



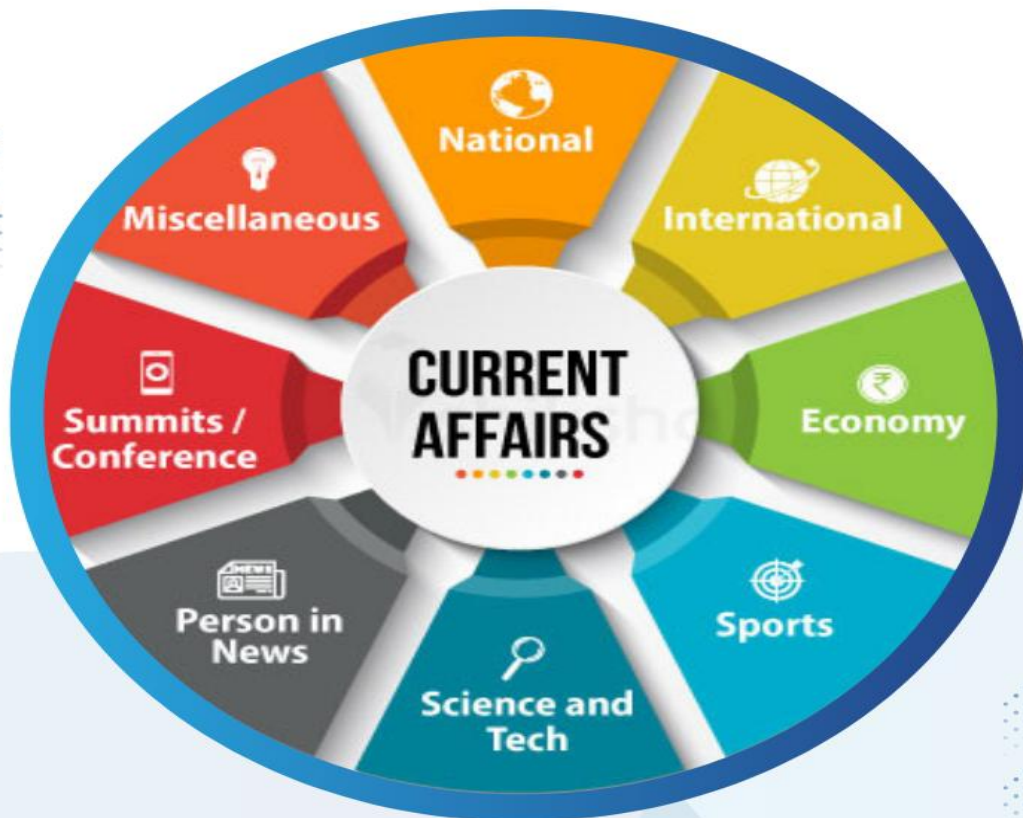
“ We help you reach for the star ”

# **VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE**

## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 06/10/2025 (MONDAY)**



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## Table of Contents

1. ULLAS Programme – Transforming Adult Education in India .....	2
2. National Conference on Opportunities in Defence Manufacturing .....	3
3. Pakistan Offers US Arabian Sea Port at Pasni – Key Points .....	4
4. INS Sahyadri's Port Call at Malaysia's Kemaman Port .....	6
5. National Camel Sustainability Initiative (NCSI) – Key Highlights .....	7
6. Centre Urges States to Clear Forest Rights Act (FRA) Backlog.....	8
7. Road to Energy Atmanirbharta – Key Highlights .....	10
8. Trump's 20-Point Gaza Ceasefire Plan – Key Highlights .....	11
9. Employment Generation and India's Demographic Dividend – Key Highlights .....	13
10. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in India – Key Highlights.....	14
11. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) – Promoting Organic Farming in India ...	16
12. Cooperative Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plant – Kopergaon, Maharashtra .....	18
13. UPI Transaction Intensity Across Indian States.....	19
14. Strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in India .....	20



## **1. ULLAS Programme – Transforming Adult Education in India**

### **1. Introduction**

- **ULLAS** stands for **Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society**.
- Launched in **2022** under the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- Aims to provide **educational opportunities for adult learners**, especially in **rural areas** and among **women**.

### **2. Key Features of ULLAS**

- **Focus on Lifelong Learning** – Promotes continuous learning beyond formal schooling.
- **Alignment with NEP 2020** – Implements the NEP's vision of inclusive and equitable education.
- **Use of Technology** – Leveraging digital tools and community-based approaches for outreach.
- **Target Groups** – Rural population, marginalized communities, and women are primary beneficiaries.

### **3. Achievements and Impact**

- **Rural Literacy Surge** – Significant rise in adult literacy rates in rural areas.
- **Women Empowerment** – Enhanced access to education for women, improving social indicators.
- **SDG Alignment** – Positions India to achieve the **UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4** (Quality Education) literacy targets by **2030**.



### **4. Constitutional & Legal Provisions**

- **Article 21A** – Right to Free and Compulsory Education for children (though adult literacy is not directly covered, it flows from the principle of universal education).
- **Article 41 (Directive Principles)** – State to make effective provision for securing the right to education and public assistance.
- **Article 45** (after 86th Amendment) – Provision for early childhood care and education, but also influences lifelong learning policy.
- **National Education Policy 2020** – Provides the framework for adult education initiatives like ULLAS.
- **International Commitments** – India is a signatory to the **UN SDGs** and Education for All goals.

### **5. Definitions of Key Terms**

- **Lifelong Learning** – Continuous, self-motivated pursuit of knowledge for personal or professional reasons throughout life.
- **Adult Education** – Systematic learning opportunities for adults to acquire new skills, literacy, or knowledge.

### **6. Conclusion & UPSC Relevance**



- **Conclusion:** ULLAS is a **transformative step** in adult education, directly contributing to literacy, skill development, and empowerment of marginalized communities. It reflects India's commitment to **inclusive education** and achieving **global literacy goals**.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
  - Can be asked under **Education & Social Development** topics in **GS Paper II** (Welfare Schemes & Policies).
  - Links with **SDG 4, NEP 2020**, and **constitutional provisions** on education.
  - Useful for **essay writing** and **ethics papers** on empowerment, inclusiveness, and lifelong learning.

## 2. National Conference on Opportunities in Defence Manufacturing

### 1. Event Overview

- **Organiser & Date:** Ministry of Defence (MoD) – Department of Defence Production; to be inaugurated by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on **7 October 2025**.
- **Purpose:** A national-level platform to coordinate between MoD and State/UT Governments to align regional industrial policies & infrastructure with **self-reliance in defence manufacturing** (**Atmanirbhar Bharat in Defence**).

### 2. Key Initiatives to be Launched

- **Defence Exim Portal:** A digital platform to streamline export and import authorisations for defence products – reducing procedural delays and enhancing transparency.
- **Srijan DEEP (Defence Establishments and Entrepreneurs Platform):** A digital repository mapping Indian defence industries' products and capabilities – improving industry visibility & linkages with Defence PSUs and Armed Forces.
- **Publications to be Released:**
  - *Aerospace & Defence Sector Policy Compendium of States/UTs* – showcasing regional policy frameworks.
  - *iDEX Coffee Table Book – "Shared Horizons of Innovation"* – highlighting defence innovation success stories under **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)**.



### 3. Constitutional & Legal Framework

- **Union List Entry 7** (Defence of India) under Seventh Schedule – gives Parliament exclusive power to legislate on defence-related matters.
- **Article 73** – Union's executive power extends to matters on which Parliament can legislate (including Defence).
- **Defence Production Policy (DPP) 2020** – aims at a turnover of USD 25 billion in defence manufacturing by 2025, including USD 5 billion in exports.





- **Make in India / Atmanirbhar Bharat** – policy push to indigenise defence manufacturing, reduce import dependency, and boost exports.

#### **4. Significance for Defence Manufacturing Ecosystem**

- **Coordination:** Brings States/UTs into the defence industrial ecosystem, encouraging cluster development and MSME participation.
- **Indigenisation & Exports:** Aims to enhance domestic capabilities and promote India as a global hub for defence production.
- **Investment Promotion:** Aligns central and state incentives to attract private investment in high-technology defence sectors.

#### **5. Key Definitions**

- **Indigenisation:** Process of developing and producing defence equipment domestically to reduce import dependence.
- **Defence Export Authorisation:** Government approval required to export sensitive defence products; now being digitised through the Defence Exim Portal.
- **iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence):** MoD initiative to engage start-ups, MSMEs, and academia in defence innovation challenges.

#### **6. Conclusion & UPSC Relevance**

- **Conclusion:** The conference represents a strategic move to integrate state-level policies with national goals of self-reliance, innovation, and defence exports. By launching digital platforms like Defence Exim Portal and Srijan DEEP, the government is institutionalising transparency, ease of doing business, and collaboration in the defence sector.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
  - Directly linked to **GS Paper 3** (Defence, Economy, Indigenisation of Technology, Infrastructure).
  - Important for **Current Affairs, Security Challenges, and Government Initiatives**.
  - Can be used as examples in questions on “Make in India in Defence”, “Public-Private Partnerships in Defence Production”, and “Role of States in National Security Goals”.

### **3. Pakistan Offers US Arabian Sea Port at Pasni – Key Points**

#### **1. Background of the Offer**

- According to the *Financial Times*, Pakistan has informally offered the **Pasni port** (Balochistan, ~70 miles from Gwadar & 100 miles from Iran border) to the US as a **terminal to ship Pakistan’s critical minerals** (like copper, antimony, neodymium).
- The proposal is linked to a **new railway line** to transport minerals from the country’s interior, especially from **Reko Diq copper & gold mines** in Balochistan.

#### **2. Strategic & Economic Context**



- Pasni is a **natural deep-water port** near the **Chinese-developed Gwadar port**, making it a potential counterweight to Chinese influence in the Arabian Sea.
- A blueprint anticipates the project cost at **\$1.2 billion** with mixed Pakistani federal and US-backed development finance.
- In September 2025, Missouri-based **US Strategic Metals (USSM)** signed an MoU with Pakistan's military engineering arm for mineral exploration and has already received the first shipment of rare earth minerals.

### 3. Official Denials & Clarifications

- Pakistan's security officials told state-run TV that the FT report does **not represent official government or military policy**; conversations with private companies were exploratory.
- They asserted there is **no plan to hand over Pasni's security to any foreign power**, and linking the idea directly to the Army Chief is "misleading."
- The US State Department, White House, Pakistan Army, and Foreign Ministry have **not commented** on the FT report so far.

### 4. Geopolitical & Legal Considerations

- The proposal reflects **Pakistan's attempt to diversify partnerships** amid China's dominance in Balochistan through CPEC and Gwadar.
- For India, this development has implications under the **UNCLOS** (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) for strategic access and maritime security in the Arabian Sea.
- It also aligns with the US's need for **critical minerals** due to China's export restrictions on antimony and rare earths (vital for batteries, missiles, and fire-retardants).



### 5. Key Definitions

- **Critical Minerals:** Minerals essential for high-tech industries, renewable energy, defence, and electronics, but with high supply risk.
- **Strategic Port:** A port whose location allows control of crucial shipping lanes or resources, impacting regional security and trade.
- **Reko Diq:** One of the world's largest undeveloped copper and gold deposits in Pakistan's Balochistan province.

### 6. Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- **Conclusion:** While still at an "idea" stage, the Pasni port proposal underscores Pakistan's efforts to court the US for strategic and economic leverage, potentially counterbalancing China's CPEC-driven presence at Gwadar. If realised, it could shift regional maritime dynamics and critical mineral supply chains.



- **UPSC Relevance:**

- Directly linked to **GS Paper 2 (International Relations)** – India's neighbourhood, India-US-Pakistan-China dynamics.
- **GS Paper 3 (Economic Security & Critical Minerals)** – global supply chain shifts, strategic resources.
- Provides examples for questions on **geopolitics of ports, critical mineral security, and India's maritime security concerns** in the Arabian Sea.

## 4. INS Sahyadri's Port Call at Malaysia's Kemaman Port

### 1. Event Overview

- **Ship & Visit:** Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sahyadri arrived at **Kemaman Port, Malaysia** on 2 October 2025 as part of routine operational deployment.
- **Purpose:** To enhance **bilateral naval engagement**, including cross visits, **Subject Matter Expert (SME) exchanges**, and strengthening India-Malaysia maritime ties.
- **Significance:** This is **INS Sahyadri's third visit** to Malaysia; previous visits include Port Klang (2016) and participation in **Exercise Samudra Laksamana** at Kota Kinabalu (2019).

### 2. Bilateral Engagements & Diplomacy

- Officers of INS Sahyadri met **First Admiral Abd Halim bin Kamarudin**, Deputy Commander Naval Region 1, Malaysian Navy.
- Demonstrates India's **naval diplomacy** and efforts to maintain strong regional maritime relationships in the **Indo-Pacific region**.
- Follows other engagements like the visit of INS Sandhayak in July 2025 for **hydrographic cooperation** at Port Klang.



### 3. Strategic & Operational Significance

- Highlights India's growing role in **regional maritime security and hydrography** under the **Indian Naval Hydrographic Department (INHD)** and **National Hydrographic Office** framework.
- Enhances **maritime situational awareness**, regional interoperability, and capacity building with friendly navies in Southeast Asia.
- Reinforces India's **Act East Policy** and its commitment to a **free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific**.

### 4. Key Events in Context

- India actively participated in **LIMA 2025 (Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition)**; MoS Defence Sanjay Seth met Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim.
- India is recognized as a **key neighbour** and partner in regional security and defence cooperation.
- These engagements strengthen **strategic ties** and encourage **defence trade, maritime collaboration, and capacity building**.



## 5. Key Definitions

- **Port Call:** Scheduled stop of a naval ship at a foreign port for diplomatic, operational, or logistical purposes.
- **Hydrographic Cooperation:** Sharing expertise, data, and practices related to mapping of sea areas for safe navigation, defence, and maritime resource management.
- **Act East Policy:** India's foreign policy aimed at strengthening economic, strategic, and cultural relations with Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.

## 6. Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- **Conclusion:** INS Sahyadri's visit strengthens India-Malaysia naval cooperation, demonstrates India's proactive maritime diplomacy, and enhances hydrographic and operational collaboration in Southeast Asia.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
  - **GS Paper 2:** India's foreign relations, maritime security, Act East Policy, regional cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.
  - **GS Paper 3:** Defence capability, hydrography, and maritime strategic infrastructure.
  - Provides examples for questions on **India's naval diplomacy, bilateral exercises, and regional maritime partnerships.**

## 5. National Camel Sustainability Initiative (NCSI) – Key Highlights

### 1. Background & Need for the Mission

- India has witnessed a **75% decline in camel population** since 1977, dropping from **~11 lakh (1977) → 4 lakh (2013) → 2.52 lakh (2019)** (20th Livestock Census).
- **Major camel-rearing states:** Rajasthan and Gujarat (~90% of total population).
- Decline poses threats to **pastoral communities' livelihoods, ecological sustainability of arid regions, and cultural heritage.**

### 2. Objectives of NCSI

- Reverse the decline in camel population.
- Restore **economic, ecological, and cultural significance** of camels.
- Promote sustainable pastoral practices and integrate camels into **livelihood strategies** in desert areas.
- Multi-dimensional approach: conservation, breeding, awareness, legal reforms, and market support.



### 3. Implementation & Institutional Framework

- **Lead Ministry:** Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
- **Collaborating Agencies:** Ministries of Environment, Rural Development, Tourism, and State Governments.





- **Consultation:** Draft prepared in consultation with **FAO** and circulated for public comments (Sept 2025).
- Coordination ensures **holistic planning** rather than fragmented efforts under the **National Livestock Mission**.

#### **4. Key Policy Measures Proposed**

- **Legal & Trade Reforms:**
  - Review of **Rajasthan Camel Act** to balance conservation and livelihoods.
  - Enable **regulated inter-state trade**, supported by transport infrastructure and **e-market platforms**.
- **Awareness & Education:**
  - National campaigns, integration into school textbooks and rural fairs.
  - Celebrate **World Camel Day (June 22)** to promote culture, conservation, and innovation.
- **Conservation & Breeding:** Scientific breeding, habitat protection, and incentivising camel-based livelihoods.

#### **5. Key Definitions**

- **Camel:** Domesticated desert animal, vital for transport, milk, meat, and socio-economic sustenance in arid/semi-arid regions.
- **National Livestock Mission (NLM):** Central government scheme for sustainable livestock development, includes breeding, nutrition, and entrepreneurship support.
- **Pastoral Communities:** Communities dependent on livestock herding for livelihood, especially in arid and semi-arid regions.

#### **6. Conclusion & UPSC Relevance**

- **Conclusion:** The NCSI is India's first dedicated national effort to revive camels as a desert icon, integrating conservation with economic, cultural, and ecological objectives. It emphasizes **livelihood security, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development**.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
  - **GS Paper 3:** Agriculture & Allied Sectors, Animal Husbandry, Biodiversity & Conservation, Desert Ecology.
  - **GS Paper 2:** Role of government policies, legal reforms, and multi-ministerial coordination in wildlife and livestock management.
  - Can be used as examples for questions on **species conservation, pastoral community support, and innovative livestock missions**.

### **6. Centre Urges States to Clear Forest Rights Act (FRA) Backlog**

#### **1. Background & Current Status**



- **FRA 2006:** Recognises **forest rights** of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes (STs) and traditional forest dwellers, including **individual rights** (residence, cultivation) and **community rights** (grazing, minor forest produce, forest conservation).
- As of June 2025, **51.23 lakh claims received**, **25.11 lakh titles distributed (49%)**, **7.49 lakh pending (15%)**, **18.62 lakh rejected (36%)**.
- Highest pending claims: **Telangana (3.29 lakh)**, **Odisha (1.20 lakh)**, **Assam (96,000)**, **Gujarat (84,000)**, **Maharashtra (28,000)**. Proportionally highest: Goa (87%), Himachal Pradesh (84.5%).

## 2. Issues Identified

- Delays due to fragmented implementation at **state/UT level**.
- Incomplete or delayed recognition of **Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR)** limits local stewardship over forests.
- Some regions (e.g., Assam's Dima Hasao & Karbi Anglong) have **not initiated FRA processes** despite autonomous councils.
- Modifications, partial rejections, and non-initiation of claims remain bigger challenges than outright approval.

## 3. Government Interventions

- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** urges states/UTs to **clear backlog** and review FRA implementation.
- **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA):** Launched 2024, a flagship tribal welfare scheme to strengthen FRA implementation with:
  - FRA cells for claims facilitation and mapping of potential forest areas.
  - FRA portals for monitoring progress.
  - Funding for Gram Sabhas for **Community Forest Resource Management Plans (CFRMPs)** – Rs 15,000/hectare; 1,000 plans over 2 years.
- Some states (Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh) completed potential area mapping & published FRA Atlas.



## 4. Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 244 & Fifth Schedule:** Administration & control of Scheduled Areas and Tribes.
- **Article 21:** Right to livelihood for forest-dependent communities.
- **Forest Rights Act, 2006:** Balances **tribal rights, forest conservation, and ecological protection**; implementation is **state responsibility**, MoTA as **nodal authority**.
- Supports **Gram Sabha** as local authority to determine rights and manage CFRs.

## 5. Key Definitions

- **Individual Forest Rights (IFR):** Right to live in, cultivate, and use forest land.
- **Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR):** Rights of communities to manage, conserve, and sustainably use forest resources.



- **Gram Sabha:** Village assembly of adult members empowered to protect and manage local forests under FRA.
- **DA-JGUA:** Umbrella scheme for tribal welfare integrating 17 line ministries for saturation delivery of schemes.

## 6. Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- **Conclusion:** Clearing FRA backlog is critical to **empower forest-dwelling communities**, ensure **sustainable forest management**, and strengthen **livelihood security**. Focus on CFRR, legal reforms, and effective state-level implementation is essential.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
  - **GS Paper 2:** Government policies, tribal welfare schemes, implementation of laws, Gram Sabha role.
  - **GS Paper 3:** Forest management, biodiversity, sustainable livelihoods, ecological security.
  - Current affairs value: DA-JGUA, FRA implementation issues, pending claims statistics, community forest rights, and state-level challenges.

## 7. Road to Energy Atmanirbharta – Key Highlights

### 1. Concept & Objective

- **Energy Atmanirbharta:** Term used by PM Narendra Modi aiming for **strategic autonomy in energy by 2040**, rather than complete self-sufficiency.
- **Definition:** Atmanirbharta = Self-reliance; interpreted here as **reducing dependency on external sources while maintaining economic feasibility**.
- **Goal:** Achieve **energy security**, diversify sources, and strengthen India's bargaining power in global energy markets.

### 2. Current Challenges in India's Energy Sector

- Heavy reliance on **imported fossil fuels**, especially crude oil and LNG.
- Rising domestic energy demand due to **industrialisation, urbanisation, and population growth**.
- Environmental concerns with conventional energy sources and the need to **transition to sustainable energy**.



### 3. Strategic Recommendations (As per Vikram S Mehta)

- Focus on **strategic autonomy**, not absolute self-sufficiency.
- Diversify energy mix: **renewables (solar, wind), nuclear, hydro, and domestic hydrocarbons**.
- Promote **energy efficiency and demand management** to reduce consumption pressures.
- Encourage **public-private partnerships and investments** in energy infrastructure.



- Strengthen **R&D and innovation** in sustainable and alternative energy technologies.
- Integrate **long-term sustainability goals with short-term policy pressures**, balancing political and economic imperatives.

#### **4. Constitutional & Policy Context**

- **Article 21:** Right to life includes access to energy as part of livelihood and living standards.
- **Energy Policy:** India's **National Energy Policy (NEP 2023)** focuses on energy security, sustainability, and clean energy transition.
- **International Commitments:** UN SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy; Paris Agreement – reducing carbon footprint.

#### **5. Key Definitions**

- **Strategic Autonomy:** Ability of a nation to pursue independent policies in critical sectors while maintaining global linkages.
- **Energy Security:** Continuous availability of energy at affordable prices.
- **Renewable Energy:** Energy obtained from natural processes that are replenished constantly (solar, wind, hydro, biomass).

#### **6. Conclusion & UPSC Relevance**

- **Conclusion:** Energy Atmanirbharta aims at reducing India's **vulnerability to external energy shocks**, promoting **sustainable energy growth**, and supporting **economic and strategic resilience**. Strategic autonomy is a pragmatic approach balancing energy security, economic feasibility, and sustainability.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
  - **GS Paper 2:** Policy initiatives, energy governance, and strategic autonomy.
  - **GS Paper 3:** Energy security, renewable energy, climate change, sustainable development.
  - Useful for current affairs, India's **long-term energy planning**, and questions on balancing domestic priorities with global energy challenges.
  -

### **8. Trump's 20-Point Gaza Ceasefire Plan – Key Highlights**

#### **1. Background & Context**

- Unveiled by **US President Donald Trump** ahead of the **second anniversary of Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel**.
- Aimed at achieving a **ceasefire in Gaza**, release of Israeli hostages, and restoring **normalcy for Palestinians**.
- Hamas responded **positively but sought renegotiation** on certain points; Israel has reservations, creating tension in implementation.







- Previous ceasefire attempts, e.g., January 2025, failed due to unilateral Israeli actions.

## **2. Key Provisions of the Plan**

- **Hostage Release:** Israeli hostages to be freed within **72 hours** of ceasefire.
- **Hammas:** Disarmament and potential withdrawal from Gaza.
- **Palestinian Authority (PA):** Reform under pressure; eventual governance role undefined.
- **Gaza Governance:** Technocratic committee under **International Board of Peace** headed by Trump; focus on **deradicalisation, demilitarisation**, and municipal administration.
- **International Involvement:** Deployment of an **international stabilisation force**; oversight on security and governance.
- **Israeli Obligations:** Limited clarity on ceasefire timelines, withdrawal of IDF, and territorial control; West Bank excluded.

## **3. Strategic & Political Implications**

- The plan shifts **responsibility to Palestinians/Hamas** for stopping the conflict, reducing international pressure on Israel.
- Focuses on **hostage release** rather than long-term Palestinian statehood.
- Palestinians' self-determination and governance rights are largely curtailed; control rests with **US and Israel**.
- Raises skepticism due to **lack of clear timelines, sequencing, and monitoring mechanisms**.

## **4. Controversies & Criticism**

- Viewed as **instrument of surrender** rather than a balanced ceasefire.
- Plan largely ignores **West Bank situation, Israeli settlements, and displacement of Palestinians**.
- Hamas demands **broader Palestinian consensus** for governance; plan currently favours **international/US oversight**.
- Economic components (e.g., "Riviera plan") seen as **piecemeal development** without addressing political grievances.

## **5. Key Definitions**

- **Ceasefire:** Temporary suspension of hostilities between conflicting parties.
- **Technocratic Committee:** Governance body composed of experts, not elected representatives.
- **Demilitarisation & Deradicalisation:** Removal of armed groups and extremist ideologies to restore peace.
- **International Stabilisation Force:** Multinational forces tasked with maintaining security and overseeing peace implementation.

## **6. Conclusion & UPSC Relevance**

- **Conclusion:** Trump's plan emphasizes **hostage recovery and Gaza stabilisation**, but lacks mechanisms for **long-term Palestinian governance or statehood**, leaving major issues unresolved.
- **UPSC Relevance:**



- **GS Paper 2:** International relations, US-Middle East diplomacy, role of global powers in conflict resolution.
- **GS Paper 3:** Conflict management, peacebuilding, security challenges in West Asia.
- Important for **current affairs** questions on Gaza, Israel-Palestine conflict, US foreign policy, and regional security dynamics.

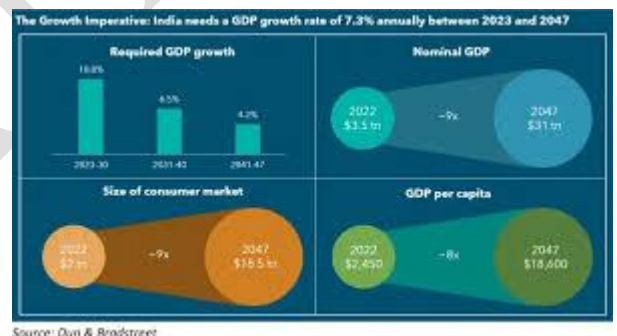
## 9. Employment Generation and India's Demographic Dividend – Key Highlights

### 1. Demographic Context & Importance

- India is the **most populous and one of the youngest countries** globally.
- Over the next 25 years, India is expected to add **~133 million to its working-age population (15–64 years)**, nearly **18% of global workforce growth**.
- The **demographic dividend** offers a short window until **worker population peaks around 2043**, making timely employment generation critical for inclusive growth.
- **Constitutional Context:** Article 41 (Right to Work as part of Directive Principles), Article 38 (promotion of social and economic welfare).

### 2. Challenges in Employment Generation

- Lack of a **unified national employment framework**; current policies are fragmented.
- **Mismatch between skills and jobs**, especially employability of graduates.
- Labour market frictions: regional disparities, gender barriers, limited mobility.
- Underutilisation of **micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** and gig economy potential.



### 3. Proposed Solutions & Policy Measures

- **Integrated National Employment Policy (INEP):** Consolidates existing schemes, aligns central and state initiatives, overseen by **Empowered Group of Secretaries**.
- Time-bound goals with focus on **high-employment-potential sectors** (textiles, tourism, agro-processing, healthcare, real estate).
- Encourage **labour mobility**, urban employment guarantee pilots, and support for migration policies.
- **Skills development** aligned with industry needs and emerging technologies (AI, robotics).
- **Gig economy policy:** Social security, worker protection, centralised registry, formalisation of jobs.

### 4. Focus on Job Quality & Inclusion

- Improve wages, workplace safety, and social security.
- Promote **female labour force participation** via incentives, childcare, eldercare, and societal awareness.



- Regional balance: interventions in underdeveloped districts, rural internships, remote work hubs.
- Affordable housing near industrial hubs to improve mobility and quality of life.

## **5. Employment Data & Governance**

- Need for **high-quality, real-time employment data** covering informal and rural sectors.
- Dedicated task forces for **data collection, methodology improvements, and timely publication**.
- Effective implementation requires coordination between **central ministries, states, and industry stakeholders**.

## **6. Conclusion & UPSC Relevance**

- **Conclusion:** Employment generation is central to leveraging India's **demographic dividend**, reducing poverty, ensuring social equity, and fostering **resilient economic growth**.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
  - **GS Paper 2:** Labour policies, governance, social justice, and gender issues.
  - **GS Paper 3:** Economic development, employment strategies, skill development, MSMEs, gig economy, demographic dividend.
  - Essential for current affairs, economic survey notes, and questions on **national employment strategies and inclusive growth**.

# **10. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in India – Key Highlights**

## **1. Multi-Hazard Context & Governance**

- India is a **multi-hazard country**, prone to cyclones, floods, landslides, forest fires, and heatwaves.
- **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** involves measures to **prevent, mitigate, prepare, respond, and reconstruct** from disasters.
- **Key institutions:**
  - **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** – overall coordination
  - **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** – policy formulation & implementation
  - **National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)** – training, research, documentation
- **Guiding framework:** Prime Minister's **Ten Point Agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction (2016)**.

## **2. Financial Planning & Public Finance Integration**

- **15th Finance Commission (2021)** allocated **₹2.28 lakh crore** for DRR over 5 years.
- Allocation breakdown:
  - **Preparedness & capacity building** – 10%
  - **Mitigation** – 20%
  - **Response** – 40%



- **Reconstruction – 30%**

- Focus on integrating **scientific mitigation methods** into public finance, avoiding duplication, and enhancing **Centre-State coordination**.

### 3. Pre-Disaster Measures & Capacity Building

- **Modernisation of fire safety** – ₹5,000 crore allocated.
- Creation of **Apda Mitra and Yuva Apda Mitra volunteer groups** (2.5 lakh each).
- Expansion of **geo-spatial labs and action-based research** at NIDM.
- Standardised disaster management curriculum across **36 streams**, targeting **mainstreaming DRR at Panchayat level**.

### 4. Mitigation Strategies & Nature-Based Solutions

- **Mitigation allocation (20%)** supports innovative, nature-based projects worth ₹10,000 crore.
- Focus on:
  - **Cyclone shelters, early warning systems, embankments** (coastal areas)
  - **Urban flood mitigation** – revitalising water bodies & green spaces
  - **Landslide prevention** – bio-engineering & slope stabilisation
  - **Forest fire prevention** – fuel evacuation & water body rejuvenation
- Past success: **National Cyclone Mitigation Programme (2011-22)** reduced vulnerability in eight coastal states.

### 5. Early Warning Systems & Community Preparedness

- **Advanced early warning systems** integrated with **Common Alerting Protocol**, providing alerts in local languages.
- Community capacity building via:
  - Mock exercises
  - School safety programmes
  - NDRF Academy and National Fire Service College trainings
- Strengthening **institutional networks** with 327 universities and institutes supporting DRR research & training.

### 6. International Coordination & Strategic Initiatives

- India leads in global DRR initiatives via:
  - **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**
  - Platforms: G20, SCO, BIMSTEC, IORA
- Focus on **learning from global best practices** and implementing **sustainable, climate-resilient solutions**.

### Conclusion & UPSC Relevance





- **Conclusion:** India is adopting a **proactive, multi-dimensional approach** to DRR, combining financial planning, scientific mitigation, capacity building, nature-based solutions, and international cooperation to enhance resilience.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
  - **GS Paper 2:** Disaster management, governance, role of institutions (NDMA, NIDM)
  - **GS Paper 3:** Climate change, environmental management, disaster preparedness, public finance for disaster mitigation
  - Important for **current affairs, case studies, and policy questions on disaster resilience and sustainable development.**

## 11. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) – Promoting Organic Farming in India

### 1. Overview and Objectives

- **PKVY (2015–25)** is part of the **National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)** aimed at promoting **organic and eco-friendly farming**.
- Objectives include:
  - Reduce chemical input dependence
  - Improve **soil health** and **environmental sustainability**
  - Enhance **farmer incomes** through market access
  - Promote **safe and nutritious food production**
- Emphasis on **cluster-based organic farming**, where farmers collectively manage 20-hectare plots to standardize practices and share resources.



### 2. Implementation Framework

- **Eligibility:** All farmers/institutions, with landholding limit up to **2 hectares**.
- **Process:**
  1. Farmers apply through **Regional Councils**
  2. Annual Action Plan compiled and approved by **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**
  3. Funds released via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**
- Ensures **transparency, accountability, and timely support** covering inputs, training, certification, and marketing.

### 3. Financial Support and Incentives

- Farmers receive **₹31,500 per hectare** for three years, distributed as:
  - On-farm/off-farm inputs: ₹15,000



- Marketing, branding & packaging: ₹4,500
- Certification & residue analysis: ₹3,000
- Training & capacity building: ₹9,000
- Encourages adoption of **organic techniques, certification, and market linkages.**

#### 4. Organic Certification Systems

- **Third-Party Certification (NPOP):** Internationally recognized, facilitates exports.
- **Participatory Guarantee System (PGS-India):** Community-based, affordable, mainly for domestic market.
- **Large Area Certification (LAC):** Fast-tracks certification in chemical-free regions (tribal belts, islands), reducing conversion period and improving income.

#### 5. Achievements and Digital Initiatives

- **Land & farmers covered:** ~15 lakh hectares, 52,289 clusters, 25.3 lakh farmers benefited.
- **Jaivik Kheti Portal:** Connects farmers directly with buyers, suppliers, and local groups for efficient market access.
- **State Highlights:**
  - **Sikkim** – 100% organic under LAC
  - **Lakshadweep, Car Nicobar, Nancowry Islands** – Entire cultivable land certified organic
- Integration with **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)** promotes eco-friendly practices nationally.

#### 6. Key Benefits and Broader Impact

- Reduces **input costs**, improves **soil fertility** and **food safety**.
- Strengthens **rural incomes** and entrepreneurship.
- Promotes **climate resilience** and **environmental conservation**.
- Provides **domestic and international market opportunities**, enhancing India's **organic farming credibility**.

#### Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- **Conclusion:** PKVY demonstrates how traditional agricultural practices can be scaled using clusters, modern certification systems, and digital platforms. It supports sustainable, inclusive, and profitable agriculture while contributing to environmental sustainability.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
  - **GS Paper 2:** Schemes for agriculture & farmer welfare, institutional mechanisms
  - **GS Paper 3:** Sustainable agriculture, organic farming, climate-resilient practices
  - **Current affairs & case studies:** Atmanirbhar Bharat, Digital India initiatives, rural entrepreneurship, eco-friendly practices



## 12. Cooperative Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plant – Kopargaon, Maharashtra

### 1. Overview and Significance

- **Event:** Inauguration of India's first **cooperative multi-feed Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant** at Maharshi Shankarrao Kolhe Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, Kopargaon, Maharashtra.
- **Significance:** First-of-its-kind initiative in India's **cooperative sugar mills**, producing **12 tons of CBG daily** and **75 tons of potash from jaggery/molasses**, reducing imports and enhancing self-reliance.
- Promotes the **circular economy** in sugar factories, integrating waste-to-energy and value addition.

### 2. Government Support and Expansion Plans

- **NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation)** will assist **15 selected sugar mills** to establish similar CBG and potash units.
- Encourages diversification: sugar mills are also urged to undertake **fruit processing** to enhance profitability and promote cultivation.
- Supports India's broader **energy transition** and **sustainable agriculture** initiatives.

### 3. Policy Initiatives Benefiting Farmers

- **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses:** ₹11,440 crore investment for 1,000 pulse processing units and distribution of 88 lakh high-quality seed kits.
- **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** increase for pulses and cereals:
  - Masoor ₹300/quintal, Mustard ₹250, Gram ₹225, Barley ₹175, Wheat ₹160
  - Historical increases under PM Modi: e.g., Tur/arhar doubled, Moong doubled, Soybean & Cotton doubled.
- **GST Reduction to 5%** on agricultural machinery, organic pesticides, and inputs, promoting affordability and productivity.



### 4. Economic and Environmental Impact

- **CBG and potash production** reduces India's dependency on imports.
- Demonstrates **circular economy principles** by converting by-products of sugar production into energy and fertilizer.
- Encourages **green energy**, rural employment, women empowerment, and sustainable industrial practices.
- Example of multidimensional ethanol and renewable energy initiatives.

### 5. Role of Cooperatives and Rural Economy

- Cooperative sugar factories, originating in Maharashtra, are **revitalized as pillars of rural economy**.
- Ministry of Cooperation's creation strengthens **rural entrepreneurship, self-help groups, and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)**.



- Integration of cooperatives, agro-processing, energy, and education contributes to **inclusive rural development**.

## 6. Broader Vision and Strategic Importance

- PM Modi's push for **self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat)** and adoption of **indigenous products** aligns with this initiative.
- Strengthens India's position in renewable energy, agricultural sustainability, and cooperative sector development.
- Contributes to India's goal of becoming a **top global economy** through local production, rural empowerment, and import substitution.

## Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- **Conclusion:** The cooperative CBG plant at Kopargaon exemplifies the **integration of renewable energy, circular economy, and cooperative models** to achieve self-reliance, rural development, and sustainable industrial practices.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
  - **GS Paper 2:** Government schemes for farmers, cooperatives, rural development, energy policy.
  - **GS Paper 3:** Renewable energy, circular economy, sustainable agriculture, import substitution, energy security.
  - **Current Affairs:** Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, swadeshi promotion, GST reforms, MSME & cooperative sector case studies.

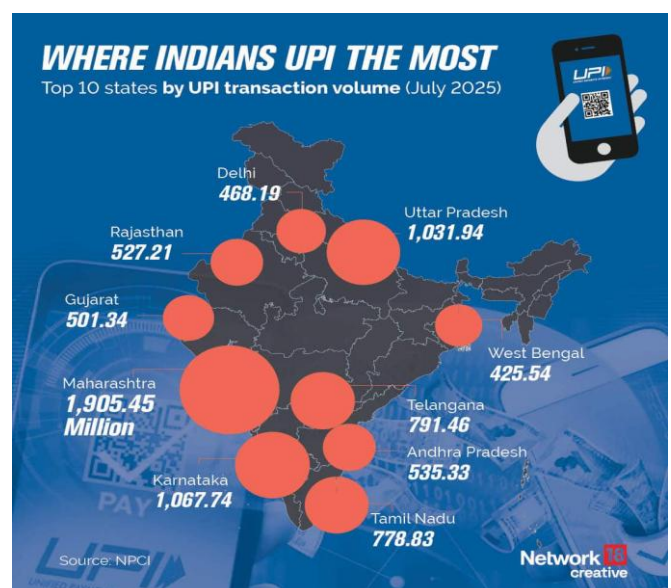
## 13. UPI Transaction Intensity Across Indian States

### 1. Overview of UPI Usage

- **Definition:** **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** is an instant real-time payment system developed by NPCI for transferring money between bank accounts via mobile platforms.
- **Key Insight:** Telangana records the **highest per capita UPI transaction intensity** among all Indian states, followed by Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, and Maharashtra.
- **Data Source:** RBI paper uses **PhonePe transaction data** as a proxy (PhonePe accounts for 58% of total UPI volume and 53% of total transaction value).

### 2. Impact on Cash Demand

- Rise in UPI usage is **reducing cash demand** in the economy.
- Evidence: **Decline in ATM withdrawals** as a percentage of GDP.







- Shift is more pronounced in **low-value, everyday transactions** (peer-to-merchant or P2M), especially below ₹500 per transaction.

### 3. Regional Trends and Factors

- **High UPI intensity:** Southern and western states, and Delhi, due to urban centers, economic hubs, and high employment-driven migration.
- **High cash withdrawal intensity:** Northeastern states, Kerala, Goa, and Delhi, influenced by tourism, service-sector cash usage, remittances, rural cash dependence, and limited digital infrastructure.

### 4. Economic Implications

- UPI is promoting **digital payments adoption**, financial inclusion, and formalization of the economy.
- Low-value transactions through UPI support **everyday commerce** and reduce dependency on cash handling costs.
- Facilitates **real-time, safe, and traceable transactions**, strengthening digital payment ecosystems.

### 5. Policy and Regulatory Relevance

- **RBI and Government:** UPI is a key tool under **Digital India and cashless economy initiatives**.
- Encourages **financial literacy, inclusion, and technology-driven governance**.
- Legal Framework: Governed under **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**, which provides regulatory oversight to NPCI and digital payment systems.

### 6. Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- **Conclusion:** UPI has emerged as a **catalyst for digital payments**, transforming India's payment landscape, especially in urbanized and economically active states. Cash dependence is declining, promoting transparency and financial inclusion.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
  - **GS Paper 2:** Role of digital payments, financial inclusion, and government policies for tech adoption.
  - **GS Paper 3:** Banking reforms, digital economy, fintech developments, and economic modernization.
  - **Current Affairs:** UPI adoption trends, regional disparities, impact on cash circulation, and the push towards a **cashless economy**.

## 14. Strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in India

### 1. Current Challenges in India's Justice System

- **Case Backlog:** As per National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), **total pending cases** in India = **4.57 crore**; Supreme Court: 81,768; High Courts: ~62.9 lakh.
- **Vacancy & Workload:** High Courts and district courts face **33% and 21% vacancy rates**, with some judges handling over **4,000 cases**.



- **Consequences:** Delays result in **injustice, social discontent**, and highlight the need for **efficient dispute resolution mechanisms**.

## **2. Definition & Constitutional Basis of ADR**

- **Definition:** **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)** refers to processes like **arbitration, mediation, conciliation, and Lok Adalats** aimed at resolving disputes **outside traditional court litigation**.
- **Constitutional Provision:** **Article 39A** mandates the State to provide **equal justice and free legal aid**.
- **Legal Framework:**
  - **Section 89, Civil Procedure Code (CPC) 1908** – Encourages settlement through ADR.
  - **Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 (Amended 2021)** – Provides binding arbitration awards and mandates **resolution within 180 days**.
  - **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987** – Governs Lok Adalats, Permanent, National, and e-Lok Adalats.

## **3. Key ADR Mechanisms in India**

- **Mediation & Conciliation:** Parties negotiate solutions with guidance of mediators; pre-litigation mediation **reduces court burden**.
- **Lok Adalats:** Fast-track dispute resolution with **final decisions and no appeal**; first Lok Adalat held in Gujarat in 1999.
- **Arbitration:** Legally binding resolution, especially for commercial and compoundable civil disputes.
- **Participatory Features:** ADR mechanisms focus on **social inclusivity, consensus, and maintaining interpersonal relationships**, inspired by **Panch Parmeshwar doctrine**.



## **4. Benefits of ADR**

- Reduces **court pendency and delays**, allowing faster justice.
- Promotes **cost-effective, socially inclusive, and culturally aligned dispute resolution**.
- Strengthens **interpersonal and community-level relationships**.
- Addresses **inter-State disparities** in justice delivery.

## **5. Challenges in Implementation**

- Lack of **awareness** about ADR mechanisms among citizens.
- Disparities in **court infrastructure, judge availability, and adoption of ADR across states**.
- High pendency in states like **Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, and Kerala**, requiring urgent intervention.

## **6. Conclusion & UPSC Relevance**



- **Conclusion:** Strengthening ADR mechanisms is crucial to **enhance access to justice, reduce delays, and modernize India's legal system**. By combining mediation, Lok Adalats, and arbitration, India can ensure **faster, fair, and socially inclusive justice**, aligned with constitutional principles.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
  - **GS Paper 2:** Legal reforms, judicial system, access to justice, and constitutional provisions (Article 39A).
  - **GS Paper 3:** Institutional reforms, efficiency of public services, and governance.
  - **Current Affairs:** Case pendency, ADR initiatives, and India Justice Report 2025.

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