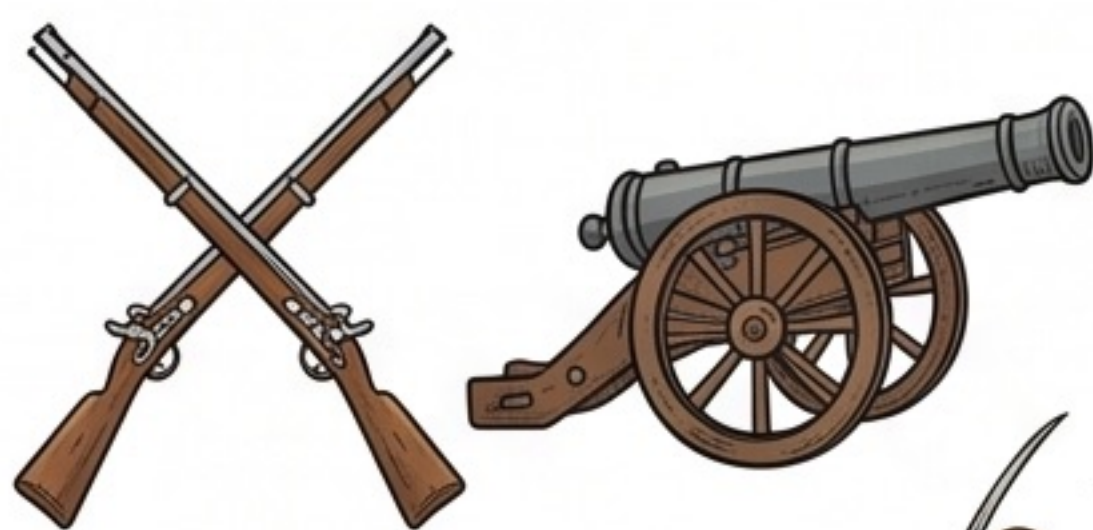
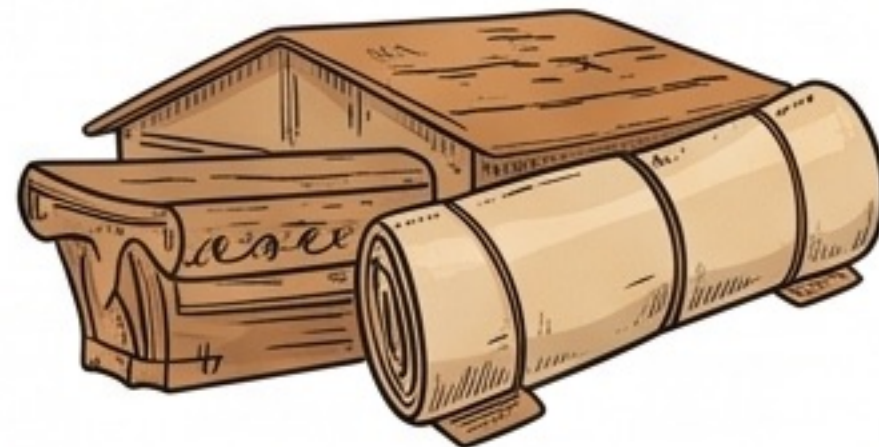
3. COLONIALISM AND THE COUNTRYSIDE



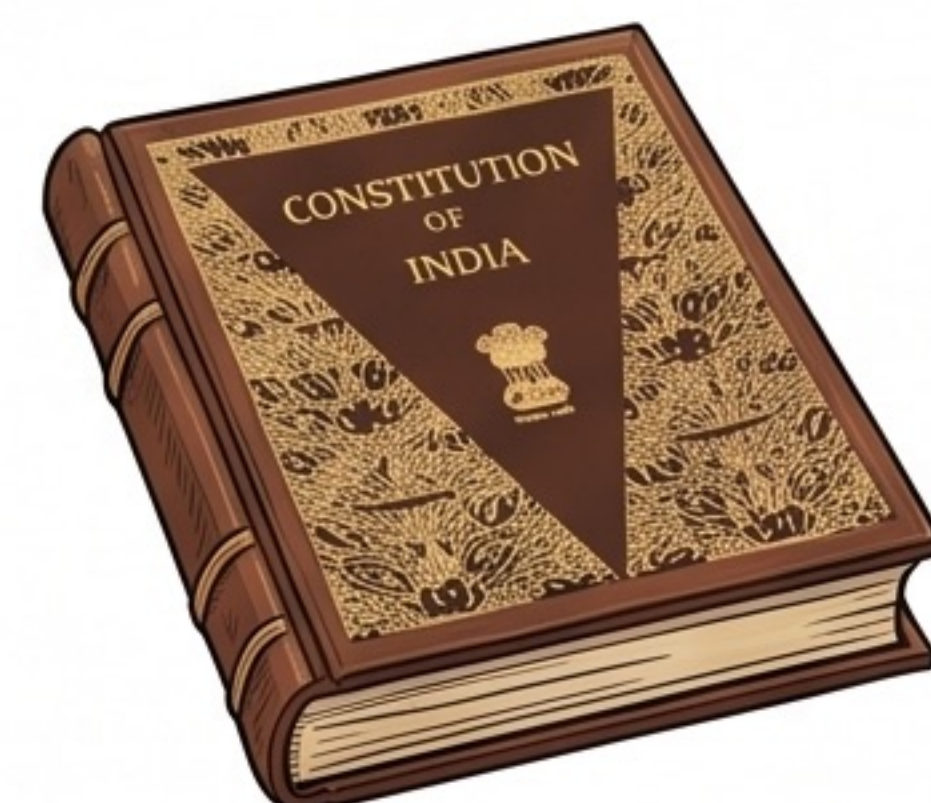
7. EDUCATING THE NATION



4. REVOLT OF 1857



8. FRAMING THE CONSTITUTION



ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY

1. STONE AGE



2. INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION



3. VEDIC AGE



4. JAINISM & BUDDHISM



5. AGE OF MAHAJANAPADAS



6. MAURYA'S AGE



7. POST-MAURYAN AGE



8. GUPTA PERIOD



9. POST GUPTA PERIOD



8. GUPTA PERIOD



9. POST GUPTA PERIOD



11. ART AND CULTURE IN ANCIENT INDIA



12. INTRODUCTION TO MEDIEVAL HISTORY



14. IMPORTANT DYNASTIES IN THE EARLY MEDIEVAL



15. DELHI SULTANATE
12th to 16th CENTURY



16. THE MUGHALS



17. DECLINE OF MUGHALS AND RISE OF REGIONAL POWERS



17. BHAKTI AND SUFI MOVEMENT



18. MARATHAS





FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the difference between “The mango is too sweet” and “The mango is very sweet”? (P. Velayudham, Tiruvannamalai)

The first sentence has a negative meaning. When you say that the mango is too sweet, it implies that the mango is so sweet that you have problems eating it. In other words, it is excessively sweet.

Similarly, when you say, “The candidate is too smart”, it has a negative connotation. Indirectly, you are implying he is much too intelligent for the job and you foresee problems dealing with him.

If, on the other hand, you say, “The mango is very sweet”, you are paying a compliment. The degree of sweetness is just right; it is not excessive. Similarly, when you say, “The candidate is very intelligent”, it has a positive ring to it. You are saying that the candidate should be hired because he’ll be good for the company.

What is the meaning and origin of “Pandora’s box”? (K. Veena, Chennai)

This expression has its origins in Greek mythology. Zeus, the King of Gods, was fed up with mankind. In order to teach them a lesson, Zeus created a woman - Pandora. The King of Gods then asked all the other gods to shower gifts on her; gifts which would bring about the downfall of man! (By the way, that’s how Pandora got her name; “pan” in Greek means “all” and “dora” means “gifts”.) The gifts given by the gods were put in a beautiful box, and Zeus presented it to Pandora warning her never to open it. If somebody gave you a beautiful box loaded with gifts and said don’t ever open it, what would you do?

Well, Pandora did the same thing. She opened it and saw to her horror all the evils of this world escape. According to the story only “Hope” remained. You may ask, if the box contained all the bad things that the gods could think of, why was Hope inside? Ask Zeus!

When you say that something is a “Pandora’s box”, it implies that it is a source of complication, something that will create many new and unexpected problems. The idiom commonly used these days is “open a Pandora’s box”.

“The Finance Minister’s reforms opened a Pandora’s box of industrial problems.”

There are different versions of this story. According to some scholars, it wasn’t Pandora who opened the box, but her husband, Epimetheus, who did. Very convenient wouldn’t you say? Now men can accuse women of being the cause of all their problems, and vice versa.

What is the meaning of Adam’s ale? (M. A. Gopalkrishnan, Tirupati)

“Adam’s ale” is a term humorously used to refer to water. You could say, “Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of Adam’s ale!”

By the way, did you know that many that many of the hard drinks that some of us are addicted to actually mean water? The word “whisky”, for example, comes from a Gaelic word meaning “water of life”. The French word “eau-de-vie” meaning brandy also means “water of life”. Any idea what the Russian drink “vodka” means? It means “little water”! If your boss or your father ever asks you whether you drink, you can look him straight in the eye and say, “I have a little water once in a while!”

Published in The Hindu on March 6, 2001

- Language shapes meaning.
- “Too + adjective” → negative / excessive.
- “Very + adjective” → positive / appropriate.
- Important for precise communication in essays & interviews.

- “Pandora’s box” = source of many problems.
- Origin: Greek mythology (Zeus, Pandora, evils, only Hope remained).
- Modern usage: “open a Pandora’s box”.
- Different versions exist (Pandora vs Epimetheus).

- Adam’s ale = humorous term for water.
- Many alcoholic drinks originally mean “water”.
- Whisky (water of life), eau-de-vie (water of life), vodka (little water).

- Language & idioms reflect culture, history & mythology.
- Useful for Essay (cultural literacy) and Interview (personality test).
- Shows importance of etymology in understanding expressions.

- Helps in Comprehension, Vocabulary & Precis Writing.
- Enhances ability to use idioms in a meaningful context.
- Adds depth to answers in GS Paper II (Culture) & Essay Paper.

- **UPSC Prelims Relevance:** Idioms, vocabulary, etymology.
- **Mains Relevance:** Essay, Ethics (communication), GS II (Indian culture – language).
- **Exam Utility:** Enriches answers with examples, quotes & cultural references.
- **Takeaway:** Master idioms + origins → better expression + higher scoring.

In India, voting cannot remain merely a statutory right

Recently, a Congress leader revived an old constitutional debate by demanding that voting should be recognised as a fundamental right. At first sight, the demand appears unexceptionable. In a democracy, what could be more fundamental than a citizen's right to choose those who govern? Yet, for more than seven decades, the Supreme Court of India has consistently held that the right to vote is not a fundamental right but merely a statutory right.

This judicial position, though well established, has become increasingly difficult to reconcile with the Court's own evolving jurisprudence. In a series of landmark decisions, the Court has gradually transformed the voter from a passive statutory creature into an active constitutional actor.

The result is a curious paradox: while the act of voting itself continues to be described as statutory, many of its essential facets have already acquired constitutional protection.

The traditional position dates back to *N.P. Ponnuswami vs Returning Officer* (1952), where the Court held that the right to vote and the right to contest elections are not common law rights but rights created by statute. The principle was reaffirmed in *Jyoti Basu & Others vs Debi Ghosal & Others* (1982), where Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy observed that the right to elect, "fundamental though it is to democracy", is neither a fundamental right nor a common law right, but "purely a statutory right".

A Constitution Bench reiterated this position in *Kuldip Nayyar vs Union of India* (2006), holding that while democracy forms part of the basic structure of the Constitution, the individual right to vote flows from legislation, principally the Representation of the People Acts.

The logic behind this approach is understandable. The Constitution does not expressly enumerate the right to vote among the fundamental rights listed in Part III. Therefore, it enjoys considerable latitude in prescribing qualifications, disqualifications and procedures governing elections.

However, the story does not end there.

Constitutionalising the poll process

Beginning in the early years of this century, the Court embarked upon a process of constitutionalising the electoral process. In *Union of India vs Association for Democratic Reforms* (2002), the Court held that voters have a right to know the criminal antecedents, educational qualifications and financial assets of candidates.

This right was located squarely in Article 19(1)(a), the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression.

The Court reasoned that meaningful participation in democracy is impossible unless voters are adequately informed.



S.Y. Quraishi

Former Chief Election Commissioner of India
Under the Umbrella of Wonder: The Making of the Great Indian Election

The right not to vote enjoys constitutional protection; paradoxically, the right to vote does not

A year later, in *People's Union of Civil Liberties vs Union of India* (2003), the Court drew an important distinction. While reiterating that the right to vote is statutory, it held that the freedom of voting – that is, the freedom to make an informed choice – is a fundamental right protected by Article 19(1)(a).

The most intriguing development came in the 2013 NOTA judgment. Recognising the option of "None of the Above", the Court held that a decision to reject all candidates is a form of political expression protected by Article 19(1)(a). The Court further held that secrecy of the ballot must extend even to those who choose not to vote for any candidate.

This produces an extraordinary constitutional anomaly. The Court has effectively held that the right to know is fundamental, the freedom to make an informed choice is fundamental, the secrecy of the ballot is fundamental, and even the right to reject all candidates is constitutionally protected. Yet, the act of voting itself continues to be treated as a mere statutory entitlement.

One is tempted to ask: if the Constitution protects the right to reject all candidates, why does it not protect the right to choose one?

Recent constitutional jurisprudence also points in this direction. In *Anoop Baranwal vs Union of India* (2023), Justice Ajay Rastogi, in his separate opinion, expressly favoured recognising voting as a fundamental right. Although this view did not command a majority, the Court's majority moved to voting as a constitutional right rather than merely a statutory one. This marks an important paradigm shift in judicial understanding.

The Court may not yet have elevated voting to the status of a fundamental right, but it has undoubtedly moved beyond the narrow statutory conception that dominated earlier decisions.

The anomaly becomes even more striking when viewed through the prism of the basic structure doctrine. Since *Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala* (1973), the Court has repeatedly held that democracy forms part of the Constitution's basic structure.

In *Gandhi vs Shri Raj Narain & Anr.* (1975), the Court underscored that free and fair elections are an essential feature of democracy. Subsequent decisions have consistently reaffirmed this principle.

Democracy begins with votes

But democracy does not exist in the abstract. It operates through elections, and elections derive their legitimacy from the participation of citizens through the ballot. The vote is the very instrument through which popular sovereignty is exercised. It is through the vote that "We, the People" periodically renew the legitimacy of the state and hold governments accountable.

basic structure, and if free and fair elections are indispensable to democracy, it is difficult to explain why the citizen's right to vote should remain outside the constitutional core. To say that democracy is basic to the Constitution while the citizen's vote is merely a statutory right appears incongruous. A democracy without voters is inconceivable.

This does not necessarily mean that every aspect of voting should be elevated into an absolute fundamental right immune from regulation. Parliament must continue to prescribe qualifications, disqualifications and procedures necessary for the conduct of elections.

Age requirements, electoral rolls, residency conditions, disqualifications for corrupt practices and other regulatory provisions are indispensable for orderly elections.

What requires constitutional recognition is not every procedural detail but the core right of every eligible citizen to participate in the democratic process.

This becomes particularly evident when one examines Article 326 of the Constitution. The Article mandates that elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies shall be based on universal adult suffrage. Every citizen above the age of 18 is an elector, subject only to narrowly defined disqualifications.

The source of this entitlement is not legislation but the Constitution itself. The Representatives of the People Acts merely operationalise that constitutional command.

Thus, while the mechanics of voting may be statutory, the citizen's entitlement to be a voter flows directly from the Constitution. Exclusion from the electoral roll, except in accordance with constitutionally permissible limitations, therefore, strikes at a constitutional guarantee.

A matter for the Court to revisit

The distinction between statutory and constitutional rights may have served a useful purpose in the early years of the Republic, when electoral jurisprudence was still in its infancy. But the Court's own decisions have steadily blurred that distinction by progressively constitutionalising various facets of voting.

Perhaps the time has come for the Court to revisit an old doctrine. In a Constitution where democracy and free and fair elections constitute the basic structure, the citizen's vote cannot remain a constitutional orphan. The ballot is not merely a statutory privilege conferred by Parliament. It is the instrument through which popular sovereignty is expressed and the Republic periodically renews its democracy.

After all, if the Constitution protects the right to reject every candidate, it can scarcely deny protection to the right to choose one.

Core Argument

- Voting in India should not remain merely a statutory right; it deserves constitutional recognition.

Current Position

- SC has consistently held voting is a statutory right under election laws.

Judicial Evolution

- SC has constitutionalised key aspects: right to know, informed choice, secrecy, & right to reject (NOTA).

Key Judgments

- **ADR (2002):** Right to know candidates' details – Art. 19(1)(a).
- **PUCL (2003):** Freedom of voting – Art. 19(1)(a).
- **NOTA (2013):** Right to reject – Art. 19(1)(a).
- **An. Baranwal (2023):** Voting as fundamental right (separate opinion).

Constitutional Basis

- **Article 326** → Universal Adult Suffrage.
- Entitlement to be a voter flows from Constitution, not legislation.

Why Revisit?

- Democracy & free elections are part of Basic Structure (*Kesavananda*, 1973).
- The right to choose and be chosen should get constitutional status.

Implications

- Stronger protection of democratic participation.
- Exclusion from electoral roll must be strictly constitutionally justified.

UPSC Mains Linkage

- **GS II – Polity:** Democracy, Constitutional Rights, Judiciary
- **GS IV – Ethics:** Political equality, Citizenship responsibility

Key Takeaway

- Democracy begins with votes; the Constitution must protect the right to choose, not just the right to reject.

Related Articles & Concepts

- Art. 19(1)(a), 326 • Basic Structure Doctrine • Electoral Reforms Representation of People Act Political Equality • Free & Fair Elections Delimitation • Electoral Roll Purification

Will El Niño weaken India's economy?

07 July 2026

How could a weak monsoon affect farm output, inflation and economic growth? Why does El Niño remain a major risk for India's economy? How have past El Niño years affected agriculture and inflation? Is India's irrigation and water storage system prepared for another weak monsoon?

ECONOMIC NOTES

V. Nivedita

The story so far:

After the first month of this year's monsoon ended in a massive 40% deficit, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that rainfall in July will also be "below normal" or less than 94% of what is usual for the month.

"Below-normal rainfall can pose significant challenges for agriculture, water resources, hydropower generation, ecosystem sustainability, and drinking water availability," the agency warned.

The outlook for July comes on the back of weak rainfall in June. This comes weeks after Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan sounded the alarm, warning about the impact of a potential 'super' El Niño.

How could a poor monsoon damage India's economy?

A poor monsoon can damage the economy in three ways: it affects agricultural output, reducing the sector's contribution to the economy; it hits rural income, denting aggregate demand; and it threatens to push up food prices, causing inflation.

India came into this kharif season from a position of strength - foodgrain output in 2024-25 jumped to 357.73 million metric tonnes, up 25.43 MMT from the previous year. A weak monsoon now puts that momentum at risk.

In a report, CRISIL notes that while paddy acreage is expected to expand in Punjab, Haryana and Bihar, maize acreage is expected to decline as farmers shift towards more remunerative crops. Farmers might also prefer pulses because of lower cultivation costs and water requirements, and may choose not to plant vegetables at all. Irrigation, MSP, procurement support and market conditions also factor in the decision-making process.

This could trigger food and beverage inflation in its June bulletin the Reserve



Several of India's worst droughts fell in El Niño years — 1972, 1982, 2009, and 2015. FILE PHOTO

Bank of India warned: "An adverse south-west monsoon, if materialised, may weigh on the domestic growth-inflation outlook."

The report noted that daily price data up to June 18 showed food inflation continued to rise and the prices of edible oils, potatoes, onions and tomatoes edged up. A weak monsoon will only push them higher.

Agriculture accounts for only one-fifth of India's Gross Value Added (GVA) but employs 46% of the workforce and supports nearly 55% of the population. "It will have a direct impact on the lives of people," said Prof. R. Ramakumar, School of Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Prof. Bharat Ramaswami, Department of Economics, Ashoka University, believes farm incomes could fall by up to 10%. "The rural non-farm sector consists mostly of non-traded services such as construction. These sectors contract when agriculture is adversely affected. Industries that depend on rural demand will be affected," he said.

This stress moves into the wider economy. Automobile sales are a reliable early signal; two-wheelers and tractors are among the first sectors to feel the squeeze, followed by real estate in smaller towns and cities. Kotak Mutual Fund, in a blog, has noted that a combined El Niño plus-drought scenario may shave 20-65 basis points off GDP growth.

Compounding the pressure are pests and fertilizer supply constraints caused by the Iran war.

The Union Cabinet approved a ₹41,533 crore Nutrient-Based Subsidy for Phosphatic and Potassic fertilisers for the kharif season, covering 28 grades. If output still falls short, the government will have to release buffer stocks and import commodities, widening the Current Account Deficit and putting pressure on the rupee.

India's agri-exports face a threat too. "Agriculture exports have clocked a CAGR of 8.2% between fiscals 2020 and 2025, contributing 12% to India's core exports," said Dipti Deshpande, Principal Economist, CRISIL.

How did El Niño impact the economy?

Several of India's worst droughts fell in El Niño years — 1972, 1982, 2009, and 2015. "In the 11 instances of below-normal or deficient monsoon performance at an all-India level since 2000, six were classified as El Niño years by the IMD. Of these, five saw deficient rainfall," Ms. Deshpande said.

The 2009 and 2015 failures illustrate the different impact poor monsoons can have on the economy.

years of rainfall stress and all-India average irrigation cover less than 45%, caused agriculture output to suffer - crop GVA contracted 2.5% and 3.2% in fiscals 2009 and 2010, respectively. Inflation was in double digits," she said.

El Niño conditions moved from weak to strong in 2014 and 2015, and both years saw monsoon disruptions. Crop GVA contracted, but the impact on inflation was different.

Unlike 2009, when food inflation spiked, inflation was rather muted in 2015 due to proactive food management, restrained MSP hikes, and a global commodity price slump, which kept inflation muted despite the monsoon failure, Ms. Deshpande noted.

Can India 'drought-proof' the economy?

Mr. Chouhan's presser raised an important data point: 315 districts are vulnerable to a poor monsoon, of which 111 across 12 States are of primary concern due to poor irrigation facilities.

On July 2, storage levels across the 166 reservoirs monitored by the Central Water Commission stood at 47.725 BCM, against 78.077 BCM in the corresponding period last year, and below the normal storage of 48.402 BCM for this time of year. While the system can provide water to meet requirements, a poor monsoon could strain it.

"A second successive bad weather will be more damaging," Prof. Ramaswami said, adding that irrigation is crucial in adapting to water stress due to climate change.

India needs to 'drought-proof' its economy, said Prof. Ramakumar. He said the country must move from crop insurance to ex-ante risk reduction. "We need to pay attention to policies and interventions that reduce risk itself. That requires public investment, and that's lacking," he said. He added that India needs enough drought-resistant, high-yielding crops, and that farmers must have access to them. "We have not invested adequately in any of these, and hence our disaster preparedness is very poor," he said.

Weak monsoon impacts agriculture, rural income, inflation & GDP growth.

- Food inflation rising: oils, potatoes, onions, tomatoes.

Agriculture = 20% of GVA but employs 46% workforce, supports 55% population.

- Weak monsoon → lower farm incomes (up to 10%) & weak rural demand.

El Niño + drought scenario may reduce GDP growth by 20-65 bps.

- Pests & fertilizer supply constraints add pressure.

Cabinet approved ₹41,533 cr Nutrient-Based Subsidy for P & K fertilisers.

- Low output → buffer stock release, imports → higher CAD & rupee pressure.

Past worst droughts: 1972, 1982, 2009, 2015.

- 6 of 11 below-normal monsoon years since 2000 were El Niño years.

2014-15: inflation muted due to food management, low MSP hike & global commodity slump.

- Water storage (2 July): 47.725 BCM (normal 48.402 BCM).

315 vulnerable districts; 111 districts in 12 States highly vulnerable.

- Need irrigation, drought-resistant crops, ex-ante risk reduction.

El Niño: Warm phase of ENSO; suppresses monsoon.

- IMD: Issues monsoon forecast.
- NBS: Nutrient-Based Subsidy (P & K fertilisers).
- MSP: Minimum Support Price.
- CAD: Current Account Deficit.
- GVA: Gross Value Added.
- CWC: Central Water Commission.
- ENSO: El Niño-Southern Oscillation.
- Drought-proofing: Build resilience before drought.

Falling behind

Urbanisation in Mumbai is evolving faster than its infrastructure upgrades

The southwest monsoon has been highly active over western India, with south-westerly winds loaded with moisture ascending over the Western Ghats and delivering intense rains along the Konkan coast, while other weather systems offshore are routing more moisture over Mumbai and the surrounding areas. In urban areas in general, rainfall intensity matters more than volume. **Mumbai itself can generally absorb moderate rainfall over several hours; however, its drainage – like in many Indian cities – cannot handle several hundred millimetres in short bursts.** Heavy rainfall also overwhelmed river catchments in parts of Maharashtra, including around Nashik, while high tides reduced the efficiency of Mumbai's stormwater drainage, worsening flooding in the city. **Mumbai-Pune rail services were suspended after landslides in the Bhor Ghat and flights were affected. The closures of the Mumbai-Pune expressway and the Mumbai-Goa highway and significant flooding on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad expressway were disruptive,** speaking to the increasing erraticity of monsoon rainfall, the vulnerabilities associated with linear infrastructure projects, and the ease with which the effects of natural disasters are compounded by cascading failures. **A chawl collapse in Mankhurd took the lives of five children.**

Mumbai lies on a peninsula built mostly on reclaimed land, former marshes, tidal flats, and low-lying coastal areas, creating the characteristic risk of higher flooding when rainfall coincides with high tide. **It is compounded by decades of haphazard urbanisation that has encouraged water to run-off rather than be absorbed by the ground, forcing drains to handle more water than their design limits.** After the July 2005 floods, when it received 944 mm in 24 hours, Mumbai launched the BRIMSTOWAD project and widened drains, installed pumping stations, and undertook premonsoon de-silting. **Many of these works remain incomplete while some completed upgrades are based on assumptions about the monsoon that climate change has since undermined.** Officials have also argued that pre-monsoon desilting helped reduce flooding in parts of Mumbai, but water on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad expressway, the chawl collapse, deadly tree falls in Kurla and Aarey, lack of redundancies in public transport, and the BMC's belated advisory to builders to halt hazardous construction all suggest a governance lapse. **Mumbai's accountability also remains split across the BMC for local drainage and roads, the IMD for forecasting, the NDRF, two Railway zones, the State government, and highway authorities.** Overall, the city has improved at shutting down to save lives and minimising the death toll – but as climate change and

- **Drainage capacity is inadequate:** Mumbai can absorb moderate rainfall but fails during short, intense bursts.
 - High tide + heavy rain reduces stormwater drainage efficiency.

- **Infrastructure vulnerability:** Landslides disrupted Mumbai-Pune rail; flights affected.
 - Expressways (Mumbai-Pune, Mumbai-Goa, Mumbai-Ahmedabad) flooded; cascading failures.

- **Human cost:** Chawl collapse in Mankhurd—5 children died.
 - Urban flooding impacts the most vulnerable sections.

- **Geographical vulnerability:** Mumbai is on reclaimed land, marshes and tidal flats.
 - Low-lying coastal city → high flood risk when rainfall coincides with high tide.

- **Urbanisation impact:** Haphazard urbanisation increases runoff, reduces groundwater absorption.
 - Drains designed for less water; exceed design limits.

- **Post-2005 measures insufficient:** BRIMSTOWAD project, widened drains, pumping stations, pre-monsoon de-silting undertaken.
 - Many works incomplete; assumptions outdated due to climate change.

- **Governance lapses:** Delayed advisories, lack of redundancies in public transport, hazardous construction allowed.
 - Need proactive disaster risk reduction, not reactive response.

- **Fragmented accountability:** Multiple agencies—BMC, IMD, NDRF, Railways, State Govt., highway authorities.
 - Siloed responsibilities weaken coordination and accountability.

● UPSC Prelims Pointers

BRIMSTOWAD • Urban Flooding • High Tide Effect
IMD • NDRF • Cascading Failures • Disaster Mgmt

● GS Mains Linkages

GS III – Disaster Management • Urbanisation • Climate Change
Infrastructure Resilience • Governance • Sustainability

● Key Takeaway

Climate change + unplanned urbanisation + weak governance
= rising urban flood risk. Build resilient, accountable, future-ready cities.

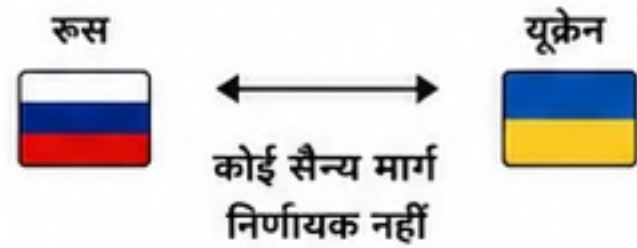
1. फॉलिंग बिहाइंड



- भारी वर्षा + ऊँची ज्वार से मुंबई में बाढ़ आई।
- नाशिक व महाराष्ट्र के कई भाग प्रभावित।
- रेल, बस व हाईवे यातायात बाधित।
- भौगोलिक कारण व अनियोजित शहरीकरण से बाढ़ की संवेदनशीलता बढ़ी।
- ड्रेनेज परियोजनाएँ अपूर्ण, समन्वय कमजोर।
- टुकड़ों में शासन से जवाबदेही कमजोर हुई।

शहरी बाढ़ • BRIMSTOWAD • IMD
GS III • आपदा प्रबंधन • शहरीकरण

2. बैड फॉर बॉथ

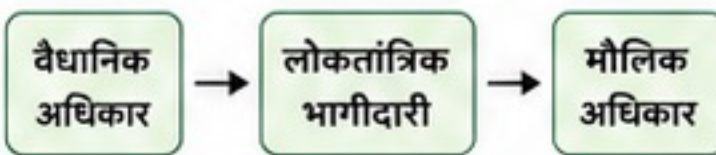


सीजफायर व वार्ता

- दोनों पक्षों को भारी सैन्य व आर्थिक नुकसान।
- यूक्रेन के ड्रोन हमलों से रूस की क्षति।
- रूस 20% से अधिक यूक्रेनी क्षेत्र पर नियंत्रण।
- यूक्रेन रूस को आर्थिक रूप से चोट पहुँचाता है, पर भू-क्षेत्र खोता जा रहा।
- रूस सैन्य बढ़त बनाता है, पर लक्ष्य अधूरा।
- दोनों को रियायतों के साथ वार्ता करनी चाहिए।

रूस-यूक्रेन • सीजफायर • NATO
GS II • अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंध • संघर्ष समाधान

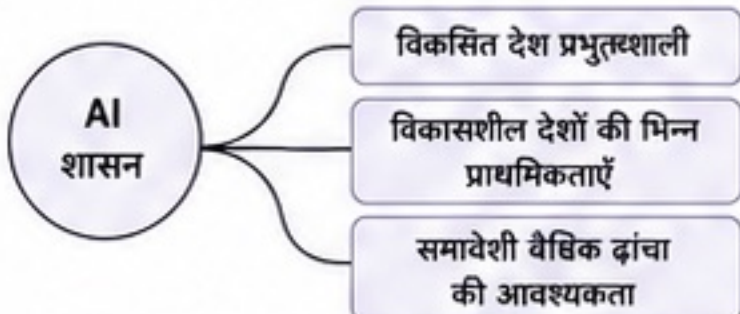
3. भारत में मतदान केवल वैधानिक अधिकार नहीं रह सकता



- SC ने मताधिकार को अब तक वैधानिक अधिकार माना।
- मतदान से नागरिक शासन चुनते हैं।
- न्यायिक रूढ़ान मौलिक अधिकारों का विस्तार कर रहा है।
- लोकतंत्र, भागीदारी व राजनीतिक समानता मूल मूल्य हैं।
- वर्तमान सिद्धांत पर पुनर्विचार का समय आ गया है।
- सभी नागरिकों के लिए मतदान को मौलिक अधिकार बनाया जाना चाहिए।

अनुच्छेद 326 • अनु. 21 • RPA, 1950 & 1951
GS II • राजनीति • लोकतंत्र • अधिकार

4. AI शासन और ग्लोबल साउथ के लिए आवाज़



- AI के नियम मुख्यतः उन्नत अर्थव्यवस्थाएँ बना रहीं।
- विकासशील देशों की जरूरतें अलग हैं।
- भारत ग्लोबल साउथ की चिंताओं को आवाज दे सकता है।
- समावेशन, विविधता, न्यायसंगत पहुँच पर जोर।
- भारत का डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर एक लाभ।
- AI शासन समावेशी व मानव-केंद्रित हो।

AI शासन • डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर
GS III • विज्ञान व प्रौद्योगिकी • वैश्विक शासन

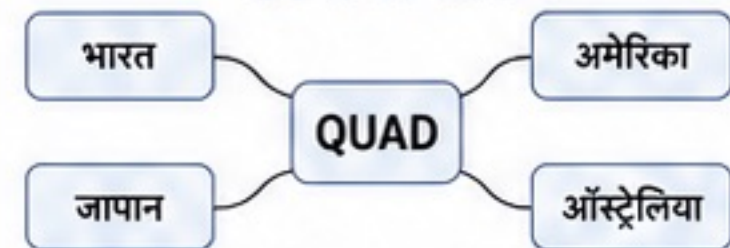
5. चलने का अधिकार आधुनिकता का अभिन्न हिस्सा



- चलना सबसे सार्वभौमिक व मूलभूत गतिशीलता है।
- शहरों ने पैदल यात्रियों की उपेक्षा की है।
- खराब फुटपाथ व असुरक्षित पार-पथ बड़ी समस्या।
- वॉकएबिलिटी से स्वास्थ्य व पर्यावरण दोनों को लाभ।
- बच्चों, बुजुर्गों व दिव्यांगों के लिए विशेष रूप से उपयोगी।
- पैदल चलना एक आवश्यक सार्वजनिक अधिकार है।

वॉकएबिलिटी • शहरी नियोजन • सतत विकास
GS II • शहरीकरण • GS II • सुशासन

6. क्वाड के भविष्य को लेकर उठते सवाल



- अमेरिका ने इंडो-पैसिफिक कमांड का नाम बदलकर पैसिफिक कमांड किया।
- NSS 2025 में क्वाड का संक्षिप्त उल्लेख।
- आलोचना: चीन का नाम नहीं, सुरक्षा पर अस्पष्टता।
- 37 सहयोग क्षेत्रों में से 23 सुरक्षा-सम्बंधित।
- व्यावहारिक सहयोग से क्वाड धीरे-धीरे मजबूत हो रहा।

क्वाड • इंडो-पैसिफिक • समुद्री सुरक्षा
GS III • अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंध • बहुपक्षीय सहयोग

7. क्या एल नीनो कमजोर करेगा भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था?



- कमजोर मौसून से खरीफ उत्पादन घटेगा।
- ग्रामीण आय घटेगी, खाद्य मुद्रास्फीति बढ़ेगी।
- GDP वृद्धि धीमी हो सकती है, निर्यात प्रभावित।
- उर्वरक आपूर्ति पर दबाव; ₹41,533 करोड़ NBS स्वीकृत।
- 315 संवेदनशील जिले; सिंचाई चिंता का विषय।
- अग्रिम जोखिम-न्यूनन व जल प्रबंधन आवश्यक।

एल नीनो • ENSO • IMD • NBS
GS III • अर्थव्यवस्था • कृषि • जलवायु

8. क्या बार एसोसिएशन आरोपी का प्रतिनिधित्व करने से मना कर सकती है?



- प्रत्येक आरोपी को निष्पक्ष सुनवाई का अधिकार।
- कानूनी प्रतिनिधित्व मौलिक न्याय का अंग है।
- बार द्वारा सामूहिक इंकार अवैध व असंवैधानिक।
- वकील का दायित्व अपराध का समर्थन नहीं है।
- SC: व्यावसायिक स्वतंत्रता आवश्यक।
- कानून के शासन व प्राकृतिक न्याय की रक्षा होती है।

अनुच्छेद 21 • एडवोकेट्स एक्ट, 1961
GS II • न्यायपालिका • नैतिकता

9. ई-रिक्शा बैटरी 'हैक' और ब्लूटूथ BMS जोखिम



- BMS बैटरी की स्थिति की निगरानी करता है।
- अनधिकृत 'हैक' से सुरक्षा नियंत्रण बाईपास।
- बैटरी क्षति, प्रदर्शन समस्या, आग का जोखिम।
- कमजोर सुरक्षा से ब्लूटूथ के माध्यम से हमला संभव।
- सुरक्षित फर्मवेयर, ऑथेंटिकेशन, एन्क्रिप्शन जरूरी।
- EV पारिस्थितिकी में साइबर सुरक्षा महत्वपूर्ण।

BMS • ब्लूटूथ • साइबर सुरक्षा
GS III • विज्ञान व प्रौद्योगिकी • EV इकोसिस्टम

त्वरित समाचार (Quick News)

- मोदी की तीन देशों की यात्रा शुरू, इंडोनेशिया से शुरुआत रणनीतिक साझेदारी, इंडो-पैसिफिक सहयोग व कनेक्टिविटी पर जोर।
- जयशंकर भारत के UNSC अभियान का नेतृत्व करेंगे गैर-स्थायी सदस्यता के लिए वैश्विक समर्थन बढ़ाने पर फोकस।
- समुद्री कर्मियों के लिए अनिवार्य योग कोर्स शुरू तनाव कम करने व मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सुधार हेतु योग-आधारित कार्यक्रम।
- BRICS देशों का नशा-तस्करी पर सख्त रुख गुवाहाटी में एंटी-ड्रग एजेंसियों की बैठक; खुफिया साझाकरण व समन्वय पर बल।
- विक्रम-1 रॉकेट में डायमंड ज्वेलरी शामिल भारत के निजी ऑर्बिटल रॉकेट का लॉन्च के साथ वाणिज्यिक पेलोड भेजे जाएंगे।
- ईरान सप्लाई कमी को झेल रहा वैश्विक तेल बाजार स्टॉक घटे; भविष्य में मूल्य अस्थिरता का खतरा।
- NATO रक्षा खर्च बढ़ाने का दबाव यूरोपीय देशों पर वित्तीय दबाव; बजट संतुलन चुनौती।
- पूर्वी अफ्रीका की महिलाएँ बदलते महासागरों से अनुकूलन को आजीविका विविधीकरण।
- चीन ने प्रशांत में 'रणनीतिक' मिसाइल का परीक्षण किया क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा चिंताएँ बढ़ीं; इंडो-पैसिफिक पर प्रभाव।
- भारत के गिग वर्कर्स को सामाजिक सुरक्षा की मांग प्लेटफॉर्म श्रमिकों के लिए एहसान व कल्याण योजनाएँ की मांग तेज।

प्रिलिम्स फैक्ट्स (Prelim Facts)

- अनुच्छेद 326: लोकसभा व राज्य विधानसभाओं के लिए सार्वजनिक वयस्क मताधिकार।
- BRIMSTOWAD: मुंबई की स्टॉर्म-वॉटर ड्रेनेज परियोजना।
- एल नीनो: ENSO का गर्म चरण; मॉनसून कमजोर हो सकता है।
- NBS (Nutrient-Based Subsidy): उर्वरक (P & K) पर सरकार की सब्सिडी योजना।
- BMS: बैटरी मैनेजमेंट सिस्टम; बैटरी स्वास्थ्य व सुरक्षा की निगरानी करता है।
- निष्पक्ष सुनवाई का अधिकार: अनुच्छेद 21 का हिस्सा।
- RPA, 1950 & 1951: चुनाव कानून; चुनाव प्रक्रिया का विनियमन।
- क्वाड: भारत, अमेरिका, जापान, ऑस्ट्रेलिया का समूह।
- UNSC: 5 स्थायी + 10 अस्थायी सदस्य; भारत दावेदार देशों में शामिल।

शब्दावली (Vocabulary)

- समावेशी — सभी को साथ लेकर चलने वाला।
- लचीलापन — कठिन परिस्थितियों से उबरने की क्षमता।
- उत्तरदायित्व — जवाब देने और जिम्मेदारी निभाने की स्थिति।
- बहुपक्षीयता — अनेक देशों के बीच सहयोग की प्रक्रिया।
- वोलैटिलिटी — अस्थिरता; तेजी से बदलने की प्रवृत्ति।

1. FALLING BEHIND



- Heavy rain + high tides caused flooding.
- Mumbai, Nashik & parts of Maharashtra hit.
- Transport, rail, highways disrupted.
- Geography + unplanned urbanisation increase vulnerability.
- Many drainage projects incomplete.
- Fragmented governance weakens response.

Urban Flooding • BRIMSTOWAD • IMD
GS III • Disaster Mgmt • Urbanisation

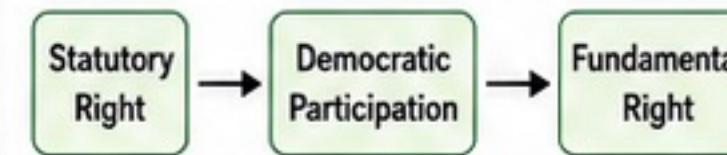
2. BAD FOR BOTH



- Both sides suffering heavy military losses.
- Ukraine hits Russia with drone attacks.
- Russia controls over 20% Ukrainian territory.
- Economic costs rising for both sides.
- Neither side can achieve full objectives.
- Ceasefire + negotiations with concessions.

Russia-Ukraine • Ceasefire • NATO
GS II • IR • Conflict Resolution

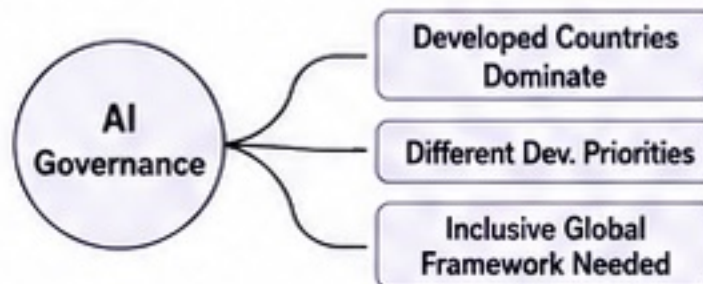
3. VOTING AS FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT



- SC: Right to vote is a statutory right.
- Voting enables citizens to choose their government.
- Judicial trends expand constitutional rights.
- Democracy & participation are core values.
- Time to reconsider existing doctrine.
- Strengthen political equality & citizenship.

Article 326 • Art. 21 • RPA, 1950 & 1951
GS II • Polity • Democracy • Rights

4. AI & VOICE FOR GLOBAL SOUTH



- AI rules shaped by advanced economies.
- Dev. countries have different priorities.
- India can voice Global South concerns.
- Focus: inclusion, diversity, equitable access.
- India's DPI & AI ecosystem give leverage.
- AI governance must be inclusive.

AI Governance • Digital Public Infra
GS III • Science & Tech • Global Governance

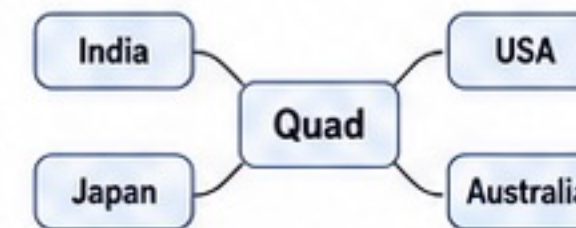
5. RIGHT TO WALK & MODERNITY



- Walking is universal & essential mobility.
- Cities prioritise vehicles over pedestrians.
- Poor footpaths unsafe & inaccessible.
- Walkability boosts health & environment.
- Benefits children, elderly & PwDs.
- Walking is an essential public right.

Walkability • Urban Planning • Sustainability
GS II • Urbanisation • GS II • Governance

6. QUESTIONS AROUND QUAD'S FUTURE



- US shifts focus; Indo-Pacific command renamed Pacific Command.
- NSS 2025 gives Quad a brief mention.
- Critics: avoids naming China; not security blc.
- 37 areas of cooperation; 23 security-linked.
- Practical cooperation strengthening Quad.

Quad • Indo-Pacific • Maritime Security
GS II • IR • Security • Multilateralism

7. EL NIÑO & INDIA'S ECONOMY



- Weak monsoon cuts kharif production.
- Rural incomes fall; food inflation may rise.
- GDP growth may slow; exports affected.
- Fertiliser pressure; ₹41,533 cr subsidy approved.
- 315 vulnerable districts; irrigation concern.
- Need proactive drought risk reduction.

El Niño • ENSO • IMD • NBS
GS III • Economy • Agriculture • Climate

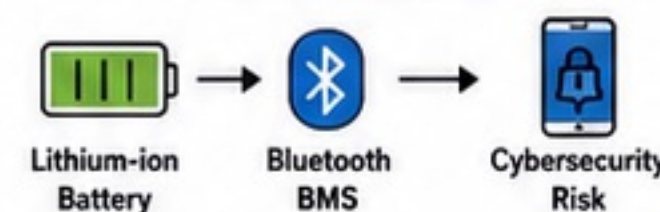
8. BAR ASSOCIATIONS & RIGHT TO DEFENCE



- Every accused entitled to fair trial.
- Legal representation is a fundamental component.
- Collective refusal by Bar is illegal.
- Lawyer's role ≠ endorsement of crime.
- SC: Professional independence essential.
- Ensures rule of law & natural justice.

Article 21 • Advocates Act, 1961
GS II • Polity • Judiciary • Ethics

9. E-RICKSHAW BATTERY CYBER RISKS



- BMS monitors battery via Bluetooth.
- Hacks can bypass safety controls.
- Risks: damage, fire, performance issues.
- Weak cybersecurity enables attacks.
- Need secure firmware, auth, encryption.
- Cybersecurity vital for EV ecosystem.

BMS • Bluetooth • Cybersecurity
GS III • Science & Tech • EV Ecosystem

QUICK NEWS

- **Modi begins three-nation visit with Indonesia**
Focus on strategic partnership, Indo-Pacific cooperation & connectivity.
- **Jaishankar to lead India's UNSC campaign**
India intensifies outreach for non-permanent UNSC seat.
- **Mandatory yoga course for seafarers**
Yoga-based wellness programme launched to reduce stress.
- **BRICS calls for stronger anti-drug cooperation**
Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies meet in Guwahati; focus on intelligence sharing.
- **Diamond jewellery in Vikram-1 payloads**
India's private orbital rocket to carry commercial payloads.
- **Oil markets absorb Iran supply loss**
Inventories depleted; future price risks remain.
- **NATO push to raise defence spending**
Higher military budgets strain European members' finances.
- **East African women adapt to oceans**
Coastal communities diversify livelihoods amid climate stress.
- **China test-fires 'strategic' missile in Pacific**
Test raises regional security concerns in Indo-Pacific.
- **India's gig workers demand social security**
Platform workers seek recognition & welfare protections.

PRELIM FACTS

- **Article 326:** Elections to Lok Sabha & State Assemblies.
- **BRIMSTOWAD:** Mumbai's storm-water drainage project.
- **El Niño:** Warm phase of ENSO.
- **Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS):** Fertiliser subsidy for N, P, K.
- **Battery Management System (BMS):** Monitors battery health & safety.
- **Right to Fair Trial:** Part of Article 21.
- **RPA, 1950 & 1951:** Govern elections.
- **Quad:** India, USA, Japan, Australia.
- **UNSC:** 5 permanent + 10 non-permanent members.

VOCABULARY

- **Accommodative** — Willing to make adjustments for harmony.
- **Resilience** — Ability to recover quickly from difficulties.
- **Inclusivity** — Ensuring participation of all sections.
- **Interoperability** — Ability of systems to work together.
- **Volatility** — Likelihood of rapid and unpredictable change.