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Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

28th November 2026



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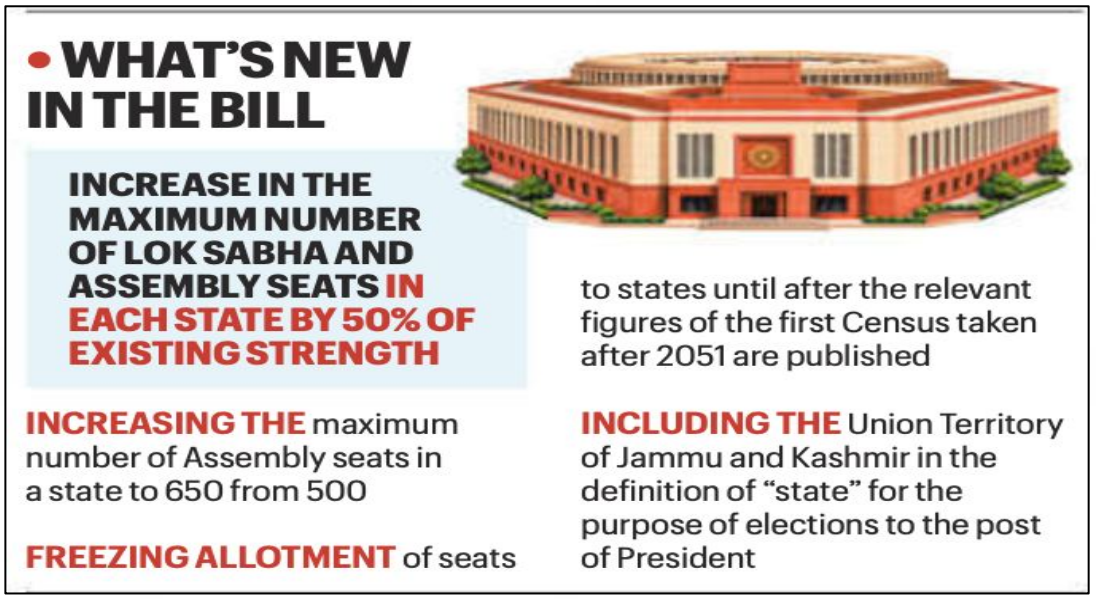
Women's reservation and delimitation

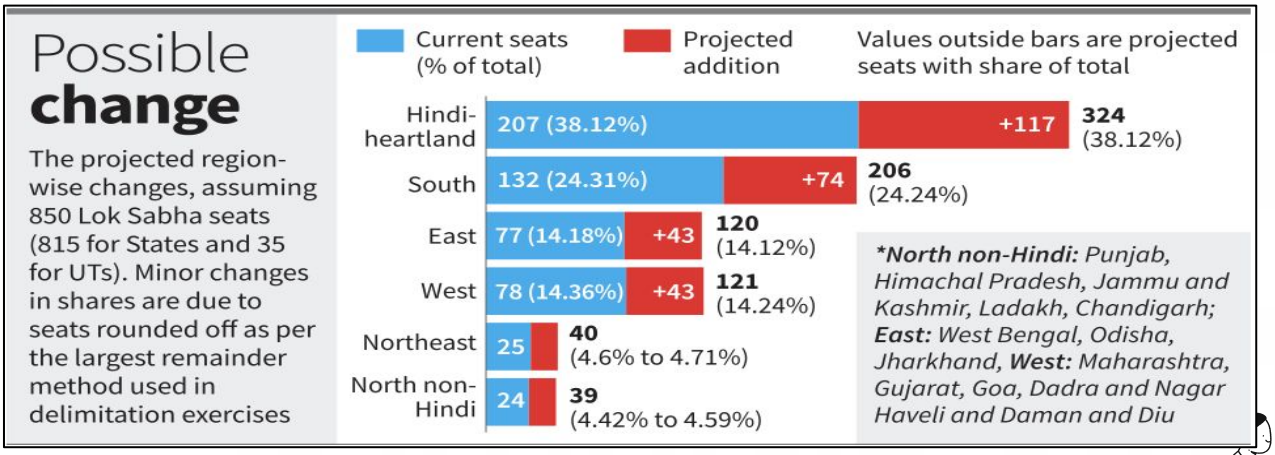
CONTEXT: The proposed implementation of the 106th Constitutional Amendment through delimitation has renewed debates over women's political representation and electoral equality

Women's reservation and delimitation

The Constitution (132nd Amendment) Bill, 2026

- Increasing the maximum strength of the Lok Sabha to 850.
- Increasing the seat allocation of every State and UT by 50%.
- Maintaining the relative representation of States until 2051.
- Facilitating women's reservation ahead of the 2029 general elections.





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Women's reservation and delimitation

CONTEXT: The proposed implementation of the 106th Constitutional Amendment through delimitation has renewed debates over women's political representation and electoral equality

Women's reservation – Timeline

1974 – Towards Equality Report
Highlighted the political marginalisation of women and the need to strengthen their participation in decision-making.

1992-93 – 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments
Provided for at least one-third reservation for women in Panchayats and Municipalities.

1996 – First Women's Reservation Bill
Sought one-third reservation for women in Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies but lapsed.

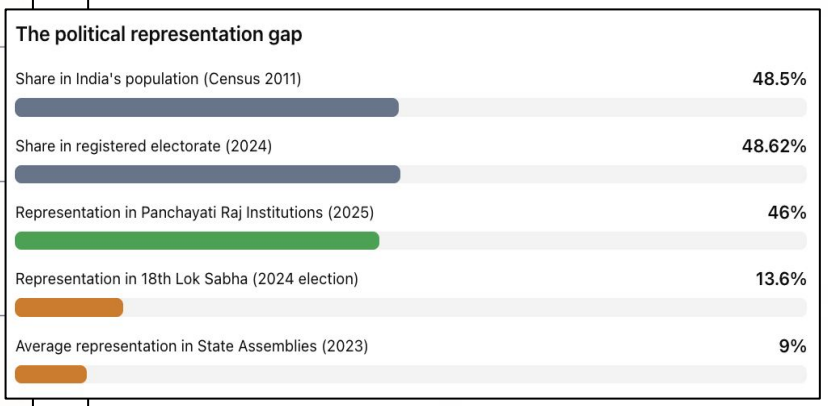
2010 – 108th Constitutional Amendment Bill
Passed by the Rajya Sabha but lapsed following the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha.

2023 – 106th Constitutional Amendment Act
Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam provided constitutional recognition to women's reservation in legislatures.

2026 – Renewed legislative efforts
Proposals to accelerate the implementation of women's reservation through delimitation.

Women's reservation – Necessity

- **Bridging the representation gap:** women's demographic share and legislative presence.
- **Corrective justice:** Addresses historical political exclusion: 9.6% of women candidates in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.
- **Gender-responsive governance:** Chattopadhyay–Duflo study (2004) - greater investment in drinking water infrastructure in women-led Panchayats.
- **Transformative social change:** Female political leadership - gender stereotypes, role models and raises the aspirations of young girls.
- **Strengthening democratic legitimacy:** Makes representative institutions more inclusive - composition reflects the demographic diversity of society.
- **Replicating grassroots success:** 46% of elected Panchayati Raj representatives
- **Bridging global disparities:** Women's representation in the Lok Sabha (13.6%) vs global parliamentary average of 27.5%



Women's reservation - Concerns

- **Delayed implementation:** Linking reservation with Census and delimitation - procedural dependencies
- **Proxy representation:** Patriarchal structures - women's independent decision-making
- **Elite capture:** Women from politically influential, economically privileged or dynastic backgrounds.
- **Intersectional exclusion:** Absence of a separate OBC women's sub-quota



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Women's reservation and delimitation

CONTEXT: The proposed implementation of the 106th Constitutional Amendment through delimitation has renewed debates over women's political representation and electoral equality

- **Rotation of constituencies:** Weaken constituency–representative relationships, political continuity and long-term constituency development.
- **Structural barriers:** Unequal access to campaign finance, party nominations and leadership opportunities
- **Limited institutional coverage:** The reservation framework excludes the Rajya Sabha and State Legislative Councils

Arguments in Favour of Linkage	Concerns Regarding Linkage
Simultaneously addresses gender and demographic under-representation.	Makes women's reservation dependent on complex electoral restructuring.
Enables systematic identification of reserved constituencies.	Delays in delimitation may further postpone reservation.
Seat expansion may reduce resistance from incumbent legislators.	Women's reservation is possible even without expanding Parliament.
Facilitates recalibration of women's reservation within SC/ST reserved seats.	Combining two distinct reforms may complicate political consensus-building.



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Women's reservation – Way Forward

Dimension	Measures
Timely implementation	Establish a clear implementation roadmap; examine constitutional alternatives to prevent further delays.
Internal party reforms	Encourage greater allocation of electoral tickets and organisational leadership positions to women, including in unreserved constituencies.
Political capacity-building	Leadership training, legislative research assistance, mentorship and exposure to parliamentary procedures.
Financial empowerment	Improve access to campaign financing and political resources.
Preventing proxy representation	Ensure independent exercise of statutory powers, institutional accountability and action against unauthorised interference.
Intersectional representation	Facilitate political participation of women from marginalised castes, tribes and socio-economic backgrounds.
Gender-sensitive political ecosystem	Address political violence, online harassment and inadequate institutional support for women legislators.

Mains Practice Question

Q. Examine the significance of women's reservation in Indian legislatures and discuss the challenges in ensuring substantive political empowerment of women. (250 word / 15 Marks)



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Global energy order and India

CONTEXT: The IEA's World Energy Outlook 2026 highlights how geopolitical disruptions, climate imperatives and technological advancements are reshaping the global energy order, necessitating India to balance rising energy demand with security and sustainability.

Global energy order – Transition

Traditional vs Emerging Global Energy Order

Traditional Energy Order	Emerging Energy Order
Fossil fuel-centric	Increasingly low-carbon and diversified
Geographical concentration of energy resources	Greater potential for decentralised energy production
Oil and gas geopolitics	Critical minerals and clean technology geopolitics
Centralised power generation	Distributed energy generation
Supply-side energy management	Energy efficiency and demand-side management
Dependence on hydrocarbon-exporting countries	Emerging dependence on clean technology supply chains

Global energy order – Factors shaping Transition

- **Geopolitical disruptions:** The IEA describes the 2026 disruption through the Strait of Hormuz as the largest global energy supply shock in history.
-
- **Persistent energy inequalities:** Around 720 million people lack electricity and two billion depend on polluting cooking fuels globally.
- **Climate change imperatives:** Fossil fuel-induced emissions necessitate a transition towards low-carbon energy systems.
- **Changing energy demand:** Urbanisation, rising incomes, electric mobility, cooling requirements and energy-intensive data centres - transforming consumption patterns.
- **Technological advancements:** Falling renewable energy costs, improved battery storage
- **Quest for strategic autonomy:** Energy-importing countries are seeking domestic energy production and diversified supply.



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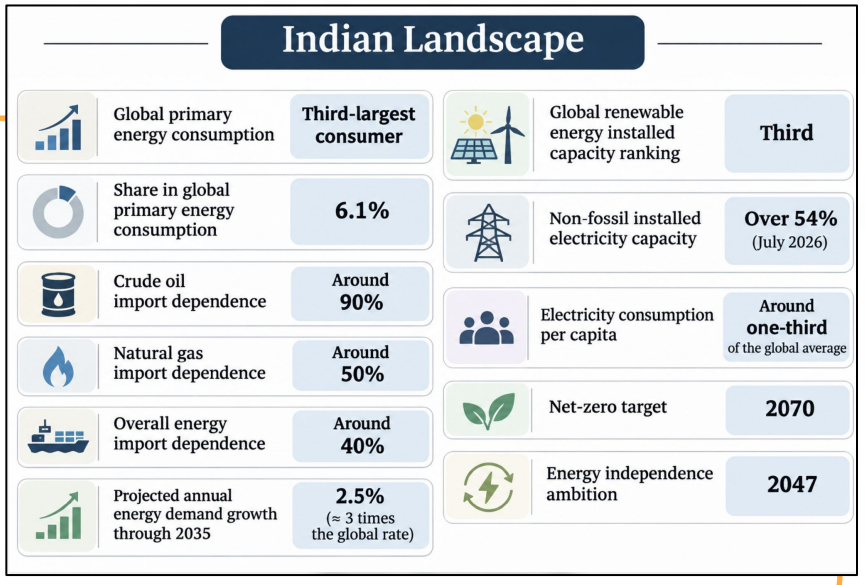
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Global energy order and India

CONTEXT: The IEA's World Energy Outlook 2026 highlights how geopolitical disruptions, climate imperatives and technological advancements are reshaping the global energy order, necessitating India to balance rising energy demand with security and sustainability.

Challenges for India in the emerging landscape

- **Rising energy demand**
- **External energy vulnerability**
- **Macroeconomic vulnerability**
- **Carbon lock-in**
- **Renewable energy integration**
- **Emerging technological dependency**
- **Energy equity**
- **Just transition challenges**



Way Ahead

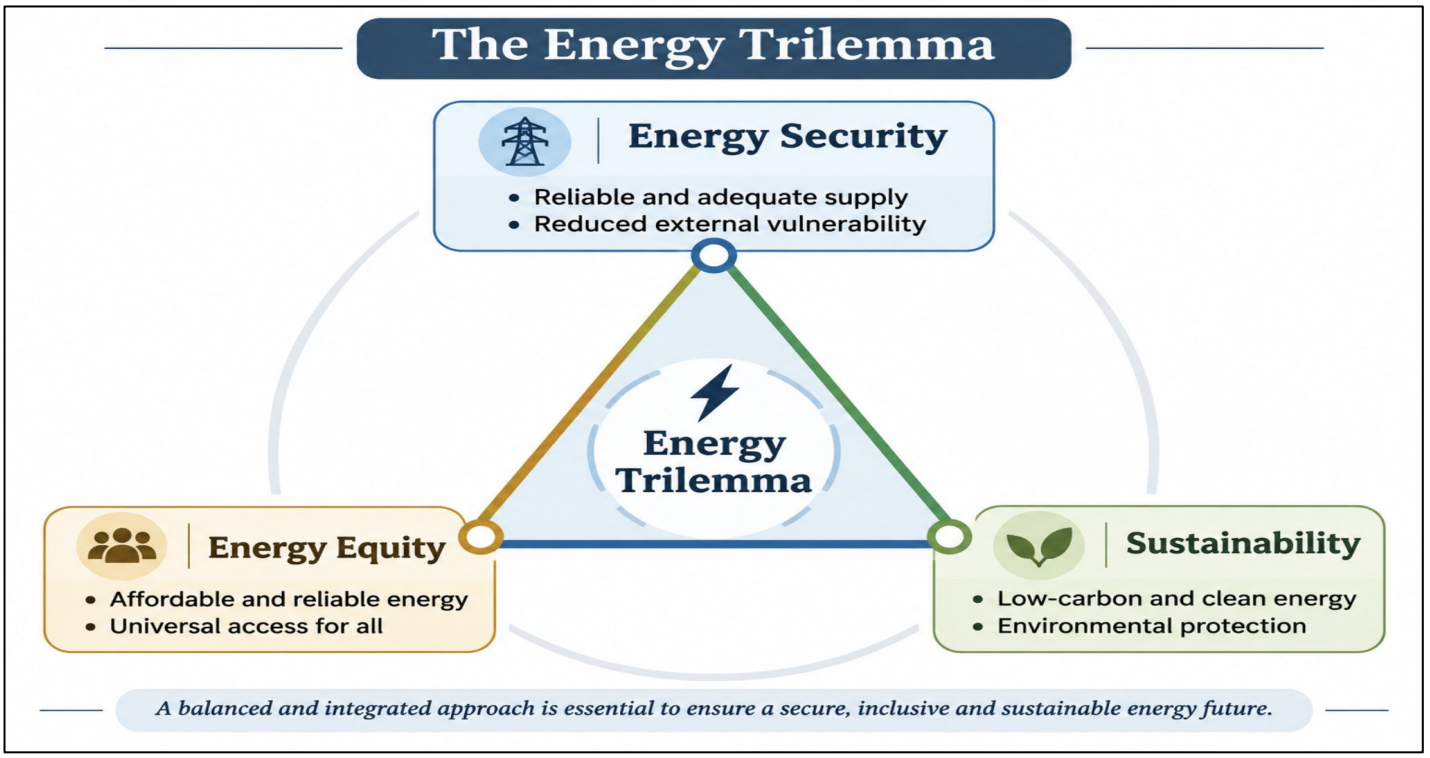
Energy diversification	Diversify hydrocarbon import sources, strengthen strategic petroleum reserves and expand domestic exploration.
Accelerated electrification	Promote electric mobility, railway electrification, electric cooking and industrial electrification.
Renewable energy expansion	PM-KUSUM, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and offshore wind development.
Alternative energy sources	National Green Hydrogen Mission, biofuels and nuclear energy expansion.
Demand-side management	Promote energy efficiency through PAT Scheme, UJALA and energy-efficient buildings and appliances.
Grid modernisation	Expand Green Energy Corridors, smart grids, battery storage and pumped storage capacity.
Technological self-reliance	PLI schemes for solar PV modules and advanced chemistry cell batteries.
Critical mineral security	National Critical Mineral Mission, overseas mineral acquisition, domestic exploration and recycling.
Energy diplomacy	International Solar Alliance, Global Biofuels Alliance and One Sun One World One Grid.
Just energy transition	Reskilling workers, diversifying coal-dependent economies and ensuring affordable energy access.

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Global energy order and India

CONTEXT: The IEA's World Energy Outlook 2026 highlights how geopolitical disruptions, climate imperatives and technological advancements are reshaping the global energy order, necessitating India to balance rising energy demand with security and sustainability.



Mains Practice Question

Q. Examine the implications of the changing global energy order for India. Suggest measures to ensure energy security and sustainability amidst its growing energy requirements. (250 word / 15 Marks)

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Mains Value Addition

Newspaper : Indian Express **Page Number : 14**

Despite high immunisation numbers, India likely to miss 2026 measles elimination target: WHO experts

Data and facts

- **Immunisation coverage:** India achieved 98% coverage for the first dose and 95% for the second dose of measles vaccine, exceeding the global averages of 84% and 77%, respectively (WHO–UNICEF).
- **Immunisation achievement:** 23 million births annually - India has moved out of the list of the ten countries with the highest number of unvaccinated children for the first time since estimates began in 2001.
- **Disease burden:** Measles cases in India declined from 65,150 in 2023 to 17,995 in 2025.
- **Preventive healthcare:** Measles vaccination has saved an estimated 60 million lives globally since 2000.
- **Elimination challenge:** Despite high immunisation coverage, India is likely to miss WHO's regional measles elimination target of 2026.

Last-mile service delivery	Pockets of unvaccinated children continue to undermine disease elimination despite high national immunisation coverage.
Inclusive governance	Aggregate indicators may mask geographical and socio-economic disparities, necessitating targeted interventions for unreached communities.
Outcome-based governance	High vaccination coverage does not automatically translate into disease elimination, highlighting the need to shift from output-based to outcome-based evaluation.
Resilient healthcare systems	Measles outbreaks following pandemic-induced immunisation disruptions underscore the need for continuity of essential health services during crises.
Behavioural dimensions of healthcare	Vaccine misinformation and disinformation highlight the importance of public trust, health literacy and effective risk communication.
Decentralised governance	Identification of subnational immunisation gaps calls for granular data, localised surveillance and context-specific interventions.



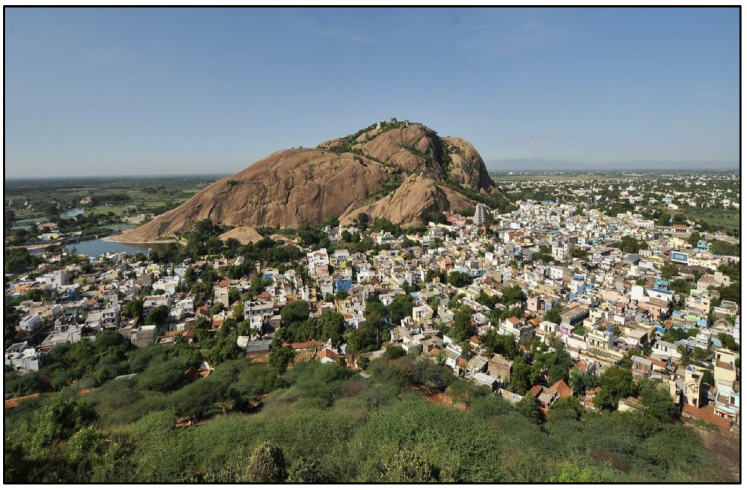
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Thiruparankundram Hill

SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : *Important Places In News;Culture*
Newspaper : The Hindu **Page Number : 1**

Thiruparankundram Hill

- **Location** - outskirts of Madurai.
- At its base stands the ancient **Arulmigu Subramanian Swamy Cave Temple**
- **Jain rock beds and caves** were also carved on the hill
- The summit houses the **burial site of the Sufi saint Sikkandar Badhusha (**dargah later developed)
- **Multiple identities** - "Samanar Hill" for its Jain links and "Sikkandar Hill" after the saint.





Karthigai Deepam

- **Nature:** An ancient **Hindu festival of lights**, predominantly celebrated in Tamil Nadu, besides parts of Kerala, Karnataka and Sri Lanka.
- **Timing:** Krittika (Karthigai) Nakshatra coincides with the full moon (Pournami) in the Tamil month of Karthigai (November–December).
- **Historical roots:** Among the oldest recorded festivals of Tamilakam, **mentioned in Sangam texts such as Akananuru and Narrinai.**
- **Shaivite tradition:** Commemorates Lord Shiva's manifestation as an infinite pillar of fire to settle the supremacy dispute between Brahma and Vishnu.
- **Murugan tradition:** Associated with the birth and nurturing of Lord Murugan (Kartikeya) by the six Krittika maidens.
- **Key ritual:** Lighting of earthen lamps, symbolising the dispelling of darkness and ignorance.

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Tiger Conservation Plans – Maharashtra

SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : ***Environment Conservation ; Protected areas***
Newspaper : Indian Express **Page Number : 1**

Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP)

- A mandatory, legally binding, 10-year management blueprint for every tiger reserve in India.
- **Legal basis:** Section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- **Prepared by:** Respective State Governments.
- **Approved by:** National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Major objectives:

- Protection of tigers, prey species and their habitats.
- Maintenance of ecological corridors between protected areas.
- Regulation of ecotourism and land-use activities.
- Mitigation of human–wildlife conflict.
- Safeguarding the livelihood interests of local communities.

Funding linkage

Annual Plans of Operation (APOs) - financial assistance from NTCA - derived from TCPs.

Sahyadri Tiger Reserve

- **Location:** Northern Western Ghats, western Maharashtra.
- **Constituent protected areas:** Chandoli National Park and Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Distinctive feature:** Lateritic plateaus and rugged mountainous terrain.
- **Significance:** Maharashtra's only tiger reserve outside the Vidarbha region

Melghat Tiger Reserve

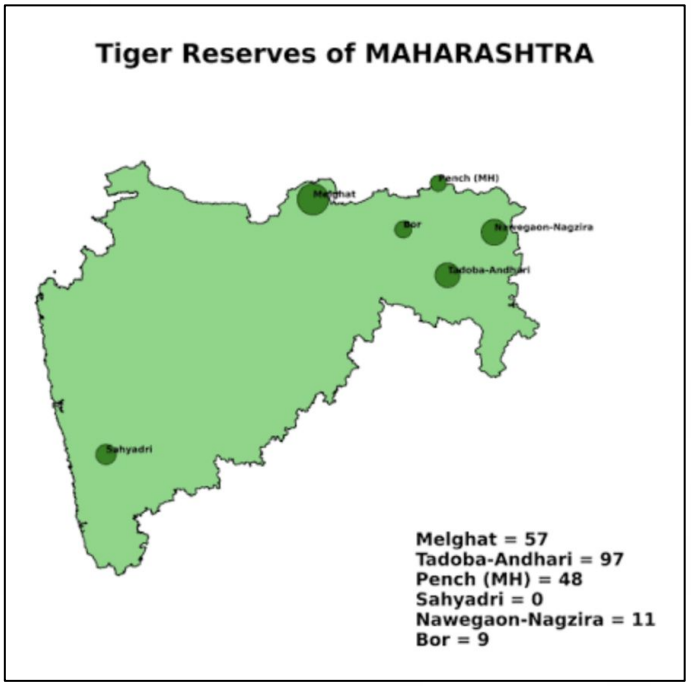
- **Location:** Amravati district, in the Gavilgarh Hills of the southern Satpura Range.
- **Established:** 1973–74; among the nine original reserves under Project Tiger.
- **Constituent protected areas:** Include Gugamal National Park and Melghat Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Rivers:** Tapi and its tributaries — Khandu, Khapra, Sipna, Gadga and Dolar.
- **Significance:** First and largest tiger reserve of Maharashtra.



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Tiger Conservation Plans – Maharashtra

SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : ***Environment Conservation ; Protected areas***
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Pench Tiger Reserve

- **Location:** Nagpur district, along the southern slopes of the Satpura Range.
- **River:** Pench River
- **Major reservoir:** Totladoh Reservoir on the Pench River.
- **Significance:** Contiguous with Pench Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh

Bor Tiger Reserve

- **Location:** Wardha and Nagpur districts, eastern Maharashtra.
- **Constituent protected areas:** Bor Wildlife Sanctuary, New Bor Wildlife Sanctuary and Extended New Bor Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **River:** Bor River.
- **Distinctive feature:** Smallest core area among Maharashtra's tiger reserves (138.12 sq. km).
- **Significance:** Acts as an ecological stepping stone connecting Pench, Tadoba-Andhari and Melghat tiger landscapes.

INS Vindhyagiri

SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : *Defence Technology in News*
Newspaper : The Hindu **Page Number : 10**

About Project 17A (P-17A)

- **Objective:** Indigenous construction of seven advanced Nilgiri-class stealth frigates for the Indian Navy.
- **Designed by:** Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau (WDB).
- **Constructed by:** Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- **Indigenous content:** Around 75%.

Key features:

- Enhanced stealth, survivability and combat capabilities.
- Multi-mission capabilities covering anti-surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare.
- Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion system.
- Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS).



Shipbuilder	Project 17A Frigates
MDL, Mumbai	Nilgiri, Udaygiri, Taragiri, Mahendragiri
GRSE, Kolkata	Himgiri, Dunagiri, Vindhyagiri

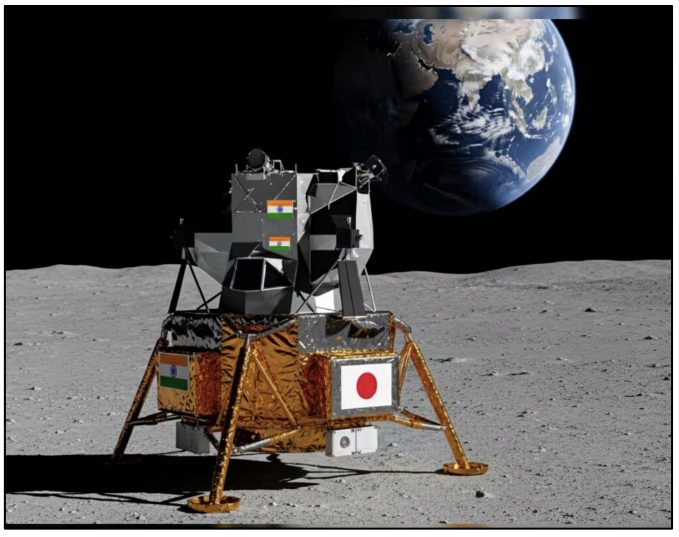
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Chandrayaan 5 (LUPEX)

SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : *Space technology*
Newspaper : Indian Express **Page Number : 14**

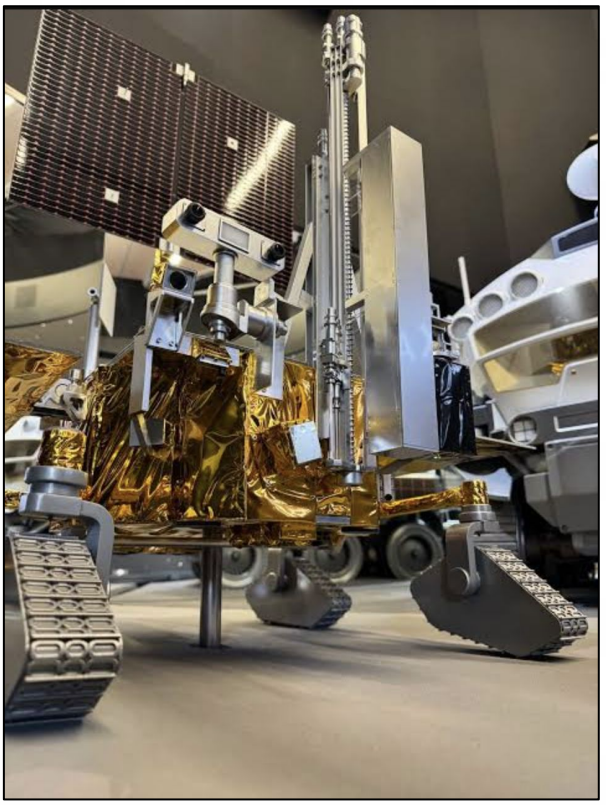
Chandrayaan-5 (LUPEX)

- **Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX)**
- Joint mission of ISRO and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).
- **Objective:** Exploration of water and water-ice deposits near the lunar south pole, including their quantity, distribution and characteristics.
- **Launch timeline:** Targeted for 2028
- **Launch vehicle:** Japan's H3-24L rocket.
- **Lander:** Being developed by ISRO.
- **Rover:** Being developed by JAXA, with the involvement of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI).
- **Scientific payloads:** Seven scientific instruments contributed by ISRO, JAXA, NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA).
- **NASA:** Neutron spectrometer - detect hydrogen-rich regions.
- **ESA:** Mass spectrometer - analyse lunar materials and volatile substances.
- **Mission duration:** Around 100 days (approximately three and a half months), with scope for extension.



Chandrayaan 5 Mission Objectives

- **Study lunar water:** The primary objective is to detect and analyse water and water-ice present on both the lunar surface and beneath the surface
- **Explore Permanently Shadowed Regions:** Investigate Permanently Shadowed Regions (PSRs) near the lunar south pole
- **Analyse lunar volatiles:** In situ analysis of lunar volatile materials using advanced scientific instruments to understand their distribution, composition and long term stability.
- **Drill lunar soil:** The rover will study the lunar regolith by examining water content, quality and composition, helping scientists understand the availability of resources beneath the Moon's surface





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Daily Quiz

Q1.Consider the following statements regarding Tiger Reserves in India:

1. Bor Tiger Reserve has the smallest total notified area among all tiger reserves in India.
2. Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is the northernmost tiger reserve in the Western Ghats.
3. Melghat Tiger Reserve was among the first nine reserves notified under Project Tiger.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Project 17A (P-17A):

Statement-I: Nilgiri-class stealth frigates mark a milestone in India's naval self-reliance.

Statement-II: All seven frigates are designed by the Warship Design Bureau and built domestically with around 75% indigenous content.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: a

Q3. With reference to Thiruparankundram Hill, consider the following statements:

1. It is located on the outskirts of Madurai.
2. It features Hindu and Jain rock-cut caves alongside a Sufi dargah.
3. It is also known as "Samanar Hill" and "Sikkandar Hill".

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Measles elimination in India:

Statement-I: Despite high vaccine coverage, India is likely to miss the WHO's 2026 regional measles elimination target.

Statement-II: Elimination requires zero local transmission for three consecutive years, while unvaccinated pockets sustain cases in India.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: a

Q5. With reference to Chandrayaan-5 (LUPEX), consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint ISRO–JAXA mission to explore lunar south pole water-ice.
2. ISRO is developing the lander, while Japan provides the rover and launch vehicle.
3. It carries payloads from ISRO, JAXA, NASA, and ESA.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d





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