



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

01st November 2026



MEA : "Distortions in Energy Market worrisome"



01st November 2026

CONTEXT: Minister of External Affairs has highlighted the challenges being faced by the Energy sector of India due to various supply chain disruptions caused by other countries & measures adopted by India in this regard.

Chapter 1: Decoding the News : MEA's Warning & G-20 :

Context of News :

- MoEA : "Distortions of energy markets through **obstacles, sanctions & choke points** will lead to energy crisis"
- "Deliberate attacks on energy infrastructure is a calculated strategy to hold **prices hostage**"
- 2nd Plenary session of **G-20's Foreign Ministers Meeting in Atlanta, USA**

What is G-20?

"It is **informal forum** for international economic cooperation & not a **treaty based** international organisation like the United Nations"

1999 : Aftermath of the Asian financial crisis

Forum of Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors

2008 : Leaders' Summit level following the global financial crisis

2008 : **First** Leaders Summit in Washington, D.C.

G20 declarations & commitments are **not legally binding treaties**

Chapter 1: Decoding the News : MEA's Warning & G-20 :

19 countries, European Union & African Union

African Union became a permanent member in 2023

Presidency rotates among its member states on **annual basis**

India's 2023 Presidency :
"One Earth, One Family, One Future"

2024 : Brazil, 2025 : South Africa & 2026 : USA

G20

What is the G20?

The Group of 20 is made up of 19 of the world's biggest economies, as well as the European Union. It formed in 1999 to discuss policy matters and financial stability.



These countries account for
85%
of global GDP



2/3
of the world's population is from these countries

Source: Al Jazeera | Updated: May 22, 2023

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01st November 2026

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Chapter 2 : Growing Importance of "Energy Infrastructure" for India?

Peak power demand to be at 270 GW this summer, no affect due to West Asia crisis: MoS Shripad Naik

Ministry of Power had projected 277 GW of peak power demand during the last summer, April 2025 onwards. Peak power demand in June 2025 was 242.77 GW

The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI)

"As India looks ahead to the goals of Energy self - reliance by 2047 & Net Zero emissions by 2070, the next phase of energy transition requires an integrated approach to planning & governance"

"Complexity of India's Energy system"

Large scale dependence on imports for Oil & Gas

Dependence continues due to Limited infra & Storage capacity

Vision of being "Margdarshak" on Climate Change

Reality? 68-71% of Electricity generation comes from Coal (CEA report)

"Surge" in power demand

Data to validate arguments?

- **Supply Chain bottlenecks :** India's LPG imports account for 60% of domestic consumption & 90% comes from Strait of Hormuz
- **Infrastructural gaps :** India had strategic capacity of LPG of ONLY 22 days
- **IEA :** India is 87% import dependent for Crude oil needs
- **PIB (2025) :** \$646 million for purchase of Oil For Strategic Petroleum Reserves
- **India's Cooling demand :** ~200 GW by 2030

Chapter 2 : Growing Importance of "Energy Infrastructure" for India?

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

IE (Oct, 2025) = 87.9% crude oil Import dependency (242 MMT)

Production capacity = 2.3 MMT crude oil

Contribution of PSU = 78% of Total production

OPEC = 5.74 millions barrel Per day (BPD)

India's Crude Oil Import dependency

India exports 64 MMT of Refined petroleum products

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 : "Obstacles, sanctions & choke points"

Obstacles :

- Imported coking coal for steel industry: **243 million tonnes (2024-25)**
- Import dependence for "Critical Minerals": **Supply - Chain vulnerability**

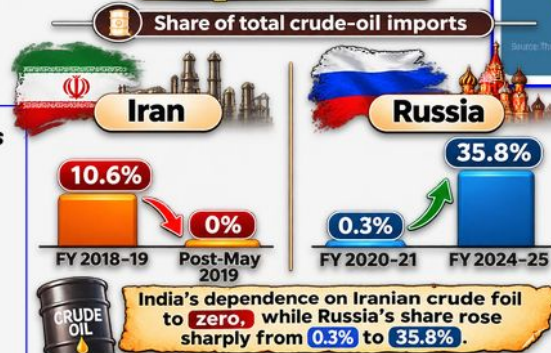
Sanctions :

- Lindsey O. Graham Act 2026** : USA's tariff imposition on countries that purchase oil from Russia
- Stop Harboring Iranian Petroleum (SHIP) Act 2024**

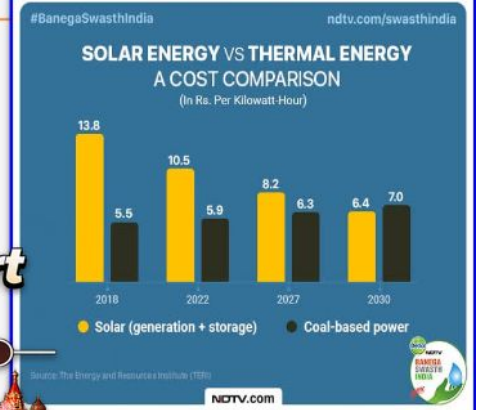
Choke Points :

- Blockade of **Strait of Hormuz** by Iran
- China's "**String of Pearls**" in Indo - Pacific

Change in India's Crude-Oil Import Dependence



Issues with Renewable Energy:



Chapter 4 : Strategic Way Forward : Adaptation & Reforms :

"As the consumption increases, Focus on **Faster adaptation**"

"The Demand"?

- 3rd largest** energy consumer
- 3rd largest** fossil fuel consumer
- 4th largest** refiner & LNG importer globally
- Energy demand : Grow **2.5 times** by 2047
- 25%** incremental demand by 2047 will come from India

The Supply :

- MoPNG : Unblock **42 billion tonnes** of Natural Gas
- Streamlining licensing under **OALP**
- Promotion of **PPP projects** in exploration & ownership
- Extension of **City Gas Networks** & PNG connections

Semicon India 2026: Amid 'weaponisation' of supply chains, PM pitches India as a 'trustworthy' chipmaking destination

India to pump in about ₹200 crore to explore, develop five lithium blocks in Argentina: Govt.

Argentina is the part of the 'lithium triangle' along with Chile and Bolivia with more than half of the world's total lithium resources



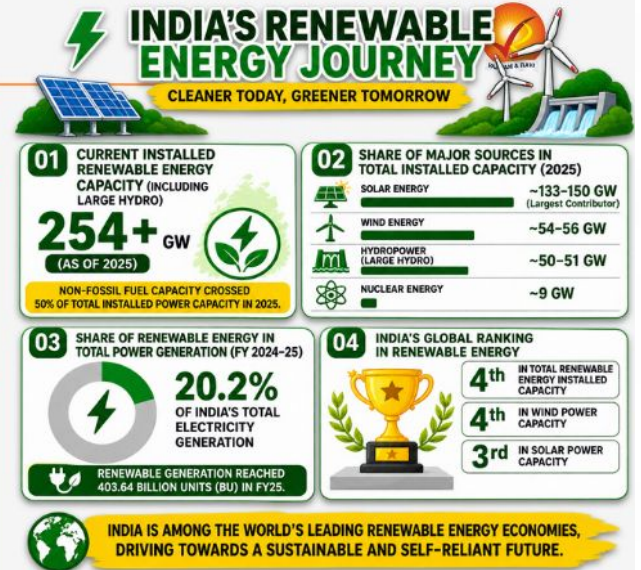
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Chapter 4 : Strategic Way Forward : Adaptation & Reforms :

Initiatives to boost Renewable Energy in India :

PM - Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ministry of New & Renewable EnergyInstall rooftop solar panels on 1 crore households40% subsidy cost borne by GovtSave ₹75,000 crore annually in electricity costs
Green Hydrogen Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ministry of New & Renewable EnergyProduce 5 MMT of Green Hydrogen by 2030Add 125 GW of Renewable Energy Capacity by 2030India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant : Jorhat, Assam
Green Energy Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Inter & Intra State Transmission Systems20 GW of Power projects in RE Rich states like Gujarat, TN & Uttar Pradesh



Mains Practise Question

Question : What is the current status of Energy sector in India? What are the challenges that persists in achieving Energy Sustainability due to Geopolitical tensions? What are the steps taken by the Government of India in this context? (15 Marks, 250 words)



CPCB : Order APCDs or Shut Down

CONTEXT: Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has directed pollution control authorities in Delhi-NCR to shut industrial units that have failed to place orders for installing or upgrading Air pollution control devices (APCDs)

Mains Heading 1: The "Urgent Call" for Structural Reforms?

Context of News :

- ❑ **Air pollution control devices (APCDs)** are filtration & emission control systems
- ❑ Fitted to **industrial exhaust stacks** to capture particulate matter before gases are released into the atmosphere
- ❑ Government's **winter pollution management framework** : Curbs on vehicles, construction activities & other sources of pollution

Delhi : Pollution "Capital"?

WHO Report 2024 :
3rd most polluted country

Delhi : World's most polluted capital city

96% population exposed to high level of PM 2.5

LANCET Report 2023 :
Air pollution : **11% deaths per annum** in Delhi

What is the "extent"?

While the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 24-hour guideline for PM 10 is $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, Delhi's hourly readings were already over 16 times higher, showing how high pollution levels surged before the festival night.

Mains Heading 2: The "Cause" behind "Breathing Crisis" :

What is Stubble Burning?

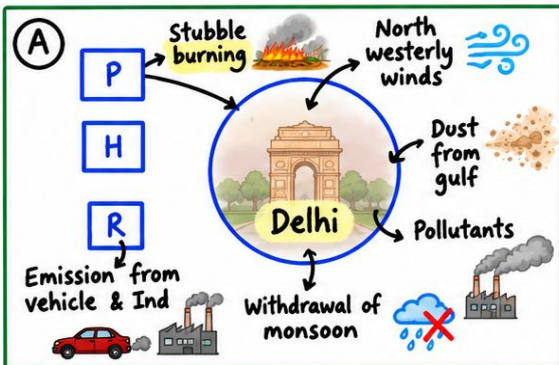
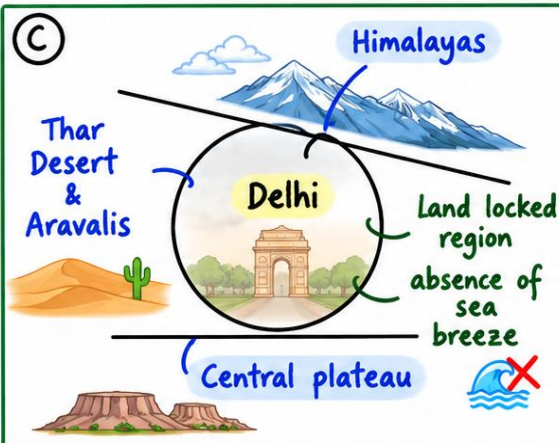
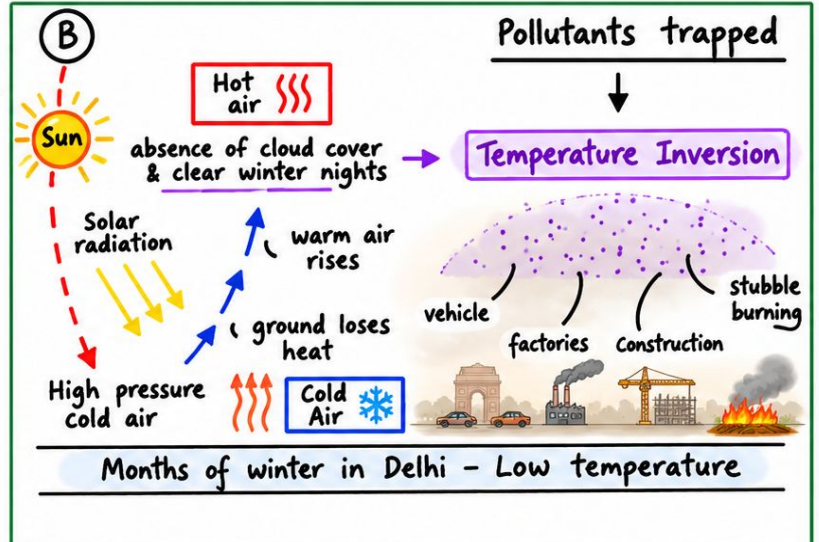
Stubble burning is the practice of **setting fire to crop residue**, consisting of the lower parts of plants left after harvesting. Practice is prevalent from the beginning of **October to the end of November** across northwest India in **Green Revolution Belt**



01st November 2026

CONTEXT: Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has directed pollution control authorities in Delhi-NCR to shut industrial units that have failed to place orders for installing or upgrading Air pollution control devices (APCDs)

CAUSES OF POLLUTION IN DELHI



→ Expansion of "Grey" Infrastructure



→ Absence of Green-Blue spaces



→ Land use changes



→ Rapid Urbanisation



DATA about Stubble Burning:

Punjab, Haryana & Western UP = 29 million metric tons of paddy straw

Releases large amount of VOCs, Carcinogenic substances forming a thick smog

ISRO Study: 31 million tonnes equivalent CO₂ emission & 1.3 Million tonnes Particulate Matter pollution

Mains Heading 2: The "Cause" behind "Breathing Crisis":

Harmful impact of Stubble Burning?

- ❑ Loss of **soil fertility** by depleting nitrogen, sulphur, potash, phosphorus & other micronutrients
- ❑ Heat generated by stubble burning results in a **loss of soil moisture** & organic content
- ❑ Leads to **increased use of fertilizers** in the next crop cycle
- ❑ **Cardiovascular Diseases** for Humans
- ❑ Dent **India's image** at International level

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Punjab Preservation of Sub-Soil Water Act, 2009

2012 = **73%** cropped area was irrigated using groundwater resources

Deficit of **14.31 billion cubic metres** : Excessive withdrawal of Groundwater

1999-2009 : Groundwater declined at alarming rate of **0.36 metres annually**

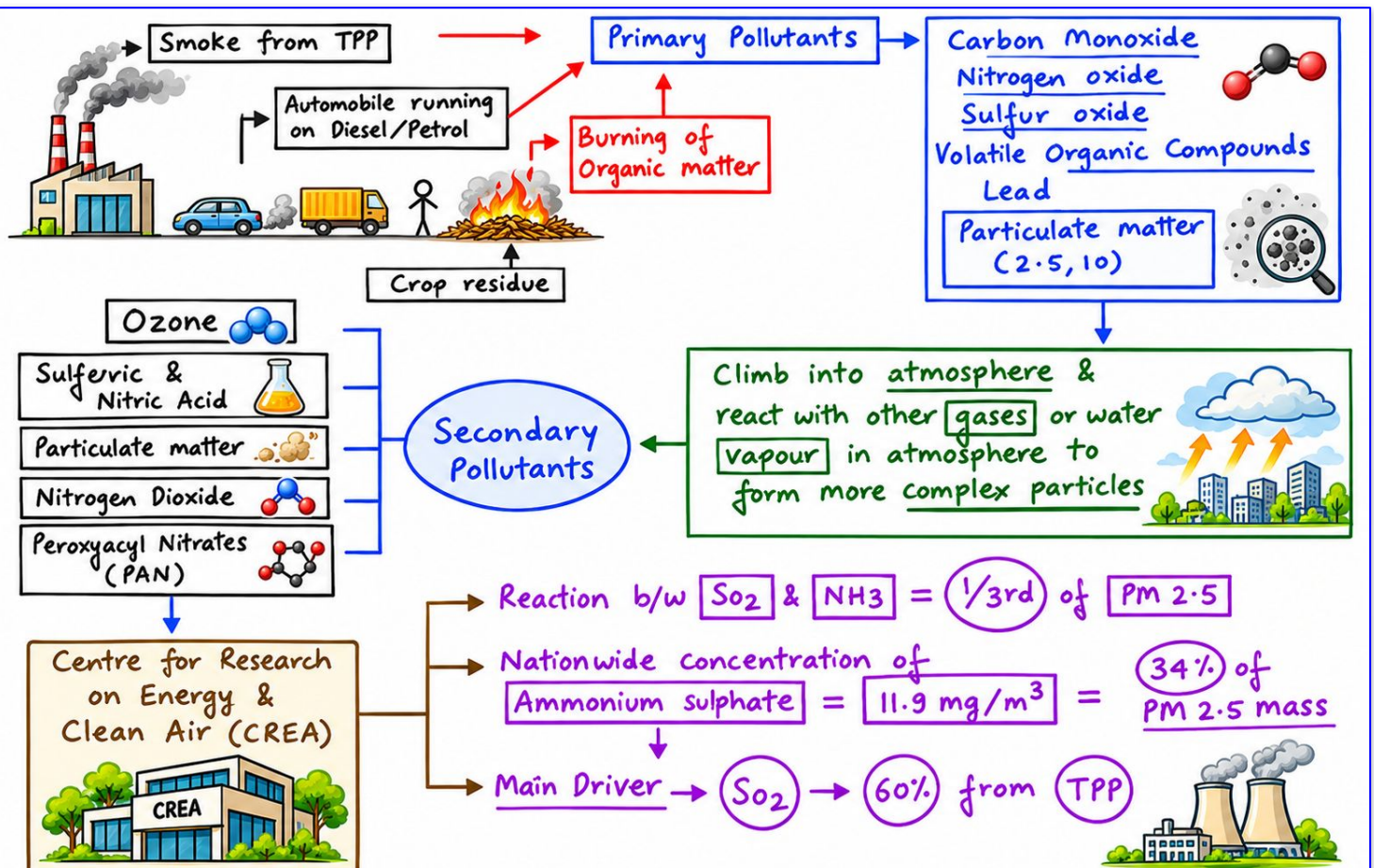
Act: Prevent rapid groundwater depletion

"Do NOT sow paddy before May 10 & transplant before 10 June"

Align it with arrival of **Monsoon**

Impact of delay in Harvesting?

- ❑ **Narrow 10-15-day window** to prepare their fields for the next **Wheat** crop
- ❑ **PUSA-44 variety**, which produces higher yields but takes **150-160 days** to harvest
- ❑ **Combine harvesters** leave about a foot of stubble behind put heavy pressure on farmers to clear the crop residue in a very short time
- ❑ **Manual clearing** : **Time consuming and expensive**
- ❑ **MSP** : 87% Punjab & 74% Haryana's Rice is procured by the GOI



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CREA Report 2024 :



SO₂ = Toxic gas with pungent smell

PM 2.5 combined with Ammonia (NH₃)

India? World's Top emitter

TPP: 240 times greater SO₂ emission than Stubble Burning

Mains Heading 3: "Factories of Prosperity, Engines of Pollution":

Categorisation of TPPs:

Category A:

- TPPs within **10 km** radius of the National Capital Region (NCR)
- Cities with a **million plus** population

Category B:

Within a 10 km radius of **critically polluted areas** or **non-attainment cities**.

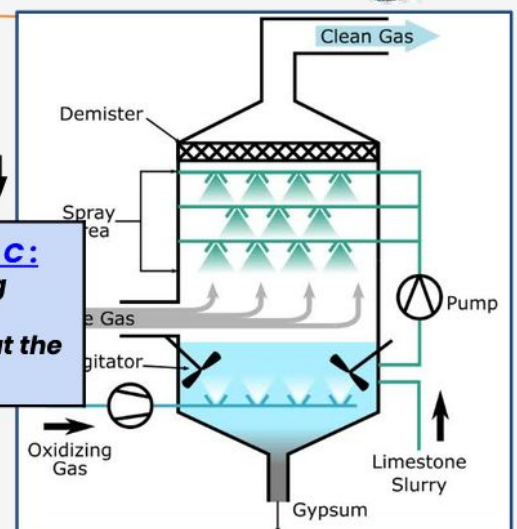
Category C:

Remaining Plants throughout the country

PENALTIES

- ₹0.2 / Unit = Delay up to 180 days
- ₹0.3 / Unit = Delay from 181 to 365 days
- ₹0.4 / Unit = Delay beyond 1 year

Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD):



CPCB : Order APCDs or Shut Down



CONTEXT: Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has directed pollution control authorities in Delhi-NCR to shut industrial units that have failed to place orders for installing or upgrading Air pollution control devices (APCDs)

Mains Heading 4 : Steps to tackle Air Pollution in India :

Steps Taken :

National Clean Air Programme

SATAT & FAME Scheme

Ban on use of Pet Coke & Furnace Oil as fuel

Technical Interventions :
Happy Seeder

Adoption of GREEN Crackers :
SWAS, STAR & SAFAL

National Clean Air Programme :

- ❑ Target : **40% reduction** in PM Levels by 2025-26 under NCAP from 2017 level
- ❑ Cities to be covered : **102**
- ❑ **131 cities** to be ranked on actions to reduce air pollution
- ❑ City specific air pollution abatement action plan
- ❑ **International Support Agencies** : World Bank, Swiss Development Corporation etc

Mains Practise Question

Discuss the major sources and impacts of air pollution in India. Examine the effectiveness of existing policy measures and suggest a comprehensive strategy to address the issue.
(150 words, 10 marks)



Newspaper : Indian Express, **Page No :** 12

A fire that devastated a river — and sparked its rejuvenation

Context of News :

Sandoz Chemical Spill in Basel, Switzerland in 1986 : International Commission for Protection of Rhine (ICPR) drew Rhine Action Programme (RAP) in 1987 for protection of important river

Originates in **Swiss Alps** &
Drains in **North Sea**

6 countries : Switz,
Liechtenstein, Austria, G, F & N

Industrial Importance :
Germany's Ruhr area

Drinking supply to 30
million people

RAP 1987

**Return of
Keystone
species :**
Salmon & 70
species of fishes
have returned

**Supply of
Drinking water
shall be
maintained**

**Checking Micro
- Pollutants &
Pharma
residues**



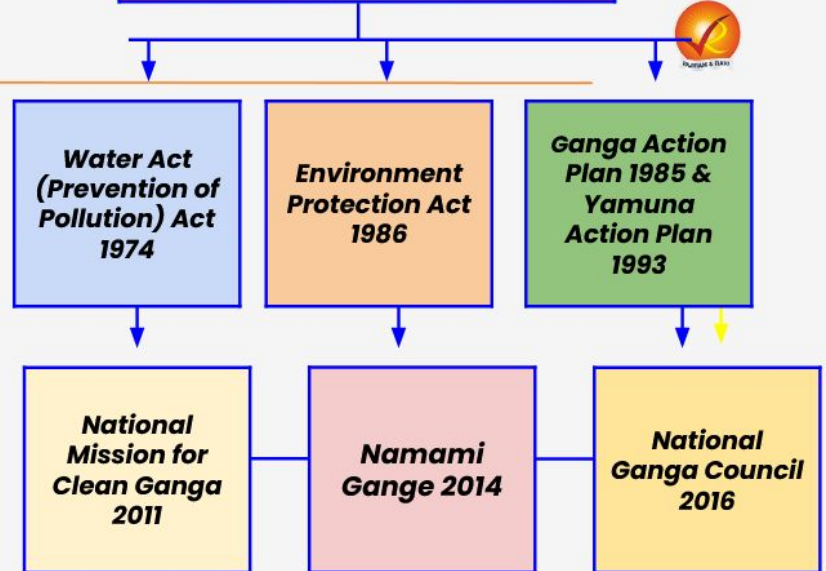
Newspaper : Indian Express, **Page No :** 12

"Value Additions" for Mains 2027:

Level of Water Contamination in India :

- ❑ **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
- ❑ **1986-2026 :** **₹24000 + crore** spent on cleaning 2 rivers : Ganga & Yamuna
- ❑ **Irony :** Polluted river stretches remains **296** on MoJS Website

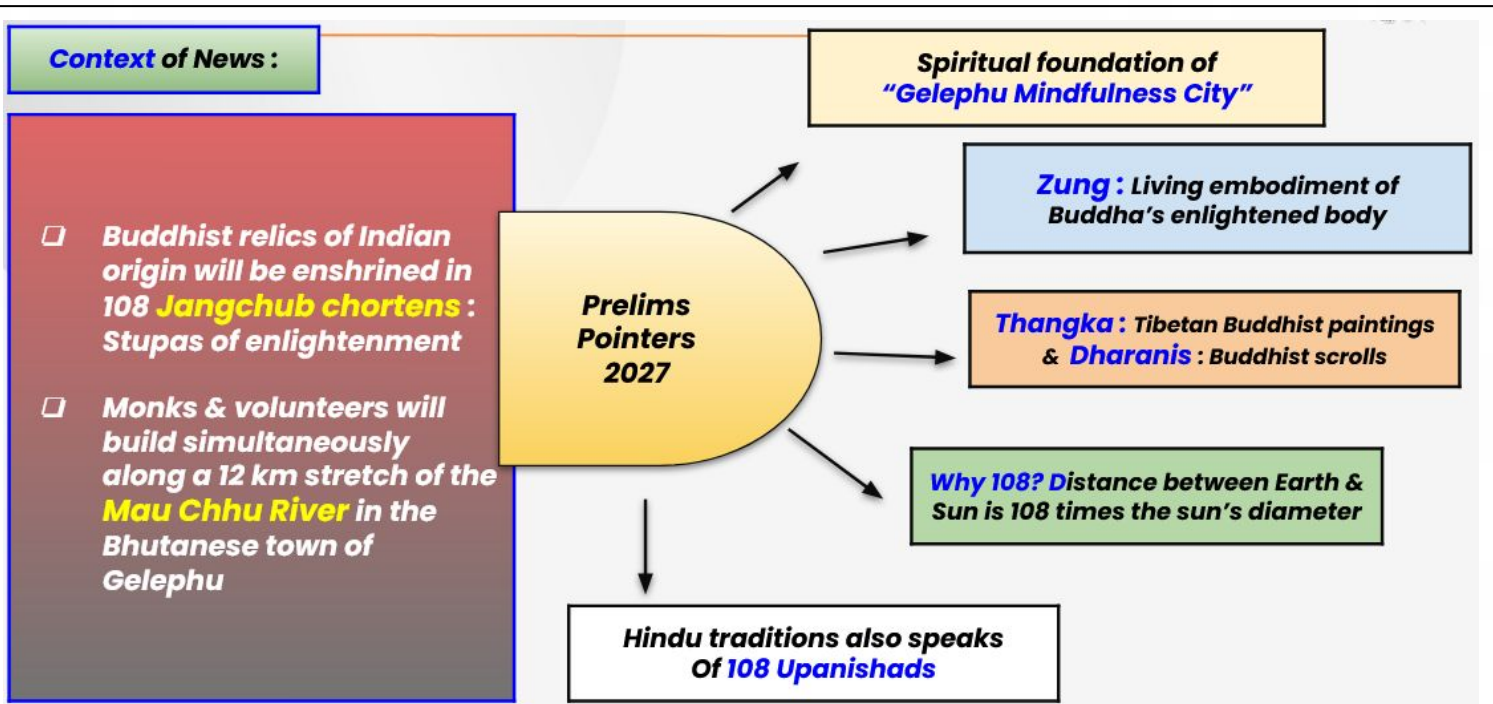
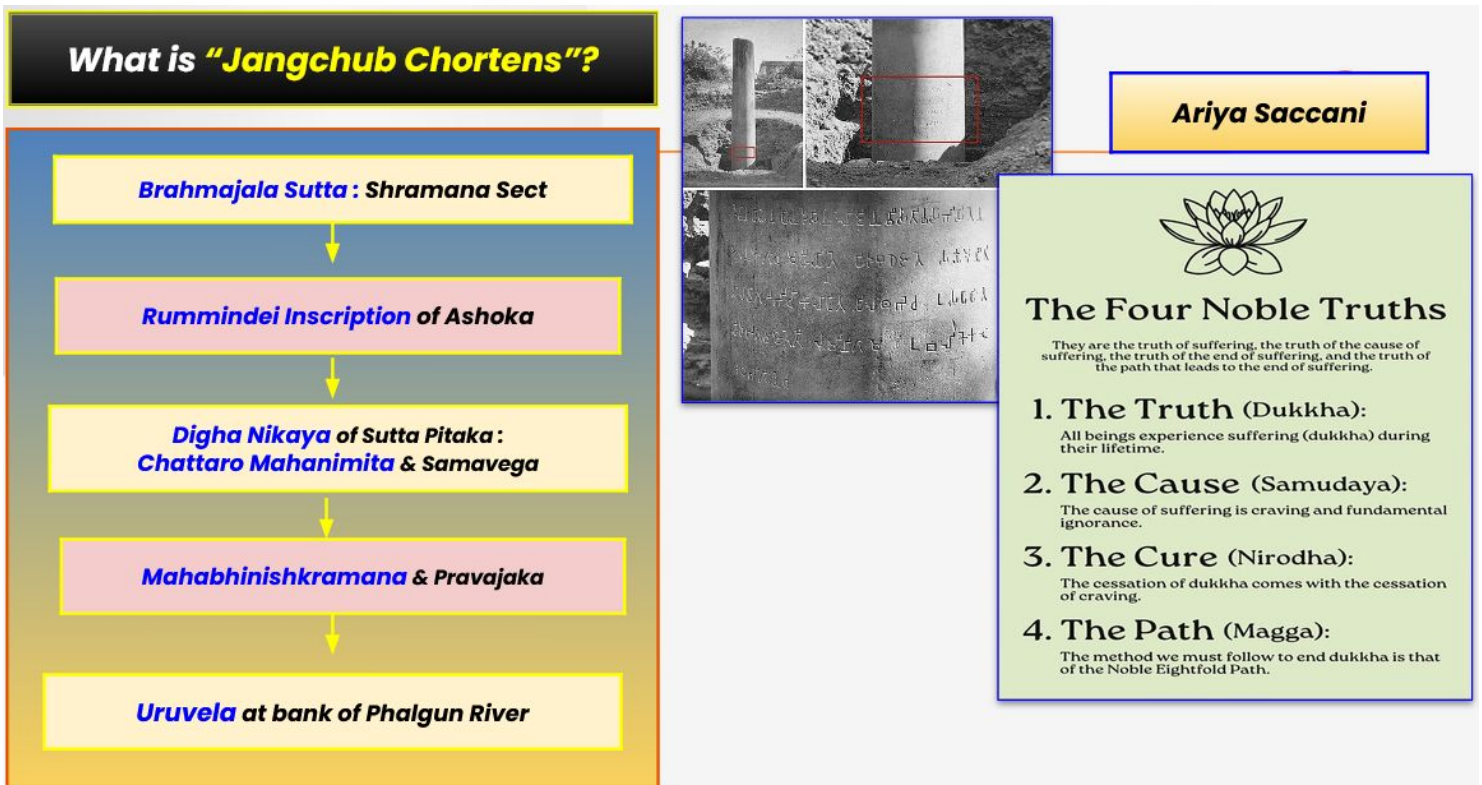
Initiatives for River Conservation :



01st November 2026

What is "Jangchub Chortens"?

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Art & Culture
Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No : 11**



What is "Jangchub Chortens"?

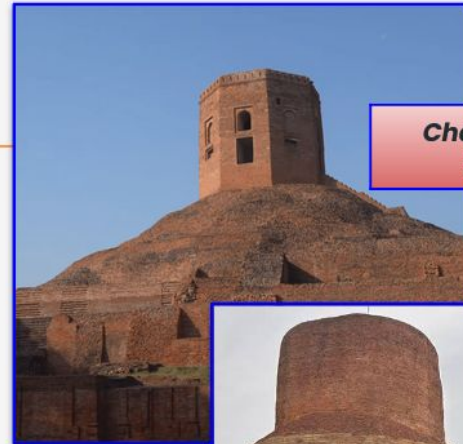
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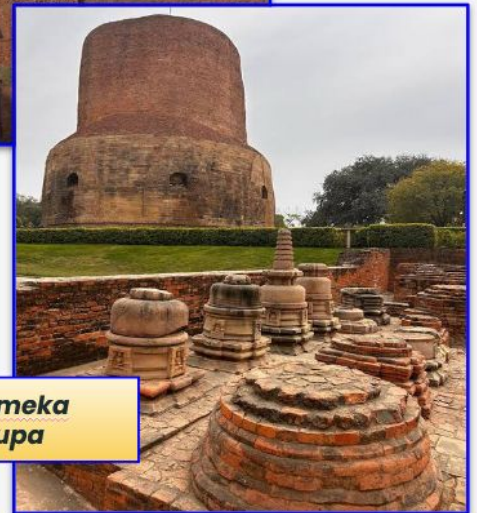


**First 5 Followers :
KBVAM**

Dhamma - Chakra - Pravartana



**Chaukhandi
Stupa**



**Dhameka
Stupa**

Ashoka (268-232 BCE) :

Saririka Stupas : 483 BCE

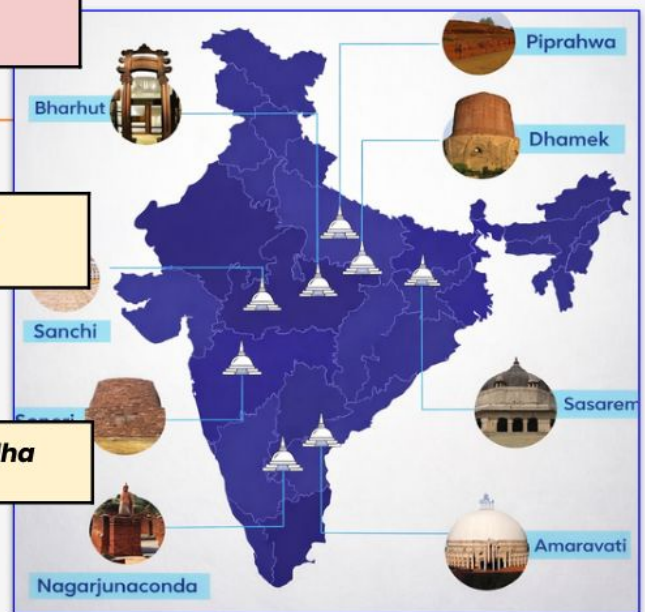
**Divyadana & Samudra :
84,000 stupas**

Place of Veneration

Symbolic depiction of Buddha

Jataka stories

**"Stupas were
burial mounds
prevalent
since Vedic
times where
relics & ashes
were kept"**



**Prateyaka
Buddhas**

Stupas made for Buddha's colleagues

Chaitya

Stupas built over site of funeral pyre i.e; Chita



Article 51 A : Your Fundamental Duties



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Salient Features of Constitution
Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No : 9**

Article 51 A : Your Fundamental Duties

What are
Fundamental
Duties?

- **Moral, civic & constitutional obligations** expected from every citizen of India
- Enjoying constitutional rights also entails certain **responsibilities towards the country & society**

Constitutional
Position?

- Included in **Part IV - A** & Article 51 A
- Recommended by **Swaran Singh Committee**
- Included by **42nd CA 1976**
- Originally there were 10 FD : The **86th CA 2002** added another Constitutional duty
- Fundamental Duties are **Non - Justiciable in the nature**

Context of News :

- ❑ **SC Judge :** "Society that accepts claims without evidence, fears questions & treats tradition as beyond question becomes **vulnerable to misinformation, defenceless in the face of authoritarianism** and fails to reform unjust practices."
- ❑ **"Building a scientific temper enshrined in Article 51A should not be concerned to laboratories but extend to capacity of youths & students to think rationally as members of a civil & political society"**

KT Shah : Constitution was giving excessive importance to rights while neglecting corresponding obligations

Pattabhi Sitaramayya : Freedom of speech should coexist with respect for the dignity and rights of others



Article 51 A : Your Fundamental Duties



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Salient Features of Constitution
Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No : 9**

Fundamental Duties : Article 51 A (a-k)

51 A (a)	<i>Abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals, institutions, National Flag and National Anthem</i>
51 A (b)	<i>Cherish and follow the noble ideals of the freedom struggle</i>
51 A (c)	<i>Uphold and protect India's sovereignty, unity and integrity</i>
51 A (d)	<i>Defend the country and render national service when called upon</i>
51 A (e)	<i>Promote harmony and brotherhood & renounce practices derogatory to women's dignity</i>
51 A (f)	<i>Value and preserve India's composite cultural heritage</i>
51 A (g)	<i>Protect and improve the natural environment and show compassion towards living creatures</i>
51 A (h)	<i>Develop scientific temper, humanism, spirit of inquiry and reform</i>
51 A (i)	<i>Safeguard public property and abjure violence</i>
51 A (j)	<i>Strive towards excellence in individual and collective activities</i>
51 A (k)	<i>As a parent or guardian, provide opportunities for education to children between 6 to 14 years</i>



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Indian Economy
Newspaper : The Indian Express, **Page No : 13**

NEW Insolvency & Bankruptcy Rules

Context of News :

- ❑ **Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) :** If company has multiple real estate projects then Resolution professionals shall place "project wise completion status" before **Committee of Creditors (CoC)**
- ❑ CoC can then decide with 66% majority whether they want to avail **Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)**

Understanding the Terms:

What is Insolvency?

Inability to pay Interest or Principal amount for a period of **90 days**

Then What is Bankruptcy?

Incapability of paying dues thus need to start **Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)**

NEW Insolvency & Bankruptcy Rules

Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code 2016

National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)

To resolve insolvency among Individual & Companies

Registered under Companies Act 2013

Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA)

Section 4 : Minimum default amount is ₹1 Crore

Application filed to NCLT by:
Financial Creditor or **Operational Creditor**

NCLT must decide within **14 days**

Section 16 : Appointment of Interim Resolution Professionals : Prepare resolution plan

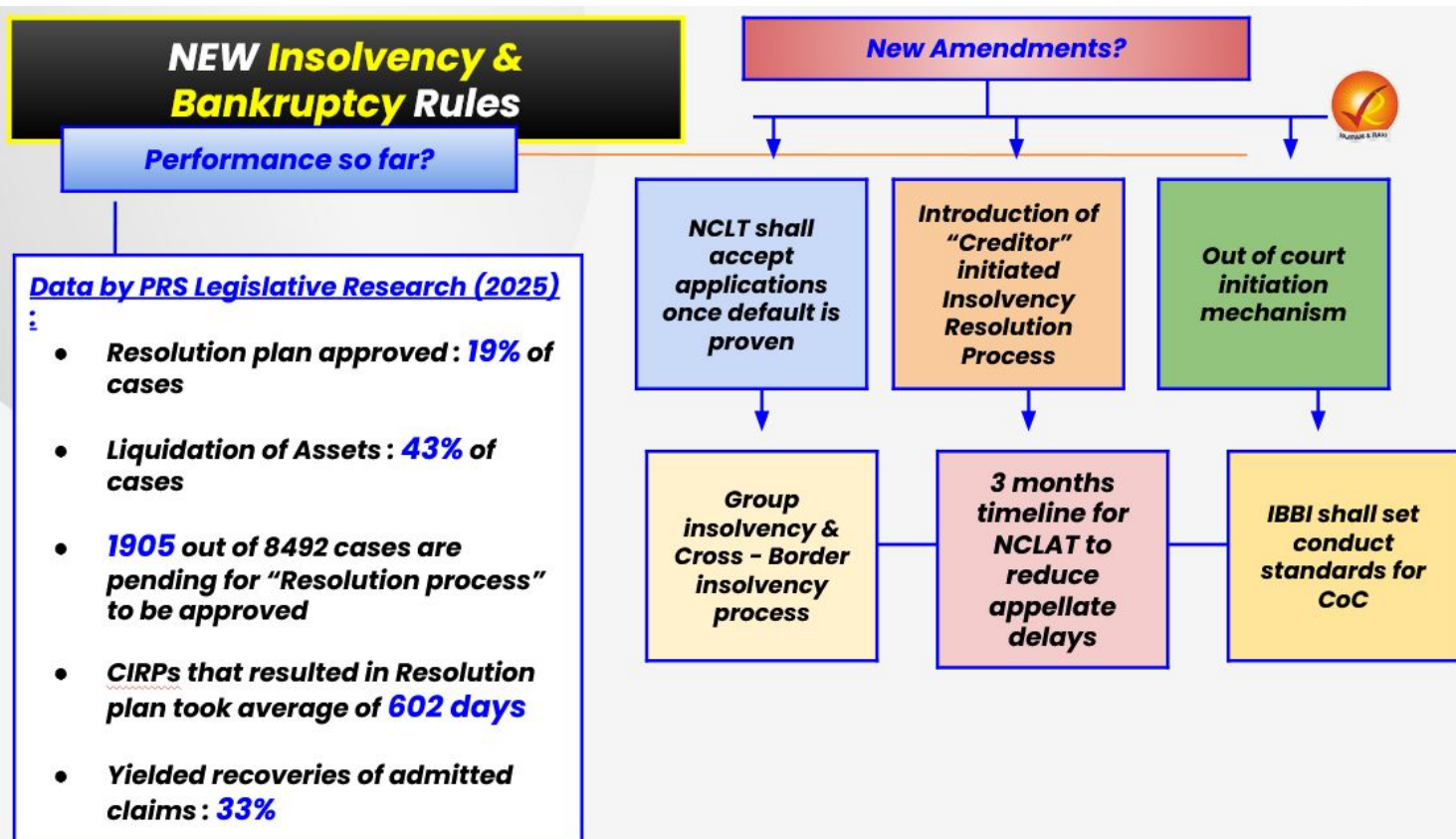
Committee of Creditors (CoC) : 66% shall agree else liquidation of assets

Time Limit = 180 + 90 days (Max 330 Days)



NEW Insolvency & Bankruptcy Rules

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Indian Economy
Newspaper : The Indian Express, **Page No : 13**



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Science & Technology
Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No :** Science

Hepatitis B

- ❑ **Hepatitis B virus (HBV) :** DNA virus that primarily infects liver cells (hepatocytes)
- ❑ **CRMA-1001 :** Experimental epigenetic silencer developed by nChroma Bio to suppress HBV gene expression

Gene Silencing Therapy

- ❑ Disease causing Gene produces **M- RNA**
- ❑ Therapeutic molecules (**siRNA**) target the specific M- RNA
- ❑ Harmful protein production subsides or gets eliminated
- ❑ **Inclisiran :** Reduces LDL Cholesterol in Liver by silencing PCSK9 production in liver
- ❑ **Gene Editing?** Targets & changes DNA (CRISPR - Cas9)

Look through, look past

If CRMA-1001 is eventually approved for the market, it will be a novel way to tackle a viral infection

■ Scientists have known that adding methyl groups to cytosine allows cells to switch off specific target genes

■ Hepatitis B infections persist in liver cells because current medical treatments rarely eliminate the viral DNA

■ Using CRISPR and mRNA technology, a new therapy precisely directs the methylation machinery to the targeted viral genome

The hepatitis B virus mainly infects liver cells. After entering a cell, the virus's DNA serves as the template to make new viral particles.
U.S. CDC

■ Tests with infected mice demonstrated that the therapy achieved undetectable levels of viral DNA over time

■ The approach provides a functional cure by silencing the pathogen rather than eliminating its genetic material

■ Ongoing clinical trials are working to test whether this epigenetic silencing can be permanent



Q1. With reference to Buddhist traditions and art, consider the following statements:

1. Jangchub Chortens are stupas associated with enlightenment.
2. Zung refers to sacred contents placed inside stupas, symbolising the living embodiment of Buddha's enlightened body.
3. Thangkas are sacred Buddhist scrolls.
4. Dharanis are traditional Tibetan Buddhist paintings.

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

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

Answer: b

Q2. With reference to the Fundamental Duties enshrined in the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. Fundamental Duties were incorporated through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976.
2. Their inclusion was recommended by the Swaran Singh Committee.
3. Originally, the Constitution provided for eleven Fundamental Duties.
4. Fundamental Duties are non-justiciable in nature.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d

Q3. With reference to insolvency, consider the following statements:

1. Insolvency refers to the inability to pay interest or principal amount for a period of 90 days.
2. Under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, the maximum time limit for resolution, including extensions, is 180 days.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q4. With reference to Hepatitis B, consider the following statements:

1. Hepatitis B virus (HBV) primarily infects liver cells known as hepatocytes.
2. CRMA-1001 is an experimental epigenetic silencer developed to suppress HBV gene expression.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q5. The Rhine Action Programme is associated with cooperation among which of the following sets of countries?

- a) Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, France and Netherlands
- b) Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, France and Italy
- c) Austria, Poland, Germany, France, Belgium and Netherlands
- d) Switzerland, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Italy and Luxembourg

Answer: a





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