



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

5th July 2026

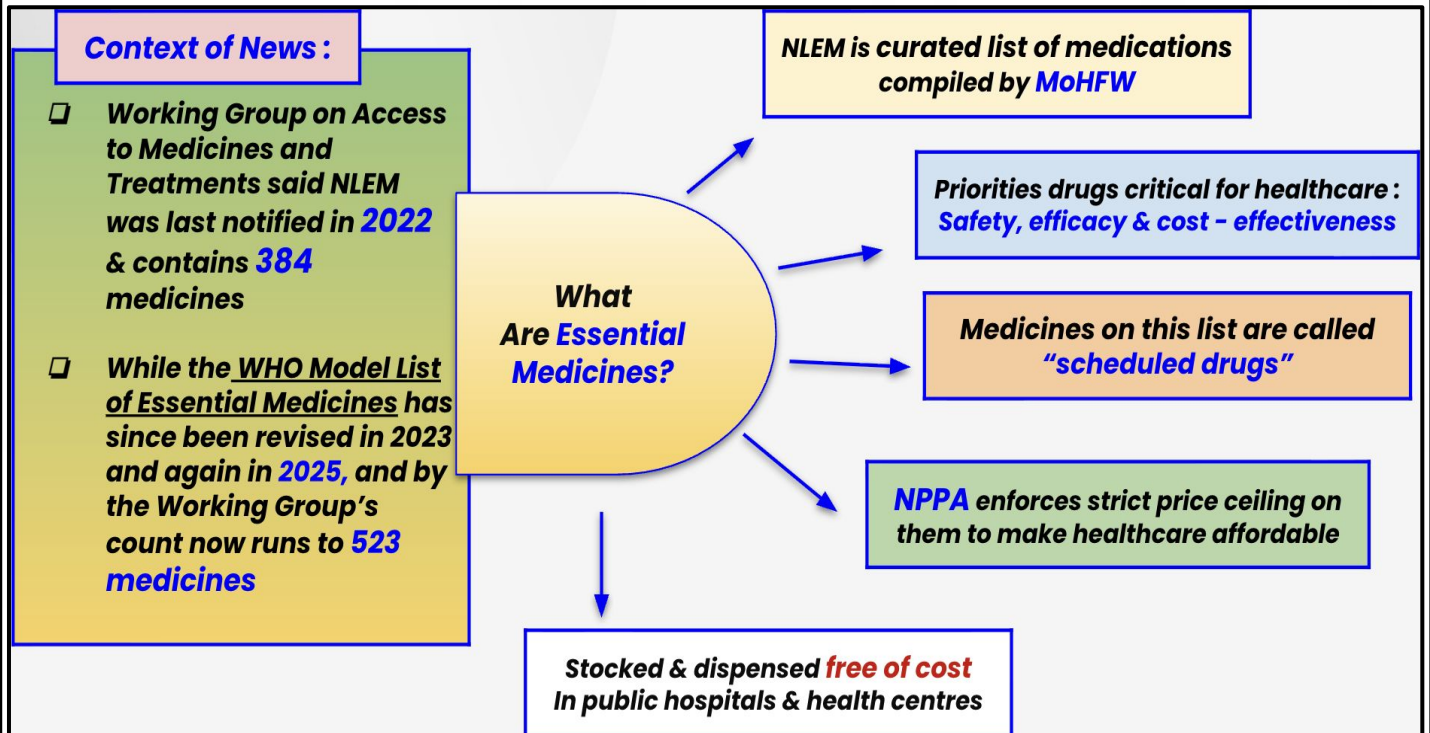


India's Essential Medicine List



CONTEXT: The article highlights the issue of India's roster of essential medicines not being updated in nearly 4 years causing adverse impacts on India's health ecosystem

Chapter 1: "Decoding" the "Current" issue :



No comprehensive changes in India's NLEM since 2022

WHO's MLEM : 523 medicines v. India's 384 medicines

India's list trailing behind Global benchmark

NLEM does not includes 17 active cancer treating agents & 4 cancer medicines

9 monoclonal antibodies vital for Cancer are entirely absent

The "Adverse" Impact?

- World Bank : **5.3%** Indians live in "Extreme Poverty"
- UNDP's MDPI 2023 : **16.4%** (23.4 crore) are multi - dimensionally poor
- HCES 2023-24 : Share on food : Rural (**47%**) + Urban (**39%**)
- NHA Estimates 2021-22 : OOPE on Health accounted for **39.4%** of THE
- NHP 2017 : Reduce OOPE on Health to **35%** by 2026



India's Essential Medicine List



CONTEXT: The article highlights the issue of India's roster of essential medicines not being updated in nearly 4 years causing adverse impacts on India's health ecosystem

NATIONAL LIST OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES 2022

Total medicines **384** | New additions **34** | Deletions from previous list **26**

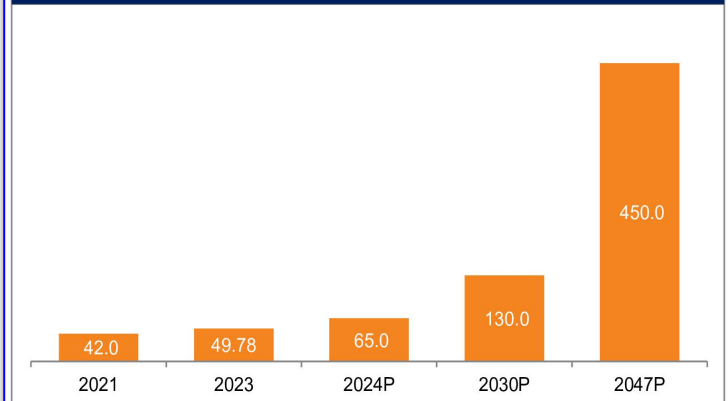
DRUGS THAT WILL GET CHEAPER

NAME	CATEGORY
Ivermectin	Anti-infective
Meropenem	Anti-infective
Cefuroxime	Anti-infective
Phenoxymethyl penicillin	Anti-infective
Procaine Benzylpenicillin	Anti-infective
Amikacin	anti-tuberculosis
Bedaquiline	anti- tuberculosis
Delamanid	anti-tuberculosis
Itraconazole	Anti-fungal
Mupirocin	Anti-fungal
Terbinafine	Anti-fungal
Valganciclovir	Anti-Cytomegalovirus
Lamivudine	HIV medicine
Tenofovir + Lamivudine+ Dolutegravir	HIV medicine
Dolutegravir	HIV medicine
Darunavir+ Ritonavir	HIV medicine
Daclatasvir	Hepatitis B & C
Tenofovir Alafenamide Fumarate	Hepatitis B & C
Bendamustine Hydrochloride	Anti-cancer
Irinotecan HCl Trihydrate	Anti-cancer
Lenalidomide	Anti-cancer
Leuprolide acetate	Anti-cancer
Dabigatran	Blood disorder
Tenecteplase	Blood disorder
Fludrocortisone	Hormonal substitute
Ormeloxifene	Hormonal substitute
Insulin Glargine	Anti-diabetic
Teneligliptin	Anti-diabetic
Rotavirus vaccine	Immunologicals
Latanoprost	Anti-glaucoma
Buprenorphine	Medicine for substance abuse
Buprenorphine	Medicine for substance abuse
Nicotin	Medicine for substance abuse
Montelukast	Anti-asthmatic

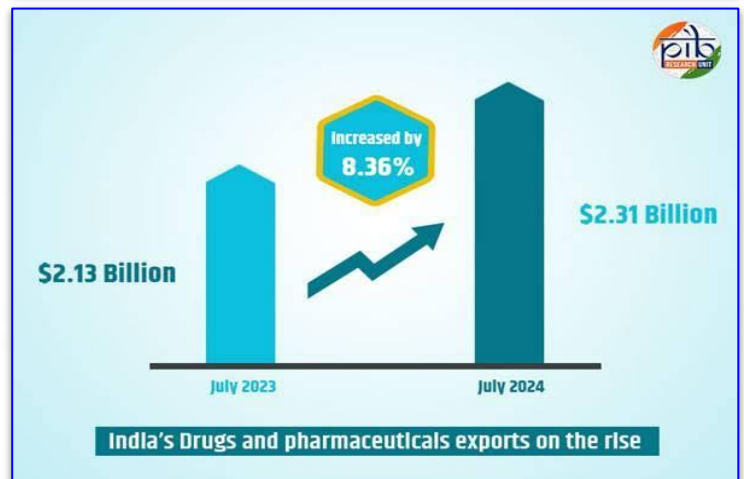


moneycontrol

Indian Pharmaceutical Market (US\$ billion)



Source: EY Report, Note: P - Projected



India's Drugs and pharmaceuticals exports on the rise



India's Essential Medicine List



CONTEXT: The article highlights the issue of India's roster of essential medicines not being updated in nearly 4 years causing adverse impacts on India's health ecosystem

Chapter 2 : Addressing the THEME : India as "Pharmacy of World"?

"Industry's advancements in biologics, specialty generics & AI-driven technologies are redefining healthcare solutions worldwide"

3rd largest in terms of Volume & 11th largest in Value

Over 3000 Pharma companies & 10,500 drug manufacturing facilities

Accounting for more than 20% of Global Supply

- Producing >60% of Global demand for Vaccines
- Sells pharmaceuticals to >200 countries
- Highest no. Of USFDA approved plants outside USA
- Exports in 2025 : \$30.47 Billion
- Projections : \$130 billion exports by 2030
- \$1 Trillion Industry by 2047

Chapter 3 : Undermining the Potential of World's Pharmacy :

Issues with Drugs Cosmetics Act 1940:

Setting up responsibilities at multiple channels

SFDA : Non - Mandatory to disclose inspection reports

Creeping Corruption : Easy licensing & approvals

Shortage of Drug inspectors

Penalty for Non - Implementation of GMP

<https://www.thehindu.com>

The Indian cough syrups they bought were toxic. Now Gambian parents seek justice

Inspections & Prosecutions By State Drug Regulatory Authorities				
State / UT	inspections	Non-compliant	Prosecutions	Prosecutions (As % of non-compliant cases)
Jammu and Kashmir	27,520	0	0	0%
Jharkhand	8,966	1723	7	0.4%
Uttar Pradesh	907	0	0	0%
Odisha	6,260	876	6	0.6%
Mizoram	1,205	141	4	2.8%
Telangana	16,575	3,853	0	0%
Uttarakhand	1,858	0	0	0%
Andaman and Nicobar	120	0	0	0%
Daman and Diu	407	19	0	0%

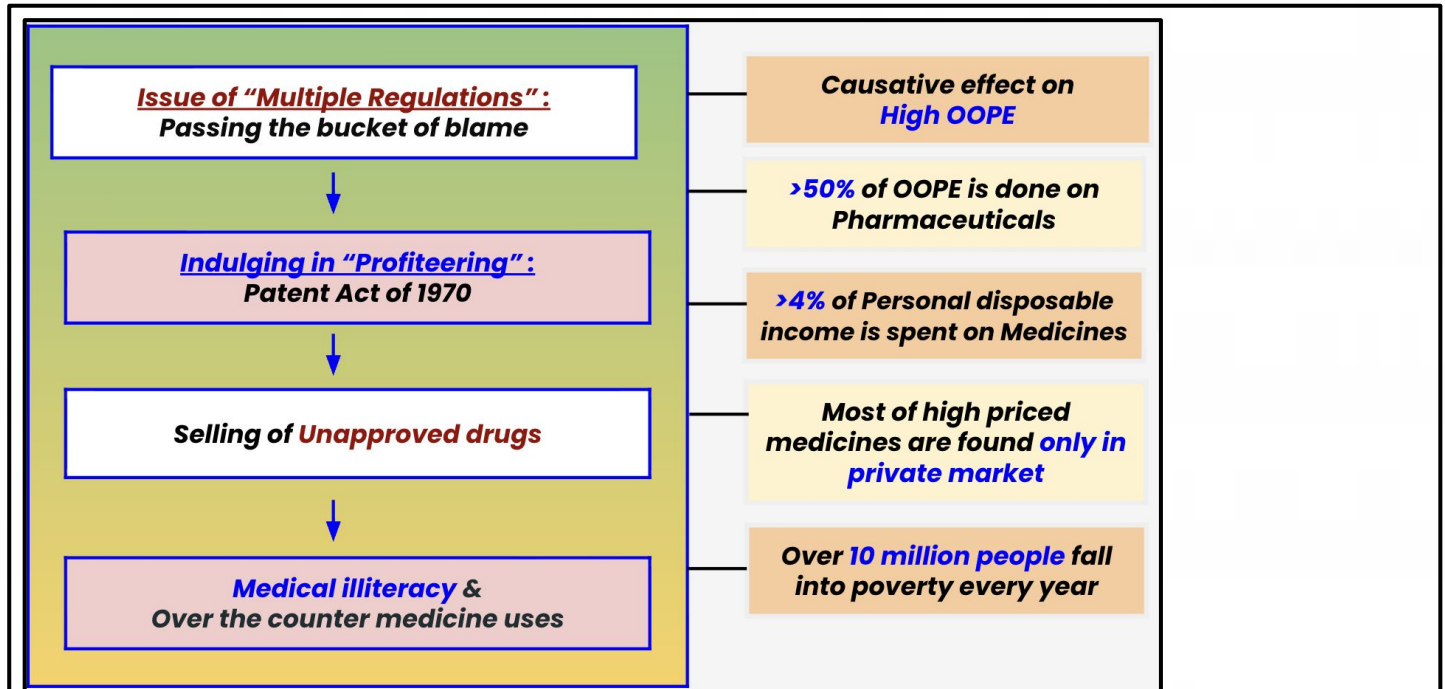
Source: Drug Regulation in India: The Working and Performance of CDSCO and SDRAs report, 2019



India's Essential Medicine List



CONTEXT: The article highlights the issue of India's roster of essential medicines not being updated in nearly 4 years causing adverse impacts on India's health ecosystem



COMMON CITATIONS BY THE US FDA FOR INDIAN PHARMA MANUFACTURING PLANTS*



Absence of written procedures



Lack of scientifically sound laboratory controls



Procedures for sterile drug products not established, written and followed



Lack of training and education for employees engaged in manufacturing processes



Equipment and utensils are not cleaned, maintained and sanitised at appropriate intervals

*Plants in India
SOURCE US FDA Database



India's Essential Medicine List



CONTEXT: The article highlights the issue of India's roster of essential medicines not being updated in nearly 4 years causing adverse impacts on India's health ecosystem

Chapter 3 : Undermining the Potential of World's Pharmacy :

90% reliance on Essential antibiotics like Penicillin & Azithromycin

Reason for Reliance

- Cost efficient production by China
- Government subsidies & strong infrastructure
- High cost, regulatory delays & infrastructure gaps in Indian supply chain

Impact

- Supply chain vulnerabilities
- Rising cost & price volatility
- Dependency risks leads to reduced Export competitiveness

BREAK DOWN

What is API?

API or active pharmaceutical ingredient is the main raw material chemical used in a medicine

India imports around 80-85% of API from China



➤ API accounts for around 10% of India's ₹79,000-crore pharma market

➤ In 2007, they accounted for 15-20% of the ₹35,000-cr domestic pharma industry

➤ Companies like Sun Pharma, Lupin and Dr Reddy's Labs manufacture APIs mostly for captive usage

➤ Most Indian companies are importing API from China at 15-20% lower cost

India's pharma supply chain heavily dependent on Chinese imports: NITI Aayog

The report pointed out that weak innovation and a commercialisation ecosystem have created uncertainty for innovators and long-term investments

By PTI

Updated - June 23, 2026 at 04:42 PM.



Chapter 4 : Steps taken by GOI :

Section 83 of Patent Act :
Promote innovations

PLI scheme for complex generics & high value added medicines

100% FDI through Automatic route

CDSKO :
Get NOC for exports from Zonal Office

Steps taken so far

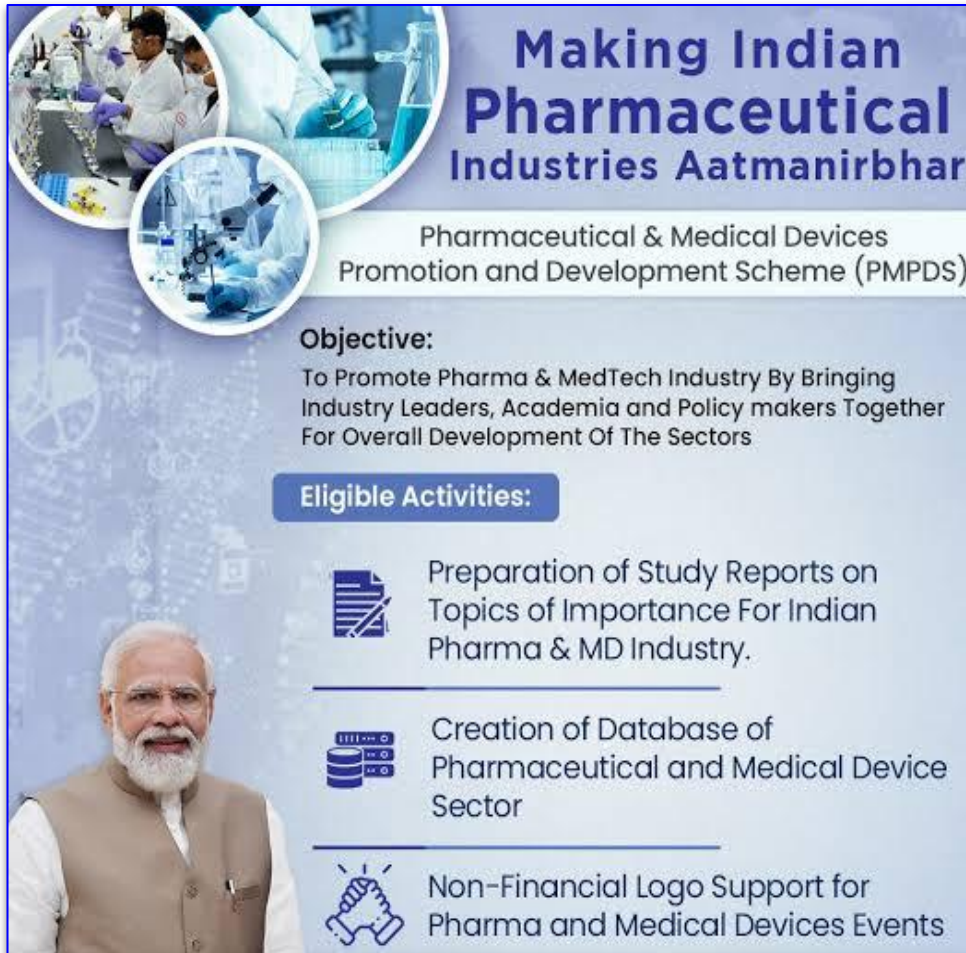
Bulk Drug Parks for Specialised Industrial Zones

NIPER : Advanced research in Bio - Pharma & Repurposed drugs



India's Essential Medicine List

CONTEXT: The article highlights the issue of India's roster of essential medicines not being updated in nearly 4 years causing adverse impacts on India's health ecosystem



Making Indian Pharmaceutical Industries Aatmanirbhar

Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices Promotion and Development Scheme (PMPDS)

Objective:
To Promote Pharma & MedTech Industry By Bringing Industry Leaders, Academia and Policy makers Together For Overall Development Of The Sectors

Eligible Activities:

- Preparation of Study Reports on Topics of Importance For Indian Pharma & MD Industry.
- Creation of Database of Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Sector
- Non-Financial Logo Support for Pharma and Medical Devices Events

Mains Practise Question

Question : What are the key challenges being faced by the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry? Provide suggestive measures that shall be adopted to ensure India's status as "Pharmacy of the World".
(15 Marks, 250 words)



SI Andrabi v. NIA Judgement



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.

Pillar 1: Addressing the THEME: Understanding "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)**

Pillar 1: Addressing the THEME: Understanding "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 to UAPA 1967 :

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**



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.

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

Pillar 1: Addressing the THEME : Understanding "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

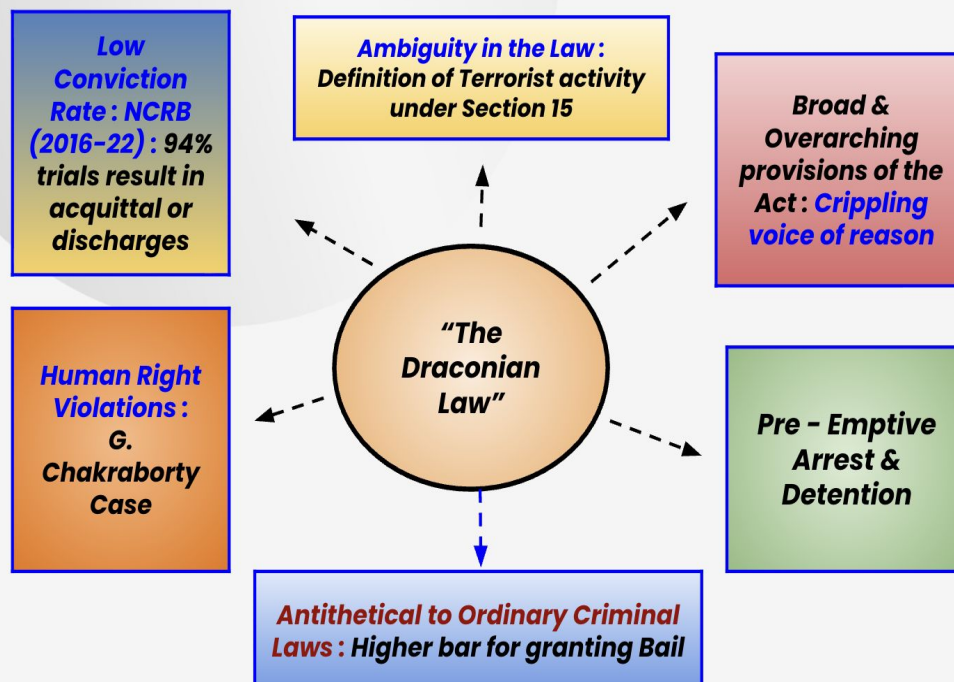
Pillar 2: Criticism of UAPA 1967

Court pulls up police for 'slow' investigation in UAPA case against NewsClick

Judge grants 20 days' more time for filing of chargesheet after reprimanding police

Half of UAPA investigations pending for over three years: Data

While stalled investigations are par for the course, the draconian nature of the UAPA makes the process the punishment



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.

Pillar 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.

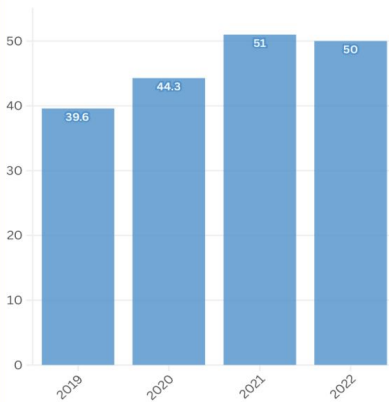
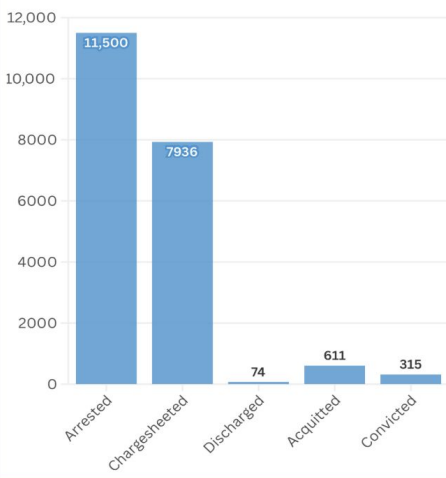


Chart 3 shows the number of persons arrested under the UAPA, persons charge sheeted, discharged, acquitted, and convicted in the 2017-2022 period.



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



Pillar 3: The Judicial Verdict :

Judicial Precedents :

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

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



SI Andrabi v. NIA Judgement



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

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.
(10 Marks, 150 words)



Newspaper : The Hindu Page No : 04

Bihar to set up 100 fast-track courts: CM

Context of News :

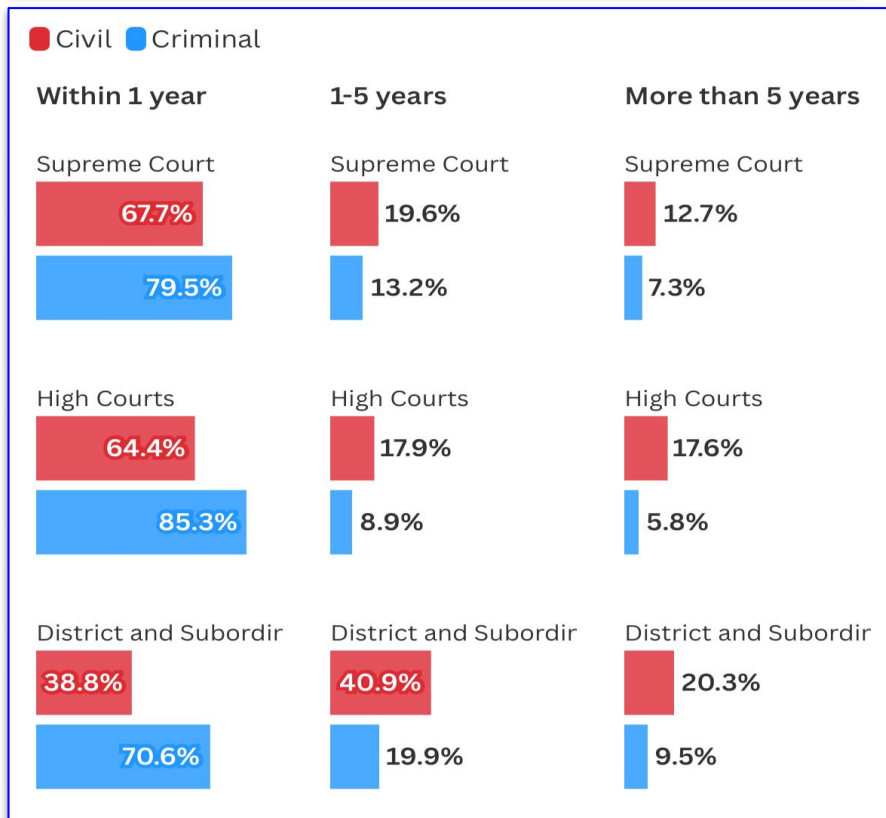
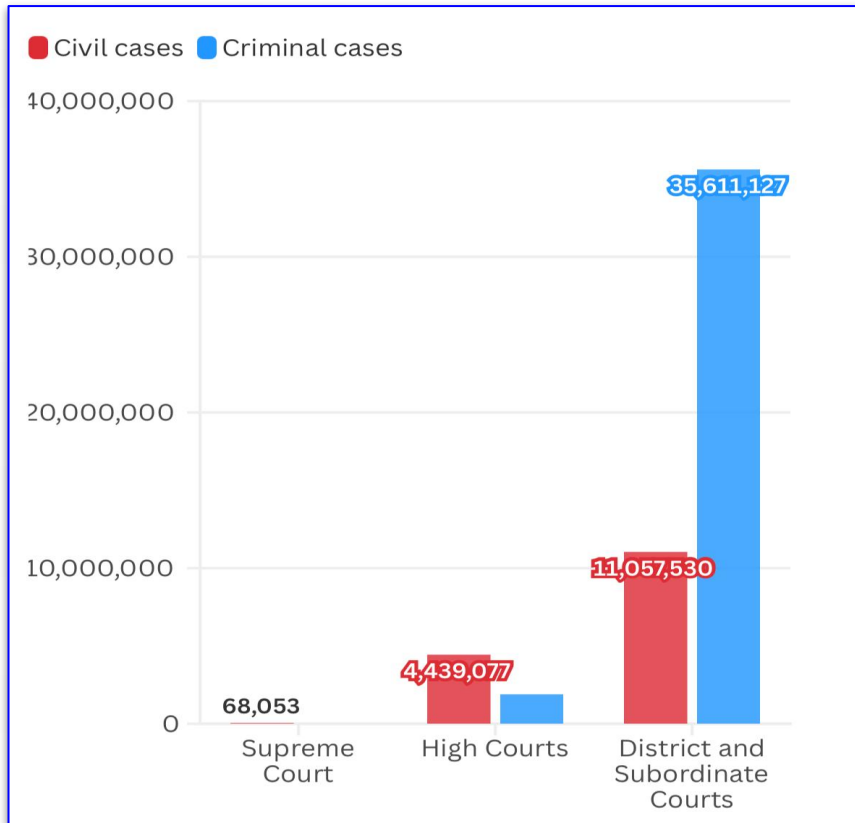
Bihar Government has announced plans to set up 100 "Fast Track Courts" for the prompt resolution & control of cases related to crime

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



Newspaper : The Hindu Page No : 04



Newspaper : The Indian Express Page No : 01

EXPRESS special

Biggest cities offer better salaries, more regular jobs for women, but stark gender disparity in income favours men

Context of News :

As per "Labour Market Dynamics in Million + cities" published by NSO, Women secure more jobs as % of their population in comparison to men in Urban cities however "Gender disparity" in income prevails

• JOBS AND SALARIES IN BIG CITIES

% employed in regular jobs

	MN-PLUS CITIES	URBAN INDIA
Men	56.4	46.5
Women	65.1	50.9
Overall	58.5	47.6

Average monthly salary

	MN-PLUS CITIES	URBAN INDIA
Men	Rs 30,707	Rs 27,984
Women	Rs 23,707	Rs 21,664
Overall	Rs 28,808	Rs 26,258

How metro cities pay

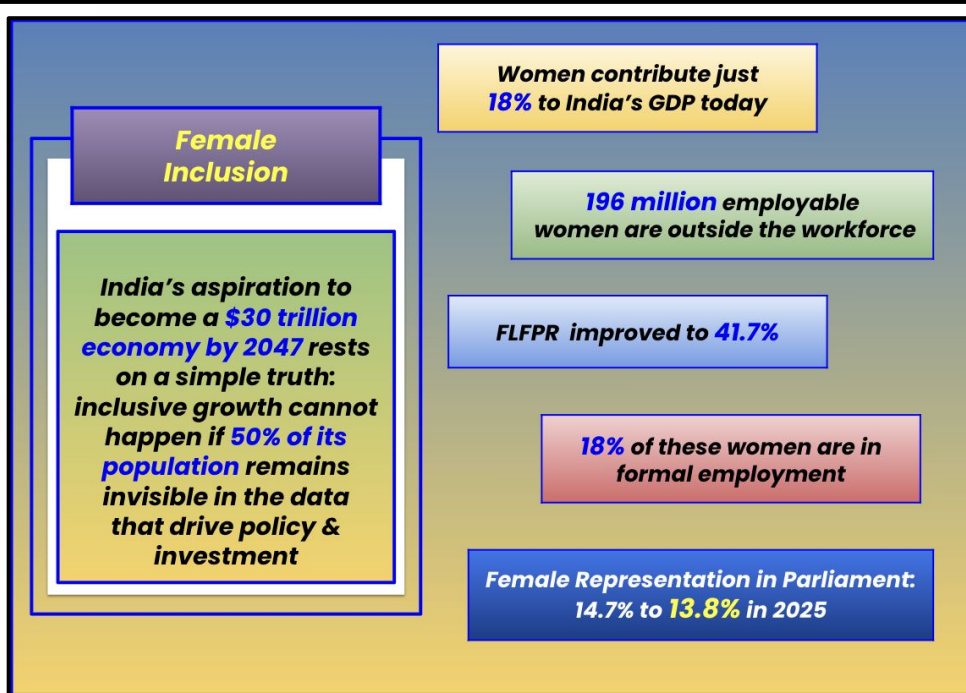
	MEN	WOMEN
Mumbai	Rs 36,453	Rs 35,788
Delhi	Rs 35,708	Rs 31,644
Bengaluru	Rs 37,430	Rs 28,325
Chennai	Rs 31,655	Rs 22,919
Kolkata	Rs 21,534	Rs 13,784

SOURCE: PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (PLFS) 2025

• WHERE WOMEN BEAT MEN

TOP SIX CITIES	WOMEN	GAP	MEN
Prayagraj	Rs 42,254	31%	Rs 32,214
Srinagar	Rs 33,869	24%	Rs 27,323
Lucknow	Rs 31,744	17%	Rs 27,098
Patna	Rs 31,013	11%	Rs 27,902
Meerut	Rs 20,057	5%	Rs 18,946
Varanasi	Rs 20,821	2%	Rs 20,331

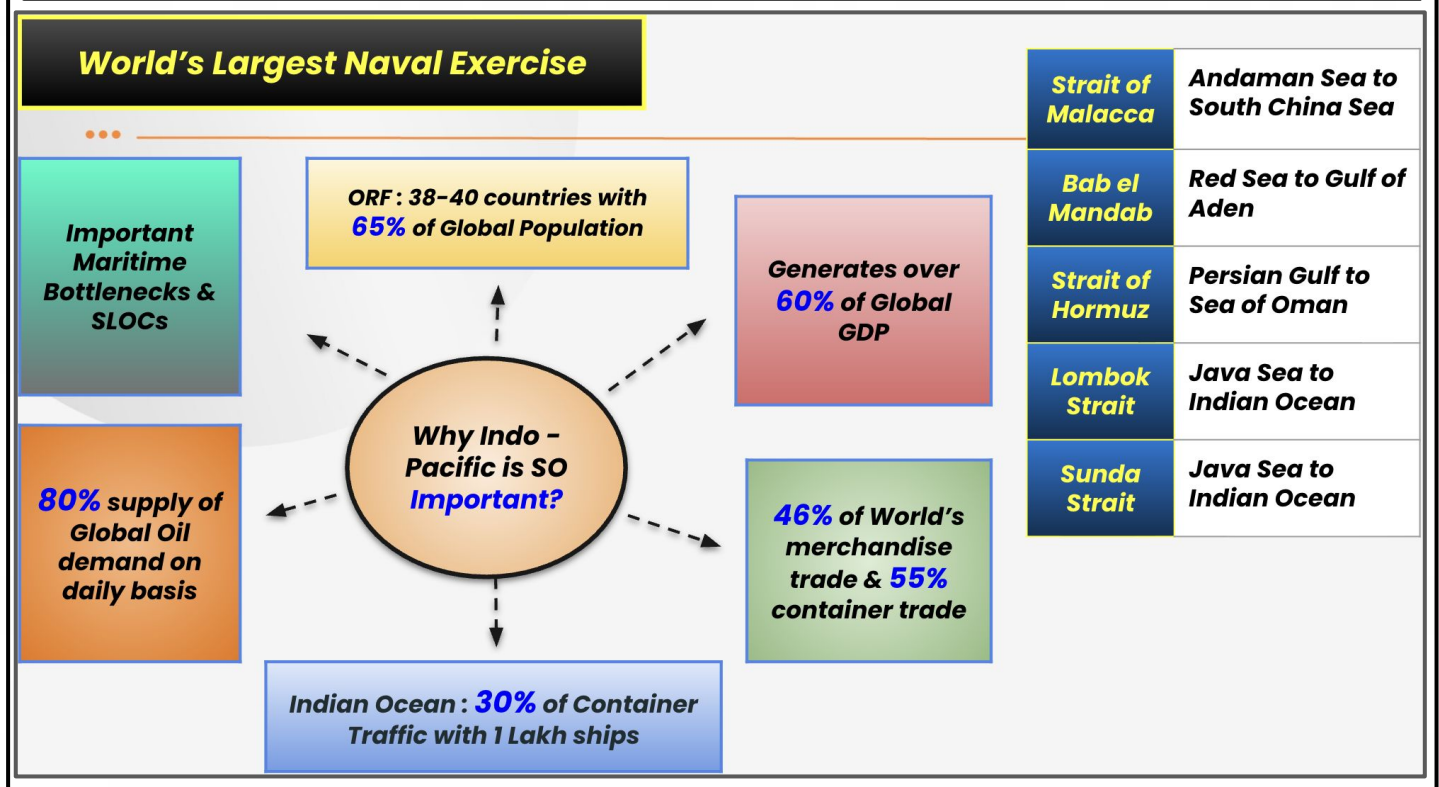
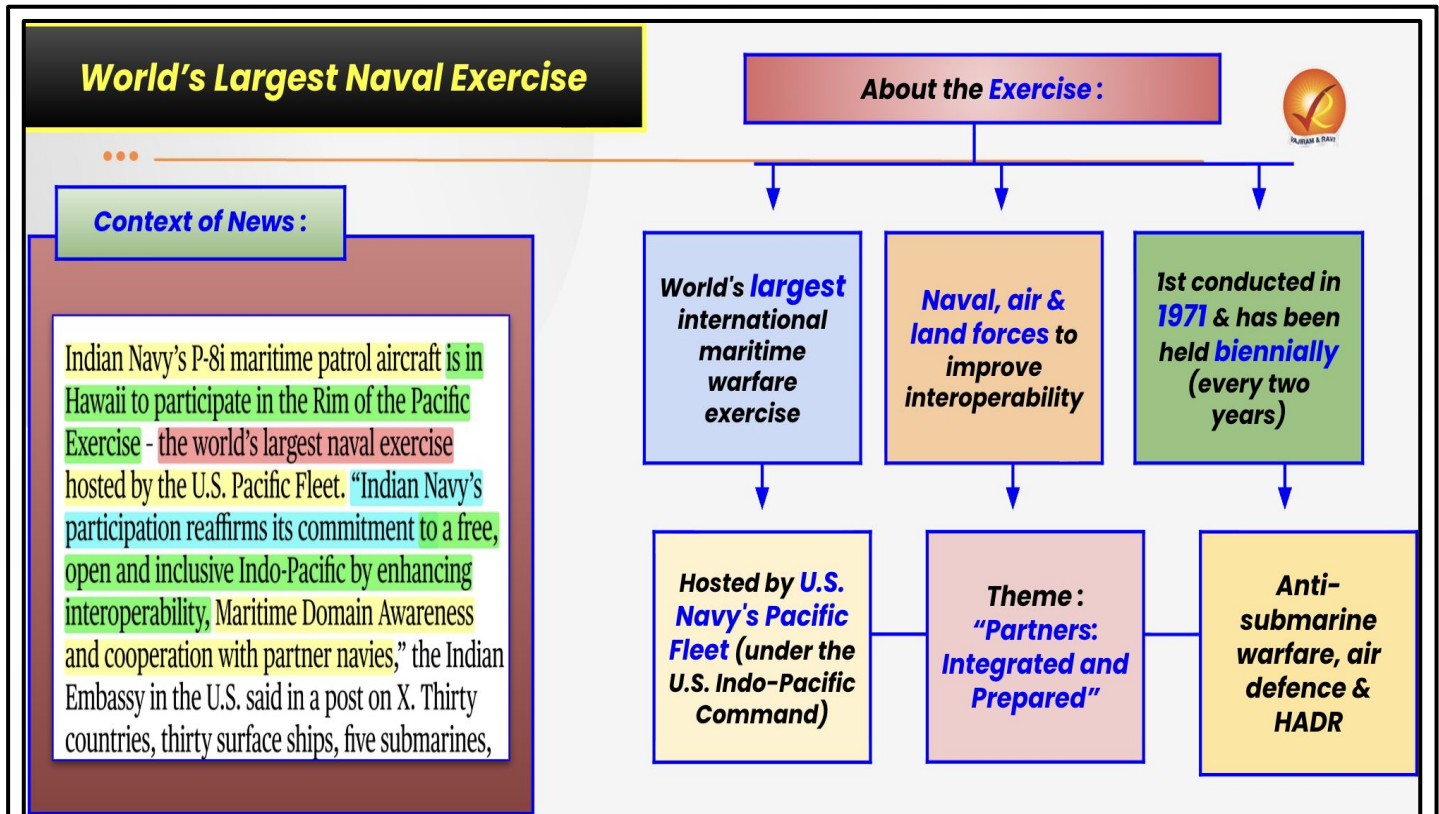




World's Largest Naval Exercise



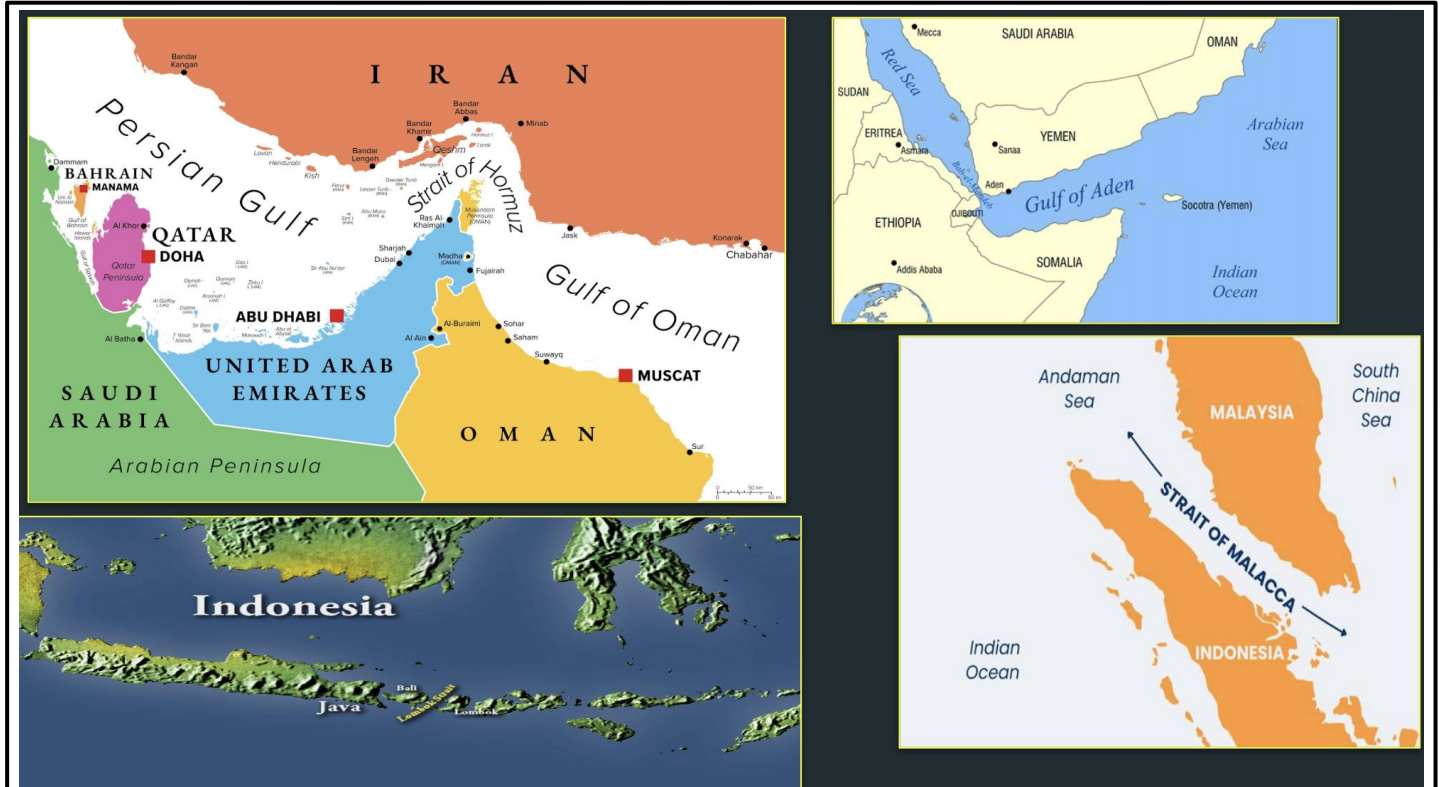
SYLLABUS : Prelims : Important Exercises
Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No : 10**



World's Largest Naval Exercise



SYLLABUS : Prelims : Important Exercises
Newspaper : The Hindu Page No : 10



British and Indian warships begin four-day maritime exercise Konkan in Indian Ocean

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

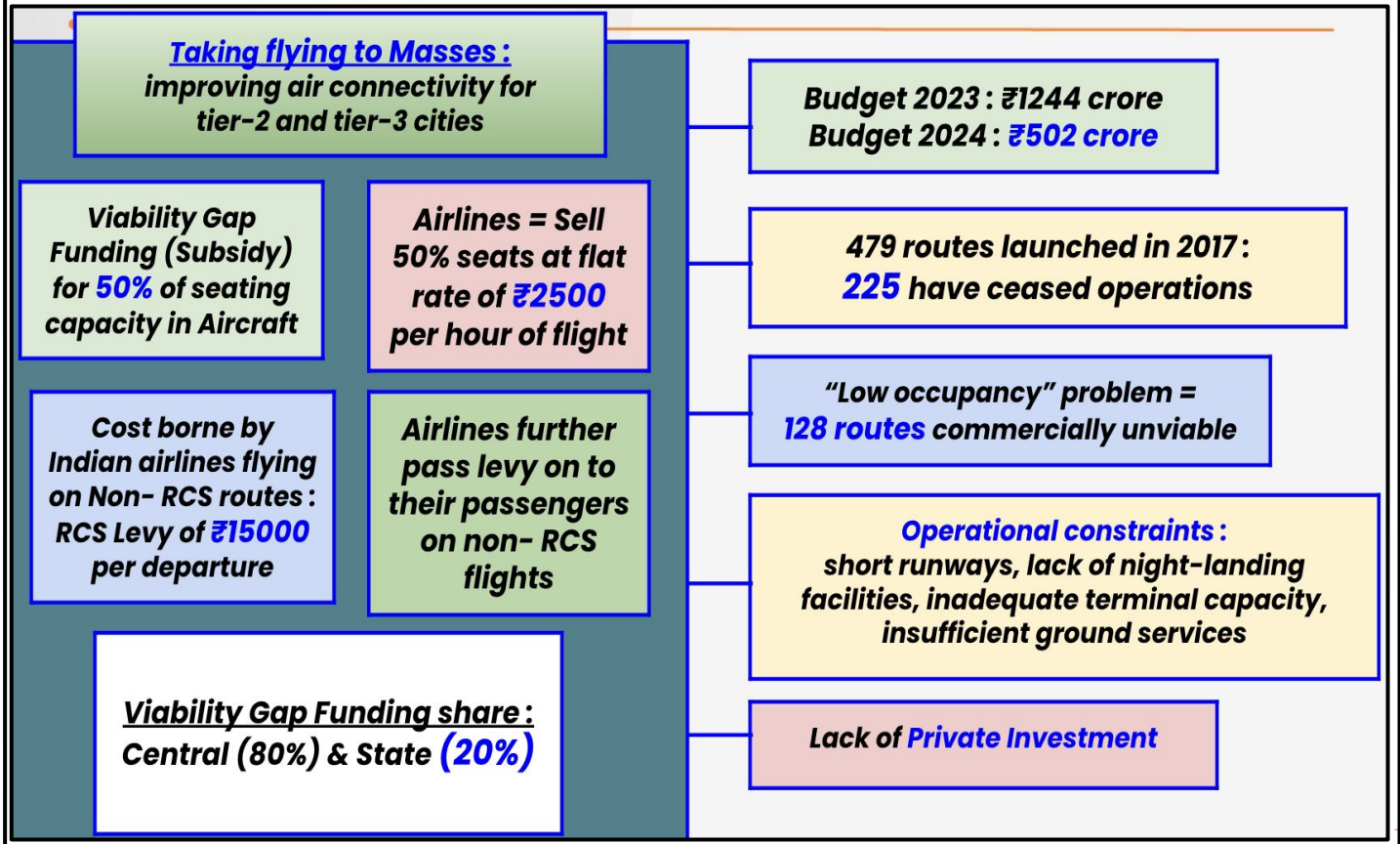
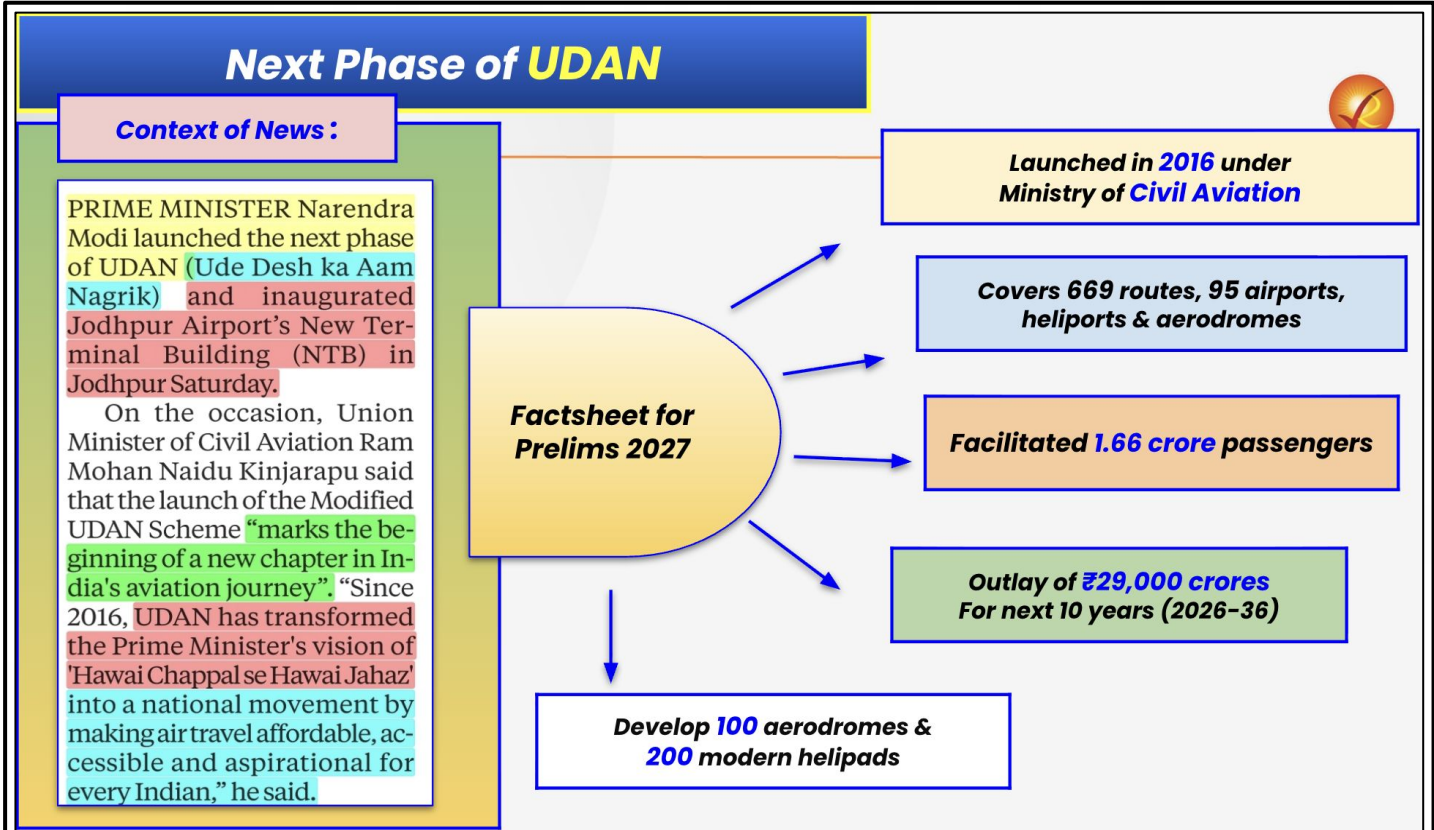
Exercise	Force	Country
SIMBEX	Navy	Singapore
SLINEX	Navy	Sri Lanka
SAMUDRA SHAKTI	Navy	Indonesia
COPE INDIA	Air Force	USA, Japan (Observer)
VEER GUARDIAN	Air Force	Japan



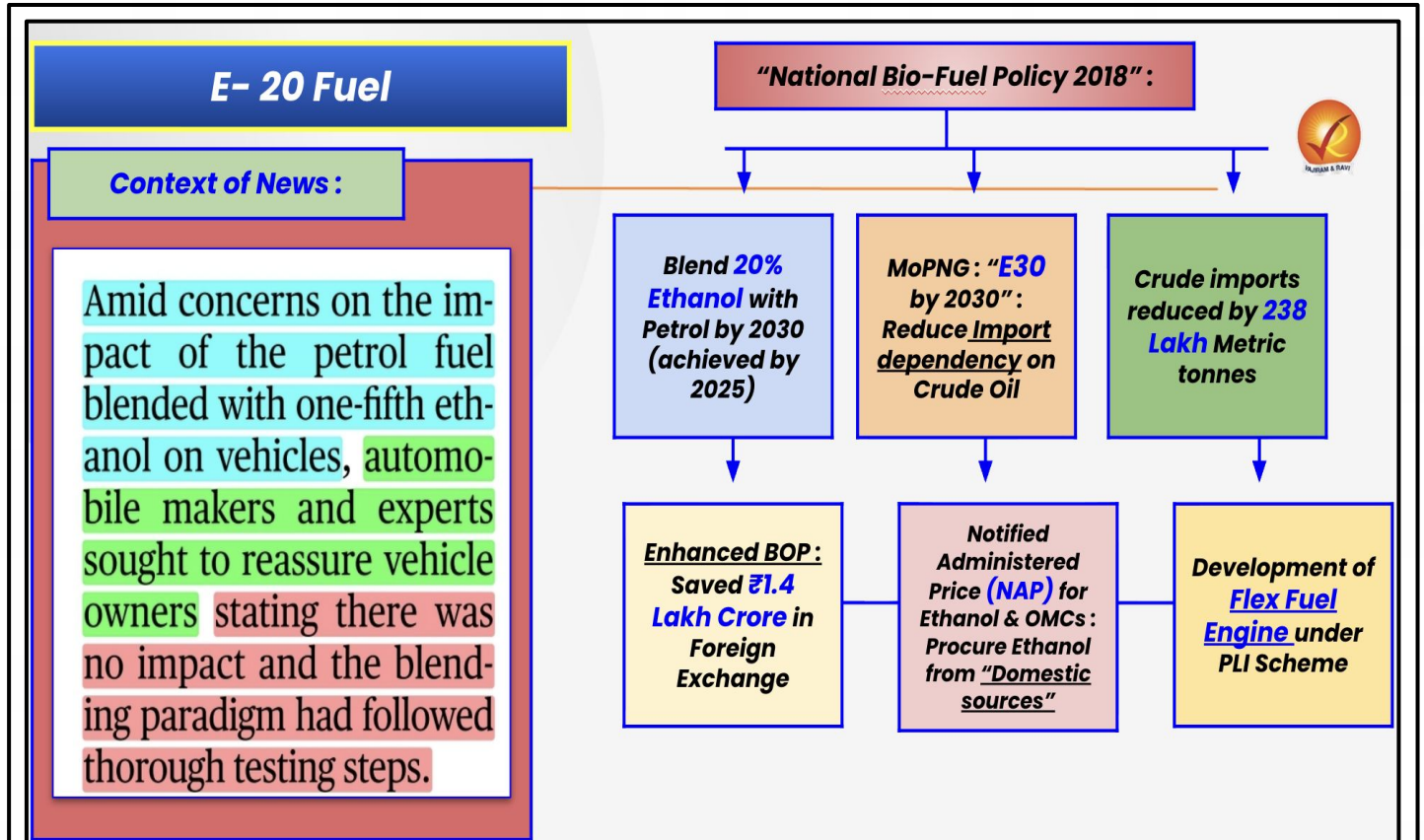
Next Phase of UDAN



SYLLABUS : Prelims : Government policies & interventions
Newspaper : The Indian express **Page No : 06**



SYLLABUS : Prelims : Government policies & interventions
Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No :** 11



Initiatives by GOI to promote Bio - Fuel Use :

SATAT Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBG from agricultural & municipal solid waste • Long - term purchase agreements from OMCs • Additional Farmer income
JIVAN Yojana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of ethanol from lignocellulosic biomass • Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for setting up 2G ethanol plants
GOBARDHAN Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio - Gas & CBG plants in rural areas • Reduce open dumping & methane emission • Focus on waste to wealth concept
RUCO by FSSAI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channelise used cooking oil towards biodiesel manufacturers • Impetus on "Circular economy"



SYLLABUS : Prelims : Government policies & interventions
Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No :** 11

ETHANOL EXPORT POLICY

PRIORITISING INDIA, POWERING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

01

RESTRICTIVE EXPORT REGIME (STRATEGIC CONTROL)



Ethanol exports are placed under a "restricted" category and require prior approval from the Government of India.

 Ensures domestic energy and food security is prioritised.

02

APPROVAL BY INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE



Export permissions are granted by an Inter-Ministerial Committee comprising the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, and Ministry of Food & Public Distribution.


 Ensures coordinated decision-making based on supply-demand conditions.

03

PRIORITY TO ETHANOL BLENDING PROGRAMME (EBP)



Domestic requirement for Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) is given the highest priority.


 Export is allowed only after ensuring adequate supply for blending targets (e.g., E20 goal).

04

DYNAMIC POLICY BASED ON DOMESTIC AVAILABILITY



Export decisions are not fixed. They depend on factors like sugar production levels, food grain availability, and fuel blending targets.

 The Government may tighten or relax export norms annually as per domestic supply-demand balance.



SYLLABUS : Prelims : Indian Culture : Festivals
Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No :** News in Frames



The annual Hindkesari Pedgaon 'Bailgada Sharyat' (bullock cart race) once again showcased Maharashtra's deep-rooted rural sporting tradition, attracting more than 1,000 entrants and thousands of spectators from across the region. Pedgaon has earned a reputation as one of the most prominent and prestigious venues on the State's bullock cart racing circuit, drawing competitors and enthusiasts year after year who vie for unmatched glory.

Bullock Cart Race	State	Farming Communities
Kila Raipur Rural Olympics	Punjab	Jat & Sikhs
Rekla Vandi Ottam	Tamil Nadu	Thevar & Vellalars
Jallikattu	Tamil Nadu	Maravar, Kallar & Thevar
Kambala	Karnataka	Thuluva & Vokkaliga
Edla Pandelu	AP & Telangana	Reddy & Velama
Kalapoottu	Kerala	Not particular tribe
Balada Jatra	Odisha	Kondh Tribe



Q1. With reference to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA), consider the following statements:

1. Only the Central Government can declare an association as "unlawful" under the Act.
2. The provisions of the Act apply only to Indian citizens.
3. The term "terrorism" was incorporated into the Act through the 2004 Amendment.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?

- a) All the three statements are correct.
- b) There are two correct statements, and one of them is Statement 2.
- c) There are two correct statements, and one of them is Statement 1.
- d) There is only one correct statement.

Answer: c

Q2. With reference to the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise, consider the following statements:

1. It is the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise.
2. It was first conducted in 1971 and has since been held annually.
3. The theme of the latest edition of the exercise is "Partners: Integrated and Prepared."

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?

- a) Only one statement is correct.
- b) Only two statements are correct, and one of them is Statement 1.
- c) Only two statements are correct, and one of them is Statement 2.
- d) All the three statements are correct.

Answer: b

Q3. Consider the following pairs of maritime straits and the water bodies they connect:

1. Strait of Malacca — Andaman Sea and South China Sea
2. Bab el-Mandeb — Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
3. Strait of Hormuz — Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman
4. Lombok Strait — Java Sea and Pacific Ocean

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above pairs is correct?

- a) Only one pair is correctly matched.
- b) Only two pairs are correctly matched, and one of them is Pair 4.
- c) Only three pairs are correctly matched, and one of them is Pair 2.
- d) All the four pairs are correctly matched.

Answer: c

Q4. With reference to the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2016 under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
2. The scheme aims to improve air connectivity for Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.
3. Under the scheme, Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is provided for the entire seating capacity of an aircraft.

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

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

Answer: b

Q5. With reference to the initiatives of the Government of India for promoting biofuels, consider the following statements:

1. The SATAT Initiative promotes the production of Compressed Biogas (CBG) from agricultural residue and municipal solid waste.
2. The RUCO initiative aims to promote the production of ethanol from lignocellulosic biomass.
3. The National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 originally targeted 20% ethanol blending with petrol by 2030, a target that has subsequently been advanced to 2025.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b





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