



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

12th May 2026



Decentralised Solution for Waste crisis



CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Environment has notified the new Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 to be implemented by April 1, 2026 to promote reduction, recycle & reuse (3R) of Solid Waste in India

India to generate 0.7kg waste per person per day: by 2025: Report

Clean India Journal Editor 0



The rise in living standards fuelled by the industrial revolution and economic growth has dramatically reshaped consumption patterns, resulting in complex challenges for solid waste management (SWM). This shift in lifestyle has significantly increased the proportion of inorganic materials in waste, complicating SWM and elevating it to a global concern. A Report

Mains Heading 1: India's Mounting Solid Waste Challenge :

What is "Solid Waste"?

Pre - Industrial Revolution: Organic & safely disposable waste integrated into Geo - Chemical cycle

Wave of **Industrially manufactured goods & materials**

Waste from Residential & Commercial areas, E- Waste & Hazardous Plastic waste

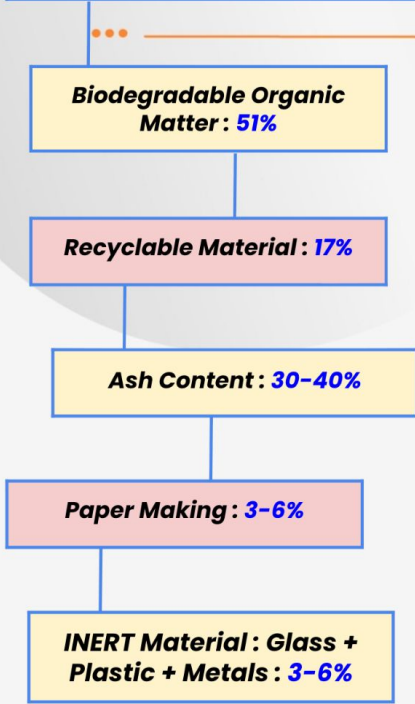
Intensity of Threat : CPCB Report 2024 :

- India : **1.85 Lakh tonnes** of waste daily
- 96% collected > 61% treated > **21%** landfilled
- 0.34 kg / person / per day (2023) to **0.7 kg / person / day** (2025)
- Surpass **Germany** (4th position) by 2030
- Only about **50%** of generated waste is treated

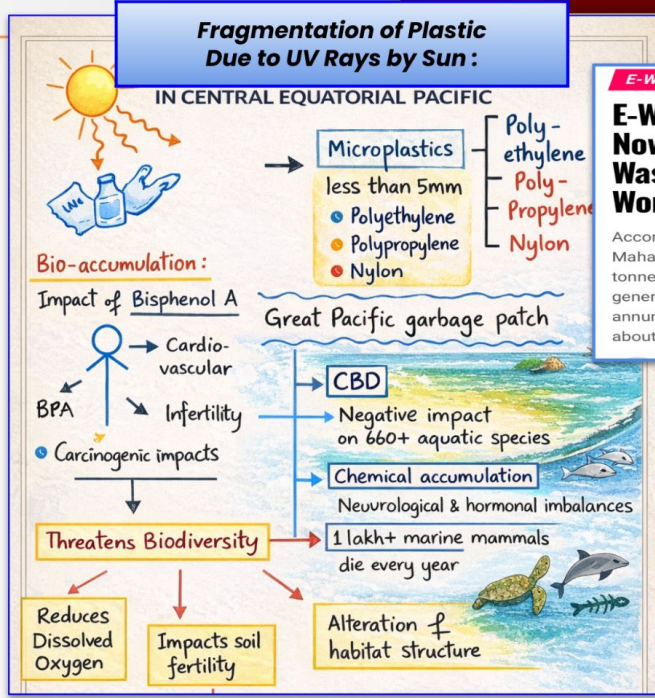
Decentralised Solution for Waste crisis

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Environment has notified the new Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 to be implemented by April 1, 2026 to promote reduction, recycle & reuse (3R) of Solid Waste in India

Composition of Solid Waste in India (2024)



Mains Heading 1: India's Mounting Solid Waste Challenge :

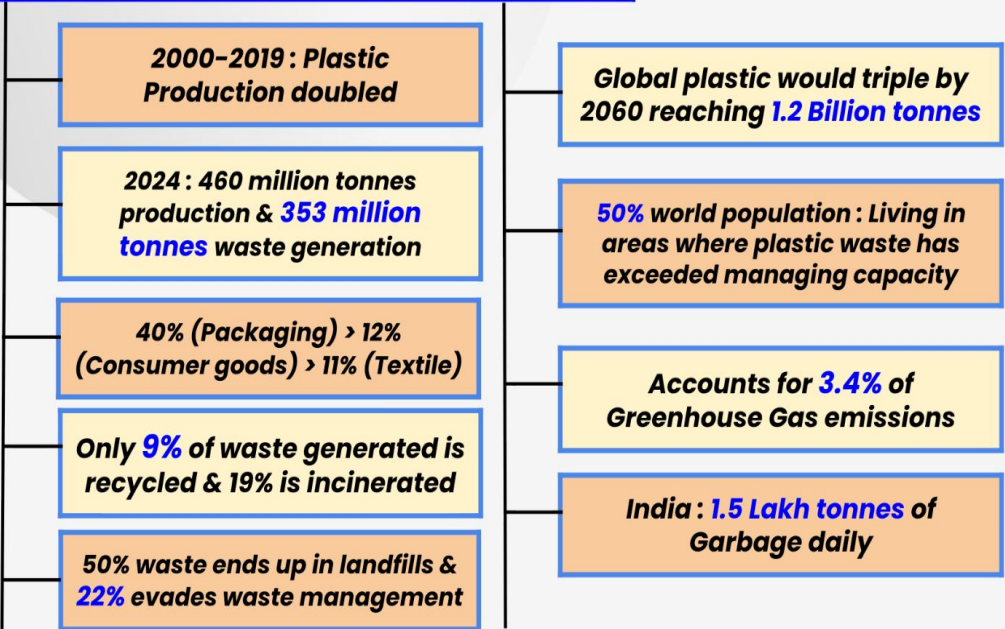


E-WASTE
E-Waste On The Rise: India Is Now One Of The Top Five E-Waste Producers In The World: Report
According to a joint study by ASSOCHAM-NEC, Maharashtra contributes the most to the 2 million tonnes of e-waste generated in India. The state generates 19.8 per cent (3,96,000 tonnes per annum) of country's e-waste, but recycles only about 47,810 tonnes per annum

Mains Heading 1: India's Mounting Solid Waste Challenge :

220 million tonnes of plastic waste will be created in 2024: EA Earth Action

"Global Plastic Outlook 2025" by OECD :



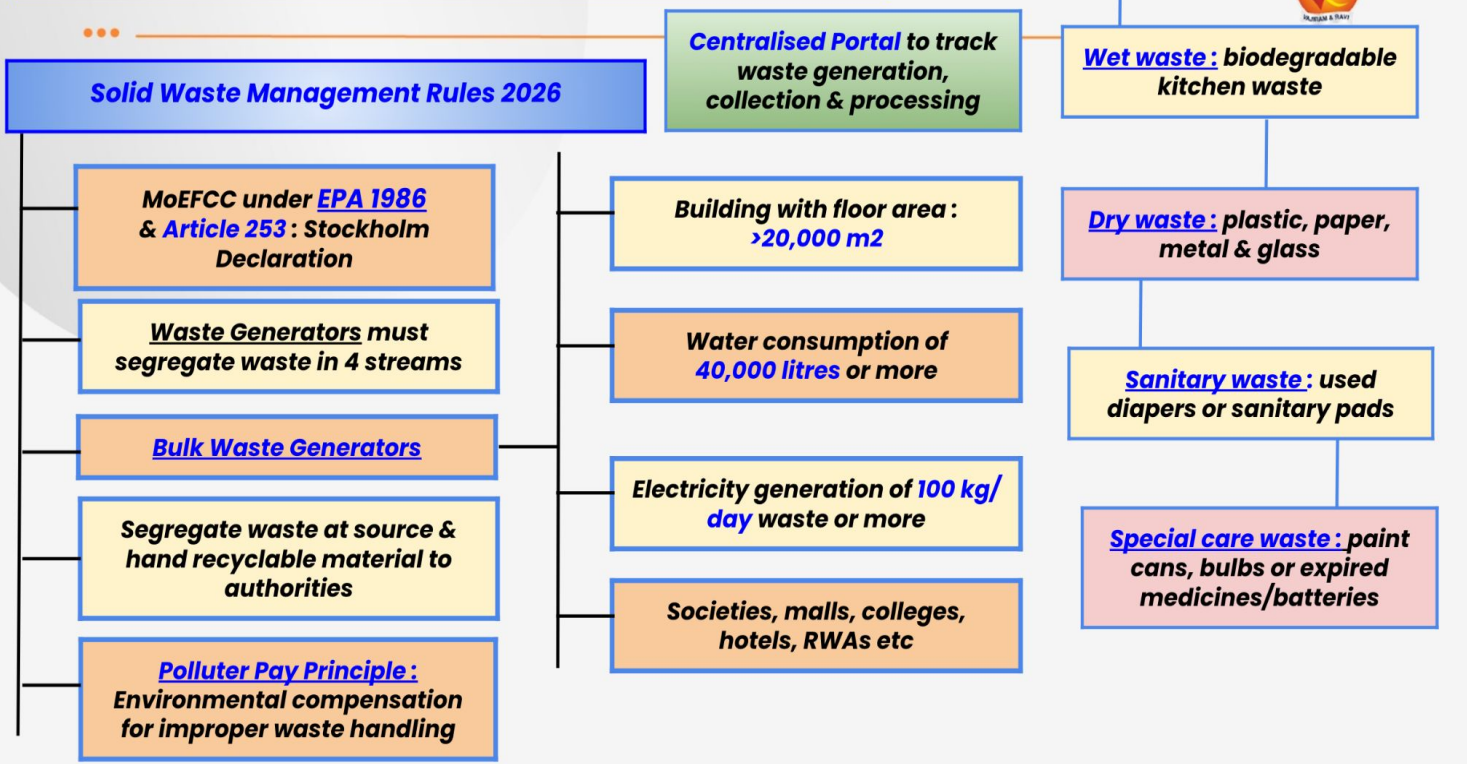
Just 12 countries are responsible for 60% of the world's mismanaged plastic waste, the top five being China, USA, India, Brazil, and Mexico

Decentralised Solution for Waste crisis



CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Environment has notified the new Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 to be implemented by April 1, 2026 to promote reduction, recycle & reuse (3R) of Solid Waste in India

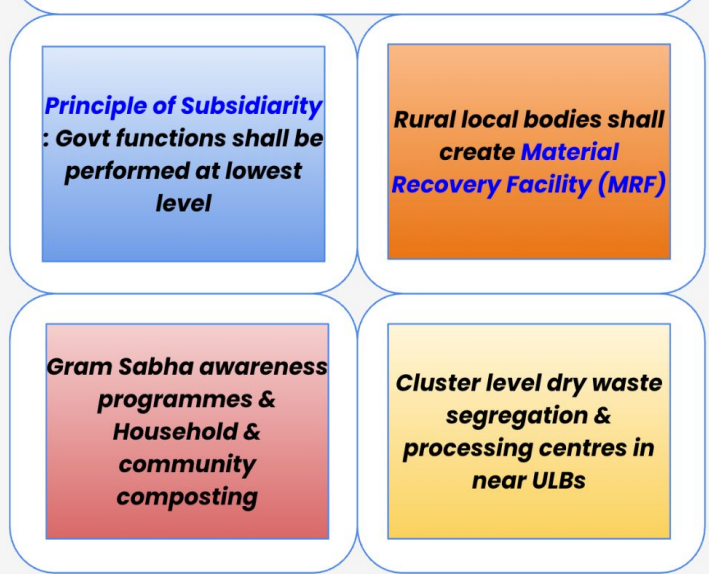
Mains Heading 2 : What are the Steps taken by India?



Mains Heading 3 : Editorial : Critique of Solid Waste Management Rules 2026

| "Far reaching power of Centre" | Theoretical Framework |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 253 : Legislation on State subjects (Water, Land, Sanitation) for International Obligation System suited for metropolis Mumbai v. Himalayan Pilgrimage town Gram panchayat as "Miniature Municipality" No Phase wise segregation plan : Megacities > Municipalities > Small Towns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of Knowledge in Society by FA Hayek : Helicopter Approach Economic Implication of Learning by Doing by Kenneth Arrow : Capacity is NOT conferred from above New State Ice Co. v. Liebmann 1932 : Justice Louis Brandeis |

Suggestions by Editorial :



Decentralised Solution for Waste crisis



CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Environment has notified the new Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 to be implemented by April 1, 2026 to promote reduction, recycle & reuse (3R) of Solid Waste in India

Conclusion : The "Way Forward" :

What can be done?

Inclusion of **"Repairability Factor"** in Design & Procurement Policies

Social Engineering : **PRAKRITI Mascot**

Use of **Biotechnology : Ideonella Sakaiensis**

PPP for increased fund allocations to Municipalities & use of **CSR funds**

"On Site composting & **Waste to Wealth**" Plants



On Tuesday, Australia takes another step towards reshaping its throw-away society. A range of single-use plastic, including straws, cutlery and micro beads in shampoo, will be banned in its most populous state, New South Wales (NSW), in a bid to reduce waste.

Mains Practise Question

Practise Question : What are the concerns related to **"Solid Waste Management"**? How far **India has fared** in this direction? Provide **suggestive measures**. (10 Marks, 150 words)



VB - G RAM G to replace MGNREGA

CONTEXT: The opposition has launched a "scathing" attack on the Union Government for the shortcomings that prevails in the Central flagship scheme for Unskilled manual workers

Mains Heading 1: Need of "Unskilled" Employment Scheme in Rural Areas?



Context of News :

Economic Survey 2026 :

Sounding the final bugle on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, the Union government on Monday notified that from July 1, all "rules, notifications, schemes, orders and guidelines" made under the law will stand repealed, and the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G] will come into force.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| 65-66% (~90 crore) people live in Rural India | 55-60% Rural population engaged in Agriculture | 15% workforce in Rural India engaged in Agriculture | World Bank : 5.3% population faces Extreme Poverty |
| Two - Third of India's poor reside in Rural Areas | 60-70% Rural population earns less than ₹1 Lakh per annum | NABARD : Average monthly income : ₹10,218 | Rural Unemployment Rate : 4.2% (PLFS 2026) |

MGNREGA

RIGHT TO WORK, RIGHT TO DIGNITY

Guarantees at least 100 days of legal unskilled manual work as guaranteed employment in a fiscal year to every rural household as per demand

Mains Heading 2: Provisions of MGNREGA?

KEY FEATURES

- Ministry of Rural Development
- Gram Panchayat – generates job card after enquiry
- 33½% work for Women
- Mandatory Social Auditing
- Unemployment Allowance

?

IS IT A CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME?

EMPLOYMENT WITHIN

outside village allowance
5 Km

NOT PROVIDED WITHIN

15 DAYS OF SUBMITTING APPLICATION

NOT JUST A SCHEME, IT'S A STEP TOWARDS RURAL EMPOWERMENT.

| Centre's Share | State's Share |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% wage cost 100% wages for Skilled & Semi - Skilled work 75% Material cost 100% Administrative Expense What if failure in payment is due to Centre not releasing funds? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% Unemployment Allowance 25% Material cost Cost of Land Acquisition |

VB - G RAM G to replace MGNREGA

CONTEXT: The opposition has launched a "scathing" attack on the Union Government for the shortcomings that prevails in the Central flagship scheme for Unskilled manual workers

Mains Heading 3 : *Persisting Issues in MGNREGA :*

Low "Subsistence level" payment structure

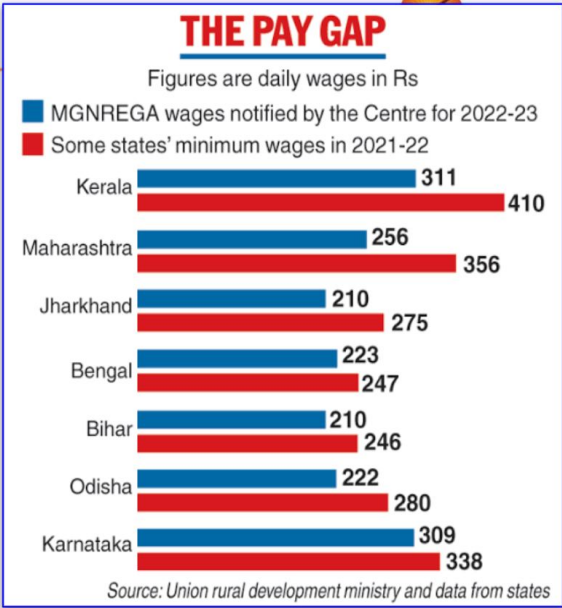
People's Action for Employment Guarantee (PAEG) : MGNREGA wages in 17/21 states were lower than state's minimum wage for agriculture

Cycle of "Delayed Payments" & Compensation

From 16th day, workers are entitled to delay compensation of 0.05% per day of allowance

Tussle between Centre & State : Passing the bucket of Blame

Ministry of Rural Development : ₹2,550 crore worth of wages paid after the mandated 15 day period in FY 2024-25



Mains Heading 3 : *Persisting Issues in MGNREGA :*

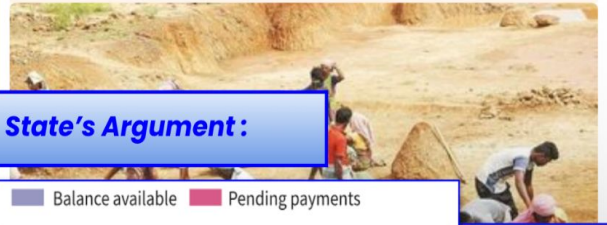
Datasheet for "Delayed Payments" :

State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of approved delay compensation, delay compensation paid and delay compensation due under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. (In Rs.)

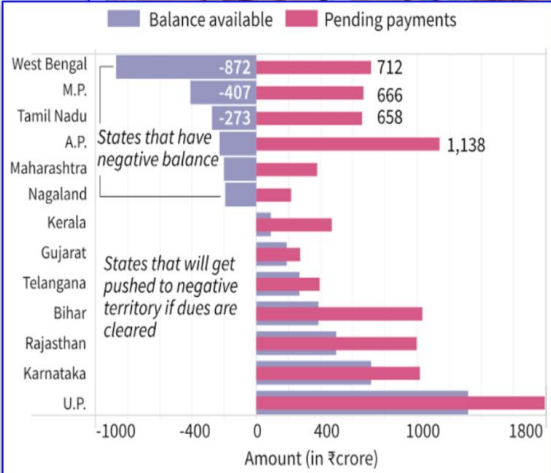
| Sl. No. | State/UT-wise | Financial Year 2024-25 (as on 25.03.2025) | | |
|---------|-------------------|---|-------------------------|------------------------|
| | | Approved delay compensation | Delay compensation paid | delay compensation due |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 12 | 7 | 5 |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | 27440 | 0 | 27440 |
| 3 | Assam | 41357 | 27876 | 13481 |
| 4 | Bihar | 102178 | 0 | 102178 |
| 5 | Chhattisgarh | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| 6 | Goa | 93792 | 0 | 93792 |
| 7 | Gujarat | 355 | 0 | 355 |
| 8 | Haryana | 53600 | 44208 | 9392 |
| 9 | Himachal Pradesh | 13330 | 5701 | 7629 |
| 10 | Jammu and Kashmir | 665366 | 330754 | 334612 |
| 11 | Jharkhand | 4109 | 3427 | 682 |
| 12 | Karnataka | 16080 | 7836 | 8244 |

Work demand under MGNREGA job scheme increased by 4.2% in May, shows data

Data shows that historically, May is a month when MGNREGA work demand is among the highest as traditional activities around agriculture weaken due to the lean cropping season



State's Argument :



VB - G RAM G to replace MGNREGA

CONTEXT: The opposition has launched a "scathing" attack on the Union Government for the shortcomings that prevails in the Central flagship scheme for Unskilled manual workers

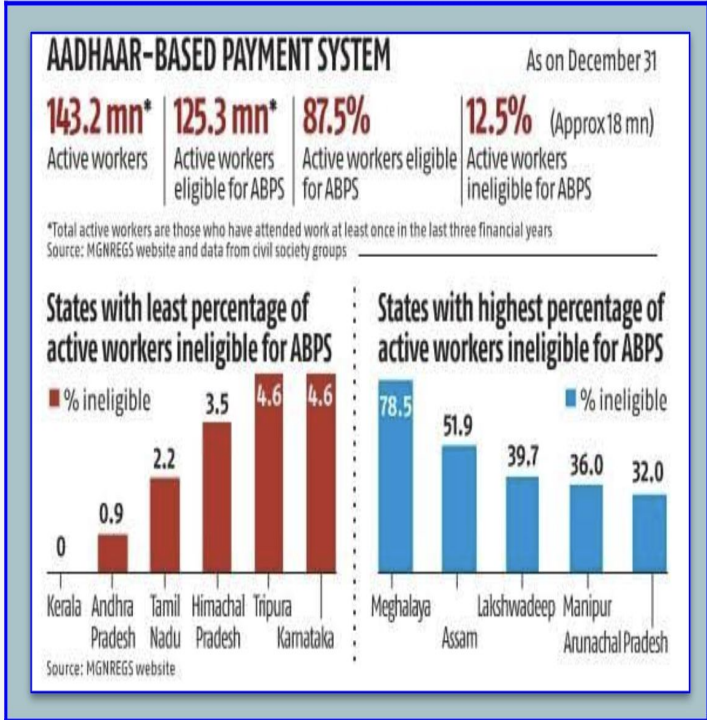
National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) App :

- Real time **Geo - Tagging** attendance of workers
- **Care work responsibilities** of Women
- Issue of "**Digital Divide**"
- **Unavailability of "Smartphones"** to use "**Mate**" App to register attendance

Fiscal Gliding Path by Government

- **Insufficient Budget allocation & "Fund Crunch"** : 3.2% Budget share in 2021 to 1.78% in Budget 2025
- **90% Fund exhaustion** within 6 months
- **Falling Person - Days generated** : 50% less person days generated in 2024-25
- **Delay in completing works & Poor asset quality**

Mains Heading 3 : Persisting Issues in MGNREGA :



Mains Heading 4 : Provisions of VB - G RAM G?

| MGNREGA | VB - G RAM G? |
|--|--|
| Guarantees 100 Days of employment in financial year to every rural household | Act increases the guarantee to 125 days per financial year |
| Unemployment Allowance = Paid by State Government if work NOT provided within 15 days | Act retain this provision |
| Central government provides entire cost of wages for unskilled manual work & 75% of material cost | Centrally Sponsored Scheme : 60 :40 share & 90 :10 for Himalayan states |
| State Govt's share Administrative costs & compensation in case of delay in wage payments | Act retain this provision |

Gram Panchayats Identify the works :

- The new Act reorganises permissible works into four broad categories:
- ▶ Water security projects
 - ▶ Core rural infrastructure
 - ▶ Livelihood-related infrastructure
 - ▶ Extreme weather mitigation works



VB - G RAM G to replace MGNREGA

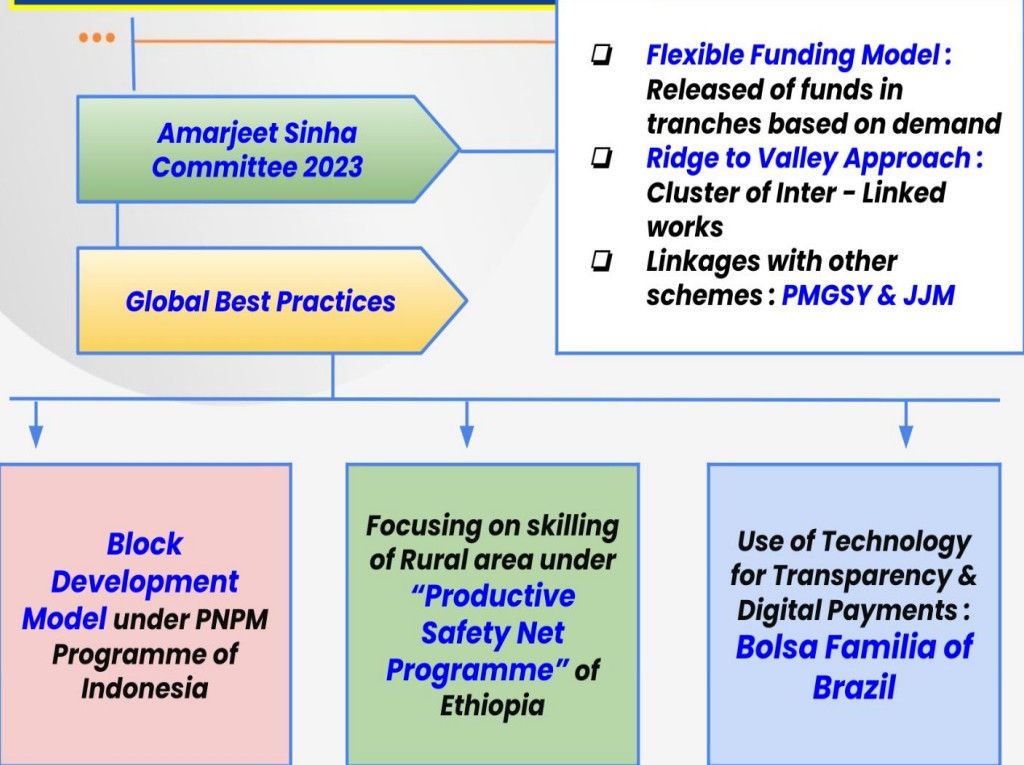
CONTEXT: The opposition has launched a "scathing" attack on the Union Government for the shortcomings that prevails in the Central flagship scheme for Unskilled manual workers

Mains Heading 4 : Provisions of VB - G RAM G?

| MGNREGA | VB - G RAM G? |
|--|---|
| Central government will determine state wise normative allocation for each financial year | State governments will announce in advance a period of up to 60 days for every financial year during which works under the scheme will not be undertaken |
| Establishes Councils at the Central and state levels to undertake implementation and monitoring | Constitutes the National Level Steering Committee which will provide high-level oversight |
| Similar features : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Biometric authentication for transactions ❑ Geospatial technology for planning and monitoring ❑ Mobile application based dashboards for real time tracking | |

- The Centre has also highlighted provisions such as:
- ▶ Mandatory appointment letters
 - ▶ Free health check-ups for workers aged 40 years and above
 - ▶ Equal work, equal pay and equal opportunity provisions for women working in different shifts
 - ▶ Creation of a National Reskilling Fund for workers who lose jobs
 - ▶ Weekly working hour cap of 48 hours
 - ▶ Mandatory overtime payments

Mains Heading 5 : The Reforms To Revitalise Rural Sector :



Average workdays per household is down to just 44 days under MGNREGS

The impact of low budgetary allocation is showing in terms of fall in person days from 312.37 crore in 2023-24 to 239.67 crore till February 2025, while average workdays per household declined from 52.08 to just 44.62

MGNREGS audit crosses 50% local bodies in just six States

High rate of corruption is one of the primary complaints against the scheme and social audit is the inbuilt anti-corruption mechanism in the Act

VB - G RAM G to replace MGNREGA



CONTEXT: The opposition has launched a “scathing” attack on the Union Government for the shortcomings that prevails in the Central flagship scheme for Unskilled manual workers

Mains Practise Question

Practise Question : *Despite noble aims and objectives, why the MGNREGA scheme has been unable to deliver the desired results at the grassroot level? What are the reforms brought under VB - G RAM G?*
(10 Marks, 150 words)



PM's 7 Appeal to Nation



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Government Policies & Indian Economy
Newspaper: Indian Express **Page Number:** 01

PM's 7 Appeal to Nation

Context of News :

WITH NO signs of an immediate end to the conflict in West Asia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday again urged government and private offices to revert to 'Covid-era' habits such as work-from-home and virtual meetings, and asked citizens to opt for car pooling and reduce fuel consumption.

NATION FIRST

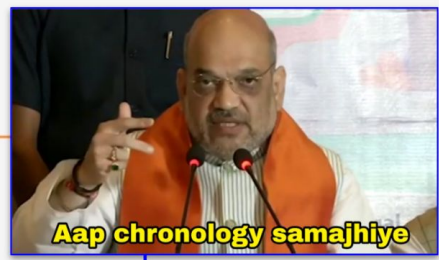
PM MODI'S 7 APPEALS

- Prioritize Work From Home** wherever possible
- Avoid buying gold** for one year
- Reduce petrol & diesel consumption: use metro/public transport**
- Cut down the use of cooking oil**
- Reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers and move toward natural farming**
- Use fewer foreign-branded products and adopt Swadeshi**
- Avoid foreign travel** for one year



Forex Reserves plummeted by **\$38 Billion** in 2 months to **\$691 Billion** in April, 2026

Sustained capital outflows from FII amid heightened **Global Uncertainty**



Indian Express: India imports **88.6%** of its total crude oil need

India's **"Oxygen Pipe":**
 45% Crude Oil + 60% Natural Gas + 60% LPG

Iran - Israel War:
Blockades created by Iran at Strait of Hormuz

Prices increased from **\$70 per barrel to \$113** (FY 25-26) = Every \$10 Rise = **+ 13-14 Billion** import Bill

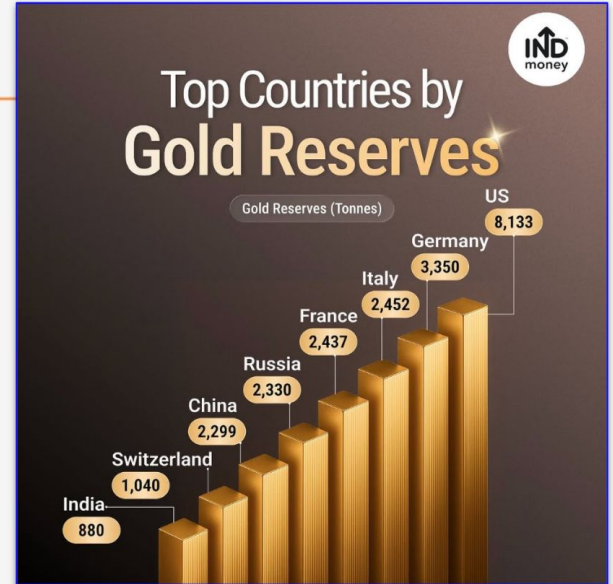
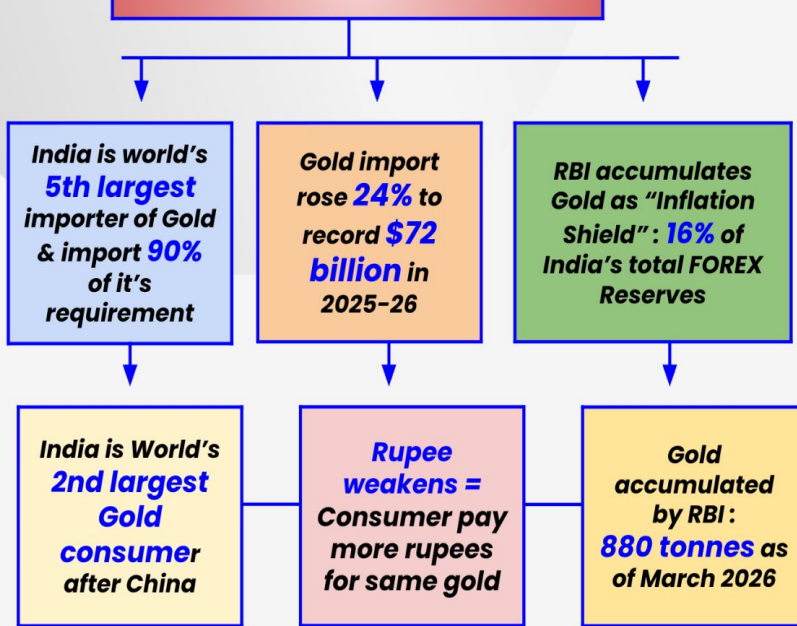
Dollar flows out = Indian Rupee weakens

Rupee crashes 82 paise to close at all-time low of 95.31 against U.S. dollar
 A strengthening U.S. dollar and steep FPI outflows further pressured the local unit, according to forex traders

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Government Policies & Indian Economy
Newspaper: Indian Express **Page Number:** 01

PM's 7 Appeal to Nation

"Cut from Gold Purchase":



PM's 7 Appeal to Nation

Gold Monetisation Scheme

- Department of **Economic Affairs** under Ministry of Finance
- Individuals + Trusts + Institutions = **Deposit unused gold**
- Earn interest on quantity of Gold deposited
- **2.5% per annum** on Long Term : 12-15 years
- Exempted from **Capital Gains Tax & Wealth tax**
- **Reduce dependence on Imported gold**

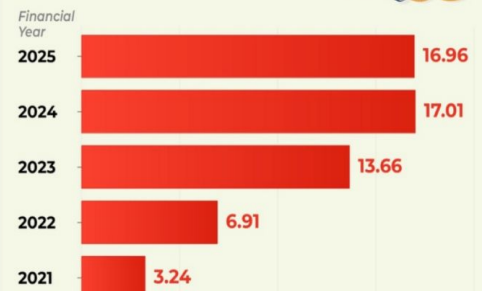
Liberalised Remittances Scheme (LRS)

- RBI: **ONLY Indian Resident** to remit money abroad for current & capital account transactions
- Limit: Up to **\$2,50,000** per financial year
- Used for: Foreign education + Medical treatment + **Travel expenses**
- Investments in **foreign shares & property**
- Can Corporates + HUF + Trusts use LRS? **NO!**
- Regulated under **FEMA Act**

Indians Spending Big On Foreign Tours

Spending on foreign travel increased five times in last 5 years

■ Expenditure (USD Billion)



"Maha Pooja" at Somnath

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Art & Culture : Temple Architecture
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 03

"Maha Pooja" at Somnath

Prabhas Patan or Anhilwara

1st Jyotirlinga of Shiva

Mentioned in Mahabharata & Bhagavata Purana

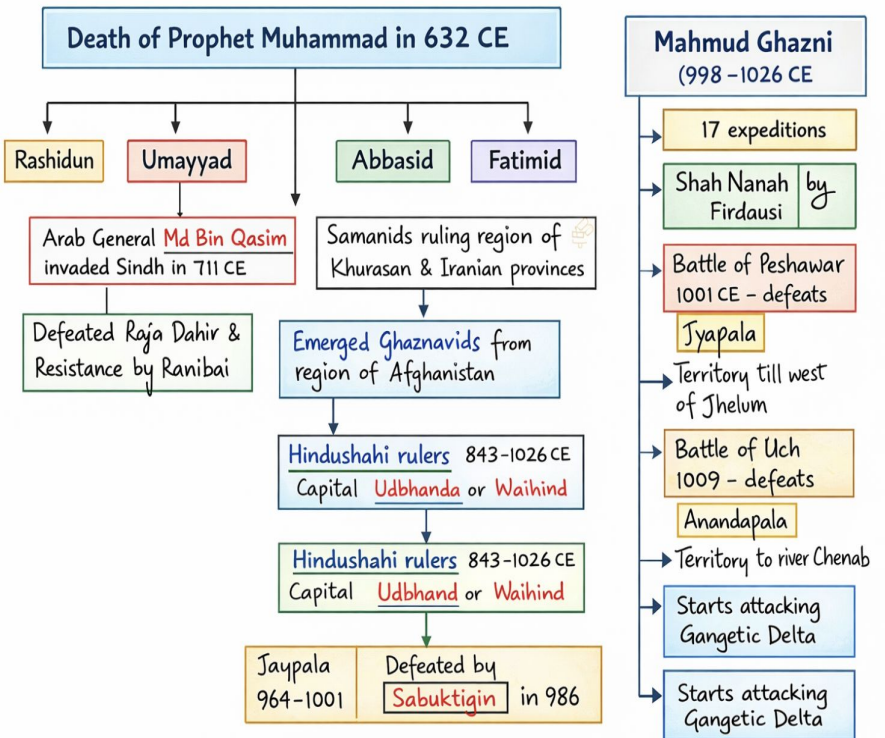
Commissioned by : Gurjara Pratihara King Nagabhata 2 (805-833 CE)

- Completed by : Solanki King Mularaja in 997 CE
- 1026 CE : Destroyed by "But Shikan" Mahmud of Ghazni
- 1169 CE : Chalukya ruler Kumarapala rebuilt it
- Post - Independence India : Order of Deputy PM Sardar Patel on behest of Gandhi
- 11th May, 1951 : Pran - Pratishtha by Rajendra Prasad

Chalukyas :
940 - 1244 CE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday drew parallels to the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests, asserting that no power in the world can make India bow or succumb under pressure. Addressing a gathering here at Somnath Amrut Mahotsav, marking 75 years of the inauguration of the restored temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, he said "forces" in the country continue to prioritise appeasement politics over national self-respect. A similar mindset was

"Maha Pooja" at Somnath



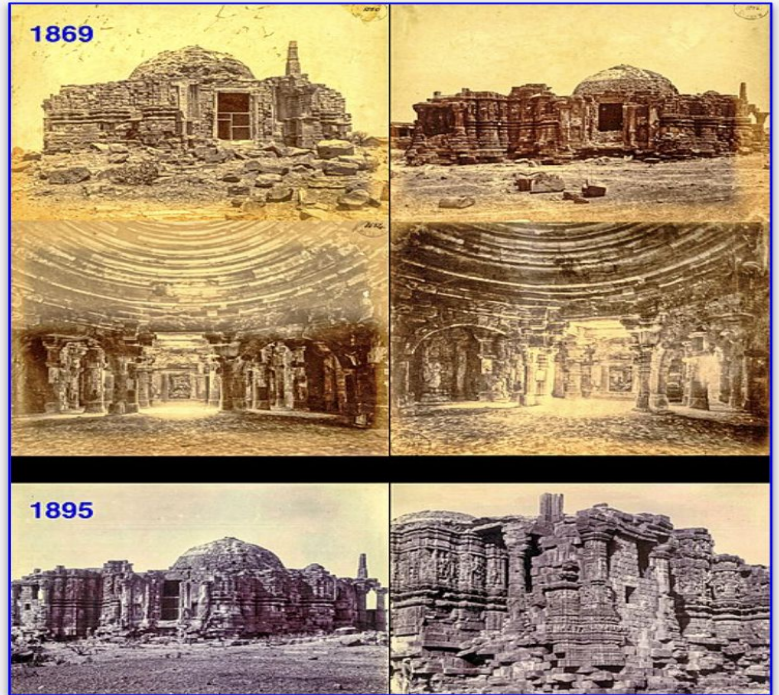
Alberuni (1017-1030 CE)

- Tahqiq - e - Hind
- Political councillor of Khwarizm Shah of Mamuni Dynasty
- Defeated by Ghazni in 1017 CE
- Munajjim : Astrologer cum astronomer
- First Indologist : Geeta, Upanishads & Puranas
- Translated Mahabhasya of Patanjali into Arabic
- Translated Euclid's Geometry in Sanskrit

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Art & Culture : Temple Architecture
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 03



K. M. Munshi with archaeologists and engineers of the Government of India, Bombay, and Saurashtra, with the ruins of Somnath Temple in the background, July 1950.



PRELIMS QUESTION 2022 :

The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the new Circuit House near Somnath Temple at Veraval. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Somnath Temple?

- 1. Somnath Temple is one of the Jyotirlinga shrines.**
- 2. A description of Somnath Temple was given by Al-Biruni.**
- 3. Pran Pratishtha of Somnath Temple (installation of the present day temple) was done by President S. Radhakrishnan.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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



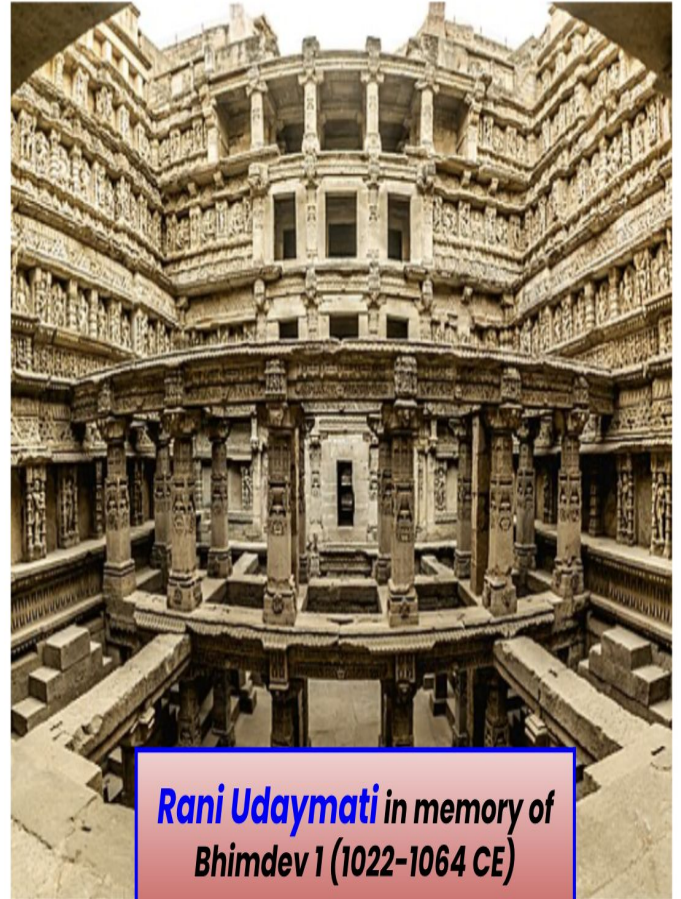
SYLLABUS: Prelims: Art & Culture : Temple Architecture
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 03



Sun Temple, Modhera, constructed by Bhima I



Rudra Mahalaya Temple, renovated or rebuilt by
Jayasimha



*Rani Udaymati in memory of
Bhimdev I (1022-1064 CE)*

The Rani ki vav was constructed during the rule of the Chaulukya dynasty. It is located on the banks of Saraswati River.^[91]



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Art & Culture : Temple Architecture
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 03



Gudhamandapa with annotation of



Sabhamandapa with ornately carved pillars and exterior



ceiling of Sabhamandapa



When women enters Legislature



SYLLABUS : Prelims: Government Policies & Acts
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number :** 10

When women enters Legislature

Context of News :

THE NARI Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, and the legislative moves now associated with it, ask India: Who gets to sit in the rooms where the country makes its most consequential decisions?

The proposal is simple: Reserve one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women. This is a structural intervention in a political order that has treated male dominance as natural. Women form nearly half the population, yet they have hovered around 14 per cent in the Lok Sabha, with even weaker representation in many states. They largely remain outside the institutions that decide on labour, violence, health, land, welfare, and economic policy.

1st Women Legislator

Muthulakshmi Reddy



Muthulakshmi Reddy, c. 1912

1st woman to run for Legislative Council

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay



When women enters Legislature

Global Gender Gap Index 2025 :
India's Rank : 131st out of 148

Labour force participation : 45%

Educational Attainment : 97% Gender Gap closed

Female Representation in Parliament: 14.7% to 13.8% in 2025

Share of Women in Ministerial roles : 6.5% to 5.6% in 2025

Country wise data on women representation*

Women representation in parliament varies across different democracies



Moving forward: Trinamool Congress MPs take selfies at the Parliament House complex during the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha, on June 25. PTI

| Country | % of elected women | Quota in Parliament | Quota in political parties |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Sweden | 46% | No | Yes |
| South Africa | 45% | No | Yes |
| Australia | 38% | No | Yes |
| France | 38% | No | Yes |
| Germany | 35% | No | Yes |
| U.K. | 40% | No | Yes |
| U.S. | 29% | No | No |
| Pakistan | 16% | Yes | No |
| Bangladesh | 20% | Yes | No |

*(as of September 2023) |

When women enters Legislature



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Government Policies & Acts
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number:** 10

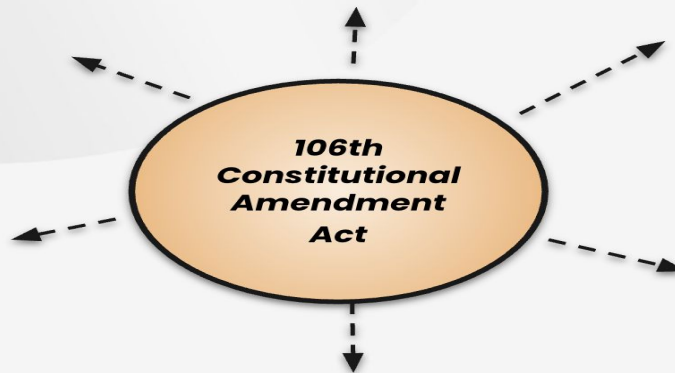
When women enters *Legislature*

Seats reserved will be rotated after each delimitation as determined by Parliament

Reserves **1/3rd of Seats** in Lok Sabha, SLAs & UT of Delhi

Also apply to seats reserved for **SC & ST Women** within SC/ST Quota

Reservation provided for **15 years** after **Act** comes into effect



In "effect" after **Census** conducted **AFTER** commencement of Bill

"Based on Census, **Delimitation** will be undertaken to reserve seats for Women"

81. Consider the following statements regarding 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' :

1. Provisions will come into effect from the 18th Lok Sabha.
2. This will be in force for 15 years after becoming an Act.
3. There are provisions for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes Women within the quota reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

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



What is "One Case One Data"?

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Indian Judiciary
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number:** 12

What is "One Case One Data"?

Context of News :

SC launches 'One Case One Data' and 'Su Sahay' chatbot

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Monday announced in open court the launch of a major digital initiative – "One Case One Data" – to integrate the judicial administration at every level, from the taluk court to the top court, into a unified system. The CJI said the mechanism is aimed at creating a more comprehensive and interconnected digital database across courts.

One Case One Data (OCOD)

Digital Judicial Data integration initiative to create single digital identity for every court case

Each case is assigned unique identification number preventing duplication of cases

Connects data from SC > HC > District Courts

Litigants + Lawyers + Judges can track progress of case across stages

What is "One Case One Data"?

Other Initiatives for "Faster Adjudication":

| | |
|--|---|
| E - Courts Mission Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digitisation of court records & judicial processes Enables e-filing, virtual hearings, online case status & digital orders |
| National Judicial Data Grid (NJDC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A real-time database of pending & disposed cases across courts Helps identify bottlenecks & monitor pendency trends |
| Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of Arbitration & Mediation Through Lok Adalats & Fast Track courts under specific acts like RoPWD Act 2016 |
| Virtual Courts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of online hearings & digital proceedings Reduced delays caused by physical appearance requirements |

"Su - Sahay" Chatbot :

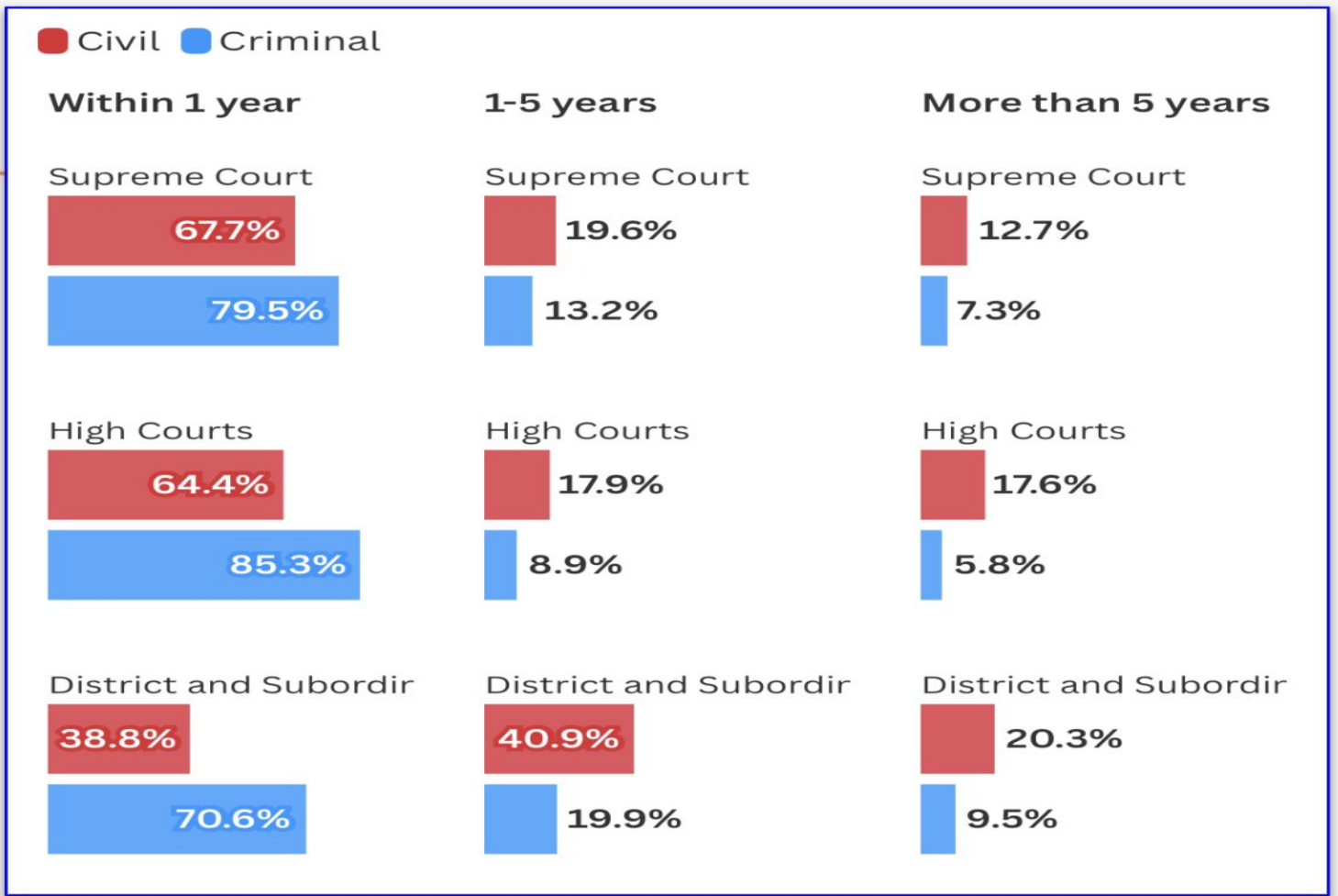
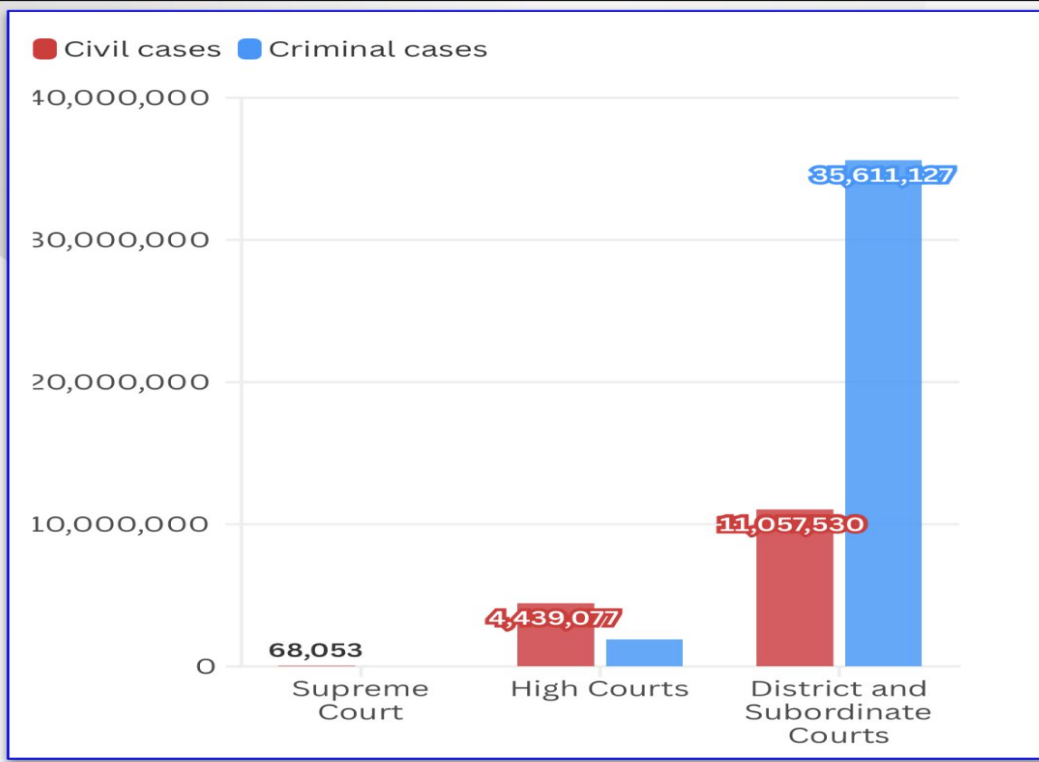
- AI - Powered Assistance chatbot
- Launched by Supreme Court of India
- Developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- Provide guidance & support in cases to litigants & case users
- Obtaining front-end guidance regarding filing procedures, services & case-related queries



What is "One Case One Data"?



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Indian Judiciary
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number:** 12



What is BRICS?

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Important National & International Events
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 11

Context of News :

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi will travel to New Delhi this week to attend the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting on May 14-15 and is expected to call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi before the latter's visit to the UAE, diplomatic sources confirmed to *The Hindu*. Mr. Araghchi, who will arrive on Wednesday, is expected to meet the Prime Minister in a joint call-on along with other BRICS Ministers from Brazil, Russia, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Indonesia on Thursday.

What is BRICS?



WHEN WAS BRICS FORMED?



2011

South Africa joined the group, and so the acronym became BRICS.

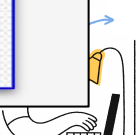


2009

The **1st BRIC summit** was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

The bloc was established as a counterbalance to the prevailing world order dominated by the United States and its Western allies. Spearheaded by Russia, BRICS was envisioned as an informal club rather than a formal multilateral organisation, setting it apart from entities like the United Nations or the World Bank.

BRICS operates by consensus, and its significance extends beyond economic cooperation. **All member nations are also part of the Group of 20 (G20),** a forum of major economies.



What is BRICS?

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Important National & International Events
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 11

ECONOMY

BRICS admits six new members

Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are set to join the core group of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. These 11 countries have a combined population of 3.7 billion.



MEMBERS
NEW MEMBERS

The expansion of the group is part of its plan to build dominance and reshape global governance into "multipolar" world order that puts voices of the Global South at the centre of the world agenda.



Source: brics2023.gov.za | August 24, 2023

@AJLabs ALJAZEERA

15th BRICS Summit

Named with the initials of its members, BRICS focuses on political, economic, and cultural cooperation

Total population

3.2B

41%

of world population

Total GDP

\$56 TRILLION

31.5%

of global GDP

18%

of global trade



BRICS is a grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa

BRICS has held an annual summit since its inception in 2009

22 countries have formally applied to join BRICS

BRICS New Development Bank (NDB)



Established in 2015

It has funded 98 projects, providing \$32.4 billion to date

15th BRICS SUMMIT

August 22-24
Johannesburg,
SOUTH AFRICA

August 21, 2023



What is BRICS?



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Important National & International Events
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 11

Current Membership



BRICS Member Countries



Brazil



China



Egypt



Ethiopia



India



Indonesia



Iran



Russia



Saudi Arabia



South Africa



UAE

BRICS Partner Countries



Belarus



Bolivia



Cuba



Kazakhstan



Malaysia



Nigeria



Thailand



Uganda



Uzbekistan



Vietnam



Q1. With reference to the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), consider the following statements:

1. It permits resident Indian individuals to remit money abroad for both current account and capital account transactions.
2. Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and trusts are eligible to avail benefits under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme.

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

Q2. With reference to medieval Indian history, consider the following statements:

1. The Solanki King Mularaja commissioned the Somnath temple in Gujarat.
2. Tahqiq-e-Hind, a compilation on medieval Indian culture, is authored by Ibn Battuta.
3. The Sun Temple in Modhera was built by the Chalukya king Kumarapala.

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

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: d

Q3. With reference to the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act, consider the following statements:

1. It provides for the reservation of one-third of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
2. The reservation for women under the Act comes into immediate effect from the date of Presidential assent to the Amendment.

3. Seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are excluded from the ambit of women's reservation.

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

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: a

Q4. Which of the following best describes the "Su-Sahay" chatbot recently seen in the news?

- a) A blockchain platform for digital storage of judicial records in High Courts.
- b) An online mediation portal developed by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) for commercial dispute resolution.
- c) An AI-powered chatbot launched by the Supreme Court of India to assist litigants with filing and case-related queries.
- d) A cyber crime complaint chatbot launched under the e-Courts Project.

Answer: c

Q5. Which of the following countries are members of BRICS?

1. Egypt
2. Ethiopia
3. Indonesia
4. Argentina
5. Turkey

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- d) 3, 4 and 5 only

Answer: a





VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar,
New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,
Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121

Visit us at : www.vajiramandravi.com