



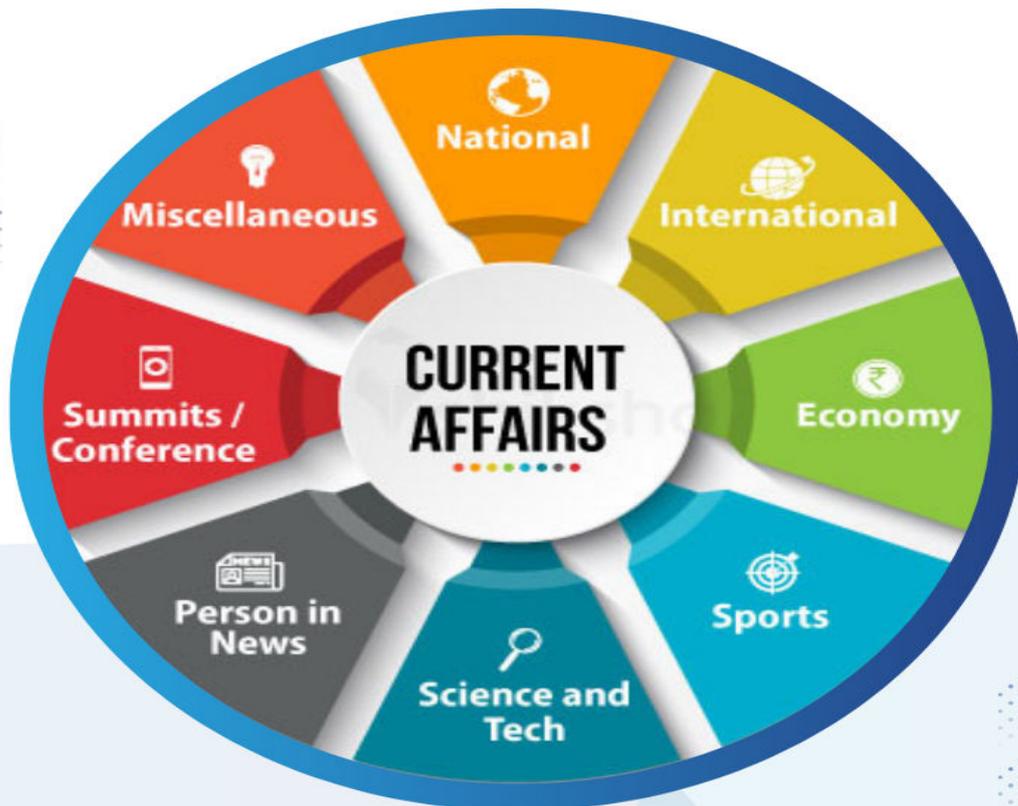
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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 11/10/2025 (SATURDAY)



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1. Arunachal Pradesh – From Periphery to the Pulsating Heart of India’s Growth Story

1. Transformation of Arunachal Pradesh

- Arunachal Pradesh, once seen as a remote frontier, has emerged as a crucial contributor to India’s national development under the vision of *Viksit Bharat (Developed India)*.
- The State has witnessed accelerated progress in infrastructure, education, tourism, and local entrepreneurship, integrating it more firmly into India’s economic and strategic framework.
- The Prime Minister emphasized that for the first time, the *Northeast is not the periphery but the heart of India’s growth story*.

2. Infrastructure and Connectivity Revolution

- Major development in *air, road, and digital connectivity* has reduced isolation and improved access to markets and services.
- Establishment of new airports (such as the Donyi Polo Airport, Itanagar) and advanced road networks under *PM Gati Shakti* and *Bharatmala* initiatives have boosted regional mobility.
- Enhanced cross-border connectivity supports India’s *Act East Policy*, strengthening trade and cultural linkages with Southeast Asia.



3. Empowerment through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Local Governance

- The expansion of *Self-Help Groups (SHGs)* has empowered women economically and socially, contributing to rural development and social inclusivity.
- Decentralized governance through *Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)* and community-based planning has improved local participation in decision-making.
- Initiatives like *Mission Shakti* and *Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana* strengthen grassroots economic resilience.

4. Cultural Identity, Tourism, and Creativity

- Arunachal Pradesh’s rich cultural diversity and heritage are being leveraged for sustainable tourism, handicrafts, and creative industries.
- Promotion of indigenous art forms, festivals, and eco-tourism aligns with the concept of *Atmanirbhar Bharat* by generating local livelihoods.
- The integration of traditional knowledge systems with modern innovation is shaping a unique model of cultural-economic synergy.

5. Strategic and Environmental Significance

- Arunachal Pradesh’s location along the India-China border makes it vital to India’s *national security and strategic planning*.
- Ecologically, the state contributes to India’s environmental goals through forest conservation, renewable energy, and sustainable livelihood programs.



- The government emphasizes a *balance between development and ecological preservation*, ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth.

6. Constitutional and Policy Framework

- As a *Special Category State*, Arunachal Pradesh benefits from higher central assistance under Article 275 of the Constitution.
- Article 371H grants the Governor special responsibility for law and order in the state.
- The *North Eastern Council (NEC)* and *Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)* coordinate development planning and implementation in the region.

Conclusion

Arunachal Pradesh's transformation reflects India's inclusive development model—one that integrates border regions into the national mainstream while preserving cultural and ecological diversity. The state now symbolizes connectivity, creativity, and collective progress, embodying the true spirit of *Viksit Bharat*.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 1:** Regional development, cultural diversity of India.
- **GS Paper 2:** Governance, Centre-State relations, constitutional provisions (Article 371H).
- **GS Paper 3:** Infrastructure, inclusive growth, and sustainable development.
- **Essay/Interview:** “From Periphery to Powerhouse: The Northeast in India’s Development Story.”

2. India to Upgrade Its Kabul Mission to Embassy – Renewed Engagement with Afghanistan

1. Background and Context

- India announced the **upgradation of its “technical mission” in Kabul to a full-fledged Embassy**, signaling a gradual re-engagement with Afghanistan under the Taliban administration.
- The move was declared by **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** during his meeting with **Afghanistan’s Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi** in New Delhi.
- India had **closed its embassy in 2021** following the Taliban’s takeover after U.S.-led forces withdrew from Afghanistan.

2. Strategic and Diplomatic Significance

- The decision reflects India’s pragmatic approach toward maintaining **diplomatic presence and influence in Afghanistan**, despite not officially recognizing the Taliban regime.
- The **embassy upgrade** is aimed at facilitating humanitarian assistance, development projects, and consular services for Afghan citizens.
- It also underscores India’s strategic intent to remain a **relevant regional player in Afghanistan’s reconstruction and political processes**, balancing engagement with caution.



3. Key Concerns Raised by India



- **Forced Repatriation of Afghan Refugees by Pakistan:** India expressed concern over the forced deportation of Afghan refugees, emphasizing the need for humanitarian sensitivity.
- **Cross-border Terrorism:** Both nations identified terrorism emanating from across borders as a *common challenge*, highlighting the importance of coordinated regional counterterrorism strategies.
- **Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity:** India reaffirmed its commitment to Afghanistan's **sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence**, aligning with international principles of non-interference.

4. Legal and Constitutional Framework

- The move aligns with India's **Foreign Policy Doctrine** under **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution**, which directs the State to promote international peace, justice, and respect for sovereignty.
- It also falls within the **Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961)**, which governs the establishment, privileges, and functions of embassies and diplomatic missions.
- The step strengthens India's **South Asia Policy** and supports regional stability under the broader framework of **SAARC** and **United Nations Charter obligations**.

5. India's Developmental and Humanitarian Role in Afghanistan

- India remains one of Afghanistan's largest regional donors, having contributed over **\$3 billion** in aid, including infrastructure projects like the **Zaranj–Delaram Highway**, **Afghan Parliament Building**, and **Salma Dam (India–Afghanistan Friendship Dam)**.
- India continues to provide **food and medical assistance**, scholarships for Afghan students, and supports **women's education and empowerment programs**.
- The embassy upgrade enhances coordination of these projects and ensures continued people-to-people ties despite political uncertainties.

6. Regional and Geopolitical Implications

- India's diplomatic return contrasts with Pakistan's diminishing influence due to refugee and terror-related issues.
- The move also balances China's growing engagement in Afghanistan through the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**.
- By engaging with the Taliban cautiously, India seeks to secure its strategic interests, particularly in **counterterrorism cooperation and regional connectivity projects** such as the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** and **Chabahar Port**.

Conclusion

India's decision to upgrade its Kabul mission to an embassy signifies a calibrated yet confident step in re-establishing diplomatic and developmental engagement with Afghanistan. It balances humanitarian responsibility, regional security, and strategic foresight. The approach underlines India's role as a responsible regional power advocating stability, sovereignty, and inclusive development in its neighborhood.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2:** India's foreign policy, international relations, and neighborhood diplomacy; India–Afghanistan relations; Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.



- **GS Paper 3:** Internal and external security challenges, terrorism, and regional stability.
- **Essay/Interview:** “India’s Return to Kabul: Balancing Realpolitik with Regional Responsibility.”

3. Ceasefire Between Israel and Hamas – Towards a Fragile Pause in the Gaza Conflict

1. Background and Context

- A **ceasefire between Israel and Hamas** came into effect in Gaza, marking a temporary halt to months of intense conflict.
- The agreement was approved by Israel’s Cabinet and involves a **pause in fighting** alongside a **hostage-prisoner exchange deal**.
- Israeli forces withdrew to **pre-agreed deployment lines** as part of the first phase of the ceasefire implementation.

2. Key Provisions of the Ceasefire Agreement

- Under the deal, **48 hostages** held by Hamas are to be released in exchange for approximately **2,000 Palestinian prisoners** held in Israeli jails.
- The ceasefire aims to enable humanitarian aid delivery, medical assistance, and limited civilian movement within Gaza.
- The ceasefire came after heavy shelling on Friday morning but was followed by a notable reduction in hostilities, allowing civilians to move northward from Wadi Gaza.



3. Statements and Future Outlook

- Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** reaffirmed that Israel’s broader objectives remain the **disarmament of Hamas** and the **demilitarisation of Gaza**.
- He emphasized that this would be achieved “either the easy way or the hard way,” suggesting the truce is temporary and conditional on progress in negotiations.
- Hamas has not publicly committed to permanent disarmament, making the ceasefire fragile and potentially short-lived.

4. Legal and Humanitarian Dimensions

- The ceasefire aligns with **international humanitarian law (IHL)** principles under the **Geneva Conventions (1949)**, particularly those related to the protection of civilians and prisoners during armed conflicts.
- The **exchange of prisoners and hostages** falls within the legal purview of **customary international humanitarian norms** on treatment of detainees.
- Humanitarian agencies, including the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)** and the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, are expected to play key roles in ensuring aid delivery and monitoring compliance.

5. Regional and Global Implications



- The ceasefire may de-escalate immediate tensions but does not resolve underlying issues of **sovereignty, security, and territorial claims** between Israel and Hamas.
- Regional powers such as **Egypt and Qatar** played mediatory roles, reflecting the importance of regional diplomacy in Middle Eastern conflict resolution.
- The development also affects global geopolitics, especially U.S. and EU positions on the Israel–Palestine issue, and could influence future **peace process negotiations**.

6. Constitutional and Diplomatic Relevance for India

- India consistently supports a **two-state solution**, calling for peaceful coexistence of Israel and Palestine based on mutual recognition and sovereignty, in line with UN **resolutions**.
- Article 51 of the **Indian Constitution** directs the State to promote international peace and respect for international law, aligning India’s stance with global diplomatic norms.
- India has humanitarian interests in the region, including protection of diaspora workers and maintaining stability for energy security and trade.

Conclusion

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas marks a crucial yet delicate pause in one of the world’s most protracted conflicts. While it offers immediate humanitarian relief, the long-term peace prospects hinge on resolving fundamental political issues, ensuring mutual trust, and maintaining international mediation efforts. Sustainable peace will require addressing both security concerns and the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2:** International Relations – India’s foreign policy; West Asia; UN and peacekeeping; Geneva Conventions.
- **GS Paper 3:** Internal and external security; global terrorism and conflict management.
- **Essay/Interview:** “Ceasefires as Instruments of Fragile Peace: Lessons from the Israel–Hamas Conflict.”

4. India’s Demographic Mission – The Need for a Holistic and Human-Centric Approach

1. Background and Context

- The announcement of a **Demographic Mission** on *August 15, 2025*, has sparked debate due to its initial focus on monitoring *undocumented immigration from Bangladesh* and its demographic implications in border regions.
- Experts argue that India, now the **world’s most populous nation**, stands at a *demographic crossroads* — with the potential to harness its youth population as a demographic dividend or face demographic stress if unplanned.
- The mission should not be limited to population monitoring but should evolve into a **comprehensive demographic strategy** addressing fertility, mortality, migration, and human capability development.

2. The Need for a Broader Demographic Framework



- Traditionally, demography has focused on three components — **fertility, mortality, and migration**. However, modern demographic planning must integrate *education, health, livelihood, and capability development*.
- A **holistic demography mission** must analyze demographic transitions over the past two decades, assess regional disparities, and link population characteristics with social infrastructure and governance needs.
- India's **demographic diversity**—youthful population in some regions and ageing populations in others—requires targeted regional policies.

3. Migration and the Politics of Belonging

- Migration has emerged as the **major population balancer** within India, yet it remains politically contentious.
- Despite the **constitutional guarantee of free movement (Article 19(1)(d) and (e))**, migrant workers often face social exclusion and disenfranchisement.
- The *Representation of the People Act, 1951* and domicile-based voting systems create complexities in ensuring voting rights for migrants — as they may be denied recognition as “usual residents” in both home and host states.
- A comprehensive demographic mission must address **migrant rights**, ensure political inclusion, and encourage equal access to social services in host regions.



4. Ageing, Longevity, and Social Security

- With **increasing longevity**, India must redefine “**productive years of life**” to include older citizens who remain economically active and socially engaged.
- The traditional approach of state-sponsored social security needs to evolve into a **shared model** involving individuals, employers, and the government.
- Programs like the **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** and **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** need expansion to cover the informal workforce and aging populations.
- Policy must align with **Directive Principles of State Policy (Articles 41 and 47)**, emphasizing public health and security in old age.

5. Policy and Planning Implications

- Demographic data should guide **resource allocation, planning, and development priorities**, moving beyond the traditional *per capita* approach.
- The mission should integrate demographic awareness into **mainstream policy discourse**—covering inclusion, urbanization, health, education, and employment.
- Recognizing demographic shifts in real time will help India build resilient systems to manage challenges like regional imbalance, labour migration, ageing, and youth unemployment.



- This approach resonates with **SDG Goals 3, 4, 8, and 10**—focusing on health, education, decent work, and reduced inequalities.

6. Legal and Institutional Framework

- **Census Act, 1948** provides the legislative basis for collecting demographic data in India, but its periodicity and limited scope necessitate modernization.
- The **National Commission on Population (NCP)** under the *Ministry of Health and Family Welfare* can anchor the proposed Demographic Mission.
- Coordination with institutions like **NITI Aayog, Ministry of Labour, and Ministry of Education** will be essential for inter-sectoral demographic governance.

Conclusion

India's demographic journey is not merely about counting people but about **empowering people**. A true **Demography Mission** should integrate migration policy, ageing frameworks, skill development, and regional equity to convert demographic potential into sustainable development. The mission must treat population not as a challenge, but as an opportunity for building human capital, inclusion, and social harmony in line with India's constitutional vision.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 1:** Population and associated issues, demographic dividend, migration trends.
- **GS Paper 2:** Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections, issues related to governance and social justice, constitutional provisions on mobility and rights.
- **GS Paper 3:** Employment, inclusive growth, and human resource development.
- **Essay/Interview:** "Demography as Destiny: Towards a Human-Centric Population Policy for India's Future."

5. Taliban Assures Afghanistan Will Not Be Used for Terrorism – Implications for India and the Region

1. Background and Context

- **Amir Khan Muttaqi**, the *Foreign Minister of the Taliban administration*, during his official visit to India, declared that **Afghanistan's territory will not be used to threaten or attack any country**.
- This marks a significant diplomatic interaction, as he is the **first senior Taliban leader to be hosted by India** since the group's return to power in 2021.
- The statement comes amid regional security concerns over terrorist groups like **Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)** and **Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)**, previously reported to have operated from Afghan soil.



2. Security and Counter-Terrorism Assurances

- Muttaqi asserted that under Taliban rule, **terror outfits from Pakistan** that earlier used Afghan territory for training or launching attacks have been **expelled**.



- He ruled out **joint military operations** with India, claiming that no active terror groups operate within Afghanistan currently.
- The Taliban agreed to **cooperate with India against narcotics trafficking**, acknowledging the dual threat of drug abuse and smuggling to regional stability.
- This assurance ties into **UN Security Council Resolution 2593 (2021)**, which demands that Afghan soil must not be used to shelter, finance, or plan terrorist acts against any country.

3. Trade and Connectivity Proposals

- Muttaqi proposed stronger **India–Afghanistan trade ties** via the **Wagah border** (through Pakistan) for economic viability and reduced logistics cost.
- He also highlighted the need to overcome **U.S. sanctions on Iran’s Chabahar Port**, which India and Afghanistan use as an alternative trade route.
- Currently, **India-Afghanistan trade exceeds \$1 billion annually**, but connectivity bottlenecks limit potential growth.
- The statements emphasize Afghanistan’s role in **regional connectivity and economic diplomacy**, aligning with India’s “**Connect Central Asia**” and “**Act East**” policies.

4. Gender Rights and Humanitarian Concerns

- The press conference drew criticism for **excluding women journalists**, reflecting continuing restrictions on women under Taliban governance.
- Muttaqi dismissed international criticism on women’s rights as “**propaganda**”, claiming improvement in women’s conditions — a claim contradicted by multiple UN and human rights reports.
- The Taliban’s stance conflicts with international legal frameworks such as the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**, to which Afghanistan remains a party.
- The issue of **gender apartheid** continues to be a major diplomatic and humanitarian barrier to Taliban’s global recognition.

5. Sovereignty and Political Legitimacy Issues

- Muttaqi reaffirmed that Afghanistan would not permit the **return of U.S. troops or control over the Bagram Airbase**, emphasizing the Taliban’s stance on **national sovereignty and independence**.
- A symbolic tussle occurred at the Afghan embassy in New Delhi, where officials loyal to the former **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** objected to the **Taliban flag’s display**, illustrating the **continuing diplomatic legitimacy conflict**.
- Internationally, most nations, including India, **have not formally recognized the Taliban regime**, maintaining engagement through functional and humanitarian channels.

6. Constitutional and Legal Context

- India’s engagement aligns with the **Constitutional Directive under Article 51**, promoting international peace, respect for sovereignty, and friendly relations among nations.
- Counter-terrorism cooperation aligns with India’s **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967** and its obligations under **UNSCR 1373 (2001)** to prevent financing and sheltering of terrorists.



- The dialogue also touches on **international law principles of sovereignty and non-interference** as enshrined in the **UN Charter**.

Conclusion

The Taliban's assurances against the use of Afghan soil for terrorism and its outreach to India represent a cautious step toward regional stabilization. However, skepticism persists due to past precedents, unresolved issues on human rights, and the Taliban's lack of international legitimacy. For India, engagement with the Taliban remains a **strategic necessity rather than endorsement**, focusing on counterterrorism, connectivity, and humanitarian interests, while upholding its long-standing support for an inclusive and sovereign Afghanistan.

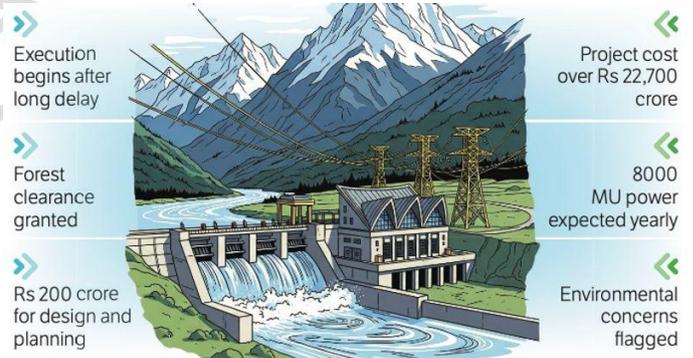
UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2:** India's foreign policy, India–Afghanistan relations, regional security, and UN resolutions on terrorism.
- **GS Paper 3:** Internal and external security challenges, terrorism, and narcotics trafficking.
- **International Relations Essay/Interview:** "Engaging the Taliban: India's Realpolitik in a Changing Afghan Landscape."

6. Sawalkote Hydropower Project on Chenab Gets Environmental Clearance – Strategic and Environmental Significance

1. Background and Context

- The **Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project (HEP)**, located on the **Chenab River** in the Ramban district of Jammu & Kashmir, has received a **fresh environmental clearance** from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- This marks the **first major hydropower project on the Indus river system** to be approved after India **suspended the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** with Pakistan on *April 23, 2025*, following the Pahalgam terror attack.
- Initially accorded clearance in 2017 under the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPDC), it was later transferred to **NHPC Ltd.** in 2021, which now oversees its execution till 2061.



2. Project Details and Features

- The Sawalkote project is a **run-of-the-river hydropower project**, meaning it will generate power without creating a large storage dam, thus minimizing submergence and displacement.
- It will have an **installed capacity of 1,856 MW** and is expected to generate about **8,000 million units of electricity annually**.
- With a revised cost of **₹31,380 crore** (up from ₹22,000 crore), the project will be the **largest of its kind** in the Chenab basin.
- It is a part of India's broader push to harness the full hydropower potential of the Indus system's eastern tributaries, in line with post-IWT policy objectives.



3. Environmental and Legal Clearances

- The project received **Stage I forest clearance** in 2023 under the **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**, after delays caused by procedural and land use issues.
- **Public hearings** were held between *December 2022 and February 2023*, in compliance with the **Forest Rights Act, 2006**, ensuring local participation and recognition of tribal and community rights.
- The project was evaluated and recommended by the **Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC)** of the MoEFCC in its meeting on *September 26, 2025*, after detailed deliberations.
- It also secured necessary approvals from the **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)** and the **Central Water Commission (CWC)** in July 2025.

4. Strategic and Geopolitical Significance

- The Chenab River is one of the **western rivers under the Indus Waters Treaty (1960)**, whose waters were allocated primarily to Pakistan.
- Following the **suspension of the IWT**, India is pursuing projects to **utilize its full share of water** within the legal framework of international water laws.
- Hydropower projects like Sawalkote strengthen India's **strategic leverage** over transboundary river systems and enhance **energy security** in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The project is also significant for **border development**, employment generation, and infrastructure strengthening in a sensitive region.

5. Environmental and Socioeconomic Implications

- As a run-of-the-river project, Sawalkote has **lower ecological disruption** compared to reservoir-based projects, though it still requires careful management of **aquatic ecology and sediment flow**.
- It will contribute significantly to **renewable energy generation**, aligning with India's **National Hydropower Policy** and **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** under the Paris Agreement.
- The project is expected to create **local employment**, improve connectivity, and promote industrial development in Jammu & Kashmir.
- However, environmentalists caution that large hydropower projects in the Himalayan region must incorporate **climate resilience and disaster risk management**, given the area's seismic vulnerability.

6. Constitutional and Policy Framework

- The project aligns with **Article 48A of the Indian Constitution**, which directs the State to protect and improve the environment.
- It also adheres to **Article 51(c)**, promoting respect for international law, especially in the context of transboundary water management.
- Policy-wise, it is part of India's broader **energy diversification strategy** under the **National Electricity Policy (2021)** and the **Hydro Power Policy (2018)**.
- The environmental clearance process follows the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006** under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.



Conclusion

The Sawalkote Hydropower Project marks a crucial step in India's pursuit of sustainable energy and strategic self-reliance in the Indus Basin. Beyond its power generation capacity, it symbolizes India's assertive yet lawful approach to water utilization post-IWT suspension. While it promises economic growth and regional stability, balanced environmental management and community participation remain essential to ensure its long-term success.

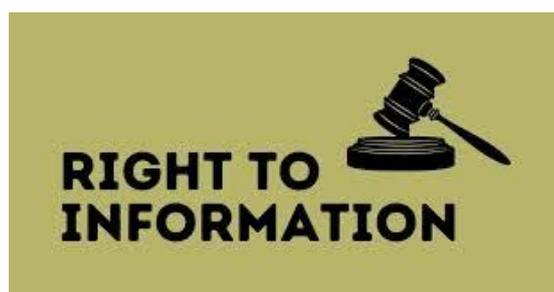
UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 1:** Geography – Distribution of key natural resources, water management in the Himalayas.
- **GS Paper 2:** India–Pakistan relations, Indus Waters Treaty, international laws on transboundary rivers.
- **GS Paper 3:** Environment and Ecology (EIA process, Forest Rights Act, climate resilience), Energy security and sustainable development.
- **Essay/Interview:** “Harnessing the Himalayan Rivers: Balancing Energy Security and Ecological Sustainability.”

7. 20 Years of the Right to Information Act (RTI), 2005 – Declining Transparency and Institutional Paralysis in Information Commissions

1. Background and Context

- As India approaches the **20th anniversary of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005**, a recent report by **Satark Nagrik Sangathan (SNS)** highlights a serious institutional crisis in the functioning of **State Information Commissions (SICs)** and the **Central Information Commission (CIC)**.
- The report reveals that **six State-level Commissions** — *Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Goa, Tripura, and Madhya Pradesh* — were **defunct** between *July 2024 and October 2025* due to the **non-appointment of Commissioners**.
- The RTI Act was enacted to ensure **transparency and accountability in governance**, empowering citizens to seek information from public authorities. However, the absence of functioning Commissions undermines this core democratic right.



2. Alarming Institutional Gaps and Backlogs

- The SNS report notes that **over 2.4 lakh RTI appeals** were pending across India in 2024, while **Commissions disposed of only 1.8 lakh cases annually**, indicating a growing backlog.
- The **CIC currently operates with only two Information Commissioners**, with **nine vacancies**, including that of the **Chief Information Commissioner**.
- In several States, hearings take **years to be scheduled** — the **Telangana SIC** is projected to take **29 years and 2 months** to clear its backlog at the current disposal rate.
- States like **Maharashtra (95,340)**, **Karnataka (47,825)**, and **Tamil Nadu (41,059)** have the **highest number of pending cases**, severely delaying access to justice and transparency.

3. Constitutional and Legal Framework



- The **Right to Information Act, 2005** operationalizes the **citizens' fundamental right to know**, derived from **Article 19(1)(a)** of the Constitution (Freedom of Speech and Expression).
- Under **Sections 12 and 15** of the RTI Act, the **CIC and SICs** must be constituted with a **Chief Information Commissioner** and up to **ten Information Commissioners**, ensuring adequate capacity.
- Failure to appoint Commissioners violates the **spirit of the RTI Act** and amounts to **dereliction of constitutional duty** under **Article 256**, which mandates compliance with parliamentary laws by State governments.
- The **Supreme Court**, in *Anjali Bhardwaj vs. Union of India (2019)*, directed the Centre and States to ensure timely appointments to prevent information denial and safeguard transparency.

4. Impact on Governance and Citizen Empowerment

- Non-functional Commissions undermine **citizens' right to accountability**, leaving RTI applicants with no mechanism to appeal against denial or delay of information.
- The growing backlog disincentivizes citizens from filing RTIs, eroding **public trust** and weakening the **culture of participatory democracy**.
- In some States, **vacant posts and resource shortages** have turned Commissions into symbolic institutions rather than operational watchdogs.
- The inefficiency also compromises **governance reforms**, as departments face less scrutiny and less pressure to maintain transparency in decision-making.

5. Challenges and the Way Forward

- The major challenges include **vacancies in Commissions, inadequate budgetary allocations, lack of digitization, and political interference** in appointments.
- The government should ensure **timely appointments** through an **independent and transparent selection process**, as mandated by the RTI Act.
- **Digitization of RTI processes**, proactive disclosure of data under **Section 4 of the RTI Act**, and **strengthening e-governance platforms** can reduce dependency on appeals.
- Parliamentary and judicial oversight must ensure that the RTI framework remains functional, accessible, and citizen-oriented.

6. Importance of RTI in Democratic Governance

- The RTI Act has been instrumental in **exposing corruption, promoting good governance, and empowering citizens** over the past two decades.
- It is closely linked with the **Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 38 and 39A)**, which call for transparent and equitable governance.
- A strong RTI framework complements other accountability mechanisms like the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013)** and **Whistle Blowers Protection Act (2014)**.

Conclusion

The defunct and underperforming Information Commissions represent a serious threat to the transparency regime envisioned by the RTI Act. As India marks 20 years of this landmark legislation, the need for **institutional revitalization, proactive transparency, and accountability in governance** is paramount.



Ensuring fully staffed and efficient Commissions is not merely administrative—it is essential for safeguarding **citizens' democratic right to information** and restoring trust in public institutions.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2:** Governance, transparency and accountability, RTI Act, functioning of statutory bodies, citizens' charters.
- **GS Paper 4 (Ethics):** Accountability, integrity in public service, and right to information as an ethical governance tool.
- **Essay/Interview:** "Transparency and Accountability: Two Decades of India's Right to Information Regime."

8. Surge in Microfinance Loan Defaults in 2024–25 – Trends, Causes, and Policy Implications

1. Background and Context

- The **Bharat Microfinance Report 2025** released by **Sa-Dhan**, the self-regulatory organization (SRO) for the microfinance sector, highlights a sharp **rise in loan delinquencies** across India during 2024–25.
- The **Portfolio at Risk (PAR)** — the percentage of loans overdue by more than 30 days — **rose to 6.2%** in 2024–25 from **2.1% in 2023–24**. Similarly, loans overdue by more than 90 days increased to **4.8%** from **1.6%** in the previous year.
- **Bihar** recorded the **worst performance**, both in terms of total outstanding microfinance loans (₹57,712 crore) and default rates, signaling rising credit risk in rural and semi-urban segments.



2. Understanding Key Terms and Indicators

- **Microfinance Loans:** Small loans extended to low-income individuals or groups, primarily women, to promote self-employment and financial inclusion.
- **Delinquency:** A situation when borrowers fail to make scheduled loan payments; measured in "days past due" (dpd).
- **Portfolio at Risk (PAR):** The percentage of total outstanding loans that are overdue beyond a specified number of days. PAR 30+ is a key risk indicator in the microfinance industry.
- **Non-Performing Asset (NPA):** As per RBI norms, a loan overdue for **more than 90 days** is classified as an NPA.

3. Key Findings of the Report

- **State-wise Performance:** Bihar recorded **7.2% delinquency (30+ dpd)** and **4.6% NPA levels (90+ dpd)**, above the national averages of 6.2% and 4.8%, respectively.
- **Rural Vulnerability:** Rural borrowers displayed the **highest default rate (6.4%)**, compared to 6.1% in semi-urban and 6% in urban regions.



- **Industry-wide Stress:** Rising defaults were reported across multiple States, indicating a **systemic issue rather than a local phenomenon**.
- **Outstanding Loans:** The total outstanding microfinance portfolio exceeded ₹2.3 lakh crore for rural borrowers, underlining the magnitude of rural credit exposure.

4. Causes Behind Rising Defaults

- **Post-pandemic economic distress** and **high inflation** eroded repayment capacity among low-income borrowers.
- **Over-indebtedness** due to multiple borrowings from different MFIs and NBFCs.
- **Climatic disruptions** and agricultural income volatility adversely affected rural cash flows.
- **Inadequate credit appraisal mechanisms** and aggressive loan disbursals by MFIs led to deteriorating asset quality.
- **Lack of financial literacy** and support for borrowers during repayment cycles further aggravated defaults.

5. Regulatory and Institutional Framework

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** regulates microfinance activities under the *Master Directions on Microfinance Loans (2022)*, focusing on fair lending practices and borrower protection.
- The **Microfinance Institutions (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2012** (though not enacted) aimed to provide a comprehensive legislative framework for the sector.
- **Sa-Dhan** and **MFIN (Microfinance Institutions Network)** act as **Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs)** recognized by RBI to ensure ethical and sustainable practices.
- The principles of **financial inclusion** are rooted in the **Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 38 & 39)**, emphasizing equitable resource distribution and economic justice.

'Bad' debts

Delinquency levels have risen across the industry, says the annual Bharat Microfinance Report by Sa-Dhan

- The data showed that rural borrowers fared the worst in terms of loan repayment
- Of the ₹2.3 lakh crore of loans outstanding for rural customers, 6.4% were overdue by more than 30 days
- This is compared with 6.1% and 6% for semi-urban and urban borrowers, respectively



6. Implications for Financial Stability and Policy

- Rising microfinance NPAs threaten the **financial sustainability of MFIs and small NBFCs**, especially those reliant on external funding.
- The trend may hinder the progress of **women's self-help groups (SHGs)** and rural entrepreneurship under programs like **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana** and **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)**.
- There is an urgent need for **strengthened credit appraisal systems, data-sharing among MFIs, and borrower-centric recovery mechanisms**.
- Policymakers must ensure that **financial inclusion initiatives** do not translate into **credit distress** through better regulation, training, and diversification of income-generating opportunities.

Conclusion

The surge in microfinance loan defaults during 2024–25 signals deep-rooted structural challenges in India's



rural credit ecosystem. While microfinance remains a cornerstone of financial inclusion, unregulated lending expansion and economic vulnerabilities have exposed systemic weaknesses. Sustainable growth in the microfinance sector requires a balance between **financial access and borrower protection**, backed by transparent regulation, digital monitoring, and resilience-oriented credit models.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2:** Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections, financial inclusion, regulation of microfinance institutions, role of RBI and SROs.
- **GS Paper 3:** Inclusive growth, financial stability, economic reforms, and agriculture-linked credit issues.
- **Essay/Interview:** “Microfinance in India: A Tool for Empowerment or a Source of Indebtedness?”

9. Venezuela’s María Corina Machado Wins the Nobel Peace Prize – Symbol of Democratic Resistance

1. Background and Context

- Venezuelan opposition leader **María Corina Machado** was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize (2025)** for her steadfast struggle to restore democracy and human rights in Venezuela.
- The Norwegian Nobel Committee recognized her as a “**unifying figure**” who kept the “*flame of democracy burning amid growing darkness*” under the authoritarian regime of **President Nicolás Maduro**.
- Machado, a former presidential candidate, represents the **peaceful resistance movement** against political repression, economic collapse, and electoral manipulation in Venezuela.

2. Significance of the Nobel Peace Prize

- The **Nobel Peace Prize**, established under the will of Alfred Nobel (1895), is awarded annually to individuals or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to peace, human rights, and international cooperation.
- By awarding Machado, the Committee highlighted the **importance of democratic resilience and non-violent struggle** in regions facing authoritarianism.
- The decision draws global attention to Venezuela’s ongoing **political and humanitarian crisis**, aligning with the Nobel Committee’s tradition of supporting pro-democracy movements worldwide.



3. Venezuela’s Political and Human Rights Context

- Venezuela has been under the **authoritarian rule of Nicolás Maduro** since 2013, following the tenure of Hugo Chávez.
- The country has faced **economic collapse, hyperinflation, corruption**, and mass emigration—over **7 million Venezuelans** have fled the nation.
- The **2024 presidential elections** were widely criticized for **fraud and voter suppression**, with Machado disqualified from running by the **National Electoral Council**, controlled by Maduro loyalists.



- Protests over the manipulated election results led to violent crackdowns, with **over 20 deaths** reported and hundreds detained.

4. Machado's Role and Political Vision

- María Corina Machado, leader of the **Vente Venezuela party**, has been a consistent advocate for **free elections, institutional reform, and non-violent resistance**.
- Despite bans, threats, and arrests of her supporters, she remains a **symbol of civic courage and democratic unity** within Venezuela's fragmented opposition.
- She dedicated her Nobel Prize to the **"suffering people of Venezuela"** and to international allies, notably acknowledging former U.S. President Donald Trump's support for democratic causes in Venezuela.
- Her leadership has helped galvanize international solidarity and pressure for **restoration of constitutional governance** in the country.

5. International Law, Human Rights, and Constitutional Principles

- Machado's recognition underscores the global commitment to **Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)**, which guarantees citizens' rights to participate in free and fair elections.
- The **Organization of American States (OAS)** and **United Nations Human Rights Council** have condemned Venezuela's democratic backsliding and violations of civil liberties.
- The Venezuelan Constitution (1999) guarantees **political pluralism, rule of law, and free elections**, but these have been systematically undermined under Maduro's rule.
- Machado's award thus reinforces the **international norm of defending democracy**, as envisioned under the **UN Charter (Articles 1 and 55)** promoting respect for human rights and self-determination.

6. Global and Symbolic Implications

- The Nobel Committee's choice signals support for **grassroots democracy movements in Latin America**, where several nations face populist or autocratic tendencies.
- It also highlights the **role of women leaders** in advancing peace and democracy, aligning with the global push for **gender-inclusive leadership** in political transformation.
- The award may strengthen diplomatic and civil society efforts to **restore democratic institutions** in Venezuela through peaceful dialogue and international mediation.

Conclusion

María Corina Machado's Nobel Peace Prize embodies the enduring struggle for democracy, freedom, and human dignity in Venezuela. Her peaceful resistance against political repression reflects the universal values of justice and participatory governance. As authoritarian regimes increasingly challenge democratic norms worldwide, her recognition serves as a reminder that democracy survives through courage, unity, and the power of non-violent action.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2:** International Relations, democracy and human rights, international organizations (UN, OAS), Nobel institutions, constitutional governance.



- **GS Paper 4:** Ethics in public life, moral courage, leadership, and integrity in political resistance.
- **Essay/Interview:** “Democracy and Dissent: Global Lessons from Venezuela’s Struggle for Freedom.”

10. U.S.–China Trade Tensions Resurface – Trump Threatens Massive Tariffs Amid Beijing’s Rare Earth Export Controls

1. Background and Context

- U.S. President **Donald Trump** has threatened to impose “**massive tariffs**” on Chinese imports after **Beijing announced export controls on rare earth minerals**, which are crucial for the production of modern technologies such as semiconductors, electric vehicles, and defense equipment.
- Trump cancelled a proposed **bilateral summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping** at the upcoming **APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation)** meeting, citing rising hostility and trade tensions.
- This move marks a potential **re-escalation of the U.S.–China trade war**, which had previously strained global markets and supply chains during Trump’s earlier presidency (2018–2020).

2. Rare Earth Minerals: Strategic and Economic Importance

- **Rare earth elements (REEs)** refer to a group of 17 chemically similar metals critical for manufacturing advanced electronics, renewable energy systems, defense equipment, and batteries.
- **China controls nearly 70% of global REE production and processing**, giving it significant leverage in global supply chains.
- Export restrictions on rare earths can severely affect U.S. industries dependent on advanced technology components, leading to **supply chain disruptions** and **increased costs** for global manufacturers.
- The move reflects China’s use of **economic coercion and strategic resources as geopolitical tools** in response to Western trade and technology restrictions.



3. U.S. Trade Policy and Tariff Threats

- Trump’s statement signals a revival of **protectionist trade policies**, emphasizing “**America First**” economic nationalism.
- Tariffs—taxes imposed on imported goods—are often used to **protect domestic industries, reduce trade deficits, or retaliate against unfair trade practices**.
- The U.S. is considering higher tariffs on a wide range of **Chinese goods**, particularly in sectors like electronics, steel, machinery, and energy technologies.
- The renewed tariff threat caused **immediate volatility in U.S. financial markets**, with Wall Street reacting negatively due to fears of another global trade war.

4. Global Trade and Geopolitical Implications

- The renewed confrontation may disrupt the fragile **global trade equilibrium**, especially in sectors dependent on **critical minerals** and **high-end technology exports**.



- China's move on rare earths is seen as a **strategic countermeasure** against the U.S.'s export restrictions on semiconductors and advanced chips.
- This escalation could accelerate the global trend of “**de-risking**” and “**decoupling**” of supply chains, as Western nations seek to reduce dependence on China for critical raw materials.
- The situation may also push the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** into renewed relevance, as both countries' actions could violate the **Most Favoured Nation (MFN)** and **non-discrimination principles** under WTO rules.

5. Legal and Institutional Framework

- **World Trade Organization (WTO):** Both nations are bound by its rules against unilateral trade restrictions, though both have previously used national security exceptions to justify measures.
- **U.S. Trade Act of 1974 (Section 301):** Allows the U.S. President to impose tariffs on countries engaging in unfair trade practices—a provision Trump previously used in the 2018 tariff war.
- **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** may become relevant if rare earth mining extends to oceanic territories in the future.
- **Global Mineral Security Partnerships (MSPs)** are emerging to counter China's dominance in critical minerals—India is a partner in such multilateral frameworks.

6. Economic and Strategic Impact on India

- India, which has **significant rare earth reserves but limited processing capability**, could benefit from diversifying global supply chains away from China.
- Strengthening **India-U.S. strategic ties** under initiatives like **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)** and **QUAD** can position India as an alternative source of critical minerals.
- However, global trade volatility may affect India's exports and manufacturing costs due to raw material price hikes and disrupted supply networks.

Conclusion

The latest U.S.–China standoff over rare earths highlights how **strategic resources are becoming new instruments of geopolitical competition**. Trump's threat of massive tariffs represents a return to economic nationalism and trade coercion, while China's export controls demonstrate its growing assertiveness in leveraging resource dominance. For the global economy, including India, the challenge lies in building **resilient, diversified, and cooperative supply chains** that balance economic security with open trade principles.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2:** International Relations – U.S.–China relations, trade diplomacy, WTO and global trade governance.
- **GS Paper 3:** Indian Economy – External sector, globalization, supply chain resilience, and critical mineral strategy.
- **Essay/Interview:** “Trade Wars in the 21st Century: The Weaponization of Economics and Resources.”



11. India Notifies First Legally Binding Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI) Targets for Four Key Sectors

1. Background and Context

- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has notified the **Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI) Target Rules, 2025**, marking India's **first legally binding emission reduction framework** for industries.
- These Rules apply to **four high-emission sectors** — *cement, aluminium, chlor-alkali, and pulp & paper* — covering **282 industrial units** nationwide.
- The move aims to help operationalize India's **domestic carbon market** under the **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), 2023**, aligning with the country's global climate obligations under the **Paris Agreement (2015)**.

2. Key Provisions of the GEI Target Rules, 2025

- **Emission Intensity Definition:** GEI refers to the amount of **greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted per unit of output**, expressed as **tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) per product**.
- **Compliance Period:** Mandatory targets apply for **two years (2025–26 and 2026–27)**.
- **Sectoral Coverage:** Includes *186 cement units, 13 aluminium units, 30 chlor-alkali units, and 53 pulp & paper units*.
- **Incentive Mechanism:**
 - Industries meeting or exceeding emission targets will earn **carbon credits**, tradable in the domestic market.
 - Non-compliant industries must **buy carbon credits** or face **environmental compensation** from the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**.
- The **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** will issue carbon credit certificates, ensuring transparency and uniform accounting of emission reductions.



3. Linkages to India's Climate Commitments

- India has pledged to **reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030** compared to 2005 levels, as per its **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** under the Paris Agreement.
- The GEI Rules operationalize India's transition from voluntary schemes to **legally enforceable climate regulations**.
- This builds upon earlier initiatives like the **Perform, Achieve, Trade (PAT) Scheme (2012)** under the **National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE)**, which promoted industrial energy efficiency but lacked a carbon market mechanism.
- The new framework integrates **energy efficiency and carbon pricing**, making emission reduction economically incentivized.

4. Legal and Institutional Framework

- **Legal Authority:** The Rules are notified under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, empowering the government to regulate emissions and enforce compliance.



- **Institutional Mechanisms:**
 - **MoEFCC:** Policy and regulatory oversight.
 - **BEE:** Verification and issuance of carbon credits.
 - **CPCB:** Enforcement of penalties and monitoring of compliance.
- **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), 2023:** Establishes a **domestic carbon market** allowing industries to trade emission reduction credits, creating financial incentives for green performance.
- This aligns with the **Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 48A)**, which directs the State to protect and improve the environment, and **Article 51(c)** promoting compliance with international environmental obligations.

5. Economic and Environmental Implications

- **For Industries:** Encourages technological innovation, cleaner production processes, and improved energy efficiency. Non-compliance could lead to higher operational costs.
- **For the Economy:** A regulated carbon market promotes **green investments** and aligns industrial competitiveness with sustainability goals.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Expected reduction in CO₂ emissions by up to **7.5% in cement** and **15% in pulp and paper** sectors by 2026–27, contributing to India's low-carbon development pathway.
- **Global Significance:** Positions India as a **leader among developing countries** in integrating carbon trading into national climate policy.

6. Challenges and Way Forward

- Implementation challenges include **data accuracy, emission verification, and market liquidity** for carbon credits.
- There is a need for **capacity building** in smaller industries, transparent monitoring mechanisms, and **strong institutional coordination**.
- Integrating the GEI framework with **state-level climate policies, renewable energy targets, and corporate ESG mandates** will ensure long-term sustainability.

Conclusion

The notification of the GEI Target Rules, 2025, represents a landmark step in India's climate governance, transitioning from voluntary to **mandatory emission reduction mechanisms**. By establishing a domestic carbon market, India has created a structured path to decarbonize its industrial base while balancing economic growth with environmental responsibility. This move reinforces India's global image as a proactive, climate-responsible economy aligning development with sustainability.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2:** Government policies and interventions for environmental protection; international environmental agreements (Paris Agreement).
- **GS Paper 3:** Conservation, environmental pollution, climate change, energy efficiency, and sustainable development.
- **GS Paper 4 (Ethics):** Environmental ethics and responsibility of industries.



- **Essay/Interview:** “Carbon Markets and Climate Governance: India’s Transition Toward a Low-Emission Future.”

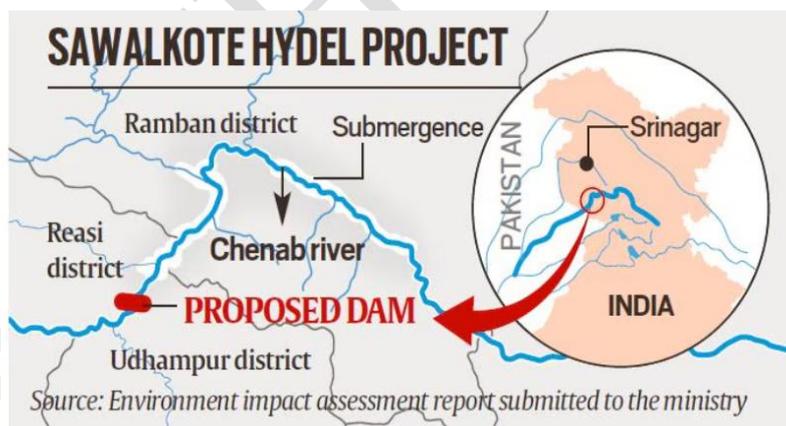
12. Sawalkote Dam on Chenab – Strategic and Environmental Implications Amid Suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty

1. Background and Context

- The stalled **Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project (1,865 MW)** on the **Chenab River** in Jammu & Kashmir has regained prominence after India **suspended the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** with Pakistan in April 2025.
- The **Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC)** of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** is set to appraise the project for **environmental clearance**, which would fast-track construction.
- The Chenab is a **western river** under the IWT, whose waters were allocated largely to Pakistan. With the treaty in abeyance, India seeks to **maximize utilization of its hydropower potential** on these rivers for strategic and developmental reasons.

2. Strategic Significance of the Project

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and the **Ministry of Power** have emphasized that Sawalkote is a **project of national and strategic importance**.
- The **MHA (letter dated June 13, 2025)** stated that swift construction is crucial for **leveraging the Chenab River’s potential** and reinforcing India’s position on transboundary water use.



- Once completed, Sawalkote will be among the **largest hydropower projects** on a western river, significantly boosting India’s renewable energy capacity in the region.
- The project aligns with India’s larger geopolitical and security objectives — particularly to **strengthen control over water resources** originating from its territory before they flow into Pakistan.

3. Exemption from Environmental Studies

- Normally, **Cumulative Impact Assessments (CIA)** and **Carrying Capacity Studies (CCS)** are mandatory to assess long-term ecological, social, and hydrological consequences of large hydro projects.
- However, the **Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)** granted an **exemption** for the Sawalkote project in July 2025, citing its **old initiation (1984)** and “prospective” applicability of post-2013 guidelines.
- The ministries argued that conducting new CIA and CCS would delay clearances, affecting several **strategic hydro projects** planned in Jammu & Kashmir.



- This exemption means the project may proceed **without basin-wide environmental studies**, raising concerns about ecological and downstream impacts.

4. Legal, Environmental, and Policy Framework

- **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:** Governs environmental clearances for projects like Sawalkote.
- **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980:** Requires forest diversion clearance, for which Sawalkote obtained Stage I approval in 2023.
- **EIA Notification, 2006:** Mandates Environmental Impact Assessments, but exemptions for older projects can be granted under specific administrative provisions.
- **Indus Waters Treaty (1960):** Allocates the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab rivers to Pakistan and the eastern rivers to India. Its **suspension** provides legal flexibility for India to exploit western river waters.
- The exemption decision may be challenged under **Article 48A** (Directive Principles) of the Constitution, which directs the State to protect and improve the environment, and under **judicial precedents** emphasizing the precautionary principle.

5. Environmental and Ecological Concerns

- Environmentalists warn that bypassing CIA and CCS could overlook **cumulative ecological risks** such as habitat loss, biodiversity decline, sediment imbalance, and altered river flow.
- The **Himalayan region's fragile ecosystem** and seismic vulnerability make large dam projects particularly risky.
- Potential social impacts include **displacement of local communities**, changes in agricultural patterns, and altered water availability downstream.
- Despite these challenges, proponents argue that the project's **run-of-the-river design** will minimize storage-related displacement and flooding risks.

6. Geopolitical and Administrative Implications

- Under the IWT, India was obligated to share project details with Pakistan six months before construction — however, this is now **not applicable due to suspension** of the treaty.
- India's renewed focus on projects like Sawalkote signals a **policy shift toward assertive water diplomacy** and regional self-reliance in energy.
- The Centre-State coordination between **NHPC** and **J&K Power Development Corporation** will be critical for project execution and monitoring.

Conclusion

The Sawalkote Dam represents a convergence of India's **energy security, environmental governance, and strategic diplomacy**. While its rapid approval underscores India's assertiveness post-IWT suspension, the decision to waive comprehensive ecological studies raises concerns about long-term sustainability. Balancing national security with environmental stewardship will be vital to ensure that development in sensitive river basins like the Chenab remains both **strategic and sustainable**.

UPSC Relevance



- **GS Paper 2:** India–Pakistan relations, Indus Waters Treaty, international water law, environmental governance.
 - **GS Paper 3:** Infrastructure (energy, hydropower), environmental impact assessment, sustainable development, climate and water resources management.
 - **Essay/Interview:** “Strategic Rivers and Sustainable Development: The Case of India’s Western River Projects.”
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