

1 भारत-ऑस्ट्रेलिया वार्षिक शिखर सम्मेलन रक्षा, टेक्नोलॉजी और इंडो-पैसिफिक

- तीसरा भारत-ऑस्ट्रेलिया वार्षिक शिखर सम्मेलन सम्पन्न।
- रक्षा और सुरक्षा सहयोग पर संयुक्त घोषणा पत्र पर हस्ताक्षर।
- साइबर, क्रिटिकल टेक्नोलॉजी और सप्लाय चैन पर PACTS की शुरुआत।
- समुद्री सहयोग के लिए सहयोग रोडमैप तय।
- भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय को ऑस्ट्रेलिया के सबसे बड़े प्रवासी समुदाय के रूप में मान्यता।
- इंडो-पैसिफिक में शांति, स्थिरता और समृद्धि के प्रति साझा प्रतिबद्धता।



वैल्यू एडिशन: व्यापक रणनीतिक साझेदारी (CSP) 2020; दोनों Quad, IORA और EAS के सदस्य; ऑस्ट्रेलिया महत्वपूर्ण क्रिटिकल मिनरल सप्लायर।

प्रमुख कीवर्ड: Quad, इंडो-पैसिफिक, PACTS, CSP, क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स

2 भारत-ऑस्ट्रेलिया संयुक्त वक्तव्य ऊर्जा सुरक्षा पर

- दोनों देशों के बीच ऊर्जा व्यापार को मजबूत करना।
- सुरक्षित आपूर्ति श्रृंखला पर विशेष ध्यान।
- स्वच्छ ऊर्जा और ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन में सहयोग का विस्तार।
- डाउनस्ट्रीम पेट्रोलियम सहयोग को बढ़ावा।
- ऊर्जा स्रोतों का विविधीकरण।
- दीर्घकालिक ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और स्थिर इंडो-पैसिफिक ऊर्जा आर्किटेक्चर पर जोर।



वैल्यू एडिशन: IEA, Strategic Petroleum Reserves, Green Hydrogen Mission, Critical Minerals से लिंकड।

प्रमुख कीवर्ड: ऊर्जा सुरक्षा, क्लीन एनर्जी, हाइड्रोजन, SPR, इंडो-पैसिफिक

3 29वीं NTCA बैठक बाघ संरक्षण

- 29वीं NTCA बैठक कोयम्बदूर में आयोजित।
- बाघ संरक्षण पहलों की समीक्षा।
- लैंडस्केप आधारित संरक्षण को सुदृढ़ करना।
- निगरानी, सुरक्षा और प्रबंधन को बेहतर बनाना।
- मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष न्यूनीकरण पर जोर।
- बेहतर परिणामों के लिए राज्यों के साथ समन्वय।



वैल्यू एडिशन: NTCA की स्थापना वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1972 के तहत; प्रोजेक्ट टाइगर का क्रियान्वयन; भारत में विश्व के >75% जंगली बाघ पाए जाते हैं (आधिकारिक अनुमान)।

प्रमुख कीवर्ड: प्रोजेक्ट टाइगर, NTCA, टाइगर रिजर्व, WL अधिनियम

4 NBWL और केन्द्रीय चिड़ियाघर प्राधिकरण बैठक

- NBWL की 91वीं स्थायी समिति बैठक आयोजित।
- CZA की 46वीं बैठक आयोजित।
- संरक्षण पहलों और विकास प्रस्तावों की समीक्षा।
- संरक्षित क्षेत्रों और वन्यजीव शासन पर ध्यान।
- चिड़ियाघरों के प्रबंधन मानकों की समीक्षा।
- जैव विविधता संरक्षण को प्रोत्साहन।



वैल्यू एडिशन: NBWL की अध्यक्षता प्रधानमंत्री करते हैं; CZA वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम के तहत कार्य करता है।

प्रमुख कीवर्ड: NBWL, CZA, संरक्षित क्षेत्र, जैव विविधता

5 नमामि गंगे के तहत प्रकृति-आधारित समाधान (NbS) पहल

- NbS पर पायलट परियोजनाएँ और क्षमता निर्माण शुरू।
- पारिस्थितिक तंत्र आधारित समाधान पर बल।
- नदी पुनरुद्धार और आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण।
- बाढ़ शमन और जलवायु अनुकूलन में सहायक।
- सामुदायिक भागीदारी को बढ़ावा।
- दीर्घकालिक नदी स्वास्थ्य और लचीलापन को समर्थन।



वैल्यू एडिशन: उदाहरण - मैन्ग्रोव्स, शहरी आर्द्रभूमि, रिपोरिटरन वनस्पति, फ्लडप्लेन पुनर्स्थापन।

प्रमुख कीवर्ड: NbS, नदी पुनरुद्धार, आर्द्रभूमि, जलवायु अनुकूलन, रैमसर, पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र पुनर्स्थापन

6 कृषि यंत्रीकरण पर उप-मिशन (PIB पुच्छभूमि)

- छोटे और सीमांत किसानों हेतु कृषि यंत्रीकरण बढ़ाना लक्ष्य।
- कृषि मशीनरी पर सहायता।
- कस्टम हायरिंग सेंटर (CHC) को बढ़ावा।
- फार्म मशीनरी बैंक की स्थापना।
- कठिन क्षेत्रों में यंत्रीकरण को प्रोत्साहन।
- उत्पादकता बढ़ाना और श्रम बोझ कम करना।



वैल्यू एडिशन: कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण विभाग द्वारा क्रियान्वित।

प्रमुख कीवर्ड: यंत्रीकरण, CHC, मशीनरी बैंक, छोटे किसान

7 QCI-NSIC MoU MSME प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता के लिए

- क्वालिटी काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया (QCI) और NSIC के बीच MoU।
- MSMEs के लिए गुणवत्ता मानक में सुधार।
- प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता और उत्पादकता को बढ़ावा।
- बाजार पहुंच आसान करना।
- क्षमता निर्माण और हैंडहोल्डिंग।
- 'मेक इन इंडिया' और 'आत्मनिर्भर भारत' को समर्थन।



वैल्यू एडिशन: QCI की स्थापना 1997 में; NSIC सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम मंत्रालय के तहत कार्य करता है।

प्रमुख कीवर्ड: QCI, NSIC, MSME, गुणवत्ता, प्रतिस्पर्धा

8 समृद्ध ग्राम को WSIS पुरस्कार 2026

- दूरसंचार विभाग की 'समृद्ध ग्राम' पहल को WSIS पुरस्कार 2026 मिला।
- एकशन लाइन C6 (Enabling Environment) में मान्यता।
- ग्रामीण डिजिटल समावेशन को बढ़ावा।
- डिजिटल कनेक्टिविटी सुदृढ़ करना।
- ICT आधारित सुशासन को सक्षम बनाना।
- समावेशी और सतत डिजिटल विकास को समर्थन।



वैल्यू एडिशन: WSIS - इंटरनेशनल टेलीकम्युनिकेशन यूनियन (ITU) द्वारा संचालित; डिजिटल समावेशन में वैश्विक मान्यता।

प्रमुख कीवर्ड: WSIS, ITU, डिजिटल समावेशन, ग्रामीण कनेक्टिविटी

9 50वीं NSQC बैठक राष्ट्रीय कौशल योग्यता दांचा

- NSQC की 50वीं बैठक आयोजित।
- राष्ट्रीय कौशल योग्यता दांचा (NSQF) की समीक्षा।
- कौशल योग्यता का मानकीकरण।
- उद्योग आवश्यकताओं के अनुरूपता।
- परिणाम-आधारित कौशल विकास पर बल।
- कार्यबल गतिशीलता और रोजगारक्षमता को बढ़ावा।



वैल्यू एडिशन: NCVET के साथ संबंध; कौशल विकास और उद्यमिता मंत्रालय के तहत।

प्रमुख कीवर्ड: NSQF, NSQC, NCVET, कौशल, रोजगारयोग्यता

अन्य महत्वपूर्ण एक-पंक्ति समाचार

INS सुदर्शनी ने न्यूयॉर्क, USA में पोर्ट कॉल पूर्ण किया।

लॉस एंजेलिस 2028 ओलंपिक के लिए क्वालीफिकेशन पाथवे NSF's द्वारा प्रकाशित होंगे।

BRICS महिला मंत्रिस्तरीय बैठक कोच्चि (केरल) में संपन्न।

TRAI ने राजस्थान के बाड़मेर, बालोतरा और पचपदरा क्षेत्रों में मोबाइल नेटवर्क गुणवत्ता का आकलन किया।

उपराष्ट्रपति ने NISER के 15वें दीक्षांत समारोह में भाग लिया और मत्स्य पालन पर स्थिरता कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ किया।

1 India–Australia Annual Summit Defence, Tech & Indo-Pacific

- 3rd India–Australia Annual Summit concluded
- Joint Declaration on Defence & Security Cooperation signed
- Launched PACTS on Cyber, Critical Tech & Supply Chains
- Cooperation roadmap for maritime collaboration
- Indian diaspora recognised as Australia's largest overseas community
- Reaffirmed commitment to free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific



Value Addition: CSP elevated in 2020; Both in Quad, IORA, East Asia Summit; Australia is key supplier of critical minerals.

Keywords: Quad, Indo-Pacific, PACTS, CSP, Critical Minerals

2 India–Australia Joint Statement on Energy Security

- Strengthen energy trade between the two countries
- Focus on secure energy supply chains
- Expand cooperation in clean energy & hydrogen
- Collaboration in downstream petroleum
- Diversification of energy sources
- Support for stable Indo-Pacific energy architecture

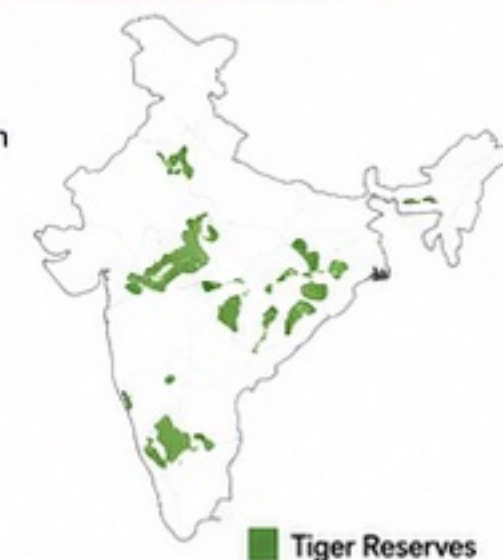


Value Addition: Linked to IEA, Strategic Petroleum Reserves, Green Hydrogen Mission, Critical Minerals.

Keywords: Energy Security, Clean Energy, Hydrogen, SPR, Indo-Pacific

3 29th NTCA Meeting Tiger Conservation

- 29th NTCA meeting held at Coimbatore
- Review of tiger conservation initiatives
- Strengthening landscape-based conservation
- Better monitoring and protection
- Human–wildlife conflict mitigation
- Coordination with States for better outcomes

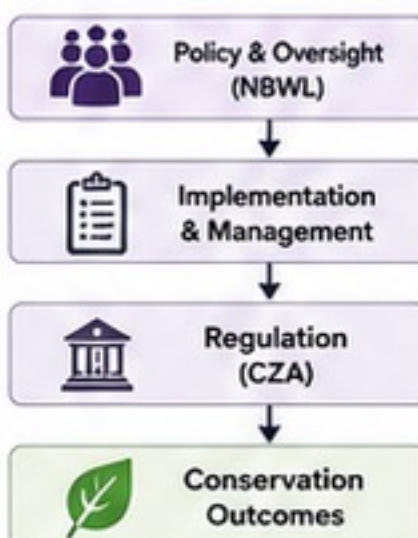


Value Addition: NTCA set up under WL (Protection) Act, 1972; Implements Project Tiger; India has >75% of world's wild tigers.

Keywords: Project Tiger, NTCA, Tiger Reserves, WL Act

4 NBWL & Central Zoo Authority Meetings

- 91st Standing Committee meeting of NBWL held
- 46th Central Zoo Authority meeting also held
- Reviewed conservation initiatives and proposals
- Focus on protected areas and wildlife governance
- Strengthening standards for zoos
- Promoting biodiversity conservation

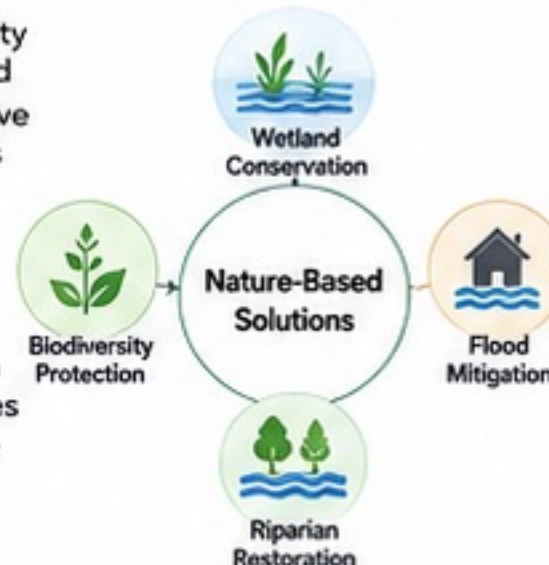


Value Addition: NBWL chaired by PM; CZA functions under WL (Protection) Act, 1972.

Keywords: NBWL, CZA, Protected Areas, Biodiversity

5 Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) under Namami Gange

- Pilot projects and capacity building on NbS initiated
- Using ecosystems to solve environmental problems
- River restoration and wetland conservation
- Flood mitigation and climate adaptation
- Community participation and sustainable outcomes
- Supports long-term river health and resilience

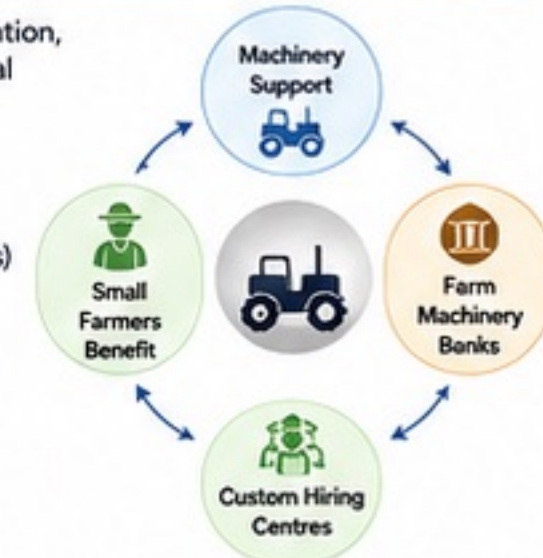


Value Addition: Examples – Mangroves, Urban Wetlands, Riparian Vegetation, Floodplain Restoration.

Keywords: NbS, River Restoration, Climate Adaptation, Ramsar, Ecosystem Restoration

6 Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (PIB Backgrounder)

- Aim: Increase farm mechanization, especially for small & marginal farmers
- Support for agricultural machinery
- Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs)
- Farm Machinery Banks
- Promotes mechanization in difficult terrains
- Improves productivity and reduces labour burden



Value Addition: Implemented by Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare; helps reduce input costs and drudgery.

Keywords: Mechanization, CHC, Small Farmers, Productivity

7 QCI–NSIC MoU for MSME Competitiveness

- MoU between Quality Council of India (QCI) & NSIC
- Improve quality standards for MSMEs
- Enhance competitiveness and productivity
- Better market access
- Capacity building and handholding
- Support Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat



Value Addition: QCI established in 1997; NSIC works under Ministry of MSME.

Keywords: QCI, NSIC, MSME, Quality, Competitiveness

8 Samriddh Gram Wins WSIS Prize 2026

- Dept. of Telecom's Samriddh Gram initiative wins WSIS Prize 2026
- Recognised under Action Line C6 (Enabling Environment)
- Promotes rural digital inclusion
- Strengthens digital connectivity
- Enables ICT-based governance
- Supports inclusive development



Value Addition: WSIS facilitated by ITU; Global recognition for India's digital inclusion efforts.

Keywords: WSIS, ITU, Digital Inclusion, Rural Connectivity

9 50th NSQC Meeting National Skills Framework

- 50th meeting of NSQC held
- Reviewed National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)
- Standardisation of skill qualifications
- Better alignment with industry needs
- Outcome-based skilling approach
- Enhances workforce mobility and employability



Value Addition: Associated with NCVET; Promotes quality, relevance and portability of skills.

Keywords: NSQF, NSQC, NCVET, Skilling, Employability

Other Important One-Liners



INS Sudarshini concludes port call at New York, USA.



Los Angeles 2028 qualification pathways for Olympics to be published by NSFs.



BRICS Women Ministerial Meeting concludes in Kochi.



TRAI assesses mobile network quality across Barmer, Balotra & Pachpadra (Rajasthan).



Vice President attends 15th NISER Convocation and launches fisheries sustainability programme.

How India withstood the crisis in West Asia

Historically, sharp increases in oil prices have been among the biggest sources of macroeconomic instability for India. It was therefore unsurprising that when tensions in West Asia escalated, many thought that India would once again face an energy and economic crisis, derailing its growth path. It revived memories of the 1973 oil shock and the 1991 balance-of-payments crisis, with concerns over soaring fuel prices, imported inflation, and pressure on the external account. After all, India imports almost 90% of its crude oil and remains heavily dependent on the Gulf for oil, gas and fertilizers.

This time around, however, when the Strait of Hormuz was the epicentre of global anxiety, India proved not only the sceptics at home and abroad wrong, but also seems to have emerged stronger in this resilience of India. Was luck, or was it the outcome of deliberate policy choices, institutional learning, and strategic preparation?

Defying the odds

Few major economies were as vulnerable to the disruption in the Strait of Hormuz as India, the world's third-largest oil importer. Heavy dependence on imported crude and LPG, combined with rising freight costs and maritime risks, created conditions for a severe external shock. Within weeks, the Indian crude basket crossed \$120 per barrel; the import-linked cost of a domestic LPG cylinder rose above ₹1,600; and war-risk premiums escalated sharply. By conventional measures, India appeared particularly vulnerable. However, the real challenge was not merely managing higher energy costs but preventing a global supply disruption from translating into inflation and shortages at home.



Sachin Kumar Sharma

Director General, RIS, New Delhi. Views expressed are personal

India had quietly built an insurance policy against geopolitical shocks by diversifying its supplier base

turned out to be among the most price-resilient; India contained fuel and cooking gas inflation better than many advanced and emerging peers.

The numbers tell an extraordinary story. Petrol prices in India rose by just 7.5% during the crisis, compared with nearly 14% in Germany, 19% in the U.K., 45% in the U.S., over 50% in Pakistan and the Philippines, and almost 90% in Myanmar. The contrast was even starker in diesel prices. While the UAE saw prices surge by about 85%, India limited the increase to just 8%.

One saw a similar story in the kitchen. Even though India imports nearly 60% of its LPG requirements, a domestic cylinder continued to cost ₹942, or ₹642 for Ujjwala beneficiaries, which was cheaper than what it cost in Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, and dramatically lower than in the U.S., Australia and Canada.

However, the cushion came at a cost, as state-run Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) incurred ₹74,781 crore in losses on petrol, diesel, and LPG sales up to June 30 as global crude prices surged during the West Asia crisis. But that cost shows you the big picture. Instead of passing the full shock to consumers, the government and public-sector OMCs absorbed it, protecting household budgets and keeping fuel and cooking gas affordable throughout the crisis.

Weathering the storm

While several factors contributed to India's resilience during the West Asia crisis, four stand out. The first lesson of the crisis is that strategic relationships are themselves a form of energy security. In times of crisis, relationships matter as much as reserves.

to continue supplying energy underscored a simple reality: foreign policy can be as important to energy security as oil fields.

Second, India had quietly built an insurance policy against geopolitical shocks by diversifying its supplier base. Energy partnerships stretching from Russia and the U.S. to Africa and Latin America gave India the flexibility to withstand disruptions far better than in previous crises. In geopolitics, putting all your energy eggs in one basket is no longer an option.

Third, the crisis vindicated a decade of energy planning. India had quietly built multiple layers of resilience such as higher ethanol blending, a rapidly expanding renewable energy base, larger strategic reserves and stronger refining capacity. These investments did not prevent the crisis, but they made the economy better equipped to absorb it.

Fourth, the crisis reflected the value of a whole-of-government approach, reinforcing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on breaking down ministerial silos and strengthening institutional coordination. The Ministries of External Affairs, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the Indian Navy, and the National Security Council Secretariat worked in close coordination to monitor risks, manage logistics, and protect energy supplies.

The result was a coordinated national response that turned potential disruption into an exercise in resilience.

The way ahead

The recent crisis shows us that the foundations of resilience are laid in years of preparation, and not in moments of panic. India's response reflected the dividends of strategic foresight, diplomatic outreach and whole-of-government coordination. As global uncertainties deepen, this resilience could become a defining pillar of 'Viksit Bharat'.

- **Strategic Importance**
 - West Asia is vital for India's energy security; ~90% crude oil imports from region.
 - Strait of Hormuz is a critical global choke point.
- **Crisis Context**
 - West Asia tensions feared to trigger oil price surge, inflation & external account stress.
 - Past shocks: 1973 oil crisis & 1991 BoP crisis.
- **India's Price Resilience**
 - Petrol prices rose just 7.5% in India vs ~14% in Germany, ~19% in UK, ~45% in US.
 - Diesel prices rose only 8% in India vs ~85% in UAE.
- **LPG Affordability**
 - Despite ~60% LPG imports, domestic cylinder cost ₹942 (₹642 for Ujjwala).
 - Cheaper than Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka & far below US, Australia, Canada.
- **Financial Cost Absorbed**
 - OMCs incurred ₹74,781 crore loss on petroleum, diesel & LPG sales till June 30.
 - Government & OMCs shielded consumers from full shock.
- **Four Pillars of Resilience**
 - Strategic relationships ensured oil supply continuity (Iran, Gulf).
 - Diversified energy import basket (Russia, US, Africa, Latin America).
 - Investments in ethanol blending, renewables, reserves & refining.
 - Whole-of-government approach & institutional coordination.
- **Key Takeaways**
 - Energy security is multi-dimensional: diplomacy + reserves + diversification.
 - Preparedness over panic is the foundation of resilience.
 - Model of 'whole-of-government' crucial for future crises.
- **UPSC Relevance**
 - GS II: India's foreign policy, strategic autonomy.
 - GS III: Energy security, economy, governance, institutions.
 - Concepts: Energy diversification,



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of “flea market”? (B. C. Koshy, Palakkad)
If a fish market is a place where you go to buy fish, then a “flea market” should be a place where you go to buy fleas! Makes sense, doesn't it? Luckily this is not the case. The expression “flea market” was originally used to refer to a place where second-hand goods were sold. In order for a place to be called a “flea market”, the goods sold had to be ‘second hand’ and they had to be sold outdoors — out in the open air, not indoors. The assumption being that the second hand goods would attract not only customers, but also fleas! Nowadays, a flea market does not necessarily have to sell only second hand goods; nor does it have to sell its products out in the open air. We have indoor flea markets as well.

Why is the word “number” abbreviated to “No.” (M. Murugan, Tiruvannamalai)

The word “number” comes from the Latin “numero”. Since the first and last letters of the word are “n” and “o” respectively, the word is often abbreviated to “no.”

What is the difference between “nickname” and “pseudonym”? (S. Sheela, Mysore)

A nickname literally means “additional name”. A nickname is a name given to a person by someone else; it could be someone from within the family or outside. A pseudonym means more or less the same thing as “nickname”. It is an additional name that someone has. Unlike a “nickname” which is usually given by someone else, one can choose one's pseudonym. Writers often choose a fictitious name to write under.

For example “Mark Twain” was the pseudonym of Samuel Clemens and similarly “Lewis Carroll” was the pseudonym of Charles Dodgson. When you use a pseudonym, you do not always use it to hide your identity; you may use it because it sounds fancier than your registered name. Perhaps it is easier to remember than your real name. Movie actors very often make use of pseudonyms.

Unlike the word “alias”, which was discussed in this column several weeks ago, pseudonym and nickname do not have a negative connotation.

A word about the pronunciation. The first syllable “pseu” is pronounced like the word “sue”; the “p” is silent. The “o” in the second syllable is like the “a” in “China”, while the final “y” is like the “i” in “hit”, “bit”, and “sit”. The stress is on the first syllable.

What is the past tense of “telecast”? (P. Rathna, Chennai)

The past tense of broadcast and telecast are broadcast and telecast.

What does “a.k.a” stand for? (T. Krishna Kumar, Alwaye)

This is an abbreviation which we usually find when we are reading about missing persons. “Rajan, a.k.a. Goldie has been missing since...”. The letters stand for “also known as”.

Published in The Hindu on March 20, 2001

FLEA MARKET

- Originally meant a place for selling second-hand goods outdoors.
- Name arose from the belief that such goods attract customers and fleas.
- Today, it may sell new or used goods and may be indoors or outdoors.

NUMBER → NO.

- “Number” comes from Latin “numero”.
- Abbreviated to “No.” from the first and last letters “n” and “o”.

NICKNAME vs PSEUDONYM

- Nickname = additional name given by others.
- Pseudonym = additional name chosen by oneself.
- Used for convenience, style or identity.
- Pseudonym & nickname are neutral; alias has negative connotation.

PRONUNCIATION OF PSEUDONYM

- “pseu” pronounced as “sue” (silent ‘p’).
- “o” in second syllable as “a” in “China”.
- Final “y” as “i” in “hit”, “bit”, “sit”.
- Stress on first syllable.

PAST TENSE OF TELECAST

- Past tense of broadcast → broadcast.
- Past tense of telecast → telecast.

A.K.A.

- Stands for “also known as”.
- Commonly used in missing persons' information.
- Example: “Rajan, a.k.a. Goldie”.

UPSC RELEVANCE

- Language & comprehension in Prelims.
- Useful for Essay (precision of language) and GS Paper II (communication).
- Enhances vocabulary, etymology & linguistic awareness.

What is the right to be forgotten?

How does the ruling balance privacy with open justice and free speech? What challenges remain in enforcing the right to be forgotten? What role does the DPDP Act play? Who should decide requests for erasure or de-indexing?

EXPLAINER

G.S. Bajpai

The story so far:

The Delhi High Court, in its recent ruling, has laid down the principles governing the right to be forgotten. The court has evolved a new jurisprudence to protect the privacy of those who continue to be victimised on account of their digital footprints on social media and elsewhere, despite having those matters settled in their favour.

What is the 'right to be forgotten'?

The "right to be forgotten" is the right to have information erased or de-indexed from the public digital environment when its continued accessibility is harmful and serves no public interest.

The concept came to the fore in 2014, when a Spanish citizen, Mario Costeja González, complained to the European Court of Justice that Google continued to display an old newspaper notice about the auction of his repossessed house even though the debt had been settled. The court ruled in his favour, laying the groundwork for the right to erasure, which was later incorporated into Article 17 of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

How has the idea of the right to be forgotten evolved in Indian law?

The Supreme Court's judgment in *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (2017) held that privacy is a fundamental right under Article 21, including the right to informational privacy. In the years that followed, however, High Courts adopted divergent approaches.

While some permitted anonymisation in limited cases, such as the Delhi High Court ordering the masking of names in certain matrimonial and criminal matters, others took a stricter view.



GETTY IMAGES

grounds of open justice.

The real challenge was the lack of a coherent framework to balance these competing interests, which the May 2026 Delhi High Court judgment sought to address.

What did the Delhi High Court decide?

On May 29, the Delhi High Court ruled in a batch of over 30 consolidated petitions, led by *Laksh Vir Singh Yadav v. Union of India*. The core issue was whether informational privacy could justify the de-indexing or masking of judicial records in a system committed to open justice.

The court held that the right to be forgotten flows from Article 21's guarantee of dignity and informational privacy.

A structured proportionality test is that retention must have a legitimate purpose, that the harm to privacy must be balanced,

that the harm to public interest, and balanced against the public interest, and that the least intrusive means, typically by masking from names, instead of deleting the entire judgment, should be preferred.

The court clarified that the deadline for legal databases to comply and explained that only the parties' names should be redacted, not the facts of the case.

that the original accusation, or the "shadow of crime," is often the first thing the user sees. De-indexing can benefit at the search level, but it won't prevent mirrors, archive copies, or social media sharing. Without effective technical compliance and coordination among platforms, the right may remain largely symbolic.

What is the relationship between the right to be forgotten and DPDP Act?

As of now, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, offers a limited statutory right to erasure in section 12. It primarily based on consent and does not explicitly address judicial records as public archives, where the right to be forgotten is most needed.

The Act is deficient because rules have not been notified and the data protection board has not been completely effective.

Who should decide requests for erasure or de-indexing?

The challenge lies in balancing efficiency with accountability. Requiring every request to be decided by a court would create significant bottlenecks, while leaving such decisions entirely to technology companies raises concerns about due process and transparency. A more sensible approach would be a tiered system, where cases could be heard by platforms, contested ones by the data protection board, and judicial cases by courts.

How does the right to be forgotten interact with constitutional values?

This is not a stand-alone right. It frequently conflicts with freedom of speech and press under Article 19(1)(a), the principle of open justice, and the public's right to know. A right to privacy interest is of a high order, particularly in serious cases of crime, but the right to know should not destroy a person's life long after the trial ends.

The judgments are still publicly accessible by case number or a keyword search; only name-based searches are restricted.

What are the practical challenges?

The toughest aspect is enforcement. An acquittal judgment may still appear highly in name-based searches because the removal of the search results.

Concept in Focus

- Right to be forgotten = Right to have personal information erased
- Protects privacy when data is outdated, irrelevant or harmful
- Part of informational privacy under Article 21

Indian Legal Evolution

- Puttaswamy Judgment (2017): Privacy is a fundamental right
- High Courts evolved different approaches
- Delhi HC (May 2026): Laid down structured principles

Delhi High Court Ruling (Key Principles)

- Right flows from Article 21
- Proportionality test: purpose, harm, public interest, least intrusive means
- Prefer masking names over deleting
- Only parties' names to be redacted

Right vs Constitutional Values

- Conflicts with Article 19(1)(a) (free speech)
- Must balance with open justice & public's right to know
- Public interest in serious crimes overrides privacy

DPDP Act, 2023 – Current Position

- Section 12: limited right to erasure
- Based mainly on consent
- Does not cover judicial records / public archives
- Rules & Data Protection Board not fully effective

Decision-Making Mechanism

- All court decisions → impractical
- All platform decisions → transparency concerns
- Need tiered system: platforms → Data Protection Board → Courts

Enforcement Challenges

- De-indexing ≠ full removal
- Mirrors, archives, social media shares continue
- Need effective technical compliance & coordination

UPSC Relevance

- GS II: Fundamental Rights (Art. 19, 21)
- Privacy Jurisprudence: Puttaswamy Case
- Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023
- Balance between privacy, free speech & open justice
- Evolving role of judiciary in digital age

Revolution to resurgence — Iran's strategic moment

The gloves are off and the ceasefire is in trouble as the United States and Iran traded strikes, once again, on July 8, over the safe passage of commercial ships across the Strait of Hormuz.

However, looking beyond this flareup, the recent visuals coming out of Iran are extraordinary. After more than 40 days of sustained attacks by the combined military power of the U.S. and Israel, the country is projecting and image nce. The funeral of its slain Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, high-level representatives of Iran, Afghanistan, Qatar, and other parts of the entire Western Western bloc, much of Africa, and Emirates Bahrain, and Kuwait, which bore the brunt of Iran's retaliation during the war.

Did the scenes witnessed reflect the image of a nation defeated? Did the millions of people on the streets, eager to catch a final glimpse of their assassinated leader, appear coerced or forced to mourn? Did the visuals coming out of Tehran and other parts of Iran reflect a nation that is economically bankrupt?

The answer to all these questions is a bold 'no'. What was on display was a nation eager to use this opportunity to tell the world that it is still standing on its own – and may be more powerful, confident and resilient than ever before.

The regime has not only survived the war but has emerged stronger than before, with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in full the and there is no mention of its ballistic missile programme in the 14-point Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. The windfall gains from removal of sanctions, sale of crude and natural gas, a defreezing of its money and assets and the monetisation of the Strait of Hormuz promise an economic revival for Iran, although some of it may now be under question after the rapidly escalating situation.

This resurrection of Iran almost feels like a revolution, and is a reminder of how a new nation, the 'Islamic Republic of Iran' emerged from the Iranian Revolution of 1979, overcoming the threats and challenges from a monarchy supported and abetted by the West.

The first revolution

The 1979 revolution was the culmination of a year-long protests against the Iranian regime, ignited by multiple factors, mainly political repression and economic hardships. There was also a strong undercurrent to reclaim Iran's



Rajeev Agarwal

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A resurgent Iran signals a dramatic shift in West Asian geopolitics

suppressed by the pro-western Shah regime. The combined effect created an unprecedented popular movement led by Ayatollah Khomeini, the exiled cleric and former philosophy professor from Qom, who had been banished in 1964 for opposing the Shah's reform programme. The movement ultimately overthrew Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

The Shah and his family fled Iran in January 1979 and Ayatollah Khomeini returned on February 1 to a jubilant welcome. 10 days later, Iran's armed forces declared their neutrality, effectively ending the Shah's rule. On April 1, following a successful Islamic Republic. The new republic drew its legitimacy from three pillars: restoring Iran's national pride, establishing theological discourse and Islamic governance, and promising economic progress and social justice. However, the 1979 hostage crisis, eight-year Iran-Iraq war, prolonged nuclear programme-related sanctions, and support for regional militia proxies severely tested the country's economic and political resilience.

Revolution 2.0

Why is the current post-war situation akin to a second revolution? Like in 1979, this war too has led to the emergence of a stronger and a nationalist regime. However, unlike 1979, when an earlier regime had to be overthrown, this time, the regime, despite being hit badly and its Supreme Leader assassinated, has emerged stronger as it has survived. Once again, key issues such as national pride, dignity, strength and unity are being made the central pillars. And the millions of people on the street now mirror the visuals of millions on the streets of Iran in February 1979 when they welcomed Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini after his return from exile. And, like in 1979, this revolution too promises to bring in long-lasting changes in Iran and the region.

The most prominent change is obviously the security architecture. Soon after the 1979 revolution, the nations in the Gulf had formed the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in 1981, to forge a common platform to fight the threat from a revolutionary Iran. The region turned to the U.S. which then carried out its most extensive and permanent military deployment after the Second World War – it stationed thousands of troops and hundreds of military assets across multiple bases, promising a security umbrella against Iran (and Iraq).

Well, this war has shattered this myth with the punishment and huge losses that American bases and the countries in the region had to suffer from Iranian strikes. Countries in the region are not only frustrated with the failed U.S. security guarantee but also questioning its value.

The second issue is the regime's survival had been at its weakest in the past few years due to economic sanctions and growing frustration within over its enforcement of Islamic laws, especially against women. The most recent protests in December 2025, ignited over severe inflation and job losses and massive devaluation of its national currency Rial (1.54 million Rials traded for one U.S. dollar) posed one of the most severe threats to the regime, one which the U.S. too attempted to support and ignite. However, it failed as it was suppressed by a brutal crackdown by the regime. Even the slain Supreme Leader's advanced age and declining health had raised questions about the regime's ability to retain control after his death. However, those doubts have now been consigned to history, with the regime emerging stronger and more firmly in control.

The third important factor is identity. If the first revolution gave the nation a 'Religion First' ideological identity, this war has brought national pride to the fore and made it the primary agent of resilience and defiance. Iran's ability to absorb the punishment of military strikes, endure the pain and then strike back effectively, have brought people and nation together.

The fourth factor has to relate to the economy. A nation which has survived and sustained under severe economic sanctions for almost three decades, now faces a pleasant possibility of huge influx of money into its coffers thanks to a possible easing of sanctions, defreezing of assets and sale of petroleum products. The monetisation of the Strait of Hormuz is obviously a bonus and now a powerful negotiating instrument with Iran.

A balancing act for India

India clearly has a decision to make. The war marked India's definite and noticeable tilt toward the Israel-U.S.-United Arab Emirates bloc, with several decisions that many analysts have found difficult to explain or defend. By sending a Minister-led delegation to the funeral, India may have walked a diplomatic tightrope. Going forward, however, it will have to make a strategic choice on how to balance its ties with Iran and the wider Gulf region, which itself appears deeply divided after the war.

Iran is resurgent and is unlikely to let go of the opportunity that this war has provided it. The scale of the irreversible changes unfolding in Iran and the region may become clearer over time. However, one thing is certain – the security and economic landscape of the region has changed forever. How Iran uses this opportunity, and how the region responds, will shape the destiny of its people and nations.

Why It Matters for India

- West Asia is crucial for energy security, trade, diaspora & geopolitical stability.
- Iran's resurgence shifts regional power balance; India must navigate complex alignments.

Iran's Strengths After the War

- Regime survived despite severe attacks and leadership loss.
- IRGC remains in full control.
- National pride, unity & identity strengthened.
- Sanctions relief, oil & gas revenue bring economic revival hope.

Key Pillars of 1979 Revolution

- Restoring national pride
- Theological discourse & Islamic governance
- Economic progress & social justice

Parallels: 1979 vs Today

- Both moments triggered nationalist resurgence.
- Street support, leadership legitimacy & regime consolidation.
- Promise of long-term changes in Iran & the region.

Four Factors Behind Iran's Resilience

1. Regime survival despite internal & external pressures.
2. Ability to withstand protests & economic hardships.
3. Strong national identity & 'Religion First' ideology.
4. Economic potential due to sanctions relief, asset unfreezing & oil revenues.

Regional Security Shift

- GCC formed in 1981 to counter revolutionary Iran.
- U.S. security umbrella myth shattered after Iran's strikes on regional bases.
- Countries now questioning U.S. reliability.

India's Way Forward

- Maintain balanced relations with Iran, Gulf & Israel.
- Economic interests: energy imports, Chabahar, INSTC, diaspora.
- Strategic choice needed in a divided West Asia.

UPSC Relevance

- GS II: India's foreign policy, strategic autonomy, regional groupings (GCC).
- GS III: Energy security, sanctions, maritime choke points, geopolitics.

1. ट्रंप ने ईरान सीज़फायर खत्म किया; बातचीत जारी रहेगी



- ट्रंप ने कहा ईरान के साथ सीज़फायर "खत्म"
- ईरान का दावा: हित किए 85 अमेरिकी सैन्य ठिकाने
- अमेरिकी हमले में ईरान के दक्षिणी तट पर 8 सैन्यकर्मी मारे गए: ईरानी टीवी
- जलसंधि के नियंत्रण को लेकर विवाद प्रमुख कारण
- ओमान तट के रूट से जा रहे टैंकरों पर हमला
- भारत ने गहरी चिंता जताई; संयम की अपील की

GS II • अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध • पश्चिम एशिया समुद्री सुरक्षा • कूटनीति

2. क्रांति से पुनरुत्थान — ईरान का रणनीतिक क्षण

1979 क्रांति	प्रतिबंध व अलगाव	रणनीतिक धैर्य	पुनरुत्थान व क्षेत्रीय भूमिका
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- 1979 की क्रांति ने ईरान की विचारधारा को गढ़ा
- प्रतिबंध, अलगाव व दबाव झेला, पर डटा रहा
- असममित सैन्य क्षमताओं का निर्माण किया
- क्षेत्रीय प्रभाव नटवर्क को मजबूत किया
- जलसंधि के माध्यम से ऊर्जा व भू-रणनीतिक लाभ
- धैर्य व राष्ट्रवाद ने पुनरुत्थान की राह बनाई

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3. ऑस्ट्रेलिया की पहचान और भविष्य: भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय



- भारतीय प्रवासी ऑस्ट्रेलिया की पहचान का अभिन्न हिस्सा
- शिक्षा, व्यवसाय, स्वास्थ्य व अनुसंधान में बड़ा योगदान
- सांस्कृतिक व आर्थिक पुल की भूमिका
- नवाचार, कौशल व श्रम शक्ति में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान
- भारत के साथ मजबूत द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को सुदृढ़ करता
- समावेशन व नीतिगत समर्थन से भविष्य सुरक्षित

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4. चेकबॉक्स जाति

फॉर्म
<input type="checkbox"/> सामान्य
<input type="checkbox"/> ओबीसी
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> एससी
<input type="checkbox"/> एसटी
<input type="checkbox"/> अन्य

- जाति पहचान को मात्र चेकबॉक्स तक सीमित किया
- जटिल सामाजिक वास्तविकताओं को सरल बनाता है
- नीति निर्माण व कल्याण योजनाओं पर प्रभाव
- सामाजिक डेटा की सटीकता पर असर पड़ता है
- विविधता को सामने लाने में बाधा बन सकता है
- आवश्यकता: संवेदनशील, साध्य-आधारित दृष्टिकोण

GS II • समाज • जाति • न्याय सामाजिक समावेशन • शासन

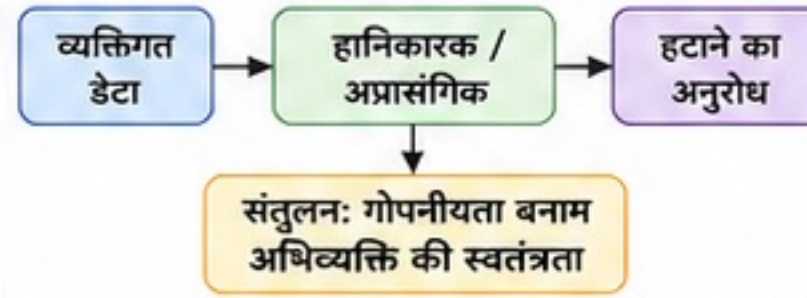
5. भारत ने पश्चिम एशिया संकट का कैसे सामना किया



- सभी पक्षों से संतुलित राजनयिक संवाद
- ऊर्जा स्रोतों का विविधीकरण
- भारतीयों की समय पर सुरक्षित निकासी
- सामरिक भंडार व आपूर्ति श्रृंखला प्रबंधन
- मजबूत साझेदारी व बहु-आयामी कूटनीति
- आर्थिक मूलभूत तत्वों ने झटका सहने में मदद की

GS II • शासन • अर्थव्यवस्था सुरक्षा • ऊर्जा सुरक्षा

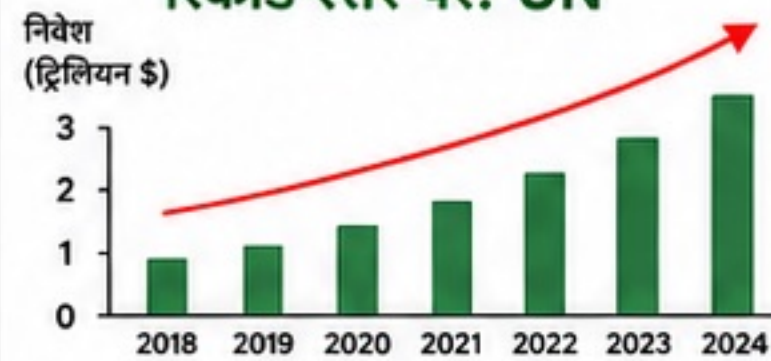
6. क्या है 'भूल जाने का अधिकार'?



- गोपनीयता की रक्षा के लिए महत्वपूर्ण अधिकार
- अप्रासंगिक या पुरानी जानकारी हटाने का अधिकार
- समान रूप से गोपनीयता व अभिव्यक्ति में संतुलन
- कुछ मामलों में कानूनी रूप से मान्यता प्राप्त
- पूर्ण अधिकार नहीं; सांख्यिक हित अपवाद
- भारत: कोई स्पष्ट कानून नहीं; न्यायालय विकसित कर रहे

GS II • राजनीति • मौलिक अधिकार गोपनीयता • डेटा संरक्षण

7. AI उछाल से अमूर्त निवेश रिकॉर्ड स्तर पर: UN



- अमूर्त निवेश रिकॉर्ड स्तर पर पहुँचा: UN रिपोर्ट
- AI, सॉफ्टवेयर, R&D, डेटा में निवेश प्रमुख कारण
- भौतिक संपत्तियों से अधिक निवेश हो रहा
- उत्पादकता व नवाचार को बढ़ावा मिलता है
- बड़े उद्यमों में अधिक केंद्रित निवेश
- समावेशी व सतत विकास हेतु नीति की आवश्यकता

GS III • अर्थव्यवस्था • निवेश विज्ञान व प्रौद्योगिकी • UN रिपोर्ट

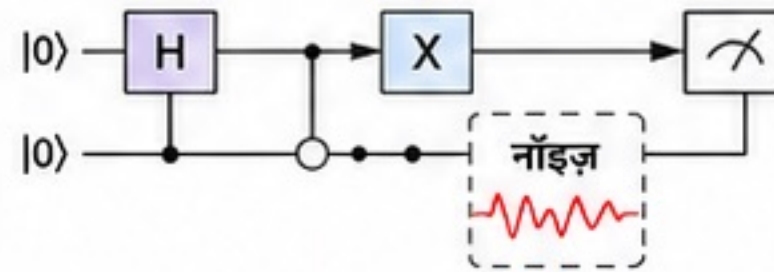
8. पक्षी के घोंसले में फाइबर-ऑप्टिक कचरा: ड्रोन युद्ध की पर्यावरण लागत



- पक्षी के घोंसलों में फाइबर-ऑप्टिक तार मिले
- ड्रोन युद्ध से पर्यावरण को नया खतरा
- वन्यजीव व पारिस्थितिक तंत्र के लिए जोखिम
- नया युद्ध-जनित प्रदूषण: दीर्घकालिक प्रभाव
- पर्यावरणीय लागत छिपी हुई, कम आंकी जाती है
- युद्ध तकनीक पर पर्यावरण नियमन की आवश्यकता

GS III • पर्यावरण • जैव विविधता प्रदूषण • संघर्ष का प्रभाव

9. क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग युग तभी शुरू होगा जब 'नॉइज़' को शांत करेंगे



- नॉइज़ से क्वांटम गणना में त्रुटियाँ होती हैं
- क्यूबिट बेहद संवेदनशील होते हैं
- एरर करेक्शन व डिब्लॉकेहेरेंस प्रमुख चुनौती
- स्थिर व विश्वसनीय सिस्टम की आवश्यकता
- बेहतर सामग्री व तकनीक पर अनुसंधान जारी
- व्यावहारिक उपयोग के लिए निर्णायक प्रगति आवश्यक

GS III • विज्ञान व प्रौद्योगिकी • क्वांटम नवाचार • भविष्य की तकनीक

क्विक न्यूज़

- 1 रूस की भारत को तेल निर्यात में हिस्सेदारी 40% से अधिक हुई
- 2 भारत और इंडोनेशिया ने प्रतिष्ठित प्रम्बानन मंदिर संरक्षण परियोजना शुरू की
- 3 DRDO ने पिनाका रॉकेट का सफल उड़ान परीक्षण किया
- 4 उच्च शिक्षा में महिला नामांकन 2014 से 42% से अधिक बढ़ा: रिपोर्ट
- 5 राज्यों का कल्याणकारी योजनाओं में योगदान असमान रूप से अधिक
- 6 पश्चिम एशिया तनाव के बीच सूचकांक में 2% की गिरावट
- 7 चीन में महिलाएं गृह रखरखाव कौशल में निपुण हो रही हैं
- 8 आयात प्रतिबंधों से भारतीय बाजार में चांदी की कमी
- 9 OpenAI अमेरिका की रोक के बाद नया मॉडल GPT-5.6 लॉन्च करेगा

प्रीलिम फैक्ट्स

- 1 हॉर्मूज़ जलसंधि फारस की खाड़ी को ओमान की खाड़ी से जोड़ती है
- 2 वायनाड केरल में है; पश्चिमी घाट का हिस्सा
- 3 पिनाका स्वदेशी मल्टी-बैरल रॉकेट लांचर है
- 4 UDISE+ भारत का राष्ट्रीय स्कूल शिक्षा डेटाबेस है
- 5 E20 पेट्रोल में 20% इथेनॉल मिश्रित होता है
- 6 क्वांटम कंप्यूटर क्यूबिट व सुपरपोज़िशन सिद्धांत का उपयोग करते हैं
- 7 अमूर्त संपत्तियों में सॉफ्टवेयर, R&D, डेटा, ब्रांड, पेटेंट शामिल हैं
- 8 भूल जाने का अधिकार यूरोप में GDPR के अंतर्गत मान्यता प्राप्त है
- 9 प्रम्बानन मंदिर इंडोनेशिया में स्थित UNESCO विश्व धरोहर स्थल है

वोकैबुलरी

- 1 असममित — असमान; समान नहीं
- 2 पुनरुत्थान — फिर से उठना; पुनर्जीवन
- 3 प्रासंगिक — विषय के अनुसार उपयुक्त
- 4 लचीलापन — परिस्थिति के अनुसार जल्दी दूसरों में ढलने की क्षमता
- 5 निरोधक क्षमता — रोकने की शक्ति; खतरे को टालने की क्षमता

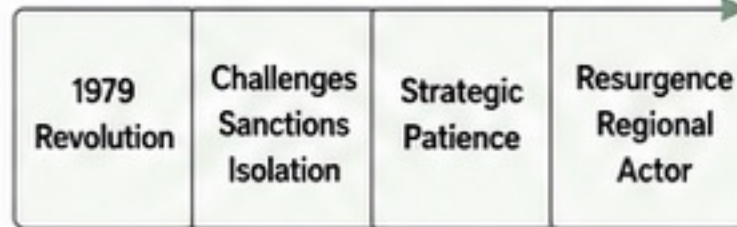
1. Trump ends Iran truce; talks to go on



- Trump says Iran truce is "over"
- Iran claims it hit 85 U.S. military assets
- U.S. strikes on Iran's southern coast killed 8 personnel: Iran TV
- Dispute over control of Strait of Hormuz at core
- Fresh attacks on tankers via Omani route
- India expresses deep concern; calls for restraint, dialogue

GS II • IR • West Asia
Maritime Security • Diplomacy

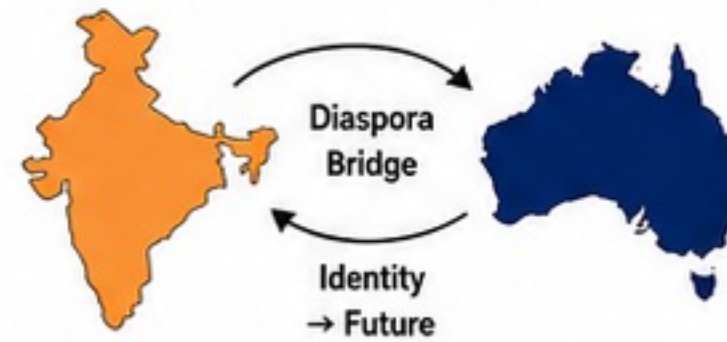
2. Revolution to resurgence — Iran's strategic moment



- 1979 revolution shaped Iran's ideology
- Endured sanctions, isolation, pressure
- Built asymmetric military capabilities
- Strengthened regional influence networks
- Energy leverage via Strait of Hormuz
- Strategic patience central to resurgence

GS II • IR • Strategic Affairs
Geopolitics • West Asia

3. The Indian diaspora as Australia's identity, its future



- Indian diaspora integral to Australia's identity
- Strong in education, business, healthcare, research
- Acts as cultural and economic bridge
- Contributes to innovation, skilled workforce
- Strengthens bilateral ties with India
- Future shaped by inclusion, policy support

GS II • IR • Diaspora • Australia
Society • Soft Power

4. Checkbox caste



- Caste identity reduced to checkbox
- Oversimplifies complex social realities
- Risks misuse in official processes
- Affects accuracy of social data
- Hides diversity within communities
- Need nuanced, evidence-based approach

GS II • Society • Caste • Justice
Social Inclusion • Governance

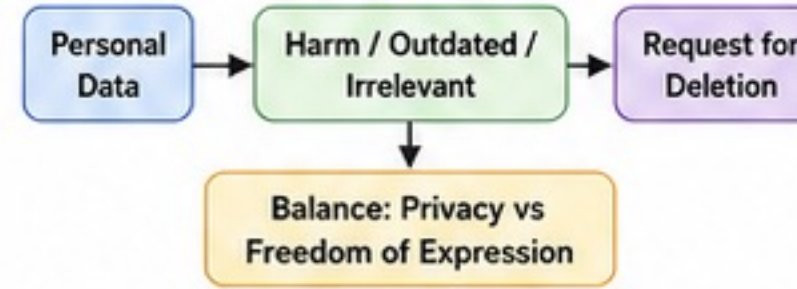
5. How India withstood the crisis in West Asia



- Balanced diplomatic engagement
- Ensured energy supply stability
- Timely evacuation of Indian nationals
- Strengthened strategic partnerships
- Monitored situation through missions
- Economic fundamentals provided cushion

GS II • IR • Governance
Economy • Security

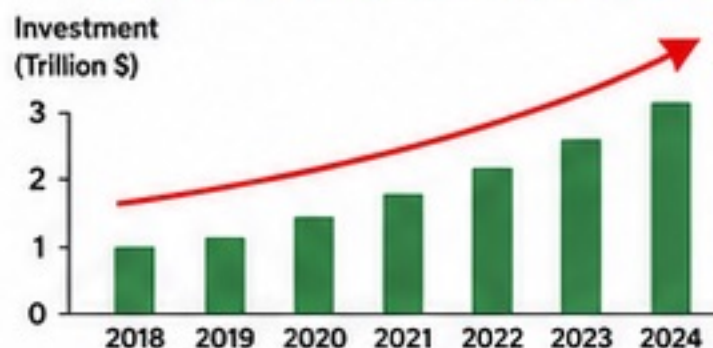
6. What is the right to be forgotten?



- Right to be forgotten protects privacy
- Allows removal of outdated information
- Balances privacy with free speech
- Recognised in some legal systems
- Not absolute; subject to public interest
- India: No explicit law; evolving through courts

GS II • Polity • Fundamental Rights
Privacy • Data Protection

7. AI boom drives intangible investment to record level



- Intangible investment hits record high: UN
- Driven by AI, software, R&D, data assets
- Exceeds investment in physical assets
- Boosts productivity and innovation
- Concentration in few large firms
- Policy need: Inclusive, sustainable growth

GS III • Economy • Investment
Science & Tech • UN Report

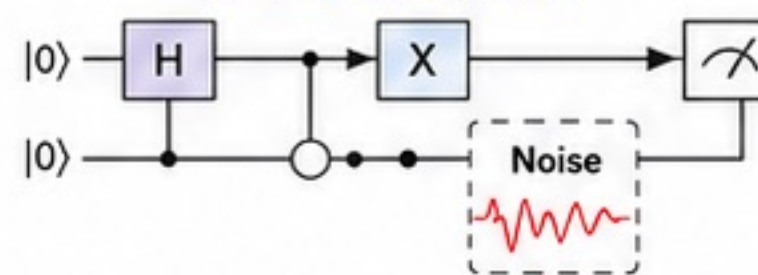
8. Fibre-optic debris in bird's nest shows the environmental cost of drone wars



- Fibre-optic debris found in bird's nests
- Linked to drone warfare operations
- Threatens wildlife and ecosystems
- New form of war-related pollution
- Highlights hidden environmental costs
- Calls for war tech regulation

GS III • Environment • Biodiversity
Pollution • Conflict Impact

9. Quantum computing age will only begin when we silence the noise



- Noise limits quantum computation
- Qubits highly sensitive to disturbances
- Error correction and decoherence key issues
- Need stable systems, better materials
- Practical quantum age beyond hype
- Research focus on noise reduction

GS III • Science & Tech • Quantum
Innovation • Future Tech

QUICK NEWS

- 1 Russia's share in India's oil imports rises above 40%
- 2 India and Indonesia launch joint restoration project at iconic Prambanan Temple
- 3 DRDO conducts successful flight test of Pinaka rocket
- 4 Over 42% rise in female enrolment in higher education since 2014: report
- 5 States contribute disproportionately more to welfare schemes
- 6 Indices dip 2% amid renewed U.S.-Iran tension in West Asia
- 7 Breaking barriers: women in China mastering home maintenance skills
- 8 Import curbs trigger silver shortage in Indian market
- 9 OpenAI to launch new model GPT-5.6 after U.S. freeze

PRELIM FACTS

- 1 Strait of Hormuz connects Persian Gulf to Gulf of Oman
- 2 Wayanad is in Kerala; part of the Western Ghats
- 3 Pinaka is an indigenously developed multi-barrel rocket launcher
- 4 UDISE+ is the national database for school education in India
- 5 E20 petrol contains 20% ethanol blend
- 6 Quantum computers use qubits and superposition
- 7 Intangible assets include software, R&D, brand, data, design
- 8 Right to be forgotten recognised in EU under GDPR
- 9 Prambanan Temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Indonesia

VOCABULARY

- 1 Asymmetric — Unequal; based on contrast in power or strength
- 2 Leverage — Use of influence or power to achieve advantage
- 3 Nuanced — Showing subtle differences; not simplistic
- 4 Resilience — Capacity to recover quickly from difficulties
- 5 Decoherence — Loss of quantum state due to environmental noise