

## Today's Prelims Topics

### Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme

#### Context

The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of the Prime Minister of India, has recently given its approval to the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme.

#### Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme

- **Objective:** To promote employment generation, improve employability, and enhance social security across sectors, with a special focus on manufacturing.
- **Launch & Budget:**
  - Announced in Union Budget 2024–25 as part of the Prime Minister's 5-scheme employment package.
  - Aims to benefit 4.1 crore youth.
  - Total budget outlay: ₹2 lakh crore.
- **Job Creation Target:**
  - Seeks to generate over **3.5 crore jobs** in 2 years.
  - Includes **1.92 crore first-time workers** entering the workforce.
- **Incentive Period:**
  - Benefits applicable for jobs created between **1st August 2025 and 31st July 2027**.
- **Scheme Structure – Two Parts:**
  - **Part A: Incentives for First-Time Employees**
    - Applicable to employees newly registered with EPFO.
    - Eligible if salary is up to ₹1 lakh/month.
    - Benefit: One month's wage (up to ₹15,000) in **two installments**.
    - Payment through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** using Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS).
  - **Part B: Support to Employers**
    - Incentivizes new employment creation in all sectors, especially manufacturing.
    - Employers get **up to ₹3,000 per employee/month** for **two years**, if employment is sustained for at least 6 months.
    - For the manufacturing sector, benefits are extended to the **third and fourth years**.
    - Payment made directly to **PAN-linked employer accounts**.
- **Focus Sector:**
  - While applicable to all sectors, special incentives are provided to the **manufacturing sector** for long-term employment generation.

Source: [PIB](#)

## INS Udaygiri

### Context

Recently, Yard 12652, named **Udaygiri**, constructed by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL)**, was officially handed over to the **Indian Navy**.

### About INS Udaygiri

- **Background & Construction:**
  - INS Udaygiri (Yard 12652) is the **second of seven frigates** being built under **Project 17A (P-17A)**.
  - Constructed at **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL)**, **Mumbai**, and **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, **Kolkata**.
- **Lineage:**
  - Project 17A is the **successor to the Shivalik-class (Project 17)** frigates.
  - The current INS Udaygiri revives the legacy of the **erstwhile INS Udaygiri**, a steam-powered ship decommissioned in 2007 after **31 years of service**.
- **Capabilities:**
  - Designed as **multi-mission frigates**, capable of operating in **'Blue Water' naval environments**.
  - Equipped to counter both **conventional and unconventional threats**, especially in India's maritime zones.
- **Key Features of Project 17A Frigates:**
  - Hull design is **4.54% larger** than the Shivalik-class (P-17).
  - Enhanced **stealth and sleekness**, with advanced weapon and sensor suites.
  - Uses **Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG)** propulsion, including:
    - Diesel engine + Gas turbine.
    - Controllable Pitch Propeller (CPP).
    - **Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS)** for automation and efficiency.
- **Weapons & Sensors:**
  - **Supersonic Surface-to-Surface missiles**.
  - **Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM)** system.
  - **76 mm naval gun**, plus **30 mm** and **12.7 mm rapid-fire close-in weapon systems**.
  - Most weapon systems and sensors are **sourced from indigenous manufacturers (OEMs)**.
- **Strategic Significance:**
  - Boosts **self-reliance** in defense manufacturing.
  - Promotes **economic development, employment**, and growth of **MSMEs and the naval industrial ecosystem** in India.

Source: [TheHindu](https://www.thehindu.com)

## Iron Ore

### Context

India's iron ore production rose marginally by **0.60%** to **53 MMT** in April-May, up from **52.7 MMT** in the same period last year.

### What is Iron Ore?

- Iron ore consists of rocks and minerals from which metallic iron can be economically extracted.
- Common types include **hematite**, **magnetite**, and **taconite**, rich in iron oxides.
- **Current Status in India**
  - India is **self-sufficient** in iron ore production.
  - Contributes around **7% to global iron ore output**.
  - **4th largest** iron ore producer in the world.
  - **2nd largest** steel producer globally, after China.
- **Distribution of Iron Ore in India:** India has the **largest iron ore reserves in Asia**.
  - Many mines are located near **coal fields**, especially in the **northeastern plateau**, offering logistic advantages.
  - **Major Iron Ore Producing States (Account for 95% of total reserves):**
    - **Odisha:** Hill ranges of Sundergarh, Mayurbhanj, and Kendujhar (e.g., Badampahar, Kiruburu, Bonai).
    - **Jharkhand:** Ancient mines like **Noamundi** and **Gua** in Singhbhum; nearby plants in **Durg**, **Dantewara**, and **Bailadila**.
    - **Karnataka:** Sandur-Hospet (Ballari), **Baba Budan hills**, **Kudremukh**, Shivamogga, Chitradurg, Tumakuru.
    - **Maharashtra:** Chandrapur, Bhandara, Ratnagiri.
    - **Telangana:** Karimnagar, Warangal.
    - **Andhra Pradesh:** Kurnool, Cuddapah, Anantapur.
    - **Tamil Nadu:** Salem, Nilgiris.
    - **Goa:** A significant iron ore producer.
- **Significance of Iron Ore:**
  - **International Trade:** **Hematite and magnetite** from India are highly valued in global markets for their superior quality.
  - **Industrial Applications:** Primary raw material for the **iron and steel industry**.
  - Around **98% of iron ore** is used directly in **steelmaking**, a critical component of industrial infrastructure.
  - **Economic Importance:** Economies of states like **Jharkhand**, **Odisha**, **Chhattisgarh**, and **West Bengal** heavily rely on iron and manganese mining activities.

Source: [TheHindu](https://www.thehindu.com)

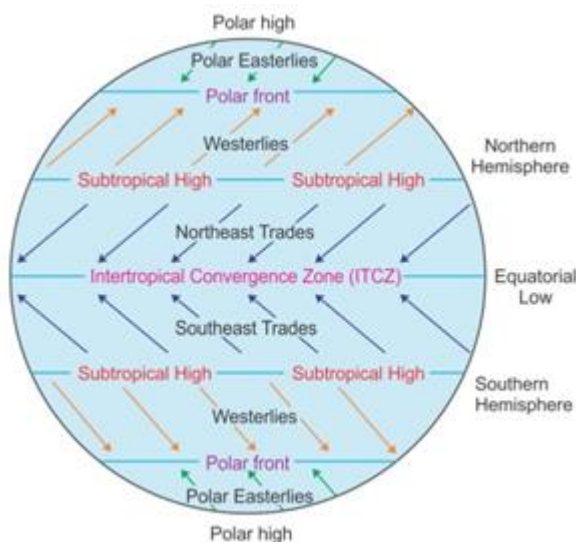
## Low Pressure System and Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)

### Context

Early onset of monsoon happened due to a range of different reasons including the active phase of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) and low pressure system, etc.

### Pressure System of Earth

- **What is a Pressure System?** A pressure system is a region on Earth's surface where the atmospheric pressure is either higher or lower than the surrounding areas. These differences in pressure drive wind and weather patterns across the globe.
- **Types of Pressure Systems:**
  - **High Pressure System (Anticyclone):** Area where atmospheric pressure is higher than in surrounding areas.
  - **Characteristics:**
    - Air descends (subsides), leading to compression and warming.
    - Results in clear skies and stable weather.
    - Winds flow outward and clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere, anti-clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.
  - **Low Pressure System (Cyclone):** Area where atmospheric pressure is lower than in surrounding areas.
  - **Characteristics:**
    - Air rises, cools, and condenses, often forming clouds and precipitation.
    - Associated with unstable weather: clouds, rain, or storms.
    - Winds flow inward and counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere, clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.
- **Significance:**
  - Drives global wind systems like the Trade Winds, Westerlies, and Polar Easterlies.
  - Influences weather patterns, ocean currents, and climate zones.



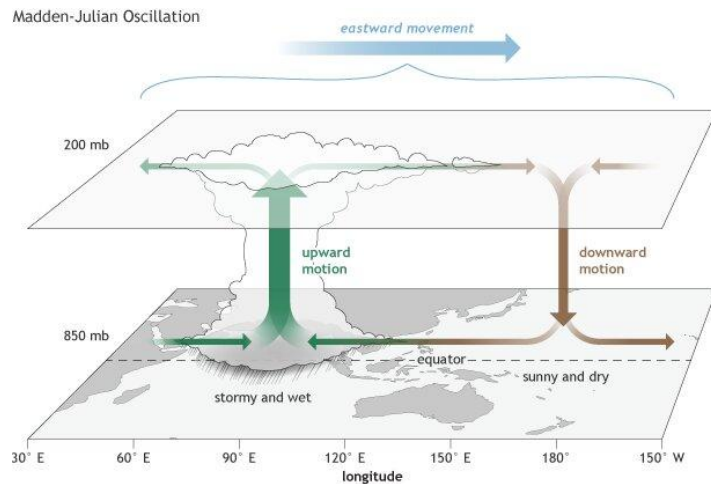
### Major Global Pressure Belts

- **Equatorial Low Pressure Belt (Doldrums):** Near the equator, hot air rises, causing low pressure.
- **Subtropical High Pressure Belt:** Around 30°N and 30°S, air descends, creating high pressure (horse latitudes).
- **Subpolar Low Pressure Belt:** Around 60°N and 60°S, rising air causes low pressure.
- **Polar High Pressure Belt:** Near the poles (90°N and 90°S), cold sinking air forms high pressure.

### Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)

- **What is MJO?** It is a large-scale movement of clouds, rainfall, winds, and pressure that travels eastward around the tropical belt of the Earth, mainly over the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- **Key Features:**
  - **Time Scale:** Typically recurs every 30–60 days.

- **Movement:** Travels eastward at 4–8 m/s.
- **Structure:** Comprises two phases:
  - **Active (Convective) Phase:** Increased convection, cloudiness, and rainfall.
  - **Suppressed (Dry) Phase:** Decreased convection, less cloudiness, and reduced rainfall.



- **Mechanism:**
  - **Initiation:** Begins in the western Indian Ocean.
  - **Propagation:** Moves eastwards across the tropics, affecting weather in Africa, the Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Ocean, and sometimes even the Americas.
  - **Interaction:** Influences monsoons, cyclones, and global weather patterns by modulating the atmospheric circulation.
- **Impact on Indian Weather:**
  - **Monsoon:** A strong MJO can enhance or suppress the Indian monsoon rains depending on its phase and position.
  - **Cyclones:** Can increase the likelihood of cyclone formation in the Indian Ocean.
- **Significance:**
  - Influences El Niño and La Niña events (ENSO).
  - Affects weather and rainfall patterns worldwide, including hurricanes and droughts in distant regions.

Source: [IndianExpress](https://www.indianexpress.com)

## Dalai Lama

### Context

The 14th Dalai Lama, **Tenzin Gyatso**, turns 90 on **July 6, 2025**, a milestone marked by his announcement about the future of his reincarnation.

### Succession Controversy Over the Next Dalai Lama

- The Dalai Lama insists that **only Tibetans and their religious institutions** should recognize his successor, with **oversight from the Gaden Phodrang Trust**.
- Beijing claims authority over the reincarnation process, citing historical procedures and enforcing 2007 regulations mandating state oversight.

### About Dalai Lama

- Born in **1935 in Taktser, Tibet**, he was identified as the 14th Dalai Lama at age two.
- Fled to India in **March 1959** after the Chinese invasion and established an exile government in Dharamshala by 1960.
- Tibetan Buddhism uses a **tulku system**, where spiritual leaders reincarnate to continue their work.
- The Dalai Lama embodies **Avalokiteshvara, the Bodhisattva of compassion**.
- At around age 90, the Dalai Lama said he'll decide whether **the institution should continue** and, if so, **how the 15th incarnation will be chosen**.
- He intends to leave **written guidelines** for the Gaden Phodrang Trust and other senior monastic authorities.

Source: [IndianExpress](https://www.indianexpress.com)



## World of Debt Report 2025

### Context

Recently, World of Debt Report 2025 was released by United Nations Conference on Trade And Development (UNCTAD)

### Key highlights from UNCTAD's A World of Debt Report 2025

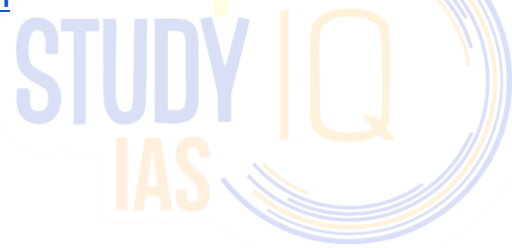
- **Global debt reaches record high:** Total public debt surged to **US \$102 trillion** in 2024, up from US \$97 trillion in 2023.
- **Developing nations disproportionately burdened:** Low- and middle-income countries now hold **US \$31 trillion**, nearly one-third of global debt, and their debt has doubled in growth rate compared to advanced economies since 2010.
- **Sky-high interest payments crowd out development:** Developing countries paid a record **US \$921 billion** in net interest in 2024—a 10% increase year-over-year.
  - A total of **61 countries** spent over **10% of government revenue** just servicing interest.
- **Debt servicing exceeds social spending:** Approximately **3.4 billion people** live in countries that spend more on interest payments than on health or education.

### Urgent international financial reforms needed

UNCTAD urges a comprehensive reform agenda to address the crisis:

- Strengthen global financial architecture to be more inclusive and development-focused.
- Improve liquidity mechanisms in crises.
- Establish robust debt workout processes.
- Expand concessional finance and technical assistance for debt management

Source: [UNCTAD Publication](#)





## Tech to Empower Women And Childrens

### Context

To achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has integrated technology into its programmes.

### Key Government Interventions Using Technology for Empowerment

Intervention/Initiative	Objective	Key Features & Technology Integration	Impact/Outcomes
<b>Saksham Anganwadi &amp; Poshan Tracker</b>	To improve nutrition and early childhood care by modernizing Anganwadis and ensuring effective monitoring of nutrition delivery.	Smart devices, real-time data entry, nationwide integration via Poshan Tracker.	10.14 crore+ beneficiaries tracked; improved service delivery; won PM's Award for Excellence (2025).
<b>Digital Training for Anganwadi Workers</b>	To build capacity of Anganwadi workers in delivering quality pre-school education and nutrition services to children.	E-learning modules and digital training via mobile devices.	Enhanced early childhood education and nutrition outreach.
<b>Facial Recognition in Nutrition Delivery</b>	To ensure that only genuine and eligible beneficiaries receive nutritional support, minimizing leakages and fraud.	Biometric (facial) authentication for beneficiary verification.	Reduced duplication; direct benefit to deserving recipients.
<b>SHe-Box Portal</b>	To provide a single-window access for women to lodge complaints of sexual harassment at workplace and ensure their safety and dignity.	Online platform for filing, tracking, and redressal of complaints under PoSH Act.	Fast, accessible, and transparent grievance redressal.
<b>Mission Shakti Dashboard &amp; App</b>	To provide integrated, immediate assistance and support to women facing violence, linking them to one-stop crisis centers and relevant services.	App and dashboard for location-based help and monitoring.	Nationwide coverage; timely support to women in distress.
<b>Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)</b>	To promote safe motherhood by providing partial wage compensation and financial incentives to pregnant and lactating	Digital registration, Aadhaar-based authentication, direct cash transfer,	₹19,000+ crore transferred to 4 crore+ women; transparent, efficient benefit delivery.



	women for adequate rest and nutrition.	dashboards.	
<b>CARINGS Portal (Adoption)</b>	To streamline and make the adoption process transparent, efficient, and accountable for all stakeholders.	Online tracking, digital processing of adoption cases and child care institution records.	Greater transparency, efficiency, and monitoring in adoption.
<b>Mission Vatsalya Dashboard</b>	To strengthen child protection and welfare by integrating and coordinating various schemes, services, and data at a single platform.	Real-time monitoring, data convergence, stakeholder coordination.	Improved child protection, monitoring, and program delivery.
<b>National Commission for Protection of Child Rights Platforms</b>	To monitor, report, and address violations of child rights and ensure timely intervention for children in need of care and protection.	Digital platforms for reporting violations, monitoring actions, and data analytics.	Enhanced child rights protection and timely grievance redressal.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

## Editorial Summary

### Degradation of Aravallis Due to landfills, burning & dumping of waste

#### Context

A recent report titled 'The State of the Haryana Aravallis: Citizens' Report – Part 2' has raised concerns about severe environmental degradation and a public health crisis caused by illegal dumping and burning of waste across the Aravalli range in Haryana.

#### About Aravallis

- The Aravalli Range is one of the **oldest mountain ranges in the world**, predating even the formation of the **Himalayas**.
- **Geographical Spread**: It is located in **north-western India**, stretching approximately **692 km** in states **Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi**.

#### Need to Save the Aravallis

- **Ecological Significance**: Home to diverse flora and fauna, including leopards, hyenas, and over 200 bird species.
- **Climate Regulation**: A **critical role in India's monsoon system** and helps in **regulating temperature** in the surrounding regions like in Delhi-NCR.
  - The range acts as a **natural barrier**, preventing the **Thar Desert** from encroaching into the **fertile agricultural lands of Rajasthan and Gujarat**.
- **Water Security**: Essential for groundwater recharge and maintaining local hydrology.
- **Air Quality**: Serves as a green lung, significantly reducing air pollution in the region.
- **Biodiversity Conservation**: Supports numerous rare and endemic species, making it an ecologically valuable hotspot.

#### Severe Factors Responsible for Degradation

- **Illegal Mining and Deforestation**: Extensive extraction of minerals leading to habitat destruction, soil erosion, and loss of forest cover.
- **Illegal Waste Dumping**: Over 100 identified locations where solid, chemical, and industrial waste is illegally dumped, contaminating soil and groundwater.
- **Waste Burning**: Uncontrolled burning releases toxic chemicals and pollutants into the air, severely affecting public health and environment.
- **Weak Monitoring & Enforcement**: Ineffective regulatory oversight facilitates illegal activities like waste disposal, mining, and encroachments.
- **Urbanisation Pressure**: Expansion of urban settlements, especially around Gurugram and Faridabad, shrinking natural ecosystems.

#### Impacts of Aravalli Degradation

- **Ecological and Biodiversity Loss**: Reduction in habitat leading to declining wildlife populations (leopards, hyenas, bird species).
  - Loss of native plant species, adversely impacting local biodiversity.
- **Groundwater Contamination and Scarcity**: Illegal waste dumping contaminates groundwater with heavy metals, pathogens, and toxic chemicals.
  - Reduced groundwater recharge capacity due to deforestation and mining.
- **Air Pollution and Public Health Crisis**: Toxic emissions from waste burning cause respiratory diseases, allergies, cancers, and other health issues.
  - Diminished air quality, particularly affecting Delhi-NCR.

- **Increased Desertification and Climate Change Effects:** Loss of forest cover accelerates soil erosion and desertification.
  - Reduced ability to moderate temperatures, exacerbating heatwaves in surrounding urban areas.
- **Socio-economic Consequences:** Negative impact on agriculture and livestock due to contaminated water and soil degradation.
  - Decline in tourism potential and associated economic losses.

#### Initiative/Project For Aravallis Restoration

- **Detailed Action Plan:** Recently the government unveiled a detailed action plan for Aravalli landscape restoration.
- **National Mission for a Green India (2014):** Recently revised document of mission stated that a 'micro-ecosystem' approach will be adopted to make interventions in the vulnerable landscapes like Aravallis

#### INITIATIVES TO PROTECT ARAVALLIS



##### Aravalli Green Wall Project

A central initiative aimed at creating a 5 km green buffer zone around the Aravalli Range across four states to combat desertification and restore ecology



##### State Government Action

In 2016, the Haryana Government declared the Mangar Bani area (a part of Aravalli) as "no-construction zone" to preserve its ecological integrity



##### Judicial Intervention - MC Mehta v. Union of India

In a landmark case, the Supreme Court passed several orders banning mining activities across entire Aravalli hills, reinforcing environmental

#### Proposed Solutions

- **Legal Protection and 'No-Go' Zones:** Declare entire Haryana Aravalli range a 'no-go' zone for mining, dumping, burning of waste, and construction.
- **Strengthened Monitoring & Accountability:** Formation of an **Aravalli Protection Task Force** led by Deputy Commissioners and overseen by the Chief Secretary.
  - Deploying 24/7 surveillance and drone monitoring, especially near state borders.
- **Strict Implementation of Waste Management Rules:** Enforce **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016**, emphasising source segregation, composting, and recycling.
- **Relocating Landfills:** Shift existing landfills like Bandhwari away from ecologically sensitive zones to minimise contamination.
- **Awareness and Community Engagement:** Conduct independent environmental assessments.
  - Engage local communities through education and incentives for sustainable practices and strict ban on single-use plastics.

Source: [Indian Express](https://www.indianexpress.com)