



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

5th September 2026



CONTEXT: Centre deferred 2027 Census in Manipur after Amit Shah–Governor–CM meeting, amid demands that NRC be conducted before Census.

Manipur – the basics

• MANIPUR'S ETHNIC FAULTLINES

- Manipur's 16 districts are largely divided along two lines — 'hills', dominated by Nagas and Kuki-Zomis, and 'valleys', where Meiteis are in majority.
- Meitei and Naga groups want an NRC exercise to be conducted before the Census. Kuki-Zo groups oppose this.



Meiteis + Naga → NRC before Census
Kuki-Zo → Oppose this

Current political map largely reflects the 1973 delimitation based on the 1971 Census

NRC vs Citizenship vs Delimitation

Exercise	Central question	Primary purpose
Census	Who lives here?	Demographic & socio-economic data
NRC	Who is an Indian citizen?	Citizenship identification
Delimitation	How should representation be organised?	Electoral constituencies



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Articles worth remembering

Article 371C

- **Special provisions for Manipur**
- Provides for a **Hill Areas Committee** of the Legislative Assembly.
- **President** can modify/apply provisions relating to administration of hill areas.

Citizenship Act, 1955 — Section 14A

- Provides the statutory basis for registration of citizens and maintenance of the **National Register of Indian Citizens**.

Article 170

- Deals with the composition of **State Legislative Assemblies** and territorial **constituencies**.

Arguments For “Nrc First”

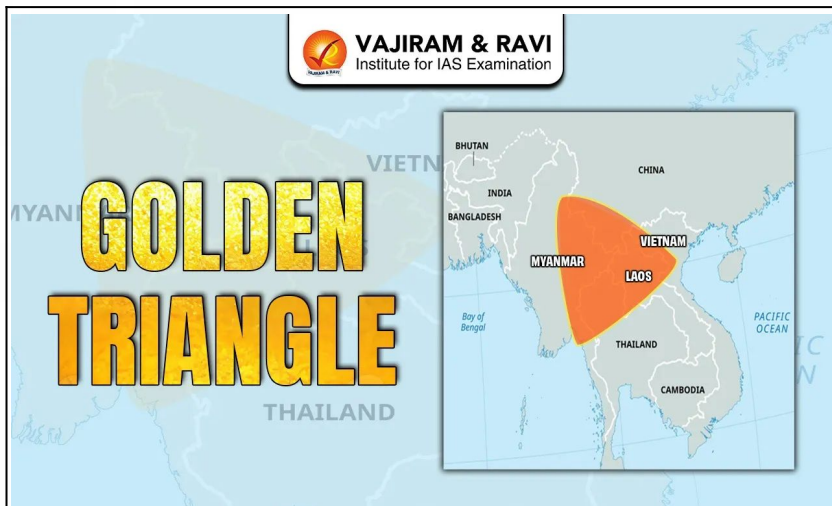
- Fear of illegal immigration
 - Especially after 2021 Myanmar military coup
 - Hill populations increase 250.9% (2001–2011) vs valley's 125.4%.
- Demographic security
 - Fear of altering population composition, land ownership, political representation, cultural identity
- Displacement
 - Post-May 2023 ethnic conflict



- Prevent distorted Census data
- Security dimension as India–Myanmar border has been associated with
 - insurgency
 - narcotics trafficking
 - arms movement
 - refugee flows
- Political representation
 - No delimitation since 1970s; fresh population data could reshape Assembly seat equations.



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Arguments Against “Nrc First”

- Census and NRC serve different purposes
 - A Census does not certify citizenship
- Risk of exclusion
 - Demands for 1951 as the baseline for NRC
 - Proper documents issues
 - 2023 Conflict
- Cross-border ethnic ties should not be considered illegal immigration
- Risk of ethnicisation
- Delaying the Census has its own costs as it is required for:
 - development planning
 - public distribution
 - health
 - education
 - migration analysis
 - urban planning
 - welfare targeting

Government Steps

- High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes
- India–Myanmar border measures
 - Scrapped Free Movement Regime
 - Fencing
- Deferred the Census operation in Manipur

High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes Chaired by Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar (Retd.)

Way Forward

- Separate the three processes NRC, Census, Delimitation
- Conduct a credible Census with special provisions for displaced persons
- Undertake NRC only under a clear legal framework
- Use multiple datasets to examine migration
- Protect displaced persons' documentation

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

“The demand for conducting the National Register of Citizens (NRC) before the Census in Manipur reflects the complex interplay of illegal migration, demographic change, ethnic conflict and political representation.” Examine the arguments in favour of and against conducting the NRC before the Census. Suggest a way forward. (15 Marks, 250 words)



SC's powers under Art 142



CONTEXT: Supreme Court recently invoked Article 142 to quash FIRs registered against participants in the July 2026 protests led by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) over the NEET-UG paper-leak controversy.

What all SC said?

- **Quashed thousands of FIRs** against students
- **Exception** for 2,873 individuals with serious **criminal antecedents**
- Directed Centre to formulate a **nationwide compensation framework**
- Should **not be treated as a precedent**

Done Under Art
142

Article 142

Article 142(1):

- Supreme Court can pass orders/decrees necessary to do **complete justice**.
- Applies to a cause or matter pending before the Court.
- Such orders are enforceable throughout India.

Article 142(2):

- Gives the Court powers relating to:
 - securing attendance of persons,
 - discovery/production of documents,
 - investigation or punishment of contempt,
- subject to Parliamentary law.

**Can be traced to Section 210 of the
Government of India Act, 1935**



SC's powers under Art 142

CONTEXT: Supreme Court recently invoked Article 142 to quash FIRs registered against participants in the July 2026 protests led by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) over the NEET-UG paper-leak controversy

Why Article 142 Is Necessary

- Law cannot anticipate every injustice
 - Union Carbide Corporation vs Union of India (1991)
- Prevents procedural technicalities from defeating justice
 - A.G. Perarivalan vs State (2022)
- Protects vulnerable groups
 - M.C. Mehta cases (Oleum Gas Leak, 1986)
- Makes the Supreme Court a constitutional court, not merely a statutory court
 - M Siddiq vs Mahant Suresh Das (Ayodhya, 2019)
- Useful in extraordinary national crises
 - Tamil Nadu Governor Bills case (2025)

Why Article 142 Can Become Dangerous

- Judicial overreach
 - Former Attorney General K.K. Venugopal called it a "Kamdheni from which unlimited powers flowed"
- Separation of powers
 - Art 50
- Unequal application
 - 38 Judges
- Lack of clear standards
- Risk of replacing institutions
 - Former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar called a "nuclear missile" against democratic institutions

Supreme Court's own efforts

- Prem Chand Garg vs State of UP (1962) → orders under Article 142 must stay consistent with fundamental rights and law
- Supreme Court Bar Association vs Union of India (1998) → supplement, not supplant statutory law

Way Ahead

- Follow the Court's own "supplement, not supplant" test
- Require reasoned proportionality
- Prefer Constitution Benches for questions of major institutional significance
 - Former Attorney General K.K. Venugopal urged only 5 judge benches use it
- Create better institutional dialogue
- Preserve Article 142 for exceptional cases

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Ques. "The extraordinary power under Article 142 is necessary to remedy legislative and procedural gaps, but unrestricted judicial discretion can blur the constitutional boundaries between adjudication and governance." Examine in light of the Supreme Court's recent use of Article 142 to quash FIRs against student protesters. (15 marks, 250 words)



Mains Value Addition

Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No :** 7

SC pushes for raising retirement age in district judiciary as backlog tops 5 cr.

→ SC directed the State Governments to increase the retirement age of Judges

- Current Retirement Age: **60** Years
- Proposed Retirement Age: **62** Years

- **Judiciary Pendency Data**
 - 5.18 crore cases are pending
 - ~87% are pending in district and subordinate courts
- **Postpones financial burden**
- **Madras HC Safeguard mechanism**
 - **suitability assessment at 60**
- **SC can only "push" or recommend, not mandate uniformly**
- **Sanctioned vs. working strength mismatch**
 - **>20% vacancies**

	Judges/10 lakh population
Sanctioned strength	18
Working strength	10
Recommended strength (1987 Law Commission)	50



5th September, 2026

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Science & Technology

Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 1

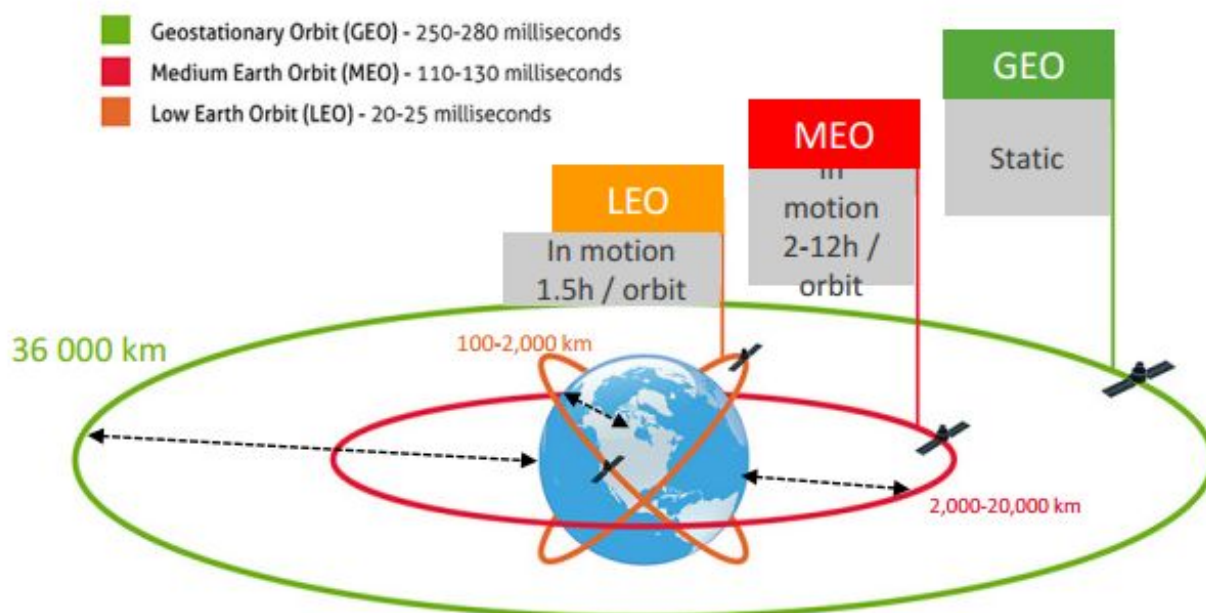
EOS-05 / GSLV-F17

Mission basics

- EOS-05: India's first dedicated imaging satellite operating from **geosynchronous orbit** (~36,000 km altitude)
- Launch vehicle: **GSLV-F17** (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle)
- Launched from: Second launch pad, **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**
- Orbit achieved: **Sub-GTO** (sub-geosynchronous transfer orbit) – satellite will later raise its own orbit to reach geo platform
- Satellite mass: 2,367 kg – **heaviest satellite launched by GSLV so far**
- Operational lifespan: **9 years**

Applications/purpose

- Provides near **real-time imagery** for: agriculture, environment monitoring, disaster management
- Also **supports "national activities"**/strategic data from the geo platform (implies dual-use)
- **Multi-band operating capabilities**



Note: Not drawn to scale



5th September, 2026

Chakma & Hajong

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Geography and Society

Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 1 and 4

Chakma-Hajong Communities

- **Chakmas (Buddhist) and Hajongs (Hindu)**
- Originally inhabited the **Chittagong Hill Tracts** of erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh)
- Displaced in the 1960s:
 - **Kaptai Hydroelectric Project on the Karnaphuli river**
 - **religious persecution**
- Settled by the Union Government (in consultation with the NEFA administration) in present-day Arunachal Pradesh, mainly in **Changlang, Papum Pare, and Lohit districts.**
- **Some settled in Assam and Tripura as well**

- **2015 Supreme Court order** directed consideration of **citizenship applications of Chakma-Hajongs under the Citizenship Act, 1955**

Current Status/Issues

- They remain **stateless/non-citizens** in large numbers
- **Denied Permanent Resident Certificates (PRC) and land rights**
- **CAA 2019 (Citizenship Amendment Act) exempts Arunachal Pradesh** (along with other Inner Line Permit states) from its application

ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA



Variable Reverse Repo Rate

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Economics

Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 11

Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR)

- It is a **liquidity management tool** used by the RBI under its Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)

How it works?

- **Reverse repo**, the RBI **absorbs excess liquidity** from Banks by offering them government securities as collateral, and pays interest on it.
- **Variable rate** means the **interest rate isn't fixed** in advance — **banks bid competitively** for the rate
- **Usually conducted for short tenors** (1-14 days)

Why RBI uses it?

- **Surplus liquidity in the banking system**
- Banks have more funds than they need for lending or reserve requirements.
- This **excess liquidity** can
 - push **short-term interest rates below** the policy repo rate and
 - fuel **inflationary pressure** if left unchecked



5th September, 2026

Turtles in Haryana

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Environment

Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 4

Shri Guru Gorakhnath Community Reserve

- Kajalheri village, **Fatehabad district of Haryana**
- **notified by Haryana government in 2019**
- **community reserves** can be declared on private/community land **under Wildlife Protection Act**
- **Species Present (~150–200 individuals)**
 - **Indian Softshell Turtle**
 - **Red-crowned Roofed Turtle**
 - **Indian Peacock Softshell Turtle (Indian Peacock turtle)**

<u>Species</u>	<u>IUCN Status</u>
Indian Softshell Turtle	Critically Endangered
Red-crowned Roofed Turtle	Endangered
Indian Peacock Softshell Turtle (Indian Peacock turtle)	Endangered

All are in Schedule 1 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972



5th September, 2026

Q1. With reference to the Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) operation of the Reserve Bank of India, consider the following statements:

1. The RBI uses it to absorb excess liquidity from the banking system.
2. Under VRRR, banks bid competitively for the interest rate at which they park funds with the RBI.
3. VRRR operations are generally conducted for short tenors under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF).
4. A higher VRRR absorption of liquidity necessarily increases the availability of funds for bank lending.

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. With reference to the Chakma and Hajong communities in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists, while the Hajongs are predominantly Hindus.
2. The communities were displaced from the Chittagong Hill Tracts following the construction of the Kaptai Hydroelectric Project.
3. Arunachal Pradesh is covered under the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, for granting citizenship to eligible Chakma-Hajong migrants.

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 EOS-05/GSLV-F17 mission, consider the following statements:

1. EOS-05 is India's first dedicated imaging satellite operating from a geosynchronous orbit.
2. EOS-05 was placed into a Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (Sub-GTO) before being raised to its final orbit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q4. Match the following provisions with their corresponding subjects:

Provisions	Subjects
A. Article 170 of the Constitution	1. National Register of Indian Citizens
B. Article 371C of the Constitution	2. Composition of State Legislative Assemblies
C. Section 14A of the Citizenship Act, 1955	3. Hill Areas Committee in Manipur

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: a

Q5. With reference to Article 142 of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court can pass such decree or order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it.
2. Orders passed under Article 142 are enforceable throughout the territory of India.
3. Article 142 does not apply to matters pending before the court.

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

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

Answer: b





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