



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

22nd October 2026



The Recreation of United Nations



CONTEXT: The United Nations celebrates its 81st anniversary on 24 October 2026, prompting a discussion on its achievements and the need for reforms to make it more representative and effective.

UN at 81: Achievements and continuing relevance :

- ❖ **Humanitarian assistance:** UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO.
- ❖ **Child mortality:** Global under-five mortality declined substantially since 1990.
- ❖ **Public health:** Eradication of smallpox; global polio eradication efforts.
- ❖ **Peacekeeping:** Conflict monitoring, civilian protection and post-conflict stabilisation.
- ❖ **Decolonisation:** Support for self-determination and independence movements.
- ❖ **Human rights:** Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
- ❖ **Global development:** Millennium Development Goals (2000–2015).
- ❖ **Sustainable development:** 17 SDGs under the 2030 Agenda.
- ❖ **Climate governance:** UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement.
- ❖ **International cooperation:** Shared platforms for global challenges.
- ❖ **Refugee protection:** International coordination and humanitarian assistance.
- ❖ **Global norm-setting:** International law, treaties and conventions.

Why UN reforms are necessary:

- ❑ **Historical mismatch:** Institutional architecture designed in 1945.
- ❑ **Membership growth:** 51 founding members in 1945; 193 UN member states today.
- ❑ **Representation deficit:** Developing countries under-represented in global decision-making.
- ❑ **African exclusion:** No permanent African seat in the UNSC.
- ❑ **Democratic deficit:** Only 15 of 193 UN members sit on the Security Council at a time.
- ❑ **Outdated power structure:** Privileges reflect the outcome of World War II.
- ❑ **Geopolitical transformation:** Rise of India, China and other emerging powers.
- ❑ **Legitimacy crisis:** Unequal representation weakens acceptance of decisions.
- ❑ **Accountability deficit:** Limited accountability of powerful states.
- ❑ **Administrative inefficiency:** Overlapping mandates and bureaucratic delays.
- ❑ **Financial constraints:** Dependence on member-state contributions.
- ❑ **Emerging challenges:** AI governance, cyber threats, pandemics and climate change.
- ❑ **Credibility concerns:** Selective enforcement of international norms.
- ❑ **Reform imperative:** Representation, effectiveness, transparency and accountability.



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UN Security Council reform:

Representation versus effectiveness:

- ❑ **Current composition:** 15 members — 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent.
- ❑ **P5 members:** China, France, Russia, the UK and the US.
- ❑ **Veto privilege:** One negative vote by a permanent member can block substantive resolutions.
- ❑ **Historical expansion:** Council expanded from 11 to 15 members in 1965.
- ❑ **G4 coalition:** India, Brazil, Germany and Japan.
- ❑ **G4 proposal:** Six additional permanent seats; expansion to 25 or 26 members.
- ❑ **Regional allocation:** Two proposed permanent seats each for Africa and Asia-Pacific; one each for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western European and Other States.
- ❑ **African position:** Ezulwini Consensus — at least two permanent African seats and additional non-permanent seats.
- ❑ **Veto controversy:** Equality for new permanent members versus limiting or abolishing veto power.
- ❑ **Institutional paralysis:** Deadlocks over Ukraine and Gaza.
- ❑ **Representation–efficiency dilemma:** Larger membership versus faster decision-making.

- ❑ **Working–method reform:** Greater transparency, consultation and accountability.
- ❑ **Preventive diplomacy:** Stronger early-warning and conflict-prevention mechanisms.
- ❑ **Periodic review:** Reassess the composition of a reformed Council over time

General Assembly and wider UN-system reforms:

- ❑ **General Assembly:** Universal representation of all 193 member states.
- ❑ **One-state, one-vote principle:** Formal sovereign equality in the UNGA.
- ❑ **Authority gap:** General Assembly resolutions are generally recommendatory, unlike binding UNSC decisions under the Charter.
- ❑ **Revitalisation:** Improve working methods and reduce procedural duplication.
- ❑ **UN80 Initiative:** Launched in 2025 to improve efficiency and institutional coherence.
- ❑ **Mandate review:** Eliminate outdated, overlapping and duplicative work.
- ❑ **Administrative accountability:** Improve oversight of procurement and programme implementation.
- ❑ **Financial efficiency:** Better allocation and utilisation of UN resources.



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- ❑ **Secretary-General selection:** Greater transparency, inclusiveness and merit-based assessment.
- ❑ **Gender representation:** No woman has served as UN Secretary-General.
- ❑ **Institutional coordination:** Better alignment among UN agencies, funds and programmes.
- ❑ **Crisis responsiveness:** Streamlined procedures for humanitarian emergencies.
- ❑ **Digital transformation:** Modernise institutional systems and service delivery.
- ❑ **Performance evaluation:** Outcome-based monitoring of programmes and mandates.

India's claim, interests and role in UN reform

- ❑ **Population:** World's most populous country.
- ❑ **Economic weight:** Major emerging economy and member of the G20.
- ❑ **Democratic credentials:** World's largest electoral democracy.
- ❑ **Peacekeeping contribution:** Long-standing participation in UN peacekeeping missions.
- ❑ **Civilisational diversity:** Pluralistic society with extensive diplomatic experience.

- ❑ **Global South leadership:** Advocacy for developing-country representation.
- ❑ **G4 coalition:** Joint campaign with Brazil, Germany and Japan.
- ❑ **L.69 Group:** Cross-regional coalition advocating comprehensive UNSC reform.
- ❑ **African representation:** Support for correcting historical under-representation.
- ❑ **Multipolarity:** Alignment with a more representative global order.
- ❑ **National interest:** Greater participation in decisions on international peace and security.
- ❑ **Rules-based order:** Consistent application of international law.
- ❑ **Strategic autonomy:** Greater voice in shaping global norms and institutions.
- ❑ **Diplomatic credibility:** Bridge-building between developed and developing countries.
- ❑ **Reform agenda:** Expansion of both permanent and non-permanent membership.

Major challenges:

- ❑ **P5 resistance:** Existing permanent members retain institutional privileges.
- ❑ **Charter amendment barrier:** Ratification by all five permanent members is required.
- ❑ **G4-UfC divide:** Disagreement over new permanent seats.



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- ❑ **Coffee Club:** Uniting for Consensus group favours expansion of non-permanent membership.
- ❑ **Veto dilemma:** Disagreement over extending, restricting or abolishing veto power.
- ❑ **Regional competition:** Rival claims to representation within regions.
- ❑ **East-West rivalry:** US–Russia and US–China strategic confrontation
- ❑ **Consensus deficit:** No agreement on a common reform model.
- ❑ **Power politics:** National interests often override collective interests.
- ❑ **Effectiveness concern:** Risk of slower decision-making in an enlarged Council

Way forward:

- ❖ **Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN):** Build consensus around a consolidated reform model.
- ❖ **2024 Pact for the Future:** Framework for revitalising multilateral cooperation.
- ❖ **Equitable representation:** Prioritise Africa and improve Global South participation.
- ❖ **Veto restraint:** Promote restraint, justification and accountability in veto use.

- ❖ **Article 27(3):** Apply the Charter's provision on parties to a dispute abstaining from voting in specified Chapter VI and Article 52(3) decisions.
- ❖ **Working-method reform:** Increase transparency and consultation with non-members.
- ❖ **Mandate rationalisation:** Reduce duplication and improve resource allocation.
- ❖ **Periodic review clause:** Ensure institutions adapt to changing global realities.
- ❖ **Coalition-building:** Bridge differences between the G4, African Group and other negotiating groups.
- ❖ **Incremental progress:** Pursue achievable reforms while negotiating broader structural changes.
- ❖ **Collective responsibility:** Reconcile sovereignty with international peace and security.
- ❖ **Core principle:** Reform the UN, not abandon multilateralism.

Mains Practise Question:

“Reforming the United Nations is essential to ensure that multilateral institutions remain representative, legitimate and effective in a changing world order.” Discuss the major challenges to UN reforms and suggest a way forward. (15 Marks, 250 words)



Forest Rights Act, 2006



CONTEXT: An editorial in The Hindu examines the potential of Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006-recognised lands for sustainable cultivation of oilseeds and pulses, tribal livelihood enhancement and reduced import dependence, drawing on an assessment of crop suitability across tribal districts.

Forest Rights Act, 2006: From Land Rights to Livelihood Security

- **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006** — recognition of forest rights; historical injustice correction
- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** — nodal ministry
- **Section 3(1)(a)** — individual forest rights (IFR); self-cultivation and habitation
- **Section 3(1)(c)** — community rights over nistar, grazing, fishing and forest produce
- **Section 3(1)(i)** — community forest resource (CFR) rights; protection, regeneration, conservation, management
- **Gram Sabha** — initiation of claims; verification; empowered local governance
- **Forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs)** and **Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs)**
- **Livelihood security** — land tenure, food security, income generation, reduced displacement vulnerability
- **Post-recognition priority** — land development, agricultural productivity, irrigation, market access

Agricultural Potential of FRA Lands: Role of Oilseeds and Pulses:

- **FAO soil-map analysis** — agro-ecological suitability; crop-specific land-use planning
- **Oilseeds** — mustard, groundnut, sesame, sunflower
- **Pulses** — chickpea (gram), lentil, pigeon pea, other locally suitable pulses
- **Kharif crops** — paddy, maize; region-specific cropping patterns
- **Rabi crops** — wheat, gram, mustard, lentil
- **Diversification potential** — millets, soybean, cotton, spices, horticulture
- **244 tribal districts** — national spatial assessment
- **60 districts** — high oilseed production potential
- **31 districts** — high pulse production potential
- **23 districts** — favourable conditions for both oilseeds and pulses
- **Rain-fed and marginal lands** — drought tolerance; climate resilience; low-input suitability
- **Agricultural interventions** — certified seeds, improved varieties, soil-moisture conservation, scientific crop management



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Tribal Livelihoods, Nutritional Security and Inclusive Growth

- **Livelihood diversification** — subsistence agriculture to market-oriented production
- **Income enhancement** — higher farm productivity; crop diversification; value addition
- **Nutritional security** — pulses, plant protein, dietary diversity
- **Oilseed production** — edible-oil availability; reduced import dependence
- **Food security** — household consumption; local food systems; income stability
- **Climate-resilient agriculture** — drought-tolerant crops; rain-fed farming; agro-ecological suitability
- **Women's empowerment** — participation in SHGs, cooperatives, FPOs
- **Community institutions** — Gram Sabhas; forest rights committees; farmer collectives
- **Inclusive growth** — tribal income generation; regional development; livelihood security
- **Aspirational districts** — targeted interventions; district-level development convergence.

- **Sustainable development** — land rights + productive assets + institutional support

Challenges in Making FRA Lands Productive and Sustainable:

- **Land-use constraints** — degraded soils; low soil fertility; moisture stress
- **Irrigation deficit** — rainfall dependence; inadequate water-harvesting structures
- **Input constraints** — limited access to certified seeds; improved varieties; farm implements
- **Extension gaps** — inadequate agricultural extension; limited technical guidance
- **Infrastructure deficit** — drying, grading, storage, processing facilities
- **Post-harvest losses** — inadequate scientific storage; weak value-chain infrastructure
- **Market barriers** — poor connectivity; aggregation constraints; price volatility
- **Institutional gaps** — fragmented holdings; weak FPOs; limited cooperative capacity.
- **Credit constraints** — limited institutional credit; crop insurance coverage; procurement access
- **Ecological concerns** — unsuitable crop selection; monocropping; soil degradation; groundwater stress
- **Governance challenges** — incomplete FRA implementation; interdepartmental coordination gaps



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- **Regional disparities** — diverse agro-climatic conditions; uneven infrastructure; district-specific needs

Way Forward :

- **Region-specific crop planning** — FAO soil maps; agro-climatic zoning; GIS-based planning
- **Seed security** — certified seeds; improved varieties; community seed banks
- **Water management** — micro-irrigation; watershed development; rainwater harvesting; soil-moisture conservation
- **Agricultural extension** — KVKs; scientific crop management; climate-smart agriculture
- **Infrastructure development** — drying units; scientific storage; grading; primary processing
- **Institutional strengthening** — Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs); cooperatives; SHGs; Van Dhan Vikas Kendras
- **Market integration** — aggregation; value chains; market intelligence; assured procurement where applicable
- **Credit and risk mitigation** — Kisan Credit Card (KCC); PMFBY; institutional credit

- **Scheme convergence** — PM-KISAN; PM-KUSUM; National Food Security Mission (NFSM); National Mission on Edible Oils; PM Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA); Van Dhan Yojana
- **Local governance** — Gram Sabha-led planning; community participation; FRA–livelihood convergence
- **Monitoring framework** — district-level crop suitability; productivity indicators; farm income; post-harvest loss reduction
- **Desired outcome** — secure land rights + sustainable agriculture + tribal prosperity + nutritional security + reduced import dependence

Mains Practise Question:

“Recognition of forest rights must be complemented by sustainable livelihood opportunities to ensure the socio-economic empowerment of tribal communities.”
Discuss in the context of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, with special reference to oilseeds and pulses cultivation on FRA lands.
(10 marks, 150 words)



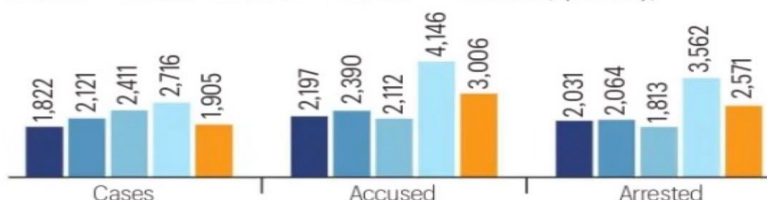
Newspaper : The Indian Express Page No : 01

Dry for a decade, Bihar hit by a new lethal high: Drugs & addicts

NUMBERS RISING, ALARMS RINGING

Details of cases registered in Bihar under NDPS Act

2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 (up to May)



Source: Compiled from Bihar Police data

20-FOLD RISE IN 3 YRS
Beneficiaries of de-addiction centres in Bihar supported under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan

1,639 (2023-24)
1,487 (2022-23)
29,429 (2024-25)

Source: Reply in Parliament dated March 10, 2026, by MoS Social Justice and Empowerment

1. Alarming Drug Trends in Bihar

- **NDPS cases:** Increased nearly **4-fold in six years**.
- **Tablet seizures:** Rose nearly **30-fold in four years**, indicating the shift towards synthetic drugs.
- **Drug diversification:** From **ganja and heroin** to synthetic drugs, pharmaceutical opioids and methamphetamine.

2. Key Challenges

- **Drug trafficking corridors:** Nepal border, Northeast and interstate routes facilitate narcotics supply.
- **Changing modus operandi:** Courier services, railways, concealed consignments and small-quantity deliveries complicate enforcement.

- **Youth vulnerability:** Unemployment, social alienation and economic marginalisation increase susceptibility to addiction.
- **Treatment deficit:** De-addiction facilities remain inadequate and unevenly distributed across districts.
- **Fragmented enforcement:** Coordination gaps among police, health agencies, border forces and social welfare departments.

3. Governance and Institutional Response

- **NDPS Act, 1985:** Principal legal framework for controlling narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
- **Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA):** Community-based awareness, prevention and rehabilitation initiative.
- **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB):** Central agency coordinating action against drug trafficking.
- **Narcotics Control Bureau restructuring and state-level anti-narcotics task forces:** Strengthen coordinated enforcement.
- **Demand-side intervention:** Prevention, counselling, rehabilitation and social reintegration must complement supply-side enforcement.



Fresh Excavations at Kashipur



SYLLABUS : Prelims : History

Newspaper : The Indian Express Page No : 11

- ❖ **Kashipur (Uttarakhand)** is identified with ancient **Govishana**, mentioned by the Chinese traveller **Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang)** in the **7th century CE**.
- ❖ **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** — established in **1861**; **Alexander Cunningham** was its first Director-General; functions under the Ministry of Culture.
- ❖ **Alexander Cunningham** identified Kashipur with **Kiu-pi-shwang-na (Govishana)** recorded in Xuanzang's account.
- ❖ **Painted Grey Ware (PGW)** — fine grey pottery decorated with **black geometric designs**; associated with **Iron Age settlements in northern India** and often linked archaeologically with the **Later Vedic period**.
- ❖ **PGW sites: Hastinapur (Uttar Pradesh), Ahichchhatra (Uttar Pradesh), Bhagwanpura (Haryana) and Kashipur (Uttarakhand)**.
- ❖ **Hastinapur excavations (1950s)** — conducted by archaeologist **B. B. Lal**; revealed PGW layers associated with the site's archaeological chronology.
- ❖ **Mahabharata connection:** Kashipur is traditionally associated with **Dronacharya** and the **Pandavas**; archaeological associations do **not conclusively prove the historicity of epic events**.
- ❖ **Panchayatana temple architecture** — consists of **one principal shrine and four subsidiary shrines**, generally arranged around it.
- ❖ **Kashipur temple complex** — excavations indicate multiple construction phases; the earliest identified temple phase is attributed to the **Gupta period**, with enclosing walls possibly added during the **6th–7th centuries CE**.
- ❖ **Gupta period** — associated with major developments in **temple architecture, sculpture, literature and art** across northern India.
- ❖ **Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang)** — Chinese Buddhist monk who visited India during **Harshavardhana's reign (7th century CE)**; his account is an important source for ancient Indian history.



Fresh Excavations at Kashipur



SYLLABUS : Prelims : History

Newspaper : The Indian Express Page No : 11

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Xuanzang's account — Great Tang Records on the Western Regions; provides information about Indian political, religious and social conditions.❖ Kushan period — one of the historical periods represented by pottery recovered at Kashipur; Kanishka was a prominent Kushan ruler.❖ Archaeological stratigraphy — the study of successive layers of soil and material remains helps establish the relative chronology of human occupation.❖ PGW vs NBPW: PGW is associated with Iron Age settlements in northern India; Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) is associated with the subsequent phase of urbanisation and early historic cities, although their chronological ranges can overlap. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Cultural continuity at Kashipur — pottery from the PGW period to the early medieval period indicates occupation across multiple historical phases; it does not necessarily establish uninterrupted occupation by the same community.❖ ASI excavations at Kashipur (2026) — the renewed excavation aims to establish the site's cultural sequence, study earlier artefacts and investigate deeper structural remains; the reported excavation is expected to continue until March. |
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Badr Memorandum of Understanding



SYLLABUS : Prelims : International Relations
Newspaper : The Indian Express Page No : 12

- **Signatories:** Türkiye (Turkey), Qatar, Pakistan and Indonesia signed the Badr MoU on **21 October 2026** in **Doha, Qatar**.
- **Objective:** Strengthen **defence cooperation** and enhance the **defence capabilities** of the four countries.
- **Defence Production:** Promote cooperation in **joint military production** by leveraging the complementary capabilities of participating countries.
- **Defence Industrial Integration:** Strengthen **defence industrial capacities** and facilitate integration among the participating countries.
- **Research and Development (R&D):** Encourage collaboration in **military technology, technical training and R&D**.
- **Technology Transfer:** Greater cooperation in defence manufacturing can facilitate the sharing of **technical expertise and production capabilities**.
- **Economic Significance:** The agreement aims to generate economic benefits through **defence production partnerships** and industrial cooperation.

- **Meaning of Badr:** The Arabic word "**Badr**" means "**full moon**"; the name symbolises the complementary capabilities of the four participating countries.
- **Expansion:** Other **friendly countries may join** the initiative, subject to criteria agreed upon by the four signatories.
- **Türkiye–NATO:** Türkiye is a **member of NATO** and has a strong defence industry; it also maintains a **military base in Qatar**.
- **Regional Security:** The agreement seeks to strengthen **multilateral defence partnerships** and support regional security and stability.
- **Separate Defence Pact:** Türkiye, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed the **Mecca Joint Defence Agreement** in August 2026, under which an armed attack on one party is treated as an attack on all. This is distinct from the Badr MoU.
- **India-related angle:** Pakistan's participation alongside Türkiye and Indonesia may be relevant to India's regional strategic assessment; however, the Badr MoU does not itself establish a collective-defence obligation against India.



SYLLABUS : Prelims : Science and Tech
Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No :** 1

- **SAF (Sustainable Aviation Fuel):** Alternative aviation fuel produced from non-petroleum feedstocks; can be blended with conventional jet fuel.
- **India's SAF blending targets:** 1% for international flights from **2027, to 2% from 2028 and 5% from 2030**, as reported in the article.
- **CORSIA:** Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation; adopted by the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in 2016**.
- **CORSIA objective:** Reduce the climate impact of international aviation through emissions reduction and carbon offsetting.
- **CORSIA emissions benchmark:** Aims to address international aviation emissions above **85% of 2019 levels** for covered flights.
- **CORSIA phases:** Voluntary phases during **2021–2026**, followed by the mandatory phase from **2027–2035**.
- **ICAO:** A **UN specialised agency** responsible for international civil aviation standards and coordination.
- **SAF feedstocks:** Include **used cooking oil (UCO)**, agricultural residues and other sustainable waste-based materials.

- **Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL):** Developing SAF production at its **Panipat refinery**, Haryana, using used cooking oil and conventional fuel in co-processing.
- **ATF (Aviation Turbine Fuel):** Conventional petroleum-based fuel used in aircraft.
- **Carbon credits:** Tradable units representing emissions reductions or removals; eligible credits can be used for carbon offsetting under applicable rules.
- **India's estimated carbon-offset liability:** Indian airlines may face an annual liability of around **5 million tonnes of CO₂** under international obligations.
- **India's SAF production capacity:** The article reports preparedness for approximately **30,000 tonnes** of SAF production against the 1% blending target for 2027.
- **SAF production potential:** An ICAO feasibility study estimates India's potential SAF production at **14–33 million tonnes**, depending on feedstock availability and assessment methodology.
- **EU SAF mandate:** The European Union introduced a **2% SAF blending requirement in 2025**, rising to **6% by 2030**.
- **UK SAF mandate:** The United Kingdom introduced a **2% SAF mandate in 2025**, increasing to **10% by 2030**.



Sustainable Aviation Fuel



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Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No** : 1

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• India's policy gap: The article highlights the absence of a comprehensive national SAF policy covering blending obligations, pricing, subsidies, carbon credits and export permissions.• SAF pricing challenge: SAF is currently more expensive than conventional aviation fuel, creating a need for government incentives and financial support.• Energy and waste management link: SAF production can promote the productive utilisation of waste cooking oil and agricultural residues, supporting a circular economy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aviation decarbonisation: SAF is one of the pathways to reduce aviation-sector emissions, alongside operational improvements and other emerging technologies.• International compliance: Airlines must account for applicable emissions-monitoring, reporting and offsetting requirements under CORSIA and relevant national regulations. |
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SYLLABUS : Prelims : Modern History

Newspaper : The Indian Express **Page No** : 08

1. Basic facts

- **Born:** 17 October 1817, Delhi; died: 27 March 1898, Aligarh.
- **Associated movement:** Aligarh Movement – promoted modern education and social reform among Indian Muslims.
- **Core ideas:** Scientific temper, rational thinking, modern education and social progress.

2. Major institutions and chronology

- **Scientific Society (1864):** Established at Ghazipur; translated Western scientific works into Indian languages; later shifted to Aligarh.
- **Aligarh Institute Gazette (1866):** Disseminated scientific knowledge and contemporary ideas.
- **Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq (1870):** Journal promoting social, ethical and religious reform.
- **Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College:** School established at Aligarh in 1875; college formally developed in 1877.
- **Muhammadan Educational Conference (1886):** Promoted modern education among Muslims.
- **United Indian Patriotic Association (1888):** Associated with Sir Syed's opposition to the Indian National Congress's political programme.

- **Aligarh Muslim University (AMU):** MAO College became a university under the **AMU Act, 1920**, after Sir Syed's death.

3. Major writings

- **Asbab-e-Baghawat-e-Hind:** Analysed the causes of the Revolt of 1857; criticised British administrative policies.
- **The Loyal Mohammedans of India:** Defended Indian Muslims against allegations of collective disloyalty.
- **Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq:** Promoted social and ethical reform.
- **A Series of Essays on the Life of Mohammed:** Responded to Western criticism of Islam.

4. Revolt of 1857

- Served in the British judicial administration; was posted at **Bijnor** during the revolt.
- Advocated better British understanding of Indian grievances and administrative reforms.
- Subsequently promoted modern education and cooperation with the British administration



SYLLABUS : Prelims : Modern History

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5. Social and religious reform

- Advocated **rational interpretation of religion** and compatibility between scientific knowledge and religious beliefs.
- Encouraged Western scientific education alongside Oriental and Islamic learning.
- Sought to overcome educational backwardness and promote social advancement.

6. Political views

- **Hindi–Urdu controversy**: Defended Urdu's cultural and educational importance.
- **Indian National Congress (1885)**: Opposed its political programme, fearing that majority-based representative politics could disadvantage Muslims.
- **United Indian Patriotic Association (1888)**: Associated with opposition to Congress politics.



Q1. Consider the following pairs of Painted Grey Ware (PGW) sites and their respective states:

S.No	Painted Grey Ware sites	States
1.	Hastinapur	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Ahichchhatra	Haryana
3.	Bhagwanpura	Haryana
4.	Kashipur	Uttarakhand

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Answer: c

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Badr Memorandum of Understanding:

1. It was signed by Türkiye, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.
2. It aims to promote cooperation in defence manufacturing, technical training, and research and development.
3. It establishes a mutual defence commitment under which an attack on one member is treated as an attack on all.

Which one of the following conclusions is correct?

- a) Only one statement is correct.
- b) Only two statements are correct, and one of them is Statement 1.
- c) Only two statements are correct, and one of them is Statement 2.
- d) All three statements are correct.

Answer: a

Q3. Which one of the following countries is not a member of the G4 coalition?

- a) Brazil
- b) Germany
- c) Japan
- d) South Africa

Answer: d

Q4. With reference to Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), consider the following statements:

1. India's SAF blending targets for international flights are 1% from 2027, 2% from 2028 and 5% from 2030.
2. Used cooking oil and agricultural residues can be used as feedstocks for SAF production.
3. Indian Oil Corporation Limited is developing SAF production at its Panipat refinery in Haryana.

How many of the statements given above is/are Not correct?

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

Answer: d

Q5. With reference to Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, consider the following pairs:

S.No	Initiative/ Work	Associated with
1.	Aligarh Movement	Promoted Modern education among Indian Muslims
2.	Asbab-e-B aghawat-e -Hind	Promoted social and ethical reform.
3.	Tahzib-ul- Akhlaq	Analysed the causes of the Revolt of 1857

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: a





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