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Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**21st May 2026**



# Andrabi ruling & UAPA



**CONTEXT:** The apex court of the country has reversed its earlier stand on UAPA 1967 taken in Gurwinder Singh Judgement of 2024 by upholding Right to Personal Liberty in S. I. Andrabi Judgement 2025

## Mains Heading 1: Salient Provisions of UAPA 1967:

What constitutes an "Unlawful activity"?

Action of an **Individual or Association** : Intends to bring **cession or secession** of Indian territory

Disclaims or questions India's **sovereignty and integrity**

Causes **disruption of harmony or public order**

**2004 Amendment** included for the first time, the term "**Terrorism**" in the provisions of the Act

**Section 3:** Only Central Government can declare any association as "unlawful"

Applicable to both **Citizen or a foreign national**

**First Schedule:** Lists banned organisations

**CPI(ML), SIMI, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)**

## Mains Heading 1: Salient Provisions of UAPA 1967:

**FATF: Prelims 2026 Corner**

India became 34th member of FATF in **2010**

Inter - Governmental body established by **G7 in 1989**

Curb down money laundering & **Hawala Channels**

**2001 Mandate:** Illicit use to fund terrorist activities

**Black List:** Countries with serious strategic deficiencies in countering **money laundering and terrorist financing**

**2013 Amendment**

Included "**money laundering**" as one of the offences

Prosecution of **individual or Organisation** involved in Money laundering

Established links with **Terrorist groupings** or Act

Extended ban on Organisations for period of **5 years**



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## Investigation & Enforcement

- **Section 43A–43F:** Special powers to National Investigation Agency (NIA) & state police
- NIA can take over cases **without State govt consent** (post-2008 amendment)
- **Section 25:** Property of accused can be seized

## Arrest & Bail Provisions :

- NIA can detain a person for **180 days** without filing charge sheet
- **Section 43D(5):** Bail denied if **prima facie case exists**
- Courts have very **limited power** to grant bail
- **Penalty:** Capital Punishment or Life imprisonment
- **Tribunal under Section 5** headed by a High Court judge reviews bans within 6 months

## Mains Heading 1: Salient Provisions of UAPA 1967:

### Hard line

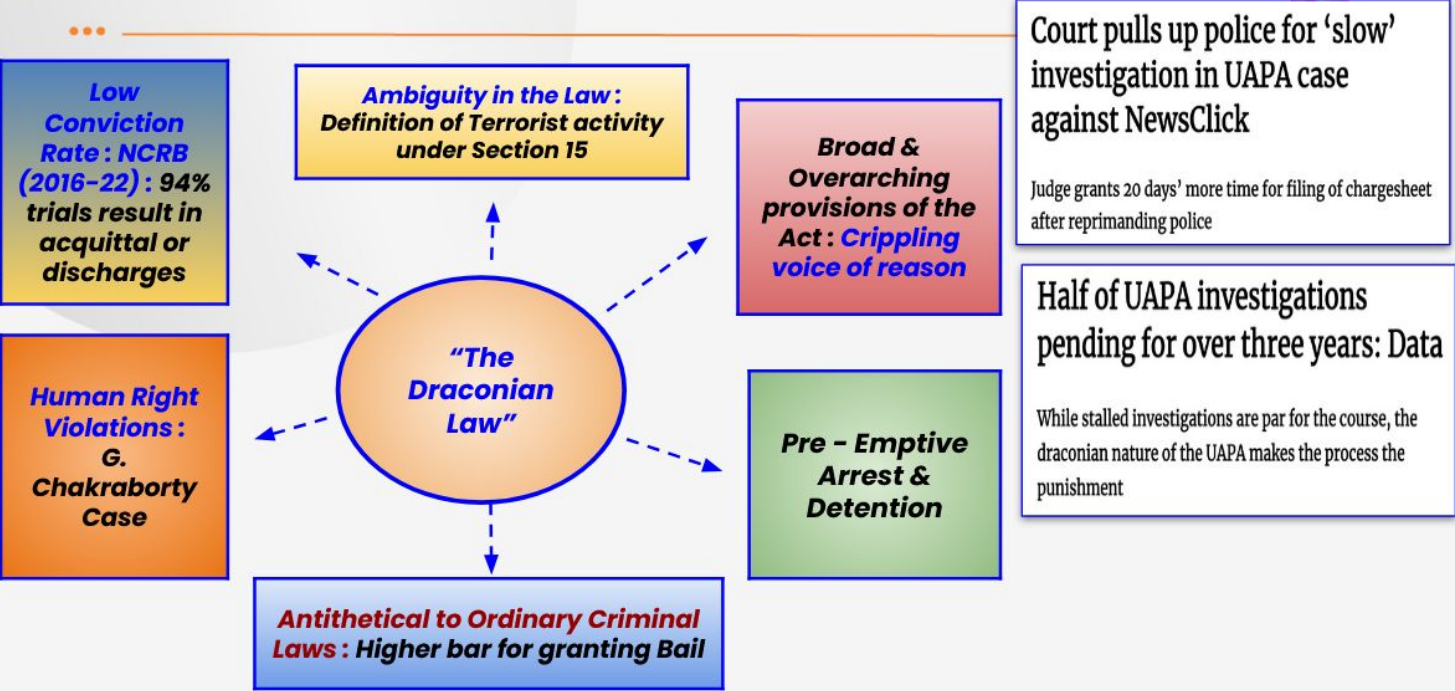
The UAPA Bill, 2019, amends the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. Some highlights:

**TERRORISM:** Under the Act, the central government may designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation if it: (i) commits or participates in acts of terrorism, (ii) prepares for terrorism, (iii) promotes terrorism, or (iv) is involved in terrorism. The Bill additionally empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists on the same grounds

**SEIZURE OF PROPERTY:** Under the Act, an investigating officer must obtain prior approval of the DGP to seize properties that may be connected with terrorism. If the investigation is conducted by an officer of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the approval of the Director General, NIA is mandatory

**INVESTIGATION:** Under the Act, investigation of cases may be conducted by officers of the rank of DSP or ACP or above. Officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, can also investigate cases

## Mains Heading 2: Criticism of UAPA 1967:

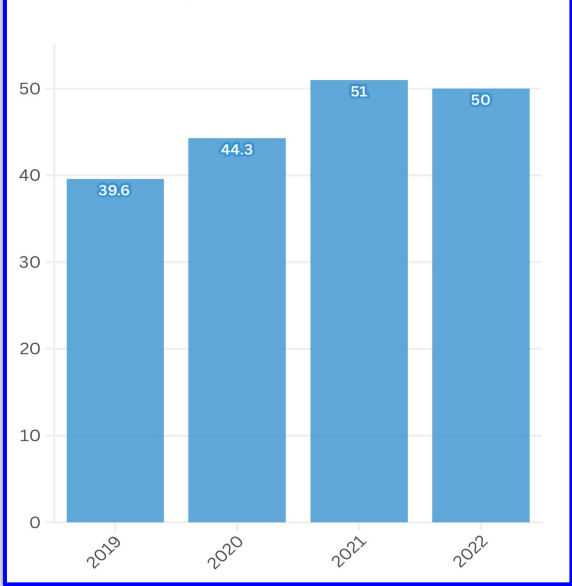


# Andrabi ruling & UAPA

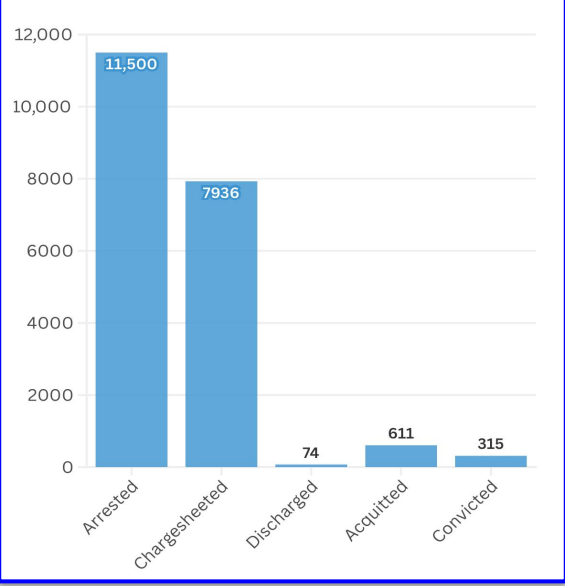
**CONTEXT:** The apex court of the country has reversed its earlier stand on UAPA 1967 taken in Gurwinder Singh Judgement of 2024 by upholding Right to Personal Liberty in S. I. Andrabi Judgement 2025

## Mains Heading 2 : Criticism of UAPA 1967:

**Chart 2** shows the share of UAPA cases between 2019 and 2022 whose investigations have been pending for more than three years.



**Chart 3** shows the number of persons arrested under the UAPA, persons charge sheeted, discharged, acquitted, and convicted in the 2017-2022 period.



**Live Law**

**Upto 6% Conviction In UAPA Cases Nationally; In J&K, Conviction Rate Less Than 1%: Supreme Court**

18 May 2025

## Mains Heading 3 : The Judicial Verdict:

### Judicial Precedents :

<b>Balchand Case 1978</b>	<b>"Bail is the rule, Jail is the exception"</b>
<b>UOI v. KA Najeeb Case 2021</b>	<b>"Bail under UAPA is exception, but shall be balanced by "Speedy trial"</b>
<b>V. Gonsalves Case 2023</b>	<b>"Surface analysis of probative values of accused's plea is necessary"</b>
<b>Gurwinder Singh Case 2024</b>	<b>Bail is the exception, Jail is rule under UAPA</b>
<b>S. I. Andrabi v. NIA Jammu 2025</b>	<b>Right to personal liberty &amp; speedy trial can NOT be subservient to provision in Section 43 - D (5) : Disapproved earlier stand in Gurwinder Singh</b>

### Suggestive Measures :

- **Law Commission of India Report 2018 :** "If prima facie no case under Section 43D (5), Bail shall given by court"
- **Justice AP Shah Committee 2010 :** Repeal Section 43D (5) & precisely define "Terrorist acts"
- **NIA Review Committee 2018 :** Robust protection of accused
- **Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy :** Introduce pre- and post-facto judicial or independent oversight for the application of UAPA provisions



# Andrabi ruling & UAPA



**CONTEXT:** The apex court of the country has reversed its earlier stand on UAPA 1967 taken in Gurwinder Singh Judgement of 2024 by upholding Right to Personal Liberty in S. I. Andrabi Judgement 2025

## Mains Practise Question

**Practise Question :** What are the **salient provisions of the UAPA Act?** What was the need of enactment of such stringent law in the independent India? Why it has remained a **centre of controversy** since its inception? Provide **suggestive measures** in this regard.  
(15 Marks, 250 words)



# Indo - Mediterranean Corridor



**CONTEXT:** India & Italy has elevated their bilateral ties to a "Special strategic partnership" thus further strengthening across the Mediterranean trade connectivity & India - EU Trade relations

## Mains Heading 1: "Special Strategic Partnership" with Italy:

### Context of News:

ELEVATING THEIR bilateral ties to a "special strategic partnership", India and Italy Wednesday set a trade target of 20 billion euros by 2029, agreed on a defence industrial roadmap, and concluded pacts on critical minerals, countering money laundering and terror financing.



Cooperation between India - Italy against the backdrop of an emerging "Indo-Mediterranean" corridor

Objective: Exceed the €20 billion bilateral trade target by 2029

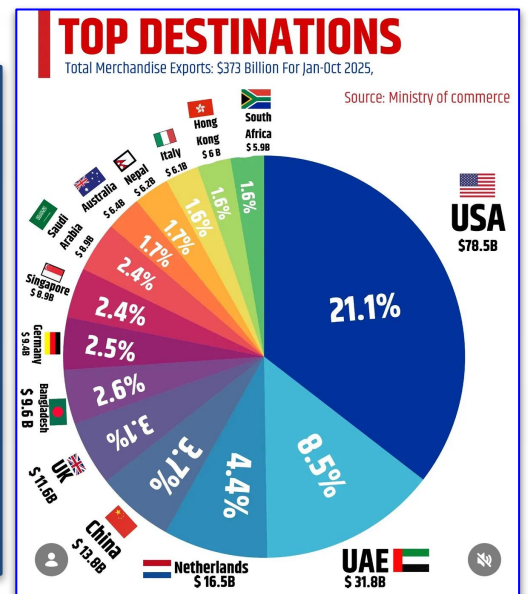
India does NOT have an exclusive standalone FTA with Italy

MoEA: Bilateral trade in FY 25-26: £14.25 Billion: India's 4th largest trading partner in EU

Further enhance the Trade: India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

Announced in G-20 Summit In 2023 hosted by India

Mo Commerce: \$2 Trillion Exports by 2030



# Indo - Mediterranean Corridor



**CONTEXT:** India & Italy has elevated their bilateral ties to a "Special strategic partnership" thus further strengthening across the Mediterranean trade connectivity & India - EU Trade relations

## Mains Heading 2 : What is "European Union"?

### Introduction?

It was born from the ashes of the World War 2 as a strong Political & Economic bloc of 27 countries

### Creation of "Eurozone":

Treaty of Paris 1951: European Coal & Steel Community

Treaty of Rome 1957: European Economic Community

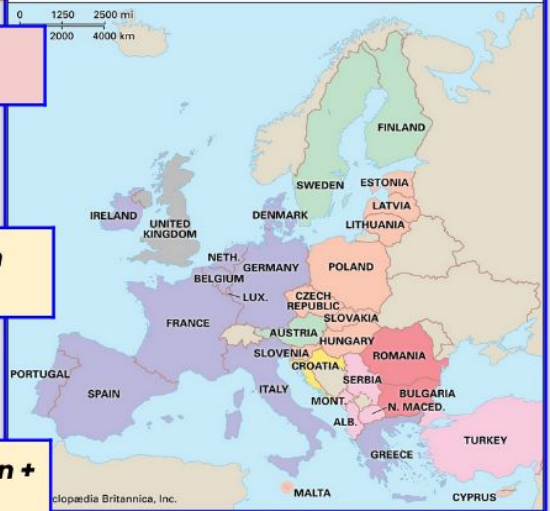
Formal establishment : Maastricht Treaty 1992

Economic Importance : 450 million + population & \$19 Trillion GDP

Headquarter : Brussel, Belgium

### THE EUROPEAN UNION

Original members, 1993  
 Joined in 1995  
 Joined in 2004  
 Joined in 2007  
 Joined in 2013  
 Candidate countries  
 Former member



## Mains Heading 3 : How significant is India - EU Trade?

### Data to Quote :

- EU is India's largest trading partner
- Merchandise Trade : \$136 billion (36% increase in 5 years)
- EU is India's 2nd largest destination for Exports
- EU's share in Foreign Investment stock = € 108 Billion (2023-24)
- 6000+ Euro companies in India
- India is EU's 9th largest trading partner
- India's share in EU's trade = 2.2%

### India - EU bilateral merchandise trade trajectory

Year	Export	Import	Total Trade
2017-18	44	43	87
2018-19	48	51	99
2019-20	45	45	90
2020-21	41	40	81
2021-22	65	51	116
2022-23	75	61	136
2023-24	76	61	137
2024-25	76	60	136

Source : Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

### India's merchandise exports to EU (Top 20 Items at 2 Digits level)

Sr.No	Major Items of exports (HS 2 Digits)	USD Billion
1	MINERAL FUELS, MINERAL OILS AND PRODUCTS	15
2	ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AND PARTS	11
3	ORGANIC CHEMICALS	5
4	NUCLEAR REACTORS, BOILERS, MACHINERY AND MECHANICAL APPLIANCES	5
5	IRON AND STEEL	3
6	PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	3



# Indo - Mediterranean Corridor

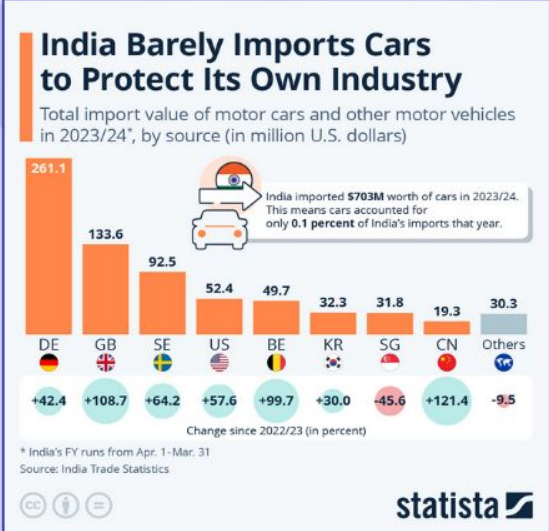
**CONTEXT:** India & Italy has elevated their bilateral ties to a "Special strategic partnership" thus further strengthening across the Mediterranean trade connectivity & India - EU Trade relations

## Mains Heading 4 : Prevailing Impediments in India - EU Relations :

**Issue 1: Contradicts "Make in India" & Atma Nirbhar Bharat Policy :**

**European Envoys : Luxury & Premium vehicles make 4-5% of total passenger car sales**

Particulars		Amount
Assessable Value	A	24,00,000
Add: Basic Customs duty (100%)	B= A*100%	24,00,000
Add: Additional Custom Duty (CVD @ 12%)	C=(A+B)*12%	5,76,000
Add: Education Cess duty (3%)	D=(B+C)*3%	89,280
Add: Additional Custom Duty(Special CVD)	E= (A+B+C+D)*4%	2,18,611
<b>Total Cost of Import</b>		<b>56,83,891</b>
<b>Total Custom Duty payable</b>		<b>32,83,891</b>



### EASY ON THE PURSE

The prices of luxury cars will be reduced by 38% after the free trade agreement

■ Audi A8

Fully imported cars	Current price	Likely post-FTA
BMW 7 series	₹84 lakh	₹52 lakh
Audi A8	₹89 lakh	₹55 lakh
Jaguar XF	₹48.6 lakh	₹30 lakh
VW Beetle	₹21 lakh	₹13 lakh
VW Phaeton	₹76.4 lakh	₹47.4 lakh
Mercedes S65 AMG	₹2.5 crore	₹1.5 crore
Rolls Royce Ghost	₹2.5 crore	₹1.5 crore

**"Imports will shoot up: BOP Crisis"**

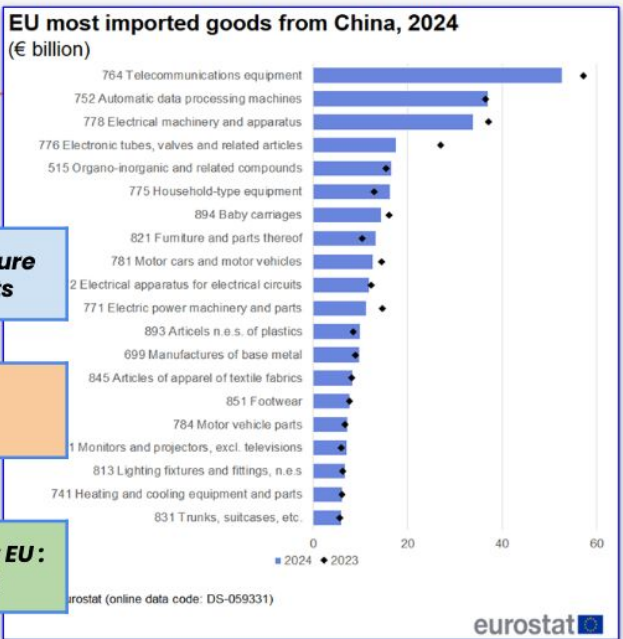
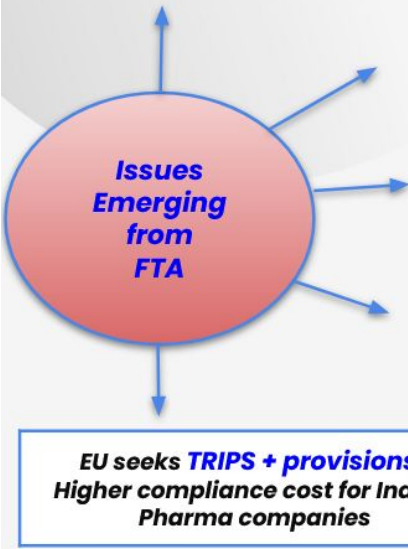
## Mains Heading 4 : Prevailing Impediments in India - EU Relations :

**Highly competitive & subsidised EU products could undercut Indian farmer's earnings**

**EU pushing for Sensitive Agriculture sector : Poultry & Dairy products**

**Ghost of RCEP & Horrors of CBAM**

**Non - Tariff Barriers imposed by EU : Curbs India's export prospect**



**EU seeks TRIPS + provisions : Higher compliance cost for India's Pharma companies**

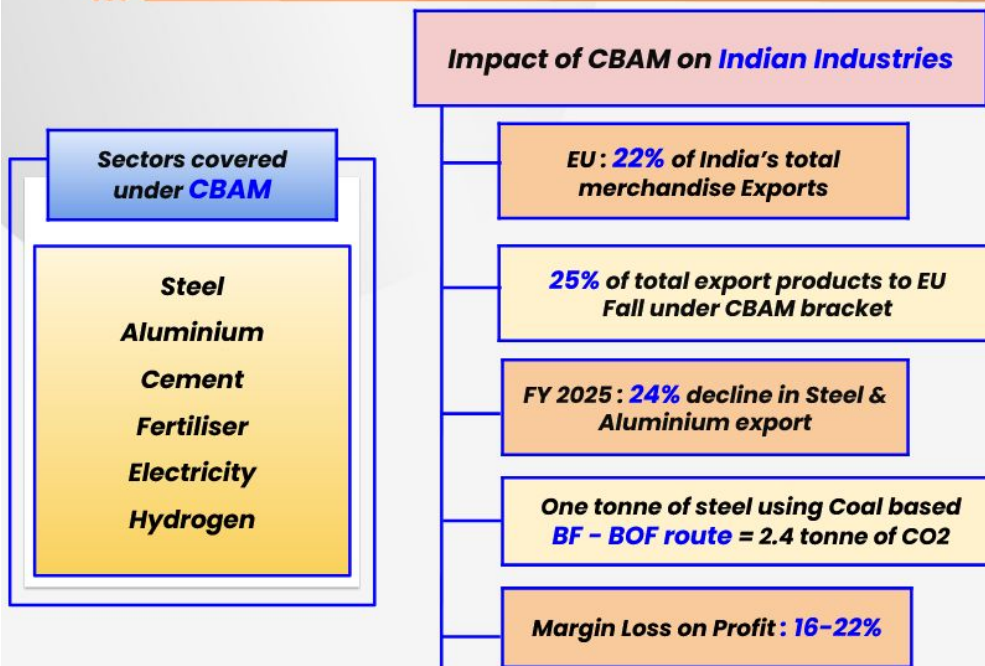


# Indo - Mediterranean Corridor



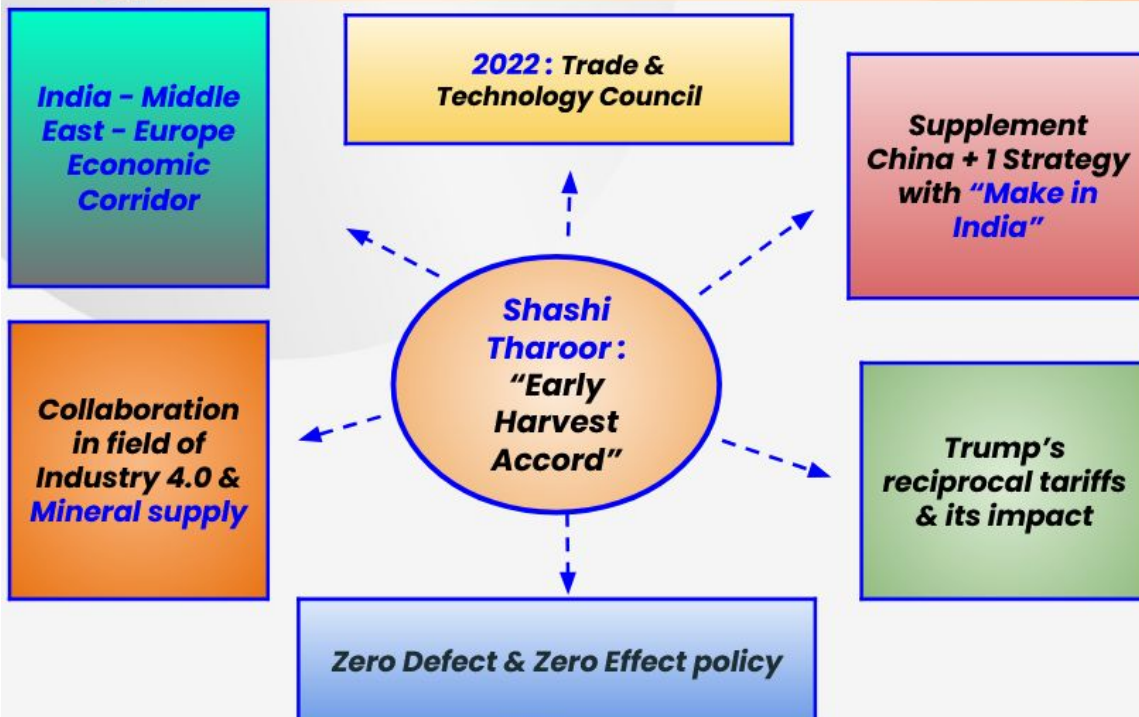
**CONTEXT:** India & Italy has elevated their bilateral ties to a "Special strategic partnership" thus further strengthening across the Mediterranean trade connectivity & India - EU Trade relations

## Mains Heading 4 : Prevailing Impediments in India - EU Relations :



Steel and aluminium, which account for about 10 per cent of global carbon emissions, are now the most protected sectors in the developed world. The US already imposes a 50 per cent import tariff, and the EU will soon add a new carbon tax. What is presented as climate action is also a tool for industrial protection and revenue generation

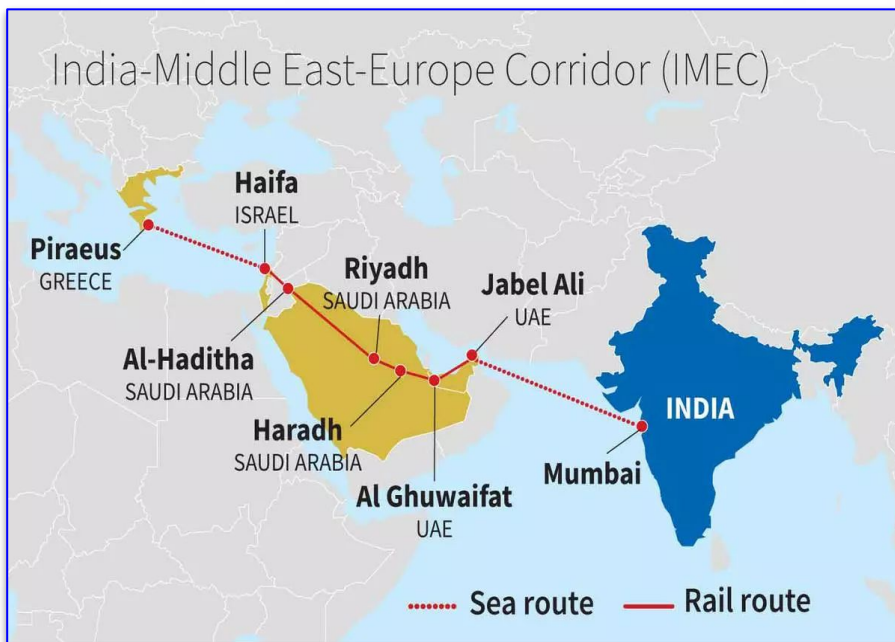
## Mains Heading 5 : Way Forward in India - EU Relations :



**CONTEXT:** India & Italy has elevated their bilateral ties to a “Special strategic partnership” thus further strengthening across the Mediterranean trade connectivity & India - EU Trade relations

## India-EU Resilience Forum seeks to foster dialogue on non-traditional security challenges

India-Europe Resilience Forum fosters dialogue on shared security challenges, emphasising cooperation in critical technologies and raw materials



## Mains Practise Question

**Practise Question :** What are **emerging concerns** between India - EU trade relations? Provide suggestive measures.  
(10 Marks, 150 words)



# Surging summer power demand



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Energy Sector**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 11**

## Context of News :

India's electricity demand has surged earlier than expected this year, with peak demand touching an all-time high of 256.1 gigawatts (GW) on April 25. (The country followed up with higher records on May 19 and May 20). Nearly one-third of this peak demand was met through renewable energy (RE) sources. While the national grid held up without any shortage during solar hours, the non-solar hours saw a deficit of 2% (4,243 megawatts) on the same day.

## Indian Energy Exchange Data 2020 - 25

**Peak Demand : Highest point of Electrical power consumed on grid typically a 15- minute interval**

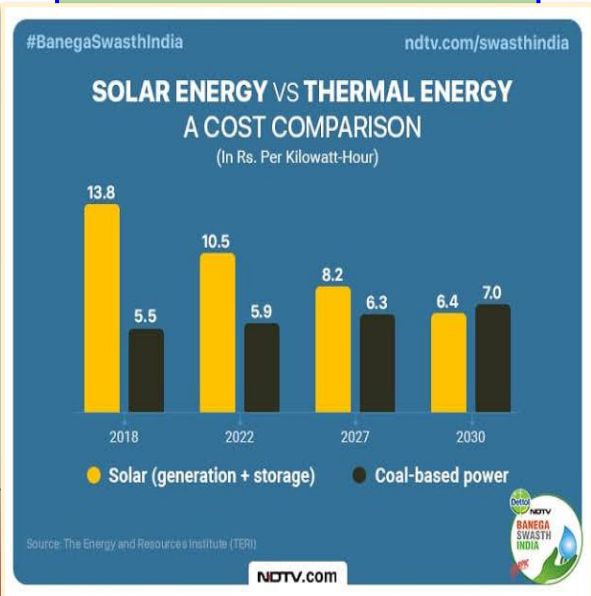
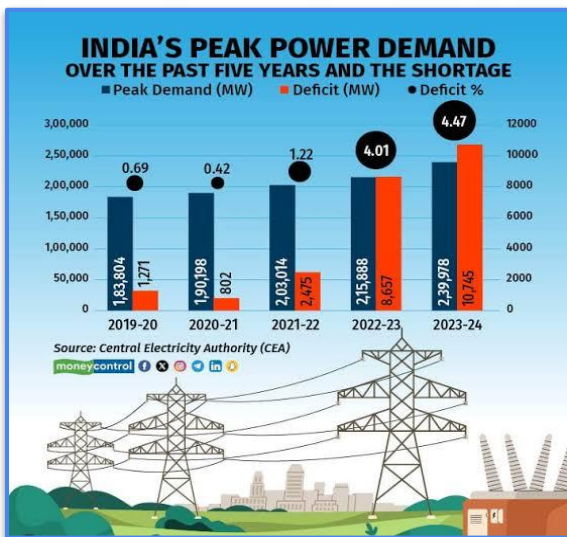
**Contractual Supply : DISCOMs signs Long - Term PPA with Power generators : 85-90% power demand**

**In event of Real time mismatches : Power Exchange purchases (PEP) : 10-15% demand**

**2020-25 : Power demand has risen by 37% (180 GW in 2020 to >250 GW in 2026)**

**India's Generation Capacity : 2011-2024 : Increased by 76% : 303 GW to 532 GW**

## Issues with Renewable Energy:



## Issues with Power Scaling :

- **Transmission lines expanded by 47% & Transformation capacity increased by 15%**
- **"Corresponding expansion in Distribution Infrastructure has not happened"**
- **CEA : Nearly 13 Lakh Distribution Transformers fail annually**
- **Ageing equipment & inadequate maintenance compromises last mile delivery**
- **Fiscal Issue : Purchase of Costly Short term power v. Large investment in Distribution Network Upgrades**



# Surging summer power demand



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Energy Sector**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 11**

## Initiatives to boost Renewable Energy in India :

<p><b>PM - Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of New &amp; Renewable Energy</li> <li>Install rooftop solar panels on <b>1 crore households</b></li> <li><b>40% subsidy cost borne by Govt</b></li> <li>Save <b>₹75,000 crore annually in electricity costs</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Green Hydrogen Mission</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of New &amp; Renewable Energy</li> <li>Produce <b>5 MMT of Green Hydrogen by 2030</b></li> <li>Add <b>125 GW of Renewable Energy Capacity by 2030</b></li> <li>India's <b>1st Green Hydrogen Plant : Jorhat, Assam</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Green Energy Corridors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inter &amp; Intra State Transmission Systems</li> <li><b>20 GW of Power projects in RE Rich states like Gujarat, TN &amp; Uttar Pradesh</b></li> </ul>

### INDIA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY JOURNEY

CLEANER TODAY, GREENER TOMORROW

**01** CURRENT INSTALLED RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY (INCLUDING LARGE HYDRO)

**254+ GW** (AS OF 2025)

NON-FOSSIL FUEL CAPACITY CROSSED  
50% OF TOTAL INSTALLED POWER CAPACITY IN 2025.

**02** SHARE OF MAJOR SOURCES IN TOTAL INSTALLED CAPACITY (2025)

SOLAR ENERGY	~133-150 GW (Largest Contributor)
WIND ENERGY	~54-56 GW
HYDROPOWER (LARGE HYDRO)	~50-51 GW
NUCLEAR ENERGY	~9 GW

**03** SHARE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN TOTAL POWER GENERATION (FY 2024-25)

**20.2%** OF INDIA'S TOTAL ELECTRICITY GENERATION

RENEWABLE GENERATION REACHED 403.64 BILLION UNITS (BU) IN FY25.

**04** INDIA'S GLOBAL RANKING IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

- 4th** IN TOTAL RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTALLED CAPACITY
- 4th** IN WIND POWER CAPACITY
- 3rd** IN SOLAR POWER CAPACITY

INDIA IS AMONG THE WORLD'S LEADING RENEWABLE ENERGY ECONOMIES, DRIVING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AND SELF-RELIANT FUTURE.



# Veera Pasi : The "Forgotten" Hero



**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Modern History : Significant Events & Personalities  
**Newspaper :** The Indian Express, **Page No :** Explained

## Context of News :

ON WEDNESDAY, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi unveiled a statue of Veera Pasi, a "forgotten hero" who had fought the British during the Revolt of 1857, in Raebareli. While this was not the first attempt by a political party to woo the Pasi community in Uttar Pradesh through a community icon, Gandhi's move is significant ahead of the state Assembly elections next year. Gandhi also addressed a "Bahujan Swabhiman Sabha" in Veera Pasi's memory the same day.

**Rana Beni Madhav Baksh Singh of Shankarpur Estate (Raebareli)**

**Grandson of Raja Ranjit Singh (1799-1839)**

**Born on November 11, 1835 into impoverished Dalit family**

**"Veerna": Brother living in Sister's family to "Veera"**

**Rescued Singh from the prison of Britishers during 1857 Revolt**

**Aligned with Nana Sahib & Rani Lakshmibai**

**Reward of ₹50,000 kept by Britishers to capture Veera Pasi**

**Sacrificed his life For Motherland**

<b>Delhi</b>	<b>Bakht Khan &amp; Bahadur Shah Zafar</b>	<b>John Nicholson &amp; Hudson</b>	<b>Mandla</b>	<b>Rani Avantibai of Ramgarh</b>
<b>Kanpur</b>	<b>Nana Sahib</b>	<b>Hugh Wheeler</b>	<b>Faizabad</b>	<b>Ahmadullah Shah</b>
<b>Lucknow</b>	<b>Birjis Qadr &amp; Begum Hazrat Mahal</b>	<b>Colin Campbell</b>	<b>Bareilly</b>	<b>Bakht Khan</b>
<b>Jhansi</b>	<b>Laxmibai</b>	<b>Hugh Rose</b>	<b>Bihar</b>	<b>Kunwar Singh</b>
<b>Allahabad</b>	<b>Liaqat Ali</b>	<b>Colonel Neil</b>	<b>Baraut, UP</b>	<b>Shah Mal</b>



# Veera Pasi : The "Forgotten" Hero

**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Modern History : Significant Events & Personalities  
**Newspaper :** The Indian Express, **Page No :** Explained

<b>Maulvi Ahmadullah SHAH</b>	<b>SHAH MAL</b>	<b>Kunwar Singh</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1856 : Call of religious war (Jihad) against Britishers</b></li> <li>• <b>"Danka Shah" : Maulvi with drum</b></li> <li>• <b>22nd Native Infantry of Faizabad : Leader of Revolt</b></li> <li>• <b>Battle of Chinhhat : Defeat Henry Lawrence</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Baraut</b></li> <li>• <b>Alliance of "Chowrasee Des" or 84 Villages</b></li> <li>• <b>Transformed bungalow of European Officer into "Hall of Justice"</b></li> <li>• <b>Died in Battle in 1857</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ruler of Jagdishpur estate</b></li> <li>• <b>Occupied the District HQ of Arrah</b></li> <li>• <b>Cut off bullet infected hand</b></li> <li>• <b>Captured Azamgarh</b></li> <li>• <b>Defeated by Captain Le Grande</b></li> </ul>



A miniature portrait of Kunwar Singh, watercolour on ivory, c. 1857.<sup>[8]</sup>



Kunwar Singh and his attendants



# Thorium as "Nuclear Fuel"

**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Science & Technology  
**Newspaper :** The Indian Express, **Page No :** Explained

## Thorium as "Nuclear Fuel"

### Context of News :

IT IS heartening to see indigenously developed pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWR) getting into the mainstream of India's energy push towards a net-zero compliant Viksit Bharat. The 100 GWe (gigawatt electric) nuclear energy mission launched by the government is to be realised by 2047.

### A much-needed shift

So, a quicker shift to thorium — that India has in abundance — remains critical to India's energy independence. Large reactor capacity that can produce uranium-233 (U-233) from thorium at scale while also producing electricity is a prerequisite for this. Thus, the first criticality of the 500

Fissile Nuclear Fuel	Fertile Nuclear Fuel
Fissile isotopes can be directly used as fuel	Needs to be converted into fissile fuel
U- 233, 235 & Pu - 239	U - 238 & Th - 232
<b>Jharkhand</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jaduguda (Singhbhum)</li> <li>Narwapahar</li> <li>Turamdih &amp; Bagjata</li> </ul>
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tummalapalle</li> <li>Lambapur - Peddagattu</li> </ul>
<b>Telangana</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lambapur</li> <li>Peddagattu</li> </ul>
<b>Rajasthan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rohil Mine in Sikar district</li> </ul>
<b>Meghalaya</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domiasiat</li> <li>Wakhyn</li> </ul>

### Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR)

- Fuel: **Natural Uranium** (7 kg of U- 235 & 993 kg of U- 238)
- Nuclear fission reaction**
- Heavy Water (D2O):** Used as both moderator & coolant
- 22 Nuclear reactors** works upon PHWR
- U-238 absorbs Neutron : Transforms into **Pu-239** (spent fuel)

### Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR)

- Fuel: **Uranium - 238 & Pu - 239**
- Blanket of U-238 over fissile fuel core
- "Fertile" U-238 : Absorb neutron & convert into Pu - 239
- Self sustaining chain reaction**
- Coolant: **Liquid Sodium**

### Advance Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR)

- Use of **Thorium - 232** to produce Uranium - 233
- U - 233 is a fissile material
- Undergoes Nuclear fission to create self sustaining chain reaction
- Coolant: **Light Water (H2O)**



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Science & Technology**  
**Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : Explained**

## Thorium Reserves in India

**"Placer deposits"**  
along streams,  
rivers, beaches  
etc

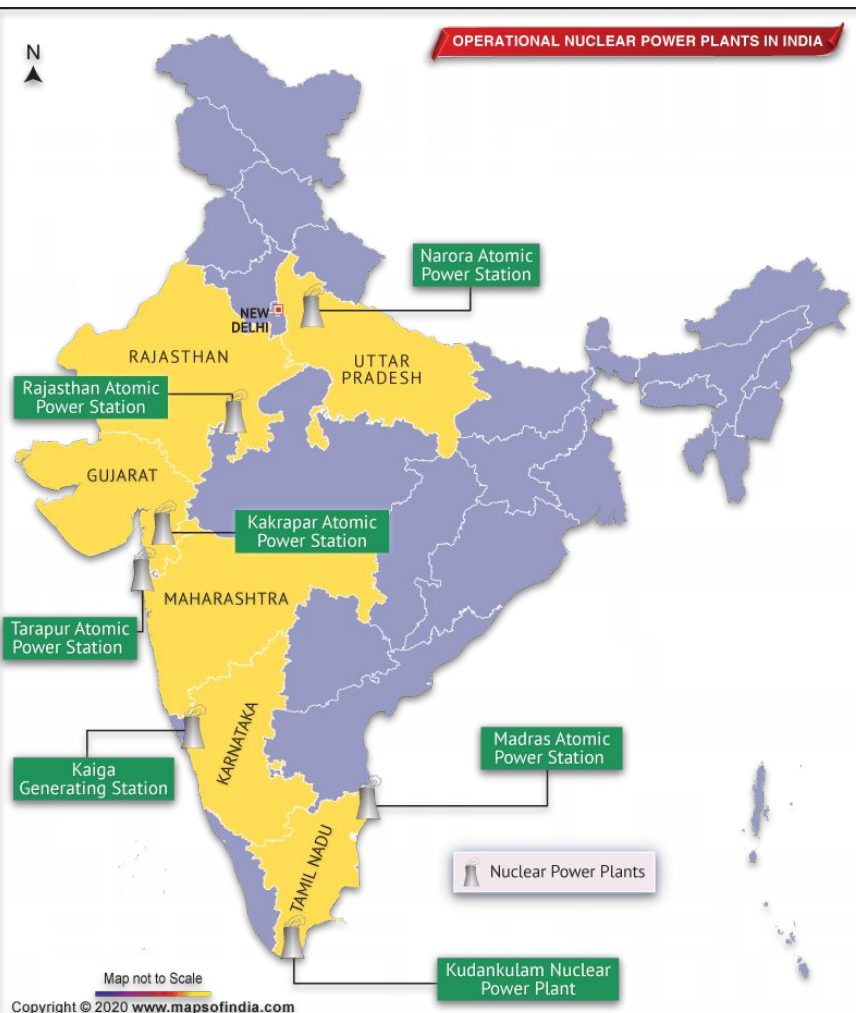
Extracted from  
**Monazite Ore :**  
Rare Earth  
Phosphate  
mineral

Naturally in  
coastal districts :  
Tirunelveli,  
Thoothukudi &  
Kanyakumari

Coasts of Kerala,  
TN, Odisha &  
Andhra Pradesh

**Indian Rare Earth Limited (IREL)** under DoAE : **ONLY**  
authority to mine & produce  
Monazite in India

## OPERATIONAL NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN INDIA



**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Environment  
**Newspaper :** The Hindu, **Page No : 4**

## Documentation of Wetlands

### Context of News :

The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) has completed the documentation and ground truthing of Maharashtra's 23,415 wetlands, paving the way to formally notify and bring the water bodies under legal protection under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules.

### Ramsar Sites

Wetland designated as one of "International Importance" under Ramsar Convention signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971

### Ramsar Convention :

**2nd February:**  
World Wetland Day

**Theme 2025 :** "Protecting Wetland for our Common future"

**1974 :** First Ramsar Site :  
Cobourg Peninsula in Australia

**1975 :** Convention came into force with UNESCO as depository

**1981 :** Chilika Lake & Keoladeo NP declared Ramsar Sites

### Prelims 2026 Factsheet :

**India (99 sites)**  
> surpassed China (82 Ramsar sites)

**Largest Ramsar Site in India :**  
Sundarbans Wetland

**Largest Ramsar site in the World :**  
Ngiri- Ndombe Wetland Complex in DRC

**Smallest Ramsar Site :**  
Renuka Lake in Himachal Pradesh

**State with most Ramsar Sites :**  
Tamil Nadu (20 sites) > UP (12 sites)

**Country with largest number Of Ramsar Sites :** UK (175)

## GLOBAL LEADERS

### IN RAMSAR CONVENTION SITES



United Kingdom has the highest number (176 sites)

Mexico ranks second (144 sites)



India has 99 sites, placing it among the top countries globally.



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Environment**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 4**

## Importance of Wetlands :

43. "If rainforests and tropical forests are the lungs of the Earth, then surely wetlands function as its kidneys." Which one of the following functions of wetlands best reflects the above statement ?
- (a) The water cycle in wetlands involves surface runoff, subsoil percolation and evaporation.
  - (b) Algae form the nutrient base upon which fish, crustaceans, molluscs, birds, reptiles and mammals thrive.
  - (c) Wetlands play a vital role in maintaining sedimentation balance and soil stabilization.
  - (d) Aquatic plants absorb heavy metals and excess nutrients.

## DESIGNATED YEAR 2025-26



# What is "Pragati 2026"?



**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Important National & International Events  
**Newspaper :** The Hindu, **Page No : 14**

## Context of News :

A 13-nation military exercise began at the Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya on Wednesday. Apart from host India, soldiers from "12 friendly nations" are participating in the PRAGATI 2026. They are Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. The exercise seeks to provide a common platform for participating armies to engage in professional exchange and build closer military-to-military ties, the Defence Ministry said.

Exercise	Force	Country
<b>YUDH ABHYAS</b>	<b>Army</b>	<b>USA</b>
<b>VAJRA PRAHAR</b>	<b>Army</b>	<b>USA</b>
<b>SHAKTI</b>	<b>Army</b>	<b>France</b>
<b>AJEYA WARRIOR</b>	<b>Army</b>	<b>UK</b>
<b>HAND-IN-HAND</b>	<b>Army</b>	<b>China</b>
<b>MITRA SHAKTI</b>	<b>Army</b>	<b>Sri Lanka</b>
<b>SURYA KIRAN</b>	<b>Army</b>	<b>Nepal</b>
<b>MALABAR</b>	<b>Navy</b>	<b>USA, Japan, Australia (QUAD)</b>
<b>VARUNA</b>	<b>Navy</b>	<b>France</b>
<b>KONKAN</b>	<b>Navy</b>	<b>UK</b>
<b>COPE INDIA</b>	<b>Air Force</b>	<b>USA, Japan (Observer)</b>



**Q1. With reference to the PM–Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, consider the following statements:**

1. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
2. It aims to install rooftop solar panels on 1 crore households.
3. The entire cost of installation is borne by the Government of India.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Q2. Regarding the Revolt of 1857, match the following:**

Place	Leader
A. Delhi	1. Nana Sahib
B. Kanpur	2. Begum Hazrat Mahal
C. Lucknow	3. Liaqat Ali
D. Allahabad	4. Bakht Khan & Bahadur Shah Zafar

**Select the correct answer using the codes below.**

- a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
- b) A-4, B-1, C-2, D-3
- c) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3
- d) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4

**Answer: b**

**Q3. With reference to fissile and fertile nuclear fuels, consider the following statements:**

1. Fertile materials can be directly used as nuclear fuel, while Fissile materials need to be converted into fertile fuel before use.
2. Uranium-238 and Thorium-232 are examples of fissile materials.

**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: d**

**Q4. With reference to Ramsar Sites, consider the following statements:**

1. India has more Ramsar Sites than China.
2. The Sundarbans Wetland is the largest Ramsar Site in India.
3. Tamil Nadu has the highest number of Ramsar Sites among Indian states.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Q5. Match the following Military Exercises:**

Exercises	Countries
A. VAJRA PRAHAR	1. France
B. SHAKTI	2. USA
C. AJEYA WARRIOR	3. UK
D. HAND-IN-HAND	4. China

**Select the correct answer using the codes below.**

- a) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4
- b) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
- c) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4
- d) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4

**Answer: a**





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