



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

15th September 2026



War on Terror

15th September 2026

CONTEXT: Is the war on terror over?

Rationale: Fodder for Essay

- **Frustration-Aggression Theory (Dollard et al., 1939; Berkowitz, 1989)**
 - Terrorism = displaced aggression due to frustration
- **Social Learning Theory (Bandura, 1977)**
 - observation/imitation
- **Narcissistic Rage Theory (Pearlstein, 1991; Hudson, 1999)**
 - Grandiose self-image + blocked goals → rage/aggression
- **Authoritarian Personality Theory (Adorno et al., 1950)**
 - Harsh upbringing = intolerant, conservative adults
- **Relative Deprivation Theory (Merton, 1938; Gurr, 1970)**
 - Perceived (economic/political/social)
- **Rational Choice Theory (Cornish & Clarke, 1997; Crenshaw, 1990)**
 - planned strategically (e.g., timing, symbolism)
 - Better to die for a cause (Martyr)
- **Social Identity Theory (Tajfel et al., 1979; Waller, 2002)**
 - "Us vs. Them" mentality
- **Subculture of Violence Theory (Ferracutti & Wolfgang, 1967)**
 - ethno-nationalist terrorism
- **Conflict Theory (Dalton, 2013)**
 - Misguidance, illiteracy

Terrorism: Basics

- **Definition**
 - West - internal problem of third world
 - Freedom fighters?
 - Goodin
 - UAPA - act with intent to threaten SUI or security
- "Terrorism is a tactic, but technology has made it a pandemic." - Bruce Schneier

History

- Ancient - Jewish zealots
- Medieval - Thugees
- Present - 3rd world anti colonial struggles, Japanese Red Army, IS

Kinds of Terror

- **States Terrorism - from above**
 - i. State performed
 - ii. State sponsored
 - iii. Internal Repression
- **Non State Terror - from below**
 - i. Political Ideology
 - ii. Ethno nationalistic - SL
 - iii. Religious - Al Qaeda
- **Bio Terrorism**
 - i. Tokyo
- **Cyber Terror**

Terrorism

Approaches

- **Legal** - UAPA
- **Organisational**
- **Military**
 - i. Domestic
 - ii. International

Financial

- Terror Funding & Fake currency cell
- FEMA, AML-CFT compliance with FATF

International

- International Conventions for the suppression of
 - i. Terrorist Bombings
 - ii. Financing of Terrorism
 - iii. Acts of Nuclear Terror

Models to counter

- Intelligence Model
- War Model
- Criminal Justice Model
- Expanded Criminal Justice Model



CONTEXT: Is the war on terror over?

Tech Enabled Terror

Modes

- **Encrypted Apps**
 - Signal, Telegram – Pulwama 2019: Attackers used Telegram
- **Dark Web**
 - Arms trading, anonymous funding
- **Cryptocurrencies**
 - ISIS Kerala module funds (2021)
- **Drones**
 - Arms smuggling – Jammu Air Base drone attack (2021)
- **Deepfake AI**
 - Fake hostage videos, misinformation
- **Social Media Weaponization**
 - ISIS's "Lone Wolf Toolkit" – shared via WhatsApp in Kerala (2016)

Measures

- **Legal**
 - IT Rules 2021: Trace encrypted messages
 - UAPA Amendments: online radicalization
- **Technological**
 - NETRA (NSA's internet surveillance system)
 - iDEX: Funds startups developing anti-drone tech (e.g., DRDO's Smash 2000 jammer), GPS Spoofers
- **Institutional**
 - NATGRID: banking, travel, & telecom data for intel
 - NCCC: Monitors cyber threats in real-time

Terrorism

Suggestions

- Definition
- Identifying Root
- International Cooperation – Diplomacy, Extradition treaties, Info sharing
 - Europol's EC3 for dark web monitoring
 - CCIT
- Public campaigns
 - Digital Shakti 4.0: NGO-led counter-radicalization in J&K, NE.
- Models
 - Neighbourhood watch
 - Internet Imams
- Legal & Institutional Measures
 - Cyber Terrorism Law: UK's Computer Misuse Act
 - Drone Policy 2.0: geo-fencing near borders
 - NCTC
- Capacity Building
 - Cyber Police Units in each district
 - DRDO-Industry Collab: anti-drone R&D

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q. Terrorism has remained a persistent internal security challenge for India. Examine the causes behind terrorism in South Asia. Analyze the approaches adopted by India to counter terrorism and suggest a multi-pronged strategy for a sustainable solution.



Uniform Civil Code: States Push

CONTEXT: Implementing UCC state by state.

Uniform Civil Code

UCC

- Article 44
- Common code - all citizens subject to the same laws regardless of their differences in race, religion, caste
- 21st Law Commission 2018 - neither necessary nor desirable at this stage

Rationale behind UCC

- Constitution & aspirations
- Preamble
- Equality, human rights
- National Integration
- Less legal complexity
- Women Empowerment
- Global Examples: France

Judicial Take

- Shah Bano Case
 - national integration by removing disparate loyalties to law
 - S. 125, CrPC
- Sarla Mudgal case
 - 80% already under codified personal law
 - No conversion for bigamy
- Jordan Diengdeh vs S.S. Chopra
 - uniformity in personal marriage laws & grounds for judicial separation
- Shayara Bano vs UoI, 2017
 - TT unconstitutional: A-14
 - Thus, Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019

Factors inhibiting adoption of UCC

- Consensus
 - Threat to diversity?
- Rationality
- Conservative religious leaders
- Controversies - time not ripe
- Secular state
- Ambedkar - "desirable" but should be totally "voluntary"
- Complexity
 - Coding, harmonising
- Article 37

Suggestions

- Wider consultation
 - Bottom Up: Reform from within
 - All-Party Committee
- First consensus aspects
 - Polygamy, min marriage age, compulsory registration
- Credential of secular and progressive nation
 - Customs codification & protection
 - Safeguarding A-25
- Implementation of existing gender laws
- Unity > Uniformity

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q. Discuss the arguments in favour of and against the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in India. Refer to the case laws on personal laws and UCC.



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

From Bengal to Boston, politicians love a 'revdi'

India's cash support

- Informal economy
 - Eco Survey 2025-26: transfers to women = 11-24% of monthly income of women daily-wage workers
- Relief ~ permanent fiscal commitment
 - Forms: free electricity, bus travel, cash transfers, subsidised food
- PRS Legislative Research
 - Unconditional cash transfers to women alone - 2 States in 2022-23
 - 12 States in 2025-26
- Estimated annual cost: ₹1.68 lakh crore (~0.5% of GDP)
- WB budget: ₹36k cr for ₹3k monthly transfer to 1.3 crore women
- Assam: ₹5,000 crore for Orunodoi

Suggestions

- Welfare impact statement before rollout
 - eligibility rule
 - 5-year fiscal cost
 - likely leakage and exclusion errors
 - measurable outcomes
- After rollout, household surveys
 - whether transfer received
 - effect on consumption, debt, health spending, schooling
 - subjective well-being
- Anonymised microdata for independent research
- Schemes spending public money on this scale must survive severe scrutiny



India Vietnam: Deepening Ties

15th September 2026

SYLLABUS : Prelims: Current Events of National and International Importance
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number :** 09

Vietnam

Background

- Diplomatic relations in 1972
- Nehru first foreign leader to visit Vietnam in 1954, after liberation of Hanoi
- Vietnam War
 - India supported Vietnam's sovereignty and territorial integrity
- 2007: Strategic Partnership
 - India's first Strategic Partnership within ASEAN region
- 2016: Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
 - deeper convergence across political, economic, defence, cultural domains
- Vietnam's Role in the Act East Policy
 - "major pillar of India's Act East Policy and Vision MAHASAGAR"
 - shared outlooks on the Indo-Pacific, rule of law, peace, and prosperity



Trade and Economic Cooperation

- 2025-2026: USD 16 bn
 - India's export: \$6.11 bn
- Areas
 - Pharmaceuticals: Indian generic medicines
 - Agriculture and Fisheries: Indian grapes & pomegranates, and Vietnamese durians
 - Manufacturing & Electronics: Vietnam emerging hub for high-tech
 - RE & Electric Vehicles
 - Digital Economy: Collab in e-commerce platforms, digital payments
- Member of ASEAN and a party to RCEP
 - Strategic gateway for Indian biz access to Southeast Asian markets

Defence and Security Ties

- Shared concerns over maritime security in Indo-Pacific
 - FoN in South China Sea
- Aspects
 - Defence Lines of Credit
 - Joint Exercises and Training
 - Maritime Security & domain awareness
 - i. India offering to host a Vietnamese liaison officer at IFC-IOR
 - Defence Industrial Collab
 - Vietnam's participation in IPOI



India Vietnam: Deepening Ties

15th September 2026

SYLLABUS : Prelims: Current Events of National and International Importance
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number :** 09

Diaspora and Cultural Linkages

- Civilisational links through Buddhism and ancient Cham civilisation
- My Son sanctuary in Vietnam, a UNESCO WHS
- Cultural exchanges, scholarship programs
- 66 Quick Impact Projects

Vietnamese President's Visit to India

- Elevation to Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
 - highest level of diplomatic engagement India extends to any country

- Trade Target of \$25 bn by 2030
- South China Sea and Rule of Law
 - non-militarisation, self-restraint, CoC in the South China Sea
- Agreements
 - MoU between RBI and State Bank of Vietnam on digital payments and QR-based cross-border transactions
 - MoU on radioactive and rare earth minerals
 - Cooperation in digital public infrastructure, AI, 6G, space, and critical minerals



National Engineers Day: M Visvesvaraya

15th September 2026

SYLLABUS : Prelims: History of India and Indian National Movement
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number :** 05

Prelims Pointers

Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya

- Bharat Ratna
- 1861-1962
- Dewan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918
- Father of Modern Mysore
- Assistant engineer in PWD, Bombay, in 1885
- Indian Irrigation Commission: In 1899
- Chief Engineer of Mysore State: Krishna Raja Sagar Dam

Contributions

- Block Irrigation System (1899): Deccan Canals
- Sukkur Water Solution: "muddy and discoloured" on the banks of the Indus
- Automatic Water Floodgates (1903)
 - At Khadakwasla reservoir in Pune
- Founder of Bengaluru Engineering College (1917)
- Economic Planning Advocate
 - Visvesvaraya Plan
 - Book titled "Planned Economy in India"
- International Projects: Water supply and drainage systems in the British Colony of Aden (now Yemen)

Awards and Honours

- Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (CIE): in 1911 by King Edward VII
- Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire (KCIE): In 1915
 - for contributions to the public good
- Bharat Ratna: In 1955
- Honorary Memberships and Fellowships
 - Institution of Civil Engineers, London
 - Fellowship from IISc, Bangalore
- President of Indian Science Congress: in 1923
- Engineer's Day: September 15
 - his birth anniversary



15th September 2026

Food Prices: El nino, Geopolitical Tensions

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Current Events of National and International Importance
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number :** 01

Prelims Pointers

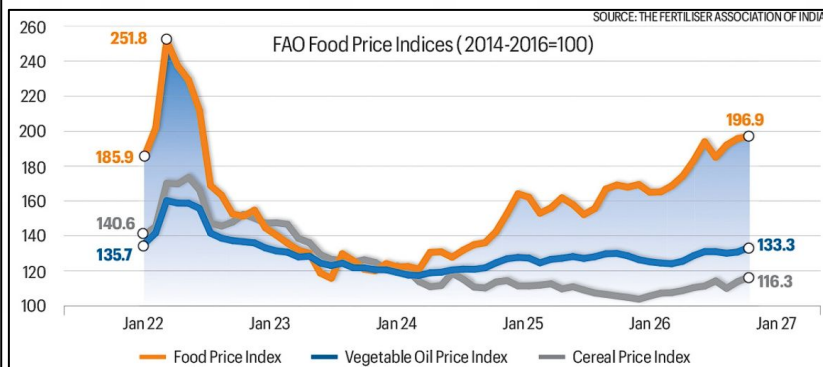
Erratic Southwest Monsoon

- June
 - Average: 3 low-pressure systems (LPS)
 - i. Not a single one formed
 - All-India rainfall: 38% below normal long-period average (LPA)
- July: 4 LPSs
 - Rainfall: 1% above overall LPA
- August: El Niño effects
 - 6 LPSs formed vs average 5.38
 - Yet all-India rainfall deficit: 16.3%
 - i. Reason: El Niño weakened easterly trade winds
 - ii. Less moisture-laden air toward Indian subcontinent
- Overall season
 - All-India rainfall: 15% below LPA
 - Worst-affected: southern states + Marathwada & Vidarbha

Impact of Deficient Monsoon

- Agriculture Ministry
 - Acreage shortfall
 - i. Total area sown under kharif crops: 1.4% < same period 2025

- Fertiliser sales
 - DAP, MOP, complex fertilisers: significantly lower in April–July 2026
 - i. Urea: 6.6% sales decline
 - Despite policy interventions for adequate natural gas
- Better indicator: prices
 - Maize in MP wholesale market: Rs 2,625/quintal vs Rs 2,165 last year
 - Arhar (pigeon pea) in Maha: Rs 8,650 vs Rs 6,200/quintal
 - Higher prices reflect trader/market sentiment & crop-size expectations
- USDA forecast
 - India's rice production: 147 mt
 - Maize production: 50 mt
 - i. Previous year's ATH: 154 & 55.1 mt
- Impact: not small
 - Uneven temporal distribution: extended dry spells + heavy downpours
 - Uneven spatial distribution: largely confined to Odisha, Chhattisgarh, eastern MP, Gangetic WB, Jhar, UP
 - Likely lower yields



Food Prices: El nino, Geopolitical Tensions



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Current Events of National and International Importance
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number :** 01

What Next?

- El Niño now in “strong” state
 - Average SST in equatorial Pacific off Ecuador & Peru: 1.8°C > normal
- US NOAA projection:
 - 90%-plus chance of “very strong” El Niño (SSTs $>2^{\circ}\text{C}$ above normal)
 - From September through January
 - “Strong” (SSTs $>1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ above normal) till March
- Suppressed rainfall and higher temperatures in India
 - Short and warm winter
 - Rabi crops at risk:
 - Wheat, rapeseed-mustard, chana (chickpea), masoor
 - Potato, onion, garlic, jeera, saunf
- Global prices
 - WA conflict: no dramatic spike
 - Unlike Russia’s invasion in 2022
 - As ample stocks from bumper crops in 2024-25 and 2025-26
- FAO food price index
 - Highest since November 2022
 - Weighted average of world prices of food commodity basket over base period value (100 for 2014-16)
 - Factors
 - Running down of stocks
 - Disrupted trade logistics as geopolitical tensions
 - Strengthening El Niño



Prelims Pointers

Hindi Diwas

- September 14, 1949: Constituent Assembly adopted
- January 26, 1950: Constitution into force
 - Article 343: Official Language of the Union shall be Hindi in the Devanagari script
- September 14, 1953: Hindi Diwas began to be observed annually
- Article 351: directive for promoting the spread and development of Hindi, with the aim of strengthening its role as a medium of expression for India's composite culture

Decoding the News

	Hindi Diwas	World Hindi Day
Date	Sep-14	Jan-10
Main Purpose	1949 Constituent Assembly decision regarding Hindi as the Official Language & promote its use	To promote Hindi at the international level
Historical Significance	On September 14, 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi	January 10 is linked to the First World Hindi Conference, held in Nagpur in 1975
First Observed	1953	2006
Focus	Development and wider use of Hindi in India, particularly in official and educational contexts	Increasing the global reach and recognition of Hindi
Constitutional Provision	Article 343	No specific constitutional provision



Q1. With reference to Sir M. Visvesvaraya, consider the following statements:

1. He served as the Dewan of Mysore and was associated with the Krishna Raja Sagar Dam.
2. Engineer's Day is observed on September 15 to mark his birth anniversary.
3. He opposed state-led economic planning and favoured an entirely laissez-faire approach.

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: a

Q2. With reference to El Niño, monsoon variability and food prices, consider the following statements:

1. El Niño conditions can contribute to suppressed rainfall and higher temperatures over India.
2. A deficient monsoon may reduce crop yields even when rainfall deficiency is not spatially uniform.
3. The FAO Food Price Index measures only cereal prices relative to a fixed base period.

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

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

Answer: b

Q3. With reference to the constitutional status of Hindi in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution provides for Hindi in the Devanagari script as the Official Language of the Union.
2. World Hindi Day commemorates the constitutional adoption of Hindi as the Official Language of the Union.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a

Q4. With reference to judicial pronouncements concerning personal laws in India, consider the following statements:

1. In Sarla Mudgal, the Supreme Court upheld conversion solely for contracting a second marriage without dissolving the first.
2. In the Shah Bano case, the Supreme Court upheld the right of a divorced Muslim woman to claim maintenance.
3. Shayara Bano dealt with the constitutional validity of instant triple talaq.

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: c

Q5. Which of the following countries share a land boundary with Vietnam?

1. China
2. Laos
3. Cambodia
4. Thailand

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a





VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

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

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

Visit us at : www.vajiramandravi.com