



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

29th October 2026



How El Niño made Cyclone Arnab stronger

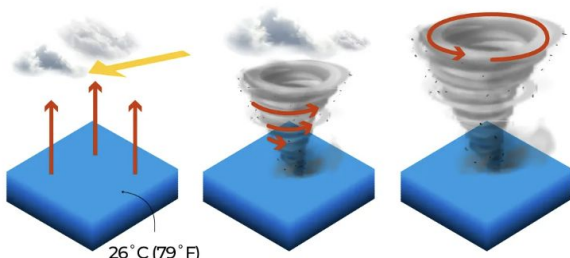
CONTEXT: Cyclone Arnab crossed the Andhra Pradesh–Yanam coast early on October 28, 2026, as a very severe cyclonic storm, with winds of roughly **125–135 km/h**.

What is a tropical cyclone?

WEATHER

The birth of a tropical cyclone

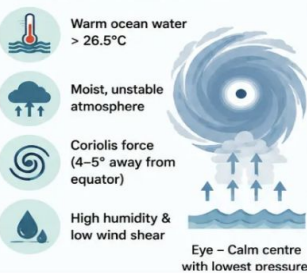
As warm air rises from equatorial ocean waters, an area of lower air pressure is formed. As this cycle gains momentum and strength, it begins to swirl, creating a tropical cyclone, which can also be called a hurricane or a typhoon.



When ocean temperatures rise above 26°C (79°F), water evaporates and collides with cold air, forming clouds.

A column is created by the low pressure in the centre known as the eye of the storm.

When the wind speeds reach 119km/h (74 mph), the storm becomes a tropical cyclone, which can also be called a hurricane or a typhoon, depending on where it happens.



• HOW ARE CYCLONES NAMED?

• **The naming** of tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea began in September 2004 after a meeting of an intergovernmental panel in 2000.

• **Names** were initially provided by eight panel members — Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand. In 2018, five more countries joined — Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Yemen.

• **The nations** suggest a list of names, which are finalised by the panel. Countries must

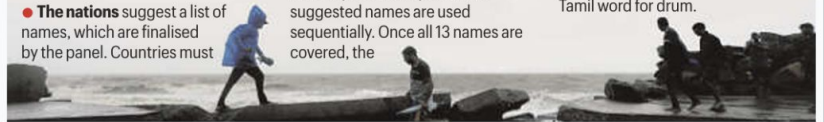
follow certain guidelines while proposing names. For instance, they must be short, easy to pronounce and inoffensive.

• **The Regional** Specialised Meteorological Centre at New Delhi officially assigns the names once a weather system meets the threshold of 62 kmph to be declared a cyclone.

• **The 13 member** countries are listed alphabetically, and their suggested names are used sequentially. Once all 13 names are covered, the

list from which cyclones can be picked moves on to the next column, where countries are again arranged alphabetically. Once used, a cyclone name is not repeated.

• **The current** cyclone's name, **Arnab** (pronounced **Ornab**), has been put forward by Bangladesh. The next name in the sequence is **Murasu**, proposed by India, which follows Bangladesh alphabetically in the list of 13 countries. Murasu is a Tamil word for drum.



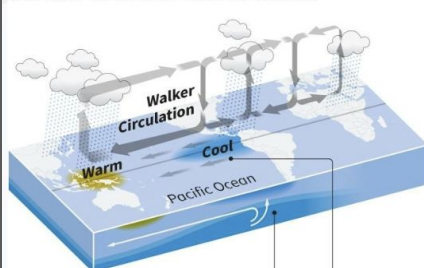
What is El Niño?

El Nino explained

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is the Earth's most influential driver of climate variability. El Niño, the warm phase of the ENSO cycle, is marked by warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean.

NEUTRAL CONDITIONS

The Walker Circulation is an east-west vertical atmospheric circulation above the Equatorial Pacific. Moist air rises over normally warm seas, causing abundant rainfall over Asia and Australia

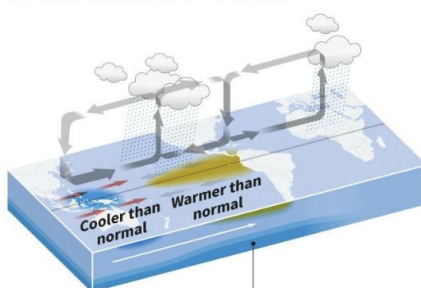


Upwelling of cold water cools the air, giving South America a cooler and drier climate

Easterly trade winds push warm surface waters westward

EL NINO CONDITIONS

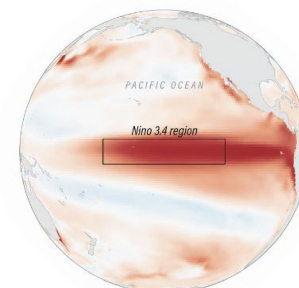
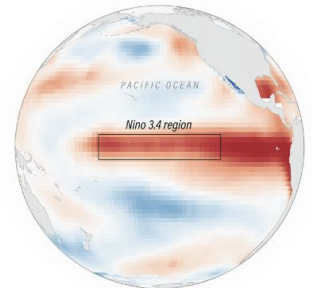
As trade winds weaken or reverse, warm water and rain clouds from the western Pacific Ocean shift eastward towards the Americas.



Surface waters in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean become significantly warmer, reducing the upwelling of cold water

HOW SUPER EL NINO LOOKED LIKE IN 1878

The most intense El Niño — also called a Super El Niño when it breaches the 2°C by a significant margin — ever recorded was the 1876–78 phenomenon. The visual on the right shows the peak of the El Niño season — when temperature deviation clocked over 3°C in January 1878 in the Niño 3.4 region. But is the worst over?



HOW SUPER EL NINO MIGHT LOOK IN 2026

The map on the left shows what we are heading towards—the Super El Niño of 1876–78 pales in comparison to the peak of the 2026–27 El Niño season. Data by NOAA suggest the mean SST deviation could be 3.25°C, which would be higher than the peak of the 1876–78 season.

Note: For 1876–78 season, mean SST anomaly of January 1878 was visualised. For 2026–27 season, mean SST anomaly of Dec, Jan, and January of 26–27 was visualised.

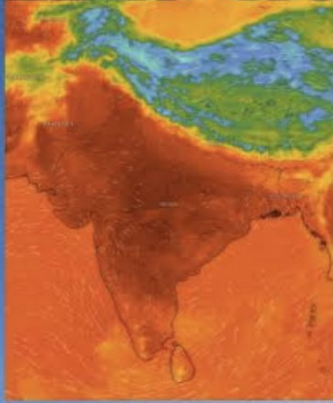
Source: NOAA Extended Reconstructed Sea Surface Temperature version 5, NOAA CPD Forecast Ocean Atlas SST Analysis

How El Niño made Cyclone Arnab stronger

CONTEXT: Cyclone Arnab crossed the Andhra Pradesh–Yanam coast early on October 28, 2026, as a very severe cyclonic storm, with winds of roughly **125–135 km/h**.

How can the Pacific affect a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal?

EL NIÑO



Map Credits: India Today

Impacts on Rural Livelihoods, Farming, and Pathways for Mitigation

– Kuntal Mukherjee, Integrator, PRADAN

Effects of El Niño in India

- Reduced monsoon rainfall: El Niño can weaken India's monsoon and lead to below-normal rainfall.
- Higher temperatures: El Niño can cause temperatures to rise across many parts of India.
- Agricultural impacts: Reduced rainfall can affect crop yields, farm incomes, and food prices.

El Niño is a climate pattern that occurs in the Pacific Ocean. El Niño is characterized by the warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific, which can have significant impacts on weather patterns around the world.

During an El Niño event, there is often an increased rainfall in parts of South America, drought in parts of Southeast Asia and Australia, and changes in temperature and precipitation patterns in North America. El Niño events typically occur every 2-7 years and can last for several months to a few years.

So why did Cyclone Arnab intensify?

1. LP over southeast BoB Oct 23
2. Low vertical wind shear
3. Storm's internal dynamics matter

To establish whether El Niño contributed to Arnab's intensity

1. Sea-surface temperature
2. Ocean heat content
3. Vertical wind shear
4. Atmospheric moisture
5. Upper-level outflow
6. Storm structure

The hazards: Why a cyclone is needs caution?

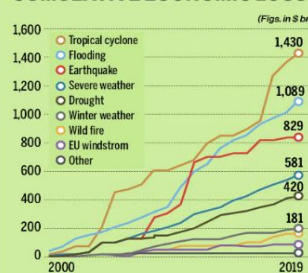
High winds

Storm surge

Extreme rainfall and flooding

Marine and livelihood losses

CUMULATIVE ECONOMIC LOSS



Source: Weather, Climate & Catastrophe Insight—2019 Annual Report

HOW AMPHAN LOSSES STACK UP?

	% share of the estimated losses
State's total revenue receipts	60.9
State's GDP	9.8
Global direct economic losses and damage from natural disasters in 2019	5.7
Central Government's revenue receipts	5.1
Global Economic Losses by Tropical Cyclone since 2000	0.9
India's GDP	0.6

State: West Bengal, GDP & GDP at current prices for 2017-18; revenue receipts for 2019-20 (BIE)
Source: RBI, Budget document, Weather, Climate & Catastrophe Insight—2019 Annual Report



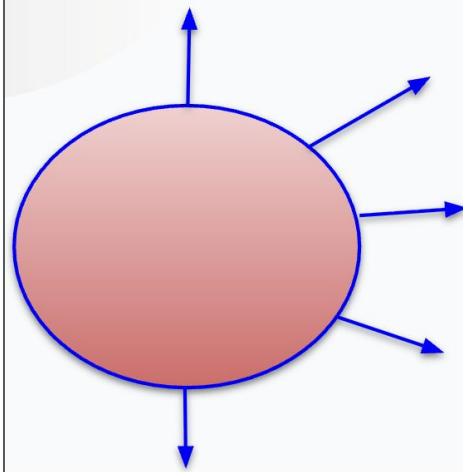
Cyclone Arnab leaves trail of destruction in India

How El Niño made Cyclone Arnab stronger

CONTEXT: Cyclone Arnab crossed the Andhra Pradesh–Yanam coast early on October 28, 2026, as a very severe cyclonic storm, with winds of roughly **125–135 km/h**.

India's disaster-management strategy

4-tier institutional hierarchy:
NCMC + NDMA + SDMA/DDMA + NDRF



Structural Interventions:
Cyclone Shelters, Retrofitting, sea walls

Non-Structural Interventions
Eco-DRR, Hazard Mapping, CRZ

Tech and Early Warning System:
Common Alerting Protocol, Prediction

Climate-resilient infrastructure frameworks



IMD monitors cyclones using satellites, radars & models and issues 4-stage warnings.



PRE-CYCLONE WATCH
~72 hours before landfall



CYCLONE ALERT
~48 hours before landfall



CYCLONE WARNING
~24 hours before landfall



LANDFALL OUTLOOK
~12 hours before landfall

COLOUR CODE

			
GREEN No Warning	YELLOW Be Aware	ORANGE Be Prepared	RED Take Action

Mains Practise Question

Cyclone Arnab is a useful case study of the relationship between global climate variability, local atmospheric conditions and disaster vulnerability. Comment.

(15 Marks, 250 words)



India must build a holistic Care System

CONTEXT: October 29 is the **International Day of Care and Support**.

The chain connecting care to growth

**Accessible, affordable
and reliable care**



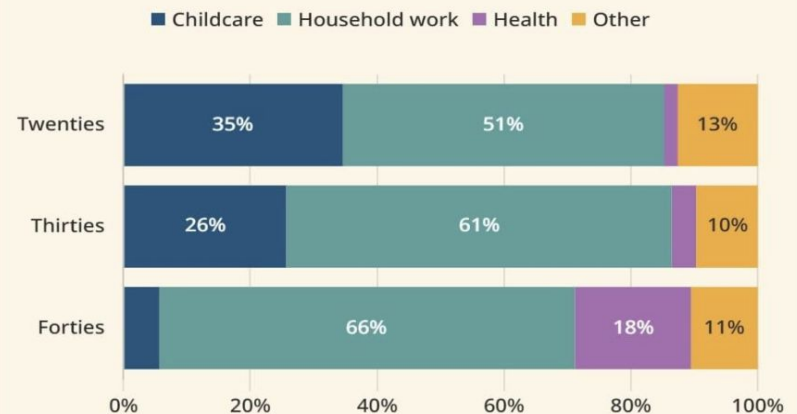
41%

Women aged 15–59

Participated in unpaid caregiving for household members, according to Time Use Survey 2024.

Reason why women working earlier are not working now, by age group (2025)

Childcare and housework take women out of India's labour force



Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey,

Data For India

140 min

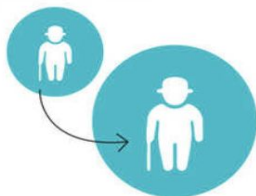
Per participating woman per day

Average time spent on unpaid caregiving, compared with 74 minutes for participating men in the same age group.

The ageing dimension

300M ELDERLY BY 2050

30 years from now, the elderly population in India is expected to triple from **104 million** in 2011 to **300 million** in 2050



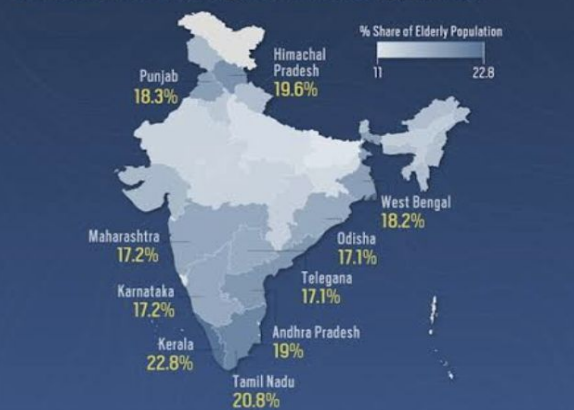
Elderly population in **India (134m)** in 2020 is fast reaching the current size of population of **Mexico (130m)** or **Russia (143m)**

The 2050 population of elderly will be close to the population of the **US (326m)** in 2018) today

India's **12 million** population of 80+ is equal to the total population of countries such as Belgium, Greece, or Cuba

Which state will have the most senior citizens in 2036?

The India Ageing Report 2023, released by UNFPA and IIPS, reveals that Kerala will have the highest share of elderly population



Projected sex ratio in 2031

General



Elderly (60+)



POPULATION BY PERCENTAGE IN DIFFERENT AGE BRACKETS

INDIA	2011	2036 (PROJECTED)
0-14 years	30.9	20.1
15-59 years	60.7	64.9
60+ years	8.4	14.9

Andhra Pradesh	2011	2036	Uttar Pradesh	2011	2036
0-14 years	25.2	15.7	0-14 years	36	22
15-59 years	64.8	65.3	15-59 years	56.7	66.1
60+ years	10.1	19	60+ years	7.3	11.9

Source: Population Projection by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Source: United Nations Population Fund, India; International Institute for Population Sciences
Graphics: Mudita Singh & Ankita Tripathi

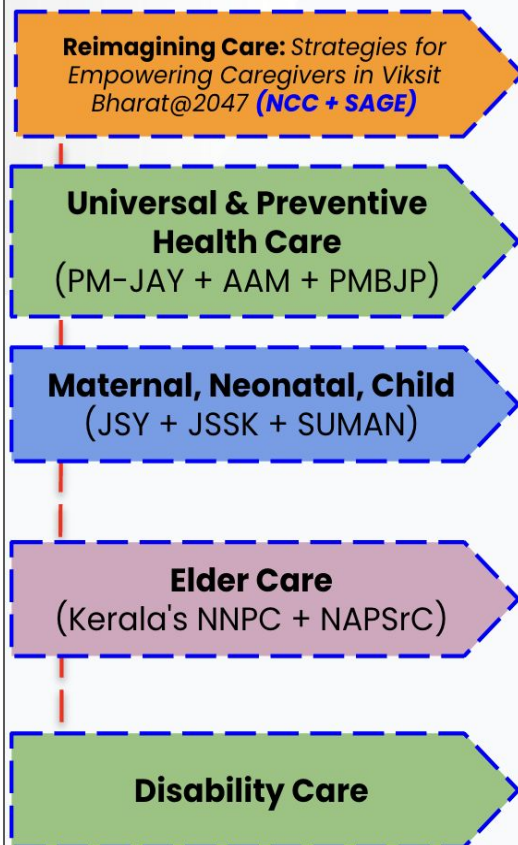
India must build a holistic Care System

CONTEXT: October 29 is the **International Day of Care and Support**.

What does a holistic care system look like?



India already has care programmes.



THE KERALAM Assembly's passage of the Senior Citizens' (Care and Protection of Rights) Bill, 2026, is a notable step towards upholding the dignity of the elderly. The legislation lays down rights to affordable care, legal aid, digital inclusion and safe public spaces. It also seeks to regulate old-age homes and home-care services, train caregivers and establish state- and district-level protection units. The legislation is alive to an important socioeconomic reality: Changing family structures are eroding traditional systems of elder care, even as the idea that ageing need not mean a life of dependence gains more ground. It seeks to move beyond a system that views senior citizens mainly as people who need family support or state welfare and recognises the right to "live independently at home, with institutional care as the last resort".



India must build a holistic Care System

CONTEXT: October 29 is the International Day of Care and Support.

So what is missing?

4 gaps identified in the article

Fragmentation:

employment patterns,
transport and working
hours

Workforce

Coverage:

Service gap
Information gap

Financing and social norms

Why India needs a care system now

- Women's economic participation
- Population ageing and changing family structures
- Job creation and professionalisation
-

From schemes towards an ecosystem

NITI Aayog's Reimagining Care report:
Qualification Framework, Registry and
digital portal, community care

National Care Economy Mission

Union Budget 2026–27

***Colombia: a national framework
involving multiple institutions***



Mains Practice Question: A holistic care system would make care more accessible for those who need it and make the responsibility of providing it more sustainable and equitable. Discuss.

(15 Marks, 250 words)



Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 9

Disinvestment as key economic strategy

Need for money

- **Income** growing ~3.4%
- **Capex**
- **Fiscal Deficit** at 42% of the full-year limit

April–Sept 2026

- **FY 2026–27:** ₹80,000 cr
- **Already:** ₹62,124 cr (78%)
- **Disinvestment:** ₹55,757 cr
- **Asset Monetisation:** ₹6,367 cr

Newspaper

The Hindu

Page No.

9

MINORITY SALES

- 1991 • **New Industrial Policy**; first share sales; reserved list 17 → 8
- 1993 • **Rangarajan Committee** report on disinvestment of shares
- 1996 • **Disinvestment Commission** under G.V. Ramakrishna
- STRATEGIC SALES
- 1999 • **Department of Disinvestment**; Ministry in 2001
- 2000–04 • Modern Foods, **BALCO**, **VSNL**, Hindustan Zinc, Maruti
- 2003 • **HPCL–BPCL** sale needs Parliament (Supreme Court)
- PEOPLE'S OWNERSHIP
- 2005 • **National Investment Fund**; listing and minority sales
- 2014 • **CPSE ETF**; Bharat 22 ETF follows in 2017
- INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
- 2016 • Department renamed **DIPAM**; dividend norms
- 2021 • **NPSE Policy**; National Monetisation Pipeline
- 2022 • **Air India** to Tata; Neelachal Ispat; LIC listed
- 2026 • **NMP 2.0**; IDBI Bank buyer approved

Move to a
Demand-
Based
Approach

Rolling 3-Year Privatisation
Stream

CII proposes
"Calibrated
Disinvestment"

Avoid
Crowding out

Reforms
Needed to
Make
"Privatisation
2.0"

₹9 lakh crore +
51% across 95
stock-market-
listed PSEs

The story so far

Financial year	Entity sold	Amount generated (₹ cr)
1999-00	Modern Food Industries (phase 1)	105.45
	BALCO	551.5
2000-01	Lagan Jute Machinery	2.53
	CMC	152.0
	HTL	55.0
	VSNL	1,439.0
2001-02	Paradeep Phosphates	151.7
	Hindustan Zinc Ltd (phase 1)	445.0
2002-03	Modern Food Industries (phase 2)	44.07
	IPCL	1,490.84
	Hindustan Zinc Ltd (phase 2)	323.88
2003-04	Jessop & Co	18.0
	HSCC (India) Ltd	285.0
2018-19	Dredging Corporation of India Ltd	1,049.17
	PPC REC deal	14,499.99
	THDC India Ltd	7,500.0
2019-20	North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd	4,000.0
	Kamarajar Port Ltd	2,383.0
2021-22	Air India	2,700.0
2026-27	IMPCL	118.73
	IDBI Bank	52.878

Source: Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, Business Standard Research



Is GRAP enough to curb pollution?

Syllabus: GS 3: Environment
Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 10

Graded Response Action Plan

What is GRAP?

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is a set of **short-term emergency measures** to reduce air pollution and is divided into four stages. The **CAQM announces** the different stages, depending on the level of pollution recorded or forecast for the near future.

AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI)	CATEGORY
0-50	Good
51-100	Satisfactory
101-200	Moderate
201-300	Poor
301-400	Very Poor
401-500	Severe

Particulate Matter		
PM10 (Coarse)	PM2.5 (Fine)	
Gases & Metals		
NO ₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide)	SO ₂ (Sulphur Dioxide)	CO (Carbon Monoxide)
O ₃ (Ozone)	NH ₃ (Ammonia)	Pb (Lead)



December 2016:

Supreme Court directions in the M.C. Mehta vs Union of India air-pollution case.



12 January 2017:

GRAP was notified.



Originally implemented by:

Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA).



Current oversight:

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and adjoining areas.



Legal framework for CAQM:

Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021.

Delhi AQI thresholds under the revised GRAP schedule of November 2025.

I Poor	AQI 201-300
II Very Poor	AQI 301-400
III Severe	AQI 401-450
IV Severe+	AQI above 450



The Four Stages of GRAP

WHEN IS GRAP INVOKED?



Based on Delhi's AQI and forecasts of weather and meteorological conditions.



Measures may be activated **proactively**, before pollution worsens further.



Implementation involves **multiple NCR authorities** and agencies.



Higher stage = additional restrictions, while applicable measures from earlier stages continue.



Delhi GRAP Stages & Actions (Graded Response Action Plan)

Cleaner Air
Healthier Delhi
A Safer Tomorrow

Stage I - 'Poor' (AQI 201-300)

Focus: Basic pollution control and dust mitigation.

Measures:

- Strict enforcement of vehicular PUC norms.
- Mechanised road sweeping.
- Water sprinkling to settle dust.
- Anti-smog gun deployment at construction sites.
- Strict ban on open garbage burning.

Stage II - 'Very Poor' (AQI 301-400)

Focus: Targeted operational curbs at pollution hotspots.

Measures:

- Banning the use of coal and firewood in eateries/hotels.
- Restricting the use of Diesel Generator (DG) sets.
- Hiking public parking fees to discourage private vehicular travel.
- Enhancing public transit options (metro and bus frequencies).

Stage III - 'Severe' (AQI 401-450)

Focus: Major industrial, commercial, and structural shutdowns.

Measures:

- Complete ban on non-essential construction and demolition (C&D) activities, stone crushers and mining.
- Restrictions on driving BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel light motor vehicles.
- State governments may switch primary school classes to online/hybrid learning modes.

Stage IV - 'Severe+' (AQI > 450)

Focus: Ultimate response during hazardous spikes.

Measures:

- Complete closure of all non-essential commercial and industrial activities.
- Complete ban on the entry of heavy trucks into Delhi (except those carrying essential commodities or running on clean fuels like LNG/CNG/Electricity).
- Enforcement of a 50% work-from-home policy for public/private offices.
- Transitioning classes up to standard XI to online formats.

Is GRAP enough to curb pollution?

Syllabus: GS 3: Environment
Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 10

Winter 2026–27

Key Changes

1 **Dust, MSW & Transport Measures Consolidated**
Now in Stage I.

2 **DG Sets & Buses Moved Earlier**
From Stage II to Stage I.

3 **Relaxation for Essential Road Work**
In Stage III (including pothole repair).

4 **Vehicle Restrictions Extended to Sonipat**
BS-III petrol & BS-IV diesel (or below) LMVs.

5 **No Exemption for Older Goods Vehicles**
BS-IV & below (LGVs, MGVs, Trucks/HGVs) in Stage III & IV carrying essential commodities.

6 **Entry Restrictions into Delhi Clarified**
Diesel BS-IV & below LGVs/MGVs (outside Delhi) under Stage III.

7 **C&D Dust Monitoring Expanded**
Web-portal for eligible C&D projects beyond municipal limits. (500 sq. m. threshold unchanged)

8 **Citizen Charter Updated**
Additional Do's and Don'ts in each stage.

Sports Competitions

Advised to reschedule physical sports competitions in NCR during November–December, considering air quality trends.

Does GRAP actually help?

The GRAP aims to cut down the sources of pollution for a short time when the air pollution is very high, so that the air quality improves, but it is not a long-term strategy.

According to an analysis released on Thursday (October 22, 2026) by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), a Finland-based non-profit research organisation, there has been “no consistent” improvement in Delhi’s winter air quality over the past four years, despite the imposition of GRAP.

Policy Shift

BS-VI Standard Borders

Deterrent Parking Fees



Syllabus: GS 3: Environment
Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 14

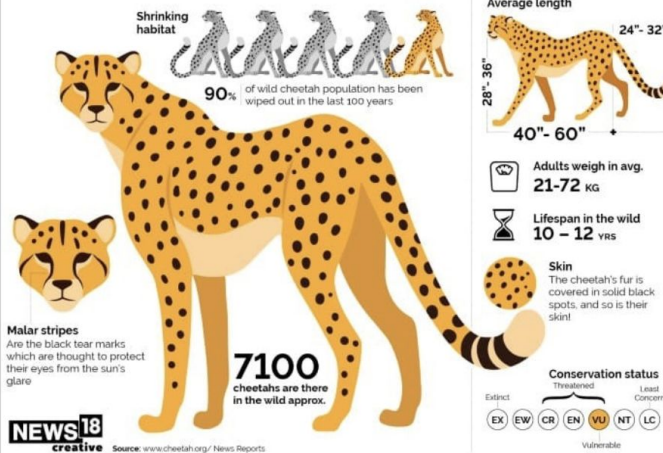
India's Cheetah Revival: A Timeline



Project Cheetah 🌍

THE RETURN OF CHEETAHS

India will be home to the world's fastest land animal again after the feline was declared extinct in the country in 1952. Five female and three male cheetahs are all set to reach Kuno-Palpur National Park on 17 September as part of the reintroduction programme.



African Cheetah:
Vulnerable
Asiatic Cheetah:
Critically Endangered

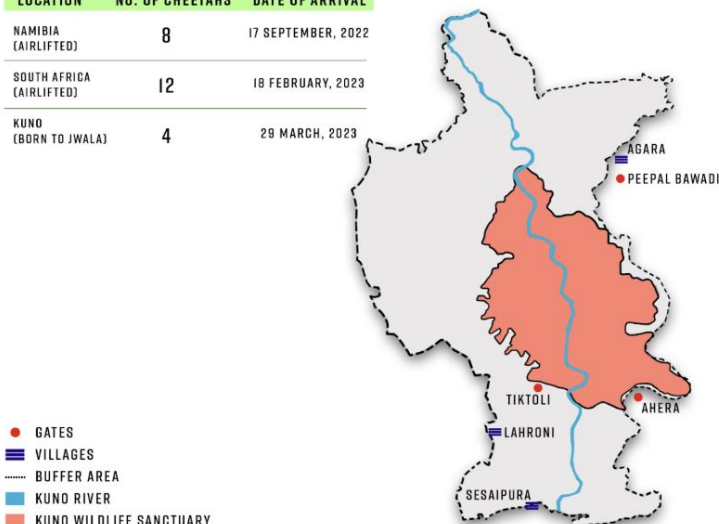
Nodal Agency:
NTCA

Schedule I;
WPA, 1972

Prelims Quick-facts 🎯

KUNO NATIONAL PARK

LOCATION	NO. OF CHEETAHS	DATE OF ARRIVAL
NAMIBIA (AIRLIFTED)	8	17 SEPTEMBER, 2022
SOUTH AFRICA (AIRLIFTED)	12	18 FEBRUARY, 2023
KUNO (BORN TO JWALA)	4	29 MARCH, 2023



Kuno National Park Geography:
@ Sheopur district (MP).

Core NP: 748.76 sq km.

Landscape Type: Part of the larger Sheopur-Shivpuri dry deciduous open forests (6,800 sq km).

River: The **Kuno River** (tributary of Chambal) bisects the park.

Syllabus: GS 3: Environment

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 14

Project Antelope (*Madhya Pradesh*)

FIGURE THIS

The number of animals translocated by the MP forest department

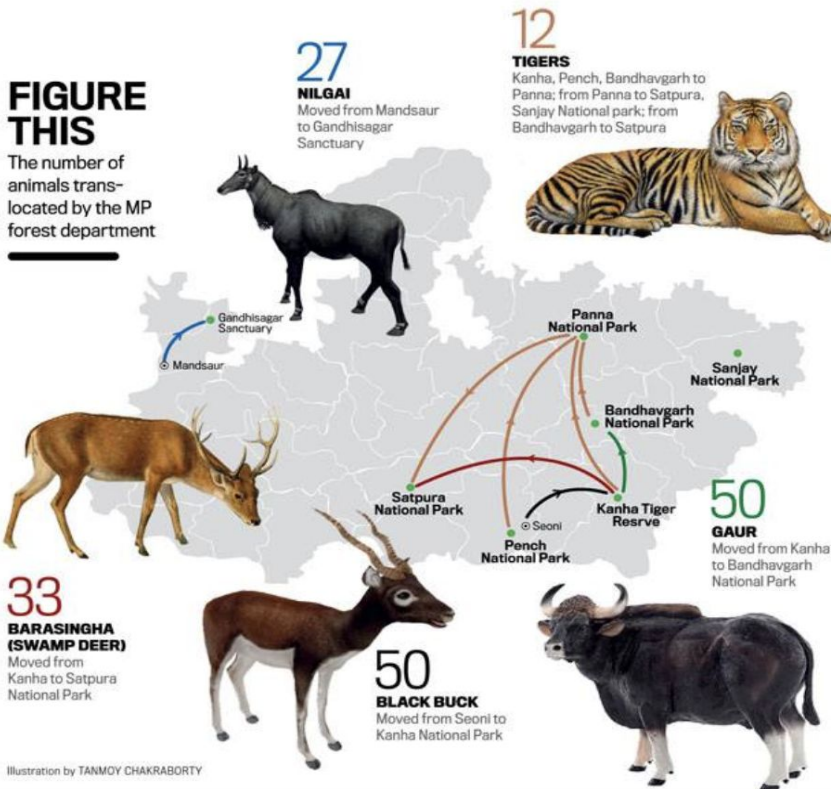
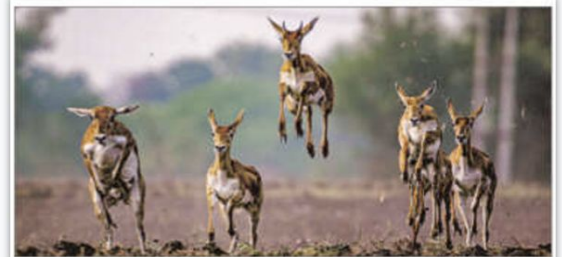


Illustration by TANMOY CHAKRABORTY

About the project

- **Dual Welfare Strategy**
- **1st large-scale, South African Boma technique**



A herd of blackbucks runs towards a capture enclosure during a rescue and translocation operation conducted by MP forest officials under Project Antelope, in Shajapur district on Wednesday.. PTI

Antelope facts for Prelims

Core Biological Features

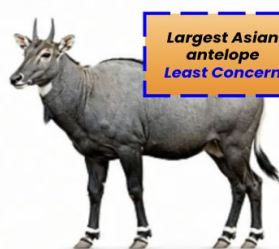
- **Ruminants** + closely related to cows, sheep, and goats; **Unlike deers**
- **Classic UPSC trap: Horns or Antlers?**
- **Habitat:** open grasslands, savannas, semi-arid regions, and alpine meadows



Endemic, Bishnoi Punjab, Haryana, AP
Least Concern

Blackbuck

Antelope cervicapra



Largest Asian antelope
Least Concern

Nilgai

Boselaphus tragocamelus



Only wild mammal in the world with four horns; Ind + Nep
Vulnerable

Four-horned Antelope

Tetracerus quadricornis



Least Concern

Chinkara

Gazella bennettii



Shahtoosh
Near Threatened

Tibetan Antelope

Pantholops hodgsoni



Near Threatened

Tibetan Gazelle

Procapra picticaudata

PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana approved



Syllabus: GS 2: Governance

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 14

CABINET DECISIONS

Date: 28th Oct 2026

Taking Village Governance to Next Level

Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana

Aims to strengthen village-level governance and help Gram Panchayats manage rural development more effectively

Supports preparation of 2.55 lakh holistic Gram Panchayat Development Plans annually on the eGramSwaraj Portal

Outlay: ₹7,395.55 crore

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana

Gram Swaraj + Viksit Bharat

- Co-terminus with 16th FC
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme
 - Rs. 4,869.48 cr (~65.8)
 - Rs. 2,526.07 cr (~34.2%)
- Non-Part IX Areas

Rs. 4.35 L cr
2026-27 - 2030-31

~32 Lakh Elected Leaders + staff trained yearly

Educate at least 1 crore rural citizens

eGramSwaraj

Simplified Work Based Accounting Application for Panchayati Raj

eGRAMSWARAJ VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

Finances and Accounting, Geo-tagging of Assets, Progress Reporting, Life Cycle, Gram Panchayat Profiling, Action Plan Creation, Activity Output

Game-Changing Innovations in PM VGSY

The 6 Pillars of PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana

- Gram Panchayats as Hubs of Local Governance
- Holistic Planning at Gram Panchayat Level
- A Common Digital Platform inspired by eGramSwaraj and existing e-Panchayat systems
- Connecting National Priorities with Local Needs using tools like PANCHAM
- Capacity Building to put the Approach into Practice
- Transparent and Efficient Utilization of Available Resources

Source: Ministry of Panchayati Raj

How Implementation Works

- Bottom-Up Needs (Gram Sabha & GPDP):** 2.55 lakh villages' local development plan on eGramSwaraj.
- State Annual Action Plan:** State + UT wrt training, staffing, and digital support to Central Government.
- Central Approval:** Central Empowered Committee
- Execution & Audit:** on AuditOnline.

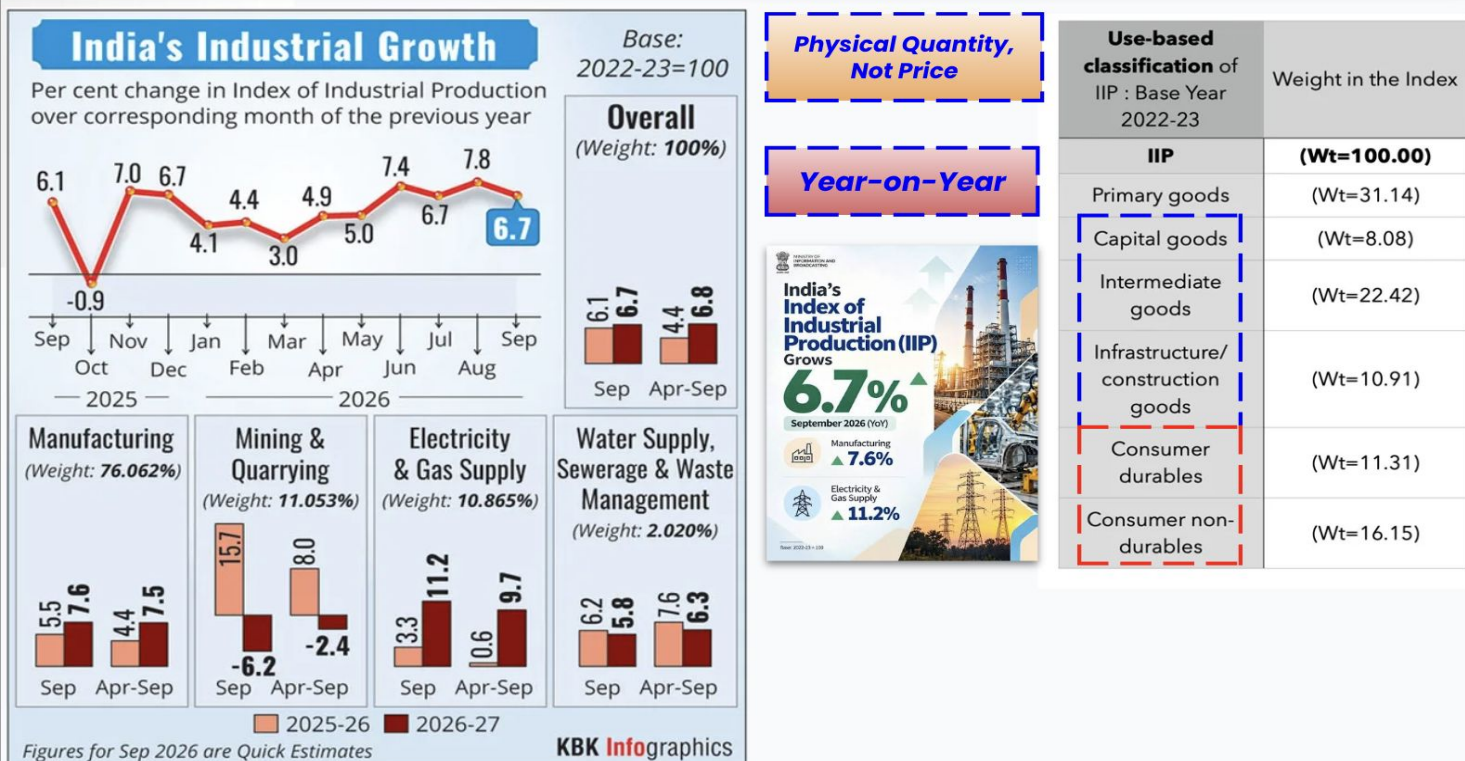
Breaking Departmental Silos

eGramSwaraj + PANCHAM

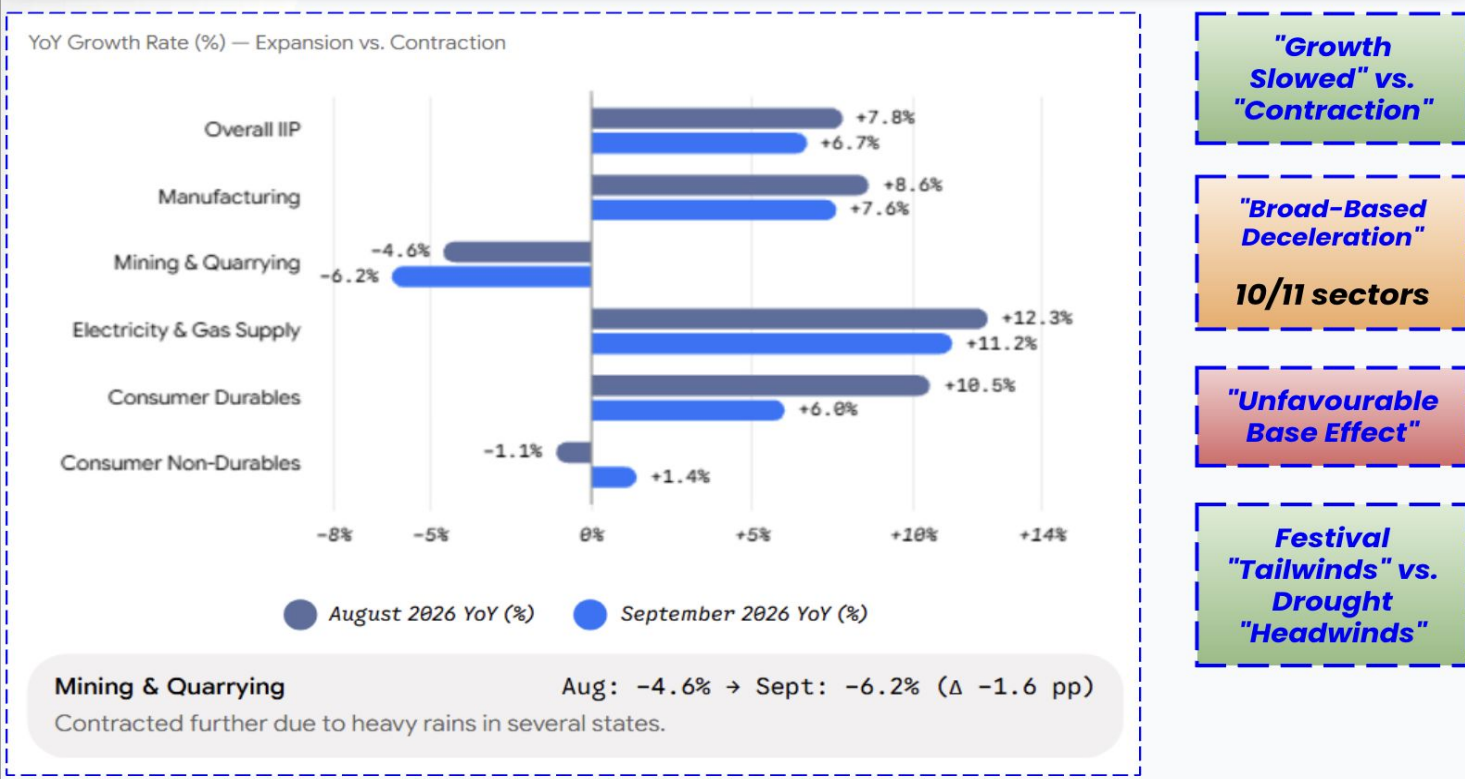
Own Source Revenue

Syllabus: Prelims: Economy
Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 15

What is the IIP?



IIP Growth Slowdown



Q1. With reference to the El Niño phenomenon, consider the following statements:

1. It is associated with an abnormal warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.
2. During El Niño, the trade winds generally strengthen, causing increased upwelling of cold water off the coast of South America.
3. El Niño can influence the Indian summer monsoon by altering atmospheric circulation patterns.

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: b

Q2. Regarding the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), consider the following statements:

1. It is a set of emergency measures implemented in the National Capital Region (NCR) to address deteriorating air quality.
2. The measures under GRAP are linked to different stages of air pollution, determined primarily by the Air Quality Index (AQI).
3. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) is responsible for issuing directions for the implementation of GRAP in the NCR.
4. All measures under GRAP are imposed only after air quality reaches the 'Severe' category.

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

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

Answer: c

Q3. With reference to Project Cheetah, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to re-establish a viable population of cheetahs in India and restore the ecological functions of open natural ecosystems.
2. The cheetahs introduced under the project belong to the Asiatic subspecies native to India.
3. Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh was the first site selected for the reintroduction of cheetahs in India.
4. The project envisages using cheetahs as a flagship species to promote the conservation of other species inhabiting grassland and semi-arid ecosystems.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: b

Q4. With reference to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in India, consider the following statements:

1. It measures short-term changes in the volume of industrial production in the economy.
2. It covers mining, manufacturing and electricity.
3. It is compiled and released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
4. The Index of Eight Core Industries is a component of the IIP and accounts for a substantial share of its overall weight.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q5. With reference to tropical cyclones, consider the following statements:

1. The Coriolis force is essential for the formation of a tropical cyclone, which is why such cyclones rarely form close to the Equator.
2. The sea-surface temperature must be above 26.5°C throughout the entire depth of the ocean for a tropical cyclone to form.
3. Tropical cyclones generally intensify when they move over warm ocean waters and weaken when they move over land, owing to the loss of their oceanic energy source and increased surface friction.

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: b





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