NITIN SIR CLASSES

THE HINDU
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Daily News Analysis

The Hindu Important News Articles & Editorial For UPSC CSE

Thursday, 18 Sep, 2025

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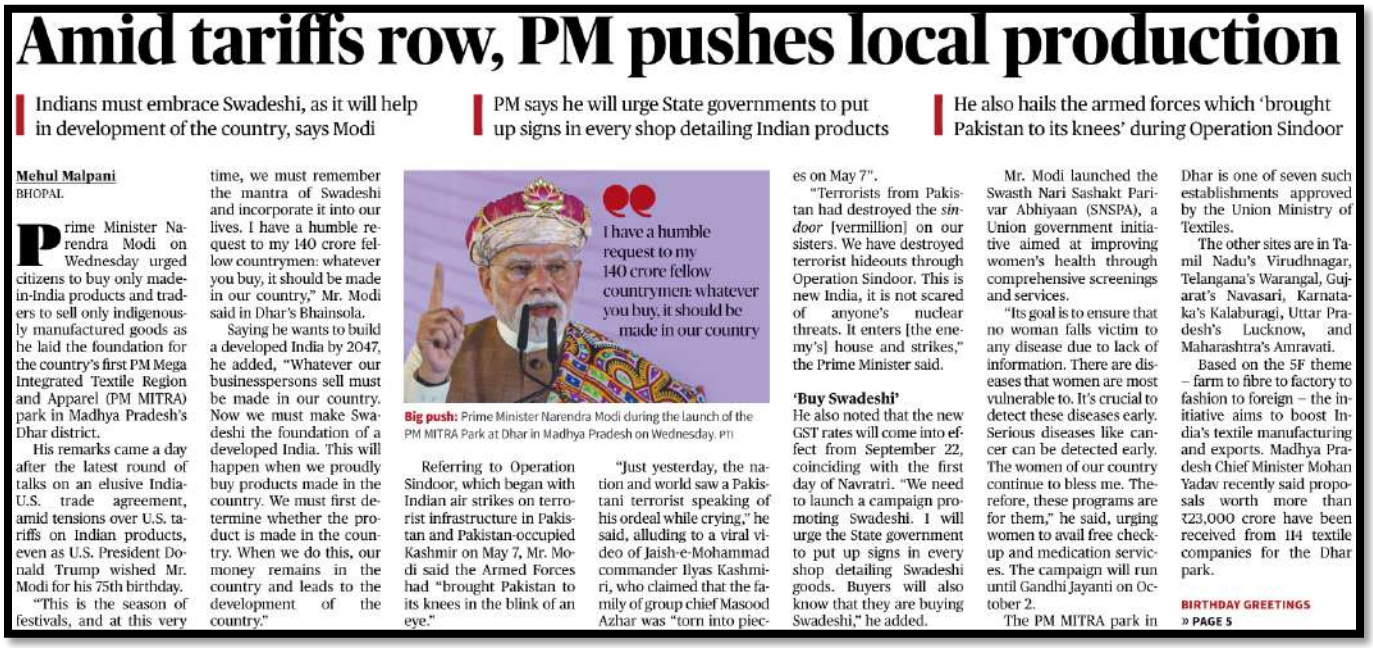
Daily News Analysis

Page 01: GS 2 : Governance & International Relations/ Prelims

The recent call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to adopt Swadeshi and strengthen local manufacturing highlights India's push towards Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India). The announcement coincided with the foundation of the first **PM MITRA Park** in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh, amid ongoing trade tensions with the U.S. over tariffs. The event also saw the launch of health initiatives and a reiteration of India's strong stance on cross-border terrorism.



Amid tariffs row, PM pushes local production

Indians must embrace Swadeshi, as it will help in development of the country, says Modi

PM says he will urge State governments to put up signs in every shop detailing Indian products

He also hails the armed forces which 'brought Pakistan to its knees' during Operation Sindoor

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged citizens to buy only made-in-India products and traders to sell only indigenously manufactured goods as he laid the foundation for the country's first PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) park in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district.

His remarks came a day after the latest round of talks on an elusive India-U.S. trade agreement, amid tensions over U.S. tariffs on Indian products, even as U.S. President Donald Trump wished Mr. Modi for his 75th birthday.

"This is the season of festivals, and at this very time, we must remember the mantra of Swadeshi and incorporate it into our lives. I have a humble request to my 140 crore fellow countrymen: whatever you buy, it should be made in our country," Mr. Modi said in Dhar's Bhainsola.

Saying he wants to build a developed India by 2047, he added, "Whatever our businesspersons sell must be made in our country. Now we must make Swadeshi the foundation of a developed India. This will happen when we proudly buy products made in the country. We must first determine whether the product is made in the country. When we do this, our money remains in the country and leads to the development of the country."

Big push: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the launch of the PM MITRA Park at Dhar in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday. PTI

Referring to Operation Sindoor, which began with Indian air strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on May 7, Mr. Modi said the Armed Forces had "brought Pakistan to its knees in the blink of an eye."

"Just yesterday, the nation and world saw a Pakistani terrorist speaking of his ordeal while crying," he said, alluding to a viral video of Jaish-e-Mohammad commander Ilyas Kashmiri, who claimed that the family of group chief Masood Azhar was "torn into pieces on May 7".

"Terrorists from Pakistan had destroyed the *sindoor* [vermillion] on our sisters. We have destroyed terrorist hideouts through Operation Sindoor. This is new India, it is not scared of anyone's nuclear threats. It enters [the enemy's] house and strikes," the Prime Minister said.

'Buy Swadeshi'

He also noted that the new GST rates will come into effect from September 22, coinciding with the first day of Navratri. "We need to launch a campaign promoting Swadeshi. I will urge the State government to put up signs in every shop detailing Swadeshi goods. Buyers will also know that they are buying Swadeshi," he added.

Mr. Modi launched the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (SNSPA), a Union government initiative aimed at improving women's health through comprehensive screenings and services.

"Its goal is to ensure that no woman falls victim to any disease due to lack of information. There are diseases that women are most vulnerable to. It's crucial to detect these diseases early. Serious diseases like cancer can be detected early. The women of our country continue to bless me. Therefore, these programs are for them," he said, urging women to avail free check-up and medication services. The campaign will run until Gandhi Jayanti on October 2.

The PM MITRA park in Dhar is one of seven such establishments approved by the Union Ministry of Textiles.

The other sites are in Tamil Nadu's Virudhnagar, Telangana's Warangal, Gujarat's Navasari, Karnataka's Kalaburagi, Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow, and Maharashtra's Amravati.

Based on the 5F theme – farm to fibre to factory to fashion to foreign – the initiative aims to boost India's textile manufacturing and exports. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav recently said proposals worth more than ₹23,000 crore have been received from 114 textile companies for the Dhar park.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
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Key Current Affairs Dimensions

1. Swadeshi and Trade Policy

- PM urged citizens to buy and traders to sell only made-in-India products.
- Emphasis on keeping money within the domestic economy → boost to **MSMEs, artisans, local industries**.
- Context: India-U.S. trade deal deadlock and tariff disputes → highlighting the need for reduced import dependence.

2. PM MITRA Parks

- **PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) scheme**: Seven parks approved across states.
- Dhar park in MP is the first to take off; investment proposals worth ₹23,000+ crore already received.
- **5F vision**: Farm →Fibre→ Factory → Fashion → Foreign.
- Aim: Increase global competitiveness of India's textile exports, reduce logistics costs, and generate large-scale employment.
- Static link: India's textile industry contributes ~2.3% of GDP, 13% of industrial production, and 12% of exports.

3. Women's Health Initiative

- Launch of **SwasthNariSashaktParivarAbhiyaan (SNSPA)**: free screenings and medication till Oct 2.
- Tackles diseases like cancer through early detection → link to **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)** and **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)**.
- Reinforces women's health as a foundation for family and national development.

4. National Security Angle

- PM referenced **Operation Sindoor (May 7, 2025)** – Indian air strikes on terrorist camps in PoK.
- Message: India's proactive counter-terrorism stance, "New India" not deterred by nuclear threats.
- Static link: India's counter-terrorism policy, surgical strikes of 2016, Balakot 2019, etc.

Static Linkages (Prelims Perspective)

- **Textile Industry**: Major hubs – Surat, Tiruppur, Varanasi, Bhilwara.
- **Schemes related to textiles**: SITP, RoSCTL, Amended TUFS, SAMARTH, PM MITRA.
- **Trade Policy**: India's stance on WTO, tariff disputes, FTAs with U.S., EU, ASEAN.
- **Women Health Missions**: POSHAN Abhiyaan, Pradhan MantriMatruVandanaYojana (PMMVY), Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY).
- **Security Operations**: Comparison of "Operation Sindoor" with earlier "Operation Vijay" (Kargil) and "Operation Meghdoot" (Siachen).

Critical Analysis

- **Opportunities**:
  - Boosts local employment, especially in textiles (second-largest employer after agriculture).
  - Reduces import dependence, strengthens forex reserves.
  - Enhances India's image as a strong nation diplomatically and militarily.
- **Challenges**:
  - Ensuring competitiveness of Indian products vis-à-vis cheaper imports (e.g., Chinese goods).
  - Trade retaliation risks amid tariff wars.
  - Effective implementation of women's health schemes at grassroots.
  - Balancing nationalism-driven consumption with global trade commitments.

Governance & International Relations Conclusion

The PM's Dhar address interlinks economic self-reliance, social empowerment, and national security. While **PM MITRA parks** provide a concrete step toward industrial expansion and job creation, the **Swadeshi call** reaffirms India's long-term vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047. However, sustained competitiveness, effective trade diplomacy, and grassroots implementation of welfare schemes will be crucial to realize this vision.

UPSC Prelims Practice Question

Ques: With reference to the PM MITRA scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to integrate the entire textile value chain from farm to foreign.

2. Seven PM MITRA parks have been approved across different states.

3. It is implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Which of the above statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Ques: Swadeshi push and mega textile parks are integral to India's path towards becoming a developed nation by 2047. Discuss in the context of recent government initiatives. **(250 Words)**

Page 04 &12 :GS 2 & 3 : International Relations & Indian Economy / Prelims

The European Union (EU) has released a **"New Strategic EU–India Agenda"** to deepen cooperation in trade, technology, defence, security, and climate change. This comes amid ongoing negotiations for an **India–EU FTA** (Free Trade Agreement). However, India's **oil imports from Russia** and **participation in Russian military exercises** remain points of contention in Brussels. Simultaneously, India is pursuing **FTA talks with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)**, highlighting its multi-alignment strategy in a multipolar world.

Daily News Analysis

EU-India partnership set for upgrade

EU's top diplomat Kaja Kallas releases strategic agenda on trade, technology, security, defence and climate; however, India's military exercises with Russia and its continued purchase of Russian oil are seen in Brussels as potential obstacles to the deepening of the relationship with New Delhi

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The European Union has set out a plan to upgrade its strategic ties with India, even as it warned that India's military exercises with Russia and its purchase of Russian oil are risks to the growing strategic ties between Brussels and New Delhi.

The European Commission and the EU's top diplomat Kaja Kallas released 'A New Strategic EU-India Agenda' on Wednesday in Brussels, and urged the European Parliament and Council (i.e., the heads of member states) to adopt it.

Ms. Kallas called India a "crucial" partner for the EU, as she outlined the strategy that encompassed trade, technology, security, defence and climate. She was speaking at a televised press conference in Brussels on Wednesday.

The document declared that "the EU and India have the potential and determination to shape one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century".

Brussels and New Delhi are in the midst of negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA), with the EU's trade chief Maroš Šefčovič visiting New Delhi last week for talks with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

"We are also negotiating an agreement of exchange of classified information and deepening ties between defence industry [sic]," Ms. Kallas said, adding that there were hesitations here among the College of Commissioners (comprised of Commissioners from the 27 EU countries).

With Russia escalating its attacks on Ukraine in recent weeks, the Europeans are grappling with how to navigate New Delhi's closeness to Moscow.

"India's participation in Russia's military exercises and its purchase of Russian oil stand in the way of closer ties, because ultimately, our partnership is not only about trade, but also about defending rules-based international order," Ms. Kallas said.

The European Commission's High Representative for Foreign Affairs Kaja Kallas and European Commissioner for Trade Maroš Šefčovič at a press conference in Brussels, Belgium on Wednesday. REUTERS

"It is of utmost importance to the EU that any enablement of the war be curtailed," the strategy document says.

The negotiations with New Delhi would address these challenges with the aim of adopting a joint roadmap at the next EU-India summit in early 2026, according to Ms. Kallas.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "delighted" by the adoption of the new strategic document. "We remain committed to an early and peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict," he said, reflecting on his phone call on Wednesday with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

India and the EU have been seeking to bolster ties in the face of increasing geopolitical uncertainty and challenges in their trade relationships with the U.S.

Trade between India and the EU has grown over 90% in the last decade, Mr. Šefčovič said at Wednesday's press conference, but the two sides had just "scratched the surface", according to the Commissioner. Brussels and New Delhi are hoping to conclude a trade deal by the end of the year.

Mr. Šefčovič said he was in frequent touch with Mr. Goyal but wished that there had been "more progress" on talks during his visit to New Delhi last week. He also said that Indian trade negotiators have a reputation for being "tough".

Tariff barriers

On the question of agricultural tariffs, Mr. Šefčovič said that the issue was not about numbers but rather about whether what was being offered was commercially meaningful, after taking into account tariff and non-tariff barriers. He cited India's Qualitative Control Orders (QCOs) as an example and said they were something the EU should consider in its negotiations.

The 14th round of trade talks is due to take place in Brussels from October 6-10.

Quizzed specifically on India's participation in the recent Zapad-2025 military exercises led by Russia, Ms. Kallas said she had spoken to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday. She reiterated that exercises with Russia and buying oil were issues to the relationship.

"The question is always whether we leave this void to be filled by somebody else. So we try to fill it ourselves," she said in response to the question on cooperation with India. She responded similarly, when quizzed on India's apparent détente with China.

The College of Commissioners had agreed that the EU should deepen ties with India to "not really push them into Russia's corner".

Ms. Kallas cited the principle of 'nothing is agreed until everything is agreed' several times, including when asked about how the trade talks would be impacted if India did not take on board the EU's concerns regarding Russia.

Key Current Developments

1. Strategic Agenda 2025+

- EU calls India a "crucial partner" for shaping a defining 21st-century partnership.
- Focus: **trade, tech, security, defence, climate**.
- Joint roadmap expected at the next **EU–India Summit in 2026**.

2. India–EU FTA Negotiations

- Trade between India and EU ↑ 90% in the last decade.
- Current issue: **tariff barriers, QCOs (Quality Control Orders)**, and **market access in agriculture**.
- **14th round of talks** scheduled in Brussels (Oct 6–10, 2025).
- EU emphasizes "commercially meaningful" offers, not just tariff reduction numbers.

3. Russian Angle

- EU concerns:
  - India's **purchase of Russian oil** (at discounted rates).
  - Participation in **Zapad-2025 military exercises** with Russia.
- EU fears this "undermines the rules-based international order."
- At the same time, EU wants to prevent India from being "pushed into Russia's corner."

4. India's Multi-alignment

- India exploring an **FTA with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)** (includes Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia). First round expected **Nov 2025**.
- Simultaneous talks: **EU, Chile, Peru, ASEAN (review)**→ part of India's diversified trade strategy.

Static Linkages

- **EU–India Relations**:
  - Strategic Partnership: 2004.
  - EU is India's **third-largest trading partner** (~11% of total trade).
  - Areas of cooperation: Connectivity Partnership (2021), Climate & Clean Energy, Research & Innovation (Horizon Europe).
- **FTA Background**:
  - India–EU Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) talks began in 2007, stalled in 2013, revived in 2022.
- **EAEU**:
  - A customs union & single market led by Russia, est. 2015.
  - HQ: Moscow.
- **Trade Policy Context**:
  - India has signed FTAs with UAE, Australia (ECTA).
  - Ongoing talks: UK, EU, Canada, EAEU.

Mains Dimensions

International Relations

- EU–India convergence: climate change, Indo-Pacific, resilient supply chains, green transition.
- Divergence: Russia policy, human rights, agricultural tariffs.
- Balancing act: India must navigate strategic autonomy while keeping EU ties strong.

Economy

- FTA with EU → boost to exports (textiles, pharma, IT, auto parts).
- EU seeks access in agriculture, dairy, services.

- Non-tariff barriers (QCOs) → WTO compatibility issues.

Security &Defence

- Proposal for info-sharing agreement &defence industry cooperation.
- EU wants India as a partner in upholding **rules-based order** in Indo-Pacific.

Critical Analysis

- **Opportunities**:
  - EU–India FTA can diversify India's export markets beyond US & China.
  - Defence& tech cooperation aligns with India's "Atmanirbhar Bharat."
  - Climate and renewable energy partnership supports India's net-zero 2070 target.
- **Challenges**:
  - EU's Russia stance vs India's energy security & multi-alignment policy.
  - Tariff & non-tariff disagreements.
  - EU's human rights conditionalities may complicate FTA.

Conclusion

The upgraded EU–India Strategic Agenda signals Europe's intent to partner with India as a key global player amid shifting geopolitics. While differences on Russia remain, both sides recognize the value of strengthening ties in trade, climate, and security. For India, balancing strategic autonomy with pragmatic economic gains will determine whether the India–EU FTA and broader strategic partnership become a reality by 2026.

Daily News Analysis

UPSC Prelims Practice Question

Ques: Consider the following statements about the European Union (EU):

1. The EU is headquartered in Brussels.

2. It currently has 27 member states.

3. The United Kingdom continues to be a part of the EU Customs Union.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)

UPSC Mains Paper Practice Question

Ques :. Evaluate the potential economic impact of the proposed India–EU Free Trade Agreement on India's exports, employment, and MSME sector. **(150 Words)**

Daily News Analysis

Page 08 :GS 2 : Indian Polity / Prelims

The Supreme Court of India has recently addressed the issue of Governors and the President withholding action on Bills passed by State legislatures under **Article 200** and **Article 201**. By prescribing a **three-month time limit**, the Court sought to prevent legislative paralysis. This has triggered debate over separation of powers, discretion of constitutional authorities, and the balance between judiciary and executive.

Key Issues Raised

1. Governor's Role under Article 200

- Four options:
    1. Assent to the Bill.
    2. Withhold assent.
    3. Return Bill to Assembly for reconsideration.
    4. Reserve Bill for President's consideration.
- Debate: Does the Governor enjoy discretion or is he bound by aid and advice of the Council of Ministers?

A judicial nudge following stuck legislative business

The Supreme Court of India has heard arguments on the Presidential Reference in respect of the Governor's powers under Article 200 pertaining to the assent to Bills passed by the State legislature. Earlier, a two-judge Bench, headed by Justice J.B. Pardiwala, had fixed a timeline of three months for the Governor to take a final decision on a Bill submitted to him for assent. The same timeline was made applicable to the President of India also.

The time limit fixed by the Court has raised eyebrows in the government as well in the media. The general refrain from a section of the media was that the Court cannot direct the Governor or the President, who are high constitutional authorities, to act within a specified time when the Constitution does not have any such time frame. The government had also taken this line of argument in the Court.

Reiteration of a recognised principle

Article 200 of the Constitution has four options for the Governor when a Bill is presented to him after being passed by the State legislature. These options are to assent to the Bill; to withhold assent; return the Bill to the Assembly with a request to reconsider the Bill as a whole or certain clauses, or reserve it for the consideration of the President.

A very important question which arose in the context of the Governor's role in dealing with a Bill after it is passed by the legislature is whether the Governor has any discretion in the exercise of any of the options mentioned above. Under Article 163, the Governor is required to exercise his functions only on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers except in matters specified by or under the Constitution. The Court has, in cases from *Shamsher Singh vs State of Punjab* (1974), to *Nabam Rebia* (2016), made it clear that the Governor cannot perform any of his executive functions except on the advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister. The Sarkaria Commission and Punchhi Commission too reiterated this well-recognised constitutional principle.

The point that has been emphasised in all the judgments of the Court and the judicial commissions is that the Governor is just a constitutional head and that the real executive power of the state is vested in the elected government. Therefore, the Governor cannot act independently.

So, the question of crucial importance in this context is whether the Governor, while exercising any of the options under Article 200, can act in his discretion. The answer to this question will become clear when we take a close look at the Government of India Act, 1935. Section 75 of this Act is substantially the same as Article 200. Section 75 uses the words "the governor in his discretion" which means that giving assent or withholding it or sending the Bill back to the legislature or reserving it for the consideration of the Governor General is done by the Governor in his discretion.

This Section has been virtually reproduced in Article 200 but omits the words "in his discretion". This would show that the Constitution-makers wanted the Governor to exercise the power under Article 200 only on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

The issue of 'discretion'

The question of discretion of the Governor under Article 200 is one that has been dealt with by the Court in a number of cases. Surprisingly, the Court, in *Shamsher Singh*, discovered a discretionary power in the Governor under Article 200. It held that he must exercise it to the best of his judgement and should pursue a course which is not detrimental to the state.

But the Court, in *The State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor Of Tamilnadu and Anr.* (2025), did not accept the idea of a Governor exercising his discretion in withholding assent or reserving the Bill for the consideration of the President. It says, "if the power to withhold assent to Bills or to reserve them for the consideration of the President is construed as falling within the exclusive discretionary domain of the governor who would be free to decide a course of action notwithstanding the aid and advice of the council of ministers it would have the potential of turning him into a super constitutional figure having the power to bring to a complete halt the operation of the legislative machinery in the state. The governor cannot be vested with such power..."

The Sarkaria Commission, while granting that, normally, in the discharge of the functions under Article 200, the Governor must abide by the advice of his Council of Ministers, said that in rare and exceptional cases, he may act in the exercise of his discretion especially when the provisions of the Bill are patently unconstitutional.

While divergence of opinion exists in Indian judicial decisions, according to D.D. Basu, the renowned constitutional authority, in the United Kingdom, the sovereign has no power to withhold a Bill without the advice of the Council of Ministers. The deliberate omission of the word 'discretion' in Article 200 of the Constitution of India compels the conclusion that this Article does not permit discretion of any kind by the Governor while dealing with a Bill passed by the legislature.

The next question is about the time limit prescribed by the Court within which the Governor and the President are required to take a final decision on a Bill. From the arguments made on behalf of the Union Government, it is clear that it has strong objections to the time limit. It is true that no time limit has been prescribed by Articles 200 or 201. It is obvious that the Court fixed the time limit because some of the Governors had sat on Bills for years together without exercising any of the options available under Article 200. The question is whether the Constitution permits such a course of action. It does not.

So, is there no remedy available to States whose important Bills go in limbo? When a Governor sits on Bills for years, should not the Union intervene and direct the Governor to act in accordance with the Constitution? Article 355 can be creatively interpreted to mean that the Union Government can intervene to ensure that the government of a State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Thwarting the legislative process by the Governor by sitting on Bills passed by the legislature for years creates a situation where in the government cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. Article 355 imposes a duty upon the Union to direct the Governor to perform his constitutional duty under Article 200.

A remedy for what is now a reality

In no case has the Union intervened to direct a Governor to clear the Bills that he sat on for years. That has forced the Supreme Court to fix the time limit now. The Constitution makers could not have visualised such conduct on the part of the Governors. But now that it has become a reality, a remedy has to be found. By fixing the time limit, the Court has smoothened the legislative process.

The judgments in the two recent cases, namely, *State of Punjab vs Principal Secretary to the Governor* (2023) and *The State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor Of Tamilnadu and Anr.* are in fact landmark judgments which struck a blow for federalism. Judges interpret the Constitution and clarify the legal ambiguities, and in that process also create new rules. Article 21 was a prisoner of the literal interpretation since 1950 (*A.K. Gopalan*) till the American doctrine of due process was imported into it and expanded its ambit in *Maneka Gandhi* (1978).

Therefore, it is quite out of place to argue that judges, by interpreting the existing provisions to meet a new situation which posed a serious challenge to the constitutional order, are amending the Constitution. The fallacy in this argument is too obvious to miss.

P.D.T. Achary
is former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

The top court's move to fix a time limit for a Governor to take a final decision on a Bill must be interpreted as a move to smoothen the legislative process

2. Judicial Interpretation

- **Shamsher Singh vs State of Punjab (1974)**→ Governor must act on aid and advice except where Constitution explicitly provides discretion.
- **NabamRebia (2016)**→ Governor cannot act independently of the elected government.
- **State of Punjab vs Principal Secretary to Governor (2023)**→ Governors cannot indefinitely delay Bills.
- **State of Tamil Nadu vs Governor of Tamil Nadu (2025)**→ Discretion to withhold assent cannot be unfettered, else Governor becomes a "super-constitutional" authority.

3. Constituent Assembly Intent

- Government of India Act, 1935 (Sec. 75) → allowed Governors discretion.

- Article 200 (Indian Constitution) →**deliberately dropped** the phrase "in his discretion."
- Implies: Framers wanted Governor to act only on ministerial advice.

4. Time Limit Controversy

- Constitution silent on timeline under Articles 200/201.
- Supreme Court fixed **3 months**→ response to Governors sitting on Bills for years.
- Government's objection: Judiciary cannot impose timelines not provided in Constitution.
- Counter: Judicial innovation ensures smooth legislative functioning and prevents constitutional breakdown.

5. Union's Role under Article 355

- Union's duty: Ensure States function per Constitution.
- If Governors stall Bills indefinitely, it violates constitutional governance.
- Possibility: Union may direct Governors to discharge duties properly.

Static Linkages (Prelims Pointers)

- **Articles**:
  - Art. 163 → Aid and advice principle.
  - Art. 200 & 201 → Assent to State Bills.
  - Art. 355 → Duty of Union to protect States and ensure constitutional governance.
- **Commissions**:
  - **Sarkaria Commission**&**Punchhi Commission**→ Governors should normally act on advice, rare discretion only if Bill is unconstitutional.
- **Concepts**:
  - Separation of powers, judicial activism vs judicial overreach, federalism.

Mains Relevance

Polity & Governance

- Role of Governor: Should be an impartial constitutional head, not an obstacle.
- Judicial intervention as a safeguard of **federalism**.

Judiciary

- Judicial innovation: Like in Maneka Gandhi (1978), Court expanded Art. 21 through interpretation.
- Similarly, timeline under Art. 200 ensures legislative accountability.

Federalism

- Cases show friction between **elected State governments vs appointed Governors**.
- Court upholding federal balance by limiting Governor's arbitrary discretion.

Critical Analysis

- **Positives of SC Intervention**:
  - Prevents legislative paralysis.
  - Reinforces elected government's primacy.
  - Strengthens federal spirit.
- **Concerns**:
  - Judiciary prescribing timelines → blurring line between interpretation and legislation.
  - Risk of "judicial overreach" argument.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court's judgments in **Punjab (2023)** and **Tamil Nadu (2025)** represent landmark steps in defending **federalism** and curbing the misuse of gubernatorial powers. By imposing a time limit, the Court has addressed a practical constitutional deadlock. Far from amending the Constitution, this is an instance of the judiciary interpreting constitutional provisions dynamically to meet new challenges. Ultimately, the **Governor must remain a constitutional head, not a political arbiter**, and the Court's nudge ensures the smooth functioning of India's democratic and federal structure.

UPSC Prelims Practice Question

Ques: Under Article 200 of the Indian Constitution, the Governor of a State may:

1. Assent to the Bill.

2. Withhold assent.

3. Return the Bill to the Legislature for reconsideration (except Money Bills).

4. Reserve the Bill for consideration of the President.

Which of the above are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 1, 3 and 4 only

(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4

(d) 2 and 4 only

Ans :c)

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Ques: The Governor must remain a constitutional head, not a political arbiter. In light of recent Supreme Court judgments, critically examine the role of the Governor under Article 200 and 201.**(150 Words)**

Page : 08: GS 2 : International Relations / Prelims

The **UN Commission of Inquiry** has concluded that Israel is committing **genocide in Gaza**, marking one of the gravest accusations in international law. With over **65,000 Palestinians killed** since October 2023, including women and children, the findings strengthen ongoing cases before the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** and **International Criminal Court (ICC)**. While global condemnation is increasing, India has so far avoided direct criticism of Israel, raising questions about its foreign policy stance.

Current Affairs Dimensions

1. The UN Report

- Conducted multi-year investigation, led by Navi Pillay.
- Found Israel guilty of **4 out of 5 acts of genocide**:
  - Killing members of a group.
  - Causing serious bodily/mental harm.
  - Actions aimed at destroying the group.
  - Preventing births.
- Report directly implicates Israeli leadership.

2. International Legal Context

- **ICJ (The Hague)**→ hearing South Africa's genocide case against Israel.
- **ICC**→ issued arrest warrant for Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu.

Genocide in Gaza

India should speak up against Israel's atrocities

The UN Commission of Inquiry, after a multi-year investigation, has concluded that Israeli authorities have committed genocide in Gaza. The finding is hardly surprising as the world's leading rights organisations, including two Israeli groups, and genocide scholars, had already accused Israel of committing what is one of the gravest crimes in international law. Yet, the finding would lend weight to such reports and resonate before the International Court of Justice, which is hearing genocide charges against Israel, and the International Criminal Court, which has issued an arrest warrant for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The UN Commission found "reasonable grounds" to conclude that four of the five genocidal acts – killing members of a community, serious bodily and mental harm, actions aimed at destroying the group, and preventing births – have been carried out since the war began following Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack. Israel, which denies allegations of genocide and war crimes, has killed at least 65,000 Palestinians in Gaza in 23 months, many of them women and children. "The responsibility for these atrocity crimes lies with Israeli authorities at the highest echelons who have orchestrated a genocidal campaign with the specific intent to destroy the Palestinian group in Gaza," says the panel's leader, Navi Pillay.

It is tragically ironic that Israel, a nation built by the survivors of the Shoah, is committing genocide against Palestinians. On the day the UN Commission released its report, Israel launched yet another ground offensive in the famine-stricken Gaza City. Israel's responses to reports of war crimes and mass killings have invariably been further escalations, killing and displacing even more Palestinians. The war, prolonged by Mr. Netanyahu for his political survival, has left a stain on Israel's national compass and deepened its global isolation. In the weeks ahead, France, the U.K. and several other countries are expected to recognise Palestinian sovereignty, while the European Commission has proposed to suspend trade concessions with Israel and sanction extremist Ministers. Yet, Israel, shielded by the U.S., shows little concern. The Trump administration is unlikely to turn up the heat on its closest ally. But Europe should start treating Israel as what it has become – a rogue state with genocidal intent and actions. India, once a champion of the Palestinian cause, has so far refrained from directly criticising the Jewish nation. But it should realise that an uncontrollable, expansionist Israel, blowing international law to smithereens, is not in India's national or regional interests. New Delhi should speak up against the genocide and use its leverage to help bring the war to an end.

- **Genocide Convention (1948)**→ defines genocide as intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group.

3. Geopolitical Reactions

- **EU**: France, UK likely to recognise Palestine; European Commission proposing sanctions on extremist Israeli ministers.
- **U.S.**: continues shielding Israel; unlikely to impose real pressure.
- **Israel**: continues military operations, despite rising international isolation.

4. India's Position

- Historically: **Champion of Palestinian cause** (1947 UNGA partition plan vote, NAM solidarity, support for Palestinian statehood).
- Post-1992: Normalised relations with Israel, deepening defence& tech ties.
- Recent stance: Calls for ceasefire, humanitarian aid, "two-state solution," but avoids direct criticism of Israel.
- Balancing act:
    - Strategic defence partnership with Israel.
    - Large diaspora + oil dependence in Gulf states → need to maintain Arab goodwill.
    - Desire to be seen as a responsible power upholding international law.

Static Linkages (Prelims)

- **Genocide Convention (1948)** – first human rights treaty, India is a party.
- **UNRWA** – UN agency for Palestinian refugees.
- **Two-State Solution** – proposed under UN Resolution 181 (1947).
- **India–Israel** ties: Defence, agriculture, cyber security.
- **India–Palestine** ties: Recognised Palestine in 1988; supports full UN membership.

Critical Analysis

- **Opportunities for India**:
    - Act as a mediator leveraging ties with both Israel & Palestine.
    - Uphold its image as a global leader of the Global South.
    - Strengthen standing in UN and multilateral forums.
- **Challenges**:
    - Risk of straining defence and tech partnership with Israel.
    - Risk of alienating U.S. (Israel's closest ally).
    - Domestic political sensitivities.

Conclusion

Daily News Analysis

The UN report underscores the severity of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the legal gravity of Israel's actions. For India, which aspires to be a **Vishwaguru** and defender of international law, silence may weaken its moral credibility. A balanced position — reaffirming support for the **two-state solution**, condemning civilian killings, and urging adherence to international law — would align with both India's strategic interests and ethical traditions.

UPSC Prelims Practice Question

Ques :The term genocide was first legally defined in which of the following international conventions?

a) Geneva Conventions (1949)

b) Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948)

c) Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

d) Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (2002)

Ans: b)

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Ques: India's silence on the Gaza genocide reflects the tension between its moral legacy and strategic interests." Discuss.**(150 Words)**

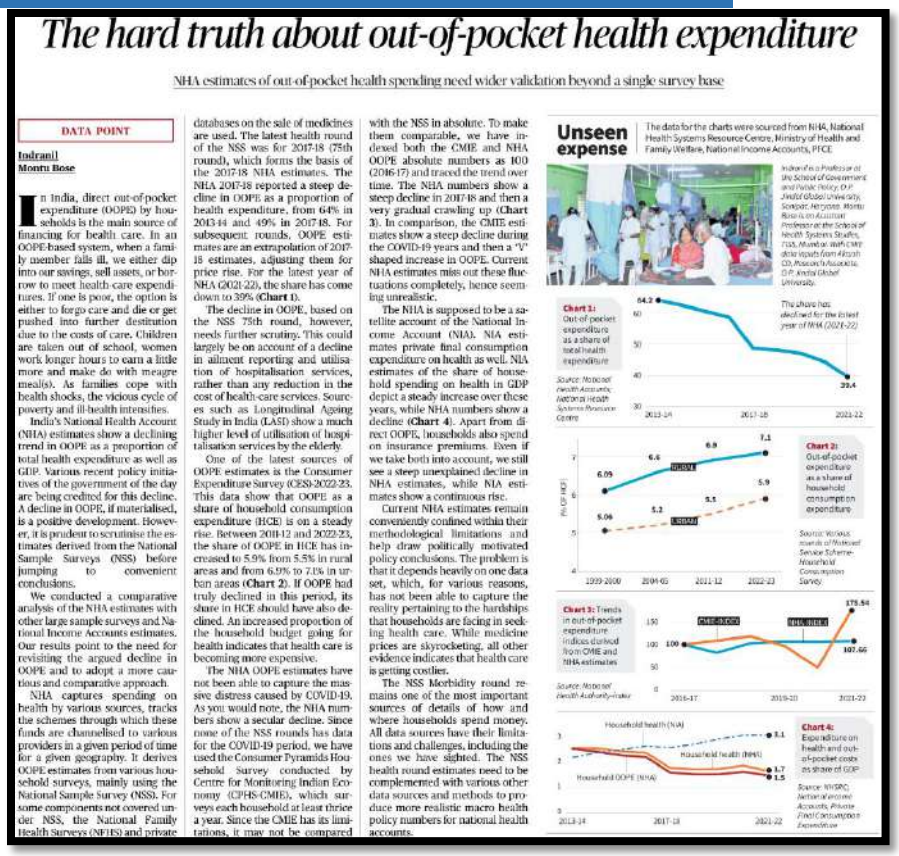
Daily News Analysis

Page 09 :GS 2 : Social Justice / Prelims

In India, **Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE)** by households remains the dominant mode of healthcare financing. While official **National Health Accounts (NHA)** data suggest a decline in OOPE (from 64% in 2013-14 to 39% in 2021-22), alternative surveys such as the **Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES-2022-23)** and **CPHS-CMIE** paint a different picture, showing rising health expenditure burden. This gap raises concerns about the **accuracy of health expenditure data**, its policy implications, and the reality of financial hardship faced by households.

Daily News Analysis

Key Current Developments



The hard truth about out-of-pocket health expenditure

NHA estimates of out-of-pocket health spending need wider validation beyond a single survey base

DATA POINT

Indranil Mookherjee and Monu Bose

In India, direct out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) by households is the main source of financing for health care. In an OOPE-based system, when a family member falls ill, we either dip into our savings, sell assets, or borrow to meet health-care expenditures. If one is poor, the option is either to forgo care and die or get pushed into further destitution due to the costs of care. Children are taken out of school, women work longer hours to earn a little more and make do with meagre meal(s). As families cope with health shocks, the vicious cycle of poverty and ill-health intensifies.

India's National Health Account (NHA) estimates show a declining trend in OOPE as a proportion of total health expenditure as well as GDP. Various recent policy initiatives of the government of the day are being credited for this decline. A decline in OOPE, if materialised, is a positive development. However, it is prudent to scrutinise the estimates derived from the National Sample Surveys (NSS) before jumping to convenient conclusions.

We conducted a comparative analysis of the NHA estimates with other large sample surveys and National Income Accounts estimates. Our results point to the need for revisiting the argued decline in OOPE and to adopt a more cautious and comparative approach.

NHA captures spending on health by various sources, tracks the schemes through which these funds are channelised to various providers in a given period of time for a given geography. It derives OOPE estimates from various household surveys, mainly using the National Sample Survey (NSS). For some components not covered under NSS, the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) and private databases on the sale of medicines are used. The latest health round of the NSS was for 2017-18 (75th round), which forms the basis of the 2017-18 NHA estimates. The NHA 2017-18 reported a steep decline in OOPE as a proportion of health expenditure, from 64% in 2013-14 and 49% in 2017-18. For subsequent rounds, OOPE estimates are an extrapolation of 2017-18 estimates, adjusting them for price rise. For the latest year of NHA (2021-22), the share has come down to 39% (**Chart 1**).

The decline in OOPE, based on the NSS 75th round, however, needs further scrutiny. This could largely be on account of a decline in ailment reporting and utilisation of hospitalisation services, rather than any reduction in the cost of health-care services. Sources such as Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) show a much higher level of utilisation of hospitalisation services by the elderly.

One of the latest sources of OOPE estimates is the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES)-2022-23. This data show that OOPE as a share of household consumption expenditure (HCE) is on a steady rise. Between 2011-12 and 2022-23, the share of OOPE in HCE has increased to 5.9% from 5.5% in rural areas and from 6.9% to 7.1% in urban areas (**Chart 2**). If OOPE had truly declined in this period, its share in HCE should have also declined. An increased proportion of the household budget going for health indicates that health care is becoming more expensive.

The NHA OOPE estimates have not been able to capture the massive distress caused by COVID-19. As you would note, the NHA numbers show a secular decline. Since none of the NSS rounds has data for the COVID-19 period, we have used the Consumer Pyramids Household Survey conducted by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CPHS-CMIE), which surveys each household at least thrice a year. Since the CMIE has its limitations, it may not be compared with the NSS in absolute. To make them comparable, we have indexed both the CMIE and NHA OOPE absolute numbers as 100 (2016-17) and traced the trend over time. The NHA numbers show a steep decline in 2017-18 and then a very gradual crawling up (**Chart 3**). In comparison, the CMIE estimates show a steep decline during the COVID-19 years and then a "V" shaped increase in OOPE. Current NHA estimates miss out these fluctuations completely, hence seeming unrealistic.

The NHA is supposed to be a satellite account of the National Income Account (NIA). NIA estimates private final consumption expenditure on health as well. NIA estimates of the share of household spending on health in GDP depict a steady increase over these years, while NHA numbers show a decline (**Chart 4**). Apart from direct OOPE, households also spend on insurance premiums. Even if we take both into account, we still see a steep unexplained decline in NHA estimates, while NIA estimates show a continuous rise.

Current NHA estimates remain conveniently confined within their methodological limitations and help draw politically motivated policy conclusions. The problem is that it depends heavily on one data set, which, for various reasons, has not been able to capture the reality pertaining to the hardships that households are facing in seeking health care. While medicine prices are skyrocketing, all other evidence indicates that health care is getting costlier.

The NSS Morbidity round remains one of the most important sources of details of how and where households spend money. All data sources have their limitations and challenges, including the ones we have sighted. The NSS health round estimates need to be complemented with various other data sources and methods to produce more realistic macro health policy numbers for national health accounts.

Unseen expense

The data for the charts were sourced from NHA, National Health Systems Resource Centre, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, National Income Accounts, PFCE

Indranil is a Professor at the School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana. Monu Bose is an Assistant Professor at the School of Health Systems Studies, TISS, Mumbai. With CMIE data inputs from Aayush Oli, Associate Professor, O.P. Jindal Global University.

Chart 1: Out-of-pocket expenditure as a share of total health expenditure

The share has declined for the latest year of NHA (2021-22)

Source: National Health Accounts, National Health Systems Resource Centre

Chart 2: Out-of-pocket expenditure as a share of household consumption expenditure

Source: Various rounds of National Sample Survey-Household Consumption Survey

Chart 3: Trends in out-of-pocket expenditure indices derived from CMIE and NHA estimates

Source: National Health Authority-India

Chart 4: Expenditure on health and out-of-pocket costs as share of GDP

Source: NIVSPG, National Income Accounts, Private Final Consumption Expenditure

Issues with NHA Estimates

- Possible under-reporting of illness &hospitalisation in NSS 2017-18.
- Excludes **COVID-19 shock**, where household spending shot up drastically.
- Methodology relies too heavily on a single data source.

Alternative Data Sources

- **CES 2022-23**: Share of OOPE in household consumption ↑ (Rural: 5.5% → 5.9%; Urban: 6.9% → 7.1%).
- **LASI**: Elderly show higher hospitalisation than NSS suggests.
- **CPHS-CMIE**: Shows "V-shaped" trend — sharp fall in OOPE during COVID, followed by steep rise, unlike NHA's smooth decline.
- **NIA Estimates**: Household health spending as % of GDP is rising, contrasting with NHA's decline.

Static Linkages (Prelims Pointers)

- **OOPE Definition**: Direct spending by households for health (doctor fees, medicines, diagnostics, hospital bills) not reimbursed by insurance or govt. schemes.
- **NHA (National Health Accounts)**: Tracks flow of health expenditures → source, financing scheme, provider, function.
- **National Sample Survey (NSS)**: Key data source for morbidity & expenditure.

- **Ayushman Bharat (2018)**: Flagship scheme aimed at reducing OOPE by providing ₹5 lakh insurance per family.
- **Health Financing Targets**: National Health Policy (2017) – govt. health spending to reach 2.5% of GDP by 2025.

Mains Dimensions

Health & Governance

- High OOPE →**catastrophic health expenditure**→ poverty trap.
- India's health financing still skewed: Public expenditure ~1.3% of GDP (low compared to global avg ~6%).
- Lack of universal health coverage (UHC) → heavy dependence on private sector.

Economy & Data Integrity

- Reliability of official statistics in policymaking.
- Risk of **policy complacency** if data suggests improvement that isn't real.
- Need for **triangulation of data**: NHA + CES + LASI + CMIE.

Ethics & Essay

- Health as a **social justice issue**.
- Poor families selling assets or foregoing education to fund treatment → moral challenge for the state.
- Ethical responsibility to ensure **affordable, accessible, quality healthcare**.

Critical Analysis

- **Positives**: Govt. schemes like Ayushman Bharat, Health & Wellness Centres, free medicines in some states have helped.
- **Concerns**:
  - Decline in OOPE in NHA may be **statistical illusion**.
  - True costs of healthcare rising (medicines, diagnostics, private hospitalisation).
  - COVID-19 stress missing in official numbers.
- **Way Forward**:
  - Multi-source data triangulation for NHA.
  - Periodic NSS health rounds (every 3 years).
  - Strengthen **public health infrastructure** to reduce dependence on costly private care.
  - Expand **insurance coverage** beyond hospitalisation (OPD, medicines).

Conclusion

The decline in India's OOPE, as per NHA, is not fully credible when cross-verified with other surveys. If left uncorrected, such numbers risk creating **false optimism** and masking the real financial struggles of households.

Daily News Analysis

For India to achieve **Universal Health Coverage** and safeguard families from **poverty due to health shocks**, it must both **improve data reliability** and **expand affordable public health services**.

UPSC Prelims Practice Question

Ques: Consider the following statements about Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) in India:

1. OOPE refers to direct payments made by households for health services, without any financial protection.

2. According to National Health Accounts (NHA) 2021-22, OOPE share in total health expenditure has declined to around 39%.

3. The Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES) 2022-23 shows that the share of OOPE in household consumption expenditure has declined in both rural and urban areas since 2011-12.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: a)

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Ques: What are the limitations of relying solely on National Sample Survey (NSS) data for estimating Out-of-Pocket Expenditure in India? Suggest measures to improve health expenditure data quality. **(150 Words)**

Daily News Analysis

Page : 08 Editorial Analysis

Let Geiger counters, not guesses, shape Iran actions

A new nuclear crisis is taking shape. After the United States's strikes on Iran's underground nuclear site at Fordow, in June 2025, Britain, France, and Germany (E3), on August 28, triggered the "snapback" clause of the 2015 nuclear deal citing violations by Tehran. The world has not much time to choose between diplomacy and escalation.

If this window closes without agreement, the United Nations will restore earlier measures that call for a halt to enrichment, tighten controls on arms transfers, restrict finance and shipping, and re-designate individuals linked to Iran's nuclear and missile programmes.

The stakes are global. Iran rejects the move as unlawful. Washington sees it as a test of non-proliferation. Europe views multilateral commitments on trial. Russia and China seek delay and leverage. Israel and the Gulf states weigh warning times and war risks. Oil importers watch prices. Shipping companies reassess insurance. Banks calculate exposure. For India, the anxieties are sharper still. Its extended neighbourhood must remain stable, oil must keep flowing through the Strait of Hormuz, and the safety of eight million Indian citizens in West Asia must be ensured.

The vacuum of facts

These concerns are magnified by the absence of verified information. Since the strikes on Iranian facilities, no one has walked the rubble with a dosimeter or tested a coolant line. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) staff left Iran after its Parliament passed legislation halting cooperation without approval from the Supreme National Security Council. Rumour has replaced measurement. Every capital has drawn its own conclusions while global attention shifted elsewhere.

Syed Akbaruddin

was an international civil servant at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) from 2006 to 2011

India can take the lead in ensuring technical IAEA access to Iran's nuclear programme as it will anchor negotiations to verifiable data

IAEA access is not a formality but the hinge of diplomacy. Verification replaces speculation with facts, sets a baseline on Iranian stockpiles, and anchors negotiations to data, not fears. Regular IAEA updates on Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, under Russian control, calmed jittery markets. A comparable presence in Iran could steady expectations and reduce volatility. If verification is framed as a sovereign choice, rather than a concession, it would strengthen Iran's claim that the programme is civilian while upholding the non-proliferation bargain.

Yet, Tehran's reservations are not unfounded. Iranian officials argue that sovereignty and security outweigh treaty obligations. They fear inspectors may, even unintentionally, enable targeting of sensitive sites. This is not paranoia. Strikes by Israel and the U.S. in the past closely followed IAEA disclosures. Such episodes have hardened parliamentary resistance. There is also the calculus of leverage. Revealing what survives of the programme could weaken Iran's hand in bargaining with Washington.

Since the E3 triggered its snapback, some Iranian legislators have urged withdrawal from the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. That would strip the IAEA of legal authority to inspect Iranian sites. The crisis would then enter uncharted territory with sanctions hardening and the military option returning to the fore.

Where India fits in

India cannot stand aside. As a long-standing member of the IAEA Board, with ties across divides, it is well placed to assist. As a part of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), India, at the Tianjin summit, has joined other nations in condemning the military strikes by Israel and the U.S. against Iran.

Within the SCO and BRICS – both of which include Iran – India can support a diplomatic call to restore technical IAEA access in a form that protects operational details while ensuring transparency. If framed as a sovereign choice by Tehran, and backed by the Global South, it may gain Iranian approval. India can also contribute technical capacity. Its IAEA-certified Tarapur facility could handle sample analysis under safeguards, showing that responsible stakeholders can provide practical support in moments of crisis. These contributions would not make headlines, but they could shift the balance toward diplomacy at a time when the risk of escalation is high.

A closing window

The window for diplomacy is narrowing fast. By allowing IAEA inspectors into Bushehr to monitor the refuelling of the nuclear power plant last month, Iran has offered a small opening. Also, last week, on September 9, 2025, , the IAEA and Iran signed an agreement in Cairo, Egypt. If this extends to bombed sites, the E3 may respond by pausing the snapback. Such choices could shift the momentum back to diplomacy. The alternative is grim – sanctions, standoffs, and a cycle of strike and counterstrike.

For India, the choice is clear. Backing verification protects its interests in West Asia, its citizens abroad, and its energy security. It also marks India as a responsible global power. The way forward is simple. It is time to let Geiger counters, and not guesses, decide Iran's nuclear programme.

GS. Paper 02 –International Relations

UPSC Mains Practice Question: Evaluate India's role and responsibilities as a member of the IAEA Board in balancing non-proliferation objectives with regional stability in West Asia. **(150 Words)**

Context :

The nuclear standoff with Iran has sharpened after U.S. strikes on the Fordow nuclear site (June 2025) and the triggering of the **"snapback clause"** by the E3 (Britain, France, Germany) on August 28, 2025. With IAEA inspectors out of Iran, verified data is missing, raising risks of miscalculation. The crisis tests the **non-proliferation regime**, energy security, and geopolitical stability — issues of direct concern to India.

Daily News Analysis

Current Affairs Highlights

1. The Nuclear Crisis

- **E3 snapback clause**: Restores sanctions if Iran violates the 2015 JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action).
- If implemented: ban on enrichment, arms transfer controls, shipping restrictions, financial sanctions.
- Iran rejects legality; threatens withdrawal from **NPT**.

2. Verification Gap

- IAEA inspectors expelled after Iran's Parliament vote.
- Rumours& speculation replacing verified data.
- Past precedent: IAEA access at Zaporizhzhia (Ukraine) calmed markets; absence in Iran fuels instability.

3. Iran's Dilemma

- Fear of sovereignty breach — past U.S./Israel strikes followed IAEA disclosures.
- Bargaining leverage — hiding programme status helps in negotiations.
- Internal debate: some lawmakers urge NPT withdrawal → would strip IAEA authority.

4. India's Stakes

- **Energy security**: Dependence on West Asian oil; Strait of Hormuz stability critical.
- **Diaspora safety**: 8 million Indians in the Gulf.
- **Regional stability**: Escalation could trigger wider Middle East conflict.
- **IAEA role**: India is a Board member, with technical credibility (Tarapur facility certified).

5. Diplomatic Openings

- Sept 9, 2025: IAEA–Iran agreement signed in Cairo → possible re-entry of inspectors.
- Iran allowed Bushehr monitoring (Aug 2025) → small goodwill signal.
- If extended to bombed sites, could pause E3 snapback and revive diplomacy.

Static Linkages

- **JCPOA (2015)**: Iran + P5+1 (US, UK, France, Russia, China, Germany) + EU. US withdrew in 2018 under Trump.
- **Snapback mechanism**: Allows re-imposition of UN sanctions without veto, if JCPOA violations alleged.
- **IAEA**: Vienna-based, autonomous agency (1957), verifies peaceful use of nuclear tech.
- **NPT (1970)**: India not a signatory; Iran is. Withdrawal = Article X right.
- **Strait of Hormuz**: ~20% of world's petroleum passes through.

Daily News Analysis

Mains Relevance

IR

- India's balancing act: Strategic ties with U.S., Israel, Gulf vs. traditional ties with Iran.
- Global South leadership: Use SCO/BRICS platforms for diplomacy.

Security/Economy

- Energy dependence: Oil imports, shipping insurance, rupee stability.
- Non-proliferation: India as a responsible nuclear state, supporting IAEA verification.

Ethics in IR

- Transparency vs Sovereignty: Balancing Iran's right to security with international community's right to verification.
- Trust in institutions: Upholding multilateralism (IAEA, UN) over unilateral strikes.

Critical Analysis

- **Opportunities**:
  - India can propose a technical verification mechanism framed as Iran's sovereign choice.
  - Can use its credibility in IAEA to handle sample analysis (Tarapur).
  - Leadership chance for India in Global South by mediating.
- **Challenges**:
  - U.S. and Israel scepticism of India's neutrality.
  - Risk of alienating Gulf partners if seen siding with Iran.
  - Economic exposure to sanctions and oil price spikes.

Conclusion

The Iran nuclear crisis is at a tipping point. Without IAEA verification, speculation risks driving escalation. India, with its **energy interests, diaspora concerns, and multilateral credentials**, must support diplomacy rooted in facts, not fears. Backing IAEA inspections as a technical, sovereign choice for Iran would protect India's national interests while reinforcing its image as a responsible global actor.

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