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The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

20th May 2026



Why India needs to empower local bodies?



CONTEXT: A write-up has appeared emphasizing why local bodies need better financial empowerment.

Local Self Governments

Q) The strength and sustenance of local institutions in India has shifted from their formative phase of 'Functions, Functionaries and Funds' to the contemporary stage of 'Functionality'. Highlight the critical challenges faced by local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent times. (2020)

Q) "The reservation of seats for women in the institutions of local self- government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian Political Process." Comment. (2019)

Q) Assess the importance of the Panchayat system in India as a part of local government. Apart from government grants, what sources the Panchayats can look out for financing development projects? (2018)

Q) The local self government system in India has not proved to be effective instrument of governance". Critically examine the statement and give your views to improve the situation. (2017)

Q) In absence of well-educated and organised local level government system, 'Panchayats' and 'Samitis' have remained mainly political institutions and not effective instruments of governance. Critically discuss. (2015)

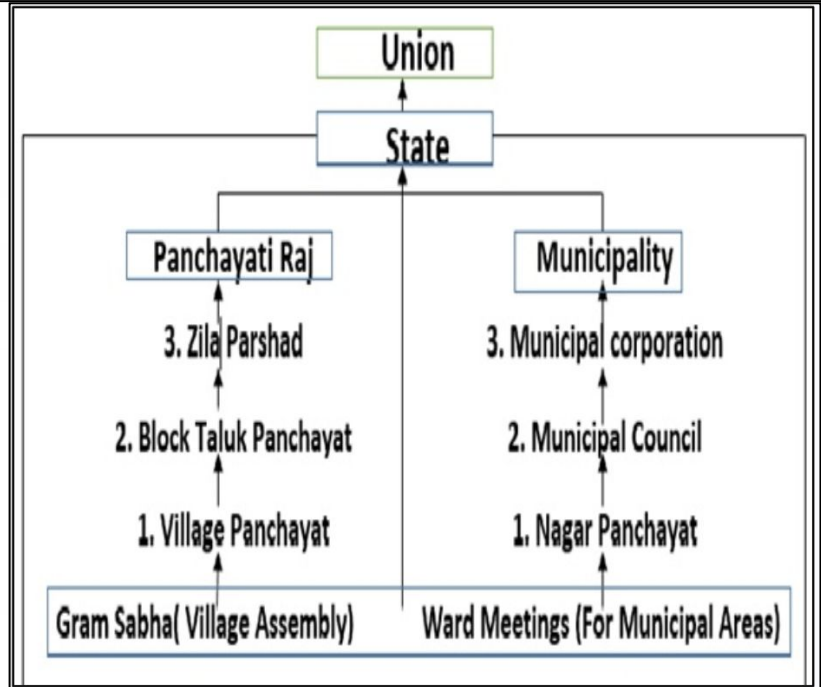


Why India needs to empower local bodies?

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Basics

- Tendency towards **designing political processes** that shift as much decision-making authority as practical to the organization's **lowest geographic or social level of organization.**
- **73rd & 74th Constitutional Amendment-1993**



Committees on Panchayati Raj

73RS AND 74TH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACTS, 1992:

- The panchayats constitutional status (previously panchayat matters were considered as state subjects);
- An institutionalised three tier system at village, block and district levels;
- The amendment stipulated that all panchayat members be elected for five year term in the elections supervised by the state election commission.
- Reservation for Women, SCs and STs (not less than 33%)
- Compulsory elections every five years
- To levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees.
- Preparation of plan for economic development and social justice.

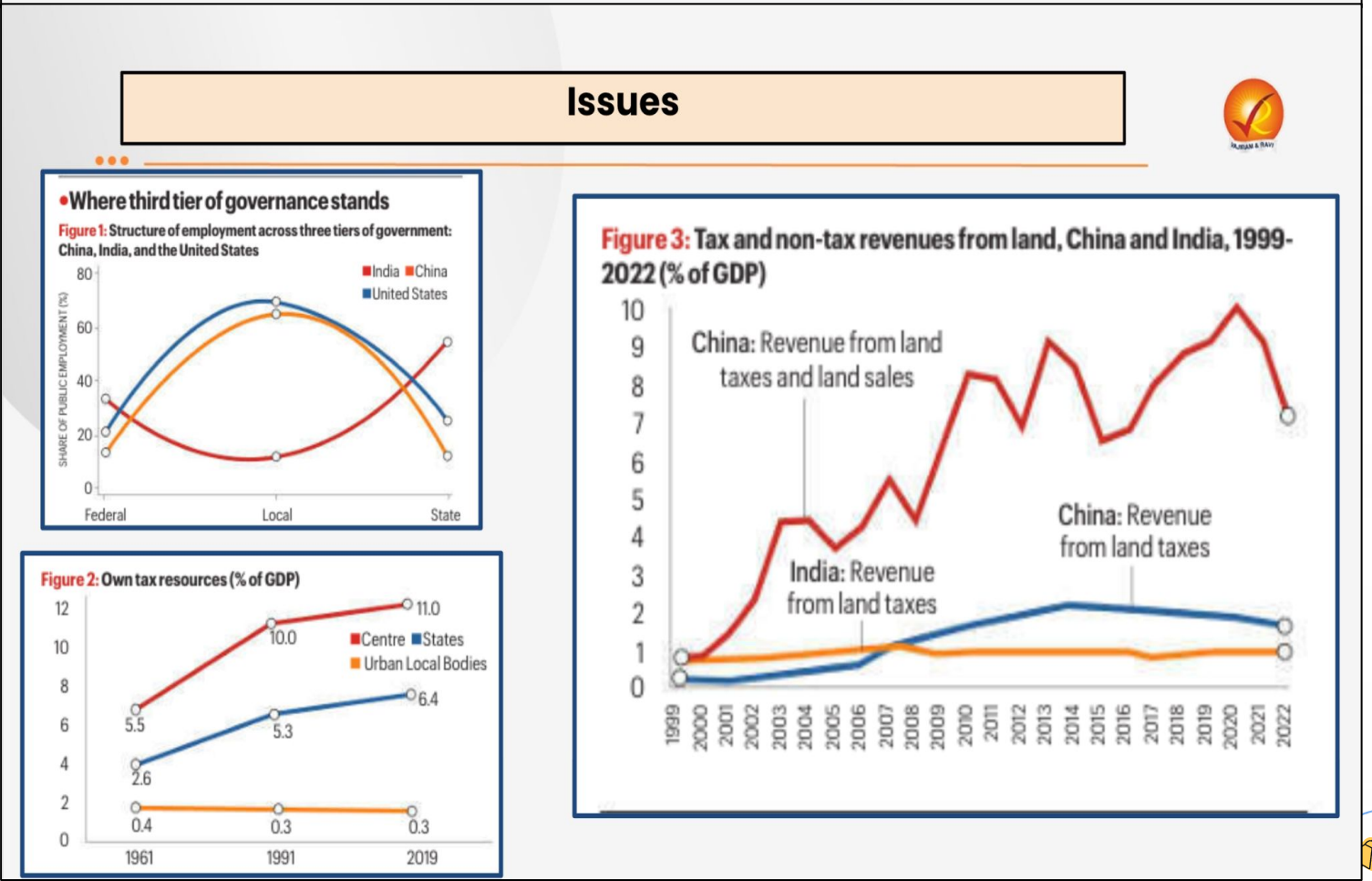
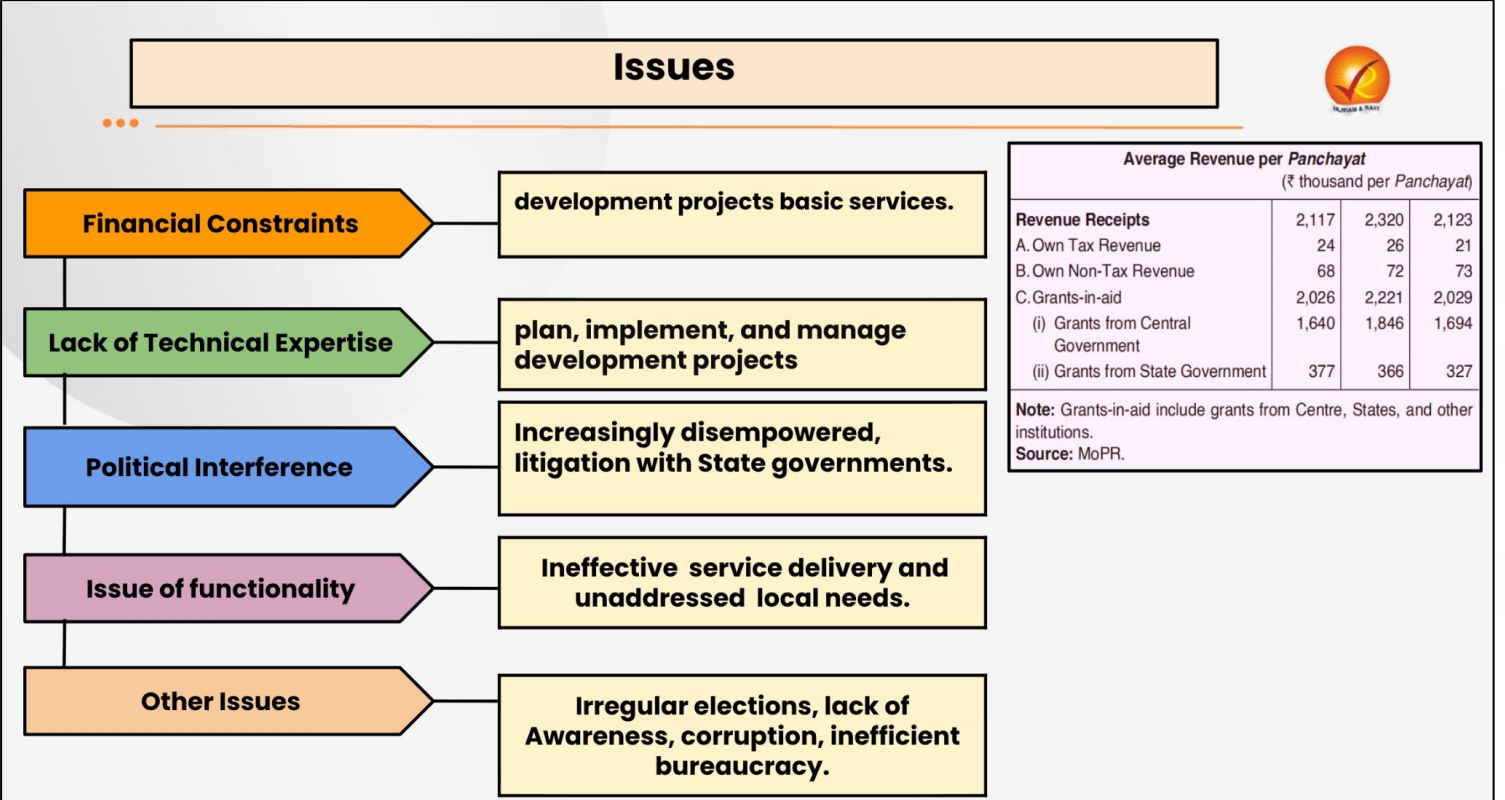
Committees on Panchayati Raj

Committee	Year	Important Recommendations
1. Balwant Rai Mehta Committee	1957	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three - tier Panchayati Raj System - Gram Panchayat at Village level, Panchayat Samiti at Block level & Zila Parishad at district level.
2. Ashok Mehta Committee	1977	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two - tier PR System - Mandal Panchayats at Village level & Zila Panchayat at district level. Official representation of Political Parties at all levels of Panchayat elections. Seat for SCs & STs should be reserved. Constitutional recognition to PRIs.
3. GVK Rao Committee	1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular elections to the PRIs.
4. LM Singhvi Committee	1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular, Free & fair elections to PRIs. Establishment of Nyaya Panchayats. More financial resources to village Panchayats.



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Case Study

- **Hiware Village** - Ahmednagar District: turned itself into prosperous village
- **Used Funds from Government Schemes**- regenerate Natural Forests, water and soil management led by strong village body-Sarpanch



Parameters speaks about success of Hiware Bazar



Due to water availability by watershed development, Cultivable land increased from 70 ha in 1993 to 260 ha in 2006.



In 2006 income from agriculture alone was 24784000. Grass production increased from 100 MT in 2000 to 1000 MT in 2004.



Due to high increase in fodder cultivation milk production increased from 150 lpd in 1990 to 4000 lpd in 2006



In 1995 year 168 out of 182 families were BPL. In 2010 only 3 families are BPL.
By 2010 village income increased twenty fold. 50 families become **Millionaires**



Hiware Bazar was awarded 'National water award' by GOI in 2007. Hiware Bazar continues to inspire other villages and people.

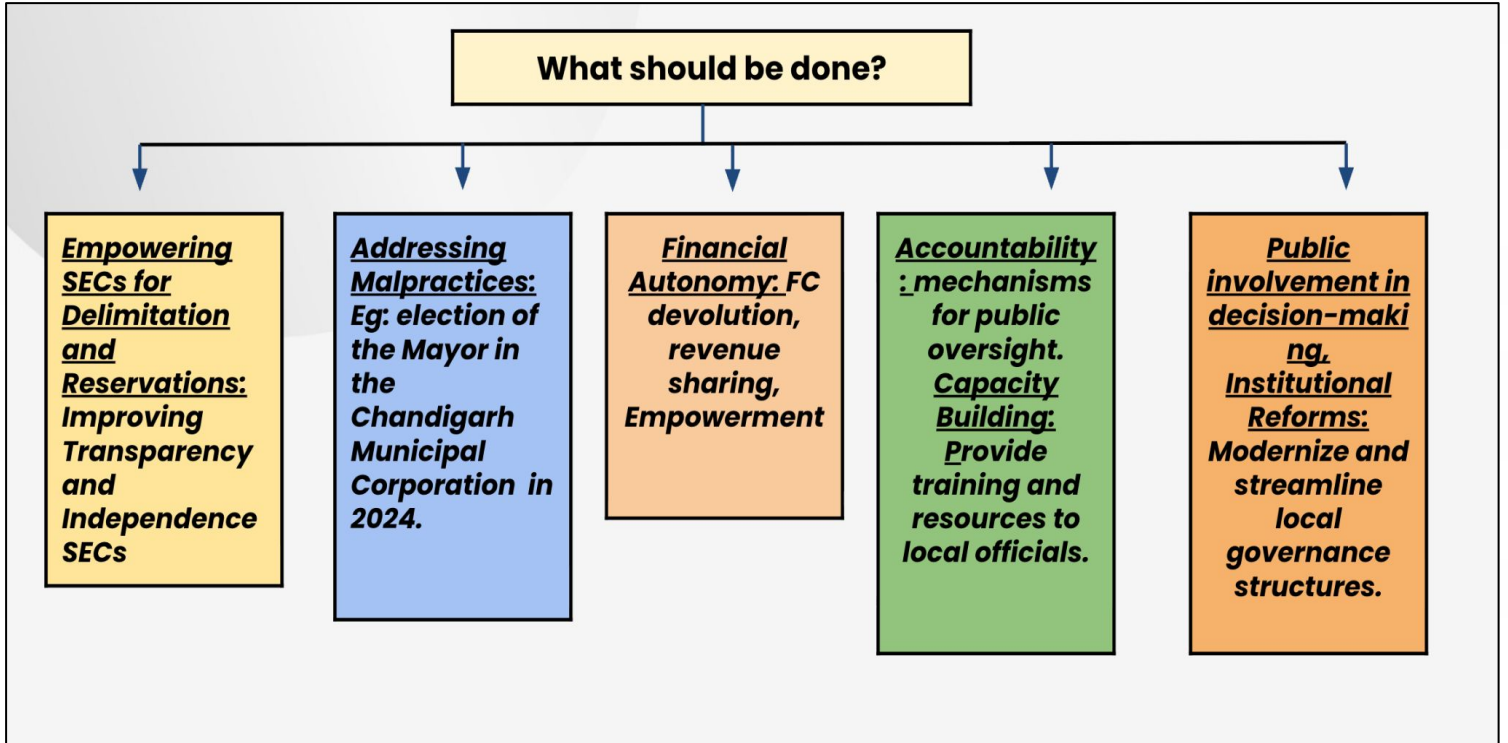
EXPLORING THE VILLAGE OF MILLIONAIRES HIWARE BAZAR



Why India needs to empower local bodies?



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Mains Practise Question

Q : What challenges are faced by local governments in India, and how can these issues be effectively addressed?
(10 Marks 150 Words)



India's EV ambition needs a grid strategy to match

CONTEXT: A write-up has appeared covering various aspects of India's EV ambition.

Background

Two-wheelers (scooters/bikes) are leading EV adoption.

But the **bigger issue** is electrifying:

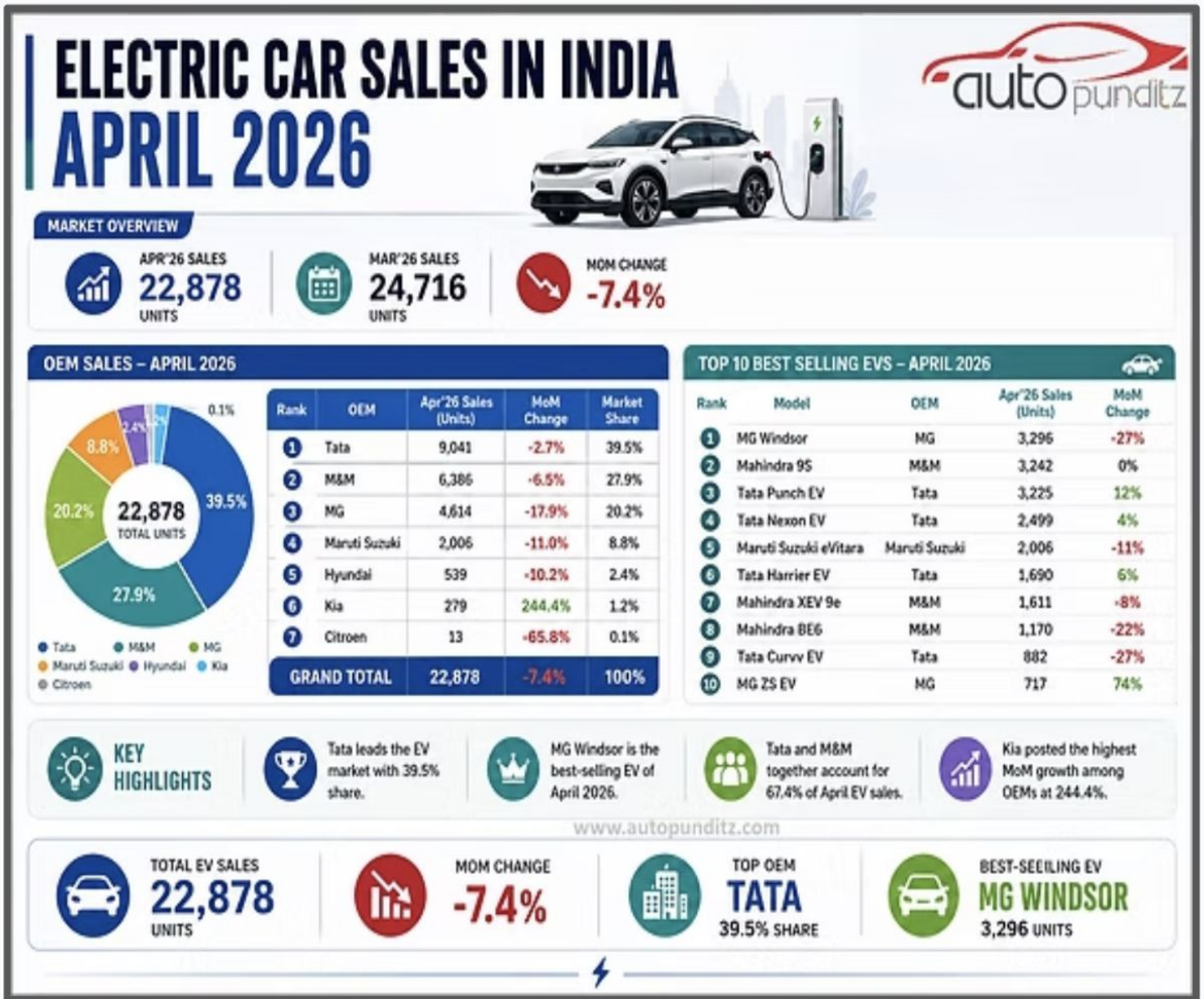
- Trucks
- Freight vehicles
- Public transport

If all vehicles become electric:

- India may need an additional:
 - **900–1100 TWh electricity annually**
- Even 50% electrification may require:
 - **~500 TWh extra power**

This is nearly : **One-third of India's current electricity generation**

India's Vehicle Base



India's EV ambition needs a grid strategy to match



CONTEXT: A write-up has appeared covering various aspects of India's EV ambition.

India has:

- Around **6.26 million heavy trucks**

Each truck may consume:

- **60,000 kWh/year**

Total electricity needed:

- **450–565 TWh annually**

Adding medium trucks:

- Total freight demand may reach:
 - **500–600 TWh**

Thus, EV transition is mainly about:

Electrifying India's supply chains, not just private vehicles.

Freight Electrification = Massive Power Demand

1. Transmission & Distribution Stress

Fleet operators already face:

- Delays in high-voltage connections
- Weak local distribution systems
- Financially stressed DISCOMS

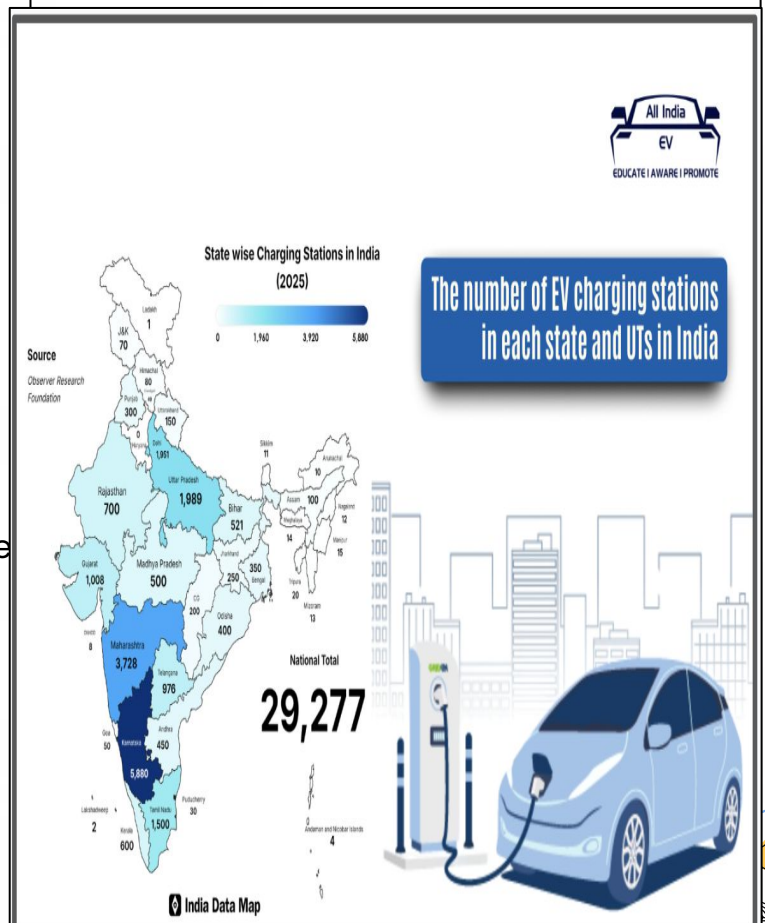
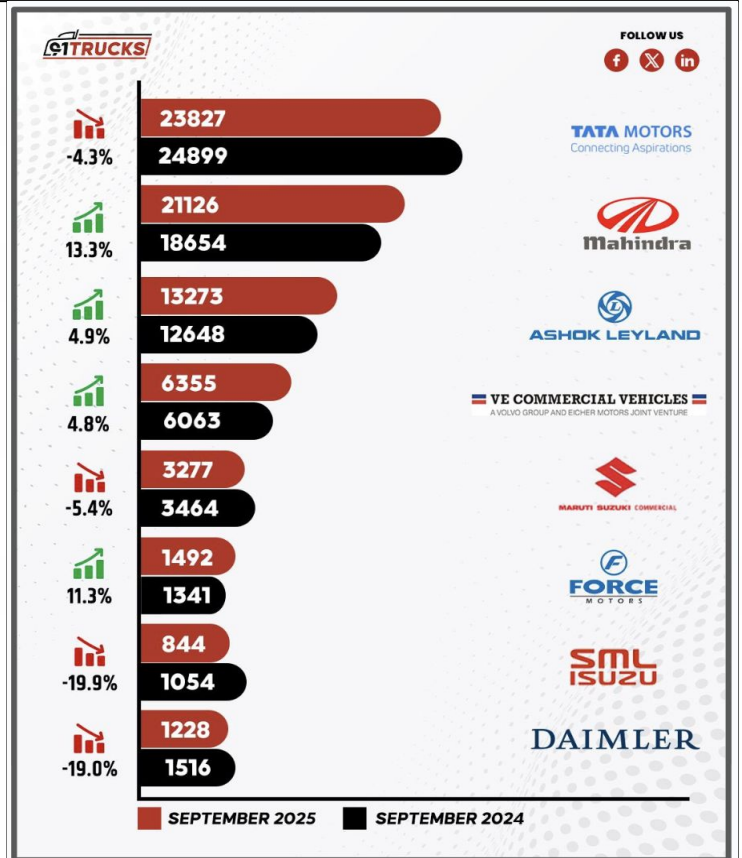
2. Evening Charging Peaks

If millions of EVs charge simultaneously in the evening:

- Electricity demand may spike sharply.

Possible consequences:

- Grid instability
- Power cuts
- Higher electricity prices



India's EV ambition needs a grid strategy to match



CONTEXT: A write-up has appeared covering various aspects of India's EV ambition.

Major Concerns of EV Adoption in India

1. Stress on Electricity Grid

Large-scale EV charging can overload India's power system, especially during evening peak hours.

- 50% EV adoption may require around **500 TWh** additional electricity annually.
- Electrifying heavy trucks alone may need **450–565 TWh/year**.
- Example: States are already witnessing delays in providing high-voltage connections for EV fleets.

2. Coal-Based Electricity Dependence

EVs reduce tailpipe emissions, but environmental gains remain limited if charging relies on coal power.

- Around **70% of India's electricity generation** comes from coal.
- Risk: India may shift from **oil dependence to coal dependence** instead of achieving clean mobility.

3. Inadequate Charging Infrastructure

Insufficient public charging stations discourage EV adoption and create range anxiety.

- India's charging network remains concentrated mainly in urban areas.
- Example: Long-distance freight EVs face charging accessibility issues on highways.

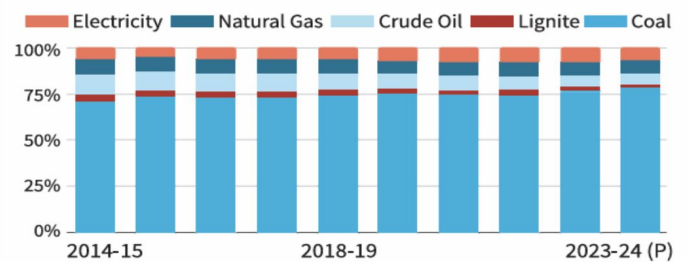
4. High Initial Cost of EVs

EVs have lower running costs but remain expensive upfront.

- Batteries account for nearly **35–40% of total EV cost**.
- Example: Electric cars still cost significantly more than comparable petrol vehicles.

Coal dominates

Coal in the share of total energy production (in petajoules) increased from 77% in FY23 to 79% in FY24.; about a fourth of the coal supply is imported



Source: Energy Statistics of India 2025, MoSPI

5. Dependence on Imported Critical Minerals

India heavily depends on imports for lithium, cobalt, nickel, and battery cells.

- Major suppliers include **China, Australia, and Chile**.
- This creates strategic and supply-chain vulnerabilities.

6. Battery Recycling and E-Waste

India lacks large-scale battery recycling infrastructure.

- Millions of EV batteries may reach end-of-life by the 2030s.
- Risk: A future battery waste and toxic disposal crisis.

7. Financial Weakness of DISCOMS

Power distribution companies (DISCOMS) are already financially stressed.

- Rising EV load may increase:
 - Infrastructure costs
 - Transmission losses
 - Supply reliability issues

8. Safety Concerns

Poor battery quality and thermal management can cause fires. Example: Ola

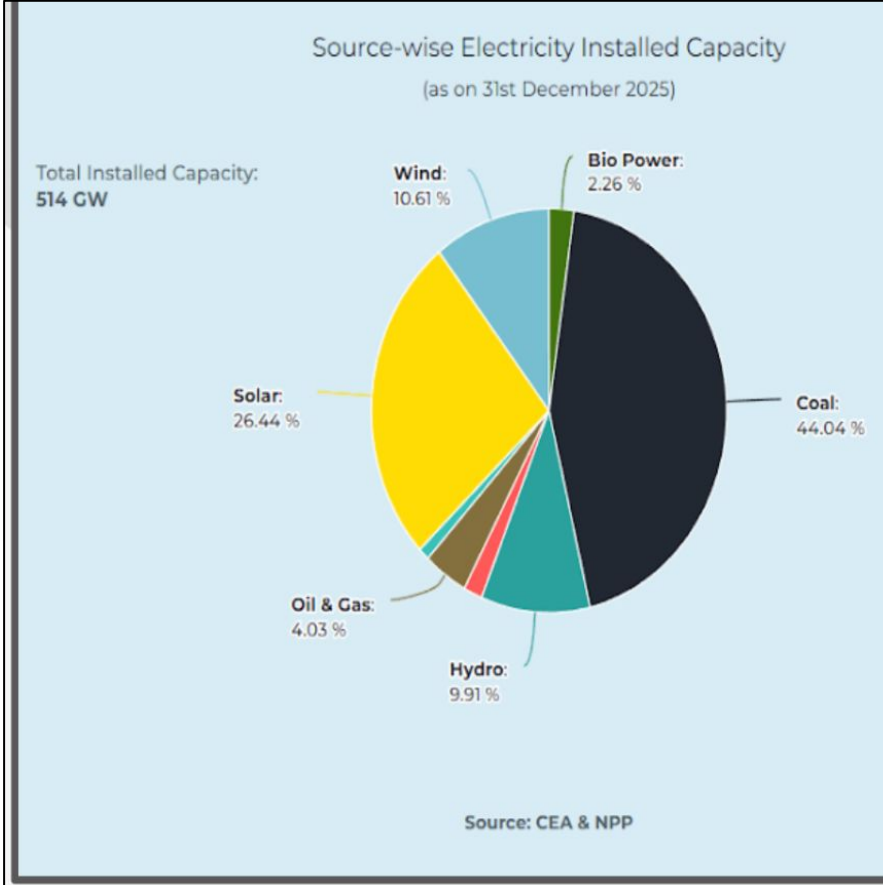


India's EV ambition needs a grid strategy to match



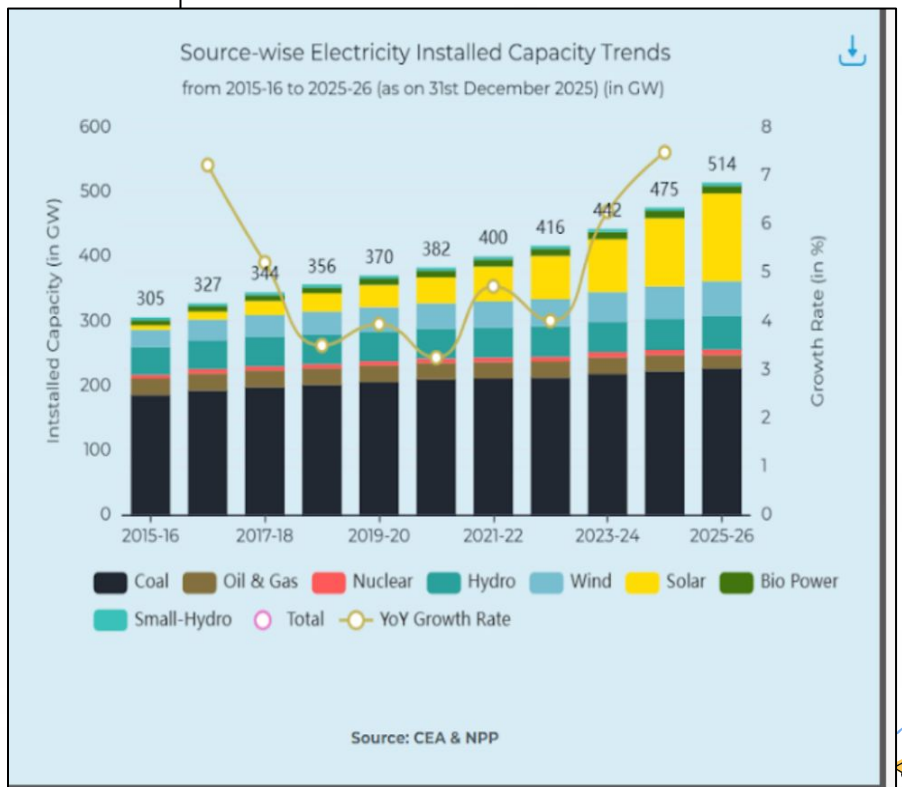
CONTEXT: A write-up has appeared covering various aspects of India's EV ambition.

Overview of India Power Generation



India Power Capacity - Overview

Installed Capacity Generation



India's EV ambition needs a grid strategy to match

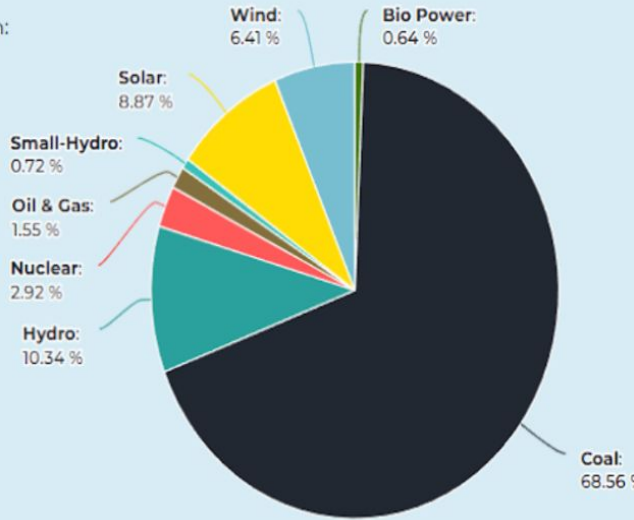


CONTEXT: A write-up has appeared covering various aspects of India's EV ambition.

Overview of India Power Generation

Source-wise Electricity Generation
2025-26 (as on 31st December 2025)

Total Generation:
1375 BU



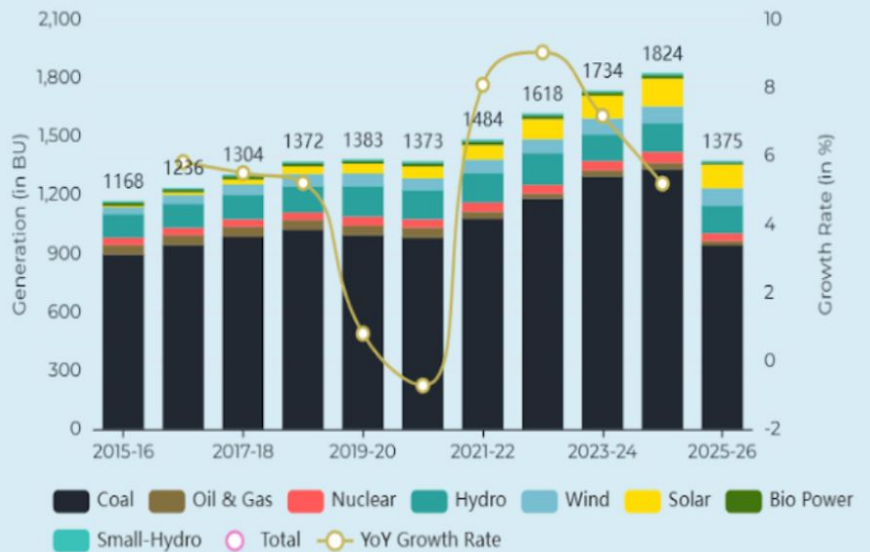
Source: CEA & NPP

India Power Generation - Overview

Installed Capacity Generation

Source-wise Electricity Generation Trends

from 2015-16 to 2025-26 (as on 31st December 2025) (in BU)



Source: CEA & NPP



India's EV ambition needs a grid strategy to match



CONTEXT: A write-up has appeared covering various aspects of India's EV ambition.

Government Initiatives

Scheme / Policy	Purpose / Focus	Key Components
FAME India Scheme Phase I	Early EV adoption & demand incentives	Incentives for e-2W, e-3W, e-4W, buses; charging infra pilot
FAME India Scheme Phase II	Demand creation for EVs	Subsidies for e-2W, e-3W, e-4W & e-buses; EV charging stations funding
PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)	Replace FAME-II with broader EV push	Demand incentives for e-2W, e-3W, e-Trucks, e-buses, ambulances; EV public charging; testing infra upgrade
Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile & Auto Components	Boost domestic EV manufacturing	Incentives for Advanced Automotive Technology (including EV components) production
PLI Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage	Strengthen battery ecosystem	Incentivise giga-scale battery (ACC) manufacturing
PM-eBus Sewa Scheme	Electrify urban bus fleets	Funding/e-bus deployment schemes

The Path Ahead

Make EV Demand Central to Electricity Planning

Target:

- 30%, 50%, and 100% electrification scenarios

Mandatory Smart Charging : Infrastructure should support:

- Grid-responsive charging

Joint Planning Between Ministries :

Coordination needed between:

- Transport
- Power
- Finance sectors

Strengthen DISCOMs- Improve:

- Financial health
- Local grid capacity
- Last-mile delivery systems

Smart Charging : Charging should happen:

- During solar hours
- At off-peak times

Using:

- Time-of-use pricing
- Smart chargers
- Managed charging systems



India's EV ambition needs a grid strategy to match



CONTEXT: A write-up has appeared covering various aspects of India's EV ambition.

Battery Swapping : Useful for:

- Commercial vehicles
- Two-wheelers

Helps reduce: Charging pressure on the grid

Better Grid Planning : India must:

- Include EV demand in power planning
- Upgrade substations and transmission lines
- Build EV-ready infrastructure

Mains Practise Question

Q. What are the key structural challenges associated with the large-scale integration of EVs in India? How can these challenges be addressed? (10 Marks, 150 Words)



Decoding Musk vs Altman Verdict



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Science and Technology
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 12

Background

- OpenAI was founded in 2015 as a nonprofit to build ethical and safe AGI.
- Founders believed AGI should benefit humanity and remain open-source.
- Elon Musk was an early supporter and donated about \$38 million.

Core Dispute

- Musk sued Sam Altman, Greg Brockman, and Microsoft.
- Allegation:
 - OpenAI abandoned its nonprofit mission.
 - It transformed into a profit-driven company.
 - Microsoft investments influenced this shift.

Why OpenAI Shifted

- Building AGI required massive funding and computing infrastructure.
- OpenAI argued nonprofit status alone was insufficient to compete with firms like Google/DeepMind.
- In 2019:
 - OpenAI created a for-profit subsidiary.
 - Nonprofit parent retained oversight.
 - Investors were given capped returns.

Microsoft's Role

- Microsoft invested billions into OpenAI.
- Became a major strategic and financial partner.
- Musk argued this violated OpenAI's original mission.

Court Verdict

- Jury dismissed Musk's lawsuit.
- Reason:
 - Procedural issue, not merits of the case.
 - Lawsuit was filed too late (statute of limitations).
- Court did not decide whether OpenAI betrayed its founding principles.

Important Trial Revelations

- Former executives raised concerns about Sam Altman's conduct.
- Mira Murati testified Altman had misled regarding a safety review.
- Ilya Sutskever reportedly prepared material criticizing Altman's leadership.
- OpenAI board briefly removed Altman in 2023 before reinstating him.



Decoding Musk vs Altman Verdict



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Science and Technology
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 12

OpenAI's Counterargument

- Evidence showed Musk himself earlier supported making OpenAI for-profit.
- Musk allegedly proposed integrating OpenAI with Tesla under his control.
- This weakened Musk's claim that he always opposed commercialization.

Claims That Failed

- Jury rejected claim that Microsoft's investment breached OpenAI's charitable mission.
- Musk's antitrust allegations against OpenAI and Microsoft remain unresolved.

Key Takeaways

- Verdict was procedural, not ideological.
- Main unresolved issue:
 - Whether OpenAI abandoned its original mission.
- OpenAI emerged as the immediate winner.

Term	Description
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Technology enabling machines to perform tasks requiring human intelligence.
Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)	Hypothetical AI capable of human-level reasoning across multiple domains.
Machine Learning (ML)	Subset of AI where systems learn patterns from data without explicit programming.
Deep Learning	Advanced ML using multi-layer neural networks to process complex data.
Neural Network	Computing system inspired by the human brain for pattern recognition and learning.
Generative AI	AI that creates new content such as text, images, audio, or code.
Large Language Model (LLM)	AI model trained on massive text datasets to understand and generate language.
Reinforcement Learning	ML method where an AI learns through rewards and penalties.



Decoding Musk vs Altman Verdict



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Science and Technology
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 12

Prelims Pointers

Term	Description
Supervised Learning	ML using labelled datasets for training.
Unsupervised Learning	ML where AI identifies patterns without labelled data.
Edge AI	AI processing performed directly on local devices instead of cloud servers.
Turing Test	Test to evaluate whether a machine can mimic human conversation.
Singularity	Hypothetical point where AI surpasses human intelligence rapidly.
AI Governance	Policies and regulations guiding AI development and use.
Agentic AI	AI capable of independently planning and performing tasks.
Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)	AI method combining external information retrieval with text generation.



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Major Crop and Cropping Patterns
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 04

ORGANIC FARMING

NATURAL BY CHOICE, SUSTAINABLE BY PRACTICE, HEALTHY BY NATURE

ABOUT

- Agricultural system that avoids **synthetic fertilizers**, **chemical pesticides**, **GMOs**, and **hormones**.
- Relies on **natural inputs** and **ecological processes** for farming.
- Focuses on **sustainability**, **soil health**, and **biodiversity conservation**.

No Synthetic Fertilizers

No Chemical Pesticides

No GMOs

No Hormones

KEY PRACTICES

- Crop rotation and mixed cropping
- Green manure and composting
- Vermicompost and bio-fertilizers
- Biological pest control
- Integrated farming systems

OBJECTIVES

- Maintain soil fertility and productivity
- Produce safe and nutritious food
- Reduce environmental pollution
- Promote sustainable agriculture
- Conserve biodiversity and natural resources

BENEFITS

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Improves soil health and organic carbon
- Reduces soil and water pollution
- Conserves biodiversity
- Enhances water retention
- Lowers greenhouse gas emissions

ECONOMIC

- Reduces dependence on chemical inputs
- Organic products fetch premium prices
- Generates rural employment
- Improves long-term farm sustainability

HEALTH

- Lower pesticide residues in food
- Safer for farmers and consumers
- Reduces exposure to toxic chemicals

Organic Farming is not just a method of cultivation, it is a way of life towards a healthier planet and a better future.

Healthy Soil for Future Generations

Nutritious Food for Healthy Lives

Sustainable Practices for a Better Planet

Empowering Farmers and Communities

ORGANIC FARMING IN INDIA

India has one of the highest numbers of organic farmers globally.

MAJOR CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

- Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)**
Locally oriented quality assurance system based on trust, participation and transparency.
- National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)**
Third-party certification system in accordance with national and international organic standards.
- "India Organic" (National Certification Mark)**
The official national mark for organically produced products in India.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)**
 - Promotes organic farming through cluster approach.
 - Supports certification, inputs, and marketing.
 - Empowers small and marginal farmers.
- Cluster-based Organic Farming Promotion**
 - Promotes formation of organic farming clusters.
 - Provides handholding support, training and capacity building.
 - Strengthens market linkages for better value realization.
- Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)**
 - Promotes certified organic farming in North-East India.
 - Supports FPOs, processing units and infrastructure.
 - Facilitates market access and exports.
- Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP)**
 - Promotes natural and traditional farming practices.
 - Encourages cow-based natural inputs.
 - Improves soil health and reduces chemical dependence.

Organic farming improves soil health, protects biodiversity, ensures food safety, and promotes sustainable livelihoods.

Chemical-free and safe food

Improves soil fertility

Conserves water and resources

Environment friendly

Supports farmer income and welfare

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Major Crop and Cropping Patterns
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 04

Natural vs. Organic Farming

NATURAL FARMING

- ✓ Zero external intervention
- ✓ Adapts to local conditions
- ✓ Relies on ecosystem for fertility
- ✓ Encourages microbial action and decomposition
- ✓ Low-cost due to reliance on biodiversity

ORGANIC FARMING

- ✓ Permits organic fertilizers
- ✓ Adheres to global standards
- ✓ Permits particular authorized synthetics
- ✓ Relies on manure and organic matter
- ✓ Higher cost with more external inputs



fssai



FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS
AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Inspiring Trust, Assuring Safe & Nutritious Food
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

(A)



Jaivik Bharat

(B)



(C)



(D)

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Health
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 18

EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD)

EVD (formerly Ebola haemorrhagic fever) is a severe, often fatal viral disease affecting humans and other primates. Caused by viruses of the **Orthoebolavirus** genus under the **Filoviridae** family.

MAJOR DISEASE-CAUSING SPECIES



Ebola virus (EBOV)
 → causes EVD



Sudan virus (SUDV)
 → causes Sudan virus disease



Bundibugyo virus (BDBV)
 → causes Bundibugyo virus disease

SYMPTOMS



INITIAL
 Fever, fatigue, muscle pain, headache, sore throat.



ADVANCED
 Vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, kidney/liver impairment, internal and external bleeding.

FATALITY RATE



- Average case fatality rate around **50%**.
- Past outbreaks ranged from 25%–90% depending on strain and medical response.

ORIGIN

First identified in **1976** during outbreaks in:

- Yambuku, DRC (near the Ebola River)
- Nzara, South Sudan



TREATMENT



- Early supportive care and rehydration improve survival.
- Monoclonal antibody treatments:
 - **Inmazeb**
 - **Ebanga** (for Zaire strain)

TRANSMISSION



ANIMAL-TO-HUMAN (ZOOONOTIC)

- Fruit bats (Pteropodidae family) are considered natural hosts.
- Spreads through contact with infected animals' blood, organs, secretions, or bodily fluids.



HUMAN-TO-HUMAN

- Direct contact with blood or bodily fluids of infected/deceased persons.
- Also spreads via contaminated objects like bedding or clothing.

KEY POINTS



High fatality but not airborne.



Prevention through hygiene, safe burial practices, and avoiding contact with infected individuals or animals.



No licensed vaccine widely available, though several vaccine candidates are in advanced trials.



Chandrayaan-3 'hop' experiment



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Space Technology

Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number :** 11

Chandrayaan-3 "Hop" Experiment

- On **23 August 2023**, India's Chandrayaan-3 successfully soft-landed near the Moon's south polar region using the **Vikram lander**.
- On **2 September 2023**, Vikram performed a small controlled "**hop**" (~40–50 cm high) using residual fuel.
- The hop demonstrated:
 - Engine restart capability
 - Controlled movement on the Moon
 - Technology for future lunar sample-return and reusable landing missions

ChaSTE Experiment

- ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment)** studied lunar regolith — fine, jagged, glass-like crushed rock particles on the Moon's surface.

- It included:
 - Rod-shaped probe with temperature sensors
 - Heater to study heat flow and soil properties
 - Surface penetration capability

Scientific Importance

- Improves understanding of:
 - Lunar surface composition and heat behavior
 - Water-ice preservation in subsurface layers
 - Safe landing and habitat construction sites for future Moon missions
- Provides the first detailed in-situ thermophysical and geotechnical data from the lunar south polar highland region.

Prelims Pointers

Chandrayaan Missions

Mission	Launch Year	Launch Vehicle	Mission Status	Major Achievement
Chandrayaan-1	2008	PSLV-XL C11	Successful (~95% success)	Discovered evidence of water molecules on the Moon
Chandrayaan-2	2019	GSLV Mk III-M1 (now LVM3)	Partially Successful	Orbiter successful; Vikram lander crash-landed during landing attempt
Chandrayaan-3	2023	LVM3-M4	Successful	India achieved first soft landing near Moon's south pole



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Environment and Ecology
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number:** 04

CANINE DISTEMPER

A highly contagious viral disease caused by the Canine Distemper Virus (CDV), belonging to the **Paramyxoviridae** family.

MAINLY AFFECTS
Dogs and wild carnivores such as tigers, leopards, foxes, wolves, and wild dogs.

SPREADS THROUGH
Airborne droplets, direct contact, and infected body secretions.

AFFECTS MULTIPLE SYSTEMS
Attacks the respiratory, digestive, and nervous systems.

SYMPTOMS
Fever, nasal discharge, coughing, diarrhoea, seizures, and paralysis.

THE VIRUS

- Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)
- Family: Paramyxoviridae
- Enveloped, single-stranded RNA virus

RESERVOIRS
Domestic and stray dogs act as major reservoirs, enabling transmission to wildlife.

PREVENTION
Vaccination of dogs is the most effective preventive measure.

THREAT TO WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Considered a serious threat to wildlife conservation due to cross-species transmission.

CANINE DISTEMPER is highly contagious and fatal in many cases. Controlling the disease in domestic dogs is crucial to **protect our wildlife and biodiversity**.

KANHA TIGER RESERVE

A JEWEL OF CENTRAL INDIA'S WILDLIFE HERITAGE

LOCATION
Located in Madhya Pradesh in the Maikal range of the Satpura hills; part of the Central Indian Highlands.

DECLARATION
Declared a **National Park** in 1955 and included under **Project Tiger** in 1973.

CORRIDORS
Connected with Pench Tiger Reserve and Achanakmar Tiger Reserve through important wildlife corridors.

WILDLIFE
Famous for **tigers, leopards, barasingha, sloth bears, and wild dogs**.

CONSERVATION
Known for the successful conservation of the **hard-ground barasingha**.

VEGETATION
Vegetation includes **sal forests, bamboo forests, grasslands, and wetlands**.

LOCATION

Situated in the Maikal range of the Satpura hills, part of the Central Indian Highlands.

QUICK FACTS

Established	1955 (National Park)
Project Tiger	Included in 1973
Area	Approx. 2,051 sq. km
Elevation	450–850 m above MSL
Climate	Tropical; Hot summers, pleasant winters

RICH BIODIVERSITY

TIGER

LEOPARD

BARASINGHA
(HARD-GROUND)

SLOTH BEAR

WILD DOG

SIGNIFICANCE

- ✓ One of the finest examples of tiger conservation in India.
- ✓ Vital part of the Central Indian Landscape, ensuring connectivity and genetic flow for wildlife.
- ✓ A home to diverse flora and fauna and a model of community-based conservation.

Q1. Which of the following statements best describes the term 'Turing Test' recently seen in the news?

- a) An AI system's ability to independently plan and execute tasks without human intervention.
- b) A method in which AI combines external information retrieval with text generation to improve responses.
- c) A test designed to assess whether a machine can imitate human conversation convincingly enough to be indistinguishable from a human.
- d) A benchmark that measures the ability of AI systems to process data locally on edge devices instead of cloud servers.

Answer: c

Q2. With reference to organic farming in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) is based on local participation, trust and transparency rather than third-party certification.
- 2. Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP) promotes cow based inputs to enhance crop productivity.
- 3. Paramparagat rishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) promotes organic farming through cluster approach.

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

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

Answer: d

Q3. With reference to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), consider the following statements:

- 1. Ebola virus disease is caused by viruses belonging to the Filoviridae family.
- 2. Fruit bats are regarded as natural hosts of the Ebola virus.
- 3. Ebola spreads primarily through airborne transmission between humans.

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

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

Answer: b

Q4. With reference to India's Chandrayaan missions, consider the following statements:

- 1. The "hop" experiment demonstrated engine restart capability and controlled movement on the lunar surface.
- 2. The ChaSTE experiment was designed to study the thermophysical properties of lunar regolith.
- 3. Chandrayaan-2 achieved India's first successful soft landing near the Moon's south pole.

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: a

Q5. With reference to Canine Distemper Virus (CDV), consider the following statements:

- 1. Canine Distemper is an enveloped single-stranded RNA viral disease capable of cross-species transmission among carnivores.
- 2. Airborne droplets and infected body secretions are among the major modes of transmission of the disease.

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





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