



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

14th October 2026



14th October 2026

CONTEXT: The article highlights the emerging nexus between US & Russia in backdrop of recent diesel deal and its possible impact on India's Geopolitics & Economy

Context of News :

- ❑ **Traditional "G2"** that worries India? USA – China partnership that can produce **"Geo-political duopoly"** over Asia
- ❑ **Emerging "G2"** : Strategic accommodation between **US & Russia** will bring complications of its own
- ❑ **Backdrop?** Trump's decision to **ease sanction on Russian diesel**

Raja Mandala : Sam, Dam, Dand, Bhed

Lindsey O. Graham Act 2026

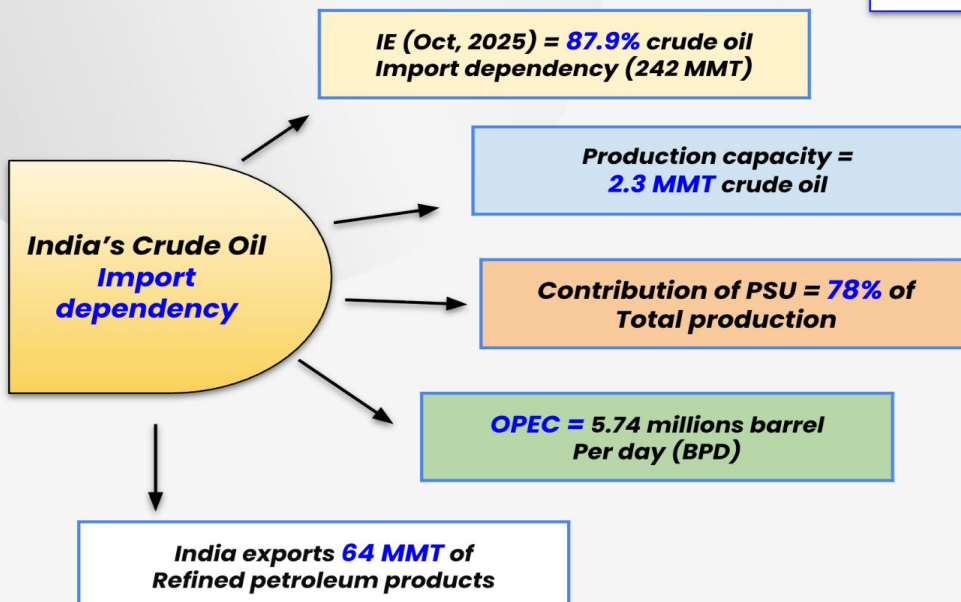
- ❑ Authorised **100% tariff** on qualifying imports from countries that purchase Russian origin crude oil or natural gas
- ❑ Trump : "Clamp down on Russia's funding for **Ukraine war**"
- ❑ **China & India** are Top – Two importers of Russian Crude oil
- ❑ **Xi – Jinping & Trump meeting** : "No additional tariffs to be levied till 2027"

180 degree U- Turn

- ❑ **10th October, 2026** : **Russia can sell diesel to the US & global open market**
- ❑ "Immediately" supply over **3 Lakh tonnes** of diesel to US & global market
- ❑ **"Always, America First"** : Bring down fuel prices for US & the world
- ❑ **Ease Inflation, facilitate logistic & create jobs**

Chapter 2 : How Tariffs can Impact India's Growth prospect?

India's manufacturing sector activity growth falls to 5-year low in July amid challenging market condition: PMI

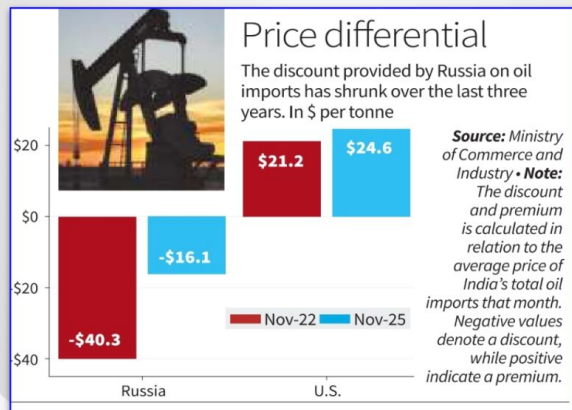


Impact on Indian Economy?

- ❑ **Cost – Push Inflation** : Increase in input cost = Increase in firm's marginal cost
- ❑ Trade Shock due to increase in Import expenditure : **Current Account Deficit (CAD)**
- ❑ Negative Net Terms of Trade leads to **"Imported Inflation"**
- ❑ **Fiscal slippage & Crowding Out Pressure**
- ❑ **Output – Growth Drag & Stagflation**

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Chapter 3: Moving away From Russian Oil?

Trade Tangle between India & Russia :

Top 5 Oil importer to India:

- Russia : **37%**
- Iraq : 20%
- Saudi Arabia : 13%
- UAE : 8%
- USA : **3.2%**

Bilateral trade to \$100 Bn by 2030 & bilateral investment to \$50 Bn by 2025

Bilateral Trade : \$68.7 Billion in 2024-25 (all time high)
88% import is crude oil

Russia's Share in Oil basket : 2% (2020) to 37% (2025)

Price of Russian Oil : \$482 per tonne
GTRI : Higher Sulfur content

Price of Trump's Oil : \$523 per tonne
GTRI : "What about superior quality"?

Average Cost : \$498 per tonne

Discount by Russia : \$16 per tonne
V. \$40 per tonne in 2022

Issue of "Oil Diplomacy" :

India cuts Russian oil imports by 38% in October 2025, sharpest fall so far

Russia still accounts for about 32% of India's total oil imports by value and volume

Published – December 04, 2025 03:52 pm IST

Huge trade deficit (\$61 Billion)

Overly reliant on Russia for "Energy security"

Inability of Service sector to penetrate Russia's market

USA's sanctions on Russian crude oil supply : BOP Crisis

Chapter 3: Moving away From Russian Oil?

Issues with "Payment Mechanism" :

Nostro Account vs. Vostro Account



Nostro

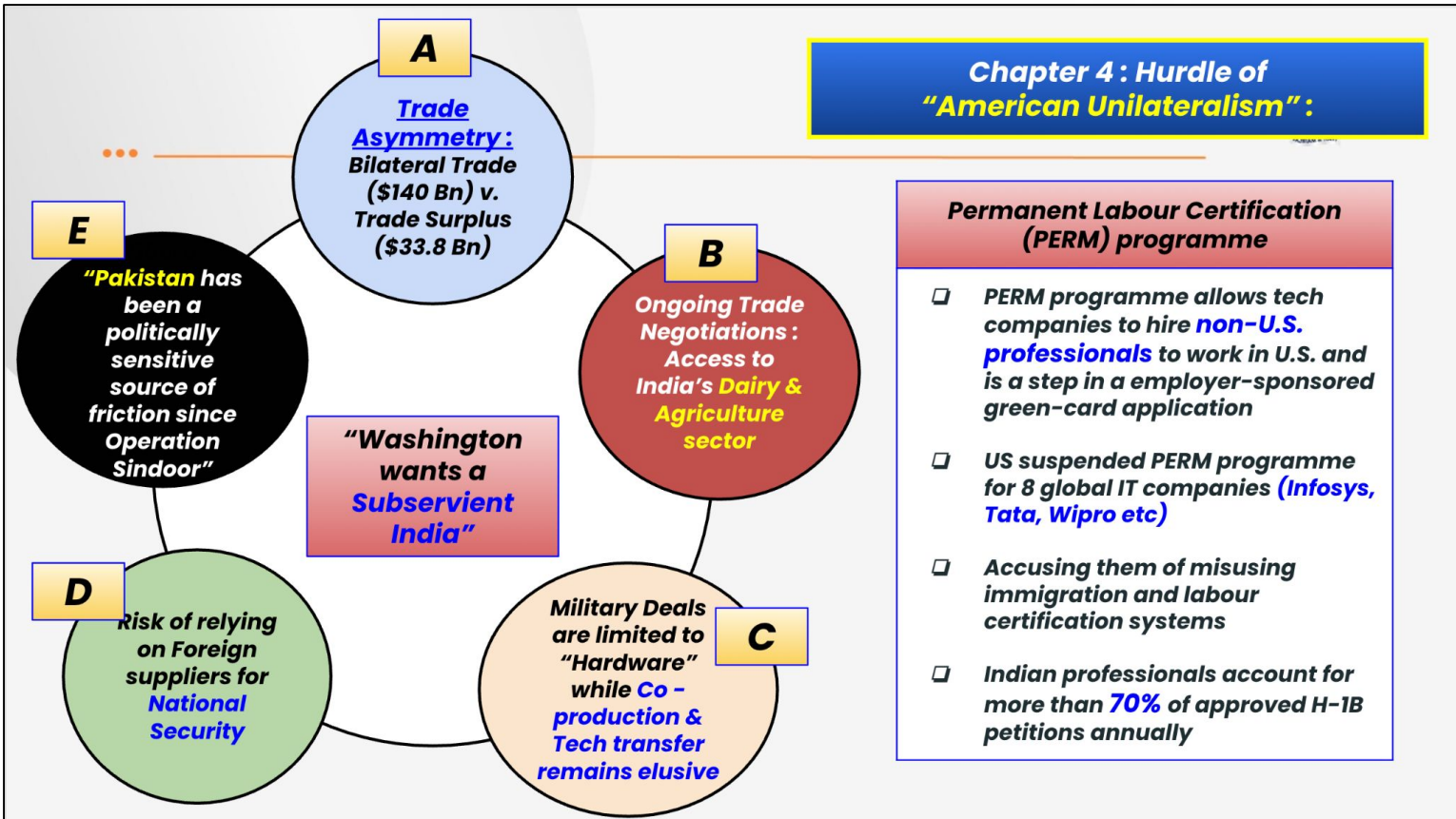
- "Our money on deposit at your bank"
- Account held by our bank in foreign currency at another bank

Vostro

- "Your money on deposit at our bank"
- Account held by a foreign bank in domestic currency at our bank

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Chapter 5 : The "Madhyama - Marga" Of Dealing with Emerging G-2 :

Maintaining Ties with both Countries :

USA	Russia
❑ Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) 2023 ❑ India-U.S. Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) 2023 ❑ U.S.-India Major Defence Partnership 2025 ❑ India-U.S. Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology (TRUST) Initiative ❑ India is part of QUAD & Pax - Silica	❑ 2000 : Declaration of India - Russia Strategic Partnership ❑ Support at Multilateral Forums : UN + G20 + BRICS + SCO ❑ S-400 Defence system (Operation Sindoor) & Joint production of Brahmos Missile ❑ Bilateral trade to \$100 Bn by 2030 & bilateral investment to \$50 Bn by 2025

"Three Lessons" by C. Raja Mohan :

- ❑ **"US - Russia" Relations are NOT Static** : Thaw could increase pressure on India - Russia energy purchases & defence ties
- ❑ **Gorbachev Doctrine** : Moscow doesn't see confrontation with America as "Sacred ideological obligation"
- ❑ **India's Stake in Europe** : American - Russian accommodation shall transition to ease in Russia's confrontation with Europe

US – Russia Deal & Lessons for India



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Mains Practise Question

Question : *“The emerging dynamics of Russia–India–USA relations reflect a shift from traditional alliances towards issue-based strategic partnerships.” Critically examine. (10 Marks, 150 words)*



"Forever Chemicals" in India's water plants

CONTEXT: The article puts emphasis on growing problem of water contamination in India and the challenges that may lead to "Health crisis" in the future

Mains Heading 1: Decoding the News : The **Menace of PFAS** in water bodies :

Context of News :

- ❑ **Journal of Hazardous Materials Advances 2025** : Case study of water contamination in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu & West Bengal
- ❑ Large scale water bodies contaminated by **Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)**
- ❑ **PFAS : Synthetic chemical compounds** that contain multiple carbon-fluorine bonds thus resist degradation
- ❑ Used in coatings, textiles & several industrial products

International Agency
for Research on Cancer
2025

Classified
Perfluorooctanoic acid
which is type of PFAS as
'**carcinogenic to humans**'

Ministry of Environment : **No specific regulation** banning PFAS manufacturing

India has **no PFAS- specific drinking water limit** under the current IS 10500:2012

BIS : Dedicated Working Group on Emerging Contaminants & Forever Chemicals

Forever Chemicals : Very strong carbon-fluorine bonds, which make them resistant to **heat, water, oil & chemical degradation**

Mains Heading 2: Status of "**Water Availability**" in India :

World Water Development Report 2025

2.4 Billion people live in "Water stressed" Countries

600 Million Indians : High - Extreme water stress

Falkenmark Index :
Average annual per capita water availability : **1486 m3 (2021) to 1367 m3 (2031)**

2 Lakh people die annually due to inadequate access to safe drinking water



"Forever Chemicals" in India's water plants

CONTEXT: The article puts emphasis on growing problem of water contamination in India and the challenges that may lead to "Health crisis" in the future

Mains Heading 3 : Factors driving "Water Stress" in India?

Population Burden & Aftermath of "El - Nino" Event

Ghost of **Green Revolution** : Water Intensive Cropping Pattern & Fertiliser runoff

Policy Blindness : MSP for Rice & Sugarcane continues

Inadequate Governance Structure : **Water Act 1974**

Data to Substantiate Arguments :

1. **CGWB Assessment Report 2025** : 245 BCM of groundwater extracted annually, **87%** extracted for Agriculture purposes
2. **CPCB's Assessment Report** : Urban areas generated 72 million litres of sewage per day while installed treatment capacity was **44%** of generation
3. **ICAR** : Producing 1 Kg of Rice requires **1500-2000** litres of water footprint

India's toxic taps: how groundwater contamination is fuelling chronic illnesses

Groundwater pollution is silent, invisible, and slow—but its damage is irreversible. With over 600 million people depending on it every day, this is a public health emergency, not just an environmental issue

Southwest monsoon ends with 12% deficit

Lowest monsoon rainfall since 2015; east and northeast saw driest monsoon since 1901, in line with recent trends; southern peninsula saw fourth lowest rainfall since 1901; October expected to be hotter and drier than usual in most parts of the country

Mains Heading 4 : Factors driving "Water contamination" in India?

Level of Water Contamination

- ❑ **CPCB Report 2024** : Identified **371 polluted stretches** in 279 rivers of which hardly even **25%** has been cleaned
- ❑ **CGWB's Annual Ground Water Quality Report 2024** : Nitrate above the permissible limit in **19.8%** of 15,259 monitoring samples
- ❑ **817 of 1,920** monitored river locations exceeded the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) criterion of 3 mg/L

Causative Factors

Sewage Burden : Case study of Delhi - Yamuna river stretch

Folly of "Profit Maxim" : Industrial discharge in Kanpur - Ganga river stretch

Agro - Chemical leaching : Nitrate & Pesticide Contamination

Administrative Apathy : Indore, the cleanest city of India

Poor implementation of **Laws & Rules**

"Forever Chemicals" in India's water plants

CONTEXT: The article puts emphasis on growing problem of water contamination in India and the challenges that may lead to "Health crisis" in the future

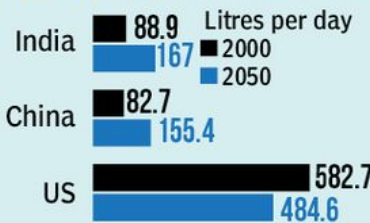
Mains Heading 4 : Factors driving "Water contamination" in India?

INDIA'S WATER DEMAND



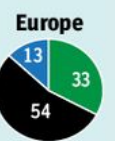
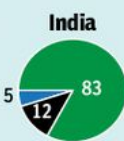
*Demand declines as population starts declining and water use is more efficient

PER CAPITA WATER USE



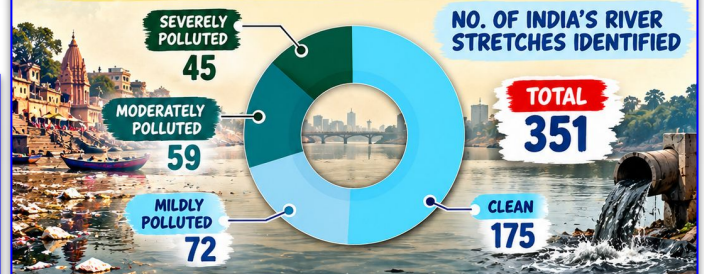
INDIA CONSUMES MOST OF ITS USABLE WATER FOR AGRICULTURE PURPOSES, WHILE HOUSEHOLDS GET ONLY 5% OF IT

WATER USE SHARES (%)

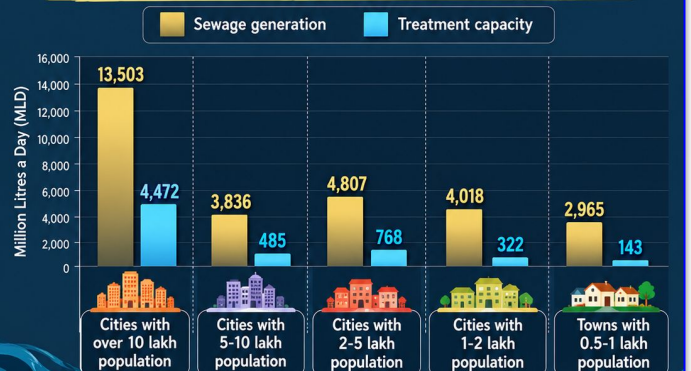


Source: GOI, IWMI, UN

EXTENT OF RIVER POLLUTION IN INDIA



GAP BETWEEN WATER WASTE GENERATED & TREATED



DIU

Source: Niti Aayog, CPCB
Graphics: Samrat Sharma & Mudita Singh

For Water Conservation :

- **National Water Policy 2012**
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana** : Groundwater management in 80 stressed districts
- **Krishi Sinchayee Yojana** : Per drop more crop
- **Jal Shakti Abhiyan** : Water conservation & rainwater harvesting
- **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari campaign**

For Clean Water Supply :

- **Water Act 1974** : prescribed effluent standards before discharge
- **EPA 1986** : CPCB set Water Quality Standards
- **BIS Act 2016** : Specifies acceptable & permissible limits for contaminants
- **Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar 1991** : Right to Safe drinking water is a fundamental right under **Article 21**

Mains Heading 5 : Steps taken By Government of India :



"Forever Chemicals" in India's water plants



CONTEXT: The article puts emphasis on growing problem of water contamination in India and the challenges that may lead to "Health crisis" in the future

Mains Practise Question

**Question : What are the challenges in Water Management in India in Downstream Hydrological cycle? What are the steps taken by the Government?
(150 words, 10 marks)**



Legal aid cuts jail time for undertrials, but help often arrives late

Reaching prisoners soon after arrest is key if free legal aid is to reduce the human and economic costs of pre-trial detention

Context of News :

78th Law Commission Report :
"Person who is currently imprisoned on remand while awaiting trial in court of law"

WHAT THE DATA SHOW

5,73,220

Total prisoners

4,34,302

Undertrials

3 OUT OF 4

prisoners (75.8%) were undertrials

59.7%

of undertrial inmates were from six states — Uttar Pradesh, (21.7%), Bihar (13.2%), Maharashtra (7.6%), Madhya Pradesh (6.2%), Punjab (5.6%), and West Bengal (5.4%)

65.2%

of undertrials were either illiterate (26.2%), or had received education till at most Class X (39.2%)

19.3% of undertrials were Muslim, 4.7% Sikh, more than the communities' respective shares in population (14.2% and 1.7% in 2011 Census)

20.9% of undertrial inmates were SCs, 9.3% were STs. Their shares in population are 16.6% and 8.6% respectively (2011 Census)

14.6% of undertrials had spent for 1-2 years, 7.8% 2-3 years, 6% 3-5 years, and 2.6% more than five years

40.7% increase in the number of undertrials in India since 2017, when their population stood at 3,08,718

Source: NCRB; data till December 31, 2022

"Integral Rights of Prisoners":

UN Declaration of Human Rights 1948

Article 11: Presumption of innocence until proven guilty according to law, with necessary guarantees of defence.

Article 21 : Right to Life and Personal Liberty

Speedy trial : Unreasonable delay can violate Article 21, even when the initial detention was lawful

Stan Swamy case (2021)

Constitutional importance of medical care, dignity & humane treatment for prisoners.

Upendra Baxi v. State of Uttar Pradesh 1983

Adequate protection for Prisoners & medical treatment under Article 21

Rasiklal v. Kishore (2009)

Bail in a bailable offence is a right, not a matter of judicial discretion, once the statutory requirements are met.

Section 479 of BNSS

- ❑ Lays down **maximum period** for which an undertrial prisoner can be detained
- ❑ Prisoner who is **NOT** accused of offences punishable with **death or life imprisonment**
- ❑ Shall be released on bail if undergone detention for a period extending upto **50% of Maximum period** of imprisonment specified for offence
- ❑ **BUT**, shall **NOT** be released on bail if pending investigations in **MORE** than one offence

"Law & Order" v. Public Order

SYLLABUS : Prelims: Salient Features of the Constitution
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number :** Explained

"Law & Order" v. Public Order

Context of News :

- Delhi police has been indulged in **heavy barricading & crackdown on protesters** in central Delhi since October 10
- The reason cited has been to **maintain "Law & Order"**
- Does "Law & Order" constitutes as one of the restrictions to curb down **"Freedom of Speech & Expression"**?

The "6" Fundamental Freedoms :

Article 19(1)(a) :
Freedom of
Speech &
expression

Article 19(1)(b) :
Right to assemble
peacefully &
without arms

Article 19(1)(c) :
Right to form
associations,
Unions or
Cooperative
Societies

Article 19 (1) (d)
: Freedom to
move freely
throughout the
territory of India

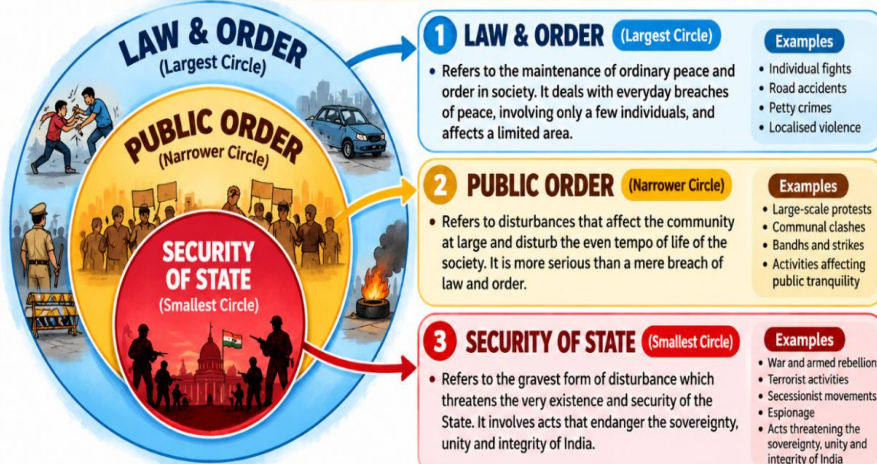
Article 19 (1) (e)
: Freedom to
Reside and
Settle in Any
Part of India

Article 19(1)(g) :
Freedom to
Practice Any
Profession, or to
Carry on Any
Occupation,
Trade or Business

"Law & Order" v. Public Order

Three Concentric Circles: Law & Order, Public Order and Security of State

As laid down by the Supreme Court in **Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia v. State of Bihar (1966)**



Supreme Court's observation: "One has to imagine three concentric circles. Law and order represents the largest circle within which is the next circle representing public order and the smallest circle represents security of the State.

It is then easy to see that an act may affect law and order but not public order, just as an act may affect public order but not security of the State."
— Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia v. State of Bihar, AIR 1966 SC 740; (1966) 1 SCR 709

Reasonable Restrictions that can be put by the State?

Article 19(1)(a) :
Speech and Expression

Article 19(2) :

- Sovereignty & integrity of India
- Security of State
- Friendly relations with foreign States
- Public order**, Decency or morality
- Contempt of court
- Defamation or incitement to an offence

Article 19(1)(b) :
Peaceful Assembly

Article 19(3) :

- Sovereignty & integrity of India
- Public order**

"Law & Order" v. Public Order



SYLLABUS : Prelims: Salient Features of the Constitution
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number :** Explained

Does there exist "Right to Protest"?

Kameshwar Prasad v. State of Bihar (1962)

Bihar Government prohibited government servants from participating in any demonstration

- Peaceful demonstrations are form of **expression & assembly** protected under Articles 19
- **Violent demonstrations** are not constitutionally protected
- **Blanket prohibition** violates Fundamental Rights

Himatlal K. Shah v. Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad (1973)

Police regulations virtually gave **unrestricted power** to refuse **permission** for public meetings on public streets

- **Public streets** belong to the public
- Citizens possess a **constitutional right** to hold meetings on public streets

Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) v. UOI 2018

Restrictions prohibited **protests around Jantar Mantar** in Delhi due to complaints from nearby residents

- **Right to protest** is a **Fundamental Right**
- The State must facilitate **peaceful protests**
- Rights of residents under **Article 21** must also be protected

Role of Delhi Police?

- ❑ **Unlike other states**, Delhi's police & public order fall outside the legislative powers of the Delhi Assembly
- ❑ **Article 239AA(3)(a)** : Legislative Assembly has the power to make laws for NCT Delhi except public order, police & land
- ❑ The Delhi police thus function under the **MHA**
- ❑ **Himatlal K. Shah Case 1972 :.** Police could require prior **permission for public meetings on streets** and there was "nothing wrong" with it



SYLLABUS : Prelims: Important Historical Personalities
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 01

Jantar Mantar : Heart of Delhi

Context of News :

- ❑ The Delhi Police on Monday de-notified **Jantar Mantar** as a designated protest site naming Ramlila Maidan as alternative
- ❑ Its proximity to **Parliament & key Union Government Ministries** transformed the site into an accessible platform for citizens, activists & student unions to voice their dissent
- ❑ **April 2011** : Activist Anna Hazare launched a landmark Anti-corruption movement
- ❑ **Nirbhaya protests** in December 2012 which galvanised public outrage against sexual violence and led to major legal reforms

**Jahandar Shah
1712-13**

**Zulfiqar Khan :
Mir Bakshi**

**Abolished
Jizya tax**

**Introduced
Ijaradari system**

**"Mirza Raja Sawai"
to Jai Singh of Amber**

"Chatrapati" Shahu & Chauth

Jantar Mantar : Heart of Delhi

"Sawai" by Aurangzeb

Jaipur

"Pink" City was established by Jai Singh 2 in 1727 & included in **UNESCO WHS**

**Saramad i Raja i Hindustan
by Rangeela**

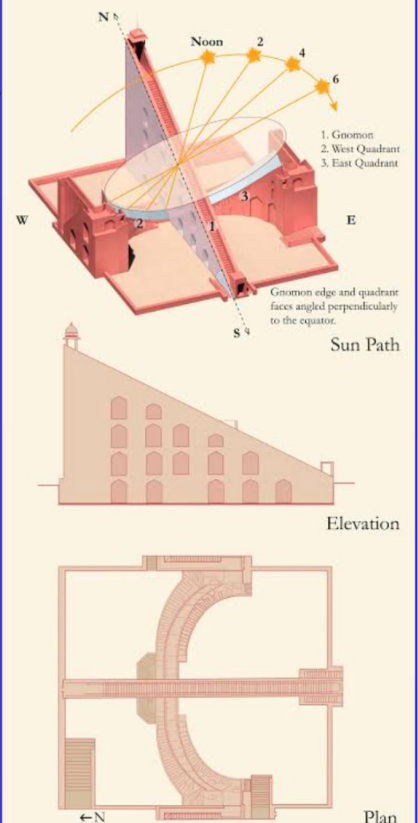
Performed "Ashwamedha" Yajna

**Jizya was abolished by
Jahandar Shah**

**Jantar Mantar & Ziz - i -
Muhammadshahi**

**Euclid's Elements of
Geometry & Napier work in
Sanskrit**

Samrat Yantra



Economy Term : Inflation Generalisation



SYLLABUS : Prelims: Issues related to Indian Economy
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number :** Explained

Economy Term : Inflation Generalisation

Context of News :

- ❑ September 2026 : CPI - C Inflation was at **5.54%** (2 year high)
- ❑ 4th consecutive month above **RBI's Inflation target of 4%**
- ❑ **Generalisation of Inflation** : Higher prices begin spreading across household consumption basket in sustained manner
- ❑ **NOT Limited to food & fuel**

Blockade of Strait of Hormuz :
Crude oil price shock in India

Higher logistic cost :
Freight cost for goods increases

Rising Food & Services inflation :
Workers demand more wages

Substantiated by depreciation of
Indian ₹ against Dollar

Overall price levels in various sectors
Increases substantially

A

Inflation targeting as primary objective of Monetary policy

E

MPC :
3 members nominated by Government

Finance Act 2016 amended RBI Act 1934

Target Range :
4% CPI Inflation (+/- 2% tolerance band)

D

MPC :
RBI Governor + Deputy Governor + RBI official

Accountability Clause : "Fails to keep inflation within band for 3 consecutive quarters" : Report to Government about reasons & remedial actions

C

Economy Term : Inflation Generalisation

Why the band of 2-6%?

- ❑ **High enough** to incentivise producers to produce more & earn profits
- ❑ **Low enough** to sustain a continuous consumer demand
- ❑ **Economic Shocks** in Last 6 years : Pandemic, Russia - Ukraine War & West Asia Crisis
- ❑ **Developing Threat :** **El - Nino Year**
- ❑ **Supply Shortage :** Rise in food inflation
- ❑ **Reduced farmer income :** Less propensity to consume

SYLLABUS : Prelims: Important International Organisations
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 12

What is **BIMSTEC**?

- ❑ Established in 1997 through **Bangkok Declaration**
- ❑ Combined GDP : **4.4%** of World and Houses **1.7 Billion** People
- ❑ Countries : **BBIN + MST**
- ❑ HQ : **Dhaka**, Bangladesh
- ❑ Current Chairman : **Bangladesh**

India's Initiatives under BIMSTEC :

- ❑ **FTA** under Negotiation
- ❑ First ever BIMSTEC Multinational Military Field Training Exercise (MILEX-18) was held in Pune, 2018
- ❑ First ever BIMSTEC Conclave of Ports summit was held in Visakhapatnam, India in 2019
- ❑ **Declaration of the Master Plan for Transport Connectivity 2022**

Actionable Intelligence & **BIMSTEC**

Context of News :

- ❑ India hosted the **FIRST** ever **meeting** of the Home Ministers of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
- ❑ **Delhi Declaration** : To counter radicalisation, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, prevent the misuse of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes



Q1. With reference to the distinction between Law and Order, Public Order and Security of the State, consider the following statements:

1. Every disturbance of law and order does not necessarily amount to a disturbance of public order.
2. An act may disturb public order without necessarily threatening the security of the State.
3. Restrictions on freedom of speech and expression can be imposed solely on the ground of maintaining law and order

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q2. With reference to the Right to Protest in India, consider the following statements:

1. The right to peaceful protest is constitutionally protected, but it does not confer an unrestricted right to occupy public spaces.
2. The State may regulate public meetings on streets, but it cannot give authorities unrestricted discretion to deny permission.

Which of the statements given above is/are Not correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: d

Q3. With reference to Sawai Jai Singh II, consider the following statements:

1. He established the city of Jaipur and constructed astronomical observatories, including Jantar Mantar.
2. Muhammad Shah conferred on him the title Sawai, and Aurangzeb conferred Saramad-i-Raja-i-Hindustan.
3. He performed the Ashvamedha Yajna and patronised the translation of mathematical works into Sanskrit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c

Q4. Which one of the following statements best describes the term 'Inflation Generalisation'?

- a) A sustained increase in prices of essential commodities, particularly food and fuel, while prices in other sectors remain relatively stable.
- b) A situation in which an increase in money supply leads to a proportionate rise in the general price level without affecting relative prices.
- c) A temporary rise in the overall price level caused by supply-side disruptions, followed by an automatic correction once supply conditions normalise.
- d) A process wherein price increases spread beyond a few commodities to a broad range of goods and services, resulting in sustained inflation across the economy.

Answer: d

Q5. With reference to BIMSTEC, consider the following statements:

1. It is a regional grouping connecting countries of South Asia and Southeast Asia.
2. Its areas of cooperation include counter-terrorism, transport connectivity and economic integration.
3. The BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement has been operationalised to facilitate trade among member countries.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a





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