

Today's Prelims Topics

RAN SAMWAD-2025

Context

India is holding its first-ever Tri-service seminar **RAN SAMWAD-2025** to launch new joint doctrines and boost military integration.

RAN SAMWAD-2025 in clear bullet points:

- **What it is:** A unique **two-day Tri-service seminar** on war, warfare, and warfighting organized by the Indian Armed Forces.
- **When and where:** Taking place at the **Army War College in Dr Ambedkar Nagar, Madhya Pradesh**, starting **August 26, 2025**.
- **Opening and closing addresses:**
 - **Opening:** Chief of Defence Staff **General Anil Chauhan** will address attendees on the first day.
 - **Closing:** Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh** will deliver the concluding plenary address.
- **Major launches:** The seminar will see the release of **new Joint Doctrines** and a **Technology Perspective & Capability Roadmap**.
- **Unique format:** Every thematic session is being led by **serving officers** who will share direct operational insights and reflections based on modern battlefield experiences.
- **Purpose and approach:** Designed as a **dynamic, practice-oriented platform** (not just theoretical), it aims to enhance **interaction, communication, and cooperation** among military communities through ground-up, experience-driven insights.
- **Participants:** The event is expected to include top military leadership from all three services, along with renowned defence experts, leaders from the defence industry, and international security professionals.
- **Key themes:** Discussion topics will include **Information Warfare, Grey Zone Threats, Integrated Operations**, and **Future Combat Technologies**.
- **Future outlook:** Hosted by the Indian Army this year, RAN SAMWAD-2025 is intended to rotate among the services, with the **Indian Navy and Indian Air Force** expected to host future editions.
- **Strategic significance:** The seminar aims to evolve into a prominent **forum for addressing global security challenges**, reinforcing Indian security priorities and offering credible military discourse that encompasses both national and international contexts.

Source: [PIB](#)

Tawi River

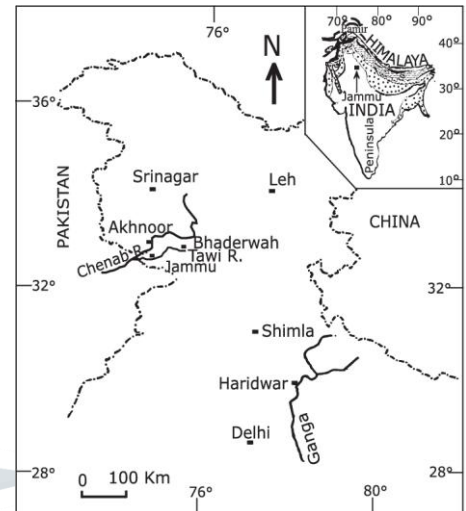
Context

India alerted Pakistan about **high floods in the Tawi river on humanitarian grounds**, even though the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** remains suspended.

About Tawi River

- **Tributary & Importance:**
 - Major **left-bank tributary of the Chenab River**.
 - Holds **sacred significance**, often referred to as "**Surya Putri**" in ancient texts.
- **Origin & Course:**
 - Originates from **Kalpas Kund** in **Seo Dhar, Bhaderwah (Doda district, J&K)**.
 - Flows down to **Sudh Mahadev**, covering about **141 km**.
 - Crosses steep hills and plains before entering **Pakistan's Punjab province**, where it merges with the **Chenab River**.
- **Catchment Area:**
 - Total catchment area up to the Indian border (Jammu) is **2,168 sq. km**.
 - Spread across **Jammu, Udhampur, and a small part of Doda district**.
- **Tributaries:**
 - Joined by several streams, including **Bhuteshwari (Birma), Duddhar, and Jajjhar**.
- **Geographical & Urban Role:**
 - **Divides Jammu city** into two parts:
 - **Old Jammu town** located on a hill overlooking the river.
 - **New Jammu town** situated across the river.
 - Acts as the **primary water source** for the city of Jammu.

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



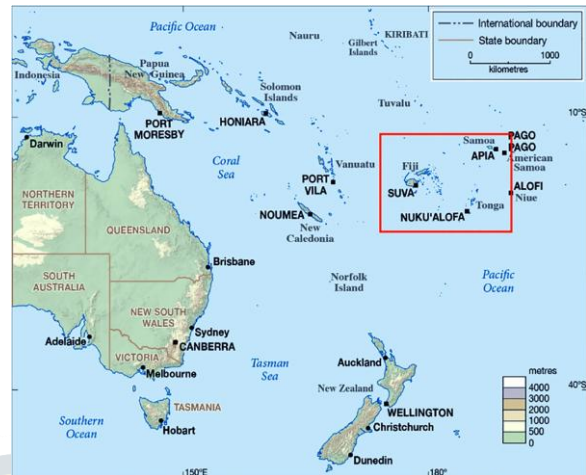
Fiji

Context

India and Fiji agreed to deepen defence ties and cooperation during Fijian PM Sitiveni Rabuka's official visit, supporting a free and open Indo-Pacific.

About Fiji

- **Location:** An island country in the **South Pacific Ocean**, part of Melanesia.
- **Capital:** **Suva**, located on the island of Viti Levu.
- **Major Islands:** Comprised of **over 300 islands**, of which about 100 are inhabited; the two largest are **Viti Levu** and **Vanua Levu**.
- **Population:** Around **9.2 lakh (920,000)** people (approx.).
- **Ethnic Composition:** Multi-ethnic society – mainly **iTaukei (indigenous Fijians)** and **Indo-Fijians (descendants of Indian indentured labourers)**.
- **Language:** **English** (official), with **Fijian** and **Fiji Hindi** also widely spoken.
- **Religion:** Predominantly **Christianity**, followed by **Hinduism** and **Islam**.
- **Government:** **Parliamentary democracy**; current Prime Minister (2025) is **Sitiveni Rabuka**.
- **Economy:**
 - Key sectors: **Tourism, sugar, gold mining, fisheries, garment industry**.
 - Tourism is the **largest foreign exchange earner**.
- **Strategic Importance:**
 - Situated in the **Indo-Pacific region**, often seen as a hub in the South Pacific.
 - Member of international groupings like the **Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)**, **Commonwealth**, and **United Nations**.
- **India–Fiji Connection:**
 - Strong **historical links** due to the large Indian diaspora (over 35% of Fiji's population).
 - India engages with Fiji in areas of **capacity building, defence, healthcare, education, and diaspora ties**.



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

Salwa Judum Judgement

Context

Former judges and senior lawyers criticized the Union Home Minister for wrongly claiming that Justice B. Sudershan Reddy's 2011 Salwa Judum verdict prevented the end of Naxalism by 2020.

Salwa Judum Case (2011)

Background

- In the **2000s**, Chhattisgarh became the epicentre of **Maoist insurgency**.
- To counter it, the state launched **Salwa Judum** ("peace march" in Gondi) in **2005** as a **state-backed vigilante movement**.
- **Tribal youth** (some as young as 18) were recruited as **Special Police Officers (SPOs)**.
- They were given firearms, small honorarium, and deployed as **guides, informants, and fighters** alongside security forces.

The Petition (2007)

- Filed by **Nandini Sundar (sociologist), Ramachandra Guha (historian), and others**.
- **Grounds of challenge:**
 - Violation of **Article 14** (equality before law) and **Article 21** (right to life with dignity).
 - **Human rights abuses** – forced displacement, atrocities against tribals.
 - **Blurring civilian–combatant lines**, escalating conflict.
 - **Exploitation of tribal youth** without proper training/protection.

Defence of the State and Union

- Claimed **SPO recruitment was voluntary**, often from victims of Maoist violence.
- Youth had **local knowledge**, making them effective in counterinsurgency.
- Scheme provided **livelihoods in remote areas**.
- SPOs helped protect camps and resist Maoist attacks.

Supreme Court Judgment (2011)

- Delivered by a Bench led by **Justice B. Sudershan Reddy**.
- **Key findings:**
 - Deploying ill-trained tribal youth in armed conflict was **discriminatory** (violated **Article 14**).
 - Exposing them to extreme risk without safeguards violated **Article 21**.
 - Arming civilians blurred the line between **combatants and non-combatants**, worsening violence.

Court Directions

- **Immediate disbanding** of Salwa Judum.
- **SPOs barred** from counterinsurgency roles.
- Only **properly trained police and paramilitary forces** should conduct anti-Maoist operations.

Source: [IndianExpress](#)

Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025

Context

The **new Online Gaming Act, 2025** was passed to regulate e-sports, social gaming, and real money games, while banning misleading ads and unauthorized betting.

Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025

Background

- Passed by **Lok Sabha on August 20, 2025** and by **Rajya Sabha on August 21, 2025**.
- Came into effect after **Presidential assent**.
- Aimed at regulating the rapidly growing online gaming industry and addressing issues of addiction, financial loss, and misuse.

Key Features

- **Three categories of online games:**
 1. **E-sports**
 2. **Social gaming**
 3. **Real Money Games (RMGs)**
- **Ban on misleading advertisements and promotion of betting/gambling games.**
- **Definition of Online Game:** Any game played digitally involving skill, chance, or both, especially when linked to winning money or convertible assets.

Provisions for Real Money Games (RMGs)

- Offering online money games or facilitating them without authorization is an **offence**.
- **Penalty:** Imprisonment up to **3 years** or fine up to **₹1 crore**, or both.
- Operators must register with the **National Sports Promotion and Online Gaming Commission**.

E-Sports & Social Gaming

- E-sports defined as games recognized by the **National Sports Committee Act, 2025**.
- Social gaming platforms must **register with regulatory authority** and cannot involve wagering or betting.

Regulation & Oversight

- **Central Government** empowered to notify and regulate gaming platforms.
- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** designated as the **nodal ministry**.
- Government can **suspend, block, or ban** non-compliant platforms.

Concerns Addressed

- Rising cases of **financial ruin, addiction, and suicides** linked to RMGs.
- Misuse of gaming platforms for **money laundering** (e.g., ED cases like **E-nuggets scam**).
- Protection of minors from exploitative practices.

Judicial & Constitutional Angle

- **Entries 34 & 62 of the State List:** "Betting and Gambling" fall under **State jurisdiction**.
- The Bill tries to distinguish **legitimate online games** from gambling to avoid conflict with states' powers.
- **Article 19(1)(g):** Guarantees the right to practice trade, subject to reasonable restrictions.
- **Judicial Precedents:**
 - *Dr. K.R. Lakshmanan vs. State of Tamil Nadu (1996)*: Differentiated games of skill from gambling.
 - Various High Courts have ruled that fantasy sports are largely skill-based, not gambling.

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

Central Information Commission

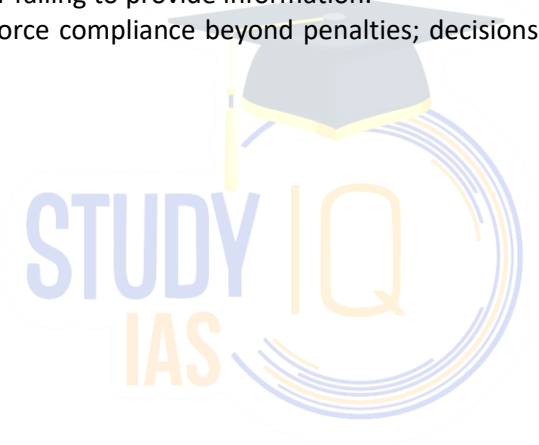
Context

Delhi High Court quashed CIC's 2016 order allowing inspection of PM Narendra Modi's 1978 Delhi University degree records, citing confidentiality of student data.

About Central Information Commission (CIC)

- **Establishment:** Constituted under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005**.
- **Nature:** It is a **statutory body**, not a constitutional one.
- **Headquarters:** Located in **New Delhi**.
- **Composition:** Includes the **Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)** and up to **10 Information Commissioners**.
- **Appointment:** Made by the **President of India** on the recommendation of a committee (PM, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by PM).
- **Tenure:** Commissioners hold office for **3 years or until 65 years of age**, whichever is earlier (as per the 2019 amendment).
- **Function:** Hears **appeals and complaints** under RTI, ensuring transparency and accountability in public authorities.
- **Powers:** Equivalent to a civil court – can summon documents, order inquiry, and impose penalties on officials for failing to provide information.
- **Limitation:** Cannot enforce compliance beyond penalties; decisions sometimes face delays due to backlog of cases.

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



Draft Energy Conservation (Compliance Enforcement) Rules, 2025

Context

The Power Ministry has released the draft Energy Conservation (Compliance Enforcement) Rules, 2025.

Key Provisions of Energy Conservation (Compliance Enforcement) Rules, 2025

- **Stronger Enforcement Powers for BEE:** Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) empowered to **detect, verify, and assess violations**.
 - BEE can present non-compliance cases before **Adjudicating Officers under State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs)**.
- **Mandatory Compliance for Energy-Intensive Sectors:** Industries like **cement, steel, auto, and manufacturing** must follow strict energy-saving norms.
 - Applies to designated consumers, manufacturers, and importers under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- **From Voluntary to Enforced Efficiency:**
 - Earlier → companies mostly **self-reported** energy use.
 - Now → compliance will be **checked and enforced** through inspections and audits.
- **Penalties for Non-Compliance:** Fines up to ₹10 lakh for violations.
 - Penalty amounts to be deposited in **Central Energy Conservation Fund**, with 90% share for States.
- **Jurisdiction Clarification:** SERCs to handle enforcement based on establishment location → ensures clear legal authority.
- **Alignment with Climate Goals:** Supports **Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) Scheme, Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) norms, and Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC)**.
 - Aligned with India's **Net Zero by 2070** and **NDC targets under Paris Agreement**.

What is BEE? (Bureau of Energy Efficiency)

- Established under the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**.
- Functions under the **Ministry of Power, Government of India**.
- **Mandate:**
 - Promote energy efficiency and conservation across sectors.
 - Develop energy efficiency standards and labeling (e.g., Star Rating of appliances).
 - Administer schemes like **PAT (Perform, Achieve, Trade)**, **ECBC (Energy Conservation Building Code)**, and **Standards & Labelling Program**.

Source: [The Businessline](#)

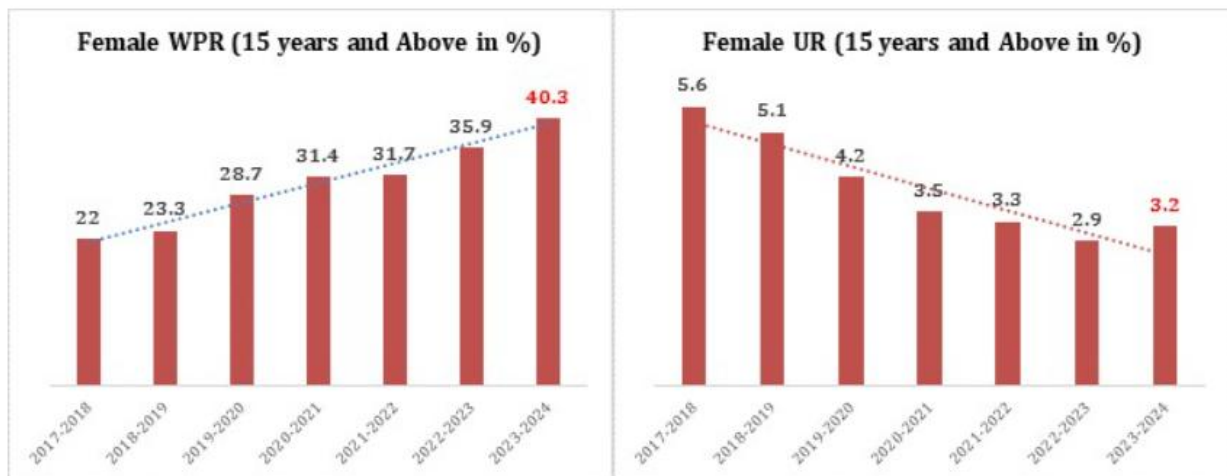
Editorial Summary

Women Workforce Participation in India: Data

Context

India has seen a significant rise in female workforce participation, as highlighted by Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data.

Current Status: PLFS Data



- **Workforce Participation Rate (WPR):** Women's WPR rose from 22% in 2017-18 to 40.3% in 2023-24.
- **Unemployment Rate (UR):** Fell from 5.6% (2017-18) to 3.2% (2023-24).
- **Rural vs Urban:** Female employment grew by 96% in rural areas and 43% in urban areas.
- **Educated Women Workforce:** Employability of female graduates ↑ from 42% (2013) to 47.5% (2024).
 - Postgraduates' WPR ↑ from 34.5% (2017-18) to 40% (2023-24).
- **Entrepreneurial Growth:** Share of women-owned MSMEs rose from 17.4% (2010-11) to 26.2% (2023-24), generating 89 lakh jobs (FY21-23).

Government Initiatives to Increase Women Participation

Scheme / Initiative	Focus Area	Impact on Women
Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana: NRLM	Rural livelihoods, SHGs	Created 87 lakh+ women SHGs, promoted entrepreneurship at grassroots
Skill India Mission	Skill development	Job-ready skills for women in new sectors (IT, healthcare, manufacturing)
Namo Drone Didi	Technology in agriculture	Training women to use drones for agri-services, enhancing rural incomes

PM Mudra Yojana	Microfinance & credit	68% of loans sanctioned to women; supported small-scale businesses
Stand-Up India	Entrepreneurial loans	Bank loans for women (and SC/ST), boosting business ownership
PM SVANidhi	Street vendors support	44% beneficiaries are women; access to working capital loans
Startup India	Innovation & startups	~50% of registered startups have at least one woman director
EPFO Payroll Expansion	Formal sector jobs	1.56 crore women added to formal workforce in last 7 years
e-Shram Portal	Unorganized sector workers	16+ crore women registered; enabled access to social security schemes
Maternity Benefit Act, 2017	Workplace support	Extended paid leave to 26 weeks; better work-life balance
Gender Budgeting	Resource allocation	↑ 429% in last decade; ₹4.49 lakh crore allocated in FY 2025–26
Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao	Education awareness &	Increased girl enrollment in schools, empowering future workforce

Significance of Rising Women Workforce Participation

- **Economic Growth & Productivity:** Greater female participation expands India's labor pool, raising productivity.
 - Equal participation could **boost India's GDP by nearly 27% (World Bank)**.
- **Social Empowerment:** Women's earnings improve **family nutrition, education, and healthcare**.
 - Enhances women's **voice and decision-making power** in households and society.
- **Gender Equality & Inclusiveness:** Marks a shift from *women as beneficiaries* to *women as drivers* of development.
 - Increasing representation in startups, corporates, and MSMEs helps break gender stereotypes.
- **National Development Goals:** Rising participation strengthens India's march towards **Viksit Bharat 2047** (70% women workforce participation).
 - Contributes directly to achieving **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5: Gender Equality & SDG 8: Decent Work and Growth)**.

Source: [PIB](#)

Tourism Sector in India

Context

The US decision to raise tariffs on Indian exports highlights the risks of overdependence on limited trade partners. India must diversify its economy, and tourism offers a powerful alternative.

Growth and Significance of Tourism Sector in India

- **Economic Contribution:** Contributed ~5% of GDP (FY 23).
- **Employment Generation:** Highly labour-intensive (created 7.6 crore jobs in FY23); can create **40 million jobs** with sectoral expansion.
- **Foreign Exchange Earnings:** \$28 billion earned in 2024; potential to rise to \$130–140 billion.
- **Global Ranking:** Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024 report published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), India is ranked 39th among 119 countries (54th/117 in 2021)
- **Balanced Growth:** Supports both **urban high-skilled jobs** and **rural livelihoods** (transport, handicrafts, wellness).
- **Soft Power Diplomacy:** Promotes India's culture, heritage, Ayurveda, and spirituality globally.
- **Green Growth Driver:** Sustainable tourism fosters low-carbon growth with community benefits.

Challenges Facing Tourism in India

- **Low GDP Contribution:** Only 5% of GDP (vs. global average 10%), below global and peer country averages.
- **Infrastructure Deficit:** Inadequate infrastructure in remote areas and the lack of global-standard amenities limit tourism growth.
 - E.g., India has only **1.8 lakh branded hotel rooms** vs demand of **5–6 lakh**.
- **Ease of Travel Issues:** Visa delays, long immigration queues, poor connectivity.
- **Fragmented Promotion:** Weak global branding, underuse of digital content/influencer marketing.
 - E.g., India received **6.19 million foreign tourists in 2022**, far below Thailand (**11 million**) and Spain (**71 million**).
- **Investment Barriers:** Limited private investment; Public-Private Partnership (PPP) potential untapped.
- **Sustainability Concerns:** Over-tourism, waste management, and ecological stress in fragile areas.

Government Initiatives

Initiative	Focus Area	Key Features / Impact
Swadesh Darshan Scheme	Theme-based tourism circuits	Infrastructure for 13 circuits – heritage, eco, spiritual, coastal, etc.
Northeast Tourist Circuits	Regional tourism	₹1,200 crore allocated for 8 Northeastern states under Swadesh Darshan.
PRASHAD Scheme	Pilgrimage & spiritual tourism	Modern facilities at major religious sites; boosts spiritual & heritage tourism.
Swachh Bharat Abhiyan	Cleanliness at tourist sites	Improves hygiene, cleanliness & visitor experience at monuments and destinations.

All India Tourist Permit Rules (2021)	Ease of travel	Online application for tourist vehicle permits across India.
Dekho Apna Desh	Domestic tourism	Webinars & campaigns promoting India's cultural and natural diversity.
Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (2023)	Sustainable tourism	Revamped scheme focusing on responsible & sustainable destinations .
Battlefield Tourism Promotion	Cultural & adventure tourism	<i>Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan</i> app showcases India's military heritage, esp. border regions.
Thematic Tourism Promotion	Diversified offerings	Promotes wellness, culinary, eco-tourism & niche segments globally.
e-Visa Facility	International arrivals	Expanded to 171 countries; easier entry for tourists.
GST Reduction	Affordability & competitiveness	Lower hotel tariffs via reduced GST.
RCS-UDAN Scheme	Regional connectivity	Expands affordable air travel to underserved destinations.
IITF Certification & NIDHI+	Innovation & quality	Supports tourism startups, improves service standards.

Way Forward

- **Destination Development:** Build **50 world-class destinations**, blending infrastructure, sustainability, and branding.
- **Travel Facilitation:** Simplify e-visas, modernize airports, and expand airline connectivity.
- **Digital Promotion:** Use AI, influencers, and global platforms for strategic storytelling.
- **Investment Push:** Include more tourism projects in infrastructure list; encourage PPPs in hotels, ropeways, amenities.
- **Domestic Tourism Boost:** Expand *Dekho Apna Desh* campaign; make inter-state travel affordable.
- **Sustainable Tourism:** Promote wellness, eco-tourism, and medical value travel while protecting local ecology.

Source: [Indian Express](#)