



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

16th August 2026



Highlights of Independence Day

CONTEXT: India's 80th Independence Day was celebrated with key announcements by PM Modi.

Viksit Bharat @ 2047 – “Shakti Ki Saptadhara”

1) **Manufacturing**

- Make India a reliable global manufacturing hub.
- Focus on cost + quality + scale.
- Maintain “No Compromise” on quality.

2) **Agriculture & Food Processing**

- Move “farm to export market”.
- Leverage FTAs to expand agricultural exports.
- Promote millets, spices, fruits, flowers and traditional cuisine as global brands.

3) **Technology & Innovation**

- Focus on AI, quantum tech., robotics, space and data centres.
- Become a global innovation hub.

4) **Gati Shakti**

- Seamless, high-speed multimodal connectivity.
- High-speed rail, highways, inland waterways, airports, logistics hubs and ports (through port-led development).

5) **Raksha Shakti**

- Achieve Aatmanirbharta in defence.
- Develop next-generation defence technologies.
- Move from being an arms importer to a global supplier.

6) **Green & Blue Economy**

- Green: renewables, energy storage, green manufacturing.
- Blue: fisheries, coastal tourism, ocean technology.

7) **India's Soft Power**

- Leverage Yoga, Ayurveda, holistic healthcare, handicrafts, culture, films, VFX, animation, gaming and digital content.

- Use initiatives such as Heal in India and the WAVES summit to strengthen India's global cultural influence.
- Promote tourism through India's cultural & natural heritage.

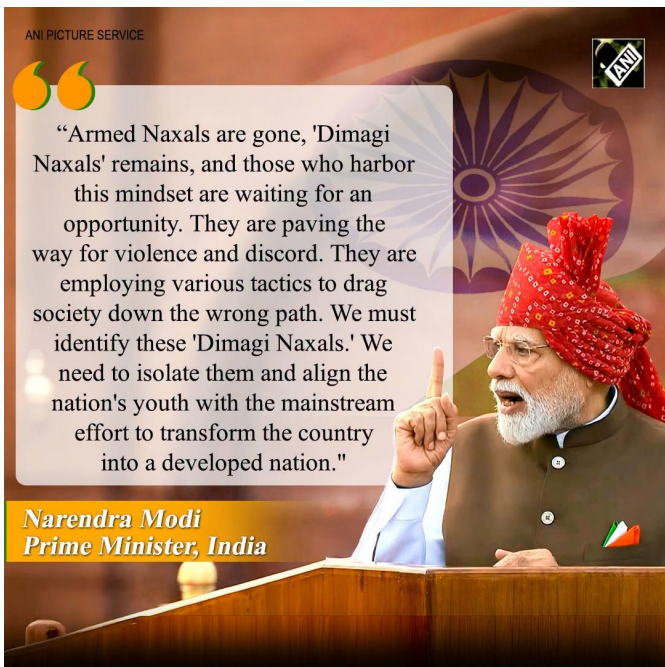


Highlights of Independence Day

CONTEXT: India's 80th Independence Day was celebrated with key announcements by PM Modi.

Internal Security — “Dimagi Naxals”

- Warned about what he termed “dimagi naxals” — people he described as **retaining Maoist ideology** and potentially **encouraging violence**.
- Goal: prevent ideological extremism from influencing youth and development.
- He said Naxalism/Maoism had affected large parts of India for decades.
 - Cited 3,500+ security personnel killed during the conflict.
- Claimed areas previously affected by Naxal violence are now witnessing development



India's Economic Transformation

- PM contrasted India's earlier position among the “**Fragile Five**” with its current status as the fastest-growing major economy.
- Linked economic transformation with the **goal of Viksit Bharat 2047**.

• Cited growth over the period:

- Defence production: 4×
- Electronic manufacturing: 7×
- Modern railway coach production: 21×
- Internet users: 4×
- Digital transactions: 100×
- Said India has begun production at 3 semiconductor plants, with more expected



MSMEs & Global Markets

- MSMEs should use opportunities created by **FTAs**.
- Aim: make Indian products globally competitive.
- Key export sectors:
 - Textiles
 - Machinery
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Fisheries & seafood
- Firms must compete on **cost, quality and scale**.



Highlights of Independence Day

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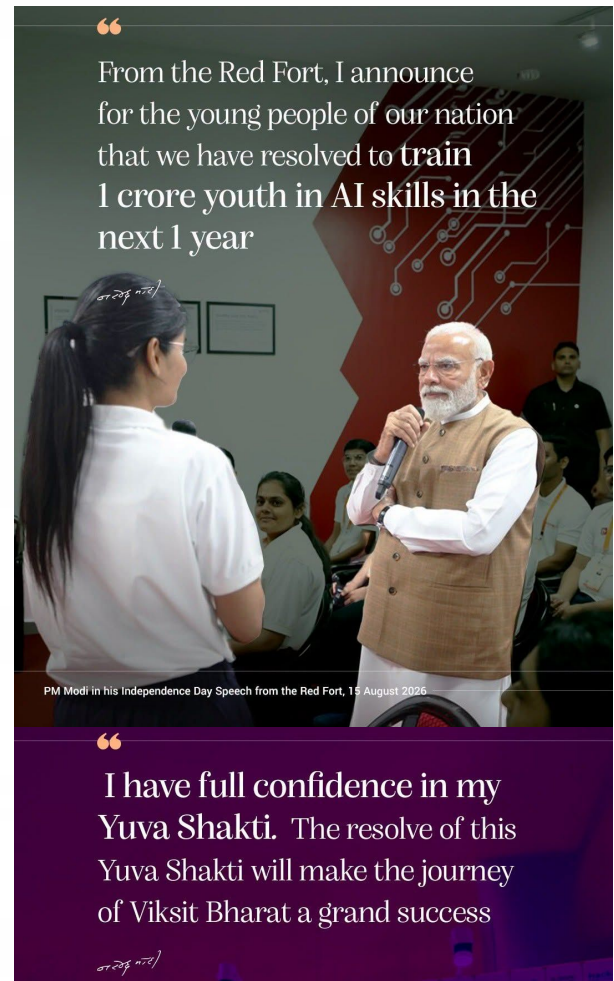
- **Ambitions** mentioned:
 - 50 Indian companies in Fortune 500 in the coming decade.
 - An Indian bank among the global top five.
 - Indian pharmaceutical companies among the global top five.
 - Indian technology companies becoming globally recognised brands.



Youth & Human Capital

- Youth described as both the **"beneficiary"** and **"enabler"** of Viksit Bharat.
- Free online coaching for competitive examinations.
- Nationwide **sports talent hunt** for children aged 5–15 years, covering villages and cities.
- Focus on identifying and nurturing sporting talent early.
- Greater **emphasis on women's participation** in:
 - Sports
 - STEM

- Civil aviation
- Armed forces.



Semiconductors, Nuclear Power & Strategic Self-Reliance

Semiconductors

- Production has begun at 3 semiconductor plants.
- 5–8 additional plants expected in coming years.

Nuclear Energy

- Target: 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047.
- 5 new reactors expected to become operational over the next 6–7 years.

Strategic self-reliance

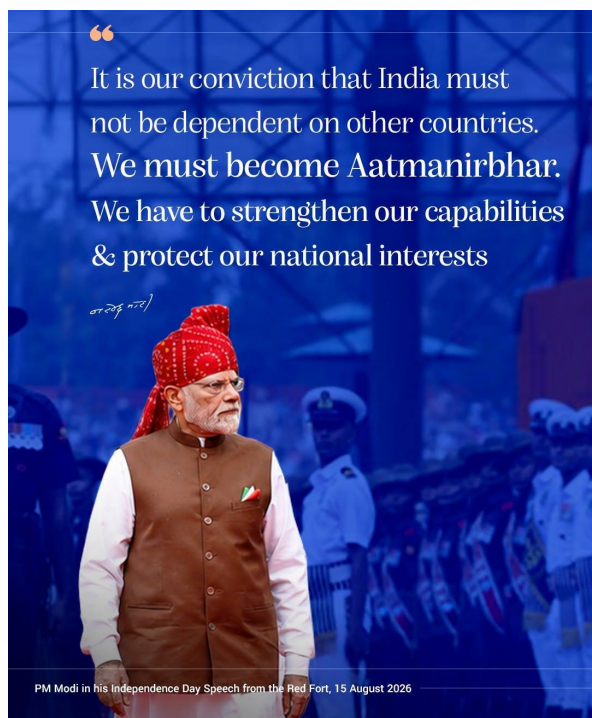
- Reduce dependence on external sources for critical technologies, energy, & defence.



Highlights of Independence Day

CONTEXT: India's 80th Independence Day was celebrated with key announcements by PM Modi.

- Changing global order is pushing countries towards greater self-interest and strategic autonomy.
- Warned that resources such as petroleum, medicines and chips can be “weaponised”



Remember these Terms:

- Viksit Bharat @ 2047
- Shakti Ki Saptadhara
- Cost-Quality-Scale → Manufacturing
- Farm-to-export → Agriculture
- AI + Quantum + Robotics + Space → Technology
- Gati Shakti + Multimodal connectivity
- Aatmanirbharta in Defence
- Green + Blue Economy
- 1 crore AI-skilled youth
- 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047

I-DAY 2026 - PM MODI'S TOP QUOTES FROM RED FORT

India was once among Fragile Five, now fastest-growing economy

The world has stopped talking about globalization

5 new nuclear reactors to power India's 100 GW nuclear goal by 2047

Railway electrification started in 1925, but for 90 years it has only reached 30%. We have completed the rest 70% within a decade

Resources have been weaponized, diesel, chips, technology and even geography has been weaponized

Before 2014, piped gas was available in just 70 cities; in 12 years, we expanded it to 700

'Sapta Dhara' - seven streams of strength — as a new framework for building a Viksit Bharat

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister of India

Mains Practice Questions

India aspires to become a developed nation by 2047. In this context, discuss the major structural and emerging challenges that could hinder this goal.

(10 Marks, 150 words)



CAG Audit of Green India Mission



CONTEXT: The CAG audit of the Green India Mission (GIM) has highlighted major gaps in its implementation, including significant shortfalls in forest and tree-cover targets.

What is Green India Mission (GIM)?

- Launched: **2014**
- Revised GIM Plan (2021–2030)
- By **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**
- Part of National Action Plan on Climate Change (**NAPCC**)
- **Core Objective**
 - To protect, restore and enhance India's forest cover while improving ecosystem services and livelihoods.
 - Enhance Carbon Sequestration
 - Improve Forest-Based Livelihoods
- **Target:**
 - Afforestation/restoration over 24–25 million ha.

What did the CAG Audit Find?

- **Audit Period** (2015–16 to 2024–25)
- Coverage
 - 16 States and Union Territories
- **(A) Massive Shortfall in Forest-Cover Improvement**
 - Target – Improve quality of forest cover over 1.4 million hectares.
 - → 91.87% shortfall
- **(B) Shortfall in Tree-Cover Improvement**
 - Target – Increase tree cover over 1.4 million hectares.
 - → 97.57% shortfall
- **(C) Inadequate Funding**
 - GIM failed to secure the ₹10,600 crore proposed funding support.



CAG Audit of Green India Mission

CONTEXT: The CAG audit of the Green India Mission (GIM) has highlighted major gaps in its implementation, including significant shortfalls in forest and tree-cover targets.

(D) Poor Convergence

- The planned convergence with programmes such as:
 - CAMPA
 - MGNREGS
 - Nagar Van Yojana
 - School Nursery Yojana
- was not effectively achieved.
- Eg. Forest restoration requires coordinated funding from multiple programmes, but silo-based implementation weakened outcomes.

(E) Weak Monitoring

- Weak monitoring makes it difficult to determine whether plantation actually results in surviving, healthy forests.

(F) Financial Management Gaps

- Eight States/UTs did not maintain annual accounts.
- In some other cases, accounts were unaudited or contained discrepancies.



WHY IS IMPLEMENTATION OF GIM WEAK?



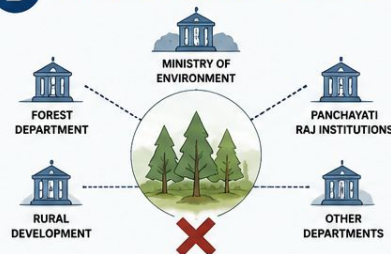
! Ambitious goals need strong systems, adequate resources and effective coordination to deliver results.

A INADEQUATE FUNDING



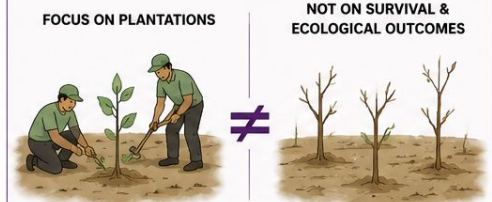
- Ambitious targets were not matched by adequate financial resources.

B FRAGMENTED GOVERNANCE



- Forest restoration involves multiple ministries, departments and schemes with limited coordination.

C WEAK MONITORING



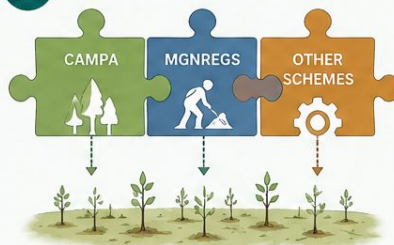
- Focus often remains on number of plantations rather than survival and ecological outcomes.

D POOR INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY



- State-level agencies may lack adequate technical and human resources.

E LACK OF CONVERGENCE



- Potential resources under CAMPA, MGNREGS and other schemes are not effectively integrated.

F FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS



- Delayed fund utilisation, weak accounting and inadequate financial controls reduce programme effectiveness.



CAG Audit of Green India Mission



CONTEXT: The CAG audit of the Green India Mission (GIM) has highlighted major gaps in its implementation, including significant shortfalls in forest and tree-cover targets.

Way Forward

- **Strengthen Funding**
 - Ensure predictable and adequate funding.
- **Effective Convergence**
 - Integrate GIM with:
 - CAMPA + MGNREGS + Nagar Van Yojana + Finance Commission Grants
- **Outcome-Based Monitoring**
 - Shift from: "How many trees were planted?"
 - → to "How many survived and improved ecosystem quality?"
- **Use Technology**
 - Use GIS, remote sensing and satellite monitoring to track:
 - Forest cover, Tree survival
 - Restoration quality
 - Carbon sequestration

- **Community Participation**
 - Strengthen participation of Gram Sabhas, Joint Forest Management Committees and forest-dependent communities.
- **Landscape-Based Restoration**
 - Move beyond isolated plantations towards restoration of entire ecological landscapes and watersheds.
- **Stronger Financial Accountability**
 - Ensure timely audits, annual accounts and transparent utilisation of funds.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

"The CAG audit of the Green India Mission highlights the gap between India's climate commitments and their implementation on the ground." Examine the major challenges affecting the Mission and suggest measures to improve its effectiveness.

(10 marks, 150 words)



Newspaper: Indian Express , Page No. 5

FINDINGS SHOULD PROMPT RETHINK OF PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE, PARTICULARLY FOR ADULTS OVER 40, ARGUES STUDY

1 in 20 adults from Delhi-NCR have both high sugar and blood pressure, reveals study

Integrated Preventive Healthcare & NCD Burden in India

- Where to use
 - **GS-II:** Public healthcare, government interventions
 - **GS-III:** Demographic transition, human capital
 - **Essay:** Preventive healthcare, healthy population, lifestyle diseases

Mains Value Addition

- **1 in 20 (5%) Delhi-NCR adults** have both diabetes + hypertension; rises to ~17% at age 70.
- Diabetics are ~4× more likely to have hypertension; hypertensives are ~2.5× more likely to have diabetes.
- **NCD clustering:** Diabetes + hypertension increase risk of heart disease, stroke and kidney disease.
- Ageing + urbanisation + sedentary lifestyles + poor diets are accelerating India's NCD burden.

What needs to be done?

- **Prevention over cure:** Shift from episodic treatment to regular, integrated screening.
- **Integrated screening:** Check blood sugar + blood pressure together, particularly among adults 40+.

- **Behavioural challenge:** Awareness alone is insufficient; medication adherence and lifestyle modification remain critical.
- **Social determinants:** Diet, physical inactivity, smoking, alcohol use and obesity contribute significantly to NCDs.
- According to **The Lancet**, In 2024, the largest number of adults with **diabetes** was in:
 - China (148 million), India (90 million), and the US (39 million)
- **Hypertension** burden in India - 220 million, (23% of adults, with men at 24.1% and women at 21.2%). (NFHS-5)
 - **Over 90%** of affected adults are either **undiagnosed, untreated**, or treated but uncontrolled.



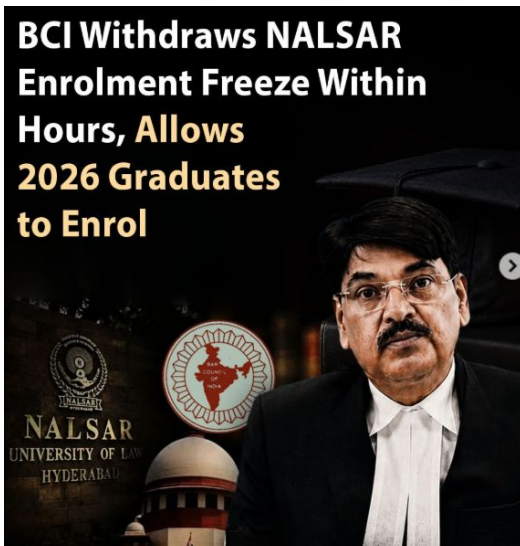
Syllabus: Prelims: Polity

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 1

Bar Council of India (BCI)

- **Statutory body** established Under:
 - **Advocates Act, 1961**
- Nodal Ministry:
 - **Ministry of Law and Justice**
- However, BCI is an **autonomous** statutory body, not an attached/subordinate office of the Ministry.
- Composition:
 - **Attorney General** of India and **Solicitor General of India** are ex-officio members.
 - Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected by the members of the BCI.
- **State Bar Councils:**
 - BCI is the apex statutory body over State Bar Councils.
 - State Bar Councils primarily enrol advocates and maintain their rolls.

BCI Withdraws NALSAR Enrolment Freeze Within Hours, Allows 2026 Graduates to Enrol



Bar Council of India (BCI)

- Right to Practise:
 - Under the Advocates Act, an advocate enrolled with a State Bar Council can practise throughout India, subject to applicable rules.
- **Important Distinction:**
 - **BCI** → regulates the legal profession and legal education.
 - **SC/HC** → exercise judicial functions.
 - BCI is not a court.

FUNCTIONS

- To establish guidelines for advocates' professional conduct and decorum.
- To establish a mechanism for its disciplinary committee
- To protect advocates' rights, privileges, and interests.
- To encourage and assist the reform of the legal system.
- To deal with and resolve any problem that a State Bar Council may refer to it.
- It inspects and visits universities, or directs the State Bar Councils to do so.
- To organize poor people's legal aid.
- Recognize foreign legal qualifications gained outside of India for the purpose of admission as an advocate in India on a reciprocal basis.

Exam Traps

- BCI is a constitutional body → **WRONG**
- BCI is a government department under the Ministry of Law and Justice → **WRONG**
- BCI directly enrolls advocates in every state → **WRONG**
- BCI regulates judges → **WRONG**
- BCI conducts the Judiciary exams in India → **WRONG**



Syllabus: Prelims: Art & Architecture
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 2

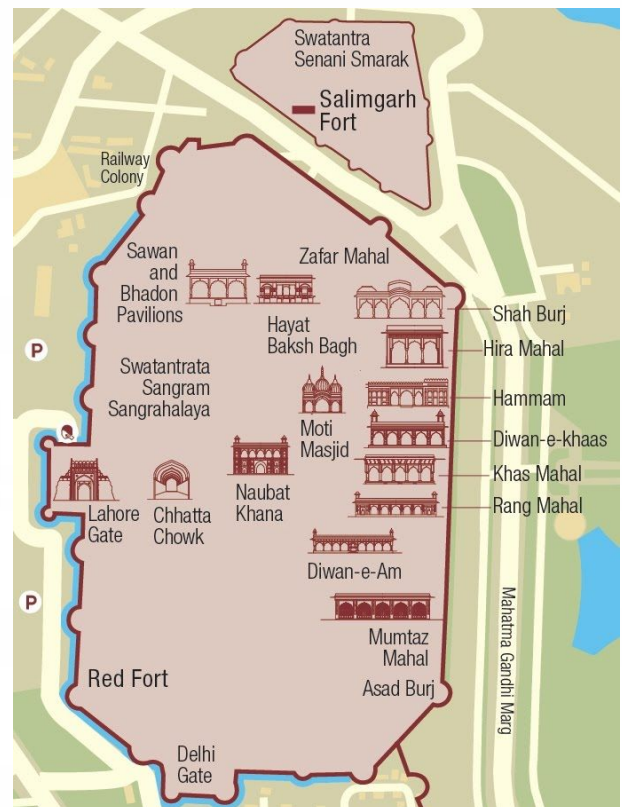
Red Fort (Lal Qila)

- **Old Delhi** – on the banks of the Yamuna River.
- Built By: **Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan**.
- Construction:
 - Began in **1638** and was largely completed in **1648**.
- Originally called Qila-i-Mubarak (“Auspicious Fort”).
- Purpose:
 - Served as the **main residence** and **administrative centre** of the Mughal emperors.
 - After Shah Jahan shifted the capital from **Agra to Shahjahanabad**.
- Architecture:
 - Designed primarily by **Ustad Ahmad Lahori** and **Ustad Hamid**.
 - Built mainly using **red sandstone**.

Red Fort (Lal Qila)

- **Important Structures Inside:**
 - Diwan-i-Aam – Hall of Public Audience.
 - Diwan-i-Khas – Hall of Private Audience.
 - Moti Masjid – built by Aurangzeb.
 - Rang Mahal
 - Nahr-i-Bihisht (“Stream of Paradise”).
- **UNESCO Status:**
 - UNESCO World Heritage Site (2007).

- **Historical Significance:**
 - Became an important centre during the Revolt of 1857.
 - Bahadur Shah Zafar II, the last Mughal emperor, was tried by the British after the revolt.
- **Red Fort vs Agra Fort:**
 - Agra Fort → mainly developed by Akbar, though later Mughal emperors modified it.



Exam Traps

- Red Fort was built by Akbar → **WRONG**
- Red Fort is located on the banks of the Ganga → **WRONG**
- Red Fort was originally built as a British military fort → **WRONG**
- Red Fort Complex became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2014 → **WRONG**
- The Prime Minister hoists the national flag at Red Fort on Republic Day → **WRONG**
- Moti Masjid inside the Red Fort was built by Shah Jahan → **WRONG**



Syllabus: Prelims: Modern History
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No. 8**

Vande Mataram

- Author: **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay**
- Language:
 - Originally composed in **Sanskrit**, but in **Bengali script**.
 - Appeared in his novel **Anandamath** (1882).
- Meaning: "I bow to thee, Mother."
 - The "Mother" refers to the motherland.
- National Status:
 - National Song of India.
 - "Jana Gana Mana" is the National Anthem.
- First Public Performance:
 - The poem was first sung by **Rabindranath Tagore** at the **1896 session of the INC**.

• **Controversy:**

- Some later stanzas contain Hindu religious imagery, leading to objections from some Muslim leaders.
- The **Constituent Assembly** therefore accorded **national-song status** specifically to the **first two stanzas**.
- National Song Declaration:
 - **On 24 January 1950**, the Constituent Assembly accorded Vande Mataram the status of National Song
 - While Jana Gana Mana was adopted as the National Anthem.

Setting the tone

Key guidelines for singing and playing the National Song

■ Vande Mataram should be sung or played before the National Anthem when both are performed at an event

■ The audience must stand at attention when the official version, around 3 minutes 10 seconds long, is sung or played

■ Standing is not required if it is played as part of a newsreel or documentary



Proud moment: A tableau celebrating 150 years of Vande Mataram during the Republic Day Parade. PTI

■ The official version shall be accompanied by mass singing during unfurling of the National Flag, cultural occasions, or ceremonial functions other than parades

PREVENTION OF INSULTS TO NATIONAL HONOUR (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2026



Parliament passed the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026**.



The Bill was moved by **Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai**.



The amendment modifies the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**.



It grants Vande Mataram the same statutory protection as the National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana).



Insulting Vande Mataram is now a punishable offence.



PUNISHMENT:
Up to **3 years** imprisonment, fine, or both.

VANDE MATARAM



Vande Mataram



Syllabus: Prelims: Modern History
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 8

Article 51A of Indian Constitution

PART IVA

FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

51A. Fundamental duties.—It shall be the duty of every citizen of India—

(a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;

(b) to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;

Exam Traps

- Vande Mataram was written by Rabindranath Tagore → WRONG
- It was originally written in Hindi → WRONG
- It was first sung at the 1905 Congress Session → WRONG (1896, Calcutta.)
- Vande Mataram is India's National Anthem → WRONG
- All six stanzas are the ones accorded national-song status → WRONG



Syllabus: Prelims: Geography and DM
Newspaper: Indian Express, **Page No.** 10

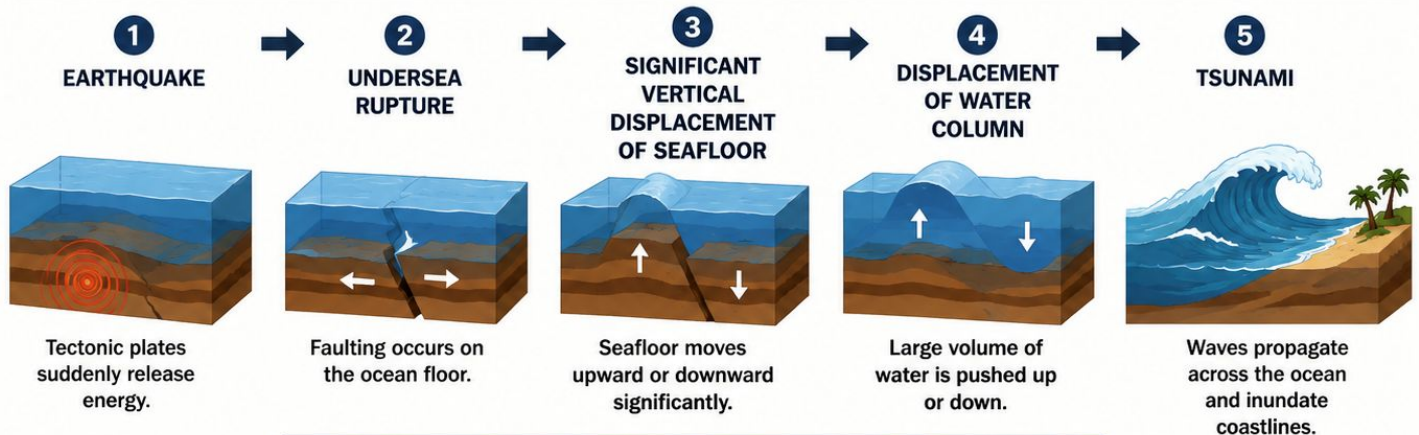
Why is Indonesia highly earthquake-prone?

- A magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck off the coast of **Flores Island in East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia**, killing at least 47 people.
- The shallow offshore earthquake triggered a tsunami warning.
- Indonesia lies along the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, where several tectonic plates interact.
- **Pacific Ring of Fire:**
 - A horseshoe-shaped zone of intense tectonic activity surrounding the Pacific Ocean.
 - Mainly due to subduction of oceanic plates beneath continental or other oceanic plates.
 - ~75% of the world's active volcanoes and ~90% of the world's earthquakes.

EARTHQUAKE → TSUNAMI LINK

❌ An undersea earthquake does **not automatically** produce a tsunami.

🎯 A major tsunami is more likely when:



CONDITIONS THAT INCREASE TSUNAMI POTENTIAL



GENERALLY SHALLOW EARTHQUAKE

Shallower quakes (e.g., within ~70 km depth) transfer more energy to the seafloor and water.



LARGE MAGNITUDE

Higher magnitude (e.g., M 7.0 and above) increases the energy available to displace the seafloor.



OCCURS BENEATH OR NEAR THE OCEAN

Quakes under the ocean or near the coast have a direct impact on the overlying water.



SIGNIFICANT VERTICAL MOVEMENT OF THE SEABED

Vertical displacement is the key factor—horizontal movement alone usually does not generate tsunamis.



KEY TAKEAWAY: It's not just the earthquake, but the vertical movement of the seafloor that displaces water and generates a tsunami.



Syllabus: Prelims: Geography and DM
Newspaper: Indian Express, **Page No.** 10



Exam Traps

- Pacific Ring of Fire is formed mainly around the Atlantic Ocean → WRONG
- It is caused only by volcanic activity → WRONG
- India is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire → WRONG
- The Ring of Fire contains about 60% of the world's earthquakes → WRONG
- All volcanoes along the Ring of Fire are located on land → WRONG



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Green India Mission (GIM):

1. It was launched in 2014 as one of the missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change.
2. The Mission seeks to enhance forest-based livelihoods along with improving ecosystem services and carbon sequestration.
3. Under the revised GIM plan for 2021–2030, the Mission aims to undertake afforestation and ecological restoration over about 24–25 million hectares.
4. It is implemented under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, given its primary focus on afforestation and restoration.

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

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All Four

Answer: c

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Bar Council of India (BCI):

1. The Bar Council of India is a statutory body established under the Advocates Act, 1961.
2. The Attorney General of India and the Solicitor General of India are ex-officio members of the Bar Council of India.
3. The Bar Council of India is an attached office of the Ministry of Law and Justice and functions under its direct administrative control.
4. State Bar Councils primarily enrol advocates and maintain the rolls of advocates within their respective jurisdictions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q3. Regarding the Red Fort (Lal Qila) in Delhi, consider the following statements:

1. It was constructed by Emperor Shah Jahan after the Mughal capital was shifted from Agra to Shahjahanabad.
2. It was originally known as Qila-i-Mubarak.
3. The fort was primarily constructed using red sandstone and was designed by Ustad Ahmad Lahori and Ustad Hamid.

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

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

Answer: c

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Vande Mataram:

1. Vande Mataram was composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and originally formed part of his novel Anandamath.
2. The song was originally composed in Sanskrit using the Bengali script.
3. It was first publicly sung by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress.
4. Vande Mataram and Jana Gana Mana enjoy the same constitutional status as the National Anthem and National Song respectively.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Pacific Ring of Fire:

1. It is a zone of intense seismic and volcanic activity associated predominantly with the boundaries of the Pacific Plate and the surrounding tectonic plates.
2. Most of the volcanoes along the Ring of Fire are associated with divergent plate boundaries.
3. The Ring of Fire includes regions along the western coasts of North and South America as well as the eastern and southeastern margins of Asia.
4. The presence of deep-sea trenches is one of the prominent features of the Ring of Fire.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b





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