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# Trump touts Gaza deal, Hamas seeks Israeli exit

U.S. leader hails 'historic agreement' on disarmament; Palestinian militant group acknowledges deal, says it will abandon weapons only if Israel withdraws troops and 'stops killing Palestinians'

Stanly Johny

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday announced that the Board of Peace, an organisation Washington established to oversee a Gaza ceasefire, has reached a "historic agreement" for the disarmament of Hamas and other militant organisations in the Palestinian enclave.

"Today, the Board of Peace reached a historic agreement for the complete disarmament of Hamas and all other armed groups in Gaza. This is a monumental step toward lasting peace and security," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post.

Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that runs parts of Gaza, made an official statement acknowledging the deal, but added that it would abandon wea-



Displaced Palestinians walk past destroyed buildings and makeshift shelters near the al-Shati refugee camp, west of Gaza City. AFP

pons and end its rule only if Israel, which currently occupies more than 60% of the enclave, withdraws its troops and "stops killing Palestinians".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not immediately respond to Mr. Trump's announcement, but National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir said the deal was "unacceptable". He said the "as-

sassinations in Gaza must continue". Israeli media quoted "a senior official" as saying in a statement that "there will be no IDF withdrawal from Gaza without the genuine disarmament of Hamas".

According to Mr. Trump, the agreement is a step towards Gaza finally being governed by a new Palestinian government in coordination with the

Board of Peace. "At the same time, Israel will have the security it deserves, with Gaza no longer used as a base for terror attacks," he wrote.

"This is a major milestone in the implementation of the Trump 20-Point Plan. The agreement will be carried out in carefully structured phases," Mr. Trump said on Friday. "As disarmament is completed, Israeli forces will withdraw, and the International Stabilization Force will work with a new Palestinian police force to take responsibility for Gaza being safe for its residents and its neighbours."

The U.S. leader thanked Egypt, Qatar, and Türkiye for their mediation efforts.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad said in a statement that reports about the agreement were "inaccurate".

- **Key Terms and Explanations**
  - **Board of Peace / International Stabilization Force:**
    - *Explanation:* A proposed multilateral governance and security mechanism established by international mediators to oversee ceasefires, manage post-conflict transitional governance, and provide security.
  - **Demilitarization and Disarmament:**
    - *Explanation:* The structured process of removing weapons from non-state armed cadres and dismantling offensive military infrastructure within a conflict zone.
  - **Asymmetric Warfare:**
    - *Explanation:* A conflict between two belligerents whose relative military power, strategy, and tactics differ significantly—typically involving a conventional state military against a non-state armed group utilizing urban warfare and irregular tactics.
  - **Sequencing Dilemma:**
    - *Explanation:* A strategic deadlock in peace negotiations where each warring party demands that the other fulfill its obligations first due to a deep mutual trust deficit.
  - **De-hyphenated Foreign Policy:**
    - *Explanation:* A pragmatic diplomatic approach where a country maintains independent, robust bilateral relationships with mutually hostile nations without letting one relationship dictate the other.
- **Main Arguments and Substantive Parts**
  - The framework for resolving entrenched urban conflicts in contested enclaves centers on a delicate balance between non-state actor demilitarization, foreign military withdrawal, and international peace enforcement.
- **Core Thesis**
  - Sustainable peace in high-intensity conflict zones cannot be achieved purely through unilateral military action or unconditioned disarmament; it requires a synchronized, multi-stage agreement backed by credible international mediation, clear phased milestones, and post-war governance reform.
- **Key Substantive Components**
  - **Phased Peace Framework:**
    - The structure relies on a sequenced plan where disarmament by non-state actors is linked directly to the phased withdrawal of occupying conventional forces.
    - International stabilization forces are envisioned as a transitional security bridge working alongside localized, restructured civilian police forces to prevent security vacuums.
  - **The Disarmament vs. Exit Paradox:**
    - Sovereign militaries view complete demilitarization as a non-negotiable prerequisite to prevent future cross-border incursions.
    - Conversely, non-state groups view their military assets as their primary leverage, making them reluctant to disarm without guaranteed military withdrawal and an end to offensive targeted operations.
  - **Internal Political Fractures and Hardline Resistance:**
    - Peace initiatives face severe domestic political friction from political hardliners within both camps who view compromises as existential threats or capitulation.
    - Divergent stances among various local armed factions further complicate consensus, as splinter groups may reject broad multi-party peace frameworks altogether.
  - **The Role of Regional Mediators:**
    - Third-party actors—combining global powers and regional states with leverage over different factions—serve as essential channels to negotiate trust gaps, host talks, and guarantee terms.

- **Historical Evolution of the Issue**
- **1948–1967: The Era of Inter-State Conflicts**
  - The declaration of the State of Israel in 1948 led to the first Arab-Israeli War, resulting in mass displacement and the division of Palestinian territories, with Egypt administering Gaza and Jordan administering the West Bank.
  - The 1967 Six-Day War altered the geopolitical map, leading to Israeli military occupation of the Gaza Strip, West Bank, Golan Heights, and Sinai Peninsula.
- **1987–1993: The First Intifada and the Oslo Peace Process**
  - Popular uprisings (Intifada) in the late 1980s highlighted the unsustainable nature of direct military administration, leading to the landmark 1993 Oslo Accords.
  - The Oslo process established the Palestinian Authority (PA) as a self-governing body for interim administration, establishing the framework for a eventual two-state solution.
- **2005–2007: Unilateral Disengagement and Internal Political Division**
  - In 2005, Israel executed a unilateral disengagement plan, withdrawing its troops and civilian settlements from the Gaza Strip.
  - Following the 2006 legislative elections and the subsequent 2007 intra-Palestinian rift, Gaza came under the control of Hamas, leading to a long-term land, air, and sea blockade by Israel and Egypt.
- **2007–Present: Cycles of Asymmetric Conflict and Multi-Phase Peace Attempts**
  - Recurrent rounds of high-intensity conflict highlighted the limits of security containment without a parallel political settlement.
  - Contemporary peace initiatives emphasize multi-lateral stabilization plans, regional normalization efforts (such as the Abraham Accords), and complex phased negotiations to address post-conflict security and reconstruction.
- **Way Forward**
- **Establish a Synchronized, Phase-Based Verification Mechanism:**
  - Negotiators should avoid unilateral performance demands by adopting a mutually verifiable, step-by-step roadmap.
  - Disarmament actions and troop withdrawals should occur simultaneously in clear stages, verified by an independent international monitoring body to maintain trust.
- **Deploy a Credible Multilateral Peacekeeping Force:**
  - The international community must back any stabilization force with a strong mandate under international law, ideally endorsed by the UN Security Council.
  - Including forces from trusted regional neutral states helps ensure local acceptance, secure urban zones, and build local civilian policing capacity.
- **Transition to Inclusive, Technocratic Governance:**
  - Long-term administration should shift to a recognized, non-partisan Palestinian technocratic government capable of running civic services, maintaining order, and unifying governance across territories without reliance on armed militias.



# COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS: TRUMP-GAZA DEAL & HAMAS'S STRATEGIC SHIFT

Key Terms, Historical Evolution, Multidimensional Analysis & UPSC Linkages

## KEY TERMS & EXPLANATIONS

**[Board of Peace / ISF]**



(Intl. governance & security)

**[Demilitarization]**



(Removing weapons)

**[Asymmetric Warfare]**



High-tech soldier against urban guerrilla (Unbalanced forces)

**[Sequencing Dilemma]**



Two figures with arms crossed, not moving first (Trust deficit deadlock)

**[De-hyphenated Policy]**



(Israel/Arab nations). (Independent bilateral ties)

## HISTORICAL EVOLUTION (TIMELINE)



1948  
State of Israel  
First War



1967  
Six-Day War  
Occupation



1993  
Oslo Accords  
PA



2005-2007  
Disengagement  
Hamas control



Present  
Phased Peace  
Initiatives

## MAIN ARGUMENTS & CORE THESIS



List of Key Components:

- Phased Structure
- Disarmament-Exit Paradox
- Internal Political Fractures
- Defiamastixit
- Internal Political Fractures
- Role of Regional Mediators

## MULTIDIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS



## LOGICAL & PHILOSOPHICAL BASE



## NCERT & UPSC SYLLABUS LINKAGES

| NCERTs                                                                                                                                                                                         | UPSC GS PAPERS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                      |                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class 11 Pol. Thy. (Peace, Rights)</li> <li>• Class 12 World Pol. (Security, Organisations)</li> <li>• Class 12 India (External Relations)</li> </ul> | <table border="0"> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GS-1 World History</li> <li>GS-3 Internal Security</li> </ul> </td><td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GS-2 IR</li> <li>GS-4 Ethics</li> </ul> </td></tr> </table> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GS-1 World History</li> <li>GS-3 Internal Security</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GS-2 IR</li> <li>GS-4 Ethics</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GS-1 World History</li> <li>GS-3 Internal Security</li> </ul>                                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GS-2 IR</li> <li>GS-4 Ethics</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                      |                                                                                |

## WAY FORWARD: THE STRATEGIC ROADMAP



## PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTIONS (UPSC/APSC)

- **UPSC Prelims:** Levant (2020), Abraham Accords (2019), Gaza Strip coastline (2023)
- **UPSC Mains:** De-hyphenation (2023), West Asian regional shifts (2021), energy security (2018)
- **APSC example:** Impact of instability on Indian economy (Crude, trade)



# LS passes Births and Deaths Bill; furore over students' stir

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026 without debate amid loud protests by the Opposition against the police crackdown on student protesters at Jantar Mantar on July 20.

The Opposition protests began as soon as the House convened at 11 a.m., forcing Speaker Om Birla to adjourn it till noon. The ruckus continued when the House reassembled.

BJP MP Dilip Saikia, who was in the chair, asked for listed papers to be laid on the table. These included grant of deadline extension to the Joint Parliamentary



Proceedings under way in the Lok Sabha on Friday. ANI

Committee examining the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025 for submission of report. The Constitution Amendment Bill proposes the automatic removal of Ministers, Chief Minister, or Prime Minister if they are arrested and held in custody for 30 days on serious criminal charges carrying a jail term of

five years or more.

Following this, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai put up the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill for discussion. It seeks to make delayed registration of births and deaths more stringent by requiring an order from a judicial magistrate (first class) for registrations done after two years.

The Opposition MPs then trooped into the Well of the House demanding the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah even as Mr. Saikia called out the names of MPs listed to speak during the debate. The Bill was passed by voice vote amid sloganeering by the Opposition.

- **Key Terms and Explanations**
- **Civil Registration System (CRS)**
  - **Concept:** A unified administrative process for the continuous, permanent, compulsory, and universal recording of vital statistics such as births, deaths, and stillbirths.
  - **Significance:** It forms the legal foundation of an individual's identity, granting citizenship rights, access to public welfare, and legal recognition.
- **Delayed Registration and Judicial Sanction**
  - **Concept:** A statutory legal protocol requiring specialized approval when a vital event (birth or death) is not reported within the standard prescribed timeline (typically 21 to 30 days).
  - **Significance:** Requiring an explicit order from a Judicial Magistrate First Class for registrations delayed beyond extended periods (e.g., two years) prevents identity fraud, illegal immigration, and the creation of fake legal personas.
- **Voice Vote**
  - **Concept:** A parliamentary voting procedure where the presiding officer puts a question to the House and asks members to shout "Aye" for agreement or "No" for disagreement, deciding the outcome based on the volume of response.
  - **Significance:** While efficient for non-controversial matters, passing critical legislation via voice vote amidst heavy disruption deprives lawmakers of a recorded vote (division) and suppresses structured debate.
- **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)**
  - **Concept:** An ad-hoc committee set up by Parliament, comprising members from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha across party lines, to examine specific complex bills or issues.
  - **Significance:** JPCs allow in-depth, non-partisan legislative scrutiny and stakeholder consultation away from the political grandstanding of the main parliamentary floor.
- **Executive Custodial Disqualification**
  - **Concept:** A proposed or existing constitutional framework wherein ministers, Chief Ministers, or the Prime Minister are automatically removed from office if held in continuous criminal custody for a specified period (e.g., 30 days) for serious offenses.
  - **Significance:** It balances the constitutional ethics of public office against the risk of administrative paralysis, while raising debates on the presumption of innocence prior to judicial conviction.



- **Main Arguments and Substantive Parts**
- **Integrity of Public Identity and Demographic Data**
  - **Stringent Verification for Civil Registrations:** Strengthening the registration of births and deaths through judicial intervention deters fraudulent entries. Requiring magistrate approval for long-delayed registrations protects national security and curbs document falsification.
  - **Interoperability of Public Databases:** Modernizing birth and death registries creates a real-time, dynamic database that automatically updates electoral rolls, welfare distribution systems, and national identity registers, reducing administrative leakage.
- **Constitutional Morality and Executive Accountability**
  - **Preserving Public Faith in Governance:** Allowing high-ranking constitutional functionaries to direct government policy while incarcerated erodes public trust and compromises administrative confidentiality.
  - **Due Process versus Absolute Integrity:** Counterarguments emphasize that automatic removal based on arrest—rather than conviction—can be weaponized by ruling regimes to target opposition leaders through arbitrary detentions, violating the principle of innocent until proven guilty.
- **Health of Deliberative Parliamentary Democracy**
  - **Decline in Substantive Legislative Debate:** Passing crucial legislation through voice votes amidst persistent opposition chaos undermines the primary function of Parliament as a deliberative assembly.
  - **Bypassing Committee Scrutiny:** The frequent enactment of bills without clause-by-clause analysis or public consultation compromises statutory drafting quality, often leading to increased judicial litigation later.
- **Civil Liberties and the Right to Democratic Dissent**
  - **State Authority versus Peaceful Assembly:** Street protests and student demonstrations are valid expressions of democratic participation under Article 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(b). Heavy-handed police crackdowns create a chilling effect on legitimate political discourse.
  - **Maintaining Public Order:** The state maintains that law enforcement must act when public demonstrations cause civic disruption or pose security risks, highlighting the delicate balance between civil liberties and public order.

- **Historical Evolution of the Issue**
  - **Pre-Independence Era: Fragmented Records and Colonial Control**
    - Prior to 1969, birth and death registration across British India was governed by disparate municipal acts and provincial sanitary regulations. The primary motive was epidemic monitoring and local taxation rather than establishing universal legal identity for civil rights.
  - **Post-Independence and the Landmark 1969 Legislation**
    - To establish a uniform nationwide framework, Parliament enacted the **Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969**. This legislation centralized statutory powers under the Registrar General of India (RGI) while leaving execution to state-level Registrars.
    - During this phase, delayed registration mechanisms were relaxed, relying primarily on local executive magistrates or self-declarations to accommodate low literacy and rural birth rates.
  - **The Turn of the Century: Criminalization of Politics and Legislative Accountability**
    - In the 1990s and 2000s, committees such as the **Dinesh Goswami Committee (1990)** and the **NN Vohra Committee (1993)** highlighted the criminalization of politics.
    - The **Supreme Court's landmark *Lily Thomas v. Union of India* (2013)** decision struck down Section 8(4) of the Representation of the People Act, removing the protection that allowed convicted legislators to retain their seats pending appeal. This shifted the political discourse toward stricter standards for holding public office.
  - **The Modern Digital and Security-Centric Era**
    - Recent reforms have integrated the Civil Registration System with digital databases like Aadhaar, electoral rolls, and passport systems.
    - Contemporary statutory amendments focus on tightening delayed registration norms using Judicial Magistrates to close security loopholes, alongside emerging debates over automatic executive disqualification during prolonged custody.
-





# AXIA IAS ACADEMY

RISE ABOVE THE REST

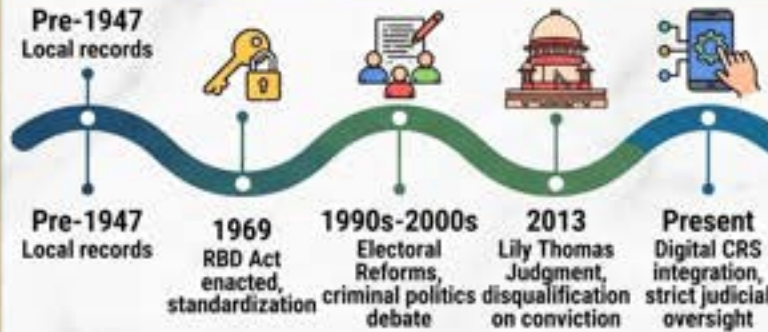
## COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS: THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS (AMENDMENT) BILL

### KEY TERMS & EXPLANATIONS (Icons & Elaborate Points)

- |                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>CRS</b><br>Unified, continuous vital records and quonity                                     |  <b>VOICE VOTE</b><br>Procedural decision by volume, suppresses recorded vote |
|  <b>DELAYED REGISTRATION</b><br>Judicial Magistrate First Class order requirement, prevent fraud |  <b>JPC</b><br>Non-partisan, detailed bill scrutiny                           |
|  <b>VOICE VOTE</b><br>Procedural decision by volume, suppresses recorded vote                    |  <b>EXECUTIVE DISQUALIFICATION</b><br>Proposed automatic removal upon custody |

**Narrative:** Foundational concepts in modernizing civil identity and governance accountability.

### HISTORICAL EVOLUTION (Timeline flow with icons)



### MULTIDIMENSIONAL IMPACT ANALYSIS (6 Dimensions, Icons)

- |                                                     |                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Social</b>                                       | <b>Political</b>                                       |
| • Universal identity access vs. marginalized burden | • Executive accountability vs. political weaponization |
| <b>Legal &amp; Constitutional</b>                   | <b>Ethical</b>                                         |
| • Presumption of innocence vs. public order         | • Probity and moral integrity of those detained        |
| <b>International</b>                                | <b>Economic</b>                                        |
| • SDG 16.9 alignment, Human Rights for protests     | • Fiscal efficiency with DBT, cost of delayed access   |

### CORE ARGUMENTS BALANCE SHEET (Pros/Cons)

#### INTEGRITY & INTEGRITY (Pros)

- Stronger verification
- real-time database
- reduced welfare leakage

#### CIVIL LIBERTIES & DELIBERATION (Cons)

- Suppressed debate via voice vote
- weaponized arrests
- undue procedural burden

**Narrative:** Balancing national security and administrative efficiency against democratic norms.

### UPSC SYLLABUS & NCERT LINKAGES (Grid)

#### SYLLABUS (GS II-IV)

- Parliament
- Governance
- Executive
- Ethics
- Security

#### NCERTs

- Class 11 & 12 Pol Sc chapters on
- Legislature
- Executive, Rights
- Popular Movements

### WAY FORWARD & PYQ SAMPLER

#### WAY FORWARD

- Mandatory Scrutiny via committee referrals
- Balanced Disqualification based on formal charges
- Digital accessibility with privacy

#### PYQ SAMPLER (GS II & IV, 2019-2022)

- Selected relevant previous question themes, e.g.,
  - Critical parliamentary performance
  - State response to protests
  - Resignation of functionaries under custody





# SC moots protocol to access court's livestream archives

SC favours access through court archives to prevent 'commercial exploitation' of judicial hearings; activists say July 24 order barring circulation of court livestreams reverses open justice principle

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Supreme Court on Friday said it intends to lay down a protocol by which online users who want to post or circulate livestreamed judicial proceedings in the top court and the State High Courts can only access the audio-visual content through the courts' archives.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said livestreamed visuals of court proceedings cannot be subject to "misuse" or "commercial exploitation". He was responding to an application filed by two activists, Anjali Bhardwaj and Amrita Johri, seeking a modification of a July 24 interim order barring the circulation of livestreamed proceedings on social media and digital platforms.

## Open justice principle

The applicants, represented by advocates Prashant Bhushan and Cheryl D'Souza, said the July 24 order amounted to a reversal of the 'principle of open justice' upheld by the Supreme Court itself in a



**Firm intent:** The CJI said that the court wants to prevent the misuse of any livestreamed content. (I.S.J. PAVITO)

plethora of judgments.

Objecting to a complete ban on dissemination of court proceedings on digital platforms, the activists said that open access to justice ensured that the judicial process remained answerable to the public and guarded against arbitrariness.

Mr. Bhushan said the July 24 order ought to be modified to direct the preservation of livestreamed content in courts' archives so that users could access the authorised version from this source.

"That is precisely the protocol we want to lay down... We only want to prevent the misuse [of the

livestreamed content]," Chief Justice Kant said, reacting orally.

The court allowed the application and asked Mr. Bhushan's clients to come forward with suggestions to frame the protocol. The CJI said the exercise was not adversarial in nature. Digital platforms Meta and WhatsApp have also agreed to pitch in with suggestions. State High Courts have filed their affidavits along with bar bodies from across the country.

The July 24 order, which came in a petition filed by Harshita Grover, had prohibited the extraction, modification, dissemination, posting, reposting,

uploading, recording, or monetisation of audio-video recordings of judicial proceedings on any social media or digital platform without prior permission of the Secretary General of the Supreme Court and Registrar General of the State High Courts.

## Vulnerable to trolling

The top court had reasoned that the unregulated circulation of livestreamed court proceedings made judges, advocates, and litigants vulnerable to trolling and reputational harm while eroding public confidence in the judicial system.

The activists, however, had said the concern of intentional misuse could be addressed by defining the terms and conditions of re-use, sharing, and dissemination of the recordings and livestream, rather than restricting these activities based on the nature of the user. "The safeguards should be such that they protect fair and accurate representation, including sharing and dissemination of proceedings that are already open to public view," their application said.



- **Key Terms and Explanations**

- **Livestreaming of Court Proceedings:** The real-time broadcasting of judicial hearings via digital platforms, allowing citizens to watch court arguments live. For example, high-profile constitutional bench hearings broadcasted on official portals make judicial work transparent to the common citizen.
- **Open Justice Principle:** A foundational legal doctrine stating that justice must be administered in public view to ensure transparency, accountability, and public trust in the judiciary. For example, allowing public galleries in courtrooms embodies this principle physically, which digital streaming extends virtually.
- **Commercial Exploitation of Judicial Content:** The unauthorized monetization, editing, or repurposing of court footage for profit, clickbait, or sensationalist content on social media channels. For instance, clipping a judge's casual remark out of context to generate ad revenue on video-sharing platforms.
- **Judicial Trolling and Reputational Harm:** The targeted harassment, online abuse, or mockery of judges, advocates, and litigants based on manipulated or out-of-context video clips from court hearings. This undermines institutional dignity and erodes public confidence.
- **Protocol for Access and Archives:** A formal, regulated framework established by the judiciary to control how recorded or livestreamed judicial content is stored, retrieved, and distributed. It sets the boundary between public transparency and copyright or privacy protection.

- **Main Arguments and Substantive Parts**

- **Core Thesis:** The judiciary must balance the constitutional imperative of open justice with the urgent need to protect court proceedings from commercial exploitation, digital distortion, and malicious trolling.
- **Judiciary's Stand:** The Supreme Court argues that unrestricted sharing on third-party social media platforms exposes judges, lawyers, and litigants to reputational risks and trolling. Therefore, access should be channeled strictly through official court archives.
- **Activists' Counterargument:** Petitioners and civil rights activists contend that an outright restriction or ban on digital circulation reverses decades of progressive jurisprudence on open justice, hindering public accountability and direct accessibility.
- **Proposed Collaborative Framework:** The court has recognized that the issue is non-adversarial, inviting suggestions from civil society groups, senior advocates, tech platforms like Meta and WhatsApp, and State High Courts to draft a workable regulatory protocol.
- **Addressing Misuse via Terms and Conditions:** Critics of the blanket ban suggest that curbing misuse can be effectively achieved by laying down clear terms of use, content integrity standards, and content-neutral regulations rather than restricting access based on user identity.

- **Historical Evolution of the Issue**

- **Pre-Independence & Early Decades:** Court proceedings were strictly confined to physical courtrooms, where the open justice principle relied entirely on physical public galleries and newspaper reporting by accredited journalists.
- **The Landmark Shift (Swapnil Tripathi Judgment, 2018):** The Supreme Court formally recognized livestreaming as an integral facet of Article 21, ruling that "sunlight is the best disinfectant" and directing the implementation of televised court proceedings.
- **Pandemic Acceleration (2020–2021):** COVID-19 lockdowns forced courts to shift entirely to virtual hearings via video conferencing, normalizing digital access and laying the technological groundwork for widespread institutional livestreaming.
- **State High Court Initiatives:** Gujarat, Odisha, Karnataka, and others pioneered live broadcasting of proceedings on YouTube, popularizing real-time legal education and public oversight.
- **Emerging Backlash and Interim Restrictions (2024):** Growing instances of morphed clips, deepfakes, and sensationalized reels forced judicial intervention, culminating in interim orders restricting third-party distribution and prompting the current move toward archives-based protocols.

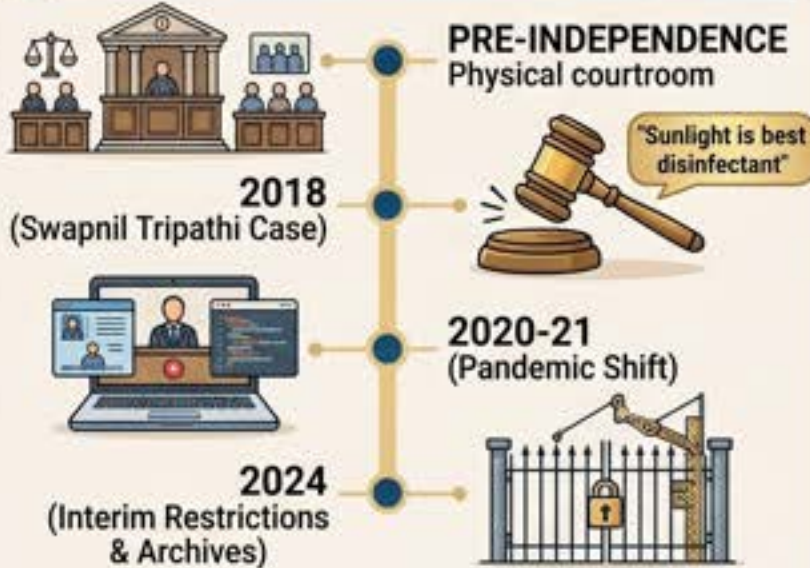
- **Way Forward**

- **Granular Regulatory Protocols:** Instead of blanket bans, frame clear, transparent terms and conditions that penalize malicious clipping and commercial exploitation while allowing legitimate academic and journalistic re-use.
- **Secure Official Repositories:** Develop robust, user-friendly, and searchable cloud-based court archives with standardized open-source APIs to facilitate smooth access for researchers, lawyers, and media houses.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Institutionalize joint consultative committees comprising judiciary representatives, Bar associations, civil society activists, and major tech platforms to proactively address digital challenges.
- **Public Legal Literacy Campaigns:** Launch structured awareness programs to educate citizens on how to interpret court proceedings correctly, preventing knee-jerk reactions to interlocutory observations made by judges.
- **Intermediary Accountability:** Mandate social media platforms to cooperate with judicial registries in swiftly taking down morphed, out-of-context, or malicious videos targeting court proceedings.





## 1 EVOLUTION OF COURT TRANSPARENCY



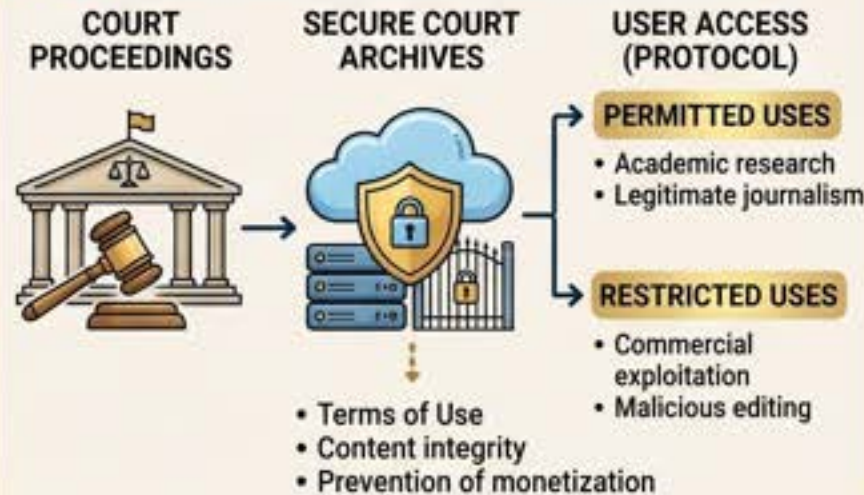
## 2 THE CORE TENSION



## 1 MULTIDIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS



## 2 PROPOSED SC ARCHIVE PROTOCOL



## 1 UPSC CSE SYLLABI LINKAGES

| GS2                                                                                                         | GS3                                                                                                           | GS4                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judiciary</li> <li>• PIL</li> <li>• Vulnerable sections</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT, Cyber Security</li> <li>• IPR</li> <li>• social media</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Politics, Cascology themes</li> </ul>                                    |
| GS4                                                                                                         | Essay/optionals                                                                                               | NCERT                                                                                                             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethics</li> <li>• Integrity</li> <li>• Privacy</li> </ul>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law, PubAd themes</li> </ul>                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PolSc Class 9/11</li> <li>Institutions</li> <li>Sociology Media</li> </ul> |

## 2 EXEMPLAR PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS (PYQs)

- 'Judicial Transparency in digital age'
- 'Virtual Hearings Impact'
- 'Social Media Challenges to State Institutions'
- Social Media Challenges to State Institutions

## 3 WAY FORWARD





# Cabinet approves scheme to promote 'floating' solar plants

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana, a ₹5,070-crore scheme aimed at accelerating floating solar power by providing central financial assistance of up to ₹1 crore per MW for projects installed on reservoirs and other water bodies.

The programme targets 5,000 MW of floating solar capacity by 2030-31.

The scheme, to be implemented by the Solar Energy Corporation of India, comes at a time when India has about 0.7 GW of installed floating solar capacity despite an estimated potential of 102 GW.

Projects receiving support under the scheme will have to include battery energy storage equivalent to at least two hours, amounting to 10,000 MWh across the programme, to help States meet peak demand and reduce the curtailment of renewable power during periods of excess generation.

India's flagship project, the Omkareshwar floating solar park, located on the Narmada in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district is the country's largest at 278 MW, with plans to scale to 600 MW output. However,



The programme targets 5,000 MW of floating solar capacity by 2030-31.

it doesn't have onsite battery storage.

Officials said the financial support was intended to "nudge" the industry to develop an alternative stream of solar capacity. Solar development in India has remained concentrated in Rajasthan and Gujarat because of their vast tracts of inexpensive land and high solar radiation.

Reservoir-based projects are expected to "diversify" installations, particularly in States with large water bodies but limited land availability.

The policy is also designed to address two of the biggest constraints facing ground-mounted solar projects: acquiring large contiguous parcels of land and the rising costs associated with rehabilitation and resettlement.



- **Key Terms and Explanations**

- **Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) Systems:** These are solar power generation units mounted on floating structures or pontoons anchored to the bottom of stationary water bodies such as dams, reservoirs, lakes, or industrial ponds. Unlike conventional ground-mounted panels, FSPVs utilize surface water areas without competing for land.
  - *Simple Example:* Installing a grid of solar panels on rafts floating over the surface of a hydroelectric dam reservoir, generating electricity while floating peacefully on top of the stored water.
- **Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana:** A comprehensive central government scheme designed to accelerate floating solar power deployment across India. It offers dedicated Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to lower capital entry barriers and sets ambitious multi-gigawatt target capacities.
- **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS):** Electrochemical storage technologies (such as Lithium-ion or Sodium-ion batteries) connected to power systems. They store excess electricity generated during peak sunshine hours and discharge it back into the power grid when demand surges or when solar generation drops.
  - *Simple Example:* A giant power bank connected to a solar plant that charges up during sunny afternoons and releases electricity at night when families turn on lights and air conditioners.
- **Renewable Energy Curtailment:** The intentional reduction or shutting off of electricity output from a renewable generator by power grid operators. This usually occurs when the grid cannot absorb additional power due to transmission congestion or low power demand.
- **Central Financial Assistance (CFA):** Direct financial subsidies or capital grants extended by the Union Government to project developers or state utilities to offset high upfront infrastructure costs and de-risk emerging green technologies.
- **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI):** A Miniratna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). SECI functions as the primary executive agency responsible for issuing tenders, managing power purchase agreements, and executing national solar initiatives.



- **Main Arguments and Substantive Parts**

- **Core Arguments & Evidence**

- **Unlocking Huge Unexplored Potential:** India currently operates under 1 GW of floating solar capacity against an estimated technical potential of over 100 GW across its vast reservoirs and water bodies. Bridging this gap offers a massive opportunity to accelerate clean energy adoption.
- **Bypassing the Land Acquisition Bottleneck:** Ground-mounted solar plants require roughly 4 to 5 acres of land per Megawatt. Acquiring vast contiguous parcels of land frequently leads to litigation, high compensation costs, and long delays in Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R). Floating solar entirely circumvents land acquisition hurdles by utilizing existing water surfaces.
- **Mandatory Battery Storage for Grid Stability:** By mandating at least two hours of BESS integration for supported projects, the initiative directly targets solar energy's primary limitation: intermittency. Storage absorbs excess daytime generation, prevents grid curtailment, and ensures power availability during evening peak demand periods.
- **Geographical Decentralization of Renewable Energy:** Solar developments in India have historically concentrated in land-rich, high-radiation western states like Rajasthan and Gujarat. Floating solar enables land-constrained but water-rich eastern, southern, and northeastern states to establish substantial utility-scale solar projects within their own borders.
- **Thermodynamic Efficiency & Water Conservation Co-benefits:** The natural cooling effect provided by underlying water lowers operating temperatures for photovoltaic cells, boosting solar panel power generation efficiency by 5% to 10%. Concurrently, covering water surfaces reduces evaporative water loss—a vital co-benefit for drought-prone regions.

- **Counterarguments & Technical Challenges**

- **High Upfront Capital Outlay (CAPEX):** Floating structures, specialized mooring lines, corrosion-resistant marine cables, and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) floats make FSPV systems significantly more expensive per megawatt than ground-mounted plants.
- **Aquatic Ecosystem Impacts:** Blocking sunlight from reaching the water surface can reduce dissolved oxygen levels, impede photosynthesis in underwater flora, and disrupt aquatic ecosystems and local fish stocks if projects are poorly managed.
- **Engineering and Environmental Risks:** Floating structures must withstand severe wind loads, seasonal water level fluctuations, and wave action. Corrosion from prolonged moisture exposure also presents a long-term reliability challenge.



- **Historical Evolution of the Issue**
  - **Pre-Independence to Early Post-Independence Era:** Water bodies were engineered primarily for irrigation, flood control, and traditional hydroelectricity generation. Energy planning relied almost entirely on fossil fuels and major river dams.
  - **National Solar Mission Phase (2010–2015):** The launch of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) prioritized ultra-mega ground-mounted solar parks in low-density, arid regions like Charanka (Gujarat) and Bhadla (Rajasthan). Over time, this land-heavy approach met growing resistance due to land fragmentation, local displacement, and ecological sensitivities.
  - **Pilot Floating Installations (2016–2020):** Public sector power utilities like NTPC spearheaded small-scale pilot projects on thermal power plant cooling ponds and reservoir waters (such as at Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh and Kayamkulam in Kerala). These pilots demonstrated higher energy yields, reduced panel degradation, and minimal evaporative loss.
  - **Scaling Up & Grid Integration Challenges (2021–2024):** India commissioned major utility-scale floating projects, most notably at the Omkareshwar Dam on the Narmada River in Madhya Pradesh. However, rapid additions to intermittent solar capacity led to operational issues, including grid congestion and power curtailment due to the absence of integrated energy storage.
  - **Institutionalization & Storage Integration (Present):** The government established the *Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana*, shifting policy focus toward integrated floating solar plus storage models. By providing ₹5,070 crore in targeted central financial assistance and mandating two-hour BESS storage across projects, India aims to build 5,000 MW of reliable, dispatchable floating solar capacity by 2030-31.
- **Way Forward**
- **Conduct Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs):**
  - Establish mandatory, long-term ecological monitoring for utility-scale floating projects to track changes in water quality, dissolved oxygen, and aquatic life.
  - Limit surface coverage on natural water bodies to safe thresholds (typically under 30-40%) to ensure sufficient light penetration and preserve aquatic balance.
- **Strengthen Domestic Supply Chains:**
  - Expand the *Polymers and Marine-Grade Materials* manufacturing ecosystem under the *Make in India* initiative to lower reliance on imported floats, anchoring lines, and corrosion-resistant components.
  - Encourage local R&D to develop durable, high-efficiency floating platforms suited to tropical weather conditions and severe monsoonal winds.
- **Develop Hybrid Hydro-Solar-Storage Systems:**
  - Systematically map hydroelectric dams across India to co-locate floating solar arrays on existing reservoirs.
  - Combine floating solar generation with pumped-storage hydro facilities to create integrated hybrid power hubs capable of providing reliable, round-the-clock clean energy.
- **Implement Modern Tariff & Storage Frameworks:**
  - Establish clear time-of-day (ToD) tariff structures and ancillary service markets so power generation companies can fully monetize power dispatched from battery storage during peak demand.



## WHAT IS FSPV?



Prestent solary competition.

Utilizes water surfaces without land competition.



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# COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS: CABINET APPROVES 'PRADHAN MANTRI SURYA SAROVAR YOJANA' FOR FLOATING SOLAR PLANTS

## HISTORICAL EVOLUTION



**PRE-2010**  
Hydro-Only/  
Fossil

**2010-2015**  
National Solar  
Mission -  
Ground Focus

**2016-2020**  
NTPC Pilots -  
Concept Proven  
(e.g., Simhadri)

**2021-2024**  
Flagship Scaling  
& Grid Curtailment  
Issues  
e.g., Omkareshwar

**PRESENT**  
Storage-  
Integrated  
Scheme, BESS  
mandate

## SCHEME DETAILS



₹5,070 Cr  
CFA



5,000 MW Target  
by 2030-31



**MANDATORY  
BESS**

## IMPLEMENTING AGENCY



• Tendering  
• Execution

Up to ₹1 Cr/MW  
assistance.

## WAY FORWARD



Comprehensive EIA & Eco-Monitoring  
(limits surface coverage to <40%)



Domestic Float/Marine-grade PV Supply Chain



Pumped-Storage Hydro Hybrid Hubs



Dynamic Time-of-Day Tariffs

## MULTI-DIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS



**BYPASSES LAND  
ACQUISITION**

**HIGHER EFFICIENCY**  
(Cooling improves yield)

**REDUCES EVAPORATION**  
(Water conservation)



**100+ GW  
Potential**

Highly-  
regionalold  
with large  
reservoirs

## UPSC CSE & APSC LINKAGES



**GS1**  
Resource  
Distribution/  
Geography



**GS2**  
Governance/  
Policy/  
Federalism



**GS3**  
Energy  
Infrastructure/  
Economy/S&T



**GS4**  
Environmental  
Ethics

## PRELIMS & MAINS PYQ

Solar Water  
Pump  
examples



Energy  
Potential

Solar Solar  
Potential



Energy  
Potential

**APSC RELEVANCE**  
(Assam & NE): Leveraging  
large Beels/Reservoirs  
in land-constrained,  
water-rich states.



# Cabinet okays ₹84,084-cr. Samudra Manthan for offshore exploration

**Saptaparno Ghosh**  
NEW DELHI

To boost India's offshore exploration efforts, the Union Cabinet approved an outlay of ₹84,084 crore to the Union Petroleum Ministry's National Offshore Exploration Scheme Samudra Manthan.

The corpus is to be utilised until FY2030-31. The overall outlay is categorised into four key components the most important of which relate to drilling 60 deepwater exploration wells for which the Cabinet has allocated ₹43,200 crore.

This is inclusive of the government of up to 50% of eligible drilling cost or ₹675 crore per well.

The other component relates to offshore data acquisition which carries an outlay of ₹28,534 crore.

Development of common offshore infrastruc-



**Well oiled plan:** The scheme aims at catalysing reserves of over 600 MMTOE. (For representational purpose only) GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

ture hubs to facilitate commercialisation of discoveries, which would be accounting for an outlay of ₹10,000 crore.

Finally, the establishment of oil and gas manufacturing and services zones - seeking to promote domestic manufacturing and localisation of critical equipment and services - tabulate an outlay of ₹2,000 crore.

Overall, the Union government's flagship scheme for offshore exploration aims at catalysing reserves of more than 600 million metric tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE).

## **Stimulating investments**

It envisages to "stimulate significant investments across the exploration and production value chain, creating long-term oppor-

tunities for industry, innovation and economic growth."

Essentially, with hydrocarbon exploration being a capital-intensive activity with long gestation period but essential for a country's domestic energy security, the scheme seeks to reorient growth into this sector (via offshore exploration) to overcome difficulties from ageing oil and gas fields.

Reflecting on the announcement, Rajnish Gupta, partner for tax and economic policy, EY India held, "Investments in large-scale seismic data acquisition and drilling of exploratory well in deep and ultra deep waters will reduce geological uncertainty and de-risk exploration and lay the foundation for future discoveries. Good results can catalyse greater private investments in the sector."

- **Key Terms and Concepts**

- **Samudra Manthan Scheme:** A flagship national initiative administered by the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. With a total outlay of ₹84,084 crore running through FY2030-31, it is designed to systematically de-risk, finance, and accelerate offshore oil and gas exploration across India's sea basins.
- **Deepwater and Ultra-Deepwater Drilling:** Offshore drilling operations conducted in water depths exceeding 400 meters for deepwater and 1,500 meters for ultra-deepwater. Operating at these depths requires subsea robotics, specialized drillships, and high-pressure casing techniques.
- **MMTOE (Million Metric Tonnes of Oil Equivalent):** A standard crude-oil equivalent metric used in energy economics to aggregate diverse energy resources—such as crude oil, condensate, and natural gas—into a single quantifiable unit of measurement.
- **Seismic Data Acquisition:** A geophysical exploration method that sends acoustic sound waves into sub-surface ocean layers to map structural traps, geological faults, and potential hydrocarbon reservoirs prior to drilling.
- **Gestation Period:** The operational time frame between initial financial investment in geological surveying and the actual commercial recovery of crude oil or natural gas. In offshore sectors, this period frequently spans 7 to 12 years due to high engineering complexity.
- **Common Infrastructure Hubs:** Shared offshore assets—including centralized processing platforms, subsea pipelines, and storage terminals—that allow multiple exploration operators to harvest and transport discoveries without incurring duplicate capital expenditures.

- **Core Architecture and Strategic Objectives**

- India currently imports over 85% of its crude oil requirements and nearly half of its natural gas needs. This heavy reliance leaves the macroeconomic framework vulnerable to foreign exchange fluctuations, supply chain disruptions, and global price volatility. Domestic oil production has faced headwinds as mature onshore and shallow offshore fields (such as Bombay High) experience natural decline. To address this structural challenge, the government has introduced a state-backed funding framework aimed at unlocking deepwater reserves.

- **Comprehensive Financial Outlay Breakdown**

- **Key Components of the Strategy**

- **Targeted Exploratory Well Subsidies (₹43,200 crore):** Deepwater drilling involves substantial upfront expenditure, often costing between ₹500 crore and ₹1,200 crore per well with no guarantee of commercial success. The framework provides up to 50% direct viability gap support (capped at ₹675 crore per well) across 60 planned deepwater test wells, mitigating financial risk for operating companies.
- **Systematic Offshore Data Acquisition (₹28,534 crore):** Large areas of India's 2.3 million square kilometer Exclusive Economic Zone remain inadequately surveyed. Funding high-resolution seismic surveys lowers geological uncertainty and provides open-access data to attract global energy firms.
- **Shared Offshore Infrastructure Development (₹10,000 crore):** Building localized processing hubs and common subsea pipeline networks reduces the marginal cost of field commercialization, making smaller satellite discoveries economically viable.
- **Domestic Manufacturing and Services Zones (₹2,000 crore):** Establishing localized manufacturing clusters for drill bits, subsea valves, offshore supply vessels (OSVs), and specialized platform components aligns offshore expansion with national manufacturing goals.
- **Targeted Reserve Discovery:** The initiative aims to catalyze energy reserves exceeding 600 MMTOE, strengthening domestic energy security and supporting transition-era baseload demands.



- **Historical Evolution of Offshore Exploration in India**
  - **Pre-Independence & Early Post-Independence Phase (1940s–1960s):** Hydrocarbon exploration was largely confined to onshore fields in Assam (Digboi) managed by colonial-era companies. The establishment of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) in 1956 marked the start of systematic state-led exploration.
  - **The Offshore Breakthrough (1970s):** In 1974, ONGC discovered the Bombay High field using the jack-up rig *Sagar Samrat*. This event demonstrated the potential of India's continental shelf and shifted national energy priorities toward offshore fields.
  - **New Exploration Licensing Policy Era (1997–2015):** Market liberalisation brought the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). NELP opened exploration blocks to private companies and foreign investment through competitive bidding based on a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) model. This period led to deepwater discoveries in the Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin.
  - **Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy Framework (2016):** To simplify administration, the government replaced NELP with the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP). Key reforms included:
    - A **Uniform Licensing Policy** covering all forms of hydrocarbons (conventional oil, gas, coal-bed methane, and shale gas under a single license).
    - A shift from profit-sharing to a **Revenue Sharing Contract (RSC)** model to reduce regulatory auditing friction.
    - The **Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP)**, enabling operators to carve out preferred exploration blocks dynamically.
  - **Modern State-Led De-risking (Present):** Recognizing that policy reforms alone could not fully offset high deepwater operational risks, the national offshore scheme directly deploys public capital to de-risk seismic mapping and exploratory drilling through FY2030-31.
- **Way Forward**
  - **Establish Strategic Technology Partnerships:** Form joint ventures with experienced foreign operators to acquire specialized ultra-deepwater technologies, including floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) units and subsea completion equipment.
  - **Streamline Regulatory Clearances:** Implement a unified single-window clearance portal bringing together defense, environmental, and maritime agencies to shorten pre-drilling preparation timelines.
  - **Strengthen Environmental Management Protocols:** Mandate continuous ecological monitoring, high-resolution baseline studies, and comprehensive oil-spill response protocols to safeguard ocean biodiversity.
  - **Optimize Dual-Use Maritime Infrastructure:** Design offshore infrastructure hubs so they can eventually support offshore wind installations and green hydrogen transport, preparing assets for future energy needs.
  - **Invest in Specialized Workforce Training:** Establish dedicated academic and practical training programs in subsea engineering, marine geophysics, and ocean data science to build domestic technical capacity.



# COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS: INDIA'S SAMUDRA MANTHAN OFFSHORE EXPLORATION SCHEME.

## CABINET APPROVAL & OUTLAY



CABINET  
MEETING

**₹84,084 CRORE**  
TOTAL OUTLAY

**TARGETED RESERVES  
> 600 MMTOE**



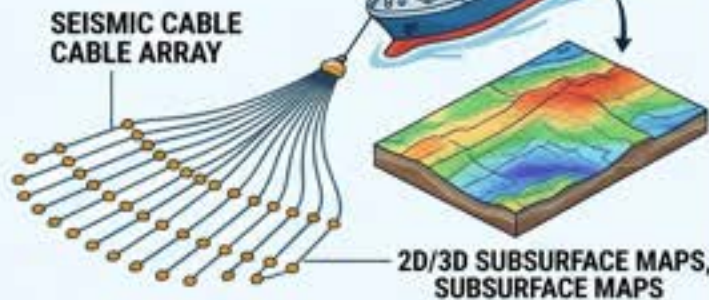
## FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN OF SCHEME COMPONENTS

**₹43,200 CR**  
DEEPWATER DRILLING



60 EXPLORATION WELLS.  
50% COST SUPPORT  
(MAX ₹675 CR/WELL)

**₹28,534 CR**  
OFFSHORE DATA  
ACQUISITION



**₹10,000 CR**



COMMON OFFSHORE  
INFRASTRUCTURE HUBS

**₹2,000 CR**  
OIL & GAS MFG. &  
SERVICE ZONES



Local factories making  
specific subsea equipment  
valves, pump rigs

## KEY OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIC IMPACT



**BOOST DOMESTIC  
PRODUCTION &  
ENERGY SECURITY.**

Address India's high  
reliance on imports:  
~85% CRUDE, ~50% GAS



**CATALYSE PRIVATE  
INVESTMENT.**

REDUCE GEOLOGICAL  
UNCERTAINTY & DE-RISK  
EXPLORATION



**REORIENT GROWTH  
TO FRONTIER BASINS.**

Overcome challenges from  
ageing shallow fields

**OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES FROM  
AGEING OIL & GAS FIELDS.**

**STIMULATE INVESTMENTS  
ACROSS THE VALUE CHAIN.**



• TECH

# Can Chinese AI models shape future of tech race



RESHIKA SINGH

IN JANUARY 2025, the release of a Chinese artificial intelligence (AI) model called DeepSeek R1 drew global attention and briefly triggered market panic. It was a low-cost, quality product that was compared to ChatGPT and other top models from the US as discussions about AI-related overcapacity were gaining ground.

DeepSeek also evoked curiosity and questions — just how capable is China's AI sector? In parallel, OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, accused DeepSeek of copying its technology, with a Trump administration adviser backing the claim.

A similar sequence seems to be playing out now. Chinese company Moonshot AI's Kimi K2 model, released in July, is said to rival models from US-based OpenAI and Anthropic. It boasts features such as coding, financial consulting and video editing.

Aimed to rise, Anthropic accused Moonshot AI of illicitly extracting the capabilities of its Claude model, with one US official describing it as "an assault on every economy that prizes the entrepreneurship, rewards private capital, and relies on fair and honest competition." China's Commerce Ministry then accused the US of "AI hegemonism".

"Markets react strongly when a Chinese release challenges assumptions about permanent US technological leadership. Another sell-off is certainly possible," said Li Zhi Lee, a fellow on Chinese Economy at the US-based Asia Society Policy Institute's Center for China Analysis.

But more than just being good, the Kimi story shows that Chinese models are now becoming more ubiquitous, she told The Indian Express.

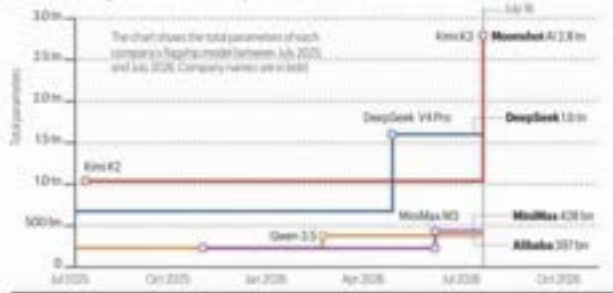
## What Kimi K3 represents

Moonshot AI was founded in 2023 by Yang Zhao, a 34-year-old entrepreneur who graduated from Beijing's Tsinghua University and earned his PhD at Carnegie Mellon University. He then returned to China.

Kimi K3 has been billed as the world's largest "open-weight" AI system, with 2.8 trillion "parameters". In the AI context, parameters are the settings that determine how systems respond to user prompts, based on the large amounts of data they

## • HOW KIMI STACKS UP AGAINST 'OPEN-WEIGHT' COMPETITORS

Kimi K3 has been billed as the world's largest 'open-weight' AI system with 2.8 trillion (tn) 'parameters'. In the context of AI, parameters are settings that determine how systems respond to user prompts, based on the large amounts of data they have been trained on.



have been trained on. Parameters are assigned "weights" or numerical values that indicate their relative significance, which guide the model's response.

Lee said that a massive parameter count indicates large investment in compute (software and hardware used for training and running AI systems), data and engineering, but the model's capability also depends on factors like data quality.

Poe Zhao, a China Tech Analyst and founder of the online publication Hello China Tech, told The Indian Express: "An open-weight model allows developers to download its parameters, run it locally and customise it. Open source usually implies broader disclosure, less locking in of code and training information to understand and modify how the model was produced."

Conceptually, "open-source" simply means that the underlying code behind software is publicly shared so anyone can use and modify it to create their own programs. Openness is often seen as a way to democratise technology, but has also drawn controversy over its malicious actors manipulating code and posing security risks.

## The open-close debate

US companies have generally not followed the open model path, but many Chinese AI models are open-weight.

Zhao said, "Leading US companies already have global cloud platforms and en-

terprise customers. Chinese firms can use open weights to reach developers more quickly, build an ecosystem and generate demand for their products."

Chen Lee, a Senior Analyst focusing on China at the Economist Intelligence Unit, told The Indian Express that Chinese developers face "chip supply constraints, given Western export restrictions and domestic production bottlenecks." Semiconductors or specialised chips are crucial hardware required to run AI models, and the US government has sought to restrict advanced versions from reaching China.

Restrictions, as part of the larger geopolitical rivalry, mean that Chinese firms may not have the capacity to provide commercial access to a closed model," he said.

What makes the Kimi case unusual, he said, "is that it is one of the most popular models trying a custom licence approach — open-weight for most, but requiring large companies to strike a commercial agreement with Moonshot."

Li Zhi Lee said that the approach also fits China's broader industrial strategy: "Testing, wants AI to spread quickly across manufacturing, cloud services, local governments. Open weights help accelerate that diffusion. There is a diplomatic angle, too. China increasingly presents open models as part of international technological cooperation."

Just this month, the Chinese government spearheaded the creation of a new AI

governance body, with President Xi Jinping stating that "AI development should not be a solo performance... but a symphony of international cooperation".

## Future of the AI race

Kimi arrives at a time of several overlapping, AI-related debates in the US, involving open tech access and national security.

In a recent open letter, industry giants called for shifting towards open-weight models. "Software developed by the open-source community now supports most of the internet and underlies systems used by the world's largest technology companies, as well as the US military and federal agencies... The US now faces a similar choice with AI," it said.

Zhao said that the letter is an "important industry signal, although it is too early to call it a major shift...". While companies behind AI infrastructure like Nvidia have until now advocated for open-weight models, presumably to spread adoption and the demand for their products, companies that created proprietary models (like Anthropic) have had reservations.

Li Zhi Lee said the story has "clear parallels with earlier disputes involving semiconductors, electric vehicles and other industries. Rapid Chinese technological catch-up has often been followed by arguments over technology transfer and intellectual property."

The US government is also reportedly investigating whether Moonshot illegally accessed advanced chips to train models. One reason for this may be increasing adoption of Chinese AI within the US. For price-conscious users, open-weight models also allow for more customisation.

With every new advanced Chinese model, the gap between the countries is narrowing, but with caveats. Zhao argued that export controls on chips, for instance, have also encouraged China's investment in efficiency and domestic alternatives. However, "It does not prove that export controls have failed. It shows that progress in AI models is influenced by more than access to the most advanced chips," he said.

Purely with the US may be far off, he said, with companies holding an edge in compute, capital, global distribution and chips.

The rise of Chinese AI companies could also offer other countries "more choice, lower costs and greater ability to deploy models locally." This, in turn, could give Chinese companies more influence over technical standards, further intensifying what is becoming a two-player race for global AI dominance.

## What is Kimi K3?

Kimi K3 is an advanced AI model released by the Chinese company Moonshot. It is said to rival the likes of OpenAI and Anthropic.

It is an 'open-weight' system, which means it can be downloaded and modified.

- **Key Terms and Explanations**
- **Large Language Models (LLMs) and Parameters:** Parameters are the internal numerical weights that dictate how an AI system processes inputs, reasons, and generates outputs. Think of parameters as millions—or trillions—of microscopic control knobs adjusted during training; the higher the number of high-quality parameters, the greater the model's capacity to handle nuanced, complex tasks such as cross-domain reasoning, financial analysis, and coding.
- **Open-Weight vs. Closed-Source Architecture:**
  - **Closed-Source (Proprietary) Models:** Proprietary systems keep their internal weights, training code, and underlying data completely private, offering access only through controlled interfaces or cloud subscriptions (e.g., models developed by OpenAI or Anthropic).
  - **Open-Weight Models:** Developers make the pre-trained weights freely downloadable. This allows individual programmers, enterprises, and sovereign governments to run, audit, and fine-tune the model on local hardware without depending on external cloud providers.
- **Model Distillation and Synthetic Data Extraction:** Model distillation is a technique where a smaller or resource-constrained AI model is trained using the outputs generated by a larger, more advanced teacher model. While it dramatically lowers training costs and compute requirements, it frequently triggers intellectual property disputes regarding unauthorized capability extraction.
- **AI Hegemony and Techno-Nationalism:** This concept describes how major global powers leverage their technological supremacy—across hardware, software, and data infrastructure—to exercise geopolitical influence, establish international standards, and create economic dependencies among smaller nations.
- **Asymmetric Technological Warfare:** A strategic posture where a nation facing trade barriers or export controls (such as semiconductor embargoes) innovates through algorithmic optimization, resource efficiency, and open-weight distribution to bypass structural hardware limitations.
- **Main Arguments and Substantive Parts**
- The global AI landscape is experiencing a structural pivot away from a pure hardware-dominated monopoly toward a complex, multi-polar contest centered on algorithmic efficiency and deployment ecosystems.
- **1. The Shifting Paradigms of Global AI Leadership**
  - **Decentralization of Capabilities:** State-of-the-art AI capabilities are no longer exclusive to a handful of Western technology giants backed by massive capital expenditure. High-performing models operating on open-weight frameworks demonstrate that optimization and data quality can narrow the gap previously defined by raw compute power.
  - **Ecosystem Capture over API Monetization:** While proprietary developers focus on monetization through API access and closed enterprise platforms, alternative strategies prioritize building global developer ecosystems. By releasing open-weight models with trillions of parameters, developer mindshare is captured, domestic manufacturing is integrated, and software standards are shaped globally.
- **2. The Mechanics of Algorithmic Optimization Under Sanctions**
  - **Neutralizing Hardware Embargoes:** Advanced hardware export controls—designed to limit a rival's access to cutting-edge graphics processing units (GPUs)—have unintentionally accelerated research into algorithmic efficiency.
  - **Compute-Efficient Architectures:** Developers operating under hardware constraints have focused on novel parameter design, synthetic data generation, and model distillation. This allows them to achieve top-tier performance at a fraction of the traditional training cost, challenging the assumption that compute dominance automatically guarantees long-term technological supremacy.
- **3. Geopolitical Friction and Intellectual Property Battles**
  - **Accusations of Technological Arbitrage:** The rapid rise of competitive open-weight models has deepened geopolitical friction. Established market leaders frequently allege that emerging competitors rely on unauthorized model distillation—scraping outputs from proprietary Western models—to bypass foundational baseline training.
  - **Counter-Narratives of Digital Imperialism:** Emerging players counter by framing Western proprietary ecosystems as forms of "technological hegemony" and market consolidation. They position open-weight models as digital public goods that democratize artificial intelligence for the Global South.



- **Historical Evolution of the Issue**
- **Pre-2015: Era of Silicon Valley Monopoly and Open Academic Exchange**
  - During the early phases of machine learning, development was driven primarily by US academic institutions and tech firms, supported by fundamental defense funding like DARPA. International engagement was characterized by open academic publishing, globally accessible codebases, and collaborative research frameworks across borders.
- **2015–2017: State-Led Technology Roadmaps**
  - Recognizing artificial intelligence as a key driver of future economic and military power, non-Western nations began publishing ambitious strategic roadmaps. Plans targeting global leadership by 2030 signaled a shift from passive technology consumption to state-directed, home-grown innovation ecosystems.
- **2018–2021: Systemic Friction and Targeted Trade Restrictions**
  - As technological convergence accelerated, Western powers introduced targeted trade measures. Key technology developers and semiconductor foundries faced inclusion on entity lists, restricting access to foundational US-origin intellectual property, electronic design automation (EDA) software, and advanced lithography equipment.
- **2022–2023: The Generative AI Boom and Absolute Export Limits**
  - The commercial launch of generative AI platforms shifted artificial intelligence from a back-end utility to a critical front-line infrastructure. In response, advanced economies established strict export controls managed by bodies like the US Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS). These rules placed hardware caps on processing speeds and interconnect bandwidths to throttle rival AI capabilities.
- **Present: The Open-Weight Counter-Strategy**
  - Faced with tight hardware bottlenecks, target nations pivoted toward open-weight architectures. By deploying high-parameter models publicly, these initiatives established a alternative paradigm. This strategy has successfully lowered the cost of intelligence, provided global options outside the Western cloud ecosystem, and created a multi-polar technology landscape.
- **Way Forward**
- **1. Accelerating Sovereign Compute and Foundation Models**
  - **Establish Public Compute Infrastructure:** Developing economies should build national GPU compute clusters under public-private frameworks. Providing subsidized compute allows local research institutions, startups, and public bodies to train sovereign models tailor-made for local needs.
  - **Develop Native Fine-Tuned Frameworks:** Rather than relying exclusively on foreign proprietary platforms, nations should fine-tune high-performing open-weight models on localized datasets. This preserves linguistic diversity and ensures sovereign control over critical public domain intelligence.
- **2. Modernizing Intellectual Property and Regulatory Oversight**
  - **Establish Clear Distillation Guidelines:** Legal frameworks must clarify the boundaries of model distillation, fair use, and data scraping. Transparent standards prevent legal ambiguity while encouraging domestic innovation.
  - **Implement Risk-Tiered Compliance Systems:** Regulations should focus on deployment risks rather than restricting base parameter distributions. High-risk applications (such as healthcare, defense, and public finance) should undergo mandatory safety audits, regardless of whether the underlying model is proprietary or open-source.

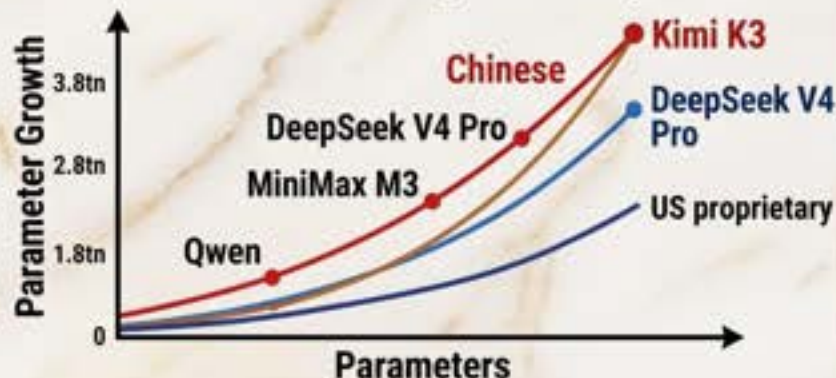


# AXIA IAS ACADEMY Presents: THE GLOBAL AI TECH RACE: A STRATEGIC COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS FOR UPSC CSE PREPARATION

UPSC CSE PREPARATION FRAMEWORK: Linkages to GS Papers 1-4, Essay, Ethics, NCERTs (Class 11/12 Political Science, Economics, Sociology, CompSci)

## RISE OF CHINESE AI & OPEN-WEIGHT STRATEGY

**Open-Weight Duality: Bypassing Controls & Ecosystem Capture**



1. Largest Open-Weight Parameters (Kimi K3 example)

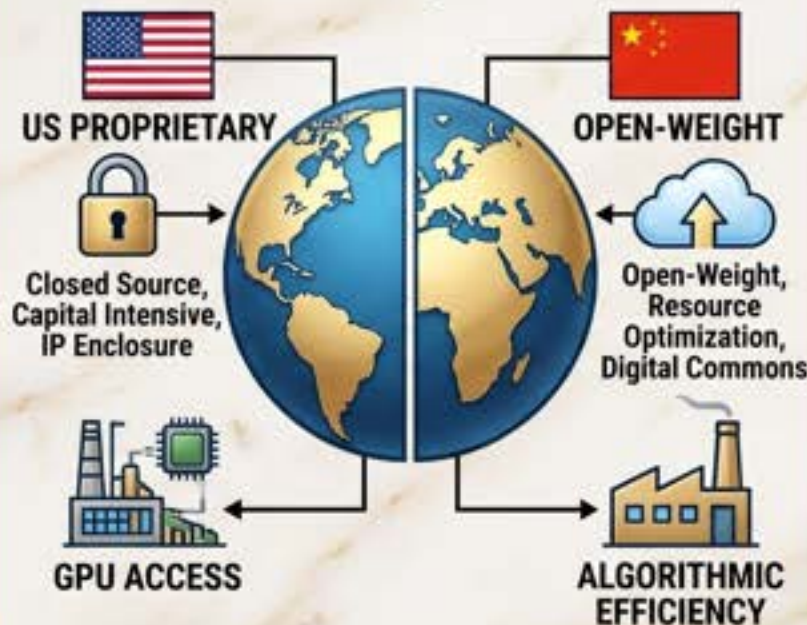
2. Bypassing Hardware Restrictions (GPUs)

3. Ecosystem Diffusion and Capturing Global Developer Mindshare



## OPEN VS. CLOSED DEBATE

**Geopolitical Duality: Proprietary Enclosure vs. Digital Commons**



1. Lockean Rights vs. Digital Public Goods.
2. Technological Arbitrage Accusations.
3. System Safety alignment divergence.

## STRATEGIC ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

**Multidimensional Analysis and Policy Directions**

|                  |                                                                                     |                                |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Social</b>    |  | Democratization vs. Inequality |
| <b>Political</b> |  | Sovereign Tech Autonomy        |
| <b>Legal</b>     |  | Adaptive IPR frameworks        |
| <b>Ethical</b>   |  | Dual-Use Risks                 |
| <b>Economic</b>  |  | Supply Chain bottlenecks       |

## WAY FORWARD MATRIX

| Domestic Capacity                                                                                             | Regulatory                                                                                                         | Diplomatic                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>Public Compute Parks | <br>Tiered Compliance Systems | <br>Multilateral Tech cooperation |



• LEGAL

# FIR over remarks on PM: How law treats obscenity, profanity

Apurva Vishwanath  
New Delhi, July 31

ON WEDNESDAY, the Noida Police registered a Zero FIR against a 25-year-old woman, Ruchika Singh, over remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the recent youth protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. The FIR invokes Sections 352, 353(1) and 356(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) — covering insult, public mischief and defamation. The case has triggered a public debate about profanity, especially against public leaders. But is crude language a crime in India?

## Obscenity as an offence

The provision most commonly reached for in such disputes is Section 296 of the BNS (Section 294 of the Indian Penal Code).

It punishes "whoever, to the annoyance of others, (a) does any obscene act in any public place, or (b) sings, recites or utters any obscene song, ballad or words, in or near any public place" with up to three months in jail.

While this section has not been invoked in the Noida woman's case, it is usually the default charge for loud, crude public behaviour. But "obscene" carries a precise legal meaning that courts have read narrowly.

## Determining obscenity

The legal doctrine for defining obscenity in India was tested by the ban on DH Lawrence's final novel, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, published in the 20th century. In the 1965 landmark ruling in *Ranjit D. Udeshi v. State of Maharashtra*, the Supreme Court (SC) upheld the book ban and the constitutionality of Section 292 of the IPC, which allows the "sale of obscene books".

In doing so, the court also laid down the test for obscenity: an 1868 English rule called the Hicklin test, which asked whether isolated passages of a work could corrupt the most vulnerable reader.

While English law moved on, courts in India applied this test for decades. In 2006, the SC opened a window in *Doordarshan v. Anand Patwardhan*, where the broadcaster had refused to air Patwardhan's documentary *Father, Son and Holy War* over its adult certificate. The SC cleared the telecast, holding that obscenity must be judged by viewing a work as a whole and not by isolating scenes.

The test changed in 2014 with *Aveek Sarkar v. State of West Bengal*, where the SC held that a nude photograph of tennis player Boris Becker and his fiancée was not obscene, and discarded Hicklin in favour of a "community standards" test. This test

## A high bar

● In Sept 2025, the Telangana High Court held that social media posts describing a political party as a 'scourge' and a 'pest' might be harsh, even nasty language, but cannot attract Sections 352 (insult) or 353 (public mischief) if there is no real threat to public order.

● The court said that at best it fell within the 'limited ambit' of defamation, itself cushioned by constitutional protections for political speech.

stated that the allegedly problematic material is obscene only if it "tends to arouse sexual feelings, judged by an average person applying contemporary standards."

## Profanity or vulgarity as crime

In 2024, TVF's web series *College Romance* landed in legal trouble under the Information Technology Act over an expletive-heavy episode. Essentially, a ban was sought because the content was obscene. The SC, however, quashed the FIR, holding that vulgarity and profanity are not, by themselves, the same as obscenity.

"While the literal meaning of the terms used may be sexual in nature and they may refer to sexual acts, their usage does not arouse sexual feelings or lust... Rather, the common usage of these words is reflective of emotions of anger, rage, frustration, grief, or perhaps excitement," the court had said.

Two other minor rulings this year, both by benches headed by Justice P S Narasimha, applied the same logic to ordinary individuals. In *Sivakumar v. State* (April 2026), the SC acquitted a man under Section 294 since calling someone a "bastard" during a heated argument did not meet the threshold for obscenity. Similarly, in *Mani v. State* (July 2026), the court said: "Use of mere swear

words, profanities and vulgar expletives, however distasteful or uncivil they may be, cannot be equated with obscenity."

Court rulings on this issue frequently state that for an utterance to be considered obscene, it must be shown that it was lascivious. Lascivious is an adjective that means feeling, showing, or expressing a strong, often inappropriate desire for sex.

## The Noida case

The sections cited in the Zero FIR (insult, public mischief and defamation) sit in an entirely different chapter of the BNS, each with its own, narrower test. Section 352 requires proof that the accused intended, or knew it was likely, that the insult would provoke actual breach of public peace and not simply that someone felt insulted.

Public mischief under Section 353 is aimed at incitement: mutiny within the armed forces, fear likely to push people toward offences against the state, or enmity between communities. This is a considerably higher bar than sharp criticism of a leader. Defamation, too, carries long-standing exceptions for good-faith comment on a public figure's conduct in their public role.

FULL REPORT ON

[WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM](http://WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM)

- **Key Terms and Explanations**

- **Obscenity:** In Indian criminal jurisprudence, obscenity refers to material, acts, or utterances that tend to deprave and corrupt minds open to immoral influences, specifically by appealing to prurient interest or arousing sexual feelings.
- **Profanity and Vulgarity:** Coarse, offensive, or sacrilegious language often used to vent intense emotions like rage, frustration, or excitement. Unlike obscenity, vulgarity lacks a direct connection to sexual arousal or prurience.
- **Hicklin Test:** A 19th-century British legal doctrine derived from *R v. Hicklin (1868)*. It judged obscenity by analyzing isolated passages of a work out of context to see if they could corrupt the most impressionable or vulnerable minds (such as children).
- **Contemporary Community Standards Test:** A modern legal standard that replaced the Hicklin Test in India. It evaluates material as a whole through the eyes of an average, reasonable person applying contemporary societal standards, rather than judging isolated excerpts.
- **Zero FIR:** An First Information Report (FIR) registered by a police station irrespective of the territorial jurisdiction where the alleged crime took place. It is later transferred to the appropriate jurisdiction for investigation.
- **Public Mischief (BNS Section 353):** A statutory offence penalizing statements, rumors, or reports intended to cause public alarm, incite mutiny, create enmity between communities, or provoke offences against the state.

- **Main Arguments and Substantive Parts**

- **Legal Equivalence Deficit Between Profanity and Obscenity:** The judiciary maintains a strict line of demarcation between crude, distasteful language and statutory obscenity. Vulgar expletives—even when directed at high constitutional functionaries—reflect human emotions like anger or political discontent, but do not meet the legal threshold of obscenity, which requires a connection to sexual lust or depravity.
- **High Evidentiary Bar for Public Order Offences:** Invoking provisions related to intentional insult (Section 352 BNS) or public mischief (Section 353 BNS) against vocal critics requires proof of a direct, proximate nexus to an actual breach of peace or incitement to violence. Offended sensibilities or hurt feelings alone do not constitute a threat to public order.
- **Protective Shield for Political Dissent:** Sharp, harsh, or even impolite criticism of political leaders falls within the protected realm of political speech under Article 19(1)(a). The constitutional guarantee of free speech extends to uncomfortable or unpalatable ideas, provided they do not cross into direct incitement or defamation without statutory exceptions.
- **Limits of Defamation and Criminal Law:** Criminal defamation carries statutory exceptions for good-faith comments made on the public conduct of public figures. Weaponizing police machinery through Zero FIRs for offensive rhetoric creates a chilling effect on citizen participation in democratic discourse.





- **Historical Evolution of the Issue**

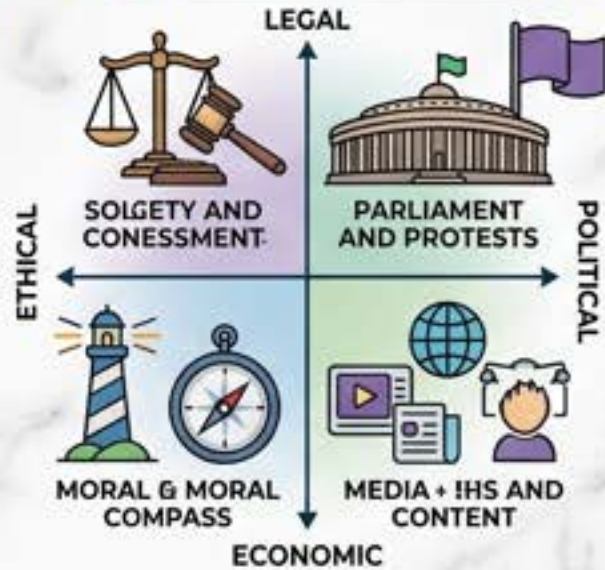
- **Colonial Era (1860–1947):** The Indian Penal Code (IPC) incorporated Sections 292 and 294 based on Victorian moral standards. Indian courts adopted the English *Hicklin Test* (1868), which allowed the state to ban entire literary works based on isolated offensive passages.
- **Post-Independence Landmark (*Ranjit D. Udeshi v. State of Maharashtra, 1965*):** The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of Section 292 IPC and applied the Hicklin Test to uphold a ban on D.H. Lawrence's novel *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, prioritizing traditional moral protection over artistic expression.
- **Shift to Whole-Work Evaluation (*Doordarshan v. Anand Patwardhan, 2006*):** The judiciary moved away from fragment-based judgment, ruling that allegedly obscene material must be evaluated as a whole and in its broader context, clearing Anand Patwardhan's documentary *Father, Son and Holy War*.
- **Formal Adoption of Community Standards (*Aveek Sarkar v. State of West Bengal, 2014*):** The Supreme Court discarded the outdated Hicklin Test, adopting the *Contemporary Community Standards Test*. The court ruled that context matters, and non-prurient nudity or provocative imagery does not automatically constitute obscenity.
- **Recent Jurisprudential Refinements (2024–2026):** In rulings involving web series (*TVF College Romance*) and individual altercations (*Sivakumar v. State, Mani v. State*), the Supreme Court clearly separated vulgarity/profanity from obscenity. Concurrently, High Courts held that political mudslinging, however harsh, cannot automatically be categorized as public mischief under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).



- **Way Forward**

- **Judicial Gatekeeping and Threshold Review:** Magistrates should review speech-related complaints before issuing process or allowing arrests, applying the contemporary community standards test at the initial stage.
- **Clear Standard Operating Procedures for Police:** State Police Boards and the Ministry of Home Affairs should issue clear guidelines for registering FIRs under BNS Sections 352, 353, and 296, preventing arbitrary filings for political remarks.
- **Legislative and Statutory Clarifications:** Amendments or explicit statutory explanations should clarify that vulgarity or profanity alone does not constitute obscenity or public mischief without direct incitement to violence.
- **Sensitization and Police Capacity Building:** Training police officers on constitutional rights under Article 19 ensures they understand the legal distinctions between profanity, obscenity, and political speech.

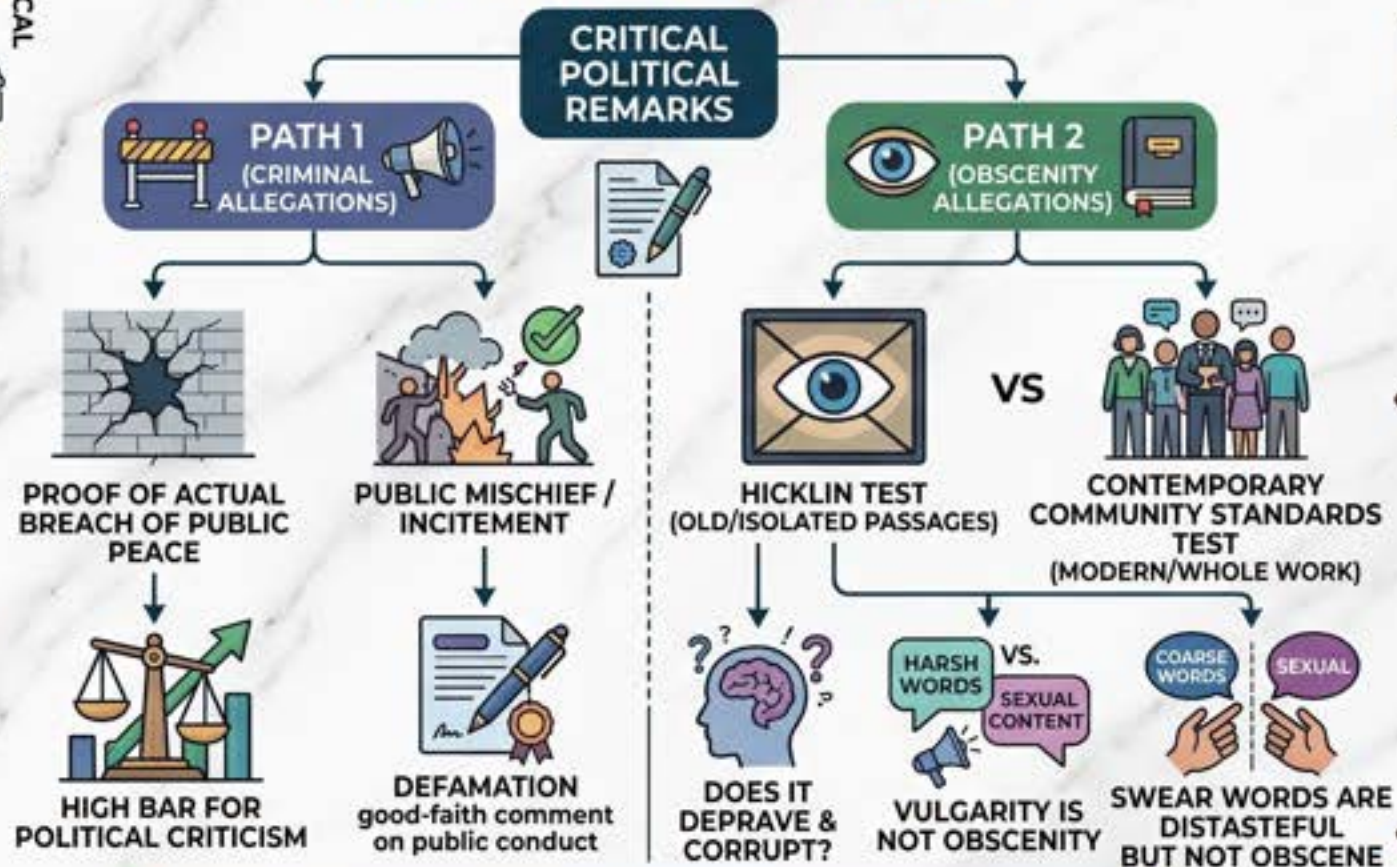
## MULTIDIMENSIONAL CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS



## NCERT LINKAGE



# CRITICAL ISSUES: LAW, FREE SPEECH, AND POLITICAL DISSENT



## NCERT LINKAGE



CLASSES 11  
FREEDOM



CLASSES 12  
FREEDOM AND  
CONSTITUTION



FREEDOM



CONSTITUTION  
CONCEPT

## UPSC SYLLABUS





# What strong IIP growth conceals: Persistent weakness in consumer demand



THIS week, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the recently updated Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data. It showed that the IIP grew by 7.3% year-on-year (y-o-y) in June 2026.

Many things stood out about this data. First, the spike was the highest in almost two years. Moreover, it was the third consecutive month of accelerating y-o-y growth. It comes when most observers suggest India's growth will slow down this year. A closer look, however, reveals more about the state of the economy.

## What is the IIP?

As the name suggests, the IIP maps changes in the volume of production in Indian industries. It chooses a basket of industrial products — ranging from manufacturing to mining to energy — to create an index by allocating different weights to each sector. It then tracks their production every month. The index value is compared to the previous year to understand the economy's industrial health.

There are two ways to read the data. The first looks at the different sectors that form India's industrial base. The other way is to look at the "use-based" classification, or how industrial goods are used, as shown in the table. This shows the nature of demand for industrial goods in the economy.

Primary goods are sourced from nature (such as minerals) for industrial use. Intermediate goods are incomplete in themselves (say cotton yarn) but used to produce other

## • TEPID CONSUMER GOODS GROWTH

Use-based classification of the Index of Industrial Production (y-o-y % change)

| Quarter ended  | IIP             | Primary goods  | Intermediate goods | Capital goods | Infra/construction goods | Consumer non-durables | Consumer durables |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Weights</b> | <b>(100.00)</b> | <b>(31.14)</b> | <b>(22.42)</b>     | <b>(8.08)</b> | <b>(10.91)</b>           | <b>(16.15)</b>        | <b>(11.31)</b>    |
| Sep 2025       | <b>5.4</b>      | 6.28           | 4.39               | 8.47          | 10.07                    | 1.78                  | 3.12              |
| Dec 2025       | <b>4.26</b>     | 1.31           | 5.69               | 11.65         | 9.79                     | 0.12                  | 4.31              |
| Mar 2026       | <b>3.84</b>     | 0.71           | 5.46               | 12.07         | 9.27                     | -0.12                 | 2.09              |
| Jun 2026       | <b>5.73</b>     | 2.83           | 8.48               | 13.98         | 6.74                     | 1.53                  | 7.13              |

goods. Capital goods refer to "manufactured" goods, other than intermediate goods, that are used in the production of other goods or services (but not as inputs), such as a tractor. Infrastructure goods are finished goods, mainly for infrastructure building.

Then come two categories of consumer

goods — non-durables (such as biscuits) for immediate consumption, and durables (such as a TV) with a longer life span.

## What does the data reveal?

To find a more robust trend, this analysis considers quarterly growth rates in the

IIP. Also, to better understand the economy, it focuses on use-based classification.

The past three quarters (nine months) show a clear trend where consumer goods growth has been fairly tepid, especially for non-durables, while capital goods, infrastructure goods and intermediate goods growth have been very strong.

Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist of Bank of Baroda, says there is a weakness in consumer demand both in rural and urban India, bogged down by higher prices.

"The weakness in demand for consumer non-durables is evident from the corporate earnings of many FMCG (fast moving consumer goods) companies. The high growth in capital and infrastructure goods is in line with the higher infrastructure spending taking place in the country, especially from the government's side. That also explains why intermediate goods have shown a rise, as everything from metals to machinery is

being used here," said Sabnavis.

Weak growth in the production of primary goods is due to supply disruptions and higher prices, thanks to the events in West Asia. Dipti Deshpande, Senior Director and Principal Economist, Crisil Limited, said: "The weakness in consumer goods IIP during most quarters of fiscal 2026 was largely driven by pharmaceuticals, electronics, apparel and leather — sectors most vulnerable to tariff-related uncertainties."

While overall growth in the IIP is pretty good, a clear trend of weak consumer demand and strong infrastructure demand is visible. But, as Deshpande points out, "Lower growth in consumer goods IIP relative to capital and intermediate goods IIP is more the norm than an exception."

Since April 2024, capital and intermediate goods have consistently outperformed consumer goods output, with trend growth rates of 9.6% and 5.9%, respectively.

- **Key Terms and Explanations**

- **Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** A composite statistical indicator that measures short-term changes in the physical volume of production of a selected basket of industrial goods over a given period, compared to a chosen base year. In India, it is compiled and published monthly by the National Statistics Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- **Use-Based Classification of Industrial Output:** An analytical approach that categorizes industrial goods according to how they are ultimately consumed or utilized in the economic value chain, rather than just by their manufacturing sector. This includes Primary Goods, Intermediate Goods, Capital Goods, Infrastructure/Construction Goods, Consumer Durables, and Consumer Non-Durables.
- **Capital Goods:** Durable, manufactured items that are not consumed immediately but are used as tools or equipment to produce other goods and services. They reflect long-term investment activity by businesses and the state.
- **Intermediate Goods:** Semi-finished inputs or raw materials that undergo further processing within manufacturing processes before turning into final consumer or capital products.
- **Consumer Non-Durables (Fast-Moving Consumer Goods - FMCG):** Essential products intended for immediate or short-term consumption that need frequent replenishment by households.
- **Consumer Durables:** High-value manufactured items designed to last for a prolonged period, usually representing discretionary spending by households.
- **K-Shaped Industrial Trajectory:** A phenomenon where different segments of the industrial sector recover or grow at drastically divergent rates. One arm of the economy (e.g., investment and infrastructure output) moves sharply upward, while another arm (e.g., broad-based household consumption) lags behind or stays flat.

- **Main Arguments and Substantive Parts**

- **Core Thesis**

- A strong headline figure in industrial production indices can frequently mask deep structural vulnerabilities. When national industrial acceleration is heavily driven by government-led capital expenditure and infrastructure spending, but lacks complementary momentum from mass household consumption, the underlying economic foundation remains fragile and asymmetrical.

- **Sectoral Divergence Between Investment and Consumption**

- **Driven by Public Capex:** Capital goods and infrastructure/construction output have demonstrated sustained, robust expansion. This trend is directly linked to aggressive central and state government spending on roads, railways, renewable energy, and urban infrastructure projects.
- **Sluggish Household Consumption:** In stark contrast, consumer goods output—particularly consumer non-durables—has experienced persistent weakness, entering near-zero or even negative growth zones across consecutive quarters.
- **The Consumption Paradox:** Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) constitutes the largest share of India's overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP). When non-durable goods lag, it implies that lower- and middle-income households are curtailing daily discretionary spending due to stretched household budgets.

- **Factors Squeezing Consumer Purchasing Power**

- **Persistent Price Pressures:** Sticky inflation, particularly in essential food items, has eroded real wages and disposable household income in both urban and rural India.
- **Asymmetric Income Recovery:** Higher-income brackets continue to drive a modest demand in premium consumer durables, but the broader populace (which forms the bulk of FMCG volume) is exercising caution, buying smaller pack sizes, or postponing non-essential purchases.
- **External Volatility and Supply Friction:** Sectors reliant on global trade—such as apparel, leather, pharmaceuticals, and electronics—face recurring disruptions due to geopolitical instability, West Asian shipping frictions, and protectionist tariff structures abroad, adding to domestic supply uncertainty.



- **Historical Evolution of the Issue**
- **Pre-1991 Era: Supply-Side Constraints and Command Economy**
  - **Import Substitution and State Control:** Prior to the 1991 economic reforms, Indian industrial policy prioritized heavy industries and basic goods under state ownership, keeping consumer goods strictly controlled and licensed.
  - **Suppressed Consumer Base:** Industrial output grew at low rates, and consumer choice was limited. High tariffs and entry barriers meant industrial growth was constrained by state budget allocations rather than market demand.
- **Post-1991 to 2008: Market Liberalization and the Middle-Class Demand Boom**
  - **Deregulation and Private Sector Entry:** De-licensing unlocked private corporate investments. A surge in consumer durables and fast-moving consumer goods followed, powered by an expanding urban middle class, growing credit access, and service-sector expansion.
  - **Investment-Demand Virtuous Cycle:** Increased private capital investment generated formal employment, which in turn fueled healthy household demand across both durable and non-durable categories.
- **Post-2008 to Pre-COVID Phase: Balance Sheet Stress and Public Intervention**
  - **Twin Balance Sheet Crisis:** Following the Global Financial Crisis, Indian banks faced mounting Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), while private corporations struggled under heavy debt. Private capital expenditure slowed significantly.
  - **State Stepping In:** To keep the economy moving, the public sector began taking on the bulk of capital formation. However, periodic agrarian distress and slow real wage growth led to early signs of rural demand stagnation.
- **Post-Pandemic Phase: K-Shaped Structural Recovery**
  - **Targeted Infrastructure Push:** Post-pandemic budgets shifted aggressively toward high public capital expenditure (e.g., PM Gati Shakti, National Infrastructure Pipeline) to build long-term economic capacity.
  - **The Consumption Lag:** While government spending boosted capital and intermediate goods production, broad-based consumer demand struggled to recover at the same pace due to high global commodity prices, inflation, and uneven employment recovery in the informal sector.



## ANALYSIS: WHAT STRONG IIP GROWTH CONCEALS: PERSISTENT WEAKNESS IN CONSUMER DEMAND.

PRESENTED BY AXIA IAS ACADEMY

### 1. KEY TERMS & EXPLANATIONS



**IIP** volume of industrial production



**CAPITAL GOODS** machinery



**INTERMEDIATE GOODS** semi-finished inputs



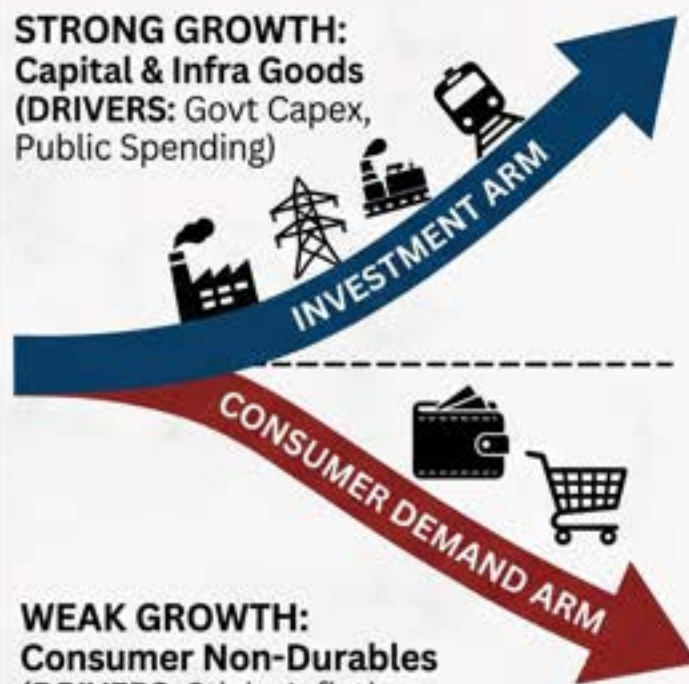
**CONSUMER DURABLES** Refrigerator & car



**CONSUMER NON-DURABLES** FMCG/packed food

### 2. THE CORE K-SHAPED INDUSTRIAL DIVERGENCE

**STRONG GROWTH:**  
Capital & Infra Goods  
(DRIVERS: Govt Capex, Public Spending)



**WEAK GROWTH:**  
Consumer Non-Durables  
(DRIVERS: Sticky Inflation, Eroded purchasing power)  
Clean comparison points on the trends

### 3. MULTIDIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS



#### SOCIAL

Stretched budgets squeezed purchasing power



#### POLITICAL

Pressure for welfare, trade-offs



#### ECONOMIC

Welfare balancing priorities



#### ECONOMIC

Uneven Growth, asset under-utilization



#### ETHICAL

Distributive Equity



#### INTERNATIONAL

Trade Friction



#### ETHICAL

Distributive justice, uneven growth impact



#### INTERNATIONAL

Global supply chain disruptions, protectionist tariffs

#### SUMMARY GS PAPER 3

Industrial Growth, Inclusive Development

### 4. WAY FORWARD / POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1

#### BOOST DEMAND:

Provide fiscal relief for low-income; Tax cuts

2

#### REVIVE PRIVATE INVESTMENT:

regulatory certainty, crowding-in effect

3

#### SUPPLY RESILIENCE:

backward integration, market diversification



# Between long wet and dry spells, July rain reduced much of deficit from June

Anjali Marar  
Bengaluru, July 11

**AFTER** A poor start to the monsoon season, and a particularly dry June, India finally received some good rainfall in July. The overall rainfall deficit for the season, which stood at 40% at the end of June, has come down to 14%.

But the rainfall in July was not uniformly spread out. There were several heavy rain days, some of which created historic records, and also prolonged dry stretches. Weekly rainfall figures for the country as a whole swung from 45% more than normal to 51% less than normal.

July finally saw the emergence of low-pressure systems that propelled the swift advance of the monsoon, which covered the entire country by July 8. No significant low-pressure system had formed in June, which was one of the key reasons for the large deficit of rainfall in that month.

Low-pressure systems form when warm air heats up, expands, and rises into the atmosphere. These can cause unstable and cloudy weather, stormy conditions, and

strong winds. These low-pressure systems play a very important role in causing rainfall during the monsoon season. As a result, rainfall for July has been close to normal. In July, India as a whole is expected to receive 280.4 mm of rainfall on an average. As on Thursday, the country had already received 277 mm of rainfall for the month.

## RECORD RAIN

● Gujarat and Odisha reported the highest "exceptionally" heavy rain events in July, followed by Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Assam, and Meghalaya.

● For at least 24 days of the month, there was at least one location — if not more — that recorded such "exceptionally" high rainfall.

● Umargam in Gujarat's Valsad district recorded 1067 mm in 24 hours. It became the third wettest single-day rainfall event ever recorded in the country.

● For comparison, Chandigarh receives 1,070 mm of rainfall in the entire year.

## Interplay of weather systems

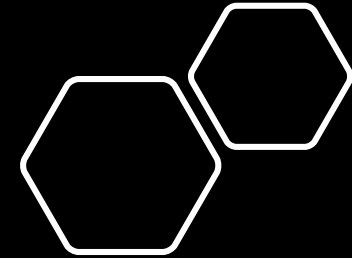
The monsoon onset over the regions in the north, northwest, and western India was realised on July 9. The first good spell was a result of the season's first low pressure system that developed in the Bay of Bengal off the Odisha coast. This system

lingered on and its slow movement, supplemented by strong monsoonal winds from the Arabian Sea, brought widespread, heavy rain across the west coast, central, and northwest India regions during July 1-9.

During July, all the rainfall events were linked to multiple active weather systems and their simultaneous interplay. July saw another low pressure system develop in the north Bay of Bengal off Odisha, which triggered massive rain over Odisha, West Bengal, parts of Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh in recent days. The monsoon trough's position — an elongated low-pressure area extending from Pakistan to the Bay of Bengal that brings heavy seasonal rainfall — was in favour, which further enhanced rainfall and kept monsoon conditions active during July 1-10 and since the last week of July.

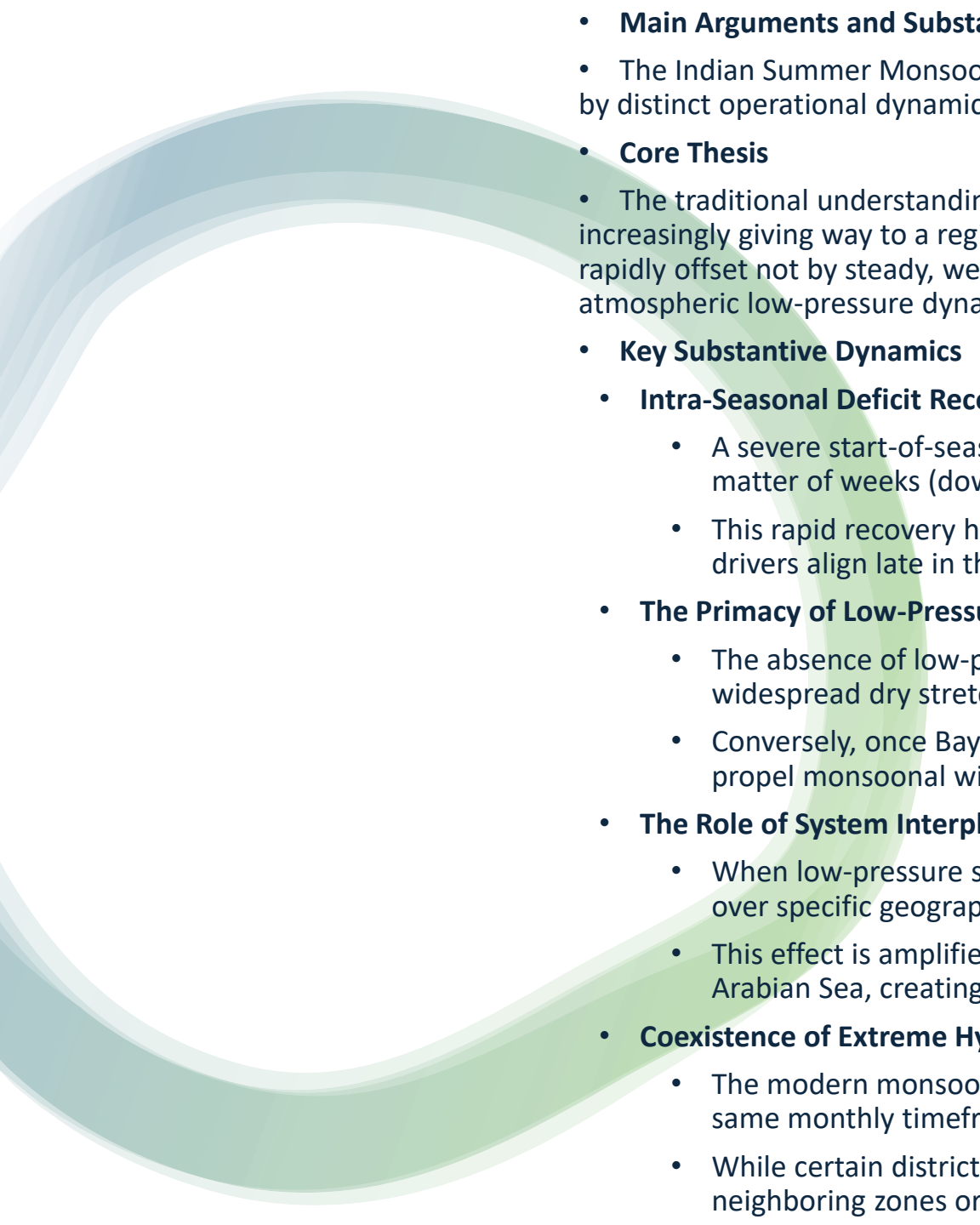
The slow movement of the low pressure systems also had a role to play in the continuous rainfall over a smaller geographic location, which was pounded by rainfall.

July experienced extreme wet conditions resulting in flooding and landslides in Gujarat, Assam, Maharashtra, and Odisha to hot and dry conditions resulting in heatwaves — a rare phenomenon for the month.



- **Key Terms and Explanations**
- **Monsoon Deficit and Seasonal Normal:**
  - *Concept:* The monsoon normal represents the long-term average rainfall recorded over a specific region across a multi-decadal baseline (typically 50 years). A rainfall deficit occurs when the actual cumulative precipitation falls significantly below this expected statistical average during a given timeframe.
  - *Example:* If a region traditionally receives 500 mm of rain by late June but records only 300 mm, it operates at a 40% rainfall deficit.
- **Low-Pressure System (LPS):**
  - *Concept:* An atmospheric condition where warm air near the Earth's surface heats up, expands, and rises upward. As this moist air ascends, it cools and condenses, creating atmospheric instability, cloud formation, and precipitation.
  - *Example:* A low-pressure depression forming over the Bay of Bengal draws moisture-laden monsoonal winds from the Arabian Sea, triggering heavy, continuous rainfall across central India.
- **Monsoon Trough:**
  - *Concept:* An elongated, low-pressure belt extending from the heat low over Northwest India and Pakistan all the way to the Bay of Bengal. The spatial positioning of this trough governs the distribution of rainfall across the subcontinent.
  - *Example:* When the trough shifts south of its normal position, central and peninsular India experience active, intense rainfall spells; when it shifts north toward the Himalayan foothills, the plains experience a 'break' monsoon while the mountains face localized deluges.
- **Spatial-Temporal Variability:**
  - *Concept:* The uneven distribution of rainfall across geographical space (spatial) and across different weeks or months within the same season (temporal).
  - *Example:* A single region experiencing weeks of severe dry spells followed by an extreme 24-hour rainfall event that fulfills half of its seasonal quota demonstrates high spatial-temporal volatility.
- **Extreme Precipitation Event (EPE):**
  - *Concept:* An abnormally high volume of rainfall occurring over a very short duration within a localized geographical area, often surpassing standard urban drainage capacities or natural runoff limits.
  - *Example:* A coastal district receiving over 1,000 mm of rainfall within a single 24-hour period—an amount equivalent to the total annual precipitation of an inland city.
- **Synoptic Confluence (Interplay of Systems):**
  - *Concept:* The simultaneous interaction and convergence of multiple distinct atmospheric systems—such as a Bay of Bengal cyclonic depression working in tandem with strong cross-equatorial Arabian Sea winds.
  - *Example:* When a slow-moving low-pressure system off the eastern coast merges with heavy moisture currents sweeping in from the western coast, it creates prolonged, intense deluge zones across central landmasses.



- 
- **Main Arguments and Substantive Parts**
  - The Indian Summer Monsoon (Southwest Monsoon) is undergoing a structural shift in its functional behavior, marked by distinct operational dynamics:
  - **Core Thesis**
  - The traditional understanding of the Indian monsoon as a predictable, evenly spread seasonal rainfall system is increasingly giving way to a regime characterized by intra-seasonal volatility. Deficits accumulated during dry phases are rapidly offset not by steady, well-distributed rain, but by hyper-intense, localized precipitation events driven by specific atmospheric low-pressure dynamics.
  - **Key Substantive Dynamics**
    - **Intra-Seasonal Deficit Recovery:**
      - A severe start-of-season rainfall deficit (such as a 40% shortfall in June) can be drastically reduced within a matter of weeks (down to 14% by late July).
      - This rapid recovery highlights the immense moisture-carrying capacity of monsoonal pulses when atmospheric drivers align late in the season.
    - **The Primacy of Low-Pressure Systems (LPS):**
      - The absence of low-pressure depressions in the Bay of Bengal during early monsoon stages directly leads to widespread dry stretches and delayed monsoonal advance across northern and western plains.
      - Conversely, once Bay of Bengal depressions materialize and linger, they act as powerful atmospheric pumps that propel monsoonal winds deep into the interior.
    - **The Role of System Interplay and Slow Movement:**
      - When low-pressure systems move exceptionally slowly across the landmass, they concentrate intense rainfall over specific geographic pockets rather than dispersing it evenly.
      - This effect is amplified when eastern cyclonic flows interact simultaneously with strong moisture feeds from the Arabian Sea, creating prolonged downpours along western and central tracks.
    - **Coexistence of Extreme Hydro-Climatic Hazards:**
      - The modern monsoon pattern frequently features contradictory extreme weather phenomena within the exact same monthly timeframe.
      - While certain districts face severe flooding, inundation, and landslides due to extreme single-day rainfall bursts, neighboring zones or intervening weeks suffer prolonged dry spells and unseasonal heatwaves.

- **Historical Evolution of the Issue**
- **Pre-Independence Era (1850s–1947)**
  - **Early Conceptualization:** The monsoon was primarily understood through the lens of classical thermodynamics—driven by differential heating of the Indian subcontinent's landmass relative to the Indian Ocean (Halley's model).
  - **Policy Focus:** Severe famines (such as those in 1876 and 1899) led the British administration to establish the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in 1875 to forecast seasonal rain volumes. The administrative paradigm viewed monsoon failure purely as a spatial shortage of total water volume.
- **Mid-to-Late 20th Century (1950s–1990s)**
  - **Synoptic Discoveries:** Meteorological science moved beyond simple thermal contrast theories. Research highlighted the role of the Tropical Easterly Jet (TEJ), Somali Jet, Tibetan Plateau heating, and the periodic movement of the Monsoon Trough.
  - **Global Teleconnections:** The discovery of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) link provided an explanation for global-scale monsoonal disruptions. However, national planning still treated seasonal rainfall as a relatively stable normal distribution around a long-term average.
- **Early 21st Century (2000s–2010s)**
  - **Emergence of Complex Teleconnections:** Scientists identified the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), explaining why monsoons could remain strong even during traditional El Niño years.
  - **Shift to High-Resolution Forecasting:** IMD transitioned from purely statistical models to advanced dynamical forecasting systems (National Monsoon Mission), recognizing the growing frequency of intra-seasonal fluctuations and 'active-break' cycles.
- **Contemporary Era (2020s Onward)**
  - **Climate Change Amplification:** Global warming has altered the thermodynamic balance over the Indian Ocean, accelerating sea surface temperatures.
  - **Non-Linear Patterns:** The classical pattern of steady, widespread monsoonal showers has increasingly given way to "short-burst, high-intensity" precipitation events. Modern governance now confronts the reality of quick shifts between hydrological drought and catastrophic urban/flash flooding within a single season.



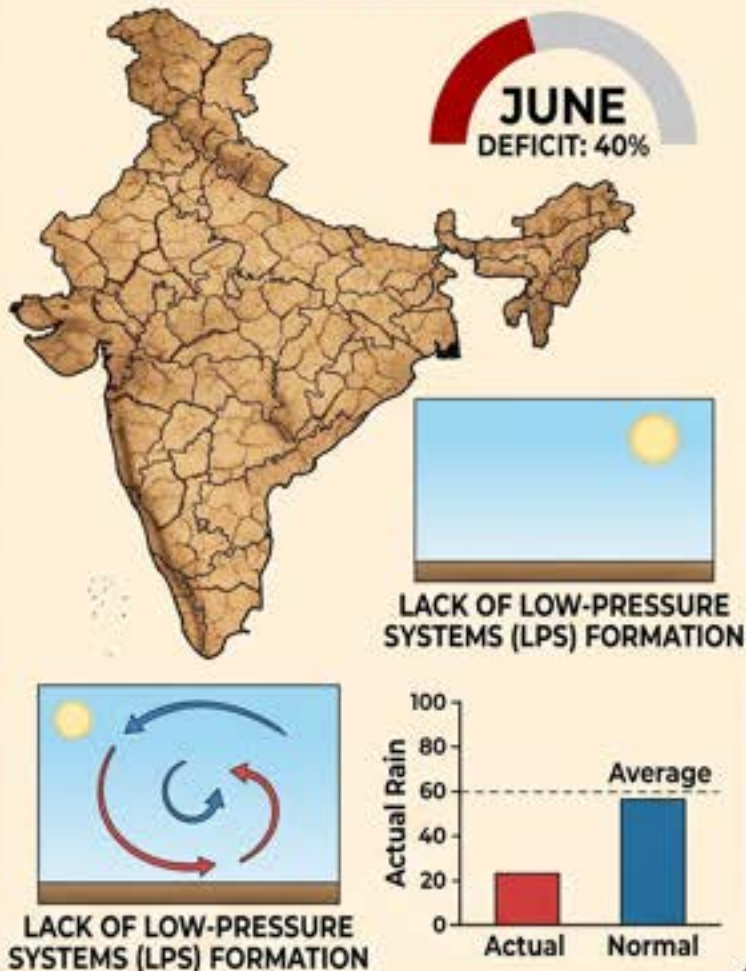


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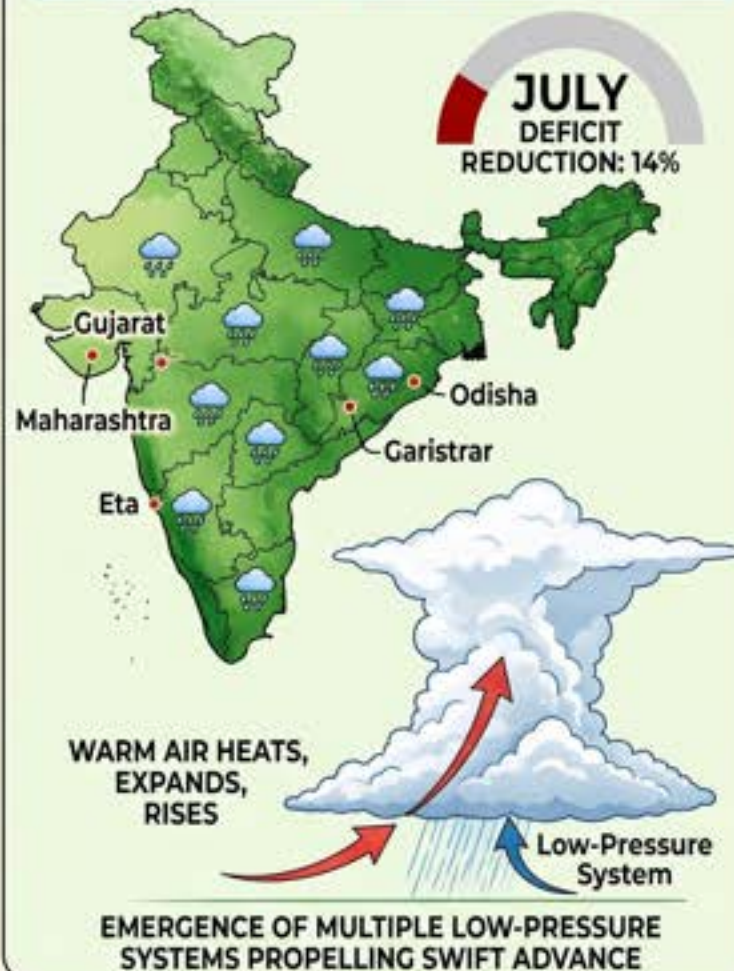
RISE ABOVE THE REST

## UNDERSTANDING INDIA'S MONSOON VARIABILITY: JUNE DEFICIT REDUCTION (Case Study: Deficit Reduced from 40% to 14%)

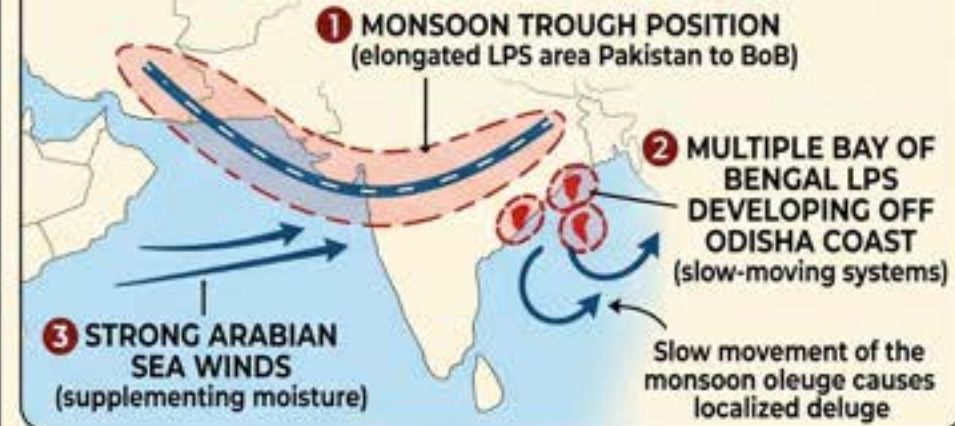
### JUNE: A DRY START



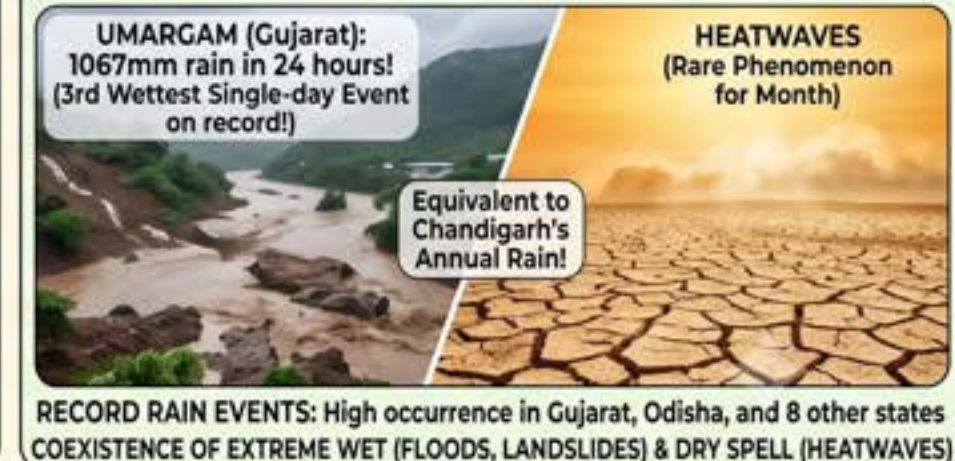
### JULY: A RAIN PULSE & RECOVERY



### KEY WEATHER DRIVERS



### EXTREME EVENTS COEXISTENCE



UPSC KEY TAKEAWAYS: INTRA-SEASONAL VOLATILITY, LPS MECHANICS, MONSOON TROUGH OSCILLATION, EXTREME WEATHER IMPACT

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SPANISH PM SANCHEZ SAYS BREACHES ARE A 'VIOLATION OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY'

# 60,000 cross into Spain's Ceuta, 57 die after breach

37,500 migrants have returned to Morocco: Spain's interior ministry

Associated Press  
Ceuta, July 31

ABOUT 60,000 MIGRANTS crossed from Morocco into Spanish territory in the past 24 hours, Ceuta's president said Friday, a figure that is equivalent to 70% of the population of the city in North Africa. At least 57 migrants died on the journey.

But roughly half of the people who made the crossing soon made their way back voluntarily, the Spanish government said, after the sudden arrival of so many triggered chaos and a humanitarian crisis.

Some migrants swam several miles through the sea and faced down authorities who tried to turn them back with water cannons, tear gas and warning shots. Those who did included some who drowned or were killed in a stampede to cross a makeshift barrier near a border checkpoint.

Spain deployed its armed forces and additional police to restore order in Ceuta, which sits on the Strait of Gibraltar at the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea and has been a Spanish possession since 1580. On the Moroccan side of the border, security forces clashed with migrants.

"The situation that Ceuta is going through is absolutely unsustainable," Ceuta President Juan Jesús Vivas told journalists. Meanwhile, migrants from

## • THE IMPORTANCE OF CEUTA

The peninsula, Ceuta, is one of only two cities on the African mainland that are officially part of Europe.

### What happened this week?

• About 1,500 migrants had entered Ceuta in recent days. On Thursday, Spanish official Fernando Rodríguez Contreras said the working estimate of new arrivals had risen to the tens of thousands, though the figure could not be confirmed. At least 18 migrants died attempting the crossing, and Spain said it was deploying military platoons to reinforce border security, platoons to enforce border security.

### WHY DOES THIS MASS CROSSING MATTER?

• Ceuta's border with Morocco has long been a flashpoint in both Spanish politics and relations with Rabat. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has sought to portray

### Why is Ceuta a crossing hot spot?

A six-mile-long peninsula on Morocco's northern coast, Ceuta is a Spanish enclave fortified by double border fences and guarded by Spanish police and paramilitary forces. Along with Melilla, it forms the EU's only land border with Africa. Both enclaves are frequent crossing points for migrants, many from Morocco, seeking to enter Europe.



Spain as an immigrant-friendly nation, particularly welcoming Spanish-speaking Latin Americans. But his government has faced criticism from conservative

opponents, who accuse it of weak border control, and from migrant rights advocates, who say it relies on overly harsh enforcement at the frontier.

Morocco also attempted to cross into Melilla, Spain's other territory at the tip of North Africa, where they clashed with police.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez visited Ceuta on Friday and condemned the border breach, which he described as "a violation of Spain's territorial integrity."

The Spanish Interior Ministry released its own figures shortly after Vivas' spoke, estimating that some 30,000 people had crossed from Morocco since Thursday. It added that 37,500 had already returned to Morocco by Friday afternoon, with hundreds more going back by the boat.



Migrants from Morocco cross into the Spanish enclave of Ceuta by sea on Friday. —



- **Key Terms and Explanations**
  - **Territorial Enclave and Exclave:** An enclave is a piece of land totally surrounded by foreign territory, while an exclave is a portion of a state geographically separated from the main body by surrounding alien territory.
  - **Territorial Integrity and Sovereignty:** A fundamental principle in international law asserting that nation-states have an supreme, inalienable right to defend their physical borders and exercise exclusive jurisdiction over their recognized land and maritime boundaries against external intrusion.
  - **Principle of Non-Refoulement:** A legal core concept under international refugee law (1951 Geneva Convention) prohibiting states from forcibly returning, expelling, or repelling asylum seekers back to a territory where their life, freedom, or human rights would face severe threats.
  - **Geopolitical Chokepoints and Corridors:** Narrow geographic passages—maritime or terrestrial—that carry disproportionate strategic, economic, or migratory significance.
  - **Hybrid Warfare / Migration Weaponization:** The deliberate encouragement, orchestration, or lax enforcement of irregular border movements by transit states as a non-military leverage tool against neighboring recipient states to extract geopolitical concessions.
- **Main Arguments and Substantive Parts**
- **Core Thesis**
  - Mass border breaches at enclave frontiers represent a acute convergence of national security defense, humanitarian vulnerability, and asymmetrical diplomatic bargaining. When an enclave's land boundaries are breached at scale, national security concerns often take precedence over international asylum frameworks, prompting heavy military deployment and immediate pushback policies.
- **Key Points and Evidence Base**
  - **Frontier Vulnerability of Border Enclaves:** Small geographical enclaves surrounded by foreign territory face unique security challenges. A sudden arrival of thousands of people in a single day can equal a massive percentage of the local population (as seen when tens of thousands crossed into Ceuta), instantly crippling municipal health, sanitation, and administrative infrastructure.
  - **Militarized Border Enforcement:** States treat mass unauthorized breaches not merely as immigration violations, but as direct violations of state sovereignty. Responses typically include deploying armed forces, armored vehicles, water cannons, and tear gas, alongside establishing perimeter sea breakwaters.
  - **Deterrence vs. Mortality:** Highly fortified border fences create severe hazards. Migrants resorting to dangerous sea routes around breakwaters face high mortality rates due to drownings and stampedes during rapid enforcement actions.
  - **Bilateral Returns vs. Due Process:** To restore public order, states often execute swift bilateral returns (repatriating thousands within 24 to 48 hours). Critics contend this bypasses individual asylum protection evaluations, while states argue it is an operational necessity to manage sudden logistical and civil collapses.
- **Counterarguments and Structural Dichotomies**
  - **State Security Doctrine vs. Human Rights Framework:** The state views border defense as an absolute Westphalian right to protect civil order. Human rights advocates argue that regardless of the scale of entry, universal human dignity, basic legal due process, and protection from collective expulsions must be maintained.
  - **Unilateral Deterrence vs. Root-Cause Governance:** Hard deterrence measures (fences, tear gas, military blockades) provide short-term territorial stabilization but fail to address underlying economic inequality, regional instability, and push factors in countries of origin.

- **Historical Evolution of the Issue**

- **Pre-17th Century (Colonial Origins):** Ceuta was captured by Portugal in 1415 and formally ceded to Spain via the Treaty of Lisbon in 1668. These coastal footholds (*Plazas de soberanía*) were established long before modern state boundaries took shape, turning them into historical strategic outposts in North Africa.
- **Post-1956 Decolonization:** Following Moroccan independence in 1956 from French and Spanish protectorates, Spain retained sovereignty over Ceuta and Melilla. Morocco consistently maintained claims over these territories, viewing them as occupied post-colonial enclaves, which established a structural point of friction in bilateral relations.
- **1995 Schengen Border Transformation:** With Spain joining the Schengen Agreement and the granting of Autonomous City status to Ceuta and Melilla in 1995, these coastal enclaves became the European Union's only physical land borders on the African mainland. High-tech, double-layered razor wire fences were subsequently built to secure the perimeter.
- **2010s–Present (Militarization and Diplomatic Leverage):** Irregular migration flows escalated significantly throughout the 2010s. Neighboring transit countries increasingly used relaxed border policing as a diplomatic lever during bilateral disputes over territorial recognition, trade, and regional geopolitics, leading to a progressively militarized response.

- **Way Forward**

- **Institutionalizing Bilateral Border Co-operation:** Move away from using migration management as political leverage by creating binding, institutionalized security agreements. Joint border patrols and shared intelligence protocols can help manage frontier pressure without relying on emergency force.
- **Establishing Human-Rights-Compliant Rapid Screening:** Replace summary pushbacks with expedited, fair legal screening frameworks at border enclaves. Deploying international monitors ensures asylum claims are properly evaluated while maintaining security standards.
- **Addressing Push Factors Through Targeted Development:** High-income recipient states should invest directly in regional development, youth employment, and governance programs in primary source and transit countries to address the economic factors driving mass migration.
- **Upgrading to Smart, Non-Lethal Border Infrastructure:** Shift away from dangerous physical barriers and harsh dispersal methods (such as tear gas or water cannons in maritime zones) toward advanced technology, including infrared sensors, non-lethal detection systems, and integrated maritime surveillance.
- **Creating Regulated Legal Migration Channels:** Expanding transparent legal work visas and humanitarian entry paths reduces reliance on irregular smuggling routes, lowering border congestion and reducing human casualties.





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## COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS: GEOPOLITICS OF ENCLAVE BORDERS, MIGRATION, & SOVEREIGNTY

### KEY TERMS & CONCEPTS



#### Sovereignty & Territorial Integrity

Definition, Sovereignty & Territorial Integrity



#### Enclave/Exclave

Exclave example: Ceuta & Melilla



#### Non-Refoulement

Refugee protection: refugee protection



#### Geopolitical Chokepoint

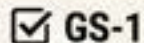
Strait of Gibraltar



#### Hybrid Warfare/Migration Weaponization

Refugee Warfare

### UPSC LINKAGES



GS-1



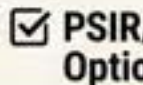
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GS-3

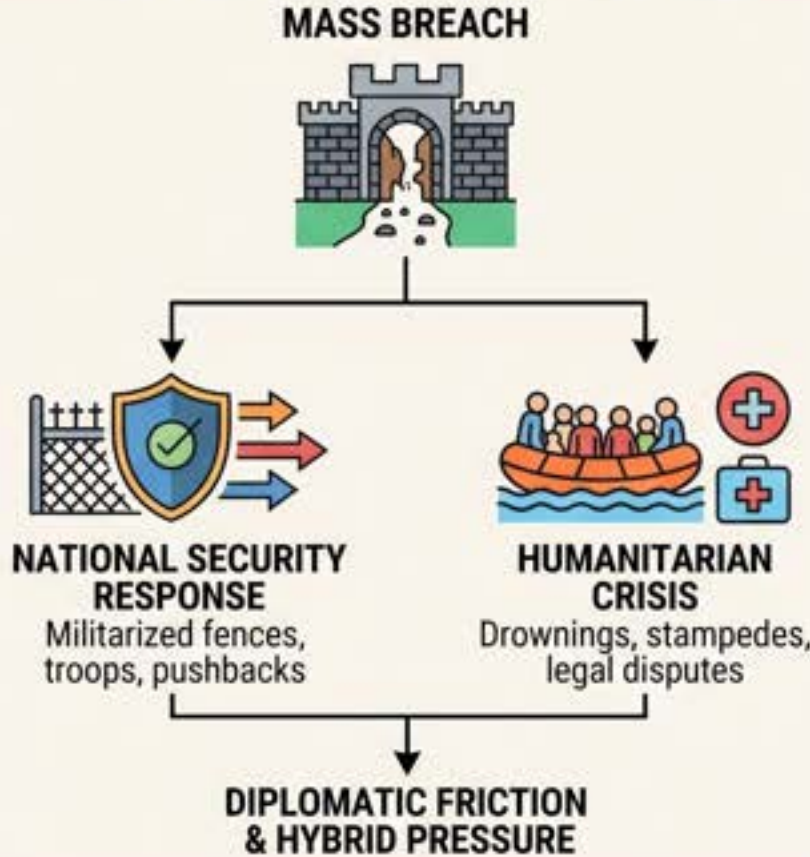


GS-4



PSIR/Geography  
Optionals

### THE CORE DILEMMA: FLOW DIAGRAM



### WAY FORWARD: COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY



Cooperative  
Diplomacy  
Handshake



Legal  
Reforms  
Gavel



Root-Cause  
Aid  
Coins & Farming

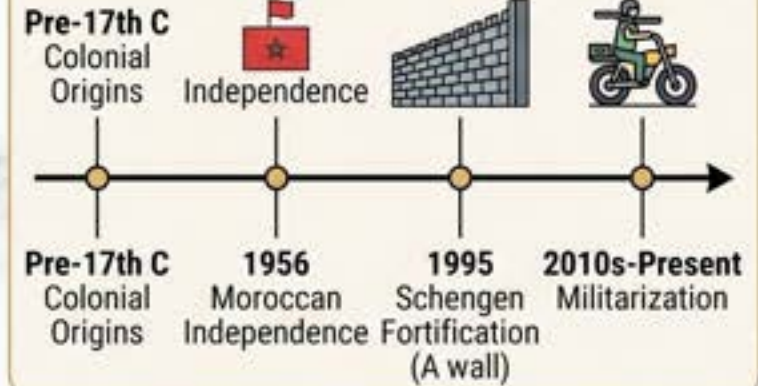


Smart  
Tech  
Drone & Sensors



Regulated  
Channels  
Passport & Approved

### HISTORICAL EVOLUTION (TIMELINE)



### MULTIDIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS



#### SOCIAL

Social strain, cohesion



#### POLITICAL

Domestic pressure, leverage



#### LEGAL

Convention conflicts, jurisdiction



#### ETHICAL

Humanitarian dilemmas, duties



#### INTERNATIONAL

Bilateral friction, regional buffers



#### ECONOMIC

Fiscal costs, dependence





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