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# A Note from Team Lexibal

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In an age of information overload, staying updated should not require hours of scrolling through headlines, articles, and reports.

**LexCurrent** is designed to bring together the most important developments of the month in a structured, accessible, and exam-oriented format.

Our goal is simple: help aspirants spend less time searching for information and more time understanding it.

We hope this publication becomes a valuable companion throughout your preparation journey.

— *Team Lexibal*



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## About LexCurrent

LexCurrent is the monthly Current Affairs and General Knowledge publication by Lexibal CLAT. Designed specifically for law entrance examinations, it combines important developments, relevant background information, and contextual analysis to help aspirants build a deeper understanding of the issues shaping India and the world.

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## Operation Sindoor: India's Counter-Terror Response

**Operation Sindoor** became one of the most significant national security developments of the year after India launched precision strikes against terrorist infrastructure following the Pahalgam terror attack. The operation attracted global attention and reignited discussions on counter-terrorism, self-defence under international law, and regional security in South Asia.

### Why in News?

India launched Operation Sindoor targeting terrorist infrastructure linked to groups operating across the border. The operation was presented as a counter-terror response aimed at preventing future attacks and dismantling terrorist networks.

### Background

India has adopted various counter-terror measures over the years in response to major attacks. The country's security doctrine has increasingly emphasized the principle that terrorist attacks originating from across borders will invite a firm response.

Major attacks that shaped India's counter-terror approach include:

- Parliament Attack (2001)
- Mumbai Terror Attacks (26/11, 2008)
- Uri Attack (2016)
- Pulwama Attack (2019)
- Pahalgam Terror Attack

### Understanding Cross-Border Terrorism

Cross-border terrorism refers to terrorist activities planned, supported, financed, or executed from outside a country's borders.

India has consistently raised concerns regarding cross-border terrorism at the:

- United Nations
- G20
- BRICS
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

### International Law and Self-Defence

Article 51 of the **United Nations Charter** recognizes the inherent right of self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a member state.

The debate regarding counter-terror operations often involves questions concerning:

- Sovereignty

- Territorial Integrity
- Self-Defence
- International Humanitarian Law

#### Extra Facts Examiners May Use

- United Nations established → 1945
- UN Headquarters → New York
- UN Charter signed → 26 June 1945
- Came into force → 24 October 1945
- Article 51 → Right of Self-Defence
- SCO Headquarters → Beijing
- BRICS Bank Headquarters → Shanghai

#### Remember These

- Operation Sindoor → Counter-Terror Operation
- Article 51 → Right of Self-Defence
- UN Established → 1945
- UN Headquarters → New York
- SCO Headquarters → Beijing
- BRICS Bank (NDB) → Shanghai
- Cross-Border Terrorism → Major Security Concern for India

## Waqf (Amendment) Bill and the Waqf Act Debate

The **Waqf (Amendment) Bill** became one of the most discussed legislative developments in India, generating debate on property management, religious endowments, governance, and constitutional rights. The proposed amendments sought to reform the administration and regulation of Waqf properties across the country.

### Why in News?

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill was introduced to address issues relating to the management, transparency, record-keeping, and governance of Waqf properties. The Bill sparked discussions among political parties, legal experts, and community organizations.

### Understanding Waqf

A **Waqf** is a permanent dedication of movable or immovable property by a person professing Islam for religious, pious, or charitable purposes recognized under Islamic law.

Examples include:

- Mosques
- Graveyards
- Educational Institutions
- Charitable Trusts
- Community Welfare Properties

Once a property becomes Waqf, it is generally considered irrevocable.

### **Background**

The administration of Waqf properties in India is governed primarily by the **Waqf Act, 1995**.

The Act provides for:

- Central Waqf Council
- State Waqf Boards
- Registration of Waqf Properties
- Supervision and Management of Waqf Assets

India possesses one of the largest collections of Waqf properties in the world.

### **Constitutional Linkages**

The debate surrounding Waqf administration often touches upon:

- Article 25 → Freedom of Religion
- Article 26 → Freedom to Manage Religious Affairs
- Right to Property (Constitutional Legal Right under Article 300A)
- Minority Rights

### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- Article 25 → Freedom of Conscience and Religion
- Article 26 → Manage Religious Affairs
- Article 300A → Right to Property
- Right to Property ceased to be a Fundamental Right after the **44th Constitutional Amendment (1978)**
- Ministry concerned → Ministry of Minority Affairs

- Central Waqf Council established → 1964

### Remember These

- Governing Law → Waqf Act, 1995
- Concerned Ministry → Minority Affairs
- Article 25 → Freedom of Religion
- Article 26 → Religious Affairs
- Article 300A → Right to Property
- Central Waqf Council → 1964
- Right to Property removed as Fundamental Right → 44th Amendment

## Delimitation Debate and Representation in Indian Democracy

The issue of **delimitation of constituencies** gained national attention as discussions intensified regarding the possible readjustment of parliamentary seats after the Census. The debate has important implications for federalism, political representation, population control policies, and the balance of power among states.

### Why in News?

Political leaders and state governments expressed differing views on the future delimitation exercise, particularly regarding how Lok Sabha seats may be redistributed among states based on population figures.

### What is Delimitation?

Delimitation is the process of:

- Redrawing boundaries of electoral constituencies.
- Reallocating seats among states.
- Ensuring equal representation based on population.

The objective is to ensure that each elected representative represents roughly the same number of people.

### Constitutional Basis

Delimitation is linked to:

- Article 82 → Readjustment after every Census.
- Article 170 → Delimitation of State Legislative Assembly constituencies.

Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act, following which a Delimitation Commission is constituted.

### Delimitation Commission

The Delimitation Commission is a high-powered body whose decisions have the force of law.

Typically includes:

- Retired Supreme Court Judge (Chairperson)
- Chief Election Commissioner
- State Election Commissioners (concerned states)

An important feature is that its orders generally cannot be challenged in court.

### Historical Background

India has conducted delimitation exercises in:

- 1952
- 1963
- 1973
- 2002

Through the **42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976)**, delimitation based on population was frozen until 2001 to encourage population control measures.

Later, the **84th Constitutional Amendment (2001)** extended the freeze until the first Census after 2026.

This issue is particularly significant because states that successfully controlled population growth fear losing representation compared to states with higher population growth.

### Extra Facts Examiners May Use

- Lok Sabha Maximum Strength → 552
- Present Elected Strength → 543
- Rajya Sabha Maximum Strength → 250
- Delimitation Commission is a statutory body.
- 42nd Constitutional Amendment → 1976
- 84th Constitutional Amendment → 2001

### Remember These

- Article 82 → Delimitation after Census
- Article 170 → State Assembly Delimitation
- Last Major Delimitation Commission → 2002
- 42nd Amendment → Freeze on Seat Readjustment
- 84th Amendment → Extended Freeze
- Present Lok Sabha Strength → 543

- Delimitation → Redrawing Electoral Boundaries

## 50 Years of the Emergency: Revisiting One of India's Most Important Constitutional Events

The year marked **50 years since the declaration of the National Emergency in India (1975–77)**, one of the most debated periods in Indian constitutional and political history. The Emergency remains highly relevant because it tested the functioning of democratic institutions, civil liberties, and constitutional safeguards.

### Why in News?

The completion of 50 years of the Emergency led to discussions regarding constitutional governance, fundamental rights, judicial independence, and democratic accountability.

### What Was the Emergency?

On **25 June 1975**, a National Emergency was declared by President **Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed** on the advice of Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi**.

The Emergency remained in force until **21 March 1977**.

During this period:

- Fundamental Rights were restricted.
- Political opponents were detained.
- Press censorship was imposed.
- Elections were postponed.

### Constitutional Basis

Emergency provisions are contained in **Part XVIII of the Constitution**.

Three types of emergencies exist:

- National Emergency → Article 352
- State Emergency (President's Rule) → Article 356
- Financial Emergency → Article 360

The Emergency of 1975 was proclaimed under **Article 352** on the ground of "Internal Disturbance."

### The Allahabad High Court Judgment

A major trigger was the **Allahabad High Court judgment (1975)**, which found Prime Minister Indira Gandhi guilty of electoral malpractices and invalidated her election.

The judgment was delivered by:

- Justice Jagmohanlal Sinha

The political developments that followed eventually culminated in the declaration of Emergency.

### **The 44th Constitutional Amendment**

After the Emergency ended, the **44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978** introduced several safeguards.

Important changes included:

- "Internal Disturbance" replaced by "**Armed Rebellion**".
- Protection of certain Fundamental Rights during Emergency.
- Stronger parliamentary oversight.

The amendment aimed to prevent misuse of Emergency powers in the future.

### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- Emergency Declared → 25 June 1975
- Emergency Revoked → 21 March 1977
- Prime Minister → Indira Gandhi
- President → Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
- Article 352 → National Emergency
- Article 356 → President's Rule
- Article 360 → Financial Emergency
- 44th Constitutional Amendment → 1978

### **Remember These**

- Emergency Period → 1975–77
- Basis → Article 352
- Ground Used → Internal Disturbance
- Replaced By → Armed Rebellion
- Key Court Case → Allahabad High Court Case
- Judge → Justice Jagmohanlal Sinha
- Safeguards Introduced → 44th Amendment Act, 1978

## India's Census and the Importance of Population Data

The forthcoming **Census of India** remained a major subject of discussion because population data plays a crucial role in policymaking, welfare schemes, resource allocation, urban planning, and electoral representation. The Census is regarded as one of the largest administrative exercises conducted anywhere in the world.

### Why in News?

Discussions surrounding the next Census gained significance due to its implications for delimitation, welfare programmes, reservation policies, urban planning, and economic decision-making.

### What is a Census?

A Census is the official process of collecting, compiling, and publishing demographic, social, and economic information relating to the population of a country.

It provides information on:

- Population Size
- Literacy
- Housing
- Migration
- Occupation
- Language
- Religion
- Age Structure

The data serves as the foundation for government planning and policy formulation.

### Historical Background

India conducted its first synchronous Census in **1881** under British rule.

Since then, the Census has generally been conducted every **10 years**.

The most recent completed Census was the **2011 Census**.

### Constitutional and Legal Basis

The Census is conducted under the:

- **Census Act, 1948**
- Census Rules, 1990

The exercise is administered by the **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India** under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

### Census 2011: Key Findings

- Total Population → 121.09 Crore
- Decadal Growth Rate → 17.7%
- Literacy Rate → 74.04%
- Male Literacy → 82.14%
- Female Literacy → 65.46%
- Most Populous State → Uttar Pradesh
- Least Populous State → Sikkim

### Population Facts Often Asked in Exams

- India became the world's most populous country in **2023**.
- World Population Day → **11 July**
- India's Population Clock is maintained by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- Uttar Pradesh is India's most populous state.
- Sikkim is the least populous state.

### Extra Facts Examiners May Use

- First Census in India → 1872 (non-synchronous)
- First Synchronous Census → 1881
- Census Frequency → Every 10 Years
- Census Act → 1948
- Registrar General Established → 1949
- World Population Day → 11 July

### Remember These

- First Synchronous Census → 1881
- Census Act → 1948
- Latest Completed Census → 2011
- Population in 2011 → 121.09 Crore
- Literacy Rate → 74.04%
- Most Populous State → Uttar Pradesh
- Least Populous State → Sikkim
- World Population Day → 11 July

## One Nation One Election: Simultaneous Elections Debate in India

The proposal for **One Nation One Election (ONOE)** emerged as one of the most significant constitutional and electoral reform debates in India. The idea seeks to conduct elections to the Lok Sabha and all State Legislative Assemblies simultaneously instead of holding them at different times.

### Why in News?

The Union Government initiated discussions and consultations regarding the implementation of simultaneous elections, leading to debates on constitutional amendments, federalism, governance, and electoral reforms.

### What is One Nation One Election?

One Nation One Election refers to a system where:

- Lok Sabha elections and State Assembly elections are conducted together.
- Voters cast votes for both Parliament and State Legislatures during the same election cycle.
- Elections are synchronized across the country.

India followed a similar system during the initial decades after Independence.

### Historical Background

The first four general election cycles witnessed simultaneous elections:

- 1951–52
- 1957
- 1962
- 1967

However, due to the premature dissolution of some State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha, the election cycles became unsynchronized.

As a result, elections are now held frequently in different states throughout the year.

### Arguments in Favour

Supporters argue that simultaneous elections would:

- Reduce election expenditure.
- Minimize disruption caused by the Model Code of Conduct.
- Improve governance efficiency.
- Reduce deployment burden on security forces.
- Allow policymakers to focus more on development.

### Arguments Against

Critics argue that:

- It may affect India's federal structure.
- Regional issues could be overshadowed by national issues.
- Constitutional amendments would be required.
- Logistical challenges would be enormous.

### **Constitutional Provisions Involved**

The proposal may require changes in:

- Article 83 → Duration of Lok Sabha
- Article 85 → Dissolution of Lok Sabha
- Article 172 → Duration of State Legislatures
- Article 174 → Sessions and Dissolution of State Legislatures
- Article 356 → President's Rule

### **Committee on One Nation One Election**

The High-Level Committee examining the issue was chaired by:

- **Former President Ram Nath Kovind**

The committee studied constitutional, legal, and administrative aspects of simultaneous elections.

### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- First General Election → 1951–52
- Election Commission Established → 25 January 1950
- Relevant Constitutional Articles → 83, 85, 172, 174, 356
- Lok Sabha Term → 5 Years
- State Assembly Term → 5 Years
- Committee Chairperson → Ram Nath Kovind

### **Remember These**

- ONOE → Simultaneous Elections
- First General Election → 1951–52
- Lok Sabha Term → 5 Years
- Assembly Term → 5 Years
- Committee Head → Ram Nath Kovind
- Key Articles → 83, 85, 172, 174, 356
- Main Debate → Governance vs Federalism

## Indus Waters Treaty and India–Pakistan Water Relations

The **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** returned to the spotlight following discussions on India's future engagement with the treaty in the aftermath of security and diplomatic developments between India and Pakistan. The treaty is often cited as one of the world's most successful water-sharing agreements.

### Why in News?

Following rising tensions between India and Pakistan, debates emerged regarding the future of the Indus Waters Treaty and the extent of India's rights under the agreement.

### What is the Indus Waters Treaty?

The Indus Waters Treaty is a water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan governing the use of the **Indus River System**.

The treaty allocates:

#### Eastern Rivers to India

- Ravi
- Beas
- Sutlej

#### Western Rivers to Pakistan

- Indus
- Jhelum
- Chenab

India retains limited rights over the Western Rivers for purposes such as:

- Hydropower Generation
- Irrigation
- Navigation

### Historical Background

The treaty was signed on:

- **19 September 1960**

Signatories:

- Jawaharlal Nehru (India)
- Ayub Khan (Pakistan)

The treaty was brokered by the **World Bank**.

Despite multiple wars and periods of conflict, the treaty has largely remained operational.

### Understanding the Indus River System

The Indus River originates near:

- Lake Mansarovar region, Tibet

The river flows through:

- China (Tibet)
- India
- Pakistan

Before emptying into the:

- Arabian Sea

### **Why is it Important?**

The Indus basin supports millions of people and is vital for:

- Agriculture
- Drinking Water
- Hydropower
- Economic Activities

The treaty is frequently discussed in relation to diplomacy, international law, and transboundary water governance.

### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- Treaty Signed → 1960
- Brokered By → World Bank
- Indus Origin → Tibet
- Indus Empties Into → Arabian Sea
- Ravi, Beas, Sutlej → Eastern Rivers
- Indus, Jhelum, Chenab → Western Rivers
- World Bank Headquarters → Washington, D.C.

### **Remember These**

- Indus Waters Treaty → 1960
- Signatories → Nehru & Ayub Khan
- Mediator → World Bank
- Eastern Rivers → Ravi, Beas, Sutlej
- Western Rivers → Indus, Jhelum, Chenab
- Indus Origin → Tibet

- Mouth → Arabian Sea
- One of the World's Most Successful Water-Sharing Agreements

## International Monetary Fund (IMF) Reforms and India's Growing Economic Influence

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** remained at the centre of global economic discussions as member countries continued debating quota reforms and representation of emerging economies. India, now one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, has consistently advocated greater representation for developing countries in global financial institutions.

### Why in News?

Discussions regarding IMF quota reforms gained attention as countries argued that voting power within international financial institutions should better reflect present-day economic realities rather than those of the mid-twentieth century.

### What is the IMF?

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a global financial institution established to promote:

- International Monetary Cooperation
- Exchange Rate Stability
- Balanced Growth of International Trade
- Financial Stability
- Economic Growth

The IMF provides financial assistance and policy advice to countries facing balance-of-payments crises.

### Historical Background

The IMF was established during the:

- **Bretton Woods Conference (1944)**

It officially began operations in:

- **1945**

The conference also led to the creation of the:

- World Bank

The Bretton Woods Conference was held in:

- Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA

### How Does the IMF Work?

Member countries contribute funds known as:

- Quotas

Quota size determines:

- Voting Power
- Financial Contributions
- Access to IMF Financing

Countries with larger quotas generally possess greater influence within the institution.

### **India and the IMF**

India is among the founding members of the IMF.

As India's economy has expanded significantly, it has argued for reforms that would provide greater voting power to emerging economies.

The issue is linked to broader debates on:

- Global Governance Reform
- Representation of Developing Countries
- Economic Multipolarity

### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- IMF Headquarters → Washington, D.C.
- IMF Established → 1944
- Began Operations → 1945
- World Bank Headquarters → Washington, D.C.
- Bretton Woods Conference → 1944
- IMF Managing Director → Traditionally European
- World Bank President → Traditionally American

### **Remember These**

- IMF Founded → 1944
- Operations Began → 1945
- Headquarters → Washington, D.C.
- Created At → Bretton Woods Conference
- Sister Institution → World Bank
- Key Concept → Quota System
- India → Founding Member of IMF
- Major Debate → IMF Quota Reforms

## World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Agreement and Global Health Governance

The **World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Agreement** emerged as a major development in global health governance as countries negotiated a framework to improve international preparedness and response to future pandemics. The initiative gained significance in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed weaknesses in global health systems and international cooperation.

### Why in News?

Member countries of the World Health Organization continued discussions on a Pandemic Agreement aimed at strengthening international cooperation during future health emergencies.

### What is the WHO?

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health.

Its functions include:

- Disease Surveillance
- Health Research
- Vaccination Programmes
- Emergency Response
- Global Health Coordination

WHO plays a central role during outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics.

### Historical Background

WHO was established on:

- **7 April 1948**

The date is observed annually as:

- **World Health Day**

WHO became the first specialized agency of the United Nations dedicated to global health.

### Understanding a Pandemic

A pandemic is:

- An epidemic that spreads across multiple countries or continents.

Examples include:

- Spanish Flu (1918)
- H1N1 Influenza (2009)
- COVID-19 (2020)

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted challenges relating to vaccine access, healthcare infrastructure, medical supply chains, and international coordination.

### Why is the Pandemic Agreement Important?

The proposed agreement seeks to improve:

- Information Sharing
- Early Warning Systems
- Vaccine Access
- Medical Supply Chains
- International Cooperation

Its objective is to ensure countries are better prepared for future global health emergencies.

### Extra Facts Examiners May Use

- WHO Headquarters → Geneva, Switzerland
- WHO Established → 1948
- World Health Day → 7 April
- WHO has 194 Member States
- COVID-19 declared a Pandemic → 11 March 2020
- UN Headquarters → New York

### Remember These

- WHO Established → 7 April 1948
- Headquarters → Geneva
- World Health Day → 7 April
- COVID-19 Pandemic Declaration → 11 March 2020
- WHO Members → 194
- Main Objective → Global Public Health
- Pandemic Agreement → Future Pandemic Preparedness

## United Nations Security Council Reform and India's Permanent Membership Bid

The demand for reform of the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** remained one of the most important issues in international diplomacy. India, along with several other countries, continued to advocate for a more representative and inclusive Security Council that reflects present-day geopolitical realities rather than the world order that existed after the Second World War.

### Why in News?

India repeatedly raised the issue of UNSC reform at international forums, arguing that the current structure does not adequately represent developing countries and emerging powers.

### What is the United Nations Security Council?

The UNSC is the principal organ of the United Nations responsible for:

- Maintaining International Peace and Security
- Authorizing Peacekeeping Missions
- Imposing Sanctions
- Approving Military Action
- Addressing International Conflicts

Its decisions are binding on UN member states.

### Structure of the UNSC

The Security Council consists of:

- 5 Permanent Members (P5)
- 10 Non-Permanent Members

Permanent Members:

- China
- France
- Russia
- United Kingdom
- United States

These countries possess the **Veto Power**.

### What is Veto Power?

A veto allows any permanent member to block a substantive resolution even if all other members support it.

The veto is often criticized as undemocratic because it gives extraordinary power to a small group of countries.

### Why Does India Seek Permanent Membership?

India argues that:

- It is the world's most populous country.
- It is the world's largest democracy.

- It is among the largest economies.
- It is a major contributor to UN Peacekeeping Operations.
- It represents the interests of developing countries.

India believes these factors justify permanent membership.

### **G4 Countries**

India is part of the **G4 Group**, which supports expansion of the Security Council.

Members:

- India
- Brazil
- Germany
- Japan

Each supports the others' bid for permanent membership.

### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- United Nations Established → 24 October 1945
- UN Headquarters → New York
- UNSC Members → 15
- Permanent Members → 5
- Non-Permanent Members → 10
- Non-Permanent Term → 2 Years
- G4 Members → India, Brazil, Germany, Japan

### **Remember These**

- UN Established → 1945
- Headquarters → New York
- UNSC Members → 15
- P5 Members → China, France, Russia, UK, USA
- Veto Power → Available Only to P5
- G4 → India, Brazil, Germany, Japan
- India's Demand → Permanent UNSC Membership
- Main Debate → Reform of Global Governance

## Pahalgam Terror Attack: One of the Deadliest Civilian Attacks in Recent Years

The **Pahalgam Terror Attack** emerged as one of the most significant security incidents of 2026. The attack targeted civilians in the Pahalgam region of Jammu & Kashmir and resulted in multiple casualties. The incident generated widespread national and international condemnation and became the immediate trigger for India's subsequent security response, including **Operation Sindoor**.

The attack once again brought attention to the issue of terrorism, regional security, intelligence coordination, and cross-border militancy in South Asia.

### Why in News?

The attack became a major national security issue and directly influenced India's diplomatic and military response towards terrorism.

### About Pahalgam

Pahalgam is a famous tourist destination located in:

- Anantnag District
- Jammu & Kashmir

The town is situated on the banks of the:

- Lidder River

Pahalgam is also known as:

- Gateway to the Amarnath Yatra

Because of its scenic beauty and religious significance, it attracts thousands of tourists and pilgrims every year.

### Understanding Terrorism

The United Nations generally describes terrorism as criminal acts intended to provoke a state of terror among the public for political, ideological, or religious purposes.

Characteristics of terrorism include:

- Violence against civilians
- Political objectives
- Creation of fear
- Attempts to influence governments

### Terrorism and International Law

The fight against terrorism is coordinated through various international mechanisms.

Important institutions include:

### Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

Monitors money laundering and terrorist financing.

### **United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)**

Coordinates global counter-terrorism efforts.

### **Interpol**

Facilitates international police cooperation.

### **India's Counter-Terror Framework**

India combats terrorism through:

- National Investigation Agency (NIA)
- Intelligence Bureau (IB)
- Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)
- National Security Guard (NSG)
- Armed Forces and State Police Agencies

### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- Pahalgam Located In → Anantnag District
- River Flowing Through Pahalgam → Lidder River
- Amarnath Yatra Base Camp → Pahalgam Route
- FATF Headquarters → Paris, France
- UNOCT Established → 2017
- Interpol Headquarters → Lyon, France
- NIA Established → 2008

### **Remember These**

- Attack Location → Pahalgam
- District → Anantnag
- River → Lidder
- Related Pilgrimage → Amarnath Yatra
- FATF Headquarters → Paris
- UNOCT Established → 2017
- NIA Established → 2008
- Major Theme → Counter-Terrorism and Internal Security

## Caste Census Decision and the Debate on Social Justice in India

The Union Government's decision to include **caste enumeration in the upcoming Census exercise** became one of the most important political and policy developments of 2026. The announcement triggered nationwide discussions on reservation policies, social justice, welfare targeting, and the availability of updated socio-economic data.

The issue has long been debated because caste continues to influence access to education, employment, political representation, and public welfare schemes.

### Why in News?

The Government announced that caste data would be collected as part of the forthcoming Census exercise, making it one of the most significant demographic exercises in independent India.

### What is a Caste Census?

A caste census involves collecting data on the caste identities of individuals during the national Census.

The objective is to:

- Understand social composition
- Improve policy formulation
- Enhance welfare targeting
- Assess socio-economic inequalities
- Support evidence-based governance

### Historical Background

The last comprehensive caste enumeration covering all castes was conducted during:

- **Census of 1931**

After Independence, Census exercises collected data primarily for:

- Scheduled Castes (SCs)
- Scheduled Tribes (STs)

However, data relating to other caste groups was generally not collected in regular Census operations.

### Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC)

The Government conducted:

- **Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011**

The exercise aimed to collect information regarding:

- Housing
- Income
- Assets

- Social Status
- Rural and Urban Deprivation

### **Constitutional Linkages**

The caste census debate is linked to:

- Article 14 → Equality Before Law
- Article 15 → Prohibition of Discrimination
- Article 16 → Equality of Opportunity in Public Employment
- Article 46 → Promotion of Educational and Economic Interests of Weaker Sections

### **Why is the Data Important?**

Supporters argue that updated caste data can help:

- Improve welfare delivery
- Strengthen affirmative action policies
- Ensure efficient resource allocation
- Measure socio-economic progress

Opponents raise concerns regarding:

- Social divisions
- Political misuse
- Administrative challenges

### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- First Synchronous Census → 1881
- Census Frequency → Every 10 Years
- Census Act → 1948
- SECC Conducted → 2011
- Article 14 → Equality Before Law
- Article 15 → Non-Discrimination
- Article 16 → Public Employment Equality
- Article 46 → Welfare of Weaker Sections

## Census 2027: The First Population Census in Over a Decade

The announcement of the **Census 2027** became one of the most important governance and demographic developments in India. The exercise will be the first Census conducted after the 2011 Census and is expected to provide critical data for policymaking, welfare schemes, urban planning, resource allocation, and electoral representation.

The Census assumes even greater significance because it will be conducted alongside caste enumeration, making it one of the most comprehensive demographic exercises in independent India.

### Why in News?

The Government officially announced the schedule and framework for conducting the next Population Census, ending years of uncertainty regarding the exercise.

### What is a Census?

A Census is the official process of collecting demographic, social, and economic information about the population of a country.

The Census collects data relating to:

- Population
- Literacy
- Housing
- Migration
- Occupation
- Language
- Religion
- Age Structure

The information serves as the foundation for public policy and planning.

### Historical Background

India's first Census was conducted in:

- 1872 (non-synchronous)

The first synchronous Census was conducted in:

- 1881

Since then, India has generally conducted a Census every ten years.

### Constitutional and Administrative Importance

Census data is used for:

- Delimitation of Constituencies
- Distribution of Resources
- Welfare Schemes
- Reservation Policies
- Urban Development Planning
- Infrastructure Development

Several important decisions of the Government depend upon Census data.

### **Who Conducts the Census?**

The Census is conducted by:

#### **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India**

under the:

#### **Ministry of Home Affairs**

The exercise is governed by:

#### **Census Act, 1948**

#### **Census 2011: Important Facts**

- Population → 121.09 Crore
- Literacy Rate → 74.04%
- Most Populous State → Uttar Pradesh
- Least Populous State → Sikkim
- Sex Ratio → 943 Females per 1000 Males

### **Why is Census 2027 Important?**

The Census is expected to influence:

- Delimitation Debate
- Reservation Policies
- Welfare Delivery
- Population Studies
- Economic Planning
- Political Representation

Its findings will shape public policy for the coming decade.

**Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- Census Act → 1948
- First Census → 1872
- First Synchronous Census → 1881
- Census Frequency → 10 Years
- Registrar General Established → 1949
- World Population Day → 11 July
- India's Population Rank → Largest in the World

**Remember These**

- Census 2027 → First Census After 2011
- Census Act → 1948
- Conducted By → Registrar General of India
- Ministry → Home Affairs
- First Census → 1872
- First Synchronous Census → 1881
- Census Frequency → Every 10 Years
- Major Linkages → Delimitation, Welfare & Governance

## Delimitation Debate After Census 2027: Representation, Population and Federalism

The issue of **delimitation of parliamentary and assembly constituencies** emerged as one of the most important political debates following the announcement of Census 2027. Several states expressed concerns regarding how future seat allocation in the Lok Sabha may change after fresh population data becomes available.

The debate is significant because it concerns political representation, federal balance, population control policies, and the future composition of Parliament.

**Why in News?**

With the announcement of Census 2027, discussions intensified regarding the next delimitation exercise and its possible impact on the distribution of Lok Sabha seats among states.

**What is Delimitation?**

Delimitation refers to:

- Redrawing boundaries of constituencies
- Reallocating seats among states
- Ensuring equal representation based on population

The objective is to maintain the democratic principle of:

**"One Person, One Vote, One Value."**

### **Constitutional Basis**

Delimitation is governed by:

- Article 82 – Readjustment of Lok Sabha seats after every Census
- Article 170 – Readjustment of State Assembly constituencies

After a Census, Parliament may enact a Delimitation Act and constitute a Delimitation Commission.

### **What is a Delimitation Commission?**

A Delimitation Commission is a high-powered body whose decisions have the force of law.

Generally consists of:

- Retired Supreme Court Judge (Chairperson)
- Chief Election Commissioner
- State Election Commissioners

A unique feature is that its decisions are generally not subject to judicial review.

### **Historical Background**

Delimitation Commissions were constituted in:

- 1952
- 1963
- 1973
- 2002

### **Why is There a Debate?**

Several southern states argue that they successfully implemented population control measures and should not be penalized through reduced parliamentary representation.

States with higher population growth could gain additional seats if delimitation is based solely on population figures.

The issue therefore involves:

- Representation

- Equity
- Federalism
- Population Policy

### **Constitutional Amendments Linked to Delimitation**

#### **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976**

- Froze seat allocation based on population until 2001.

#### **84th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2001**

- Extended the freeze until the first Census after 2026.

These amendments were intended to encourage population stabilization efforts.

### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- Article 82 → Delimitation of Lok Sabha Constituencies
- Article 170 → Delimitation of State Assemblies
- 42nd Amendment → 1976
- 84th Amendment → 2001
- Present Lok Sabha Strength → 543 Elected Members
- Maximum Strength of Lok Sabha → 552
- Delimitation Commission → Statutory Body

### **Remember These**

- Delimitation → Redrawing Constituencies
- Article 82 → Lok Sabha
- Article 170 → State Assemblies
- Last Delimitation Commission → 2002
- 42nd Amendment → Freeze on Seat Allocation
- 84th Amendment → Extended Freeze
- Present Lok Sabha Strength → 543
- Major Debate → Representation vs Federal Balance

## One Nation One Election: Simultaneous Elections Debate in India

The proposal for **One Nation One Election (ONOE)** became one of the most discussed electoral reform initiatives in India. The idea seeks to synchronize elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies so that voters cast their votes for both levels of government at the same time.

The proposal has generated debate on governance efficiency, election expenditure, federalism, and constitutional amendments.

### Why in News?

The Government moved forward with discussions and consultations regarding the implementation of One Nation One Election, making it a major constitutional and political issue.

### What is One Nation One Election?

One Nation One Election refers to:

- Simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
- A common electoral cycle across the country.
- Conducting elections together instead of holding them at different times.

The objective is to reduce the frequency of elections and improve administrative efficiency.

### Historical Background

Many students are unaware that India originally followed a system of simultaneous elections.

The first four election cycles were conducted together:

- 1951–52
- 1957
- 1962
- 1967

The cycle broke after several State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha were dissolved before completing their terms.

As a result, elections gradually became staggered across states.

### Arguments in Favour

Supporters argue that ONOE would:

- Reduce election expenditure.
- Reduce deployment of security forces.
- Minimize disruption caused by the Model Code of Conduct.
- Improve governance and policymaking.
- Reduce administrative burden.

**Arguments Against**

Critics argue that:

- It may weaken federalism.
- Regional issues may be overshadowed by national issues.
- Frequent accountability of governments could reduce.
- Large constitutional changes would be required.

**Constitutional Provisions Involved**

The proposal may require amendments to:

- Article 83 – Duration of Lok Sabha
- Article 85 – Dissolution of Lok Sabha
- Article 172 – Duration of State Legislatures
- Article 174 – Sessions and Dissolution of State Legislatures
- Article 356 – President's Rule

**High-Level Committee**

The High-Level Committee examining ONOE was chaired by:

- **Ram Nath Kovind**

Former President of India.

The committee was tasked with studying constitutional, legal, administrative, and logistical issues relating to simultaneous elections.

**Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- First General Election → 1951–52
- Election Commission Established → 25 January 1950
- Article 83 → Duration of Lok Sabha
- Article 172 → Duration of State Assemblies
- Lok Sabha Term → 5 Years
- Assembly Term → 5 Years
- Committee Chairperson → Ram Nath Kovind

**Remember These**

- ONOE → Simultaneous Elections
- First General Election → 1951–52
- Election Commission Established → 1950

- Lok Sabha Term → 5 Years
- Assembly Term → 5 Years
- Committee Head → Ram Nath Kovind
- Key Articles → 83, 85, 172, 174, 356
- Major Debate → Governance Efficiency vs Federalism

## India–United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

The conclusion of the **India–United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** became one of the most important economic and diplomatic developments of 2026. After several rounds of negotiations, both countries announced the successful conclusion of the agreement, which is expected to significantly boost bilateral trade, investment, and economic cooperation.

The agreement is considered a milestone in India's trade policy and forms part of its broader strategy to strengthen economic partnerships with major economies.

### Why in News?

India and the United Kingdom announced the successful conclusion of negotiations for a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, ending years of discussions between the two countries.

### What is a Free Trade Agreement?

A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is an arrangement between two or more countries to reduce or eliminate trade barriers.

These barriers may include:

- Customs Duties (Tariffs)
- Import Restrictions
- Export Restrictions
- Regulatory Barriers

The objective is to increase trade and investment between participating countries.

### India–UK Economic Relations

The United Kingdom is one of India's important trading partners and investors.

Key sectors of cooperation include:

- Information Technology
- Pharmaceuticals
- Financial Services
- Education

- Manufacturing
- Renewable Energy
- Defence Cooperation

The FTA is expected to improve market access for businesses in both countries.

### **Historical Background**

India and the United Kingdom share deep historical, cultural, educational, and economic ties.

The UK was among the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with independent India.

Today, both countries maintain a:

### **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**

covering trade, technology, security, innovation, and people-to-people exchanges.

### **Potential Benefits of the FTA**

The agreement is expected to:

- Increase bilateral trade.
- Boost exports.
- Attract investment.
- Create employment opportunities.
- Improve access to foreign markets.
- Strengthen supply chains.

### **Understanding Tariffs**

A tariff is a tax imposed on imported goods.

Countries often reduce tariffs through FTAs to make trade easier and cheaper.

### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- United Kingdom Capital → London
- Currency → Pound Sterling (£)
- Parliament of UK → Westminster
- India's Largest Trading Partner (varies by year) → Frequently among USA, EU, China, UAE
- WTO Headquarters → Geneva
- FTA → Free Trade Agreement
- UK Prime Minister's Official Residence → 10 Downing Street

### **Remember These**

- FTA → Free Trade Agreement
- Partner Country → United Kingdom
- UK Capital → London
- Currency → Pound Sterling
- Main Objective → Increase Trade and Investment
- Tariff → Tax on Imports
- Key Benefit → Market Access
- Major Theme → Economic Diplomacy and International Trade

## World Press Freedom Index 2026 and the Debate on Media Freedom

The release of the **World Press Freedom Index 2026** attracted significant international attention and generated discussions regarding media freedom, journalism, democratic accountability, and freedom of expression across the world.

The index is widely cited by governments, media organizations, academics, and civil society groups to assess the state of press freedom in different countries.

### Why in News?

The publication of the World Press Freedom Index 2026 led to discussions on the challenges faced by journalists, media organizations, and democratic institutions globally.

### What is Press Freedom?

Press freedom refers to the ability of journalists and media organizations to:

- Gather information
- Publish news
- Express opinions
- Criticize governments
- Report without undue interference

A free press is often regarded as an essential component of a democratic society.

### What is the World Press Freedom Index?

The World Press Freedom Index is an annual ranking that evaluates the level of press freedom in countries across the world.

The index assesses factors such as:

- Independence of Media
- Safety of Journalists

- Legal Environment
- Political Pressures
- Economic Influences
- Media Pluralism

### **Who Publishes the Index?**

The index is published by:

#### **Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**

(Reporters Sans Frontières)

It is an international non-governmental organization that advocates for press freedom and protection of journalists.

### **Freedom of Speech in India**

The issue of press freedom is often discussed in relation to:

#### **Article 19(1)(a)**

which guarantees:

#### **Freedom of Speech and Expression**

Although the Constitution does not explicitly mention "Freedom of Press," the Supreme Court has recognized it as part of the freedom of speech and expression.

#### **Reasonable Restrictions**

Freedom under Article 19(1)(a) is subject to reasonable restrictions under:

#### **Article 19(2)**

Grounds include:

- Sovereignty and Integrity of India
- Security of the State
- Public Order
- Decency and Morality
- Defamation
- Contempt of Court

### **Why is Press Freedom Important?**

A free press helps:

- Promote Transparency
- Ensure Accountability

- Inform Citizens
- Strengthen Democracy
- Expose Corruption

It is often described as the "Fourth Pillar of Democracy."

#### Extra Facts Examiners May Use

- Article 19(1)(a) → Freedom of Speech and Expression
- Article 19(2) → Reasonable Restrictions
- Publisher of Index → Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
- RSF Headquarters → Paris, France
- World Press Freedom Day → 3 May
- UNESCO Headquarters → Paris

#### Remember These

- World Press Freedom Day → 3 May
- Index Published By → RSF
- RSF Headquarters → Paris
- Article 19(1)(a) → Freedom of Speech
- Article 19(2) → Restrictions
- Freedom of Press → Derived from Article 19(1)(a)
- Press → Fourth Pillar of Democracy
- Major Theme → Media Freedom and Democracy

## DeepSeek and the Global Artificial Intelligence Race

The emergence of **DeepSeek**, a Chinese Artificial Intelligence (AI) model, became one of the most discussed technology developments globally. DeepSeek attracted attention because of its advanced capabilities and the claim that it was developed at a significantly lower cost compared to many leading AI models.

The development intensified the global competition in Artificial Intelligence and sparked discussions on technological leadership, semiconductor supply chains, data governance, and AI regulation.

### Why in News?

DeepSeek's rapid rise challenged assumptions about the cost and resources required to build advanced AI systems and triggered reactions from governments, technology companies, and investors worldwide.

### What is Artificial Intelligence?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the ability of computer systems to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence.

These tasks include:

- Language Processing
- Problem Solving
- Pattern Recognition
- Decision Making
- Image Analysis
- Content Generation

AI has become one of the most transformative technologies of the 21st century.

### **What is DeepSeek?**

DeepSeek is an Artificial Intelligence company based in:

- China

The company developed advanced large language models (LLMs) capable of performing complex reasoning, coding, and language tasks.

Its emergence highlighted China's growing capabilities in advanced technology sectors.

### **Understanding Large Language Models (LLMs)**

Large Language Models are AI systems trained on vast amounts of text data.

Examples include:

- ChatGPT
- Gemini
- Claude
- DeepSeek

These models can:

- Answer Questions
- Summarize Information
- Generate Content
- Assist in Research
- Write Computer Code

### **Why is AI Important?**

Artificial Intelligence is increasingly used in:

- Healthcare
- Education
- Finance
- Defence
- Manufacturing
- Transportation
- Scientific Research

Because of its economic and strategic importance, AI is often compared to earlier transformative technologies such as electricity and the internet.

### **AI and Semiconductors**

Advanced AI systems depend heavily on:

- High-Performance Computing
- Semiconductor Chips
- Data Centres

This is why semiconductor manufacturing has become a major strategic priority for countries around the world.

### **India's AI Initiatives**

India has launched initiatives to strengthen:

- AI Research
- AI Innovation
- Digital Infrastructure
- Semiconductor Manufacturing
- Responsible AI Development

The goal is to position India as a major participant in the global AI ecosystem.

### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- DeepSeek Country → China
- AI → Artificial Intelligence
- ChatGPT Developer → OpenAI
- Gemini Developer → Google
- Claude Developer → Anthropic
- Largest Semiconductor Manufacturer → TSMC

- TSMC Country → Taiwan
- India's Semiconductor Mission → Launched in 2021

### Remember These

- DeepSeek → Chinese AI Model
- AI → Artificial Intelligence
- AI Depends On → Semiconductor Chips
- TSMC → Taiwan
- India's Semiconductor Mission → 2021
- Major AI Applications → Healthcare, Finance, Education
- Key Debate → AI Governance and Regulation
- Major Theme → Global Technology Competition

## India AI Mission: Building India's Artificial Intelligence Ecosystem

The **IndiaAI Mission** emerged as a major technology initiative as the Government accelerated efforts to strengthen India's Artificial Intelligence capabilities. The mission gained greater significance amid growing global competition in AI following developments such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, and DeepSeek.

The initiative aims to create a robust AI ecosystem by supporting computing infrastructure, startups, research institutions, datasets, and skill development.

### Why in News?

The Government continued implementing the IndiaAI Mission through investments in AI infrastructure, computing capacity, innovation support, and AI-focused research programmes.

### What is the IndiaAI Mission?

The IndiaAI Mission is a national initiative designed to:

- Promote AI Innovation
- Support AI Startups
- Develop Indigenous AI Models
- Improve Access to Computing Infrastructure
- Strengthen AI Research
- Build AI Talent

The mission seeks to position India as a leading global AI hub.

### Key Components of the Mission

The initiative focuses on:

**AI Compute Infrastructure**

Providing access to high-performance computing resources.

**AI Innovation**

Supporting startups and entrepreneurs working on AI solutions.

**Datasets Platform**

Making high-quality datasets available for AI development.

**Skill Development**

Training students and professionals in AI-related technologies.

**Why is Computing Power Important?**

Modern AI systems require enormous computational resources.

These include:

- Graphics Processing Units (GPUs)
- Data Centres
- Cloud Computing Infrastructure
- Advanced Semiconductor Chips

Countries with stronger computing infrastructure often have an advantage in AI development.

**AI and the Indian Economy**

AI can contribute to:

- Healthcare
- Agriculture
- Education
- Financial Services
- Manufacturing
- Governance

According to various studies, AI is expected to significantly increase productivity and economic growth over the coming decades.

**Challenges Before India**

India faces several challenges:

- Shortage of High-End Chips
- Limited Computing Capacity
- Data Privacy Concerns

- Need for Skilled Workforce
- AI Regulation and Governance

Addressing these challenges is essential for building a globally competitive AI ecosystem.

### Extra Facts Examiners May Use

- AI → Artificial Intelligence
- GPU → Graphics Processing Unit
- India's Semiconductor Mission → 2021
- MeitY → Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- DeepSeek → China
- Gemini → Google
- Claude → Anthropic
- ChatGPT → OpenAI

### Remember These

- Initiative → IndiaAI Mission
- Objective → Build India's AI Ecosystem
- Key Requirement → Computing Infrastructure
- AI Depends On → Data + Compute + Chips
- Nodal Ministry → MeitY
- Linked Sector → Semiconductors
- Major Challenge → High-End Computing Capacity
- Major Theme → Technology and Innovation

## Justice B.R. Gavai Becomes the 52nd Chief Justice of India

Justice **Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai** was sworn in as the **52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI)** in May 2026. His appointment was a significant event in India's judicial system and attracted attention because the office of the Chief Justice plays a crucial role in the administration of justice, constitutional interpretation, and functioning of the Supreme Court.

Justice Gavai's elevation also marked an important moment in the history of the Indian judiciary due to his distinguished judicial career and contributions to constitutional law.

### Why in News?

Justice B.R. Gavai assumed office as the 52nd Chief Justice of India, succeeding Justice Sanjiv Khanna.

### Who is the Chief Justice of India?

The Chief Justice of India is:

- Head of the Indian Judiciary
- Head of the Supreme Court of India
- First among equals in the Supreme Court

The CJI plays a vital role in:

- Allocation of Cases
- Constitution of Benches
- Judicial Administration
- Collegium Decisions
- Constitutional Interpretation

### **Appointment of the Chief Justice**

The Chief Justice of India is appointed by:

- President of India

By convention, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court is appointed as the Chief Justice.

This practice is known as:

### **Convention of Seniority**

### **Constitutional Basis**

Important provisions relating to the Supreme Court include:

- Article 124 – Establishment of Supreme Court
- Article 129 – Supreme Court as a Court of Record
- Article 136 – Special Leave Petition
- Article 141 – Law Declared by Supreme Court Binding on All Courts
- Article 142 – Complete Justice Powers

### **About the Supreme Court of India**

The Supreme Court was inaugurated on:

- 28 January 1950

Location:

- New Delhi

It is the highest constitutional court in India.

### **Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court**

The Court exercises:

**Original Jurisdiction**

Disputes between Union and States.

**Appellate Jurisdiction**

Appeals from High Courts.

**Advisory Jurisdiction**

Advice to the President under Article 143.

**Writ Jurisdiction**

Protection of Fundamental Rights under Article 32.

**Collegium System**

The Chief Justice plays a central role in the Collegium System, which recommends appointments and transfers of judges.

The Collegium consists of:

- Chief Justice of India
- Four Senior-most Supreme Court Judges

**Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- 52nd Chief Justice → Justice B.R. Gavai
- Supreme Court Established → 1950
- Supreme Court Location → New Delhi
- Article 124 → Supreme Court
- Article 32 → Constitutional Remedies
- Article 141 → Binding Nature of Supreme Court Decisions
- Article 142 → Complete Justice

**Remember These**

- Chief Justice of India → Head of Indian Judiciary
- 52nd CJI → Justice B.R. Gavai
- Appointed By → President of India
- Supreme Court Established → 1950
- Article 124 → Supreme Court
- Article 32 → Fundamental Rights Protection
- Article 141 → Binding Precedent

- Article 142 → Complete Justice

## Operation Keller: Counter-Terror Operations in Jammu & Kashmir

**Operation Keller** emerged as an important security development in Jammu & Kashmir during May 2026. The operation was conducted by Indian security forces as part of ongoing efforts to eliminate terrorist networks, prevent infiltration, and maintain security in the region.

The operation once again highlighted the challenges posed by terrorism and militancy in Jammu & Kashmir and underscored the importance of intelligence-based counter-terror operations.

### Why in News?

Operation Keller was carried out by security forces against terrorists operating in Jammu & Kashmir and became a significant internal security development during the month.

### What Was Operation Keller?

Operation Keller was a coordinated counter-terror operation conducted by security agencies based on intelligence inputs regarding the presence and movement of terrorists.

The objectives included:

- Neutralizing Terrorists
- Preventing Future Attacks
- Securing Civilian Areas
- Disrupting Terror Networks
- Gathering Intelligence

Such operations form an important component of India's counter-insurgency strategy.

### Understanding Counter-Terror Operations

Counter-terror operations are conducted to:

- Identify Terrorist Activities
- Prevent Attacks
- Destroy Terror Infrastructure
- Protect Civilians
- Strengthen Internal Security

These operations generally involve coordination between:

- Indian Army
- Jammu & Kashmir Police
- Central Armed Police Forces

- Intelligence Agencies

### **Why is Jammu & Kashmir Strategically Important?**

Jammu & Kashmir occupies a crucial position because:

- It shares international borders.
- It experiences infiltration attempts.
- It remains sensitive from a security perspective.
- It is strategically important for India's national security.

As a result, intelligence gathering and counter-terror operations remain a continuous process.

### **Understanding Insurgency and Militancy**

**Insurgency** refers to an organized movement aimed at challenging state authority through violence or armed resistance.

**Militancy** generally refers to aggressive or violent activities carried out for political, ideological, or separatist objectives.

Counter-insurgency operations seek to restore peace and strengthen governance.

### **Security Architecture in Jammu & Kashmir**

Important agencies involved include:

#### **Indian Army**

Responsible for border security and counter-terror operations.

#### **Jammu & Kashmir Police**

Primary law enforcement agency in the Union Territory.

#### **National Investigation Agency (NIA)**

Investigates terrorism-related offences.

#### **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**

Provides security support and assists in maintaining law and order.

### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- NIA Established → 2008
- CRPF Established → 1939
- BSF Established → 1965
- Jammu & Kashmir Reorganized → 2019
- Article 370 Abrogated → 2019
- Srinagar → Summer Capital (Historical)

- Jammu → Winter Capital (Historical)

### Remember These

- Operation Keller → Counter-Terror Operation
- Region → Jammu & Kashmir
- Objective → Neutralize Terror Networks
- NIA Established → 2008
- CRPF Established → 1939
- BSF Established → 1965
- J&K Reorganization → 2019
- Major Theme → Internal Security and Counter-Terrorism

## India–European Union Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

The **India–European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement negotiations** gained momentum in 2026 as both sides intensified efforts to conclude one of the world's largest proposed trade agreements. Given the economic size of India and the European Union, the agreement is expected to have significant implications for trade, investment, technology cooperation, and supply chain resilience.

The negotiations are being closely watched because they could reshape economic relations between India and Europe for decades to come.

### Why in News?

India and the European Union continued high-level negotiations to finalize a comprehensive trade agreement covering goods, services, investments, and digital trade.

### What is a Free Trade Agreement?

A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is an arrangement between countries to reduce or eliminate barriers to trade.

These barriers may include:

- Import Duties (Tariffs)
- Export Restrictions
- Regulatory Barriers
- Investment Restrictions

The objective is to encourage trade and economic cooperation.

### What is the European Union?

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic grouping of European countries that cooperate on:

- Trade

- Economic Policies
- Security
- Environment
- Technology

The EU operates one of the largest single markets in the world.

### **India–EU Relations**

India and the EU cooperate in:

- Trade
- Climate Action
- Technology
- Security
- Connectivity
- Research and Innovation

The European Union is among India's largest trading partners.

### **Why is the FTA Important?**

The agreement may:

- Increase Indian Exports
- Improve Market Access
- Attract Foreign Investment
- Strengthen Supply Chains
- Enhance Technology Cooperation
- Create Employment Opportunities

For the EU, India represents one of the world's fastest-growing major markets.

### **Key Issues in Negotiations**

Topics often discussed include:

- Tariff Reductions
- Digital Trade
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Investment Protection
- Sustainable Development

- Market Access

Trade negotiations are often complex because both sides seek to protect domestic interests while expanding economic opportunities.

### Extra Facts Examiners May Use

- EU Headquarters → Brussels, Belgium
- EU Currency → Euro
- Eurozone Currency → Euro (€)
- European Parliament Seats → Strasbourg, Brussels & Luxembourg
- India-EU Relations Established → 1960s
- WTO Headquarters → Geneva

### Remember These

- FTA → Free Trade Agreement
- Partner → European Union
- EU Headquarters → Brussels
- Currency → Euro
- Main Objective → Expand Trade & Investment
- India's Largest Regional Trading Partner → EU (among the largest)
- Major Issue → Market Access
- Major Theme → Economic Diplomacy and Global Trade

## National Green Hydrogen Mission: India's Push Towards Clean Energy

The **National Green Hydrogen Mission** continued to remain in focus during 2026 as India accelerated efforts to become a global hub for the production, utilization, and export of green hydrogen. The mission is a key component of India's strategy to achieve energy security, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and meet its climate commitments.

With countries around the world searching for cleaner energy alternatives, green hydrogen has emerged as one of the most promising fuels of the future.

### Why in News?

Several projects relating to green hydrogen production, infrastructure development, and industrial adoption witnessed progress under the National Green Hydrogen Mission during 2026.

### What is Green Hydrogen?

Hydrogen can be produced through different methods.

**Grey Hydrogen**

Produced using fossil fuels such as natural gas and results in significant carbon emissions.

**Blue Hydrogen**

Produced using fossil fuels but incorporates carbon capture and storage technologies.

**Green Hydrogen**

Produced through the electrolysis of water using renewable energy sources such as:

- Solar Energy
- Wind Energy
- Hydropower

Green hydrogen is considered the cleanest form because it produces little or no carbon emissions.

**What is the National Green Hydrogen Mission?**

The mission was launched by the Government of India to:

- Promote Green Hydrogen Production
- Encourage Research and Innovation
- Reduce Carbon Emissions
- Enhance Energy Security
- Position India as a Global Export Hub

The mission is expected to support India's transition towards a low-carbon economy.

**Why is Green Hydrogen Important?**

Green hydrogen can help decarbonize sectors where reducing emissions is difficult.

These include:

- Steel Industry
- Fertilizer Industry
- Shipping
- Aviation
- Heavy Manufacturing

For this reason, it is often referred to as a fuel of the future.

**India's Renewable Energy Transition**

India has become one of the world's leading renewable energy producers.

The country is investing heavily in:

- Solar Energy
- Wind Energy
- Battery Storage
- Electric Mobility
- Green Hydrogen

The mission complements India's broader climate and energy goals.

### **Climate Commitments**

India has announced:

- Net Zero Target → 2070
- Expansion of Renewable Energy Capacity
- Reduction in Emissions Intensity

Green hydrogen is expected to play an important role in achieving these objectives.

### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- National Green Hydrogen Mission Launched → 2023
- Nodal Ministry → Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- Mission Outlay → ₹19,744 Crore
- India's Net Zero Target → 2070
- International Solar Alliance Headquarters → Gurugram
- ISA Founded By → India and France

### **Remember These**

- Green Hydrogen → Produced Using Renewable Energy
- Cleanest Form of Hydrogen → Green Hydrogen
- Mission Launch → 2023
- Ministry → MNRE
- Outlay → ₹19,744 Crore
- Net Zero Target → 2070
- Major Use → Decarbonizing Heavy Industries
- Major Theme → Clean Energy Transition

## FATF and the Global Fight Against Terror Financing

The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** remained an important institution in global efforts to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and financial crimes. In the aftermath of the Pahalgam Terror Attack and subsequent counter-terror operations, discussions regarding terror financing, cross-border financial networks, and international cooperation against terrorism gained renewed significance.

The FATF plays a crucial role in ensuring that countries maintain effective systems to prevent funds from being used for terrorist activities.

### Why in News?

Following heightened global attention on terrorism and cross-border security threats, FATF's role in monitoring terror financing and financial compliance once again became a major topic of international discussion.

### What is FATF?

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organization established to combat:

- Money Laundering
- Terrorist Financing
- Proliferation Financing

It develops international standards and monitors whether countries are effectively implementing them.

### Historical Background

FATF was established in:

- 1989

It was created during the:

- G7 Summit

Initially focused on money laundering, its mandate later expanded to include terrorist financing after the September 11 attacks.

### How Does FATF Work?

FATF evaluates countries through:

#### Mutual Evaluations

Countries are assessed on:

- Legal Framework
- Financial Monitoring
- Investigation Mechanisms
- International Cooperation
- Enforcement Systems

Based on performance, countries may be subjected to increased monitoring.

### **Grey List and Black List**

One of FATF's most discussed functions is maintaining monitoring lists.

#### **Grey List**

Countries with strategic deficiencies that are working with FATF to address them.

#### **Black List**

Countries identified as high-risk jurisdictions with serious deficiencies.

Being placed on these lists can affect:

- Foreign Investment
- International Banking
- Economic Reputation

#### **Why is Terror Financing Important?**

Terrorist organizations require funds for:

- Recruitment
- Training
- Weapons Procurement
- Communication Networks
- Logistics

Blocking financial flows is therefore considered one of the most effective tools against terrorism.

#### **FATF and India**

India became a FATF member in:

- **2010**

India has consistently advocated stronger international action against:

- Terror Financing
- Money Laundering
- Cross-Border Terror Networks

#### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- FATF Established → 1989
- FATF Headquarters → Paris, France
- India Joined FATF → 2010

- G7 Established → 1975
- G7 Members → Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, USA
- Interpol Headquarters → Lyon, France

### Remember These

- FATF → Financial Action Task Force
- Established → 1989
- Headquarters → Paris
- India Member Since → 2010
- Main Objective → Combat Terror Financing
- Grey List → Increased Monitoring
- Black List → High-Risk Jurisdictions
- Major Theme → Counter-Terror Financing and Global Security

## India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC): A New Connectivity Initiative

The **India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)** continued to receive attention in 2026 as participating countries discussed infrastructure development, logistics networks, trade connectivity, and economic cooperation. The corridor is viewed as one of the most ambitious connectivity projects linking Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

The initiative is expected to improve trade efficiency, strengthen supply chains, and enhance economic integration among participating regions.

### Why in News?

Member countries continued consultations regarding implementation of the IMEC project, infrastructure investments, and regional connectivity plans.

### What is IMEC?

The India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor is a proposed connectivity corridor aimed at linking:

- India
- Middle East
- Europe

The corridor seeks to improve:

- Trade Connectivity
- Transportation Networks

- Energy Cooperation
- Digital Connectivity
- Supply Chains

## **Background**

The project was announced during the:

### **G20 Summit 2023**

The initiative was supported by:

- India
- United States
- European Union
- Saudi Arabia
- United Arab Emirates
- France
- Germany
- Italy

The project is regarded as a major international connectivity initiative.

## **Components of IMEC**

The corridor includes:

### **Eastern Corridor**

Connecting India with the Middle East.

### **Northern Corridor**

Connecting the Middle East with Europe.

The project envisions:

- Rail Connectivity
- Ports
- Energy Pipelines
- Digital Infrastructure

## **Why is IMEC Important?**

The corridor can:

- Reduce Transportation Time

- Lower Logistics Costs
- Improve Trade Flows
- Enhance Supply Chain Resilience
- Strengthen Economic Cooperation
- Increase Energy Connectivity

The project is also expected to diversify global trade routes.

### **IMEC and Global Trade**

Global trade depends heavily on connectivity infrastructure.

Important trade routes include:

- Suez Canal
- Strait of Hormuz
- Strait of Malacca
- Panama Canal

IMEC seeks to complement existing trade networks rather than replace them.

### **Importance for India**

For India, IMEC may help:

- Expand Export Markets
- Strengthen West Asia Relations
- Improve Access to Europe
- Promote Economic Diplomacy
- Enhance Strategic Connectivity

The corridor aligns with India's objective of becoming a major global trade and logistics hub.

### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- IMEC Announced → G20 Summit 2023
- G20 Summit 2023 Host → India
- EU Headquarters → Brussels
- Saudi Arabia Capital → Riyadh
- UAE Capital → Abu Dhabi
- Suez Canal Connects → Mediterranean Sea & Red Sea
- Strait of Hormuz → Critical Energy Route

**Remember These**

- IMEC → India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor
- Announced → G20 Summit 2023
- Components → Eastern Corridor & Northern Corridor
- Objective → Trade and Connectivity
- EU Headquarters → Brussels
- Saudi Arabia Capital → Riyadh
- UAE Capital → Abu Dhabi
- Major Theme → Global Connectivity and Economic Cooperation

## Operation Black Forest: Intensifying Counter-Terror Operations in Jammu & Kashmir

**Operation Black Forest** emerged as a significant counter-terror operation in May 2026 as Indian security forces intensified efforts to neutralize terrorist networks operating in Jammu & Kashmir. The operation formed part of the broader security response following heightened terrorist activity and reflected India's continued emphasis on intelligence-led counter-terrorism measures.

The operation highlighted the evolving nature of counter-insurgency and counter-terror strategies in sensitive border regions.

**Why in News?**

Operation Black Forest was conducted by Indian security forces against terrorists operating in Jammu & Kashmir and became an important internal security development during May 2026.

**Objectives of the Operation**

The operation aimed to:

- Eliminate Terrorist Threats
- Prevent Infiltration
- Destroy Terror Infrastructure
- Protect Civilian Population
- Strengthen Regional Security

Security agencies relied heavily on intelligence inputs and inter-agency coordination during the operation.

**Counter-Terrorism Strategy in India**

India's counter-terrorism framework involves:

- Intelligence Collection

- Surveillance
- Border Management
- Financial Monitoring
- Coordinated Security Operations

The objective is not only to neutralize terrorists but also to dismantle support networks that facilitate terrorism.

### **Understanding Counter-Insurgency**

Counter-insurgency refers to military, political, and administrative measures used to combat insurgent movements.

Important components include:

- Security Operations
- Intelligence Gathering
- Development Initiatives
- Community Engagement
- Border Security

Successful counter-insurgency often requires both security measures and governance reforms.

### **Security Agencies Involved**

Important agencies involved in such operations include:

#### **Indian Army**

Responsible for military operations and border security.

#### **Jammu & Kashmir Police**

Maintains law and order and conducts intelligence-based operations.

#### **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**

Provides operational and security support.

#### **National Investigation Agency (NIA)**

Investigates terrorism-related offences.

### **Jammu & Kashmir: Strategic Importance**

Jammu & Kashmir remains strategically important because:

- It shares international borders.
- It experiences infiltration attempts.
- It is central to India's national security concerns.

- It occupies an important geopolitical position.

Consequently, security operations remain a critical aspect of governance in the region.

### Related Security Concepts

#### Infiltration

Unauthorized crossing of borders by terrorists or militants.

#### Terror Financing

Funding networks that support terrorist activities.

#### Radicalization

The process through which individuals adopt extremist ideologies.

These concepts frequently appear in internal security discussions.

### Extra Facts Examiners May Use

- NIA Established → 2008
- CRPF Established → 1939
- BSF Established → 1965
- Article 355 → Duty of Union to Protect States
- Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act → 2019
- LoC Origin → Simla Agreement, 1972

### Remember These

- Operation → Black Forest
- Theme → Counter-Terrorism
- Region → Jammu & Kashmir
- NIA Established → 2008
- CRPF Established → 1939
- BSF Established → 1965
- LoC Linked To → Simla Agreement
- Major Focus → Intelligence-Led Security Operations

## BRICS Summit 2026 and the Expansion of Emerging Global Powers

The **BRICS grouping** remained a major focus of international diplomacy in 2026 as member countries continued discussions on economic cooperation, financial reforms, trade, development financing, and

reform of global governance institutions. Following its recent expansion, BRICS attracted greater attention due to its growing share in the world's population, economy, and natural resources.

The developments highlighted the increasing influence of emerging economies in shaping the international order.

### **Why in News?**

BRICS countries continued consultations on trade, development cooperation, financial institutions, and global governance reforms following the bloc's expansion.

### **What is BRICS?**

BRICS is a grouping of major emerging economies.

Originally, BRICS consisted of:

- Brazil
- Russia
- India
- China
- South Africa

The organization serves as a platform for economic, political, and developmental cooperation.

### **Evolution of BRICS**

The term **BRIC** was coined in:

- 2001

South Africa joined in:

- 2010

resulting in the formation of:

- BRICS

Over time, the grouping evolved into an important forum representing emerging economies.

### **BRICS Expansion**

The expansion of BRICS became one of the most significant developments in recent international relations.

New countries were invited to join the grouping, increasing its geographic and economic reach.

The expansion reflected:

- Growing South-South Cooperation
- Demand for Multipolarity
- Greater Representation of Developing Countries

**Objectives of BRICS**

BRICS promotes cooperation in:

- Trade
- Investment
- Development
- Technology
- Energy
- Climate Change
- Global Governance Reform

The grouping advocates a more representative international system.

**New Development Bank (NDB)**

One of the most important BRICS institutions is the:

**New Development Bank (NDB)**

Established in:

- 2014

Purpose:

- Finance Infrastructure Projects
- Support Sustainable Development
- Provide Development Financing

The NDB is often viewed as an alternative source of funding for developing countries.

**Why is BRICS Important for India?**

BRICS helps India:

- Promote Multipolarity
- Strengthen South-South Cooperation
- Expand Economic Partnerships
- Reform Global Institutions
- Increase Influence in Global Governance

It also provides a platform for engagement with major emerging economies.

**Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- BRIC Coined → 2001

- South Africa Joined → 2010
- New Development Bank Established → 2014
- NDB Headquarters → Shanghai, China
- BRICS Represents → Major Emerging Economies
- India Founding Member → Yes
- G20 Member Countries Include → All BRICS Members

### Remember These

- BRICS → Emerging Economy Grouping
- Original Members → Brazil, Russia, India, China
- South Africa Joined → 2010
- NDB Established → 2014
- NDB Headquarters → Shanghai
- Key Goal → Reform Global Governance
- Important Theme → Multipolar World Order
- Major Focus → Economic and Development Cooperation

## International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Global Renewable Energy Cooperation

The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** continued to expand its activities during 2026 as countries intensified efforts to promote renewable energy, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and achieve climate goals. The organization has emerged as one of the most important international initiatives dedicated to solar energy cooperation.

India has played a leading role in the ISA since its inception, making it a significant component of the country's climate diplomacy.

### Why in News?

ISA member countries continued discussions on solar energy deployment, climate finance, energy access, and renewable energy partnerships, reinforcing the organization's growing global role.

### What is the International Solar Alliance?

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an international organization established to promote:

- Solar Energy Adoption
- Renewable Energy Cooperation
- Energy Access

- Sustainable Development
- Climate Action

The alliance seeks to increase the use of solar energy worldwide, particularly in developing countries.

### **Historical Background**

The ISA was launched in:

- **2015**

The initiative was jointly launched by:

- India
- France

during the:

- COP21 Climate Conference in Paris

The alliance was conceived as a platform for cooperation among countries with significant solar energy potential.

### **Objectives of ISA**

The organization aims to:

- Promote Solar Energy Projects
- Mobilize Investments
- Facilitate Technology Transfer
- Enhance Energy Security
- Support Sustainable Development

The ISA particularly focuses on countries located between the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn, though membership is now open to all UN member states.

### **Why is Solar Energy Important?**

Solar energy is:

- Renewable
- Environment-Friendly
- Abundant
- Sustainable

Benefits include:

- Reduced Carbon Emissions
- Improved Energy Security

- Lower Dependence on Fossil Fuels
- Access to Clean Electricity

Solar power is considered one of the most important tools in the fight against climate change.

### **India's Role**

India is a founding member and one of the principal drivers of the ISA.

The initiative complements India's broader renewable energy goals, including:

- Expansion of Solar Capacity
- Net Zero Target by 2070
- Green Energy Transition
- Sustainable Development

### **ISA Headquarters**

The headquarters of the International Solar Alliance is located in:

#### **Gurugram, Haryana, India**

This makes ISA the first treaty-based intergovernmental organization headquartered in India.

### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- ISA Launched → 2015
- Founding Countries → India and France
- Launch Venue → COP21, Paris
- Headquarters → Gurugram, Haryana
- Paris Agreement → 2015
- India's Net Zero Target → 2070
- COP21 Host City → Paris

### **Remember These**

- ISA → International Solar Alliance
- Launched → 2015
- Founders → India and France
- Headquarters → Gurugram
- Launch Event → COP21
- Objective → Promote Solar Energy
- India's Net Zero Target → 2070

- Major Theme → Renewable Energy and Climate Action

## Global Plastic Pollution Treaty Negotiations and the Fight Against Plastic Waste

The negotiations for a **Global Plastic Pollution Treaty** continued to be a major environmental issue in 2026. Countries across the world engaged in discussions to develop a legally binding international agreement aimed at addressing the growing problem of plastic pollution.

The treaty is considered one of the most significant environmental initiatives since the Paris Agreement because plastic waste has become a global challenge affecting ecosystems, biodiversity, human health, and economies.

### Why in News?

Countries continued negotiations on a legally binding global treaty to reduce plastic pollution and improve waste management practices worldwide.

### What is Plastic Pollution?

Plastic pollution refers to the accumulation of plastic materials in the environment.

Sources include:

- Single-Use Plastics
- Packaging Waste
- Fishing Gear
- Industrial Waste
- Microplastics

Plastic pollution affects:

- Oceans
- Rivers
- Soil
- Wildlife
- Human Health

Because plastics degrade very slowly, they can remain in the environment for hundreds of years.

### Background of the Treaty

In **2022**, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted a historic resolution to negotiate an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

The negotiations are being conducted through an:

### **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)**

The goal is to finalize a treaty covering the entire life cycle of plastics.

### **What is the Life Cycle Approach?**

The treaty discussions focus on the full life cycle of plastics:

- Production
- Consumption
- Recycling
- Waste Management
- Disposal

Many countries argue that reducing plastic pollution requires action at every stage rather than focusing only on waste management.

### **Why is Plastic Pollution a Global Concern?**

Plastic waste can:

- Harm Marine Life
- Enter Food Chains
- Damage Ecosystems
- Affect Tourism
- Increase Waste Management Costs

Microplastics have been detected in:

- Oceans
- Drinking Water
- Air
- Human Blood
- Human Organs

making the issue a growing public health concern.

### **India's Efforts**

India has taken several measures to reduce plastic pollution, including:

- Ban on Certain Single-Use Plastics
- Plastic Waste Management Rules
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Swachh Bharat Mission Initiatives

India supports international cooperation while emphasizing the developmental needs of developing countries.

### **About UNEA**

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the world's highest-level environmental decision-making body.

Headquarters:

- Nairobi, Kenya

It functions under:

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

### **Extra Facts Examiners May Use**

- UNEA Plastic Resolution → 2022
- UNEP Headquarters → Nairobi, Kenya
- World Environment Day → 5 June
- Host of World Environment Day 2025 → Republic of Korea
- Microplastics → Plastic Particles Less Than 5 mm
- UNEA → Highest Global Environmental Decision-Making Body

### **Remember These**

- Treaty → Global Plastic Pollution Treaty
- Negotiations Started → 2022
- Negotiating Body → INC
- UNEP Headquarters → Nairobi
- World Environment Day → 5 June
- Key Issue → Plastic Pollution
- Microplastics → Less Than 5 mm
- Major Theme → Global Environmental Governance

## Practice Passages

### Passage 1: Operation Sindoor and India's Counter-Terror Response

In May 2026, India launched Operation Sindoor following the Pahalgam Terror Attack in Jammu & Kashmir. The operation targeted terrorist infrastructure across the Line of Control (LoC) and was described by the Government as a precise counter-terror action aimed at preventing future attacks. The development led to diplomatic engagements, discussions on regional security, and renewed attention to international counter-terrorism cooperation.

The operation also revived debates surrounding the right of self-defence under international law. Article 51 of the United Nations Charter recognizes the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a UN member state. At the same time, countries emphasized the importance of maintaining regional stability and preventing escalation.

The Line of Control, which separates Indian-administered and Pakistan-administered areas of Jammu & Kashmir, originated after the Simla Agreement of 1972 signed by India and Pakistan following the 1971 war. Though not an international boundary, it remains one of the most sensitive military control lines in the world.

#### Questions

**Q1. Operation Sindoor was launched in response to:**

- (A) Kargil Conflict
- (B) Parliament Attack
- (C) Pahalgam Terror Attack
- (D) Mumbai Terror Attacks

**Q2. Article 51 of the UN Charter deals with:**

- (A) Human Rights
- (B) Peacekeeping Operations
- (C) Right of Self-Defence
- (D) International Trade

**Q3. The Line of Control originated from which agreement?**

- (A) Tashkent Agreement
- (B) Lahore Declaration
- (C) Simla Agreement
- (D) Indus Waters Treaty

**Q4. The Simla Agreement was signed in:**

- (A) 1965
- (B) 1971
- (C) 1972
- (D) 1999

**Q5. Which of the following best describes the Line of Control?**

- (A) International Border between India and Pakistan
- (B) Maritime Boundary
- (C) Military Control Line in Jammu & Kashmir
- (D) Border between India and China

**Q6. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?**

- (A) Regional stability and counter-terrorism efforts may sometimes operate simultaneously.
- (B) The UN Charter prohibits all forms of self-defence.
- (C) The LoC is an internationally recognized boundary.
- (D) Terrorism is only a domestic issue.

### Answer Key

1. C
2. C
3. C
4. C
5. C
6. A

### Explanations

**Q1. Correct Answer: (C) Pahalgam Terror Attack**

The passage clearly states that Operation Sindoor was launched following the Pahalgam Terror Attack.

**Q2. Correct Answer: (C) Right of Self-Defence**

Article 51 of the UN Charter recognizes the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence in the event of an armed attack.

**Q3. Correct Answer: (C) Simla Agreement**

The passage explicitly mentions that the Line of Control originated after the Simla Agreement.

**Q4. Correct Answer: (C) 1972**

The Simla Agreement was signed in 1972 after the 1971 India-Pakistan War.

**Q5. Correct Answer: (C) Military Control Line in Jammu & Kashmir**

The passage clarifies that the LoC is not an international boundary but a military control line separating areas under Indian and Pakistani administration.

**Q6. Correct Answer: (A) Regional stability and counter-terrorism efforts may sometimes operate simultaneously.**

The passage discusses both counter-terror operations and the need for regional stability, making option (A) the most reasonable inference. The other options directly contradict information given in the passage.

### Passage 2: Pahalgam Terror Attack and Counter-Terrorism Framework

The Pahalgam Terror Attack in May 2026 emerged as one of the most significant security incidents in recent years. The attack targeted civilians in the Pahalgam region of Jammu & Kashmir and led to widespread condemnation both within India and internationally. The incident once again highlighted the continuing challenge of terrorism and the need for effective intelligence gathering, border management, and international cooperation.

Pahalgam, located in Anantnag district of Jammu & Kashmir, is a major tourist destination situated on the banks of the Lidder River. It is also known as the gateway to the Amarnath Yatra. The attack raised concerns regarding civilian security, tourism, and regional stability.

Globally, institutions such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Interpol, and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) play important roles in combating terrorism and terror financing. India's counter-terror architecture includes agencies such as the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Intelligence Bureau (IB), Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), National Security Guard (NSG), and various state police forces.

#### Questions

**Q7. Pahalgam is located in which district of Jammu & Kashmir?**

- (A) Baramulla
- (B) Srinagar
- (C) Anantnag
- (D) Pulwama

**Q8. The river flowing through Pahalgam is:**

- (A) Jhelum
- (B) Chenab
- (C) Ravi
- (D) Lidder

**Q9. Which international body is primarily associated with combating money laundering and terror financing?**

- (A) UNESCO
- (B) FATF
- (C) WHO
- (D) WTO

**Q10. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was established in:**

- (A) 2001
- (B) 2005

- (C) 2008
- (D) 2010

**Q11. Pahalgam is commonly known as the:**

- (A) Valley of Flowers
- (B) Gateway to Ladakh
- (C) Gateway to Amarnath Yatra
- (D) Gateway to Kashmir

**Q12. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the passage?**

- (A) Terrorism can affect tourism and economic activity.
- (B) Terrorism is solely a local law-and-order issue.
- (C) International organizations play no role in counter-terrorism.
- (D) Tourism has no connection with security concerns.

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### Answer Key

- 7. C
- 8. D
- 9. B
- 10. C
- 11. C
- 12. A

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### Explanations

**Q7. Correct Answer: (C) Anantnag**

The passage specifically states that Pahalgam is located in Anantnag district of Jammu & Kashmir.

**Q8. Correct Answer: (D) Lidder**

Pahalgam is situated on the banks of the Lidder River, making option (D) correct.

**Q9. Correct Answer: (B) FATF**

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the international body responsible for combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

**Q10. Correct Answer: (C) 2008**

The National Investigation Agency was established in 2008 following the Mumbai Terror Attacks.

**Q11. Correct Answer: (C) Gateway to Amarnath Yatra**

Pahalgam serves as one of the principal routes and base points for the Amarnath pilgrimage.

**Q12. Correct Answer: (A) Terrorism can affect tourism and economic activity.**

The passage notes that the attack raised concerns regarding tourism, civilian safety, and regional stability. Therefore, option (A) is the most logical inference.

### **Passage 3: India–Pakistan Ceasefire Understanding and the Line of Control**

Following heightened tensions in May 2026, India and Pakistan reached a renewed understanding aimed at reducing hostilities along the Line of Control (LoC). The development attracted international attention due to concerns regarding regional stability in South Asia. Both countries have experienced multiple military confrontations since Independence, making ceasefire arrangements important for maintaining peace along sensitive border regions.

The Line of Control separates Indian-administered and Pakistan-administered areas of Jammu & Kashmir. It is not an international boundary but a military control line that emerged from the Simla Agreement signed in 1972 after the India-Pakistan War of 1971. The LoC remains one of the most heavily guarded military lines in the world.

The maintenance of peace along the LoC is important not only for military reasons but also for the safety of civilians living in border areas. Ceasefire arrangements can help reduce casualties, improve stability, and create conditions for diplomatic engagement between the two countries.

#### **Questions**

**Q13. The renewed ceasefire understanding discussed in the passage primarily aimed to:**

- (A) Increase trade relations
- (B) Reduce hostilities along the LoC
- (C) Establish a new international boundary
- (D) Create a military alliance

**Q14. The Line of Control separates:**

- (A) India and China
- (B) India and Nepal
- (C) Indian-administered and Pakistan-administered Jammu & Kashmir
- (D) Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir

**Q15. The Line of Control originated from which agreement?**

- (A) Indus Waters Treaty
- (B) Tashkent Agreement
- (C) Lahore Declaration
- (D) Simla Agreement

**Q16. The Simla Agreement was signed after:**

- (A) 1962 India-China War
- (B) 1965 India-Pakistan War
- (C) 1971 India-Pakistan War
- (D) Kargil Conflict

**Q17. Which statement is correct according to the passage?**

- (A) The LoC is an internationally recognized border.
- (B) The LoC is a military control line.
- (C) The LoC was established in 1947.
- (D) The LoC separates India and Bangladesh.

**Q18. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?**

- (A) Ceasefire agreements can contribute to civilian safety and regional stability.
- (B) Ceasefires eliminate all future conflicts.
- (C) Border areas are unaffected by military tensions.
- (D) Diplomacy has no role in India-Pakistan relations.

---

**Answer Key**

- 13. B
- 14. C
- 15. D
- 16. C
- 17. B
- 18. A

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**Explanations**

**Q13. Correct Answer: (B) Reduce hostilities along the LoC**

The passage clearly states that the ceasefire understanding was aimed at reducing hostilities and preventing escalation.

**Q14. Correct Answer: (C) Indian-administered and Pakistan-administered Jammu & Kashmir**

The LoC separates the areas of Jammu & Kashmir administered by India and Pakistan.

**Q15. Correct Answer: (D) Simla Agreement**

The passage explicitly states that the LoC emerged from the Simla Agreement.

**Q16. Correct Answer: (C) 1971 India-Pakistan War**

The Simla Agreement was signed in 1972 following the 1971 war between India and Pakistan.

**Q17. Correct Answer: (B) The LoC is a military control line**

The passage specifically mentions that the LoC is not an international boundary but a military control line.

**Q18. Correct Answer: (A) Ceasefire agreements can contribute to civilian safety and regional stability**

The passage notes that ceasefires help reduce casualties and improve stability, making option (A) the most reasonable inference.

#### Passage 4: India Suspends Participation in the Indus Waters Treaty Framework

Following the Pahalgam Terror Attack and Operation Sindoor, India announced that it would place the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** in abeyance until Pakistan takes credible and irreversible steps against cross-border terrorism. The development attracted significant international attention because the treaty has long been regarded as one of the most successful water-sharing agreements in the world.

The treaty was signed on 19 September 1960 between India and Pakistan with the assistance of the World Bank. Under the agreement, the three Eastern Rivers—Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej—were allocated to India, while the three Western Rivers—Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab—were allocated to Pakistan, subject to certain rights retained by India.

Despite wars in 1965, 1971, and the Kargil conflict of 1999, the treaty remained operational for decades. The recent developments revived discussions on water diplomacy, international agreements, and the role of transboundary rivers in international relations.

---

#### Questions

**Q19. The Indus Waters Treaty was signed in:**

- (A) 1948
- (B) 1960
- (C) 1965
- (D) 1972

**Q20. Which institution helped broker the Indus Waters Treaty?**

- (A) United Nations
- (B) IMF
- (C) World Bank
- (D) WTO

**Q21. Which of the following rivers is allocated to India under the treaty?**

- (A) Indus
- (B) Jhelum
- (C) Chenab
- (D) Ravi

**Q22. Which river is NOT one of the Western Rivers under the treaty?**

- (A) Indus
- (B) Jhelum
- (C) Chenab
- (D) Beas

**Q23. The treaty continued to function despite:**

- (A) Only the 1965 War
- (B) Only the Kargil Conflict
- (C) Multiple wars and conflicts between India and Pakistan
- (D) No military conflicts between the two countries

**Q24. Which inference can be drawn from the passage?**

- (A) Water-sharing agreements can survive political tensions.
- (B) Rivers have no role in international relations.
- (C) The treaty ended immediately after the 1965 War.
- (D) Water diplomacy is irrelevant to national security.

---

**Answer Key**

- 19. B
- 20. C
- 21. D
- 22. D
- 23. C
- 24. A

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**Explanations**

**Q19. Correct Answer: (B) 1960**

The Indus Waters Treaty was signed on 19 September 1960.

**Q20. Correct Answer: (C) World Bank**

The World Bank played a key role in mediating and facilitating the treaty negotiations.

**Q21. Correct Answer: (D) Ravi**

The Eastern Rivers allocated to India are Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej.

**Q22. Correct Answer: (D) Beas**

Beas is an Eastern River allocated to India, whereas Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab are Western Rivers.

**Q23. Correct Answer: (C) Multiple wars and conflicts between India and Pakistan**

The passage specifically notes that the treaty survived the wars of 1965 and 1971 as well as the Kargil conflict.

**Q24. Correct Answer: (A) Water-sharing agreements can survive political tensions**

The treaty's continued operation despite several conflicts demonstrates that international agreements can endure even during periods of strained relations.

---

**Passage 5: Caste Census and Social Justice Debate**

In 2026, the Government announced that caste data would be collected as part of the upcoming Census exercise. The decision sparked nationwide discussions on social justice, reservation policies, welfare delivery, and the need for updated demographic information. Supporters argued that accurate caste data would enable evidence-based policymaking and better targeting of welfare schemes, while critics expressed concerns regarding social divisions and political misuse.

The last comprehensive caste enumeration covering all castes was conducted during the 1931 Census. After Independence, regular Census exercises largely collected caste data only for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). In 2011, the Government conducted the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), which collected socio-economic information across the country.

The debate surrounding caste census is closely linked to constitutional principles such as equality, affirmative action, and welfare of weaker sections.

**Questions**

**Q25. The last comprehensive caste census covering all castes was conducted in:**

- (A) 1947
- (B) 1951
- (C) 1931
- (D) 2011

**Q26. SECC stands for:**

- (A) Social Equality and Caste Commission
- (B) Socio-Economic and Caste Census
- (C) Social Enumeration and Community Census
- (D) State Economic and Caste Committee

**Q27. Which Census collected extensive caste-related socio-economic data after Independence?**

- (A) Census 2001
- (B) Census 2011
- (C) SECC 2011
- (D) Census 2021

**Q28. The caste census debate is most closely linked to which constitutional objective?**

- (A) Social Justice
- (B) Emergency Powers
- (C) International Relations
- (D) Judicial Review

**Q29. Supporters of caste census primarily argue that it helps in:**

- (A) Military Planning
- (B) Welfare Targeting and Policy Formulation
- (C) Foreign Policy Decisions
- (D) Monetary Policy

**Q30. Which inference best follows from the passage?**

- (A) Demographic data can influence public policy decisions.
- (B) Census data has no relevance to governance.
- (C) Reservation policies are unrelated to population data.
- (D) Social indicators are unnecessary for policymaking.

### Answer Key

- 25. C
- 26. B
- 27. C
- 28. A
- 29. B
- 30. A

### Explanations

**Q25. Correct Answer: (C) 1931**

The passage clearly mentions that the last comprehensive caste enumeration was conducted during the 1931 Census.

**Q26. Correct Answer: (B) Socio-Economic and Caste Census**

SECC stands for Socio-Economic and Caste Census.

**Q27. Correct Answer: (C) SECC 2011**

The SECC 2011 was specifically designed to collect socio-economic and caste-related information.

**Q28. Correct Answer: (A) Social Justice**

The passage directly connects the debate to social justice, affirmative action, and welfare concerns.

**Q29. Correct Answer: (B) Welfare Targeting and Policy Formulation**

Supporters believe that updated caste data would help improve governance and welfare delivery.

**Q30. Correct Answer: (A) Demographic data can influence public policy decisions**

The passage repeatedly emphasizes the role of data in policymaking, making option (A) the strongest inference.

## Questions – Answers (One Liners)

### Question 1

Which of the following statements regarding Operation Sindoor is correct?

- (A) It was a disaster management exercise conducted by NDMA.
- (B) It was launched after the Pahalgam Terror Attack and targeted terrorist infrastructure.
- (C) It was a trade agreement between India and the United Kingdom.
- (D) It was a census operation conducted by the Government of India.

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** Operation Sindoor was launched after the Pahalgam Terror Attack and targeted terrorist infrastructure across the LoC.

### Question 2

The Pahalgam Terror Attack took place in which district of Jammu & Kashmir?

- (A) Baramulla
- (B) Pulwama
- (C) Anantnag
- (D) Kupwara

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** Pahalgam is located in Anantnag district and is a major tourist destination as well as a gateway to the Amarnath Yatra.

### Question 3

The river flowing through Pahalgam is:

- (A) Jhelum
- (B) Ravi
- (C) Chenab
- (D) Lidder

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:** The Lidder River flows through Pahalgam and is an important tributary in the Kashmir Valley.

**Question 4**

The Line of Control originated from:

- (A) Lahore Declaration
- (B) Simla Agreement
- (C) Tashkent Agreement
- (D) Indus Waters Treaty

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** The Simla Agreement of 1972 redesignated the earlier ceasefire line as the Line of Control.

**Question 5**

The Simla Agreement was signed in:

- (A) 1965
- (B) 1971
- (C) 1972
- (D) 1999

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** The agreement was signed in 1972 after the India-Pakistan War of 1971.

**Question 6**

Article 51 of the UN Charter relates to:

- (A) Human Rights
- (B) Peacekeeping
- (C) Self-Defence
- (D) Trade

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** Article 51 recognizes the inherent right of self-defence in the event of an armed attack.

**Question 7**

The Indus Waters Treaty was signed in:

- (A) 1950

(B) 1960

(C) 1972

(D) 1985

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The treaty was signed on 19 September 1960.

### Question 8

Which institution brokered the Indus Waters Treaty?

(A) IMF

(B) United Nations

(C) World Bank

(D) WTO

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The World Bank played a key role in negotiating the treaty.

### Question 9

Which of the following is an Eastern River under the Indus Waters Treaty?

(A) Chenab

(B) Jhelum

(C) Indus

(D) Ravi

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Ravi, Beas and Sutlej are Eastern Rivers allocated to India.

### Question 10

Which of the following is a Western River?

(A) Beas

(B) Ravi

(C) Chenab

(D) Sutlej

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** Indus, Jhelum and Chenab are Western Rivers allocated to Pakistan.

### Question 11

The last comprehensive caste census covering all castes was conducted in:

- (A) 1921
- (B) 1931
- (C) 1951
- (D) 2011

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** The 1931 Census was the last comprehensive caste enumeration before recent proposals.

### Question 12

SECC stands for:

- (A) Social Equality and Community Census
- (B) Socio-Economic and Caste Census
- (C) Social Enumeration and Caste Commission
- (D) State Economic Census Committee

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** SECC 2011 collected socio-economic and caste-related information.

### Question 13

The Census is conducted under:

- (A) Census Act, 1948
- (B) Population Act, 1950
- (C) National Census Act, 1952
- (D) Registration Act, 1947

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:** The Census Act, 1948 governs census operations in India.

**Question 14**

India's first synchronous Census was conducted in:

- (A) 1872
- (B) 1881
- (C) 1901
- (D) 1911

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** 1881 marked India's first synchronous census.

**Question 15**

Delimitation refers to:

- (A) Population Control
- (B) Electoral Reforms
- (C) Redrawing Constituency Boundaries
- (D) Reservation Policy

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** Delimitation involves redrawing electoral constituencies based on population.

**Question 16**

Article 82 of the Constitution relates to:

- (A) Rajya Sabha
- (B) Delimitation of Lok Sabha Constituencies
- (C) Election Commission
- (D) President's Rule

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** Article 82 provides for readjustment of Lok Sabha seats after a Census.

**Question 17**

The High-Level Committee on One Nation One Election was headed by:

- (A) Justice D.Y. Chandrachud
- (B) Amit Shah

(C) Ram Nath Kovind

(D) Rajnath Singh

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** Former President Ram Nath Kovind chaired the committee.

### Question 18

India's first General Election was held in:

(A) 1947

(B) 1950

(C) 1951-52

(D) 1957

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** The first General Election took place between 1951 and 1952.

### Question 19

The India-UK FTA primarily aims to:

(A) Establish a military alliance

(B) Reduce trade barriers

(C) Introduce a common currency

(D) Remove visa requirements

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** FTAs seek to reduce tariffs and facilitate trade and investment.

### Question 20

Civil Defence in India functions under:

(A) Ministry of Defence

(B) Ministry of Home Affairs

(C) Ministry of External Affairs

(D) Ministry of Law and Justice

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** Civil Defence operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

### Question 21

The Disaster Management Act was enacted in:

- (A) 1999
- (B) 2002
- (C) 2005
- (D) 2008

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** The Disaster Management Act, 2005 established India's disaster management framework.

### Question 22

World Press Freedom Day is observed on:

- (A) 1 May
- (B) 3 May
- (C) 5 June
- (D) 10 December

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** 3 May is observed globally as World Press Freedom Day.

### Question 23

The World Press Freedom Index is published by:

- (A) UNESCO
- (B) UNDP
- (C) Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
- (D) Amnesty International

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** RSF annually publishes the World Press Freedom Index.

### Question 24

India's Total Fertility Rate according to SRS 2024 is:

- (A) 2.5
- (B) 2.3
- (C) 2.1
- (D) 1.9

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:** India's TFR declined to 1.9, below replacement level fertility.

### Question 25

Replacement Level Fertility is generally considered to be:

- (A) 1.5
- (B) 1.8
- (C) 2.1
- (D) 2.5

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** A TFR of 2.1 is considered the replacement level at which a population replaces itself without migration.

### Question 26

The company DeepSeek is primarily associated with:

- (A) Space Technology
- (B) Artificial Intelligence
- (C) Biotechnology
- (D) Renewable Energy

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** DeepSeek is a Chinese Artificial Intelligence company known for developing advanced Large Language Models (LLMs), intensifying global AI competition.

### Question 27

DeepSeek originated in:

- (A) Japan
- (B) South Korea

- (C) China
- (D) Singapore

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** DeepSeek is a Chinese AI company and became a major player in the global AI race.

### Question 28

The IndiaAI Mission aims to:

- (A) Promote Nuclear Technology
- (B) Build India's AI Ecosystem
- (C) Expand Railway Infrastructure
- (D) Increase Agricultural Production

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** The IndiaAI Mission focuses on AI innovation, computing infrastructure, datasets, startups, and skill development.

### Question 29

AI systems heavily depend on:

- (A) Fertilizers
- (B) Semiconductors
- (C) Hydropower Dams
- (D) Satellites Only

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** Advanced AI requires semiconductor chips, GPUs, data centres, and computing infrastructure.

### Question 30

India Semiconductor Mission was launched in:

- (A) 2019
- (B) 2020
- (C) 2021
- (D) 2023

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** The mission was launched in 2021 to develop semiconductor manufacturing and packaging capabilities.

### Question 31

TSMC is headquartered in:

- (A) Japan
- (B) Taiwan
- (C) South Korea
- (D) China

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) is the world's largest semiconductor manufacturer.

### Question 32

The most widely used semiconductor material is:

- (A) Uranium
- (B) Graphite
- (C) Silicon
- (D) Copper

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** Silicon forms the foundation of modern semiconductor manufacturing.

### Question 33

The Reserve Bank of India was established in:

- (A) 1930
- (B) 1935
- (C) 1947
- (D) 1950

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** RBI was established on 1 April 1935 and nationalized in 1949.

**Question 34**

The Repo Rate is:

- (A) Rate at which banks lend to customers
- (B) Rate at which RBI lends to banks
- (C) Inflation Rate
- (D) Tax on Imports

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** Repo Rate is the interest rate charged by RBI when lending funds to commercial banks.

**Question 35**

India's inflation target under the MPC framework is:

- (A) 2%
- (B) 3%
- (C) 4%
- (D) 6%

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** India follows a flexible inflation targeting regime with a target of 4%.

**Question 36**

The Monetary Policy Committee consists of:

- (A) 5 Members
- (B) 6 Members
- (C) 7 Members
- (D) 8 Members

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** MPC has six members—three from RBI and three nominated by the Government.

**Question 37**

IMF stands for:

- (A) International Monetary Foundation
- (B) International Market Forum
- (C) International Monetary Fund
- (D) International Management Fund

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** IMF is a global institution promoting monetary cooperation and financial stability.

### Question 38

The IMF was established during the:

- (A) Paris Conference
- (B) Bretton Woods Conference
- (C) Bandung Conference
- (D) Geneva Convention

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** IMF was created at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944.

### Question 39

IMF Headquarters is located in:

- (A) Geneva
- (B) Paris
- (C) Washington, D.C.
- (D) New York

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** IMF headquarters are located in Washington, D.C., USA.

### Question 40

WHO stands for:

- (A) World Health Organization
- (B) World Humanitarian Organization
- (C) World Health Office

(D) World Hygiene Organization

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:** WHO is the specialized UN agency for global public health.

#### Question 41

WHO was established on:

(A) 24 October 1945

(B) 7 April 1948

(C) 10 December 1948

(D) 5 June 1972

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** WHO was established on 7 April 1948, celebrated annually as World Health Day.

#### Question 42

The WHO Pandemic Agreement primarily focuses on:

(A) Military Cooperation

(B) Global Health Emergency Preparedness

(C) International Trade

(D) Migration

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** The agreement seeks to strengthen preparedness and cooperation during future pandemics.

#### Question 43

Justice B.R. Gavai became the:

(A) 49th CJI

(B) 50th CJI

(C) 51st CJI

(D) 52nd CJI

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:** Justice B.R. Gavai became the 52nd Chief Justice of India in May 2026.

**Question 44**

Article 124 of the Constitution relates to:

- (A) Election Commission
- (B) Parliament
- (C) Supreme Court
- (D) High Courts

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** Article 124 establishes the Supreme Court of India.

**Question 45**

Operation Keller was related to:

- (A) Census Operations
- (B) Counter-Terror Operations
- (C) Climate Action
- (D) Space Research

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** Operation Keller was a security operation targeting terrorist networks in Jammu & Kashmir.

**Question 46**

FATF stands for:

- (A) Financial Action Task Force
- (B) Fiscal and Trade Forum
- (C) Financial Accountability Task Force
- (D) Foreign Assets Tracking Forum

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:** FATF is the global body combating money laundering and terror financing.

**Question 47**

India became a member of FATF in:

- (A) 2005
- (B) 2008
- (C) 2010
- (D) 2012

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** India joined FATF as a full member in 2010.

### Question 48

The FATF headquarters is located in:

- (A) Geneva
- (B) Vienna
- (C) Paris
- (D) Brussels

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** FATF is headquartered in Paris, France.

### Question 49

The World Bank was established in:

- (A) 1944
- (B) 1945
- (C) 1950
- (D) 1960

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:** The World Bank was established at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944.

### Question 50

GDP stands for:

- (A) General Development Programme
- (B) Gross Domestic Product
- (C) Global Development Policy

(D) Gross Development Production

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** GDP measures the total value of final goods and services produced within a country during a given period.

## The 3-Highlight Method

While reading, mark:

### ★ One Star

Important

Example:

★ India–UK FTA

### ★★ Two Stars

Very Important

Example:

★★ Operation Sindoor

★★ Pahalgam Terror Attack

★★ Caste Census

### ★★★ Three Stars

Most Probable for Exam

Example:

★★★ Indus Waters Treaty

★★★ One Nation One Election

★★★ Delimitation

★★★ Justice B.R. Gavai as CJI

Before the exam, revise only ★★★ topics first

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